



# New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry Fact Sheet

## Purpose

Local businesses are the backbone of villages, towns, and cities across New York State and have helped to shape the history, heritage, and identity of the communities they serve. At a time when many businesses face new and unique challenges, this registry allows us to recognize and honor historic businesses, while providing educational and promotional assistance to ensure their continued viability and success.

*The Historic Business Preservation Registry (HBPR) is an honorific program only and inclusion in the Registry does not subject businesses to any regulatory oversight by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation.*

*All businesses included in the registry are featured on an [interactive map](#) on the agency's website and are provided with an official registry certificate and window decal. The website includes the map as well as information about the registry program.*

## Background

### Registry was established in 2020

- New York State's Historic Business Preservation Registry was established by Chapter 241 of the Laws of 2020, sponsored by Senator Jose Serrano and Assemblymember Daniel O'Donnell.
- The program is an opportunity for legislators to sponsor historic businesses in their districts for recognition.

### Registry was enhanced in 2023

- The registry was enhanced by Chapter 146 of the Laws of 2023 by legislation sponsored by Senator Michelle Hinchey and Assemblymember Carrie Woerner.
- The enhancement allows for up to ten nominations per term by members of the Senate and Assembly, as well as by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor.

### Program is administered by the Division for Historic Preservation

- The program is administered by the Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation.
- Program information and interactive business listing map are available online.

### Registry focuses on local businesses 50+ years old

- The registry highlights businesses that have been in operation for at least 50 years and have contributed to their community's history.

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### Process

#### Businesses must be nominated by a state elected official

- Nominations to the registry must be sponsored by a state elected official, including the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and members of the Senate and Assembly.
- Each elected official may nominate up to ten businesses for inclusion (per term).
- Anyone interested in having a qualified business added to the registry should reach out to their state representative and request to be nominated.

#### The nomination cycle is rolling and non-competitive

- The program is non-competitive and – provided that the nomination criteria are met – businesses will be added to the Registry on a rolling basis.
  - Criteria include:
    - Business has operated in New York State for 50 or more years, with no break in operations exceeding two years. The business may have operated in more than one location, but shall have operated in the same municipality for a minimum of 50 years.
    - The business demonstrates a contribution to the municipality's history and/or identity.
    - The business is committed to maintaining the physical features and traditions that define such business, including – but not limited to – craft, culinary, or art forms.
  - Factors that DO NOT impact a business's eligibility include:
    - Age or historic status of the business's building
    - Ownership
    - Business size
    - Consistency of name/brand
- Nominations are accepted on a rolling basis and updates are made quarterly to the interactive online map.

#### Eligible businesses are added to the registry network

- Businesses are listed on an interactive [online map](#) that features information about their history, plots a location on a map, and showcases several photos.
- Businesses receive a certificate and a window decal announcing their inclusion into the Historic Business Preservation Registry, both of which are presented to the business by the nominating official's office.

### Questions?

If you have questions about the program, please contact **Kathy Howe**, Community Preservation Bureau Chief at the Division for Historic Preservation, at (518) 268-2168 or [kathy.howe@parks.ny.gov](mailto:kathy.howe@parks.ny.gov).

### Division for Historic Preservation

P.O. Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189  
(518) 268-2213 | [www.parks.ny.gov](http://www.parks.ny.gov)



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