



CRITERIA FOR DESIGNATING HISTORIC PROPERTIES IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

CRITERIA FOR THE DC INVENTORY OF HISTORIC SITES

Properties are eligible for designation in the D.C. Inventory if they possess significance, retain integrity, and can be judged from a historical perspective.

Significance: Properties are eligible for designation as historic landmarks or historic districts if they possess one or more of the following values or qualities:

- (a) **Events:** They are the site of events that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia or the nation;
- (b) **History:** They are associated with historical periods, social movements, groups, institutions, achievements, or patterns of growth and change that contributed significantly to the heritage, culture or development of the District of Columbia or the nation;
- (c) **Individuals:** They are associated with the lives of persons significant to the history of the District of Columbia or the nation;
- (d) **Architecture and Urbanism:** They embody the distinguishing characteristics of architectural styles, building types, or methods of construction, or are expressions of landscape architecture, engineering, or urban planning, siting, or design significant to the appearance and development of the District of Columbia or the nation;
- (e) **Artistry:** They possess high artistic or aesthetic values that contribute significantly to the heritage and appearance of the District of Columbia or the nation;
- (f) **Work of a Master:** They have been identified as notable works of craftsmen, artists, sculptors, architects, landscape architects, urban planners, engineers, builders, or developers whose works have influenced the evolution of their fields of endeavor, or are significant to the development of the District of Columbia or the nation; or
- (g) **Archaeology:** They have yielded or may be likely to yield information significant to an understanding of historic or prehistoric events, cultures, and standards of living, building, and design.

Integrity: Properties shall possess sufficient integrity to convey, represent or contain the values and qualities for which they are judged significant.

Historical Perspective: Sufficient time shall have passed to permit professional evaluation and understanding of the properties in the context of history.

CRITERIA FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register's criteria for evaluating the significance of historic places were developed to recognize the accomplishments of all peoples who have made a contribution to our country's history and heritage.

Criteria for Evaluation: The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, 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, or 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 of if they fall within the following categories:

- (a) A ***religious property*** deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance;
- (b) A ***building or structure removed from its original location*** but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event;
- (c) A ***birthplace or grave*** of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life;
- (d) A ***cemetery*** which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events;
- (e) A ***reconstructed building*** when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived;
- (f) A ***property primarily commemorative in intent*** if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- (g) A ***property achieving significance within the past 50 years*** if it is of exceptional importance.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE DC HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE:

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