

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

PURPOSE, CRITERIA, AND GUIDELINES

PURPOSE

Historical markers inform the public about buildings, structures, and sites of interest. Through the Michigan Historical Marker Program, the Michigan Historical Commission seeks to identify and mark sites and subjects having historic significance. Historical markers:

- Educate the public about significant people, places, and things in Michigan history and thereby develop the public's knowledge of the importance of Michigan history and inspire them to learn more.
- Foster people's ability to make connections between current resources and the past.
- Encourage the public to preserve historic resources that illustrate Michigan history and to develop a sense of identity as Michiganders.
- Enhance cultural tourism in this state by encouraging residents and visitors to investigate Michigan history and the state's historic sites.

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility for a marker is determined by historic significance at the local, state, or national level, and in the case of historic resources, integrity. The following may be eligible for a Michigan Historical Marker and subsequent listing in the State Register of Historic Sites:

- A historically significant building or structure,
- A district listed in the National Register of Historic Places,
- An object (i.e. vessel, shipwreck, railroad),
- A site (i.e. cemetery, archaeological site),
- A location without historic resources associated with an important historical figure, organization, or event.

CRITERIA

The burden of proof is on the applicant to provide documentary evidence that demonstrates and substantiates that the resource or subject:

- a. Is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- b. Is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- c. Embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- d. Has yielded or is likely to yield information important to history or prehistory.

Typically structures that have been moved from their original location, properties primarily commemorative in intent, and properties that have achieved significance within the past fifty years are not be considered eligible for a Michigan Historical Marker unless they fall within the following categories:

- A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most associated with a historic person or event; or
- A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own historical significance; or
- A property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance.

GUIDELINES

- Properties associated with demolished buildings will not be considered until at least ten years after the demolition.
- Markers will not be erected on archaeological sites that retain research potential. This is done to protect the integrity of those sites.
- In order to allow time for historical assessment, typically markers will not be considered for persons until at least twenty years after their death.
- Markers will not be considered for events until at least twenty years after they occur.

Applicants should have a commitment to preserving the historic resource that is being marked and will be expected to follow the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation* for any modifications that must be made, in accordance with the *Michigan Historical Markers Act of 2002*. The State Historic Preservation Office is available for consultation.

Properties that no longer meet the criteria for designation due to alteration inconsistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, demolition, or removal from their original site will be removed from the State Register of Historic Sites and the marker will be returned to the State Historic Preservation Office.

February 17, 2010

MICHIGAN HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM APPLICATION PROCESS

The Michigan Historical Marker Program relies heavily on the applicants. Applicants must make the case through their application and the documentation they acquire through historical research that the historic resource or topic is worthy of a Michigan Historical Marker. Applicants also raise the funds to pay for their marker.

The Michigan Historical Commission operates the program in partnership with the Michigan History Foundation and the Eastern Michigan University graduate program in historic preservation.

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:

- **Incomplete** applications will be **returned** to the applicant. An incomplete application is one for which information is missing from the form itself, or for which any of the additional required items are missing. **Be sure to read the application carefully for requirements.**
- Eastern Michigan University graduate students guided by faculty will write the marker text and send it to the applicant for acceptance of the marker language or marker text. Once the applicant accepts the marker text, it will be presented to the Michigan Historical Commission for its consideration. The Michigan Historical Commission makes the final determination of the wording.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. The sponsor or applicant submits application materials.
2. State Historic Preservation Office staff reviews materials and recommends to the commission whether the site qualifies for the State Register of Historic Sites.
3. Eastern Michigan University verifies the research, prepares a marker text and sends the text to the applicant for acceptance.
4. If applicants disagree with historical information in the marker text, they must submit primary source documentation to support their position.
5. The Michigan Historical Commission approves, tables, or rejects the recommended marker text.
7. The commission notifies the applicant of its decision.
8. The applicant reviews the final text for typographical or spelling errors and sends a check and delivery information to the Michigan History Foundation.
9. The foundation orders the marker.

PLEASE NOTE: The process typically takes one year to complete. Guarantees for specific dedication dates cannot be made at the time the marker application is submitted.

February 17, 2010

SUBMITTING PHOTOGRAPHS

COLOR DIGITAL IMAGES

Color Slides and/or prints are not accepted.

Provide four to six color digital images of the resource. The size of each image must be 1600 X 1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Images that do not meet that standard will not be accepted. Use uncompressed .TIF or .jpeg format. Name the images for the property and number them (i.e. Royal01.tif, Royal02.tif for views of the Royal Theater). Label the CD-R with the name of the property. For a complex of structures provide at least one image of each structure and/or landscape feature. These images should follow the instructions above as to format and naming.

RIGHTS TO PHOTOGRAPHS AND ELECTRONIC IMAGES

The Michigan Historical Commission accepts all photographs and images only on the condition that the State of Michigan has full right to use such accepted photographs and images for reports, presentations, or other purposes as it sees fit.