

CENTURY HOME PLAQUE PROGRAM

THE CHAGRIN FALLS HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Mission:

- To create community pride in our historic homes,
- To plaque qualified century homes,
- To promote and contribute accurate research to the Historical Society's archive of century plaqued homes.

Welcome:

We welcome you to unravel the mysteries of your historic home by investigating its origins, structural history and chain of ownership. We encourage you to do your own research. If you wish, you may hire an accredited researcher, from those listed on the Ohio Historic Preservation Office website, to help you.

Broad criteria:

Your Home:

- is in Chagrin Falls Village or Township,
- is 100 years or older,
- has the original lines substantially visible, and
- may have additions that are less than 75% of the original square footage of the house and that preserve its integrity and scale as determined by the Plaque Committee, and
- may not have cladding material such as aluminum or vinyl siding or brick veneer.

Cost:

If you do your own research: verification fee \$125 + plaque \$200 = Total \$325.

If you hire an accredited researcher: plaque = \$200.

Please contact the Plaque Committee by calling the Chagrin Falls Historical Society (440-247-4695) for additional information, eligibility questions, or researchers. The Plaque Committee will help you get started plus there is a "how to research" file, filled with information and helpful hints, at the Historical Society. The Museum is open Thursdays 2 to 4 p.m. and someone will be available at additional times upon request for research support.

APPLICATION

Please provide the following information, attaching documentation, copies of records, maps and photos. Submit to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society with check for \$200 or \$325 depending on research method, payable to the Chagrin Falls Historical Society.

Personal Information:

- Applicant name, address, phone, email, and century home address if different.

Historical Documentation:

- Establish "Chain of Ownership" with grantor (seller), grantee (buyer) and date of transfer, incorporating construction date up to current owner. (Use online deeds at Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office.) (Dr. Elizabeth Rodgers material at CFHS may be a guide but must be verified.)
- Find Permanent Parcel number at Cuyahoga County Auditor's office on line. (Date of construction that is shown is ballpark, not accurate!)
- For proof of year house was built, check tax records at Cuyahoga County Archives. (Go to the volume for the year before and the year after construction to prove the "tax increase." (Again, there is Dr. Rodgers material but verify.)
- Copy the "Building Card" and photo, found at County Archives. (Must have Permanent Parcel No.)
- Photo copy relevant maps showing the property. (1874 & 1878 atlases, plat maps, 1858 & 1883 maps, 1920, 1927, 1950 C.F. village plat maps etc. at CFHS and/or the County Archives. Sanborn Fire maps on line at Ohio Public Library.
- Historic photos from CFHS and current, dated photos. (Photos will not be returned.)

House Modifications:

- Describe building materials: observe foundation, siding, original windows and doors, roof, changes in foundation material indicating an addition.
- Describe additions, renovations with approximate dates.

Social History:

- Whatever social history of the various owners you find will enrich your application and is valuable to the integrity of your research. (See obituary files

at CFHS, the Chagrin Falls History Book, and genealogy sites: ancestry.com (free at the library) and familysearch.org.

REFERENCE

Cuyahoga County Auditor's office, on line

Cuyahoga County Recorder's Office, on line

Cuyahoga county Archives, 2905 Franklin Blvd., N.E, Cleveland, 44113
(216-443-7250)

Sanborn Fire Maps: www.oplin.org/databases

Scroll through Search, Statewide Resources to the History & Biography category and click on Sanborn Maps. Go to the bottom of that page and in "search within this collection" enter Chagrin Falls. That brings up all of the Chagrin maps. Search by map to locate the house and street you are researching. You will find it multiple times by range of years. (Hint: print all that are pertinent; sometimes streets have been renamed!)

Serving as an eligibility aid is www.VillageofChagrinFallsDesignGuidelines.

Listing of accredited researchers is found online at: Ohio Historic Preservation Office ... Federal & State Reviews ... History/Architects Consultant's List

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