

National Register Criteria for Evaluation

The National Register and State Register recognize properties that physically embody important aspects of local, state, and national history. In order to be considered eligible, a property must retain essential character-defining features in its physical appearance from the period in which it was important. It must also meet one of the four criteria for listing:

Criterion A represents an important period, movement, or trend in local, state, or national history. An example of an eligible property is a 1920s high school significant for its role in Education. Another example is a commercial building on Main Street that played a critical role in Commerce and development of downtown business district.

[Click here to see an example of Criterion A.](#)

Criterion B represents an association with a person important to our past. The property must be the resources most closely related to the person's period and area of importance. An example would be the studio of an important artist. [Click here to see an example of Criterion B.](#)

Criterion C represents a good local example of an architectural style. To be eligible individually for architecture, a property must retain the majority of its original architectural features and be a good example of the style and period. An example of an eligible property would be a Queen Anne home that retains its original siding, windows, and other physical materials. [Click here to see an example of Criterion C.](#)

Criterion D represents the potential to yield information; these resources are primarily archeology sites. An example would be a prehistoric village site. [Click here to see an example of Criterion D.](#)

Some property types are not eligible for the National or State Registers unless they meet special criteria considerations. Ordinarily, cemeteries, birthplaces, graves, properties owned by religious institutions, moved structures, reconstructed buildings, commemorative properties, and properties under 50 years old are not eligible unless they meet one the following criteria exceptions:

- Religious properties are only eligible if they are significant for their architecture or art.
- Moved properties are only eligible if they have great architectural value or are the only surviving structure importantly associated with a historic person or event.
- Birthplace or grave of a person of transcendent importance if there is no other appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life.
- A cemetery which derives its primary significance from the graves of persons of transcendent importance or whose design is significant in landscape architecture or from an association with an important historic event.
- Reconstructed building when accurately executed and when no other building or structure from the same association has survived.
- Commemorative properties if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance.
- Property under 50 years old if it has exceptional importance.

[Back to National Register Procedures](#)