



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:

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CITY CELEBRATES DOWNTOWN DISTRICT BEING ADDED TO NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

WINTER PARK, Fla., an internationally recognized ICMA Excellence Award winner with accredited fire, police and parks & recreation agencies (June 3, 2011) – The nomination of the Downtown Winter Park Historic District (DWPHD) for the National Register of Historic Places was approved by the National Park Service on May 3, 2011. Three events are planned in the coming months to celebrate this prominent historic designation.

- **Wednesday, June 22** - Casa Feliz Historic Home Museum will present a reception to thank those involved with the nomination process. (invite only)
- **Monday, July 4** - Mayor Ken Bradley will lead a special ceremony at the city's 16th annual Olde Fashioned 4th of July Celebration in Central Park. (public event)
- **Friday, November 18** - Winter Park Historical Association will honor the historic designation at their annual fundraiser, the 4th annual Peacock Ball.

The national register is the official list of the nation's historic places which are worthy of preservation. Authorized under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, it is part of a national program to coordinate and support efforts to identify, evaluate and protect historic and archeological resources. The register honors places by recognizing their importance to the community, state or nation.

The DWPHD, which runs along Park Avenue from Canton to Comstock avenues, was deemed significant in the areas of early settlement, architecture, community planning, commerce and transportation. The historic period of significance runs from 1882 through 1965 with notable architects of downtown buildings including James Gamble Rogers II, Roy A. Benjamin and Nils M. Schweizer. The rigorous nomination process began in 2009 and was completed in 2011.

A listing in the National Register of Historic Places enables owners of eligible properties who follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards during a building rehabilitation to benefit from a federal tax credit which is equal to 20 percent of the cost of rehabilitating historic buildings, or 10 percent of the cost of rehabilitating nonhistoric buildings constructed before 1936. Administered by the National Park Service, the historic rehabilitation tax credits have stimulated billions of dollars in investments in historic buildings.

Heritage tourism, one of the top reasons for pleasure travel, stimulates the Florida economy. It not only helps support local businesses, it recognizes and perpetuates the sense of place that gives Winter Park its unique character and charm. In 2009, Winter Park was ranked 38th in the world by National Geographic *Traveler* magazine.

For more information regarding the City of Winter Park, please visit the city's official Web site at www.cityofwinterpark.org.

CITY OF WINTER PARK

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