

Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Review Board

By: Sarah Leser, Legislative Analyst II November 28, 2023 | 2023-R-0295

Issue

Briefly explain the role of Connecticut's State Historic Preservation Review Board (SRB).

Establishment and Membership

The <u>SRB</u> is established by <u>CGS § 10-321q</u> in accordance with the requirements of the <u>National</u> <u>Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101 et seq.</u>). The SRB consists of 10 members appointed by the State Historic Preservation Officer who meet federally defined <u>professional</u> <u>qualifications</u>, including members such as someone with a background in history and archaeology (<u>36 C.F.R. § 61.4</u>). Members generally serve three-year terms and may be reappointed to serve additional terms. The board meets quarterly, and past meeting agendas and minutes can be found <u>here</u>.

SRB Duties

According to its <u>bylaws</u>, the SRB's duties, which are prescribed by federal regulations (<u>36 C.F.R. §</u> <u>61.4(f)(6)</u>), are as follows:

- 1. review and make recommendations on <u>National Register of Historic Places</u> nomination proposals,
- 2. participate in the review of appeals to National Register nominations and provide written opinions on the issues or matters of appeals, and
- 3. provide general advice and professional recommendations to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in carrying out the state historic preservation program.

To carry out its duties, the SRB uses <u>SHPO's procedures</u> for listing a property in the National Register in Connecticut and follows National Register Federal Program Guidelines (<u>36 C.F.R. Part</u> <u>60</u>). The National Park Service provides <u>guidance documents</u> for following these guidelines.

At SHPO's request, the SRB may also provide preliminary opinions of National Registry eligibility and review continued eligibility of properties proposed for <u>relocation</u> or <u>demolition</u>. The <u>Connecticut</u> <u>Environmental Protection Act</u> prohibits the demolition of properties listed or under consideration for listing on the Historic Register (<u>CGS § 22a-19a</u>). When a historic property is proposed for demolition, SHPO will request that the SRB review whether the property continues to meet <u>criteria</u> for National Register listing.

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