

**APPENDIX A:
TERMS AND DEFINITIONS**

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This report includes several terms that are commonly used in historic preservation, but which may not be known to or understood by the reader.

National Register of Historic Places

(From the National Park Service technical bulletin, “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”.)

Preserving historic properties as important reflections of our American heritage became a national policy through passage of the Antiquities Act of 1906, the Historic Sites Act of 1935, and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. The Historic Sites Act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to identify and recognize properties of national significance (National Historic Landmarks) in United States history and archeology. The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 authorized the Secretary to expand this recognition to properties of local and State significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and worthy of preservation. The *National Register of Historic Places* is the official list of these properties, and is maintained and expanded by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Significance

(This definition appears the National Park Service technical bulletin “How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation”, as well as many other NPS publications.)

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of person significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such

properties will qualify if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- c. A birthplace or grave of a historic figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or productive life; or
- d. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historical events; or
- e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

The City of Round Rock considers properties for local landmark status based on the following criteria, outlined in the City Code of Ordinances, section 11.315 (3):

- (a) Character, interest or value of the structure, site or area because of its unique role in the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State of Texas or nation or other society.
- (b) Occurrence of a notable historical event at the structure, site or area.
- (c) Identification of the structure, site or area with a person or persons who contributed notably to the culture and development of the city, state, nation or society.
- (d) Embodiment of distinctive elements of architectural design, detail material or craftsmanship related to uniqueness to the area or the distinctiveness of a craftsman, master builder or architect, or a style or innovation.
- (e) Archaeological value in the sense that the structure, site or area has produced or can be expected to yield, based on physical evidence, information affecting knowledge of history or prehistory.
- (f) Other unique historical value.

Period of Significance

(From the National Register of Historic Places technical bulletin, “Defining Boundaries for Historic Properties”.)

Period of significance is the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or persons, or attained the characteristics that qualify it for National Register listing. Period of significance usually begins with the date when significant activities or events began giving the property its historic significance; this is often a date of construction.

The following Guidelines for Selecting a Period of Significance are relevant to the proposed historic districts within the Phase II survey area:

- For properties significant under Criterion A, the period of significance is the span of time when the property actively contributed to the development, heritage or cultural characteristics of the City, State of Texas or nation or other society.
- For properties significant under Criterion B, the period of significance is the time when the notable historical event at the structure, site or area occurred.
- For properties significant under City of Round Rock Criterion C, the period of significance is the period of time when the property was associated with an important person or persons.
- For properties significant under City of Round Rock Criterion D, Architecture, the period of significance is the date of construction and/or the dates of any significant alterations and additions.

The period of significance is based on the time when the property made the contributions or achieved the character on which significance is based.

The National Register of Historic Places has established the closing date for all periods of significance at 50 years prior to the current date. Therefore, all historic resources recommended for designation to the National Register in 2010 would generally have a period of significance ending in 1960, although the National Register coordinator at the Texas Historical Commission reports that the closing date might be pushed as far as 1965, depending on the circumstances.

Historic Districts

(From the National Register of Historic Places technical bulletin, “Defining Boundaries for Historic Properties”.)

A historic district possesses a significant concentration or continuity of sites, buildings, structures or objects united historically or aesthetically by plan or physical development. Districts may include several contributing resources that are nearly equal in importance, as in a neighborhood, or a variety of contributing resources, as in a large farm, estate, or parkway. Noncontributing resources located among contributing resources are included within the boundaries of a district.

The Round Rock City Code of Ordinances, Section 11.315, further details requirements for the designation of a new historic district, as stated in Part (4) Historic (H) Overlay District Findings.

(a) In recommending the application of the Historic Overlay District to an area of the City, the Historic Preservation Commission shall recommend express findings to the City Council regarding the specific structures, landscapes or other physical aspects of the district on which it bases the determination required by the criteria above.

(b) Where the designation is made based on the general character of the district or landmark, these findings may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to:

- (i) Scale of buildings and structures typical of the area.
- (ii) Architectural style typical of the area.
- (iii) Architectural period typical of the area.
- (iv) Building materials typical of the area.
- (v) Colors used in buildings typical of the area.
- (vi) Signage and street furniture typical of the area.
- (vii) Landscapes typical of the area.
- (viii) Typical relationships of buildings to the landscapes in the area.
- (ix) Typical relationships of buildings in the area to the street.
- (x) Setbacks and other physical patterns of building in the area.
- (xi) Typical patterns of rooflines of buildings in the area.
- (xii) Typical patterns of porch and entrance treatments of buildings in the area.

(c) Where the designation is made based on the character of a limited number of specific buildings in the area, the findings may include, but shall not necessarily be limited to:

- (i) Architectural style of the buildings.
- (ii) Architectural period of the buildings.
- (iii) Textures and colors of materials used in the buildings.
- (iv) Colors of the materials used in the buildings.
- (v) Rooflines of the buildings.
- (vii) Porch and entrance treatments of the buildings.
- (viii) Height and mass of the buildings.
- (ix) Relative proportions of the buildings (width to height, width to depth).

Contributing and Non-Contributing

As defined in the National Register bulletin, "How to Complete the National Register Registration Form,"

The physical characteristics and historic significance of the overall property provide the basis for evaluating component resources ... A contributing building, structure, or object adds to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was present during the period of significance, relates to the documented significance of the property, and possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or it independently meets the National Register criteria.

A noncontributing building, structure, or object does not add to the historic associations, historic architectural qualities, or archeological values for which a property is significant because it was not present during the period of significance or does not relate to the documented significance of the property; or, due to alterations, disturbances, additions or other changes, it no longer possesses historic integrity or is capable of yielding important information about the period; or it does not independently meet the National Register criteria.