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Appendix E Historic Glossary

What are National Historic Landmarks (NHLs)?

National Historic Landmarks (NHLs) are cultural properties that the National Park Service (NPS) designates as *nationally* significant. They are acknowledged to be the most significant historic places in the United States. Approximately 3,000 properties across the United States are recognized as NHLs. The U. S. Capital, the White House, and Georgetown University's Healy Hall are among the 74 properties recognized as NHLs in the District of Columbia.

There is no local or national regulation of NHL properties.

On Howard University's Central Campus, Douglass Hall (Building #23) and Founders Library (Building #29) and their surrounding buildings and landscapes on the Central Quadrangle are designated as a NHL historic district. Howard Hall is an individual NHL.

There is no local or national regulation of NHLs owned by private owners. As part of the Section 106 and Section 110(f) process, the effect of work funded or licensed by the federal government on NHLs and their immediate surroundings must be reviewed and adverse effects mitigated before work is undertaken.

What is the National Register of Historic Places (NR)?

The National Register (NR) is the official federal list of historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that are significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and culture. The list is administered by the NPS with the assistance of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in each state. In the District of Columbia, the SHPO is part of the Office of Planning (OP) and is referred to as the Historic Preservation Office (HPO).

There is no regulation of privately-owned properties that are listed on the NR. As part of the Section 106 process, the effect of work funded or licensed by the federal government on properties listed on the NR and their immediate surroundings must be reviewed and adverse effects mitigated before work is undertaken.

What is the District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory)?

The District of Columbia Inventory of Historic Sites (DC Inventory) is Washington, DC's official list of properties that have been determined worthy of protection due to their historical or cultural significance to the city. Established in 1964, the DC Inventory now includes almost thirty historic districts and more than 20,000 resources located across the city.

In the District of Columbia, buildings and sites that are either individually listed or located within a historic district that is listed on the DC Inventory are subject to the DC Preservation Law (Title 10, Chapter 26 of the District of Columbia's Municipal

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Regulations). This means that demolition of, and alterations or additions made to exteriors of listed properties are subject to review by the District of Columbia's Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB).

What does "listing" mean?

In the District of Columbia, "listing" means the formal entry of a property in the NR or the DC Inventory.

What does "Period of Significance" mean?

The Period of Significance (POS) is the span of time during which an individual property or district attained the historic significance that makes it eligible for listing.

What is the "50 Year Rule?"

Generally, properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years are not considered eligible for listing. For the purposed of the Master Plan study, History Matters used 1960 as the cut-off date for eligibility.

What does "contributing resource" mean?

A contributing resource is a building, site, structure, or object that adds to the historic significance of a historic district. In other words, it enhances our understanding of the history of a place. Conversely, a "non-contributing resource" is a building, site, structure, or object that does not add to the significance of a historic district. For example, if a historic district's Period of Significance is 1900 to 1945, a building within the district's boundary that was built in 1965 is "non-contributing."