



National Historic Landmarks

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Frequently Asked Questions

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The following are the most common questions that the general public, owners of potential National Historic Landmarks, and new owners of designated National Historic Landmarks ask us. For detailed, step-by-step information on the NHL nomination process, please visit our [Apply pages \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/apply.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/apply.htm).

Please [contact an NHL Program regional office \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/contactus.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/contactus.htm) or our [national office \(https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1582/contactus.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1582/contactus.htm) if you have additional questions.

General

What are National Historic Landmarks?

How are National Historic Landmarks selected?

What criteria are used to select National Historic Landmarks?

How are National Historic Landmarks different from other historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places?

Landmarks have been recognized by the Secretary of the Interior as possessing national significance. Nationally significant properties help us understand the history of the nation and illustrate the nationwide impact of events or persons associated with the property, its architectural type or style, or information potential. A nationally significant property is of exceptional value in representing or illustrating an important theme in the history of the nation. Properties listed in the National Register are primarily of state and local significance. With a state or locally significant property, its impact is restricted to a smaller geographic area. For example, many historic schools are listed in the National Register because of the historically important role they played in educating individuals in the community or state in which they are located. Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas, is nationally significant because it was the site of the first major confrontation over implementation of the Supreme Court's 1954 decision outlawing racial segregation in public schools. The city's resistance led to President Eisenhower's decision to send Federal troops to enforce desegregation at this school in 1957.

All National Historic Landmarks are included in the [National Register of Historic Places \(https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm\)](https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm), which is the official list of the nation's historic properties worthy of preservation. Landmarks constitute more than 2,500 of more than 90,000 entries in the National Register; the others are of state and local significance. The process for listing a property in the National Register is different from that for Landmark designation with different criteria and procedures used. Some properties are recommended as nationally significant when they are nominated to the National Register, but before they can be designated as National Historic Landmarks, they must be evaluated by the National Park Service's National Historic Landmark Survey, reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, and recommended to the Secretary of the Interior. Some properties listed in the National Register are subsequently identified by the Survey as nationally significant; others are identified through theme studies or special studies. Both the National Historic Landmark and the National Register Programs are administered by the National Park Service under the Secretary of the Interior.

Designation of National Historic Landmarks

Is there a period for comment on designation before a property is designated a National Historic Landmark?

How will Landmark designation affect my ability to make changes to my property?

Can I prevent my property from being a Landmark?

Will I have to open my property to the public if it becomes a Landmark?

Are there requirements that I maintain my property to NPS standards or restore it to its original or historic appearance?

Does becoming a National Historic Landmark mean the federal government will acquire my property?

Federal Involvement with National Historic Landmarks

Is my property likely to be affected by federal laws and regulations?

How does federal involvement affect a Landmark?

Are there advantages to National Historic Landmark owners in the Section 106 Process?

Can the Advisory Council prevent me from getting federal funding?

How long does the Section 106 process take? Can it delay the receipt of federal funding?

Will owner objection to Landmark status prevent the Section 106 procedures from taking place?

Benefits to National Historic Landmark Designation

Are there federal funds available for preserving or protecting National Historic Landmarks?

What other benefits are there from National Historic Landmark status?

Information about Specific National Historic Landmarks

Whom do I contact about visitor information for an NHL?

Where can I find a copy of the nomination for an NHL?

I am looking for an NHL property but I cannot find its listing. Can you help?

I am doing research on a particular NHL. Can you send me all the information you have available on this site?

What kinds of archival materials are stored in NHL Program files?

My father served at a military base that is an NHL. How can I find information about his service there?

I am doing research on my family history. Do you have any information on my relatives or where they might be buried?

I am interested in using an image available on your website or in an NHL file. What are the restrictions?

Please consult the National Register of Historic Places' [Copyright Page](#)

(<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/national-register-content-and-copyright.htm>). The


National Historic Landmarks Program follows the same guidelines.

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