

National Register Designation

The Lenox Historical Commission (LHC) asked the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) to evaluate the town of Lenox for National Register Designation (NRD). Based on our town's history, historical assets (buildings, monuments, cemeteries), rich cultural history, and prominent historic persons (Hawthorne, Melville, Kemble, Sedgewick, Ward, Patterson, Eggleston, Walker) the MHC has given preliminary approval.

This designation is honorary, and does not impose any requirements on property owners. NRD does enhance the Town's image, particularly for cultural/historical tourism, for vacation destinations, and for residential choice. It also offers eligibility for tax benefits for commercial properties.

On Thursday, December 14th, the LHC will meet at the Academy, from 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The Commissioners will be available to answer any concerns you may have about the designation.

Please read the MHC information below:

Honorary Designation

The National Register of Historic Places is an honorary designation and is the nation's official list of historic places worthy of preservation.

What is the National Register (NR)?

The NR is a federal program of the National Park Service administered in Massachusetts by the MHC. It recognizes unique and irreplaceable historic resources that give a sense of time and place to our downtowns, neighborhoods, village centers, and rural landscapes. It also contributes to our communities' character making Massachusetts a special place.

The NR is an important preservation planning tool that encourages preservation, but it does not guarantee that listed properties will be preserved. The NR is not a design review program, but it does provide limited protection from state and federal actions, as well as eligibility for certain matching state restoration grants (when available) and certain tax benefits for certified rehabilitation projects.

Properties listed in the NR are automatically listed in the State Register of Historic Places.

What are the benefits to be listed in the NR?

Recognition: The NR recognizes the significance of a property to the community, state, and/or nation.

Tax Incentives: NR listing allows the owners of income producing properties certain federal tax incentives for substantial rehabilitation according to standards set by the Department of Interior.

Protection: NR properties are afforded limited protection from adverse effects of federally assisted projects; and, through automatic inclusion in the State Register of Historic Places, limited protection from state actions.

No Constraints: NR status places no constraints on what owners may do with their properties when using *private* funding, nor does it impose additional restrictions to already existing local regulations or ordinances.

Plaques: Owners may affix plaques to their listed properties.

Grants: All NR properties owned by municipalities and nonprofits are eligible to compete for grants from the Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund (MPPF).

Additional information at MHC's web site at www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc or 617-727-8470.

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