

The St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places is an official list of the Sunshine City's historically significant resources. This designation is the result of official action taken by City Council, generally after a nomination is brought forward by an owner and recommended by city staff.

A set of nine contextual criteria are used to evaluate a property, site, or district's significance. To be listed in the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places, a resource must be found to meet at least one of the following:

- A reminder of *cultural or archaeological heritage*;
- The site of a *significant event*;
- *Identified with a person who significantly contributed to the city, state, or nation*;
- The *work of a master builder, designer, or architect*;
- Recognized for the quality of its *architecture*;
- *Architecturally valuable for the study of a period or method of construction*;
- A definable area possessing a *significant concentration of resources united in past events or aesthetically*;
- A definable area *united in culture or design*; or
- *Contributing information important to prehistory or history.*

An evaluation of a resource's historic integrity also takes place during the listing process. *Historic integrity is measured by what remains of a resource's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.*



How will designation change the way I maintain and update my property?

City Staff provides valuable input to owners of locally designated properties to ensure that the long-term treatment of properties listed in the St. Petersburg Register is sympathetic to their historic appearance and materials.

Most minor exterior alterations are reviewed by staff; more intensive projects such as replacing a historic element with a different material, additions, and demolitions must be evaluated by the Community Planning & Preservation Commission. Approval for either type of project results in the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness, or COA. Interior alterations are only reviewed as part of tax exemption applications.

In 2016, 91% of COA applications were limited to quick staff reviews. A total of 99% of COA applications were ultimately approved.

What are the economic benefits to local historic designation?

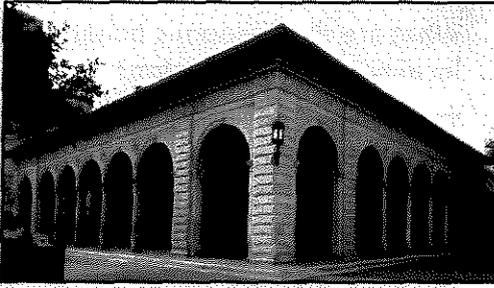
The *Rehabilitation Ad Valorem Tax Exemption* program is available to owners of properties listed in the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places or the National Register. This program currently exempts up to 12.1 mils of certain property taxes for a ten-year period following qualifying improvements.

Buildings in the St. Petersburg Register may be eligible for *adaptive reuse* for suitable land use types that would otherwise be prohibited.

Certain *Florida Building Code Exemptions* are allowed for buildings listed in the National Register of Historic Places or the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places, generally when code compliance would negatively impact a resource's historic integrity. A complete list of incentives for Historic Preservation is available from city staff.

"Different analysts in different parts of the country using different methodologies have, for the most part, found very consistent results: in general, properties subject to the protections of a local preservation ordinance tend to have rates of appreciation greater than the local market as a whole and greater than similar, undesignated neighborhoods." – PlaceEconomics, 2016

There are sometimes conflicting claims about the effect of designation on property values. As demonstrated by the national research firm PlaceEconomics in the quote above, the impact is generally positive.



The Open-Air Post Office is listed in both the St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places and the National Register of Historic Places for its distinctive architecture.

What is the difference between the St. Petersburg Register and the National Register?

There is sometimes confusion caused by the fact that historic designation can take two different forms in St. Petersburg.

- *The National Register of Historic Places* is overseen by the National Park Service. This designation is largely honorary and involves the documentation and evaluation of historic properties and districts through the lens of established criteria.
- *The St. Petersburg Register of Historic Places* also includes recognition and documentation, but additionally creates a zoning overlay that ensures the resource's long-term stability.
- Local designation follows criteria derived from those established by the National Park Service. In fact, *a great number of our historic resources are listed at both the local and the national level.*



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*For more information on the City of St.
Petersburg's historic preservation
program, local landmarks, and
incentives for preservation, please visit
www.stpete.org/history.*