

## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

## HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

Old State House  
150 Benefit Street  
Providence, R. I. 02903  
(401) 277-2678

January 27, 1978

City Clerk Rose Mendonca  
Providence City Hall  
25 Dorrance Street  
Providence, Rhode Island 02903

IN CITY COUNCIL  
FEB 16 1978

READ:  
WHEREUPON IT IS ORDERED THAT  
THE SAME BE RECEIVED.

*Rose M. Mendonca* CLERK

Dear Ms. Mendonca:

The Commission is pleased to inform you that it has approved the preparation of nominations to the National Register of Historic Places for the following Providence properties:

All Saints Church, 674 Westminster Street  
Trinity United Methodist Church, 389-393 Broad Street  
Gorham Manufacturing Company Complex, Adelaide Avenue  
Aylsworth Apartments, 188-194 Broad Street  
Mason Tillinghast House, 169 Broad Street  
Calvary Baptist Church, 747 Broadway  
Home for the Aged, 807 Broad Street  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 15 Hayes Street  
SS. Sahag and Mesrob Armenian Apostolic Church, 68 Jefferson St.  
Smith Street School, 396 Smith Street  
Merchants Cold Storage Warehouse, 65 Harris Avenue  
Brown & Sharpe Complex, Promenade and Holden Streets  
Northup -Preston-Martin House, 17 Jefferson Street

The following Historic Districts (see attached maps) have also been approved for nomination preparation:

Elmwood Historic District, Elmwood  
Wesleyan Avenue Historic District, South Providence  
Rhodes Street Historic District, South Providence  
Downtown Providence Historic District  
Chalkstone-Douglas Historic District, Smith Hill  
Andrew Dickhaut Cottages Historic District, Smith Hill  
Oakland Avenue Historic District, Smith Hill

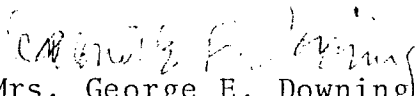
This preliminary approval is the initial step in the nomination process that will lead to entry on the National Register of Historic Places. Research and photography will be undertaken by the Commission staff as time permits to prepare the actual nomination. In the meantime, we welcome whatever information or written comments you may wish to offer concerning the significance of this property.

Nomination to the National Register is a formal and selective process for recognizing and recording at the federal level those sites, artifacts, structures, and districts which have particular value as physical evidence of our local, state, and national history. Entry on the National Register is, therefore, an honor.

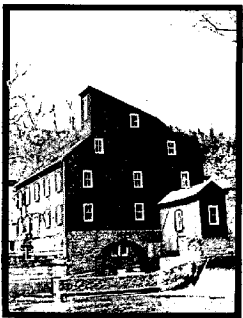
Nomination to the Register also protects the property, through a review process at state and federal levels, from federally funded or licensed projects which would adversely affect it. Properties listed in the National Register are automatically listed in the Rhode Island State Register of Historic Places as well. The State Register provides protection through a review process from adverse effects of state or municipally funded or licensed projects. The owner of a property entered on the National Register is eligible to apply for federal grants-in-aid for restoration work. In addition, commercial properties on the National Register are eligible for tax incentives for certified rehabilitation as provided by the Tax Reform Act of 1976 (PL 94-455, Section 2124). The Tax Reform Act also stipulates tax disincentives in the case of demolition of a property on the National Register.

Following review and approval by the National Park Service, in Washington, D. C., public notification of entry on the National Register is by press release from the State Historic Preservation Officer. You will also receive a letter of notification. Included with this letter are folders explaining the purpose and scope of the National Register of Historic Places and the work of the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission. If you have any questions concerning the National Register, please feel free to contact Mrs. Ancelin Lynch, National Register Coordinator, at the Commission office.

Sincerely,

  
Mrs. George E. Downing  
Chairman

Enclosures



# The National Register

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation.

#### Listing in the National Register

- makes private property owners eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation through State programs
- provides protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally financed, assisted, or licensed undertakings on historic properties, as stated in Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Executive Order 11593.

## The Program

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 placed the Department of the Interior squarely in the field of historic preservation. This act gave extensive responsibilities to the Secretary of the Interior to effect, through the National Park Service, a national policy of historic preservation and authorized a national survey of sites of exceptional value in United States history. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 expanded this mandate and called for a broadened program for the preservation of all cultural property throughout the Nation. The 1966 act states:

"The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to expand and maintain a national register of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology and culture, hereinafter referred to as the National Register. . . ."

The role of the Federal Government in preservation activities was further emphasized on May 13, 1971, with the signing of Executive Order 11593, entitled "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment," which states that:



Districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects are included in the National Register. Some of these are shown. Cover: David McKimsey's Mill, Clinton, N.J. (John Barber). Above: Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad, vicinity of Antonito, Colo. (Ernest W. Roberts). Right: Cleveland Arcade, Cleveland, Ohio (Ohio Historical Society). Opposite side—Top: Silver City, Idaho (Idaho Historical Society). Bottom: Lapham-Patterson House, Thomasville, Ga. (David K. Kaminsky).



"The Federal Government shall provide leadership in preserving, restoring and maintaining the historic and cultural environment of the Nation."

Under Section 2(a) of the order the heads of Federal agencies shall:

"... with the advice of the Secretary of the Interior, and in cooperation with the liaison officer for historic preservation for the State or territory involved, locate, inventory, and nominate to the Secretary of the Interior all sites, buildings, districts, and objects under their jurisdiction or control that appear to qualify for listing in the National Register of Historic Places."

Federal nominations are submitted through Federal representatives for Executive Order 11593. These representatives are appointed by the heads of Federal agencies.

#### ELIGIBILITY

All historic areas in the National Park System, together with those properties eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks, are of national significance and are listed in the National Register. Properties of national, State, or local significance may be nominated by the States and the Federal agencies and are placed on the Register by approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAM

The National Historic Preservation Act is implemented in cooperation with the State Historic Preservation Officers, who are responsible for administering the

National Register program within their jurisdictions. Before properties are nominated for inclusion in the National Register a statewide survey of historic, architectural, archeological, and cultural resources is undertaken.

Also before submission to the National Register, all nominations must have been approved by a State review board whose membership includes professionals in the fields of architecture (or architectural history), history, archeology, and other disciplines. If the property meets National Register criteria the board recommends it for nomination to the National Register. The nomination is then reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, signed, and forwarded to the National Park Service.

The State Historic Preservation Officer and the State review board are responsible for the preparation and review of the State's historic preservation plan which includes background information on the State (Volume I), an inventory and analysis of the State's historic resources (Volume II), and a program for their protection (Volume III). The National Park Service, acting in behalf of the Secretary of the Interior, reviews the plan and gives approval. In Volume III (the Annual Preservation Program) each State has an opportunity to update the content of the basic plan.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE LIST

A hard-cover volume entitled *The National Register of Historic Places* was published in 1972, listing properties registered through June 30, 1971; it is supplemented by a hard-cover volume published in 1974 that lists properties registered between July 1, 1971, and June 30, 1973. The two volumes contain pertinent information and descriptions of 7,000 registered properties. A cumulative listing of all National Register properties is published each February in the *Federal Register*, and additions to the National Register are printed the first Tuesday of each month. These listings and the hard-cover volumes are available from Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

#### CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

The following criteria are designed to guide the States, Federal agencies, and the Secretary of the Interior in evaluating potential entries (other than areas of the National Park System and National Historic Landmarks) for the National Register:

The quality of *significance* in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- 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 represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years *shall not be considered eligible* for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- a building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no other appropriate site or building directly associated with his productive life; or
- a cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or

Following is a list of officials primarily responsible for National Historic Preservation Act programs in each state:

**Alabama:** Director, Archives Dept. of Archives & History, Chairman, Alabama Historical Commission, Archives & History Building, Montgomery, AL 36164  
**Alaska:** Director, Division of Parks, 323 E. 4th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501  
**Arizona:** Director, State Parks Board, 1686 W. Adams, Phoenix, AZ 85007



**FEDERAL OFFICIALS  
RESPONSIBLE FOR  
IMPLEMENTING EXECUTIVE  
ORDER 11583**

► **THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION**  
In the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, Congress established the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to advise Congress and the President. The Council is composed of the Secretaries of Interior, Housing and Urban Development, Commerce, Treasury, Transportation, and Agriculture; the Attorney General; the Administrator of the General Services Administration; the Chairman of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution; and 10 non-federal members appointed by the President.

"The head of any Federal agency having direct or indirect jurisdiction over a proposed Federal or federally assisted undertaking in any State and the head of any Federal department or independent agency having authority to issue any undertaking shall, prior to the approval of the expenditure of any Federal funds on the undertaking or prior to the issuance of any license, as the case may be, take into account the effect of the undertaking on any district, site, building, structure, or object that is included in the National Register. The head of any such Federal agency shall afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation . . . a reasonable opportunity to comment with regard to such undertaking."

A booklet, "Advisory Council on Historic Preservation: To Advise, Recommend, Encourage, Coordinate, Assist," may be obtained by request from the Executive Secretary, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Suite 430, 1522 K St., N.W., Washington, DC 20005.

## Related NPS Programs

### **HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS-IN-AID**

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorizes 50 percent matching grants-in-aid to the 50 States of the Union, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Grant funds may be used for the preparation of comprehensive statewide historic preservation surveys and plans and for the acquisition and development of properties listed in the National Register. States and territories may use grant funds to acquire historic properties, historic plantations, or individuals. For acquisition and development projects involving a private transferee, the public interest is protected by deed covenants that assure maintenance and administration and public benefit.

Development funds are used for the protection, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction of historic properties. Evidence of conformance to professional standards established by the Secretary of the Interior must be shown in the form of plans, specifications, shop drawings, or other materials submitted by the State to the National Park Service, or by onsite inspection by personnel from the National Park Service Division of Grants.

Matching grants to the National Trust for Historic Preservation support acquisition, restoration, maintenance, and administration of its historic properties, and a wide variety of educational and technical assistance activities.

### HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

This program, initiated in 1933 for recording important examples of American architecture, is conducted by the National Park Service in cooperation with the American Institute of Architects and the Library of Congress. The records—measurements, drawings, photographs, and written data—form a national archive of historic architecture representing a wide range of building types, styles, dates, and geographic locations. Through the facilities of the Library of Congress all records are available for public use and reproduction.

Recording by HABS is evidence that a building is worthy of preservation. Most recorded buildings will be entered in the National Register as National Historic Landmarks or through nomination by the States or Federal agencies. Federal agencies are required under Section 2(c) of Executive Order 11593 to provide for such recording of historic structures which they plan to demolish or substantially alter.

**HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD**  
HAER was established in 1989 to document historic engineering, industrial, and technological works throughout the country. It is conducted by the National Park Service in cooperation with the American Society of Civil Engineers and the Library of Congress. HAER records take the form of measured drawings, professional photographs, historical reports, technical analyses, and motion pictures. Oc-

In addition to its normal summer recording program, HAER directs two projects which deal with the urgent problem of identifying and recording disappearing sites, structures, and objects before they disappear completely: (1) the HAER inventory is a nationwide effort to identify technological works in collaboration with other Federal agencies, State Historic Preservation Officers, local individuals, professional groups, and historical organizations; and (2) the emergency recording program documents works threatened with imminent destruction. Federal agencies are required under Section 2(c) of Executive Order 11593 to provide for such recording of historic structures which they plan to demolish or substantially alter.

By cooperating with State Historic Preservation Officers in preparing National Register nomination forms and helping State and local governments assess the importance of structures and objects in their areas, the HAER hopes to stimulate increased public interest in the emerging field of industrial archeology.

The Archaeological and Historical Preservation Act of 1960, as amended in 1974 (formally known as the Reservoir Salvage Act), places responsibility on the Secretary of the Interior to coordinate and administer a nationwide program for the recovery of archaeological and historic data which otherwise would be lost. The program is administered in cooperation and federaly licensed and assisted land modification programs and activities. This program is administered through liaison with other Federal agencies, identifying program needs and contracting with qualified State and private educational and scientific institutions to perform the necessary investigations. A large portion of the archeological fieldwork in the Nation is conducted through this program.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 additionally provides the Department with protective and research powers with respect to archeological and historic resources on Federal lands. In support of these activities the Departmental Consulting Archeologist grants permits to educational and scientific institutions for the purposes of conducting archeological and historical investigations on Federal lands.

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to make a survey of historic sites and buildings to identify those of national significance. Potential landmarks are evaluated by the Advisory Board on National Parks, Historic Sites, Buildings, and Monuments and are recommended to the Secretary of the Interior. Sites and structures found nationally significant by the Secretary are eligible for designation as National Historic Landmarks and are included in the National Register and listed monthly in the *Federal Register*. Upon the owner's

monthly in the Federal Register. Upon the owner's agreement to adhere to accepted preservation precepts, landmark designation is recognized by the award of a bronze plaque and a certificate. The program began in 1960.

Studies leading to the selection of National Historic

Studies leading to the selection of National Historic Landmarks are published in a series of books which are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. (Refer to the National Survey of Historic Sites and Buildings when ordering the books.)

The first entries in the National Registry of Natural Landmarks were designated in 1964. This program is similar to that of the National Historic Landmarks. The National Park Service conducts natural region studies to identify natural areas that are of potential national significance. These areas are then studied in the field by competent scientists. Natural areas considered of national significance are then designated by the Secretary of the Interior as eligible for nomination as Registered Natural Landmarks, regardless of ownership. At the Secretary's invitation, the owner may apply for a certificate and bronze plaque designating the site.

This part of the National Landmarks program was started in 1968. These landmarks are designated for use of schools and the general public for teaching the principles of environmental awareness.

The Federal Property and Administrative Services Act of 1949 permits the transfer of surplus historic properties from the Federal Government to State or local governments without charge. A 1972 amendment permits these properties to be used for revenue producing activities. For further information write to the Historic Preservation Officer, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20405.

The Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 provides for block grants to communities for community improvement. Communities may choose to use these grants for historic preservation. Funds may be used for a broad range of activities, including the survey, acquisition, rehabilitation, preservation, and disposition of historic properties; funds may also be used to establish grant and loan programs on the local level for preservation. For more information about these grants, consult your HUD area or regional office, or write to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410.

Title I of the National Housing Act permits the Federal Housing Administration to insure loans for the improvement of residential property. A landmark 1974 authorization the insurance of loans for preservation of residential properties listed in the National Register, or certified by the Secretary of the Interior to conform to National Register criteria. The maximum loan amount for historic properties is \$15,000 per dwelling unit and the maximum term is 15 years and 32 days. For more information about this program write to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20410.

The Comprehensive Planning Assistance Program (Section 701) provides grants for survey and planning. Historic preservation planning calls should be an element of any comprehensive plan. Typical historic activities in the survey and evaluation of historic properties, the determination of preliminary cost estimates for restoration, the preparation of historic district legislation, and the preparation of a historic preservation plan reflecting a program of action based on survey information. For more information about this program, see your HUD area or regional office, or write to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, DC 20401. Your State Planning Office may also be of assistance.





CITY PLAN COMMISSION  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND  
PHOTOGRAPHIC CORRELATION AND AERIAL CONTROL  
BY CHARLES A. MAHONEY AND ASSOCIATES—ENGINEERS  
PROVIDENCE BOSTON HARTFORD

CITY OF PROVIDENCE

