

ELK RAPIDS AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY HISTORIC BUILDING PLAQUE APPLICATION

Qualifications

Any building or structure in the Elk Rapids Village or surrounding area constructed **50 years or more ago.**

Procedure

Complete the enclosed application.

Return the completed application with a check for **\$100 (payable to ERAHS)** to:

Elk Rapids Area Historical Society
P. O. Box 2 Elk Rapids, MI 49629

Contact:

231-264-5692 Museum Office E-mail:
research@elkrapidshistory.org



Elk Rapids Area Historical Society Building Plaque Application

Please complete this form and affix a photo of your structure to this application

Applicant Name: _____
Street Address: _____
City: _____
Phone: _____ **Day:** _____ **Night:** _____
E-mail: _____

Structure: _____
Street Address: _____
Description / Use: _____

Requested plaque date (year of construction): _____

Briefly state evidence of documentation (attach copy to this form)

Architectural Details (check all that apply):

<input type="checkbox"/> Greek Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Queen Anne	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Frame <input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential
<input type="checkbox"/> Gothic	<input type="checkbox"/> Colonial Revival	<input type="checkbox"/> Stone <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
<input type="checkbox"/> Italianate	<input type="checkbox"/> Craftsman	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Second Empire	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Four-Square	_____	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> Worker's Cottage	<input type="checkbox"/> Field Stone Cottage	_____	_____

Builder (if known): _____

Original Owner (if known): _____

***** FOR SOCIETY USE ONLY *****

Date application received: _____

Received by: _____
Membership Form: _____ (Fee paid by grant)
Plaque fee included: \$ _____
Method of payment: _____
Date plaque ordered: _____
Date plaque received: _____
Delivered to Owner: _____

Additional Information:

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society is interested in oral histories related to our local homes and structures. Please briefly answer the following questions in the space below, or attach a typed copy of any anecdotes you can share.

1. Do you know who once lived in your home/structure? What was that individual's profession?

2. Was your home/structure ever used for anything other than its present purpose?

**3. Is anything physically altered regarding your home/structure?
(e.g. was it moved, remodeled, adapted for a new use?)**

4. Do you have a funny, charming, interesting, or tragic tale to tell regarding your home/structure?

How to Research the History of Your Structure

Unlocking the past of an older building is a lot like researching your family history; you have to dig a bit, but the information you discover is worth the effort. In most cases, finding the date of construction involves research in a variety of local records. After locating and reviewing one or two of these records, you may be able to identify the year in which your house was built. The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society hopes that you enjoy the time spent looking into the unique past of your home or building. Uncovering historical anecdotes, dates, and miscellaneous facts about your home connects you to your neighborhood, your community, and your past. Here are some local resources to get you started.

The Elk Rapids Area Historical Society

Much information about our interesting town has already been gathered and is waiting for you to peruse at the Elk Rapids Museum, which is run by the Historical Society. The museum is located at the corner of Pine and Traverse Streets. Newspaper articles, photographs, personal correspondence, and some official records housed in the museum archives may help you pinpoint the original construction of your home. The Historical Society can be reached at 231-264-5692. The museum hours vary according to season, so call ahead to be sure a docent is available.

Neighborhood Interviews

Ask around. Your neighbor may have information about the individuals who have owned your property, original architectural styles, remodeling, etc. Even if your neighbors cannot recall specific dates, you may gather a wealth of interesting stories about how "your house used to have a large barn behind it," or "your cottage used to house laborers from the cement works," or even "your house is where my great aunt lived and she threw the best Christmas parties!" Your building's history may be as close as next door.

Property Abstract

Your property abstract is an excellent place to look for clues to the date of your house. This document is a chronological list of Titleholders that is usually prepared by a professional abstractor when a property changes hands. Either the property owner or the mortgage holder may have this document. Included in the abstract will be references to deeds, mortgages, wills, probate records, court actions and tax sales relevant to the property's history. This listing will reveal who owned the lot, how long it was owned, and the purchase price. Look for your abstract with the former owners of your home-sometimes an owner will have the abstract and will pass it along when the house sells.

The title company - contact the title company involved in the purchase of your home. They may have an early abstract or can reconstruct such information for you. Stress that this request is for personal interest and that you do not need a legal document. Some companies may make copies of existing abstracts gratis, but most will charge for these services. Be sure to ask about costs.

Antrim County Abstract Office - 231- 533-6170. The Abstract Office maintains the land records for Antrim County. You will find deed records, mortgage records and subdivision plats. Simply call and a clerk will ask you for basic information regarding your property, such as your address or plat number, and will create the list of information for you. There is a charge for this service, which is based on how many transactions have taken place since your property was first platted. At this time, a copy of the research can range from \$50 for a 40-year search, to more than \$200 for a more extensive search.

Note: Remember to be generous with any information you find. Please provide copies of historical documents to the Elk Rapids Area Historical Society.