

NATIONAL REGISTER FACT SHEET 4

THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES IN NORTH CAROLINA: FACTS AND FIGURES

- There are more than 90,000 listings of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts in the National Register across the United States and its territories.
- The first nominations from North Carolina were submitted in 1969. Today there are more than 3,000 National Register listings in the state. In recent years the state has submitted an average of 30 new nominations per year to the National Register. Most nominations are prepared by private consultants working for local governments or for private property owners. Nominations are carefully prepared and screened in the review process, and 99% of all nominations from North Carolina have been successfully listed. A list of all National Register entries in North Carolina arranged alphabetically by county and giving name, town or vicinity, and date listed plus a link to the complete nomination, is available on the State Historic Preservation Office web site at: [NC Listings in the National Register of Historic Places](#). A similar list may be accessed at the National Register web site, [National Register Database and Research](#)
- Of the more than 3,000 total listings in North Carolina, about 570 are historic districts, some of which contain hundreds of contributing historic buildings or sites. Types of districts include residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, prehistoric and historic archaeological districts, industrial complexes, mill villages, and rural farming districts. Since the first historic district nominations did not include complete lists of all properties within district boundaries, it is not possible to determine the precise number of historic properties in North Carolina that are listed in the National Register. The National Park Service estimates that more than 75,000 historic resources in North Carolina are listed in the National Register either as individual listings or as contributing properties within districts. Properties within districts that contribute to the historic character of the district are eligible for federal environmental protections and benefits to the same extent as if they were individually listed.
- Of all North Carolina properties listed in the National Register, approximately 85% are privately owned and 15% publicly owned. About 70% are listed at a local level of significance, 25% at a statewide level, and 5% at a national level of significance. The level of significance at which a property or district is listed does not affect its eligibility for benefits or the consideration it receives in environmental review processes.
- North Carolina's National Register listings reflect the whole spectrum of the state's human experience through its long history: prehistoric Indian sites; shipwreck sites; modest log houses of settlers and slaves; houses and outbuildings of ordinary farmers and townspeople; the mansions of wealthy planters and merchants; churches of all sizes and denominations; courthouses, schools and other public buildings; commercial buildings of many types; and industrial and transportation buildings and sites. Listings vary from 10,000-year-old archaeological sites to the 1953 Dorton Arena at the State Fairgrounds. What all these places have in common is that they reveal in a tangible way some important aspect of past life in North Carolina and its diverse communities.
- The State Historic Preservation Office reviews approximately 3,000 federal and state actions annually to determine their potential effects on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register. Where a federal or state undertaking is in conflict with the preservation of a National Register property, the State Historic Preservation Office will negotiate with the responsible agency in

an attempt to eliminate or minimize the effect under procedures prescribed by federal law (Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966) or state law (G.S. 121-12a).

- From 1976 through December of 2017, **1,398** National Register properties in North Carolina were rehabilitated under state and federal historic preservation income-producing tax incentive programs, representing an investment of over **\$1.69** billion in National Register properties in the state. From 1998 through December 2017, completed rehabilitation projects of **1,750** owner-occupied residences, representing **\$272.25** million in investment, were reviewed for certification under a North Carolina historic preservation tax incentive program.
- The Restoration Branch of the State Historic Preservation Office offers technical restoration consultation services to owners of historic properties, including municipal and county governments, churches, businesses, and private property owners. Restoration Branch staff provides consultation services to more than 2,000 historic properties in a typical year. Restoration staff is located in Raleigh (919/814-6590), Asheville (828/296-7230), and Greenville (252/830-6580).
- Since seventy-eight of North Carolina's 100 counties and scores of municipalities have participated in survey and planning grant projects co-sponsored with the State Historic Preservation Office to conduct comprehensive surveys of historic properties and prepare nominations of properties and districts to the National Register of Historic Places. Many other counties have participated in regional reconnaissance surveys. The Survey and National Register Branch maintains an estimated 100,000 survey files with photographs and information about historic structures. The Office of State Archaeology maintains information concerning the approximately **41,000** prehistoric and historic archaeological sites recorded in the state. Fifty-seven counties and forty-five municipalities have published historic architecture survey catalogues, many of which are still in print and available for purchase from the State Historic Preservation Office.

For information about why the National Register was created and what listing means to a property owner, see *NATIONAL REGISTER FACT SHEET 1*, "[WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?](#)"

For an explanation of National Register criteria for evaluation, see *NATIONAL REGISTER FACT SHEET 2*, "[NORTH CAROLINA DIVISION OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY.](#)"

For information about how properties and districts are listed in the National Register, see *NATIONAL REGISTER FACT SHEET 3*, "[HOW HISTORIC PROPERTIES ARE LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES.](#)"

See the handout titled "[A COMPARISON OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES WITH LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK AND DISTRICT DESIGNATIONS](#)" for an explanation of the differences between the two programs.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please Also See The Historic Preservation Office website at: [State Historic Preservation Office](#)

Historic structures and the National Register: [Survey and National Register Branch](#), 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4617; phone 919/814-6570.

Archaeological sites and the National Register: [Office of State Archaeology](#), 4619 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4619; phone 919/814-6554.

Preservation tax credits and technical restoration assistance: [Restoration Branch](#), 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4617; phone 919/814-6590.

[Grants](#) to local governments and organizations for historic property surveys and National Register nominations: Grants Coordinator, **Administration Branch**, 4617 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-4617; phone 919/814-6582.

The National Register program is governed by the following federal and state rules and regulations: 36CFR Part 60 (interim rule), 36CFR Part 61 (final rule), and North Carolina Administrative Code T07: 04R .0300.