

Copyright Registration – Architectural Works

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Eligible Works

Architectural works created on or after **December 1, 1990**, and any architectural works that were unconstructed and embodied in unpublished plans or drawings on that date are eligible for protection.

Registration of Single Work

A single application may cover only a single architectural work whether published or unpublished. A group of architectural works may not be registered on a single application form. For works such as tract housing, a single work is one house model with all accompanying floor plan options, elevations, and styles that are applicable to that particular model.

Separate Registration for Plans

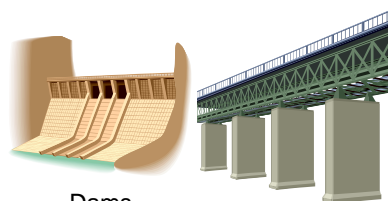
A claim to copyright in an architectural work is distinct from a claim in technical drawings of the work. If registration is sought for both an architectural work and technical drawings of the work, separate applications must be submitted.

In cases where we are seeking registration for both an architectural work and for the same work's technical drawings, the deposit of a single technical drawing will suffice for both claims if the applications are submitted together.

Title of Work

Indicate the title of the building **as well as the month and year when construction was completed**. If the building has not yet been constructed, **follow the title with the notation "not yet constructed."** The "nature of this work" space should state "architectural work."

Structures Excluded



Dams

Bridges



Recreational Vehicles



Boats



Tents

Deposit Requirement

The required nonreturnable deposit for an architectural work, whether or not the building has been constructed, is one complete copy of an architectural drawing or blueprint in visually perceptible form showing the overall form of the building and any interior arrangement of spaces and/or design elements in which copyright is claimed.

For archival purposes, the Copyright Office prefers that the drawings constitute the most finished form of presentation drawings and consist of the following in descending order of preference:

- 1) Original format, or best quality form of reproduction, including offset or silk screen printing
- 2) Xerographic or photographic copies on good quality paper
- 3) Positive photostat or photodirect positive
- 4) Blue line copies (diaz or ozalid process)

The deposit for a building that has been constructed must also include identifying material in the form of photographs that clearly disclose the architectural work being registered. The Copyright Office prefers 8 x 10-inch, good quality photographs that clearly show several exterior and interior views. The Copyright Office prefers that the deposit disclose the name(s) of the architect(s) and draftsman(s) and the building site.

Term of Protection

Lesser of: 95 years from publication date or 120 years from creation if a work made for hire.

If created by individual (not for company) then life of the individual + 70 years.

Contact Us

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