(d) District means a geographically definable area, urban or rural, that possesses a significant concentration, linkage or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united by past events or aesthetically by plan or physical development. A district may also comprise individual elements separated geographically but linked by association or history.

(e) Endangered property means a historic property which is or is about to be subjected to a major impact that will destroy or seriously damage the resources which make it eligible for National Historic Landmark designation.

(f) Federal Preservation Officer means the official designated by the head of each Federal agency responsible for coordinating that agency's activities under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, including nominating properties under that agency's ownership or control to the National Register.

(g) Keeper means the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places.

(h) Landmark means National Historic Landmark and is a district, site, building, object or structure, in public or private ownership, judged by the Secretary to possess national significance in American history, archeology, architecture, engineering and culture, and so designated by him.

(i) National Register means the National Register of Historic Places, which is a register of districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture, maintained by the Secretary. (Section 2(b) of the Historic Sites Act of 1935 (49 Stat. 666, 16 U.S.C. 461) and section 101(a)(1) of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 915; 16 U.S.C. 470), as amended.) (Address: Chief, Interagency Resource Management Division, 440 G Street NW, Washington, DC 20243.)

(j) National Historic Landmarks Program means the program which identifies, designates, recognizes, lists, and monitors National Historic Landmarks conducted by the Secretary through the National Park Service. (Address: Chief, History Division, National Park Service, Washington, DC 20240; addresses of other participating divisions found throughout these regulations.)

(k) Object means a material thing of functional, aesthetic, cultural, historical or scientific value that may be, by nature or design, movable yet related to a specific setting or environment.

(l) Owner or owners means those individuals, partnerships, corporations or public agencies holding fee simple title to property. “Owner” or “owners” does not include individuals, partnerships, corporations or public agencies holding easements or less than fee interests (including leaseholds) of any nature.

(m) Property means a site, building, object, structure or a collection of the above which form a district.

(n) Site means the location of a significant event, a prehistoric or historic occupation or activity, or a building or structure, whether standing, ruined or vanished, where the location itself maintains historical or archeological value regardless of the value of any existing structure.

(o) State official means the person who has been designated in each State to administer the State Historic Preservation Program.

(p) Structure means a work made by human beings and composed of interdependent and interrelated parts in a definite pattern of organization.

undertaken by professionals, including historians, architectural historians, arch- 
cheologists and anthropologists familiar with the broad range of the nation’s 
resources and historical themes. The criteria applied by these specialists to 
potential landmarks do not define significance nor set a rigid standard for 
quality. Rather, the criteria establish the qualitative framework in which a 
comparative professional analysis of national significance can occur. The 
final decision on whether a property possesses national significance is made 
by the Secretary on the basis of document- 
ation including the comments and 
recommendations of the public who 
participate in the designation process.

(a) Specific Criteria of National Sig-
nificance: The quality of national sig-
ificance is ascribed to districts, sites, 
buildings, structures and objects that 
possess exceptional value or quality in 
illustrating or interpreting the heritage 
of the United States in history, arch-

}

(1) That are associated with events 
that have made a significant contribu-
tion to, and are identified with, or that 
outstandingly represent, the broad na-
tional patterns of United States his-
tory and from which an understanding 
and appreciation of those patterns may 
be gained; or 

(2) That are associated importantly 
with the lives of persons nationally sig-
nificant in the history of the United 
States; or 

(3) That represent some great idea or 
ideal of the American people; or 

(4) That embody the distinguishing 
characteristics of an architectural type 
 specimen exceptionally valuable for a 
study of a period, style or method of 
construction, or that represent a sig-
nificant, distinctive and exceptional 
entity whose components may lack in-
dividual distinction; or 

(5) That are composed of integral 
parts of the environment not suffi-
ciently significant by reason of histor-
ical association or artistic merit to 
warrant individual recognition but collect-
ively compose an entity of excep-
tional historical or artistic signifi-
cance, or outstandingly commemorate 
or illustrate a way of life or culture; or 

(6) That have yielded or may be like-
ly to yield information of major sci-
entific importance by revealing new 
cultures, or by shedding light upon pe-
riods of occupation over large areas of 
the United States. Such sites are those 
which have yielded, or which may rea-
sonably be expected to yield, data af-
flecting theories, concepts and ideas to 
a major degree.

(b) Ordinarily, cemeteries, birth-
places, graves of historical figures, 
properties owned by religious institu-
tions or used for religious purposes, 
structures that have been moved from 
their original locations, reconstructed 
historic buildings and properties that 
have achieved significance within the 
past 50 years are not eligible for des-
ignation. Such properties, however, 
will qualify if they fall within the fol-
lowing categories:

(1) A religious property deriving its 
primary national significance from ar-
chitectural or artistic distinction or 
historical importance; or 

(2) A building or structure removed 
from its original location but which is 
nationally significant primarily for its 
architectural merit, or for association 
with persons or events of transcendent 
importance in the nation’s history and 
the association consequential; or 

(3) A site of a building or structure 
no longer standing but the person or 
event associated with it is of tran-
scendent importance in the nation’s 
history and the association consequen-
tial; or 

(4) A birthplace, grave or burial if it 
is of a historical figure of transcendent 
national significance and no other ap-
propriate site, building or structure di-
rectly associated with the productive 
life of that person exists; or 

(5) A cemetery that derives its pri-
mary national significance from graves 
of persons of transcendent importance, 
or from an exceptionally distinctive 
design or from an exceptionally signifi-
cant event; or 

(6) A reconstructed building or en-
semble of buildings of extraordinary 
national significance when accurately 
executed in a suitable environment and 
presented in a dignified manner as part 
of a restoration master plan, and when
§ 65.5 Designation of National Historic Landmarks.

Potential National Historic Landmarks are identified primarily by means of theme studies and in some instances by special studies. Nominations and recommendations made by the appropriate State officials, Federal Preservation Officers and other interested parties will be considered in scheduling and conducting studies.

(a) Theme studies. NPS defines and systematically conducts organized theme studies which encompass the major aspects of American history. The theme studies provide a contextual framework to evaluate the relative significance of historic properties and determine which properties meet National Historic Landmark criteria. Theme studies will be announced in advance through direct notice to appropriate State officials, Federal Preservation Officers and other interested parties and by notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER. Within the established thematic framework, NPS will schedule and conduct National Historic Landmark theme studies according to the following priorities. Themes which meet more of these priorities ordinarily will be studied before those which meet fewer of the priorities:

(1) Theme studies not yet begun as identified in “History and Prehistory in the National Park System,” 1982.

(2) Theme studies in serious need of revision.

(3) Theme studies which relate to a significant number of properties listed in the National Register bearing opinions of State Historic Preservation Officers and Federal Preservation Officers that such properties are of potential national significance. (Only those recommendations which NPS determines are likely to meet the landmarks criteria will be enumerated in determining whether a significant number exists in a theme study.)

(4) Themes which reflect the broad planning needs of NPS and other Federal agencies and for which the funds to conduct the study are made available from sources other than the regularly programmed funds of the National Historic Landmarks Program.

(b) Special Studies. NPS will conduct special studies for historic properties outside of active theme studies according to the following priorities:

(1) Studies authorized by Congress or mandated by Executive Order will receive the highest priority.

(2) Properties which NPS determines are endangered and potentially meet the National Historic Landmarks criteria, whether or not the theme in which they are significant has been studied.

(3) Properties listed in the National Register bearing State or Federal agency recommendations of potential national significance where NPS concurs in the evaluation and the property is significant in a theme already studied.

(c)(1) When a property is selected for study to determine its potential for designation as a National Historic Landmark, NPS will notify in writing, except as provided below, (i) the owner(s), (ii) the chief elected local official, (iii) the appropriate State official, (iv) the Members of Congress who represent the district and State in which the property is located, and, (v) if the property is on an Indian reservation, the chief executive officer of the Indian tribe, that it will be studied to determine its potential for designation. This notice will provide information on the National Historic Landmarks Program, the designation process and the effects of designation.

(2) When the property has more than 50 owners, NPS will notify in writing (i) the chief elected local official, (ii) the appropriate State official, (iii) the Members of Congress who represent the district and State in which the property is located, and, (iv) if the property is on an Indian reservation, the chief executive officer of the Indian tribe, and (v) provide general notice to the property owners. This general notice