

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the National Register of Historic Places?

The National Register of Historic Places is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation. The official site of the National Register of Historic Places is www.nps.gov/nr/.

[Additional FAQs posted by the National Park Service re: the National Register of Historic Places Program](#)

Are any downtown buildings currently listed in the National Register of Historic Places?

Yes -- there are currently 14 buildings listed individually within the proposed Downtown Bellingham National Historic District Boundaries. For a full list of Bellingham's National Register buildings go to www.cob.org/services/planning/historic/buildings/

What is a National Historic District?

A [National Historic District](#) is a group of buildings, properties, and/or sites that have been designated by the National Park Service as historically or architecturally significant, and as such listed in the [National Register of Historic Places](#). Buildings, structures, objects and sites within a historic district are divided into two categories: contributing and non-contributing. Districts greatly vary in size: some have hundreds of structures, while others have just a few.

Will National Historic District designation effect what I can do with my building?

Listing in the National Register of Historic Places, individually or as part of a district, is an honorary designation and does not impose federal or state restrictive covenants or easements. National Register listing does not guarantee protection of a property or prevent its demolition. The owners of private property listed in the National Register surrender none of their property rights. There is no requirement or expectation that the property will be made available for public visitation or inspection, or that it will be rehabilitated or restored. A property will not be listed if, for individual properties, the owner objects, or for districts, a majority of property owners object. National Register listing does not automatically invoke local historic district zoning or local landmark designation.

How and when will the listing occur?

The Downtown Bellingham Historic District is being nominated by the City of Bellingham and will be reviewed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the Washington Heritage Register by the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation during their quarterly meeting in Walla Walla, WA, on Friday October 24, 2014. The final decision is made by the National Park Service.

Find out more about the National Register of Historic Places in Washington State, visit the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation website at www.dahp.wa.gov/national-register-of-historic-places.