

Are there financial incentives available for properties in a National Register historic district?

Owners of contributing resources in a National Register historic district qualify to apply for financial state and federal rehabilitation tax credits and the Heritage Trust Fund grant. Applications to the SHPO are required in advance of beginning proposed projects and must comply with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*.

What types of projects require the review of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)?

Our state's preservation law (KSA 75-2724) requires the SHPO be given opportunity to comment on proposed projects affecting historic properties or districts. Properties listed in the state or national registers are subject to review. A project is defined as (1) any activity directly carried out by state or local government entities; (2) any activity carried out by individuals, firms, organizations, etc., that receive financial assistance from any state agency or local government entity; (3) any activity involving the issuing of a lease, permit, license, or certificate by a governmental unit—including zoning changes. The law is written in such a manner that local governing bodies ultimately decide what happens in their community. In addition to the state preservation law, all federally funded or permitted projects must be reviewed in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 for impacts to cultural resources.

ON THE WEB

Kansas Historical Society / kshs.org

National Register / kshs.org - search "register"

Kansas Historic Resources Inventory / kshs.org/khri

Financial Incentives / kshs.org - search "incentives"

State Preservation Law / Section 106 / kshs.org/portal_shpo

Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties / nps.gov/tps/standards.htm



State Historic Preservation Office / Kansas Historical Society
kshs.org / 785.272.8681 x240

Content of this flyer provided by the State Historic Preservation Office of the Kansas

The Basics of National Register Historic Districts



Downtown Ellsworth Historic District



Historic Ottawa Central Business District

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register is maintained by the National Park Service and was created in 1966 as a way to identify and encourage the preservation of our nation's historic places. The register includes historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts significant in our nation's past. To be eligible, properties must be important in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture at the local, state, or national level.

What is a National Register historic district?

A National Register historic district is a concentration of historic buildings, structures, sites, and/or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Any one of the properties in a historic district may not have particular historical, architectural, engineering, or archaeological distinction, but the collection must have significance in one of these areas. A historic district can include historic resources beyond just buildings, including brick streets and sidewalks, entrance gates, landscape features, monuments, etc.

Why nominate a district to the National Register?

An area may have a concentration of historic resources that are eligible for listing in the National Register. Listing these resources as a collection, rather than individually, streamlines the process and is more inclusive. Additionally, some properties in a historic district may not meet the criteria for individual listing in the National Register, but they may contribute to the overall significance of the district. Contributing resources could then be eligible for the same rehabilitation tax credits and grants as individually listed properties.

How are boundaries drawn for historic districts?

Boundaries for historic districts are typically drawn to include a significant concentration of historic properties of a similar type, such as commercial and public buildings in a downtown or a neighborhood of residences. Most historic districts include some non-historic or substantially altered properties, but their number and scale must not overwhelm a district's sense of time, place, and historical development.

What is a contributing resource?

A contributing resource is a building, structure, object, or site within the boundaries of the district that adds to the historic quality and significance of the district. To be contributing, a resource must retain enough of its historic physical features to convey its significance within the district's period of significance. Alterations can impact a resource's historic appearance and integrity. A contributing resource may be eligible for financial incentives.

What is a noncontributing resource?

Resources that do not contribute to the significance of the district are labeled noncontributing. These resources may be less than fifty years old, they may be older resources that have been significantly altered, or they may be resources not associated with the historic theme or time period of the district. A noncontributing resource is *not* eligible for financial incentives.

Who determines the contributing / noncontributing status of a resource within a historic district?

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) staff evaluates each property within a historic district to determine the contributing or noncontributing status. This status is subject to change—even after the historic district has been listed in the National Register. For example, a historic building that is designated noncontributing due to various alterations may become contributing if the alterations are reversed in such a manner that restores the building's historic appearance. Conversely, a building that is designated contributing at the time of nomination may become noncontributing if alterations negatively impact the building's historic appearance.

KANSAS AT A GLANCE

Chestnut Street Historic District / Downtown Hays

College Avenue Historic District / College Hill, Topeka

Doniphan County Courthouse Square Historic District / Troy

Downtown Manhattan Historic District / Manhattan

Downtown Wellington Historic District / Wellington

East Lawrence Industrial Historic District / Lawrence

Glasco Downtown Historic District / Glasco

McKinley Residential Historic District / Newton

Peabody Downtown Historic District / Peabody

Seneca Main Street Historic District / Seneca

Yates Center Courthouse Square Historic District / Yates Center

How do I determine if my property contributes to a National Register historic district?

The first step is to determine if your property is within the boundaries of a historic district. A database of register listings is on the website of the Kansas Historical Society at <http://kshs.org/14638>. You may also call the Cultural Resources Division of the Kansas Historical Society at 785-272-8681 x240.

What is the process for nominating a historic district in the National Register?

Districts are a special type of historic resource that requires the coordination and consent of multiple property owners. There are several steps that can take many months or even years to complete including grassroots organization, coordination with local and state officials, surveying historic resources to determine appropriate boundaries, and preparing the National Register nomination. If an individual, organization, neighborhood, or community is interested in pursuing National Register designation for a historic district, they should contact the Cultural Resources Division of the Kansas Historical Society at 785-272-8681 x240 to discuss the potential for a particular district.

Is there opportunity for public input on a historic district nomination?

Local discussion is encouraged to take place well in advance of the completion of a nomination. Once a National Register nomination is finalized, it must be reviewed and considered by the Kansas Historic Sites Board of Review. Federal regulations require the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to notify all property owners within a proposed district and local governments at least thirty days in advance of the Review Board meeting at which a nomination is to be considered. If a majority of property owners submit notarized objections, the historic district will not be listed in the National Register. The support of a majority of property owners is crucial to the success of a district nomination.

What happens if several owners in a proposed historic district object to National Register listing, but the majority of the owners support the listing? Can the owners who object keep their properties out of the National Register historic district?

No. The entire district can be listed if a majority of the owners do not object to nomination.



Oread Historic District / Lawrence



Yates Center Courthouse Square Historic District