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 cost of the plaque is currently approximately $155 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 January, 2017
McHenry County Historical Society

Historic Sites Committee

Application Form for Historical Plaquing Consideration

GENERAL INFORMATION

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 January 2017