



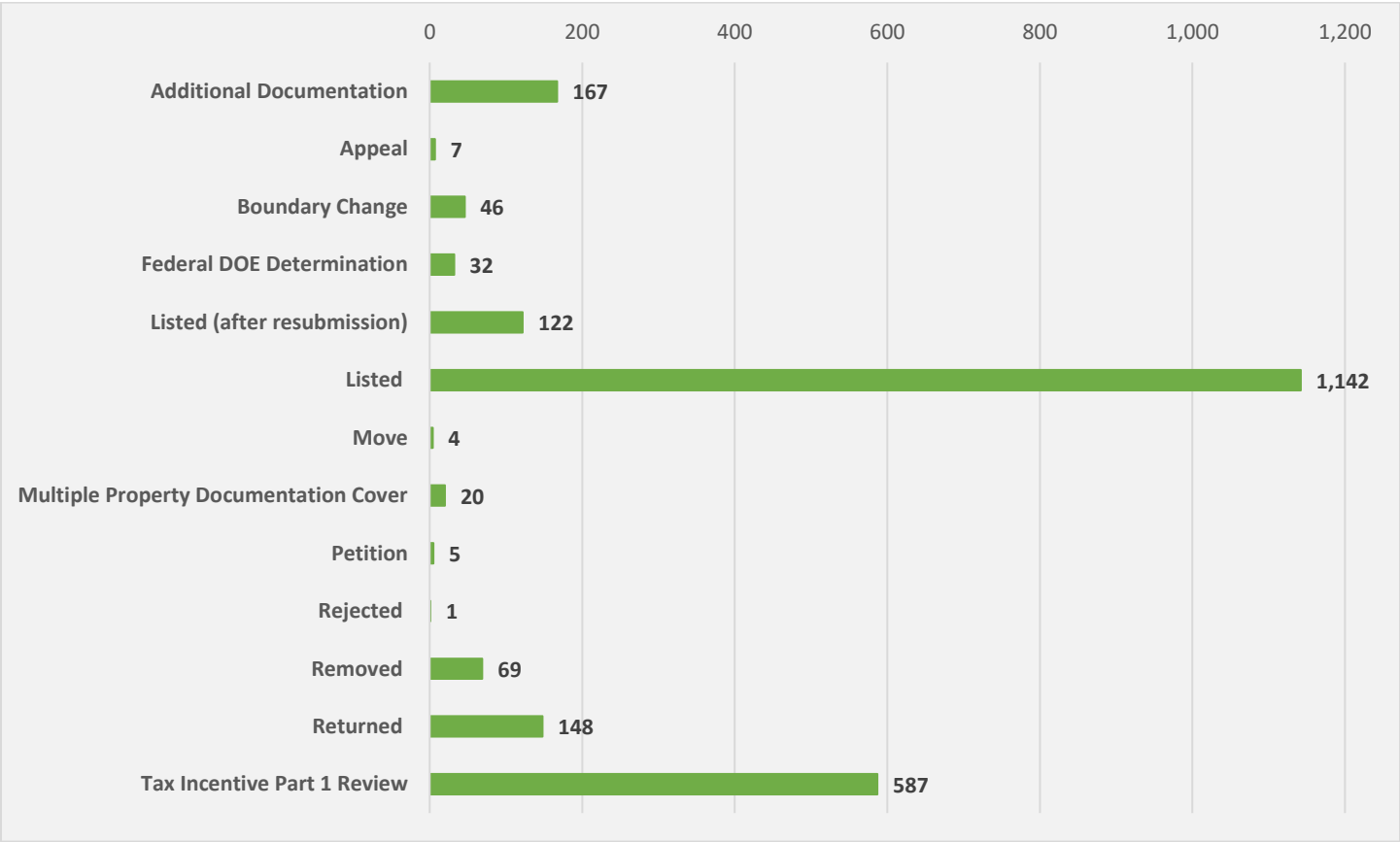
NRHP E-Blasts

National Register of Historic Places news for the historic preservation community
January 2026

National Register of Historic Places: 2025 By The Numbers

In Fiscal Year 2025, the National Register Program evaluated 2,350 actions, an increase of 7% over FY24’s 2,185 actions.

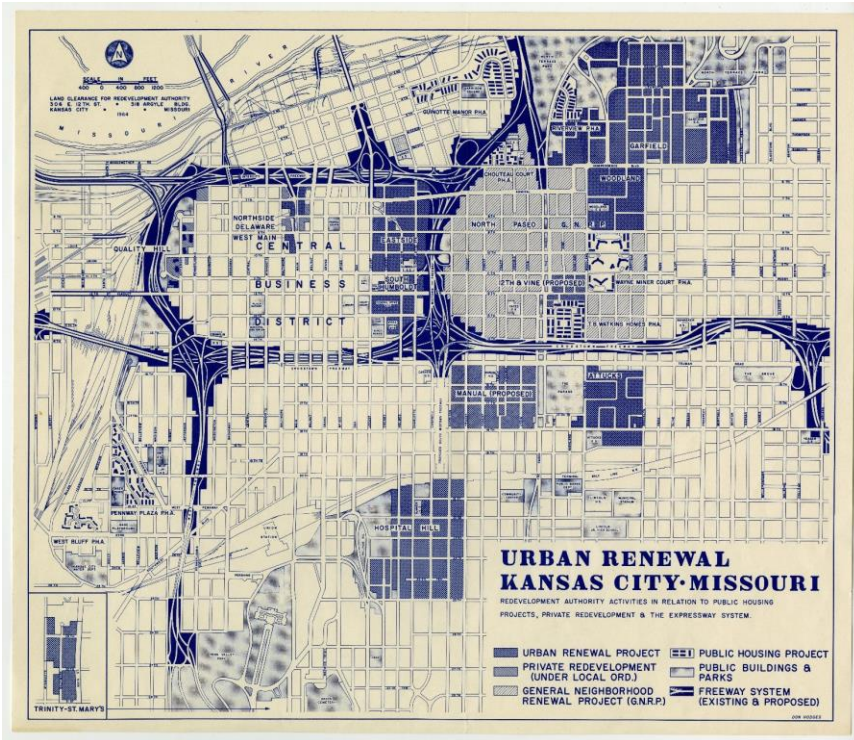
We are grateful for our ongoing partnerships with nominating authorities and proponents and look forward to another productive year working with our partners and the public to recognize all places worthy of preservation.



Source: National Register Information System, Tax Incentive Database.

New Nationwide Multiple Property Documentation Form: Urban Renewal

The National Register Program has issued a nationwide Multiple Property Documentation Form for Urban Renewal, now available for download at <https://irma.nps.gov/DataStore/DownloadFile/750055>.



Source: Urban Renewal in Kansas City, Missouri, Land Clearance for Redevelopment Authority, 1964.

“Urban renewal” was among the most significant policies adopted by a wide range of cities during the second half of the twentieth century. Since the late-1940s, urban renewal programs in various forms have changed the face of many downtown areas, both large and small, across the country. The story of the origins of these programs at the national level and the resulting actions at the state and local level can reveal much about the history of urban planning, modern architecture, and social attitudes during the second half of the twentieth century.

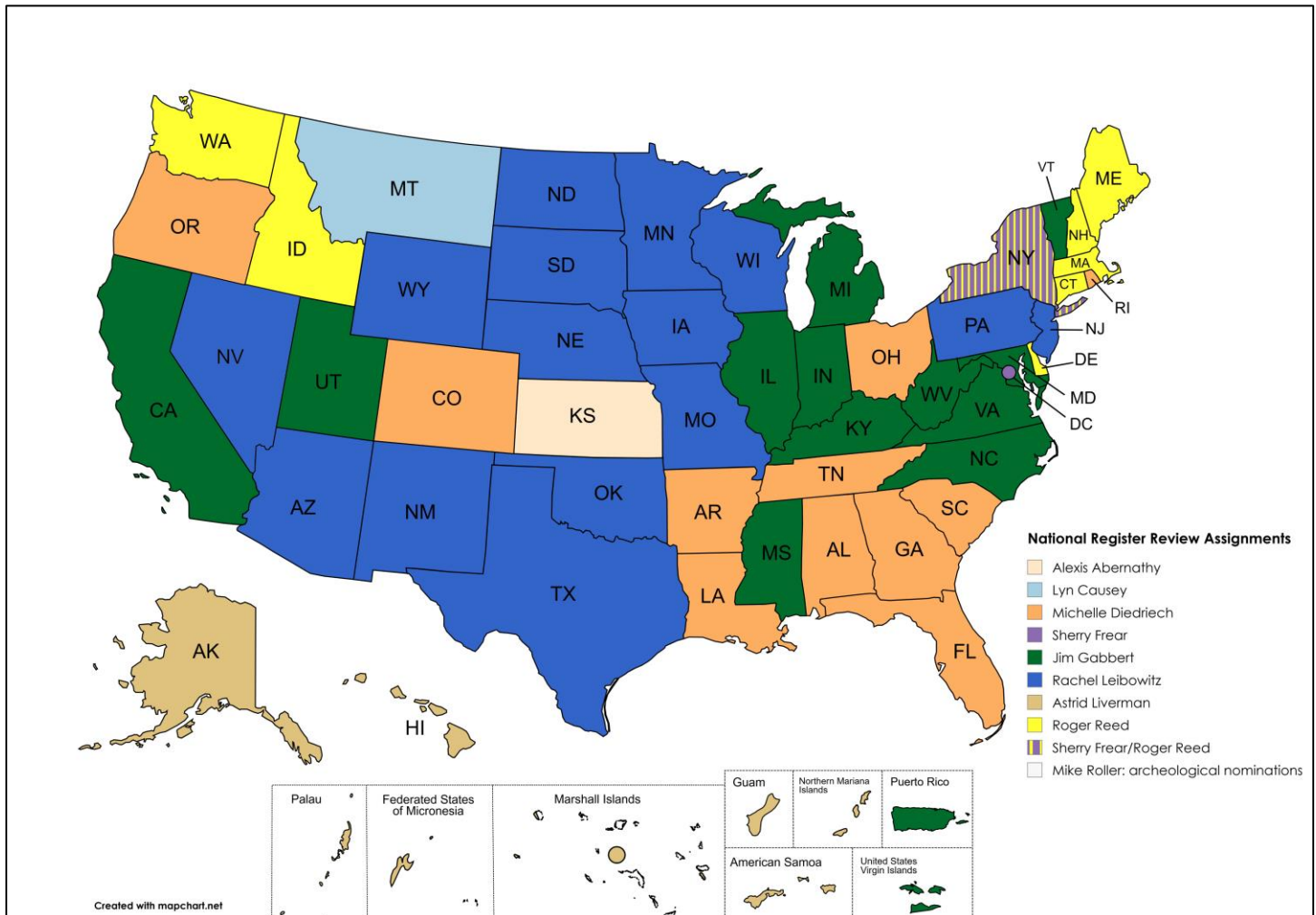
While in the past, many in the then-emerging preservation field fought against the implementation of urban renewal policies that led to the destruction of swaths of historic properties in urban areas, the field is now facing the daunting task of assessing the results of those programs.

At least 25 urban renewal projects have been listed in the National Register to date. The listed properties showcase the best of the renewal efforts: innovations in architecture, housing, and commercial development that have proved successful over time. However, urban renewal likewise resulted in vacant lots, minimal or questionable development, and damaged landscapes and lives. As the preservation field begins to tackle the issues of mid-twentieth century urban development, modern architecture, and urban planning, a comprehensive overview of the period’s urban renewal programs and an understanding of the associated property types was deemed a priority by the National Park Service and resulted in the development of the *Urban Renewal Era in the United States* Multiple Property Documentation Form.

The newly released MPDF provides context and registration requirements as guidance for proponents wishing to prepare National Register nominations for places significant for or impacted by urban renewal actions.

State Reassignments

With the retirement of senior historian Paul Lusignan, his portfolio of Western and Pacific states and territories has been reassigned to his colleagues in the National Register Program. A copy of this map, below, along with the names, phone numbers, and email addresses of all reviewers may be found on the National Register website on our [Contact Us](#) page.



Paul Lusignan Retires: The Work of a Master of the National Register



Paul Lusignan, NRHP Sr. Historian.
Source: <https://www.nga.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/Fall-2022-Intergov-Paul-Lusignans-Resources.pdf>

Senior Historian Paul Lusignan has retired from the National Park Service after 33 years with the National Register of Historic Places. Paul came to the National Register after many years work with the Wisconsin SHPO, and in the private sector in Vermont and Washington, D.C.

Paul grew up in the mill town of Southbridge, Massachusetts, and attended Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute where he earned his degree in Building Sciences. After short stint as a costumed blacksmith at Old Sturbridge Village, Paul enrolled at the University of Vermont where he earned his master's degree in Historic Preservation and Conservation.

Paul was not only the National Register Program's most experienced voice on National Register criteria and processes and Traditional Cultural Properties, but the creator of multiple lists of properties on topics ranging from public housing to TCPs. This important work was instrumental in preparing [*Best Practices Review Issue 13, September 2025: Considering Unusual Properties*](#).

Most recently, in addition to his regular workload of National Register actions reviews, Paul led the effort to develop a Multiple Property Documentation Form to provide guidance evaluating Urban Renewal-associated properties, issued late last year.

Paul recently fielded some questions from his NR and NHL colleagues:

How and where did you get started in the historic preservation field?

It started in a class called *Troy: 19th Century Industrial City*, taught by Dean Phelan at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI). It merged history with industrial architecture with preservation for three hours every week. That class encouraged me to attend UVM's summer preservation institute. From there it was graduate school at UVM and my first "professional" job doing survey work in the former Great Lakes industrial hub of Superior, Wisconsin. (Thank you, Barbara Wyatt). Not long after that I began working at the Wisconsin SHPO, first writing industrial contexts (anyone remember RP3?), then eventually serving as Survey and Register Coordinator (1982-1990). I took a leave of my senses and worked as an impoverished private consultant in CT and DC for a few years before coming to the NR program in 1992 under Carol Shull.

What was the first, or one of the first nominations that you reviewed and signed?

Among the earliest: Spangler-Wilbur House, AZ (and it had an SLR, tough *ss Lusignan) and New Dungeness Light Station, WA.

You have served the National Register of Historic Places program for 33 years. During all that time, are there any states (or territories) for which you never served as a reviewer?

Quite a few. From early on I was responsible for midwestern and western states, so I have not had a lot of experience with the southeastern states. Although over the years I am sure I've touched base with the work of most states in some form.

What was your most memorable site visit?

There were a number of memorable ones, largely because of the opportunity to meet and talk with state staff

and locals about their properties, on their turf. One of the drawbacks of working behind a desk in the DC office is the inability to work directly with the public or reach out and touch the resources we are helping protect. I will say riding on the back of an ATV through very rural Alaska and looking back to see bears crossing the trail we just passed was a memorable highlight (maybe a desk isn't so bad.)

What is the most important thing you wish the public knew about the NRHP?

That there is room for everyone in the program. It is not an elitist program but wants to welcome the full range of properties that are valued by people and communities.

What advice do you have for someone preparing their first National Register nomination form?

Do not get bogged down in the technical details of the nomination form, those aspects can be corrected by the SHPO/Keeper. Provide a clear description of all the resources in a common language and focus on explaining why this particular property has significance. And context, context, context.

What advice do you have for National Register staff at SHPOs and THPOs, whether new or deeply familiar with the program?

Ya, context, context, context.

What is the best advice that you were given about working with the NR program, either as SHPO staff or as NPS staff?

The program is a partnership. The NR program staff are not looking to deny nominations, but to work in getting the nominations to the finish line in the best possible form to be able to withstand scrutiny and be useful documents. Give SHPOs room to develop their programs as they see fit within the broad parameters of the program and NPS guidance.

What are some interesting or unusual histories revealed to you while reviewing National Register nominations?

Each says a lot about the retiree: [Nutty Narrows Bridge](#), Longview, Washington, 14000500, and [Futuro](#), Idyllwild, California, 100005994.



Left, [Nutty Narrows Bridge](#), Washington, listed 2014 (Tim Askin); right, Donaldson Futuro, California, listed 2021 (Paul Kozal).

What has been your favorite part of your daily work with the NRHP program?

Reading nominations and learning about new things, people, places, or topics that I never knew about previously, and thinking about the people that were once involved in those properties (rather than having to make sure all the boxes are checked). Trained in architectural history, it was the history aspects of the nominations that most intrigued me. Even after 33 years of reading nominations, I am amazed at the new revelations that come out of the documentation.

What will you miss most about working with the program?

Oh, of course working with the greatest staff of any federal agency in the government!

Which is your favorite National Register bulletin or publication, and what do you think makes it such a useful document?

Favorite? Really? OK, so to be useful for a bio, I'll say the TCP Bulletin. The TCP Bulletin represented a considerable effort over a number of years. But in the end, I think it helped broaden our perspective on the types of resources that can be listed and that are important to people. To a lot of people, the National Register is for old houses and famous persons. The TCP Bulletin helps us see that cultural significance and nominations can be much broader than that and still fit into our program. I'm proud of that effort.

The most fun to put together, however, has to be the old (VHS) video I helped produce, *American Legacy: The work of the National Register of Historic Places* (1997, running time 29:45). It looked at the program from the perspective of the owners—why they valued their particular property and why the National Register designation was important to them. It also allowed me a deep dive into the workings of a video studio and fulfilled my Hollywood producer fantasies. It was also back in the day when we had more opportunity for outreach and program promotion.

What is your favorite area of significance?

Industry. I have always had a weak spot for industrial archeology coming from Troy and industrial sites and how they work just interest me. And, of course, architecture, because I thought I would be an architect before university told me otherwise.....

What is your favorite level of significance?

Local all the way. The best part of the NR is its grassroots basis.

What is your favorite criteria consideration?

Criteria Consideration G. It's all about thinking outside the box. What is "history?" While many of the other Criteria Considerations offer great help in documenting common resources, Criteria Consideration G is often about thinking outside the box and backing that up with solid research and justification. Those nominations often make me expand my thinking.

You have maintained lists of NRHP listings, from unusual resource types like folk art environments or historic preservation projects, to unusual uses such as "bawdy houses," to local listings under nationwide themes such as the Cold War and Urban Renewal. Are there any important or unusual themes you envision coming our way, for which you haven't begun a list, or advice for burgeoning makers of lists of NRHP listings?

While largely for fun (an escape from reading another Queen Anne nomination), my lists were also a way of collecting examples of various topics that seemed to be coming in more often, we were fielding questions about or were potentially on the far horizon. While I do have tentative beginner lists on these subjects, I think resources associated with the early historic preservation movement will be coming up increasingly in the future,

as will sites associated with the high-tech world; the Hewlett-Packard House and Garages of the world or Boston's Route 128 technology corridor (Wang, *et al*).

Is there anything you have learned while working with the program that you will take with you into retirement? Or are there things that you have learned on the job that are helpful/useful life lessons?

Nothing. Much too deep a question for a Friday. If forced, I would say that the best results come out of strong teamwork. Preservation is not a single process but involves a whole toolbox with various partners at differing levels.

What is next for Paul Lusignan in retirement? New skills, new travels, new hobbies?

In the immediate future I will be attending my mother's 100th birthday celebration back in New England. Then after, a detour for hip surgery and a good bit of traveling. We can now spend longer vacations visiting our daughter in Leeds, England, without worrying about nominations piling up back at work (not that ever really worried me). I hope to also get out to all those western states I reviewed from a distance and I've warned those SHPOs I might stop by for a drink.

Lapse in Appropriations Planning

During the October/November 2025 lapse in appropriations, the National Register suspended operations, with some exceptions, and, in the event of a future lapse, we expect the following will again be our practice:

- **45-day review period.** The 45-day review period for National Register actions will be suspended. Once operations resume, the review period for the nominations in our possession as of the day before the lapse will be adjusted to ensure the full 45-day review period.
- **Revised received date.** The Cultural Resources Submission Portal may remain operational during a lapse of appropriations, as its operations are managed by the Department of the Interior. However, any actions uploaded through the Portal will not be acted upon until NPS operations resume. Any actions uploaded through the Portal will be recorded as received on the date NPS operations resume.
- **Historic tax credit-associated nominations.** Because NPS work on historic tax credit projects is supported by non-lapsing funds, the National Register Program will act on nominations associated with historic tax credit projects received before any lapse of appropriations. Appropriate SHPOs will be notified via email of the Keeper's actions. These properties will appear on the Weekly List of Actions Taken on Properties, typically issued by the NPS on Fridays, once NPS operations resume.

National Register Forms Update

As is required every three years, the National Register Program is in the process of renewing its forms: the Registration Form, the Multiple Property Cover Documentation form, and the Continuation Sheet. This process is expected to take several months, likely beyond the expiration date of the current forms on March 31, 2026. However, because the process is in progress, the current forms may continue to be used until such time as the new forms are formally approved and issued.

As a reminder, please ensure that you are submitting actions on the current forms, e.g., the forms showing the expiration date of March 31, 2026. Nominations have been submitted on very old forms, creating delays as we search for information that is not where we would expect it to be. If you have actions that have yet to be submitted to the National Register, please cut-and-paste information on old forms to the current form, which may be downloaded here <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/national-register-forms.htm>.

National Historic Landmarks Program News

Where in the world?

Today we shine a light on a May 28, 1967, National Historic Landmark designation you may not yet have had the opportunity to discover: the **Las Trampas Historic District** in New Mexico.

Located along the High Road to Taos, the village of Las Trampas was first settled in 1751. The Las Trampas Historic District NHL recognizes centuries of Hispano agricultural and irrigation traditions, a rare intact plaza settlement plan, and adobe building techniques. The village originally would have featured a defensive wall around its closely built residences.

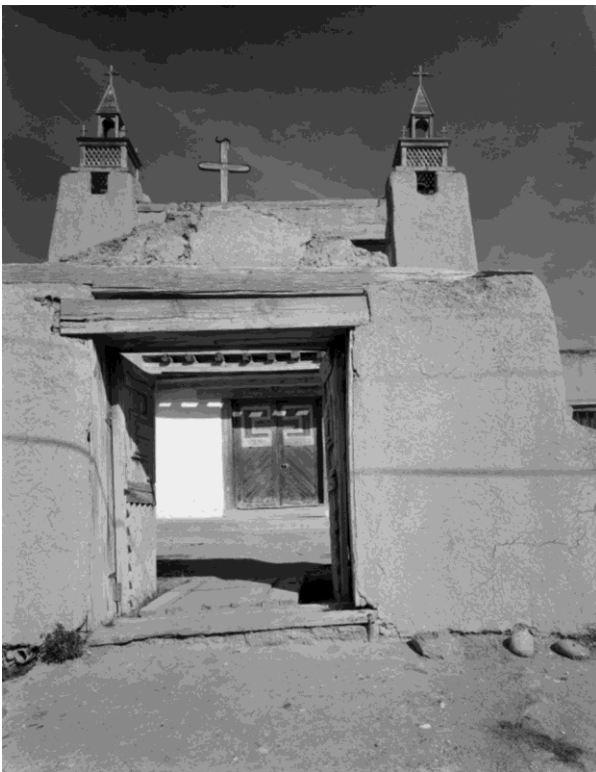


Photo credits: Fred E. Mang, Jr./National Park Service, 1966. More information on Fred E. Mang, Jr.'s work as a National Park Service photographer across the West is available [here](#).

The San José de García parish church (also known as Santa Tomas del Rio de Las Trampas) is located directly on the plaza. Completed between 1760 and 1776, the church building is a fine example of eighteenth-century Spanish Colonial architecture (restored in 1932). The nave plan building is constructed of adobe walls between four and six feet in width featuring projecting buttresses topped by small wood belfries. Oblique transverse clerestory windows illuminate the sanctuary in a manner devised by the Franciscan brothers to inspire

parishioners. The church was separately designated an individual National Historic Landmark on April 15, 1970.

Correction

The image of Grant Cottage National Historic Landmark (Town of Wilton, Saratoga County, New York) noted a designation date of January 13, 2001. The correct designation date is January 13, 2021.

