

To receive a historic building designation in Columbus, you can pursue either a local landmark designation on the **Columbus Register of Historic Properties** or list it on the **National Register of Historic Places**

Here are the specific steps and paths to follow:

Option 1: Local Designation (Columbus Register of Historic Properties)

This is managed by the city and places your property under the jurisdiction of the **Historic Resources Commission (HRC)**. [1, 2]

1. **Submit an Application:** You will need to file a nomination application with the Columbus Historic Preservation Office.
2. **HRC Review:** The **Historic Resources Commission** will review the building's historical and architectural significance.
3. **Approval:** If approved by the HRC and City Council, the property is added to the local register. Any future exterior alterations or renovations will require a [Certificate of Appropriateness](#) from the HRC. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]

Option 2: State and National Designation (National Register of Historic Places)

This is overseen by the **Ohio Historic Preservation Office (SHPO)** at the [Ohio History Center](#) (800 E. 17th Ave.). [1, 2]

1. **Preliminary Questionnaire:** Start by submitting a [National Register Preliminary Questionnaire](#) to SHPO to determine if your property qualifies. [1]
2. **Complete the Nomination Form:** If your property shows merit, you will be invited to complete a detailed, multi-page nomination form with historical and architectural details. [1]
3. **State and Federal Review:** The Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board will review your nomination. If approved, it moves forward to the National Park Service for final listing. [1, 2]
4. **Incentives:** Being on the National Register opens up access to [Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credits](#) for income-producing properties.

National Register of Historic Places

The official list of properties recognized by the federal government as worthy of preservation for their local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. Administered in each state by the [State Historic Preservation Office](#).

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/national-register-of-historic-places/>

Questionnaire & Nomination Process

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) looks forward to working with you as you prepare the National Register nomination for your property.

Nominations prepared for properties in Ohio are submitted to and processed by the State Historic Preservation Office before being sent to the National Park Service (NPS). The State Historic Preservation Office is the official

representative of the National Park Service in guiding and reviewing Ohio nominations made to the National Register. It is our responsibility to ensure that nominations are technically complete and accurate and that they meet the nomination criteria for eligibility before they are sent to the National Park Service.

In Ohio, the first step is to complete a National Register Preliminary Questionnaire which is designed to help determine whether a property or district is likely to qualify for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/national-register-of-historic-places/nomination-submission-process/>

Federal & State Tax Incentives for Rehabilitation

Federal and State tax incentives encourage the rehabilitation of historic buildings. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) works with owners of eligible historic properties, helping them qualify for Federal and State tax credits available for substantial rehabilitation projects. We review applications for both programs to determine whether buildings qualify and if proposed work complies with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

Applicants often apply for both State and Federal tax credits. Both the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application and the Federal Historic Preservation Certification Application must be submitted when applying for the combined credit. It is essential that applicants incorporate review time by all agencies into their project planning schedule. Projects that commence prior to the completion of all reviews risk not qualifying for the tax credits.

Interested in Applying for a Tax Credit? [Click Here](#).

Federal Historic Preservation Tax Credit

The National Park Service and the Internal Revenue Service administer the 20% Federal Rehabilitation Investment Tax Credit program in partnership with State Historic Preservation Offices.

Since 1976, the program has encouraged private sector investment in the rehabilitation and re-use of historic buildings that are income-producing and determined eligible by the Secretary of the Interior, through the National Park Service, to be “certified historic structures.”

The State Historic Preservation Office and the National Park Service review the rehabilitation work to ensure that it complies with the Secretary’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

Projects applying for the federal tax credit often apply for the [Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit](#) (OHPTC). Please note that aspects of both the state and federal applications must be submitted when applying for the combined credit.

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/historic-tax-incentive/federal-historic-rehabilitation-tax-credit/>

Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit

The Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Program (OHPTC), administered by the Ohio Department of Development (ODOD), provides a tax credit to leverage the private redevelopment of historic buildings. This is a competitive program that receives applications bi-annually in March and September.

While the ODOD administers the competitive evaluation process and makes final selection decisions on state applications, the role of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) is to review the historic rehabilitation component (Parts 1 & 2, also known as Section B—rehabilitation information) of these applications to determine whether the building is a “historic building” and if proposed and completed work complies with the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation.

Projects applying for the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit may also apply for the [**20% Federal Historic Investment Tax Credit**](#) (FHTC). Please note that aspects of both the Ohio Historic Preservation Tax Credit Application and the Federal Historic Preservation Certification Application must be submitted when applying for the combined credit.

<https://www.ohiohistory.org/preserving-ohio/historic-tax-incentive/ohio-historic-preservation-tax-credit/>