

The National Register of Historic Places is our nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation.

Preliminary Evaluation & National Register Nomination Process

In Virginia, a property must go through a two-step process that begins with a preliminary evaluation, which includes the submittal of a Preliminary Information Form (PIF). If the proposed property receives a "thumbs up" during this initial step, then the second step requires submitting a formal National Register nomination form. Before completing a PIF, please refer to the step-by-step guide that can be found on the DHR website, www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/register_pif.htm.

Completed proposed nominations are reviewed by DHR staff and the State Review Board. Reviewed nominations with certifying recommendations are submitted by the State Historic Preservation Officer to the National Park Service for final review and listing by the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

National Park Service: www.nps.gov/nr or on Facebook, www.facebook.com/NationalRegisterNPS

Virginia Department of Historic Resources: Marc Wagner, Manager of Register and Highway Marker Programs, (804) 482-6099

www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/register.htm

FAUQUIER COUNTY

**DEPARTMENT OF
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National Register of Historic Places



FAUQUIER COUNTY

**DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

08/2013

The National Register of Historic Places Program is a part of a nationwide endeavor to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

What are the benefits?

Registration recognizes a property's historic value by documenting its historic significance. Owners of registered properties may qualify for state and federal historic rehabilitation tax credits, donate historic preservation easements (which can reduce real estate taxes), and receive technical assistance from the State Historic Preservation Office for maintenance and rehabilitation projects.

How are properties evaluated?

Registration is an honor bestowed on historic properties by the National Park Service and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). In Virginia, the SHPO is the Virginia Department of Historic Resources.

To be considered eligible, a property must meet the National Register Criteria for Evaluation. This involves examining the property's age, integrity, and significance.

- Age and Integrity. Is the property old enough to be considered historic (generally at least 50 years old) and does it still appear much the same as it did in the past?
- Significance. Is the property associated with events, activities, or developments that were important in the past? Or is it associated with the lives of people who were important in the past? Or does the property represent significant architectural

history, landscape history, or engineering achievements? Or does it have the potential to yield information about our past through archeological investigation?

Must the property be open to the public?

No. Listing in the National Register does not require that a property be open to the public.

Can a property be nominated individually if it is within a historic district?

Yes. However, if a property is listed as a contributing resource within a historic district, it is just as historically significant as an individually-listed property.

Will registration increase or decrease the property values and tax burden?

Many factors affect the value of real estate—location, improvements, supply and demand, and local and national economic conditions. Changes in any of these factors may increase or decrease the value. National Register designation appears to have little effect on property value, although studies indicate that property value stabilizes or increases when a historic property is a part of a locally-designated historic district.

If listed, will the property be protected from undesirable development or destruction?

Not necessarily. Only an easement can protect a property in perpetuity. Registration informs owners, local planners, government agencies, and others involved in land-use planning of the existence of a historic resource and its significance, but neither the National Historic Preservation Act nor the Code of Virginia requires avoidance of harmful effects on historic resources.

The National Historic Preservation Act does require Federal agencies to take historic properties into consideration when projects involve Federal funding, permits, or licenses. In many cases, state and federal agencies mitigate the effects of a project on a significant historic property. However, a federal or state project can proceed even if it adversely affects or destroys a resource.

Which properties are already listed?

The Community Development Department maintains a list of currently-registered properties. Contact the Fauquier County Preservation Planner at (540) 422-8200. Have your address or parcel identification number (PIN) handy.

How do I nominate my property?

Nominations can be submitted by property owners, historical societies, preservation organizations, governmental agencies, and other individuals or groups. In Virginia, the nomination process starts with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR). Information is available at www.dhr.virginia.gov/register/register.htm.

National Register listing places NO obligations on private property owners. Although good stewardship practices are always encouraged, there are no restrictions on the use, treatment, or transfer of private property. National Register listing does not lead to public acquisition or require public access. A property will not be listed if: (1) a property owner objects [for individual properties] or (2) the majority of property owners object [for districts]. National Register listing does not automatically trigger local historic district zoning or local landmark designation.