



## POLICY STATEMENT – STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD

### **Subject: Reviews of Eligibility Status of National Register-Listed Property**

The State Historic Preservation Review Board (SRB) was established under 36 CFR 61.4 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, (54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq.*, formerly 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*) and Chapter 177b, Section 10-321q of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), to provide expert judgements about the significance of historic cultural resources in Connecticut. The responsibilities of the SRB are described in these statutes and the National Park Service's *Manual for State Historic Preservation Review Boards*. SRB members are appointed by the State Historic Preservation Officer and exceed professional qualifications defined by the U. S. Secretary of the Interior for Historic Preservation and related fields.

The SRB reviews National Register nomination proposals, participates in appeals, and provides opinions on the National Register eligibility and status of historic properties. As part of their regular duties, the SRB may also provide general advice and professional recommendations to the State Historic Preservation Office in carrying out the state historic preservation program.

The purpose of this policy statement is to clarify the SRB's role in evaluating the National Register status of listed property threatened by proposed demolition. National Register-listed properties are subject to the Connecticut Environmental Protection Act, codified in CGS Chapter 439, Section 22a-19a. The Protection Act is specific to Connecticut and is not part of the National Park Service's National Register program. It permits legal recourse for the unreasonable destruction of National Register-listed property, when there is a prudent and feasible alternative to the destruction. The Protection Act also applies to properties under consideration for National Register listing, which is defined as properties for which fully completed National Register nominations were scheduled for SRB review and publicly noticed prior to inquiry under the Protection Act.

The State Historic Preservation Office staff may seek formal or informal advice from the SRB at any time. In cases when the Connecticut Attorney General's Office is considering potential legal action under the Protection Act and the proposed demolition is scheduled for consideration by the State Historic Preservation Council, the State Historic Preservation Office has established the following procedures:

SHPO staff will request that the SRB review whether the property proposed for demolition continues to meet the criteria for National Register listing.

- This review will be scheduled for the first available regular meeting of the SRB. Meetings are held quarterly and are open to the public.



- Notice of placement on the SRB meeting agenda will be provided at least one week prior to the meeting by email and/or mail to the property owner and their representatives.
- The SRB's role is limited to review of the current historic integrity of the property and discussion of the characteristics that qualified the property for National Register listing. The SRB meeting is not a hearing; project plans and proposed alternatives are not relevant to the discussion of the existing National Register eligibility of the property.
- SHPO staff will prepare a summary document for the SRB to review prior to the meeting. The document will include an overview of the National Register listing, a map showing the location of the property, and current photographs, if available.
- SHPO staff is choosing to request SRB advice in the format of a public meeting with an SRB vote on whether the property retains enough integrity to retain its National Register-listed status. This action is not equivalent to a formal request to change the National Register listing. Requests to remove property from the National Register or amend existing nominations follow the procedures outlined in 36 CFR 60.

This policy was approved by the State Historic Preservation Review Board on December 4, 2020.

Signed:

Jared I. Edwards, Chair, State Historic Preservation Review Board

Date: 12/8/2020

As State Historic Preservation Officer, this policy is effective as of the date of my signature.

Signed:

Mary B. Dunne, State Historic Preservation Officer

Date: 12/15/20