

How to Nominate an ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark

American Society of Civil Engineers

History and Heritage Committee

Approved – August 22, 2024

Amended – July 13, 2026

Preparing a nomination for designation as an ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark or ASCE International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark is a significant undertaking. In addition, planning and conducting a public dedication ceremony and providing long-term maintenance of a Landmark plaque require commitment by the ASCE or other nominating entity.

Nominated projects or features are evaluated for a variety of characteristics and the submitted nomination package should include significant support information on all or most of the topics discussed below. National and International nominations can take up to a year to review and often involve several iterations of questions and requests for clarifications from the ASCE History & Heritage Committee. Not all nominations are approved for Landmark status.

Those interested in nominating a Landmark are strongly encouraged to consult with ASCE staff to obtain an example of a previous nomination package that was successful. Contact Jennifer Lawrence at: jlawrence@asce.org. The History and Heritage Committee is willing to advise and share suggestions on how to create a successful nomination.

NOMINATION SUMMARY

Nominations should be submitted as a single pdf file (plus the separate photograph files described in Item 10 below). The following basic information should appear on a two-page summary:

- Submittal **date**
- **Submitting ASCE Section** or other nominating entity
- Whether the nomination is for designation as:
 - 1) a **National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark**; or
 - 2) an **International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark**. International Landmarks are those:
 - a) located in countries outside of the United States; or
 - b) landmarks that cover locations in both the United States and either Canada or Mexico.
- Proposed **Name of the Landmark**
- **Owner** of the proposed Landmark
- For a **National Landmark**, indicate whether or not the proposed Landmark is already designated a State or Local ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark.
- **Location** with latitude and longitude to the nearest second
- **Local and vicinity maps**: Include maps that show the location of nearest city, state, and county of the Landmark and how public access is achieved.

NOMINATION DISCUSSION

Following the summary, the body of the text of the nomination document must include the following information. To assist those who will be reviewing and evaluating the nomination, please use the following as numbered section headings in the nomination package. Items 1, 2, and 3 are the most important evaluation factors.

1. **Historic Significance:** Historic (national, local, or international) significance of the proposed Landmark. The reasons for granting Landmark status should be compelling. Simply being large does not necessarily convey historic significance.
2. **Contributions:** Contributions which the proposed Landmark made to the development of the civil engineering profession and/or the development of the nation or region.
3. **Uniqueness:** The unique features or characteristics that set the proposed Landmark apart from other civil engineering projects. Efforts should be made to seek out projects for comparison. Provide comparable project names, locations, dates, and short project descriptions. Comparable projects can be from the same country or other countries. This discussion is important to differentiate the proposed Landmark from other similar projects and elevate its significance above those comparable projects.
4. **Date of original construction** Give the date of original construction, dates of significant alterations, and any other significant dates.
5. **Names of key engineers:** Include the names of key engineers and other associated professionals along with their respective roles in the project design and construction and other significant activities of those individuals.
6. **Photographs:** Photographs of the proposed Landmark, including both current and historic conditions, and if available, construction photos. Include photos in Appendices as part of the single pdf file.
7. **Additional documentation:** A list of any other documentation that supports the nomination, including documents and other supporting historical evidence. Important documentation that supports the nomination can be included in Appendices as part of the single pdf file.
8. **References:** A list of published references that support nomination of this Landmark. Important references that support the nomination can be included in Appendices as part of the single pdf file.

IMPLEMENTATION

9. **Text for ASCE website:** A draft of the proposed text which will appear on the ASCE website (maximum 500 words)
10. **Photographs for ASCE website:** In addition to the photographs submitted in the single pdf file (Item 6 above), provide up to five separate .jpg or .png photo image files which best depict the nature of the Landmark, or major feature of it, which would be suitable for use on the ASCE website, complete with permission for their use and who or what organization should be credited.

11. **Text for Landmark plaque:** A draft of proposed text that will appear on the Landmark plaque that describes the Landmark and why it is worthy of recognition from a historic civil engineering point of view. (maximum of 100 words)
12. **Proposed Landmark plaque location:** A map showing the proposed location for the Landmark plaque.

COMMITMENTS

13. Owner commitment: A letter of support from the owner of the proposed Landmark expressly stating support for Landmark status. The History and Heritage Committee will address on a case-by-case basis issues where the owner will not provide a letter of support.

14. Property owner commitment: A letter of support from the owner of the property where the plaque will be installed, expressly making a commitment to provide a permanent location to mount the Landmark plaque where it will be publicly accessible and highly visible. Future maintenance responsibility of the plaque should be clearly defined. Note: Items 13 and 14 can be combined in a single letter of support where appropriate.

15. Section commitment: The following statement shall be included and signed by the President, Secretary, History and Heritage Committee Chairperson, and/or person(s) that led the preparation of the nomination from the nominating Section or other nominating entity to the extent that such roles and offices exist in the nominating entity.

“If this nomination is approved for designation as an Historic Civil Engineering Landmark by the Board of Direction of ASCE, we understand that the [_____Section or other nominating entity] will have the major responsibility to: a) plan and conduct a public dedication ceremony; and b) provide continuing maintenance of the Landmark plaque.”
Proposed Landmarks that span multiple Sections should be signed by the respective officers of all included Sections.

National and International nominations should be submitted electronically as a single **pdf file** (plus the separate photograph files described in Item 10) to the ASCE staff support person for the History and Heritage Committee. Currently that is to Jennifer Lawrence at jlawrence@asce.org

Local ASCE Regions, States, Sections, or Branches, are encouraged to use the above format to designate Local and State Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks.

Note: The ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark program is not affiliated with any governmental or regulatory authority. Designation as a Landmark does not create any legal obligations on the Landmark's owners or operators, government agencies, ASCE, or any other person or entity. Designation does not impose any restrictions or limitations on the owner's ability to alter, rehabilitate, or replace the Landmark.