



## NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN

### HOW TO APPLY THE NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION

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U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service

PDF of: [How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation bulletin \(13 MB\)](#)



By the staff of the National Register of Historic Places  
finalized by Patrick W. Andrus  
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*Photo Credits: (clockwise from top left) Frederick Douglass Home, Washington, D.C. (Walter Smalling, Jr.); Francis Canyon Ruin, Blanco vicinity, Rio Arriba County, New Mexico (John Samuelson); Main Street/Market Square Historic District, Houston, Harris County, Texas (Paul Hester); Bridge in Cherrytree Township, Venango County, Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Department of Transportation)*

*Note: Except for the above illustrations, the photographs and captions found in the printed version of **How to Apply the National Register Criteria** are omitted from this electronic version.*

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**NATIONAL REGISTER BULLETIN****HOW TO APPLY THE NATIONAL REGISTER  
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION**[Previous](#)[Table of Contents](#)[Next](#)**U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service****II. NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA FOR EVALUATION****Criteria for Evaluation**

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, 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 our past; or
- C.** 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
- D.** That have yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in history or prehistory.

**Criteria 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 which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which 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.

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