



6422 Main Street P.O. Box 434, Union, Illinois 60180

Dear Applicant:

Thank you for inquiring about the process of plaquing a historic site or structure located in McHenry County. It is our hope that the following application will provide a lasting record of the property, site and structure. Plaquing a historic site or structure is an excellent means of calling attention to the heritage of McHenry County. It is not a legal proceeding, and thus does not interfere with the buying and selling of the property. The plaque will remain with and on the structure or site...not with the owner of the property at the time of plaquing.

Plaquing by the McHenry County Historical Society does not make the site eligible for reductions in property taxes. Plaquing also does not require you to open the site or structure to the public. Plaquing does not prohibit the owner from altering the structure or site (i.e., remodeling or additions). If alterations are made which detract from the architectural or historic integrity of the structure or site, you may forfeit your privilege of displaying the plaque if it no longer meets the Minimum Standard for plaquing

The current starting cost of the plaque is approximately \$250 and is the responsibility of the applicant.

Please complete as many items as possible. Not all questions will be applicable to your particular property. Contact the museum (815-923-2267 or info@mchenrycountyhistory.org) for any further guidance.

Please return your application to the Historic Sites Committee. Additionally, please include a current photograph of the site or structure along with copies of supporting documentation of the age of the site or structure to:
Historic Sites Committee
McHenry County Historical Society
P.O. Box 434
Union, IL 60180

Upon receipt of the application, the committee will arrange a time to conduct a field investigation of the site.

Revised May 2023

McHenry County Historical Society

Historic Sites Committee

Application Form for Historical Plaquing Consideration

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date: _____

Applicant's name(s): _____

Address: _____

E-mail _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone _____

Is the applicant the owner of the home/building/site? Yes____ No____

If no, please provide the following information:

Owner's name: _____

Owner's address: _____

Owner's home phone: _____

HISTORIC STRUCTURE INFORMATION

Have you enclosed early and/or current photographs? Yes____ No____

Any drawings or renderings? Yes____ No____

Address or location of structure: _____

Style of house or building _____

(e.g., Greek Revival, Tudor, Victorian, Italianate, Cottage, Bungalow, etc.)

Structure dates back to (year, circa): _____ Is this confirmed? _____

Site, house or structure known as: _____

(examples: The Cupola House, Richardson Homestead, etc.)

Name of architect, contractor, carpenter or local crafts persons if known:

The original function(s) of the site: residence _____ barn _____ church _____

farm _____ factory _____ shop _____ cemetery _____ school _____

Other: _____

If the consideration of the structure is based on a historic event that took place there, please note it briefly here:

(e.g., historic figure's birthplace, first of kind, property or workplace of local citizen who impacted the community, workshop of inventor, artist's studio, etc.)

CHRONOLOGY

Names of subsequent owners, past to present:

_____ purchased _____ sold _____

_____ purchased _____ sold _____

_____ purchased _____ sold _____

_____ purchased _____ sold _____

_____ purchased _____ sold _____

(If additional space is needed, please attach a separate sheet)

Please list and describe any addition(s) with date(s) to original structures(s):

Have any historic restoration measures been taken by past or present owners?

ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION

Number of original stories (do not include basements or attics): _____

Number of original interior rooms: _____

Do all of the original rooms still exist? _____ If not, please explain: _____

The original exterior of the structure was: brick _____ stone _____ logs _____ cedar shingles _____ wood clapboard _____ board and batten _____ cement block _____ stucco _____ other: _____

Did any of the original exterior materials originate in McHenry County? _____

(i.e., Terra Cotta, marked local brick, cut limestone, straight cobblestone rows)

If yes, please describe: _____

Describe distinctive or unique construction techniques or characteristics:

Has the original roof shape changed? _____ Explain: _____

Are there any dormers?_____ How many?_____

Are the dormers original to the house?_____

Original roof covering material was:

wood shingles_____ slate_____ tin_____ tiles_____ asphalt shingles_____

other_____

If original roofing material has been replaced or covered, what is the present

Roofing material? Shingles_____ Which type?_____

Note any decorative style or shape of roofing materials: _____

Did the original structure have any porches? (Also include balconies or Widow's Walks)

Please describe:_____

Check all that apply to the present condition of the porches:

original_____ minor alterations_____ historical reproduction_____

porch(es) added_____ porch(es) enclosed_____ porch(es) removed_____

not applicable_____ other: _____

Are there any original chimneys?_____

How many of the existing chimneys are original?_____

Foundation material: stone_____ cement blocks_____ brick_____ poured concrete_____

cobblestone in rows_____ Other: _____

Are there any original cellar doors?_____

Are there any original exterior doors remaining in the structure? _____ All? _____

Please note any unique or distinctive qualities of the original exterior doors:
(i.e., panels, hardware (hinges, knobs, locks & keys, doorbells), frames, casings, crown moldings, pediments, windows, art glass or inserts)

How many original exterior doors have been replaced? _____

Are there any original windows remaining in the structure? _____ All? _____

Please note any existing unique or distinctive qualities of the original window elements:
(i.e., sashes, sills, sill casings, lintels, hoods, pediments, hand-glazed glass, locks, weights, cords or chains, stained or leaded glass)

How many original windows have been replaced? _____

EXTERIOR ORNAMENTAL DETAILS

Are there any original exterior ornamental details remaining in the structure?
(i.e., arched doorways , shutters (original), arched windows, quoins (cornerstones), friezes, patterned brickwork, patterned shingling, exposed rafters or beams, brackets, towers, columns, door surrounds, window surrounds, belt course (molding between stories), lightning rods, false parapet wall or castellations, weather vanes)

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

The structure was originally heated by: fireplaces_____ stoves_____ coal_____ oil_____ forced water/steam_____ forced air_____ gas_____ electric_____ solar_____ other:_____

Was the building originally outfitted for lighting? yes___ no___

gas_____ electricity_____ both_____

Is there still evidence of original lighting? yes_____ no_____

Is there still evidence of the original electrical system? Yes_____ no_____

Did the structure originally have indoor plumbing? Yes_____ no_____

If no, when was it added:_____

Are there any original plumbing fixtures remaining? yes_____ no_____

Please note any existing unique or distinctive qualities of the original plumbing, heating or electrical systems on the exterior of the structure:
(i.e., cisterns, coal chutes, stove pipes, etc.)

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

Does any original decorative plaster work exists on the ceiling or walls?_____ (i.e, ceiling medallions, cove moldings (concave), friezes, crown moldings (convex), arches, niches)

Are there any pressed tin ceilings in the structure?_____

Is any of the original interior woodwork still present?_____ all_____ some_____ none_____

Has the woodwork ever been stripped and refinished?_____

Please note any existing unique or distinctive qualities of the original interior
woodwork:

(i.e., cove moldings, crown moldings, open staircase, picture rails, chair rails, base
moldings, window crowns, door crowns, window moldings, door moldings, exposed
beams, interior columns)

Are there any original interior doors remaining in the structure? _____ All? _____

Please note any unique or distinctive qualities of the original exterior doors:

(i.e., panels, hardware (hinges, knobs, locks & keys), frames, casings, crown moldings,
pediments, windows, art glass or inserts)

How many original interior doors have been replaced? _____

Are there any original fireplace mantels in the structure? Yes _____ no _____

Have any mantels been replaced? Yes _____ no _____

Are there any fireplaces that have been covered over? Yes _____ no _____

Is there any original flooring remaining in the structure? _____ All? _____

Was any of the following elements part of the structure: (check all that apply)

_____ dumb waiter _____ laundry chutes _____ speaking tubes _____ ice delivery chute

_____ butter & egg box _____ coal or oil receptacles

Other, describe: _____

OUTBUILDINGS

How many outbuildings are present on the property at this time? _____

barns _____ sheds _____ garages _____ silos _____ gazebos _____ playhouses _____
outhouses _____ other _____

NOTES OF INTEREST

The Historic Sites Committee is interested in knowing your reasons for seeking a plaque: _____

Is there any folklore associated with this structure?

Please describe: _____

ATTACHMENTS

Please attach copies of your research, including:

Survey(s)

Legal description

Chain of title

Photographs

Again, if you have any questions, please contact the museum at 815-923-2267 or info@mchenrycountyhistory.org for further clarification or help in completing the application. Revised October 2019