

INSTRUCTIONS FOR OBTAINING A CENTURY HOME MARKER

A qualifying 'CENTURY HOME' or 'CENTURY BUILDING' must retain an appearance that is readily recognizable and identifiable with the era during which the structure was built. Alterations and/or additions made to the structure must not detract from the intended design of the building.

Owners of older structures should be aware that historic preservationists strongly discourage the installation of materials such as aluminum or vinyl siding. The Geauga County Historical Society urges owners to seek guidance from the **OHIO HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE** (of the Ohio Historical Society) or the **NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION** before altering the facade of any century-old dwelling or other building.

Owners of structures located within designated **Historic Districts** should contact their township or village offices for information on local regulations.

Researchers interested in obtaining 'CENTURY HOME' OR 'CENTURY BUILDING' designation should request an *Application for Century Home Marker* from the office of the Geauga County Historical Society.

Applicants are required to submit evidence, which supports the claim of 'CENTURY HOME' or 'CENTURY BUILDING' status, including the following:

- 1) A DEED SEARCH report, to be researched at the Geauga County Recorder's Office, which traces each property transaction from the current deed back to the earliest transaction on record. This information provides necessary references for a search of tax records and helps to establish a history of your home and property.
- 2) A TAX RECORDS report, to be researched via tax duplicates available on microfilm at the Anderson Allyn Room for Genealogical Research, Chardon Public Library. These records will help to establish the year the house was built. A house may be indicated ("H") or you may note a substantial increase in taxes. New buildings generally appear on the tax record the year after construction. Keep in mind, however, that this does not guarantee the same structure exists today since houses were sometimes rebuilt on old foundations.
- 3) CORROBORATING SOURCES including: local histories, court records, tax/land owner maps, family records, newspaper articles or any other source that could help establish the history of the home or provide information on the builder or original owner of the home.
- 4) Applicant must also provide a recent photograph of the home or building featuring a front or street view of the structure.