NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES:

THE NUTS & BOLTS OF DRAFTING A NOMINATION

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Overview

- Step-by-step What-and-Why of Nominations
  - Significance
  - Integrity
- Updating Older Nominations
1. **Your State NRHP Coordinator (Me!)**
   - jbertolini@shpo.nv.gov or (775) 684-3436

2. **Public Guides**
   - **National Park Service**
     - *How to Complete the National Register Registration Form* (Bulletin 16a)
     - Other guides and bulletins for specific property types
   - **Nevada SHPO**
     - Program manuals and instructions
Eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places

Is the Resource Significant?

Yes
- What for?
- When?
- Is there evidence?

No
- Not Eligible

Does it still have the features from when it was important? (i.e., does it have integrity?)

Yes
- Probably Eligible

No
- Not Eligible
Many Pieces – 2 Primary

- Narrative Description
  - What is it?
  - Does it have integrity?

- Narrative Statement of Significance
  - Why do we care?

- Maps & Photos

- Heavily Inter-related

- MPDFs can inform
Types of Resources

- Building
- Structure
- Object
- Site
- District
Section 8: Statement of Significance

- Not just a running narrative of development (that’s Section 7)
- Not a “grab bag” for the site’s history
- Position paper on why the place matters
Resource must be significant under any of 4 criteria:

A - Historical Significance

B – Important Person(s)

C – Architecture

D – Archaeology
Period of Significance

- Critical component

- Can be broad or concise, depending on property

- Strongly influences integrity, and thus eligibility
Criterion A – Historic Significance

- Associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- Area of Significance is Critical
Criterion A – Specific Events

- The site of a battle.

- The building in which an important invention was developed.

- A factory district where a significant strike occurred.
Criterion A – Pattern of Events

- A trail associated with western migration.

- A site where prehistoric Native Americans annually gathered for seasonally available resources and for social interaction.

- A downtown district representing a town's growth as the commercial focus of the surrounding agricultural area.
Criterion B – Important Person(s)

- The home of an important merchant, politician, or labor leader.

- The studio of a significant artist.

- The business headquarters of an important merchant or business leader.
Criterion C - Architecture

- A house or commercial building representing a significant style of architecture.
- A designed park or garden associated with a particular landscape design philosophy.
- A movie theater embodying high artistic value in its decorative features.
- A bridge or dam representing technological advances.
Criterion C – Work of a Master

- Can be a professional architect or a local craftsman

- Cannot simply be designed by a prominent builder/architect. It must reflect the design aspects that made that master significant.
Criterion D – Information Potential

- Have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

- Intact archaeological sites
  - Protected from looting
  - Maintained integrity of deposition and/or information potential
Criteria Considerations

- Limitations on what can and cannot be listed in the National Register

- NR Bulletin 15 outlines the use, application, and exceptions to these limitations.
Criteria Considerations

- A – Religious Properties
- B – Moved Properties
- C – Birthplaces or Graves
- D – Cemeteries
- E – Reconstructed Properties
- F – Commemorative Properties
- G – Less than 50 Years
Section 7: The Architectural Description

- Why is the building/site/structure designed the way it is?
- How was the property used historically and today?
- What changes have been made over time, and when? Why?
Integrity

- Must possess historic integrity under 7 aspects:
  - Location
  - Setting
  - Feeling
  - Association
  - Design
  - Materials
  - Workmanship

- Integrity depends on the resource and its significance.
What is an MPDF?

- Multiple Property Documentation Form
- It is a cover document, not a nomination in its own right.
- Outlines significant context
- Establishes registration requirements for properties that are related under that context.
When to use one?

- Geographically-related or thematically related (or both) set of resources
- Clearly establish threshold of eligibility for resources that are common or prolific
- Long-term research/evaluation framework
- Approved by Keeper
Approaches

- Thematic
- Geographic
- Chronological
- Combination
Schools in Nevada
Agriculture on the Upper Carson River
(Possible) Post-World War II Housing in [Reno, Las Vegas metro, etc.]
(Possible) Modern Motels of [Reno, Las Vegas, etc.]
How does it work?

- Establish a context
- Determine property types associated with that context
- Outline registration requirements for those property types
- Include at least one (1) nomination
NATIONAL REGISTER: TIPS AND THINGS TO REMEMBER
Tips on Contracting for Nominations

- SOI Professional Qualifications Standards

- Ideally, familiar with theme, property type, or region

- Costs should be reasonable
  - Depending on boundaries, resource count, and scale.
What is the NRHP Process?

- Initiated by Anyone
- SHPO Review
- State Review Board
- SHPO Sends to Keeper (NPS)
- Keeper Lists

Reference
36 CFR 60
What then?

Keeper can:

- List resource with submitted nomination within 45 days
- Return nomination for more information
- Reject nomination as ineligible for the NRHP
NRHP Outlook in Nevada

- NVSHPO emphasizing thematic projects and commercial properties, especially districts

- Contexts that need written
  - Architectural history of any kind
    - Individual architects
    - Broader architectural trends (styles & types in various geographies)
  - Agricultural histories (SHPO doing in-house)
  - Post-war housing and commercial development
Questions?