The National Register of Historic Places: A Tutorial

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Stan Hywet is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of properties recognized by the federal government as worthy of preservation for their local, state, or national significance in American history, architecture, archaeology, engineering, or culture. A program of the National Park Service, it is administered at the state level. In Ohio, the Ohio History Connection’s *State Historic Preservation Office* administers the National Register program.

Stan Hywet is one of 4,000 properties and districts in Ohio that are on the National Register. Of the more than one million properties on the National Register of Historic Places, over 80,000 are listed individually, as properties.

About the National Register of Historic Places
In order to be listed, historic buildings, sites, districts, structures, and objects must be at least 50 years old and possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, association and at least one of the following:

A. association with broad patterns of history  
B. association with the lives of persons significant in our past  
C. architectural merit  
D. have yielded or have the potential to yield archaeological information  

Aside from the prestige of being nationally recognized, income-producing properties that are listed on the National Register may be aided by federal tax incentives which allow for a 20% investment tax credit for certified rehabilitation. The National Register does not prevent the owner from remodeling, repairing, altering, selling, or even demolishing it, unless federal funds are being used.
Getting Listed on the National Register
Organizations submit a National Register Nomination Questionnaire to determine if the property/properties are eligible for nomination. Once eligibility is established, a formal nomination can be submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office. Photographs, maps, and architectural drawings accompany the nomination. Once the nomination is received, a substantive review is completed within 60 days, with two more opportunities to make changes and add details to the submission. Once all outstanding items have been addressed, the submission is discussed at the next Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board (OHSPAB) meeting.

The Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board is a 17-member, governor-appointed board that meets four times per year, advising the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Ohio History Connection Board of Trustees on historic preservation issues. It is comprised of a variety of professionals (architects, historians, architectural historians, planners, archaeologists, and Ohio residents) from around the state who have expertise in Ohio history, architecture, and archaeology.

After a short presentation, the board discusses and evaluates the significance of nominated properties and then votes on whether the property meets the National Register criteria and whether it should move forward to the National Park Service (NPS). Once the NPS receives a nomination, a 45-day review period begins. If approved, the property is officially listed.

The ARRC, Inc. team (Stan Hywet’s for-profit entity) has successfully researched and written the nominations for two historic properties in the Northeast Ohio area.

The Zimmerly Residence
The Zimmerly Residence is a property in New Franklin, Ohio, a large Colonial Revival brick home with detached carriage house that was built between 1919 and 1920.

The Zimmerly brothers owned and operated a meat market that opened in Akron, Ohio in 1891. They were the first meat packers in Summit County to install refrigeration machines to keep meat cool in the summer.

The current owners rehabilitated the property, and it is now Prime Vine Winery. The property was formally listed in January 2018.
The Sisler House

The Sisler House is a private family home in Akron, Ohio. Built by prominent Akron businessman and doctor, Dr. Louis Sisler in 1919, the home was designed by Cleveland architects, Walker & Weeks.

Its design embodies all of the elements typical of the Tudor revival style, including steeply pitched gable roofs, masonry, half-timbering, storybook entrances, prominent chimneys, and casement windows.

Though it exhibits many of the hallmarks of Tudor influence, there are some unusual design elements not seen in many Tudor revival examples, such as the hipped roof and half-timbering brick infill.

The nomination has been approved by the OHSPAB, and has been sent to the NPS for final review. If approved, the property will be formally listed in summer of 2019.

For more information on the National Register of Historic Places, visit: ohiohistory.org/preserve/state-historic-preservation-office/nationalregister