

Sweet Auburn National Historic Landmark District Condition and Integrity Assessment Frequently Asked Questions

What are the boundaries of the Sweet Auburn NHL Historic District?

The boundaries of the Sweet Auburn NHL District are smaller than what many people consider to be the Sweet Auburn neighborhood. The NHL District is an irregularly shaped district that runs along Auburn Avenue for a little over a quarter of a mile, between Courtland St NE and the Downtown Connector (I-75/85). Prominent buildings within the Sweet Auburn NHL District include Big Bethel AME Church, Atlanta Life Insurance Building the Butler Street YMCA, the Odd Fellows Building and Auditorium, and the Sweet Auburn Curb Market (see map for boundaries).

Is the Sweet Auburn NHL District part of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park?

No, although the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park (Park) tells the story of the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, the NHL District is outside the boundaries of the Park. The map entitled *Sweet Auburn NHL Historic District* shows the relationship between the NHL District and the Park.

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 is the current condition of the Sweet Auburn NHLD? Will the condition category be changed?

NPS is undertaking this condition assessment to gather information about the health of the district. NPS staff have not assessed the Sweet Auburn NHL District for several years and the current condition is unknown. NPS Staff will consider the recommendations of the report along with public input before making any changes to the condition category.

Where can information about the study be found?

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/sweetauburn>.

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.

What is the difference between the National Register of Historic Places listing and designation as a National Historic Landmark?

The National Park Service oversees two Federal designation programs, the National Register of Historic Places and the National Historic Landmarks Program.

There are more than 90,000 properties listed in the National Register, which is the official list of the nation's historic properties deemed worthy of preservation. These properties tell stories that are important to a local community, the residents of a specific state, or to all Americans. Properties must possess good historic integrity. As with NHLs, listing a property on the National Register of Historic Places does not change its ownership. Properties are owned by private individuals, universities, non-profit organizations, corporations, tribal entities, local and state governments, or, in some cases, the Federal government. The National Park Service maintains the National Register of Historic Places in conjunction with State Historic Preservation Officers, Tribal Historic Preservation Officers, and Federal Preservation Officers.

The over 2,500 properties designated as National Historic Landmarks tell stories that are of importance to the history of the entire nation, not just local communities or states. These properties possess a high, not simply good, level of historic integrity.

All properties designated as NHLs are automatically listed in the National Register of Historic Places, if not previously listed.

What are the benefits of National Historic Landmark designation?

Designation of NHLs helps recognize, preserve, and protect important locations in American history. Designating a property as an NHL may provide it with additional protections from development, and may also make the property eligible for preservation grants and technical preservation assistance. Most NHLs are privately-owned and are governed by local preservation laws. For more information about benefits please see the National Historic Landmark Programs benefits page: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/benefits.htm>

