

Hawai'i State Register: Process, Myths, and Facts

What is the Hawai'i Register of Historic Places?

The Hawai'i Register of Historic Places was established to recognize many types of cultural resources. In addition to residences, it also includes other sites that tell the rich and varied history of the Hawaiian Islands. Represented on the Register are places of commerce, agriculture, education, recreation, worship, community gathering, civic interaction and, yes, housing.

- State Historic Preservation Division administers the program
- State Historic Places Review Board approves nominations for inclusion on the register
- The Hawai'i Register formally recognizes districts, sites, structures, buildings, and objects for their significance in
- Hawai'i's history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture

Benefits of Listing on the Hawai'i or National Register of Historic Places

- Recognition of Significance
- Documentation of significant historic properties
- Availability of local and national Grants for public and private properties on the register
- County and Federal Tax Incentives:
 - Kaua'i, Honolulu, Maui, and Hawai'i Counties offer property tax benefits for residential properties

Responsibilities with Designation

- Alterations and additions to the historic property are permissible when they follow the Secretary of Interior
- Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties.
- Designation runs with the land and does not end if there is a new owner.

Types of Historic Properties:

- Sites: Discrete areas significant solely for activities in that location in the past: battlefields, significant archaeological sites, designed parks and gardens, and other locations whose significance is not related to a building or structure
- Structures: Constructions meant to be used for purposes other than sheltering human activity. Examples include aircraft, bridges, grain elevator, railroads, ships, or gazebo
- Buildings: Structures intended to shelter some sort of human activity. Examples include a house, hotel, church, temple, store, school or similar construction. The term can be used to refer to historically and functionally related units, such as a courthouse and a jail, or a barn and a house.
- Districts: Geographically definable area, urban or rural, possessing a significant concentration, linkage, or continuity of sites, buildings, structures, or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development.

Objects: Usually artistic in nature and small in scale when compared to structures and buildings. Though objects may be movable, they are generally associated with a specific setting or environment. Examples of objects include monuments, sculptures and fountains.

Myths & Facts of Designation:

- Designation does not mean that your home must be opened to the public
- Provisions are made for some Land Use, Building, and ADA Code exemptions for historic properties
- Alterations and additions are allowed, if they are consistent with preservation standards
- County property tax exemption is a separate program. Designation is a prerequisite, but is not automatic
- Age of the property is not the only defining factor in designating a property. It must also be historically significant and have integrity.

Process

It takes approximately 12-18 months the entire process. This starts with researching for the nomination, through the historic Places Review Board’s review and determination.

The incredible staff of Historic Hawaii Foundation are on hand tonight to answer any questions you may have – or you can email them at member@historichawaii.org.

You can also download their guide at historichawaii.org, entitled, ‘Guide for Nominating Residences to the Hawai’i Register of Historic Places.’