

Savannah National Historic Landmark District 2018 Determination of Condition Category Frequently Asked Questions

Why does the NPS monitor the condition of National Historic Landmarks?

A cornerstone of the National Historic Landmarks Program is monitoring the condition of landmarks to identify those that exhibit damage or face threats to the integrity of their resources. This information enables NPS, stewards, policy makers, and the public to take action to preserve these most significant exemplars of our heritage for future generations.

What are the condition monitoring categories?

To monitor the condition of National Historic Landmarks the NPS has established four condition categories, which are described below:

- **Satisfactory** (Priority 3) indicates that there is no known current or potential threats to the landmark.
- **Watch** (Priority 2) indicates NHLs that face impending actions or circumstances that likely will cause a loss of integrity.
- **Threatened** (Priority 1) indicates NHLs that have suffered, or are in imminent danger of, a severe loss of integrity.
- **Emergency** indicates that recent catastrophic damage has occurred that requires immediate intervention.

What does the condition category ‘threatened’ mean for Savannah NHL?

The threatened category indicates that the Savannah NHL has lost some integrity and faces preservation challenges. Through careful stewardship, additional losses of integrity can be avoided and the health of the landmark can be restored.

The National Park Service hopes that the information contained in this study will aid in the stewardship of the Savannah National Historic District by providing policy makers and the public with a better understanding of the District.

What is the ‘threat’ to the Savannah NHL District?

No one project was identified as the “threat” to the Savannah NHL District. Rather, numerous challenges and issues were identified. These challenges included new construction and its effects on the Savannah Town Plan; the vulnerability of resources not specifically addressed in the NHL nomination, such as archeology, pavement, cultural landscapes and small scale features; natural disasters; and a series of intangible threats, like noise and traffic.

Is the Savannah National Historic Landmark District in danger of losing its designation?

No, the Savannah National Historic Landmark District is not in danger of losing its designation. The study completed in 2018 definitively demonstrates that the Savannah NHL District retains the qualities for which it was originally designated as an NHL.

The study confirms that the NHL designation is merited and that the District is not a candidate for de-designation. The study found that the majority of Savannah's squares retain a high level of both architectural and landscape integrity in relation to their retention of the Savannah Town Plan.

How can the condition category be changed?

NPS will continue to monitor the Savannah NHL District and welcomes new information concerning the issues discussed in this memo. The NPS will reconsider the Savannah NHL District's condition category when we learn that projects identified as potentially damaging to the District's integrity have been reconsidered and/or that other steps have been taken to better preservation within the District.

The NPS looks forward to assisting these groups as they strive towards the common goal of protecting the unique qualities that make Savannah a place of national importance.

Where can the study be found?

The full study is available for download from NPS at <https://go.nps.gov/savannah>.

What is the National Historic Landmarks Program?

The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior. The agency works with preservation officials, private property owners, and other partners interested in nominating properties for National Historic Landmark designation. Completed nominations are reviewed by the National Park System Advisory Board, which makes recommendations for designation to the Secretary of the Interior. If selected, property ownership remains the same but each site receives a designation letter, and is eligible for technical preservation advice.

The National Historic Landmarks Program is one of more than a dozen programs administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition, and funding to help preserve our nation's shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.