

Approval of National Register Nominations by Review Boards

The Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has two boards that review National Register nominations: the Board of Historic Resources (BHR) and the State Review Board (SRB). The BHR approves nominations for listing in the Virginia Landmarks Register. The SRB votes on forwarding each nomination to the National Park Service for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

State and Federal Designation Process

Typical steps for a National Register nomination to reach the Boards are as follows:

- Owners have given permission to officially designate their property.
- Owners have submitted their proposal in a preliminary report to DHR staff and board.
- Site visits by DHR staff have been made, and more information gathered by staff and/or owners.
- The resulting nomination is the product of a rigorous process that includes careful research, review, and idea sharing between owners, nomination authors, DHR staff and Board members. A National Register of Historic Places nomination is prepared for both the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register.
- All nominations are posted for public review on the Department of Historic Resources website:
<http://www.dhr.virginia.gov/registers/boardPage.html>



1. The Pierce Street Historic District was approved by the SRB and BHR at their joint meeting in June 2014.

Criteria for both State and National Registers:

The Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places use the same criteria for listing a property:

- Significant historical association with an event or pattern of events.
- Association with a significant historical person
- Significance for architectural, craftsmanship, engineering, or artistic qualities
- Archaeological significance

Listing in the Registers does not guarantee protection of a historic property, whether publicly or privately owned. Register designation is honorary, and protection and stewardship of the historic property is dependent on the owner. There are no restrictions on the use of designated private property that occur as a result of listing. However, private owners of historic resources have access to various preservation programs that are offered by the state and federal government, such as tax credits and easements. Local, state, and federal government-owned properties that are listed in the Registers are subject to applicable local, state, and/or federal laws and regulations pertaining to historic properties.

State Review Board (SRB)

The State Review Board is not a judicial body, but an advisory board appointed by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). The SHPO oversees the state architectural and archaeological surveys and other state and federally mandated programs such as the National Register of Historic Places. In making appointments to the SRB, the SHPO must choose individuals who meet professional requirements established by the National Park Service and who represent professional disciplines specified by the National Historic Preservation Act (see the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 36, Chapters 60 and 61 [36CFR60 and 36CFR61]). The disciplines are architectural history, history, anthropology, architecture and historic architecture, and prehistoric and historic archaeology.

The SRB's primary role is to review reports and nominations that are proposals for official designation to the National Register of Historic Places. At this meeting the SRB will hear a final presentation, which with their review, forms a recommendation on whether the resource meets the federally established criteria for the National Register. The SRB makes a recommendation of "eligible" or "not eligible" to the SHPO, who, in turn, makes a written recommendation to the Keeper of the National Register (an Officer of the National Park Service). The National Park Service manages the National Register program and establishes the parameters for listing properties in the National Register.



2. The Stafford Training School was approved by the SRB and BHR at their joint meeting in December 2012.

The SRB also provides expert advice on the architectural, historical, and archaeological significance of the state's historic resources; encourages appropriate historic preservation practices for the care and management of historic resources; and reviews DHR's annual work plan, programs and services.

Board of Historic Resources (BHR)

The Virginia Board of Historic Resources is an official policy-making Board of the Commonwealth of Virginia. Its seven members are appointed by the Governor. The board members are selected to offer both professional historic preservation expertise and broad citizen representation.

The Code of Virginia (10.1-2203 through 2206.2; VAC30) charges the Board with the responsibility of designating worthy historic resources to the Virginia Landmarks Register (the criteria for which is identical to that used for the National Register of Historic Places). The BHR also has responsibility for accepting donations of historic preservation easements on designated historic landmarks; approving proposed text of highway historical markers; encouraging appropriate historic preservation practices for the care and management of designated landmarks; and reviewing DHR's annual work plan, programs and services.

When the BHR completes a vote during the meeting, a designation or action is official. Thus, a property nominated to the Virginia Landmarks Register is listed in the register as of the BHR's vote in favor.