

FAQ Regarding the Proposed Revised Nomination for the Greenwich National Register Historic District

How can I obtain the updated Nomination?

- The Nomination is available online at https://nj.gov/dep/hpo/1identify/SRB/2021-11-18/NJ_Cumberland_Greenwich_HD_AD_BI_BD_combined_redacted.pdf.

Why does the Greenwich Historic District nomination need to be updated?

- The original nomination was done in 1971/1972. Typical of its time, the Nomination focused on the colonial period and a few notable buildings from that period. It did not include an in-depth inventory of the buildings in the village. The current update provides a more comprehensive review of the history of Greenwich and the buildings that are associated with that broader history. It also takes into account new information that was gained in researching the timber-framed houses in the township.

Who is paying for this work?

- The update is being paid for in full by funds from Verizon Wireless. This was a requirement of the New Jersey DEP and the Federal FCC as a condition for approval to construct the cell tower at the Morris Goodwin School. The money had to be applied to something that would benefit the existing historic district.

What is being included in the update?

- A description and short history of every building in the district will be included, as well as narratives regarding Greenwich's areas of significance, such as agriculture, architecture, the canning industry, and politics.

Will the boundaries of the National District change?

- There may be some tweaking at the edges to include a handful of eligible properties, or to remove properties that are not contributing. Previously, the district extended back 300 feet from the center line of the road; as updated, the district will not cut off sections of properties but will extend to the nearest property line that is at least 300 feet from the center line. The vast majority of the district will remain unchanged in scope.

What does this mean for my property? Will it put restrictions on what I can do with it?

- Being in a National Register Historic District does not put restrictions on what an owner can do with his or her private property. There is a local Historic Conservation District that is defined by Greenwich Township ordinance and is already smaller than the existing National Register District. The Township Ordinances establishes the regulations for the Greenwich Township (local) Historic District and the Planning and Land Use Board has the authority to review and approve proposed work on buildings in the local district. The update of the National District will not change the boundaries of the local district at this time; the local Historic Conservation District can only be changed by Township Ordinance.

What is the Period of Significance?

- A Period of Significance is the length of time when a property was associated with important events, activities, or person, or attained the characteristics that qualify it for National Register listing. For Greenwich the Period of Significance will begin with 4,000 BC, which represents the beginning of the Late Archaic prehistory period, and end when the tomato canning operation ceased in 1961, after which Greenwich was no longer a self-contained community that processed the produce grown here.

What is the meaning of contributing and non-contributing properties?

- A building that was constructed within the Period of Significance is considered contributing. Buildings constructed after the end of the period or that lack historic integrity are non-contributing.

Does being in the district put restrictions on publicly-owned properties?

- Public entities (a municipality, a county, the state or public utilities) have to submit an Application for Project Authorization to the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office before work can proceed on a building or structure listed in the New Jersey Register; this requirement is already in place since the district is already listed. At the Federal level, all undertakings with the potential to impact listed or eligible properties must be reviewed; this is why the cell tower project was reviewed by the New Jersey Historic Preservation Office and the FCC after the Greenwich Township Planning and Land Use Board approved the location at the Morris Goodwin School. As a condition of approval, the NJHPO required Verizon to provide funds to mitigate the presence of the cell phone tower adjacent to the Historic District.

What are the advantages of a New Jersey and National Register Historic District?

- A state and national register listing provides some protection from undertakings by state and federal entities and entities funded or controlled by the state or federal governments. For example, if the Delaware River and Port Authority, which operates the Delaware Memorial Bridge, wanted to construct a bridge across the bay with a highway through Greenwich Township, the project would have to be reviewed by state and federal agencies to determine if it would negatively affect the National Register Historic District.
- The state has provided funds for work on the Old Stone Schoolhouse because it is a contributing building in the NRHD. Other publicly-owned buildings such as the Emergency Management Office and the Fire House are also potentially eligible for state restoration grants. It is possible that designation of the National Register Historic District would help attract federal funds for flood protection in the coming years.
- Depending on state and federal law, income-producing buildings in National Register Historic Districts may be eligible for tax credits for certain restoration or rehabilitation work. Information on the federal program is available at <https://www.nps.gov/tps/tax-incentives.htm> New Jersey also has a state historic tax credit, with information at <https://www.preservationnj.org/the-new-jersey-state-historic-tax-credit/>

What is the procedure for state and federal acceptance of the updated Nomination?

- The updated Nomination is considered to be in draft form until it is approved by the New Jersey State Review Board for Historic Sites; the Nomination is scheduled to be presented at the review board's next meeting on 18 November. The meeting will be virtual and will be open to the public. The review board may ask for changes or additions.
- Once the Nomination has been edited to reflect the board's comments, it will be entered on the New Jersey Register of Historic Places, and will be forwarded to the National Park Service. The National Park Service will review the Nomination and, it is anticipated, approve it for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places; this usually takes about four months.

If you have further questions, please submit them to Renee Brecht-Mangiafico, secretary of the Greenwich Township Planning and Land Use Board, at pbfiddler67@gmail.com.