

How does a property become designated?

STEP ONE **Nomination** - Anyone can nominate a resource by completing and submitting a nomination form; however, owner consent is required.

STEP TWO **Review and vote by the Harford County HPC** - Nominations are reviewed by the HPC at a public meeting to determine if the nomination meets the designation criteria. If approved, the HPC recommends the nomination to County Council for designation.

STEP THREE **Review and vote by the County Council** - Nominations are reviewed by the Harford County Council at a public meeting. If approved, new historic landmarks are added to the Harford County Historic Landmarks list.

Is a Harford County Historic Landmark different from the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and the Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties (MIHP)?

Yes, they are different and separate programs. The NRHP is a federal historic designation that is administered by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), the state agency for historic preservation.

The MIHP is a state program, also administered by MHT. It is not an official historic designation, but rather a large catalog of survey information that documents historic resources. It is used to determine if a resource is eligible for the NRHP or as a Harford County Historic Landmark. The table below summarizes the differences between each program:

PROGRAM	HISTORIC DESIGNATION	EXTERIOR ALTERATION REVIEW	ELIGIBLE FOR TAX CREDITS	PROTECTION AT LOCAL LEVEL
National Register	✓		✓	
Maryland Inventory				
H.C. Historic Landmark	✓	✓	✓	✓

For more information, contact:

Historic Preservation Section

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<https://www.harfordcountymd.gov/2029/Historic-Preservation>

Harford County Historic Landmarks

Benefits of Designation, Incentives & FAQs



3 REASONS

TO CONSIDER A HARFORD COUNTY HISTORIC LANDMARK DESIGNATION

Protect your property/site ♦ Reduce your property taxes for qualified rehabilitation work
 Earn the honor and prestige of preserving Harford County history



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Did you know? There are 66 designated Harford County Historic Landmarks. Since 2002, county historic preservation tax credits have saved Harford County Historic Landmark owners almost \$50,000 in property taxes.



FAQs

A Harford County Historic Landmark is ...

a local historic designation created and protected by the local zoning code, which recognizes surveyed historic resources that are historically, culturally and/or architecturally significant.

Benefits of designation

- Protects your property from future demolition
- Protects your property from adjacent development
- Protects the historic and/or architectural character of the exterior of your property by preventing destructive, damaging or arbitrary changes by future owners
- Improves property values, especially in designated historic districts
- Eligible for county historic preservation tax credits, which reduce your property taxes
- Eligible for state and federal historic preservation tax credits
- County, state, and federal tax credits may be combined
- Eligible for free technical assistance and architectural advice from preservation specialists

Owner responsibilities

Owners of Harford County Historic Landmarks agree to maintain their property following the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, nationally accepted preservation practices. The basic principle is to retain and rehabilitate the landmark's historic materials, especially windows, doors, roofs, and siding, to preserve its physical integrity as a representative of itself and its time in history.

Can Harford County Historic Landmarks be altered?

Yes! There are no restrictions on the interior or the use of a historic landmark. However, some exterior alterations may need prior approval from the Harford County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) through a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA). Alterations, including additions, are typically approved if they are in keeping with the major exterior features that make a historic landmark significant.

General maintenance, such as painting and minor repairs, does not require approval.

Is my property, site, or area eligible?

To be eligible, surveyed resources must be 50 years old or older, have historic integrity AND meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Associated with events important in the past
- Associated with the lives of persons important in the past
- Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a particular architectural style or period, or method of construction
- Represents the work of a notable architect or master builder
- Possesses high artistic value
- Possesses character, interest or value as part of the heritage or culture of Harford County, the State of Maryland or the United States
- Has potential to provide important information about history or prehistory (for archaeology)
- Represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction (for historic districts)