

Listing Washington's Maritime Resources on the National Register of Historic Places

The **National Register of Historic Places** is the official federal listing of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that have been identified and documented as being significant in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, and/or culture. The following steps provide a basic outline of the process for National Register listing in Washington State. Maritime resources that may be eligible for listing include vessels, wharfs, lighthouses, life-saving stations, Naval facilities, sites of importance for maritime labor/industries, and maritime waterways or other landscapes.



STEP 1. CONTACT THE DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Reach out to Washington State's Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), our State Historic Preservation Office, staff to inquire about the resource you are interested in listing. They will assist with the initial assessment of eligibility for listing and provide guidance on the completion of register nominations. DAHP also has [a detailed guide on this process](#).

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State Architectural Historian
(360) 890-2634
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If the resource you are interested in listing is on Tribal land, your first point of contact is the associated [Tribal Historic Preservation Officer rather than DAHP](#).

STEP 2. CONDUCT HISTORIC PROPERTY RESEARCH

Listing an historic property requires compiling a significant amount of research to support the nomination. Some National Register nominations and the supporting research are done by cultural resources consultants. Applicants do not need to hire a consultant to complete this work but, if they choose to complete the nominations themselves, should be prepared to commit a significant amount of time to completing the nomination and the supporting research.

[DAHP](#) and the [National Park Service](#) both have helpful resources as a starting place for researching a historic property.

STEP 3. WRITE AND SUBMIT THE NOMINATION FORM

To submit the historic resource for listing, applicants submit a Nomination (or registration) form. DAHP has these [forms linked on their website](#). After completing the form, applicants submit their first draft to DAHP, whose staff will work with the applicant to revise and complete the form as necessary.

Filling out the form requires compiling historic property research in a way that demonstrates that the place meets the National Register's criteria for listing. To learn more about the criteria, see [DAHP's website on this topic](#). The National Park Service has many resources to assist you through the process. The [central location for finding these resources is linked here](#).

The form also asks the applicant to submit historic and current photos of the resource. There are several guidance documents available on how to take photos of historic properties, including from the [Washington Trust for Historic Preservation](#) and the [National Park Service](#).

STEP 4. WASHINGTON STATE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION MEETING

DAHP will schedule your attendance at a meeting of the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) and inform you of a deadline for a final draft of your nomination form prior to the meeting. The Washington State ACHP is comprised of citizens knowledgeable in Washington's history, archaeology, and architecture. The nine-member board will review your nomination and must recommend the property for nomination if the process is to continue.

There may be more edits recommended to the nomination following this meeting, which DAHP staff will work with you to complete. When the nomination form and its exhibits are accurate and complete, the State Historic Preservation Officer will make the formal nomination to the Keeper of the National Register. If the nomination clears this final review, the registration form is signed by the Keeper of the National Register and the property is officially added to the National Register of Historic Places. Sites which are listed on the National Register are simultaneously added to the Washington Heritage Register.

STEP 5. LISTING ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Listing in the National Register is a recognition of the significance of a resource. It may qualify the property for grant funds, technical assistance, and/or federal tax credits, but does not place restrictions on a private property owner regarding use, maintenance, or alterations. For more information about what listing means for a property, visit [DAHP's website on this topic](#).