



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](mailto: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):

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

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe distinctive or unique construction techniques or characteristics:

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Has the original roof shape changed? \_\_\_\_\_ Explain: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please describe:\_\_\_\_\_

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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)

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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)

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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)

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## 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.)

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## 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)

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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)

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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)

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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](mailto:info@mchenrycountyhistory.org) for further clarification or help in completing the application.* Revised October 2019