



National Register of Historic Places

FAQs



What does having my property listed in the NRHP mean for me?

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is a National Park Service (NPS) program that recognizes buildings, sites and structures important in our nation's history, however, it also sometimes conjures up fears of regulation and concerns about private property rights. In reality, the NRHP is an honorific program, and it carries with it no restrictions whatsoever to a private property owner. There are many misconceptions about the NRHP; please read on to learn the true facts about the program.

Listing in the NRHP does:

- Identify historic buildings/structures/sites that are of local, state, or national importance.
- Provide formal recognition of a property's significance.
- Increase public awareness and appreciation for historic properties.
- Provide archival and research documentation for historic properties.
- Help qualify publicly- or nonprofit-owned properties for certain grant programs.

Listing in the NRHP does not:

- Restrict the rights of private property owners to change or dispose of their property in any way – up to and including demolition.
- Automatically provide grants or low interest loans for a property.
- Require that historic properties be restored once listed.
- Require property owners to open their property for public visitation at any time.
- Guarantee the preservation of historic properties.

Does having my property listed in the NRHP restrict me in any way?

The NRHP is largely an honorific program and it carries with it no restrictions whatsoever to a private property owner up to, and including, demolition. National Register listing only regulates the use of federal funds that may affect the property and does not impose legal requirements on the private property owner. Once your property is listed, you are free to make any alterations with private funds and do not need prior approval from the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).

Specific to Coeur d'Alene:

Coeur d'Alene does not restrict modifications or alterations to historic properties. This includes exterior work. However, permits are required for most work, including changing out windows and doors, reroofing, interior remodels, demolitions, etc. Doing work and demolition without a permit can result in fines. We encourage historic windows, doors and unique molding to be salvaged, and replacement windows, doors and siding to be period appropriate. Vinyl is strongly discouraged.

Having a historic property may trigger demolition review by the Historic Preservation Commission for a full demolition of the principal structure or outbuilding. This will be determined at the time of a demolition permit.

Contact the Building Department at 208-769-2267 to see what types of permits are required. Contact the Planning Department at 208-769-2274 if you have questions about demolition review, appropriate replacement windows, salvaging, or efforts by the Historic Preservation Commission.

What are the criteria for listing a property in the National Register of Historic Places?

Generally, a property must be at least 50 years old, possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and it must meet at least one of the four criteria below:

- A. The property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history (history); or
- B. The property is associated with the lives of significant persons in or past (people); or
- C. The property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (architecture); or
- D. has yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory (archaeology).

Sources: Idaho State Historic Preservation Office and National Park Service

How do I get a National Register of Historic Places plaque for my historic building?

Many sites listed in the National Register arrange for a commemorative plaque. Unfortunately, the Idaho State Historical Society does not issue plaques as a result of listing; rather we leave it up to the individual owners if they are interested in having one. Properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places are not required to have plaques.

As far as phrasing is concerned, the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office has no formal requirements or suggestions, but here are a few typical and accurate examples:

This property has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

or

(Historic name of your house) has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

You may want to indicate that the property is part of the historic district. In that case you may prefer:

This property is part of the Garden District Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

or

The (historic name) House, part of the Garden District Historic District, has been listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior.

If you do not have a local trophy/plaque store that you prefer, the following list provided by the National Park Service may be helpful.

They are not endorsing, authorizing, recommending, or implying any connection to any one company over another, including any company not listed.

All-Craft Wellman Products, Inc.
www.all-craftwellman.com
800-340-3899

American Sign Letters
<https://americansignletters.com>
877-704-5170

Arista Trophies & Awards
<http://www.aristatrophies.com/>
201 387-2165

Atlas Signs and Plaques
<http://www.atlassignsandplaques.com>
920-648-5647

Artistic Bronze
<http://www.artisticbronze.com/>
800-30-PLAK

Blue Pond Signs
<http://www.bluepondsigns.com/custom-plaques.html>
415-507-0447

Cerametallics
www.cerametallics.com
602-237-6401

Classic Bronze Resources, LLC
www.classicbronzeresources.com
513-600-9048

Eagle Sign & Design Inc.
<http://www.eaglesign.com/>
888-561-0007

Erie Landmark Company
<http://www.erielandmark.com>
800-874-7848

Franklin Bronze Plaques
866-405-6623 toll free
814-346-7205
<http://www.franklinbronzeplaques.co>

Healy Plaques
<http://www.healyplaques.com/>
800-995-0981

Impact! Signs
www.impactsigns.com/bronze-plaque-sales@impactsigns.com
708-469-7178

International Bronze Plaque Company
<https://www.internationalbronze.com/sales@internationalbronze.com>

Lake Shore Industries, Inc.
<http://www.lsisigns.com>
info@lsisigns.com
800-458-0463

Massillon Plaque
<http://www.massillonplaque.com>
330-494-4199 ext 240

Metallic Arts
<http://www.metallicarts.com>
800-541-3200

Southern California Bronze Co.
www.socalbronze.com
818-550-9132

US Bronze
<http://www.usbronze.com/plaques-and-seals/plaques/national-register-plaques/>
800-872-5155

W & E Baum
<https://www.webaum.com>
800-922-7377

William G. Pomeroy Foundation
info@wgpfoundation.org
<https://www.wgpfoundation.org/history/national-register/>
315-913-4060