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### **Proposed South Wheeling Historic District Advances**

WHEELING, W.Va. – January 21, 2019 – More than 130 South Wheeling properties are one step closer to being listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed district must now be approved by the West Virginia Archives and History Commission before it is added to the federal government’s official list of historic properties.

The Commission will consider the nomination on Feb. 21 in Charleston. They will then make a recommendation to the National Parks Service, which would add the district to the National Register.

A project of Wheeling Heritage and the Wheeling Historic Landmarks Commission, this listing on the National Register will provide recognition to historic properties and potential incentives to their owners. The proposed district includes more than 130 properties, between 31<sup>st</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> streets, from Chapline to Route 2.

“South Wheeling as a historic district is interesting because it recognizes the industrial and vernacular architecture of Wheeling,” said Betsy Sweeny, Historic Preservation Program Manager at Wheeling Heritage. “For much of history these spaces have been overlooked, with more attention being given to high-style architecture.”

Listing on the National Register does not put limitations on property owners in any way, although this is a common misconception. It simply gives properties recognition while also enabling its owners to use state and federal tax incentives and opportunities for state grants.

Property owners included in National Register historic districts are eligible for the Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit. West Virginia’s tax credit is open to both residential and commercial property rehabilitation, while the federal credit can only be used for income-producing buildings. This incentive makes adaptive reuse of some of South Wheeling’s commercial buildings much more realistic, Sweeny said.

Wheeling Heritage and the Historic Landmarks Commission and received a grant from the WV State Historic Preservation Office for this project. The additional costs are funded by Wheeling Heritage.

**About Wheeling Heritage:**

[Wheeling Heritage](#) is a catalyst for the revitalization of Wheeling. Through historic preservation, community development, and the arts, we help to tell Wheeling’s story and shape its future. We seek to improve the quality of life in Wheeling by preserving and investing in our city, collaborating with others, and engaging the citizens of Wheeling in our work.