The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation’s official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Register is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect our historic and archeological resources. Properties listed in the Register include districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture. The National Register is administered by the National Park Service, which is part of the U.S. Department of the Interior.

Included among the nearly 76,000 listings that make up the National Register are:

- All historic areas in the National Park System;
- Over 2,300 National Historic Landmarks, which have been designated by the Secretary of the Interior because of their importance to all Americans;
- Properties across the country that have been nominated by governments, organizations, and individuals because they are significant to the nation, to a state, or to a community.

Curci House, built in 1920s
325 South West 2nd Avenue, Hallandale Beach
The classic Italian Renaissance style Curci House could certainly be listed in the National Register (image from 1920s).
National Register properties are distinguished by having been documented and evaluated according to uniform standards. These criteria recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have contributed to the history and heritage of the United States and are designed to help state and local governments, Federal agencies, and others identify important historic and archeological properties worthy of preservation and of consideration in planning and development decisions.

Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

  • Recognition that a property is of significance to the Nation, the State, or the community.

  • Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects.

  • Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.

  • Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.

You can reach the National Register of Historic Places in the following ways:

Due to irradiation of USPS mail in Washington, DC, they recommend sending official correspondence by direct or overnight mail at the following address:

  National Register of Historic Places
  National Park Service
  1201 Eye St., NW
  8th Floor (MS 2280)
  Washington, DC 20005

  Telephone: 202-354-2213 or 354-2210

Properties are nominated to the National Register by the State Historic Preservation officer (SHPO) of the State in which the property is located, by the Federal Preservation Officer (FPO) for properties under Federal ownership or control, or by the Tribal Preservation Officer (TPO) if the property is on tribal lands. Ordinarily, State nomination forms are prepared by private individuals or the staff of the SHPO. These nomination forms are then submitted to a State review board, composed of professionals in the fields of American history, architectural history, architecture, prehistoric and historic archeology, and other related disciplines. The review board makes a recommendation to the SHPO either to approve the nomination if, in the board's opinion, it meets the National Register criteria, or to disapprove the nomination if it does not.

The SHPO for the state of Florida is:

  Dr. Janet Snyder Matthews
  State Historic Preservation Officer
  Division of Historical Resources
  R.A. Gray Building
  500 S. Bronough Street
  Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0250
  850-245-6300

  jmatthews@mail.dos.state.fl.us

During the time the proposed nomination is reviewed by the SHPO, property owners and local officials are notified of the intent to nominate. Local officials and property owners are given the opportunity to comment on the nomination and owners of private property are given an opportunity to object to or concur with the nomination.
The National Register of Historic Places

If the owner of a private property, or the majority of private property owners for a property or district with multiple owners, objects to the nomination, the SHPO may forward the nomination to the National Park Service for a determination of eligibility. Without formally listing the property in the National Register, the National Park Service then determines whether the property is eligible for listing. If the property is eligible, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must be afforded the opportunity to comment on any Federal project that may affect it.

If the review board and the SHPO agree on the eligibility of the property (and the owner has not objected to the nomination), then the nomination is forwarded to the National Park Service to be considered for listing.

The National Register's standards for evaluating the significance of properties were developed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a significant contribution to our country's history and heritage. The criteria are designed to guide State and local governments, Federal agencies, and others in evaluating potential entries in the National Register.

Criteria for Evaluation

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or

B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or

C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or

b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or

c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
1 April 2003

We seek to identify and authenticate

Historic National Register of Historic Places

properties as part of the National Park

Enterprise Initiative and encourage site-specific

approaches to the properties. The

Enterprise Initiative is designed to

engage sites in the National Park

System for the benefit of the

properties and the public.

The park's cultural and historical
diversity is immense, but the

Enterprise Initiative seeks to

build on the existing strengths of

individual properties.

The process varies from site to site,

and the criteria for eligibility

considered.

National Register

exceptions to the National

Register criteria may be

considered for eligibility

within the past 50 years. A site is of

exceptional importance if

it has nationally significant or

exceptional significance. A

property with a significant

association with history or

architecture is eligible for

inclusion.

c. A reconstruction building

exists on the same parcel as

the original building.

d. An association with historic

use or design.

f. A property entered in the

National Register is eligible

for inclusion.

g. A property that is

exceptional in a subclass or

class of properties.