National Register of Historic Places

May 5, 2016
Who nominates properties to the National Register of Historic Places?
Who can prepare a National Register of Historic Places nomination?
Can an owner object to listing of his/her property in the National Register? If so, how?
How does the nomination process work?
NOT:

National Historic Registry
Historical List
Historical Registry
National Trust
National Registry of Historical Homes
Historical Society Listing
Or any of a number of other things...
Myth Versus Fact
Required to maintain and/or restore...  FALSE
Required to open to public...  FALSE
Guarantees protection...  FALSE
Can’t sell...  FALSE
Big pots of money will appear at your door...  FALSE, FALSE, FALSE, FALSE
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Does:

Provide recognition

Provide limited protection

Qualify certain properties for tax credits

Qualify owners for grants-in-aid when available
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Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Established in 1966 within the National Historic Preservation Act
Response to demolition of historic resources

Part of federal planning process
What can be listed?
Buildings

Designed to house people and their activities
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Buildings

May be of vernacular design but historic importance
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Buildings

May represent distinctive design
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Sites

The location of activities important in history
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Sites

Archaeological
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Structures

Designed for purposes other than containing people
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Structures

Often engineering resources
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Structures

May be purely functional
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Objects

Primarily small in scale, often artistic, but not necessarily static
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Objects

May be individually listed but more likely contribute to the character of a district
Districts

Contiguous areas made up of multiple buildings, sites, structures, and objects that are related
Districts

Can be residential, commercial, or agricultural.
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Districts

Landscapes could be considered districts
Levels of Significance

National, State, Local
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National Level of Significance

Demonstrates significance within a national context
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All NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS are nationally significant
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State Level of Significance

Properties that are significant at a state-wide level
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State Level of Significance

Generally viewed within a state-wide context
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Local Level of Significance

Most listed properties are significant at the local level
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Local Level of Significance

Evaluated within the context of the local community
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Local Level of Significance

Reflect trends or events that impact history at the local level
Criteria for Evaluation

There are four basic criteria under which all properties are evaluated
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A. Association with events
B. Association with persons
C. Design characteristics
D. Ability to yield information
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Criterion A

Properties that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history
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Events

Can be singular – happens at a specific place at a specific time
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Events
Can be a continuum of minor events
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“Agriculture” could be considered an event

Magruder Plots
Continuous Winter Wheat
1892-present
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“Education” could be considered an event
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Criterion B

Properties associated with the lives of persons significant in our past
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The person must be significant and there must be a direct tie to the property.
The association between the property and the person must be direct and during the time when the person achieved significance.
Criterion C
Properties 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 represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
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Criterion C

In simple terms: this Criterion refers to the physical characteristics of the property
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Criterion C

The most common Criterion used
Has many sub-categories under which to evaluate properties
Distinctive Characteristics of a Type

Can refer to the form, function or use of a property
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Characteristics of a Period

May represent an example of an architectural style
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Characteristics of Construction Method

Recognizes the importance of both vernacular traditions...
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Characteristics of Construction Method

...or new technologies
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Work of a Master

The works of designers or craftsmen who are masters in their fields
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Work of a Master

May be of national renown
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Work of a Master

Or of local importance
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High Artistic Value

Possesses recognizable artistic value
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High Artistic Value

May be a component of a larger entity
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Distinctive Entity
Whose Components Lack Distinction

Historic Districts
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Districts are considered a single entity.

Resources within the district are generally not individually eligible.
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Districts

Considered contributing if they reflect the character of the district
Districts

Noncontributing if they do not reflect the period of significance
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Criterion D

Properties that have yielded, or may be likely to yield information important in prehistory or history
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Information Potential

Typically refers to archaeological sites
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Information Potential

Archeological sites may be prehistoric
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Information
Potential
Or Historic
National Register of Historic Places

Information
Potential

Buildings can also tell us information not readily available through other sources
Some properties are normally excluded from National Register of Historic Places of Historic Places eligibility.

Under certain circumstances, called “Criteria Considerations,” properties in these categories can be listed.

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Consideration ‘a’

Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
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Consideration ‘b’

Removed from its original location
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Consideration ‘c’

A birthplace or a grave
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Consideration ‘d’
A cemetery
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Consideration ‘e’

A reconstructed building, object, or structure
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Consideration ‘f’

A commemorative property

Chief Ne-Kah-Wah-She-Tum-Kah
Grave marker, Fairfax
Consideration ‘g’

Less than 50 years of age
What is your definition?
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Integrity

Properties must have a high degree of historic integrity in order to be listed
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Seven Aspects of Integrity

1. Location
2. Design
3. Setting
4. Materials
5. Workmanship
6. Feeling
7. Association
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Location

Has the property been moved from its historic or original location?

If so, how does that affect its ability to convey its significance?
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Design

Has the original appearance of the resource been altered?

Do the alterations impact the original design intent?
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Setting

Has the setting of the property changed?

Does this affect its ability to convey its historic significance?
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Materials

Have inappropriate materials been added to the resource?
Workmanship

Have alterations, additions, or repairs matched the historic fabric in terms of workmanship or craftsmanship?
Feeling

Does the resource “feel” right? Do the other factors of integrity work together to convey the historic qualities of the resource?
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Association

Is the resource really associated with its historic past?

Has that association been compromised?
Not all seven aspects need be present as long as the overall sense of past time and place is evident
GOAL
Five Listings From Each of Oklahoma’s Seventy-seven Counties By November 17, 2007

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Cotton (2)
Dewey (1)
Harmon (1)
McClain (2)
Major (2)
LUNCH!!!!!!!