

WHAT IS THE NATIONAL REGISTER?

The National Register of Historic Places is the Nation's official list of cultural resources worthy of preservation and is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private recognition of our historic places. Over 90,000 properties nationally, including hundreds of historic districts, have been listed in the National Register Collection since its inception in 1966.

This important collection holds information on over one million individual resources—buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects that are related to a wide variety of United States historical themes, from social movements to industrial technology to political and military history. Each individual resource provides a link to the country's heritage at the national, state, and/or local level.

The National Register is more than simply an honor roll of important prehistoric and historic properties, but rather seeks to foster a greater understanding of our history through the preservation of significant places, and by supporting and fostering public and private efforts to identify, evaluate and protect our cultural resources nationwide.

In Bozeman, over 1,200 properties are listed on the National Register, some within the City's ten distinct historic districts and some located outside the historic districts. Your home, if eligible for registration, might contribute to the fabric of our shared past.

WHAT IS REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL REGISTER DESIGNATION?

Properties must be nominated for National Register Designation and must be distinguished by having been evaluated according to uniform standards and historic criteria, which are applicable for historical importance at the local, state, or federal level. Basic significant criteria for an historic property or site include:

- An association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- An association with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- An embodiment of a significant architectural style.
- An ability to yield important data in prehistory or history.

The most common criteria applied to National Register structures is whether the structure is an expression of significant architectural style, although the other criteria have

been applicable in Bozeman. Usually, only cultural resources that have reached their level of significance of at least fifty years ago are eligible for listing on the National Register.

Most importantly, for nomination, three key elements must be demonstrated regarding the significance of a property:

- Historic significance – the overall importance of a property to the community, state and/or nation and is usually defined by the application of one or more of the four significant criteria listed previously.
- Historic integrity – demonstrated by the authenticity of a property through historic physical characteristics.
- Historic context – provides a framework for understanding the property by placing it in the proper theme, place and time.

WHAT IS A NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION?

Anyone can write a National Register nomination. The nomination itself is composed on the *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (available at www.nps.gov/nr/publications/forms.htm). The form allows you to share the physical description of the property, information about its historical significance, dates of historic use, historic context, and a bibliography of references used in researching the property. Along with the form please include documentation consisting of photographs and maps.

The City of Bozeman has been designated as a Certified Local Government by the Montana State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), which means that the City will assist in the National Register nomination process through the Bozeman Historic Preservation Office. The SHPO will also assist by providing guidance to the applicant, providing National Register forms and instructional guides, by reviewing the nomination, and by advocating nomination of the property to the National Register. Please contact the City or the SHPO before completing a National Register Nomination form.

WHY LIST MY PROPERTY ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER?

Listing in the National Register contributes to preserving historic properties in a number of ways:

- Recognition that a property is of significance to the nation, the state, or the community.
- Consideration in the planning for Federal or federally assisted projects.
- Eligibility for Federal tax benefits.

- Qualification for Federal assistance for historic preservation, when funds are available.
- National Register properties can play an important role in fostering heritage tourism, education, and community programs at the local, state, or national level.
- Knowledge that a property is listed on the National Register, and is therefore significant, is critical to planning Bozeman's growth and development.

HOW DOES NATIONAL REGISTER LISTING AFFECT HOMEOWNERS?

No property can be placed on the National Register without the permission of the property owner, and in Bozeman, listing on the National Register does not affect the control a property owner maintains over that property.

Exterior alterations and additions that take place within the Neighborhood Conservation Overlay District are administered through the City Historic Preservation Office, a division of the City of Bozeman Department of Community Development. Further, the Historic Preservation Office uses the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Rehabilitation and Guidelines for Rehabilitating Historic Structures* as guide for determining the historical appropriateness of a building alteration. Use of the *Standards* is codified into the City of Bozeman Zoning Ordinance. Generally, interior changes, and minor exterior changes such as painting, minor repair, and landscaping are not under the jurisdiction of the City of Bozeman. See the Certificate of Appropriateness brochure for more information.

Owners are under no obligation to provide public access to their National Register property.

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES?

The following websites and address will be helpful in discovering more about the National Register:

National Register of Historic Places, National Park Service

1849 C Street, NW NC400
Washington, DC 20240
202-343-9536
www.cr.nps.gov/NR/

Montana State Historic Preservation Office

P.O. Box 201202
Helena, MT 59620-1202
www.his.state.mt.us/departments/shpo/

City Planning Department

P.O. Box 1230
Bozeman, MT 59771-1230
406-582-2260
www.bozeman.net

QUESTIONS? NEED MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT:

City of Bozeman Department of Community Development
20 East Olive Street - P.O. Box 1230
Bozeman, MT 59771-1230
Phone: 406-582-2260 / TDD: 406-582-2301
Fax: 406-582-2263
www.bozeman.net/planning