

## THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES...

### 1. ...INCREASES PUBLIC AWARENESS OF A COMMUNITY'S HISTORIC RESOURCES AND ENCOURAGES PRESERVATION

National Register designation officially recognizes the cultural, architectural, and landscape features of a historically significant area, bringing them to the attention of the community, state, and nation. Ideally, listing furthers community efforts to preserve the area's historic and natural features.

### 2. ...DOES NOT RESTRICT IN ANY WAY THE PRIVATE PROPERTY OWNER USING PRIVATE FUNDS

National Register Historic District designation does not restrict an owner's use of his or her property in any way as long as private, non-government funds are used. It does not, for example, prohibit any owner from altering or demolishing any buildings, nor does it restrict subdivision or sale. National Register listing does not require a property to be open to the public.

### 3. ...PROVIDES FINANCIAL BENEFITS, MAINLY IN THE FORM OF TAX CREDITS

National Register designation confers financial benefits on historic district property owners. First, it allows the owner of a contributing building within the registered district to claim investment tax credits for certified rehabilitations. The rehabilitation tax credits are dollar-for-dollar reductions in income tax liability for taxpayers who rehabilitate historic buildings. Additionally, National Register designation makes properties eligible for matching federal grants for historic preservation, when available.

## FACTS & COMMON MYTHS

- It officially recognizes the architectural and historic significance of an area.
- It qualifies a property owner for financial benefits, including State and Federal Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits.
- It does **not** prevent an owner from renovating or demolishing.
- It does **not** require an owner to restore or renovate property.
- It does **not** restrict an owner's use of his or her property.
- It does **not** automatically preserve a building or keep a property from being demolished.

## BASIC CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY

- Is the property 50 years old?
- Does the property have *integrity*: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association?
- Is the property *significant*: history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture?

## PROCESS FOR DESIGNATION IN VIRGINIA

### STEP 1: PRELIMINARY INFORMATION FORM

- Initial evaluation process allowing the VDHR staff and State Review Board to judge if a property warrants a full nomination
- Form is more simple and less detailed than a formal nomination form
- Property is still required to meet all applicable register criteria
- PIF is evaluated by staff every two-three weeks; feedback is offered
- If determined potentially eligible by staff, property is evaluated by the State Review Board at the quarterly meeting

### STEP 2: INITIAL SUBMISSION OF NOMINATION

- Applicant completes and submits to the regional office a first draft of the nomination with all required supporting materials, including completed forms, photographs, site plan, owner-of-record form, and names and address of property owners and adjacent property owners.
- Regional office staff returns the draft to the applicant with comments and requests for any additional information or materials needed to complete the nomination.
- When the Regional office staff determines that the national register nomination is complete, it is forwarded to the national register manager in the DHR central office in Richmond.

### STEP 3: PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

- DHR also publishes legal notices in the local paper and holds an informational meeting more than 30 days in advance of the board meeting so that residents have the opportunity to ask questions about the register programs and process.
- DHR staff notifies by letter to each owner of a property within the district, as well as the chief elected official, informing them of the dates and locations of public information meetings, as well as the State Review Board and Board of Historic Resources Meeting.

### STEP 4: STATE REVIEW BOARD MEETING

- State Review Board and Board of Historic Resources meetings are open to the public. Interested parties may make presentations to the boards at the discretion of the chairpersons.
- At the meeting, Department staff present the nominations to the board members with a brief statement and a few representative photographs.
- If the State Review Board accepts the nomination, it recommends that the State Historic Preservation Officer or designee sign it and forward it to the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C.
- If the Board of Historic Resources accepts the nomination, it lists the property on the Virginia Landmarks Register at that time.
- If a majority of property owners object, however, the property will not be listed.

### STEP 5: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE REVIEW

- Upon receipt of the nomination from DHR, the National Park Service commences a 45-day review period, after which NPS informs DHR that the property has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, and DHR staff notifies the property owner by letter.
- If the keeper cannot list the property because of a problem with documentation, DHR seeks to resolve that issue to bring about the property's listing.
- In the case of owner objection, if the keeper determines that the property is eligible for listing, the documentation will be accepted and the property determined eligible but not listed.