National Historic Landmark Criteria

Criterion 1: Places where nationally significant historical events occurred
Criterion 2: Places where nationally significant people lived or worked
Criterion 3: Places that represent an ideal that shaped the nation
Criterion 4: Outstanding examples of design or construction, architecture or engineering
Criterion 5: Places that outstandingly characterize a way of life (Collective Importance)
Criterion 6: Places that yield or have the potential to yield information of major scientific importance
NHL Designation Process: Major Steps

Letter of Inquiry: From proponent/owner to National Park Service

Preparation of NHL nomination: Usually by owner or contractor

Landmarks Committee Meeting: Nomination presented to NHL Committee; the Committee votes and makes a recommendation

National Park System Advisory Board: Nomination presented to NPS Advisory Board; the Board votes and makes a recommendation

Secretary of the Interior: Designates National Historic Landmark
Nomination Process

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalhistoriclandmarks/nomination-process.htm

Please Note:

You must contact us before beginning a nomination.

We will not consider the nomination if you do not contact us in advance.
Government House NHL
Pago Pago American Samoa

Photo by ROY G. KLOTZ, M.D., Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 Unported
Tinian Landing Beaches, Ushi Point & North Fields NHL
Tinian Island, Northern Mariana Islands

Photo by Elaine Jackson-Retondo, 2015
Honokohau Settlement NHL
Hawaii Island, Hawaii

Photo by Elaine Jackson-Retondo, 2010
Roi- Namur NHL
Roi-Namur Islands, Kwajalein Municipality, Marshall Islands

Photo Credit: USGS
WORLD WAR II IN THE PACIFIC
NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK THEME STUDY

INTRODUCTORY ESSAY

The "World War II in the Pacific National Historic Landmark Theme Study," has been prepared for the Congress and the Secretary of the Interior's Advisory Board in partial fulfillment of the requirements of P.L. 92-548, August 18, 1978. The purpose of the theme study is to evaluate all resources that relate to the theme of World War II in the Pacific and to recommend certain of these resources for designation as National Historic Landmarks. The events of the war are from 19 to 43 years away, but World War II is truly of national significance; indeed, it is one of the momentous events in human history. This is recognized by Congress's authorizing the study and by the several wartime sites, listed below, that are already national historic landmarks or listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The "World War II in the Pacific Theme Study" considered resources relating to the following general subhemes:

A. Japanese Expansion in the Pacific
B. The United States Home Front
C. Alaska and the Aleutians
D. The United States' Central Pacific Drive

The theme study considered the millions of people, civilian and military, both Japanese and Allied, who took part in the fateful years between 1941 and 1945. Emphasis was placed on the events and their consequences, rather than on individuals. Certain leaders, whose actions were crucial to the success or failure of endeavors, are recognized. Individuals recognized as heroes are generally not highlighted; in combat, the conduct of all members of the unit is vital to the outcome; also, many a true hero did not receive recognition for his deeds. Efforts were made to avoid warlike jargon, rather to view events as objectively as possible. The geographical areas surveyed for this study are United States territory and Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands, which continue to be administered by the United States.

THE PACIFIC WAS IN OUTLINE

European powers and their colonies had been at war more than two years when Japan carried out a devastating surprise attack on Hawaii's Pearl Harbor naval base and army and navy airfields on December 7, 1941. For the next several months, Japan continued strongly on the offensive in China, Thailand, Malaya, Guam, Philippine Islands, Wake, Gilbert islands, Burma, British Borneo, Bismarck Archipelago, Netherland's East Indies, New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Singapore. At the same time, the...
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