

Cultural Resource Information

Cultural resources are all past activities and accomplishments of people. They include buildings, objects, locations, and structures that have scientific, historic, and cultural value.

The process of locating and collecting information on cultural resources is the foundation for historic preservation efforts. The Department of Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) coordinates surveys in Missouri to identify the historic and archaeological resources that represent the state's diverse heritage. Information gathered through surveys forms the basis for evaluating the significance of the resources, nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places and planning for their protection.

Valuable survey information is also gathered by other agencies. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, federal agencies must identify and evaluate cultural resources when planning federal projects. The SHPO reviews this information under Section 106. In addition, the archaeological community actively gathers information on the state's prehistoric and historic archaeological sites. The Archaeological Survey of Missouri (ASM) coordinates this effort with grant assistance from the SHPO.

Distribution

The SHPO has collected data on more than 104,000 significant resources in Missouri: 63,000 historic buildings, 24,000 historic bridges and 17,500 archaeological sites. Information gathered on these resources is housed in the SHPO's Missouri Cultural Resource Inventory. This inventory is open to the public and serves both as a comprehensive database for cultural resource management and a valuable research archive. ASM archaeological site records are housed at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

The National Register of Historic Places is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. In Missouri, the program is administered by the Department of Natural Resources' State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). Within the state, more than 1,100 properties are listed in the register. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving our nation's heritage. Listing also provides recognition of a community's historic importance and assures protective review of federal projects that might adversely affect the character of the historic property. If the property is listed in the National Register, certain federal investment tax credits for rehabilitation and other provisions may apply.

Criteria

Listing in the National Register does not mean that limitations will be placed on the properties by the federal government. Public visitation rights are not required of owners. The federal government will not attach restrictive covenants to the properties or seek to acquire them. The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of significant persons in or past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period or method of construction; that represent the work of a master; that possess high artistic values; or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded or may be likely to yield information important in history or prehistory.

Considerations

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

- E. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- F. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- G. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.