

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

HISTORIC RECOGNITION AND PLAQUE PROGRAM

The Historic Recognition and Plaque Program

The Wayne County Historical Society established its Historic Recognition and Plaque Program as a means for promoting Wayne County’s rich and diverse historical and architectural character. The program is intended to foster awareness of the county’s architectural heritage, to encourage a sense of pride in the community, and to advance good stewardship practices.

Qualifying Properties

In order to qualify for a plaque, a Pioneer House, a 100-Year-Old House, a Century House, or a County Historical Landmark must first be approved and then listed in the Wayne County Historical Society’s register. See additional materials that describe the process for qualifying your property to receive this listing and bear a site marker plaque.

The Historic Site Marker Plaque

The Wayne County Historical Society plaques are aluminum with a black background. The County Historical Landmark plaque measures 14” x 10”. The Pioneer House, 100-Year-Old House, and Century House plaques measure 12” x 9”.

Cost of a Plaque

The approximate cost of a Landmark plaque is \$350.

Application for a Plaque

First, complete the application form to register your property. Then, if you also wish to order a plaque, complete the bottom portion of this form. For the most current plaque price, contact the designated Historical Society person named at the end of instructions.

I am interested in purchasing a historic site marker plaque.

Plaque Type

Name _____ Pioneer House
Company _____ 100-Year Old House
Address _____ Century House
City _____ Zip _____ County Historical Landmark

Phone _____

Attaching Surface

Signature _____ Date _____ Wood
Payment Received Date _____ Brick
By _____ Concrete Block
Other _____

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK - HOUSE/BUILDING

Procedure and Instructions

The Wayne County Historical Society is pleased that you desire to have your home or building designated as a **County Historical Landmark**. We are ready to help you realize your goal. However, our policy is for you to do as much of the research as possible; the award will mean more to you and your family that way.

Please remember that this County Historical Landmark category is for structures that are at least 100 years old and have special architectural, cultural, or historic value. This is the most difficult and prestigious of the categories for which to qualify.

To document both the age and architectural, cultural, or historic value of your property, we recommend that you first consider any documentation that you already have. For example, your property might have a cornerstone that bears the date of its construction; this would suffice to document the age of the structure. You might have a newspaper article that covers an important historical event that occurred at your structure; this would verify its historic importance. Look through what you already have to support your case. Then, if you need more, try the following suggestions.

Part A: Verify the age of a residence or other building....

Verifying the age of a residence can be quite easy. On a computer, open the website www.waynecountyauditor.org. On the left in black, find the heading "Property Search." Under that, locate the subheading in red that says "Search." Click on "Search." Enter the property owner's name as requested and click the "Search" box. Highlight the appropriate name listing. On the new page that pops up, click on the "residential" tab in red under the parcel number. On the screen that now appears, you will find the date the home was built. If the date is there and it is at least 100 years ago, print the page and attach it to your application. You have successfully verified your home's age.

If the above did not yield results, look on your real estate tax receipt to determine the township, address, and lot number of your home. With that information in hand, try the following suggestions. When you find one that works, skip to the next section of suggestions.

--If you believe your home was built prior to 1897, visit either the Wayne County Public Library or the Historical Society and ask for the Caldwell Atlas of 1897 to see if a map shows the location of your home. If it is clearly shown, record the page number.

--If you believe your home was built in 1897 or later, go to the Map Office at the Wayne County Administration Building, 428 West Liberty Street. This office has readily accessible maps for your use. Look at the plot books for the time period when you think your home was built; the plot maps generally show homes. If you are successful in finding a home on your property, note the volume title and page number where you found the information.

--If you still have not found your home, go to the Auditors Office in the same building. At the real estate counter, ask the employee to check to see if the records show the year that a home first appeared on your property. If found, ask for a copy of the record.

--If you are still looking, go to the microfilm department in the basement of the same building. Here, old records on microfilm may reveal when a home was erected on the property. If you are successful in finding a home on your property, note the volume title and page number where you found the information.

--Your last hope is the Treasurer's Office and/or a repeat visit to the Auditor's Office. Explain your problem. The staff may be able to help.

Verifying the age of a building that is not a residence can be more difficult. Try a computer search using the name of the building. Searching the files of The Daily Record could be helpful. Another resource is A History of Wayne County, Ohio, compiled and edited by members of The Wayne County History Book Committee (available at the Wayne County Library and the Wayne County Historical Society). Other local history sources are available at the library and at the Historical Society.

Part b: Verify the significance of your residence or building....

First, carefully review the following relevant portions of the definition of a County Historical Landmark:

County Historical Landmark - A building or home that is 100 years old or more and has special architectural, cultural, or historic value.

Buildings and Structures which have important associations with notable personages, events and movements; and/or have superlative architectural, engineering, or artistic features of period, style, movement, school, original contribution or mode of construction.

Residences of important persons during their formative years of childhood or their productive years should be given greater emphasis than birthplaces. Churches may qualify if they possess architectural or historical rather than theological significance.

You must prove to us that your home or building meets this definition in some way. Be creative. For example, if you have a home built in the 1860's and you believe it has "superlative architectural, engineering, or artistic features of period, style...and mode of construction," you might do some research in books or on the Internet about residential architecture of that time period. Compare what you find with the features of your home. Point out on your application those features of your home that are examples of architecture of that time period. Provide us with pictures from the research you did and a photograph of your home.

When you have proof of the age and significance of your residence or building, fill out the Historical Landmark application that follows and attach all your documentation. If you wish to order a plaque, fill out the lower section of the sheet on Historic Site Markers and provide a check made out to the Wayne County Historical Society. If you prefer, you may submit the application materials without the order form for a plaque and the check. Then, if the application is approved and you want to order a plaque, you will need to fill out the order form and provide a check.

Deliver your application materials by mail or in person to the designated contact person listed below (preferred) or to the Historical Society office in the Kister Building (Wayne County Historical Society, 546 East Bowman Street, Wooster, OH 44691).

We will review your application and contact you as soon as we make a decision. If the decision is positive, we will discuss the specific design of your plaque and order it for you. Expect to receive it 4-6 weeks after it is ordered. When the plaque arrives, we will let you know of its arrival and deliver it to you.

There are no restrictions on what you do to your home or building because of its designation as a Historic Landmark. Also, your home or building will not fail to qualify because you have changed some of its initial features or added on to the structure.

Designated Wayne County Historical Society contact person:

Joan Robertson

547 Meadow Lane

Wooster, OH 44691

330 263-0129

landmarkcomm@waynehistoricalohio.org

WAYNE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Application for a COUNTY HISTORICAL LANDMARK Building

Definition: A building or home that has special architectural, cultural or historical value.

Location: _____
House Number Street, Road or Drive

City or Town Township or Section

Owner of Building: Name _____

Address _____, City _____

General Description (i.e. outside walls, number of stories, roof design, etc.): _____

Other information if known:

Builder and date: _____

Original owner _____

Documentation: Reasons why this building or home should qualify for as a Historical Landmark

Architectural _____

Historical or Cultural _____

Application prepared by: Name _____, Phone _____

Address _____, City _____, Zip _____

Application approved by: _____, Date _____

Title: _____