

MICHIGAN CENTENNIAL FARM PROGRAM

Application for Centennial Certification



The Historical Society of Michigan
Centennial Farm Program
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Office Use Only

SECTION 1: BASIC FARM INFORMATION

Farm's Founding Owner(s): _____

On what date was the farm purchased by its founding owners? _____

I have enclosed a copy of a deed, abstract, or tax record that documents this transaction. (Required)

Farm's Address: _____

County: _____ Township: _____

How many acres were in the original purchase? _____ Number of acres currently owned: _____

Legal description of land owned by your family for the past 100+ years: _____

List the farm's major products today: _____

What company supplies electricity to the farm or area? _____

Your electric company may choose to send a press release to a newspaper. Please list the name and address of the newspaper of your choice: _____

SECTION 2: FIRST FAMILY OWNER HISTORY

Where was he or she born? Please include city, state/province, and country. _____

What was his or her nationality/ethnicity? _____

Where did he or she live prior to moving to the farm? Please include city, state/province, and country. _____

Was the land obtained directly from the government? If so, please explain the circumstances (i.e., veteran's grant, Homestead Act, purchase, etc.) _____

Did he or she have an occupation other than farming? If so, what? _____

Name(s) of spouse(s): _____ Date of Marriage _____

Were these individuals married to each other at the time the land was acquired? Circle one: YES NO

Names of children: _____

SECTION 3: CHAIN OF OWNERSHIP

Please provide documentation of each qualifying parcel of land, starting with the transaction in which the property first came into the family and establishing the family's continuous chain of title down to the present owners. Begin with the original family order and list ownership chronologically to the present.

Please provide photocopies of abstracts or deeds as proof. You can find these records at your county's Register of Deeds. You can also use a title company to produce a property ownership report, called a "Chain of Title," for a fee.

| Farm Owner (Include maiden name where applicable) | Relationship to Present Owner | Date | I have enclosed proper documentation of this transaction (required): |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
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| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SECTION 4: FARM BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES

Please provide a film or printed digital photograph (no photocopies) of each current building and structure on your farm. Each photograph should show two sides of the building (for instance, the front and one side).

Please also include two or three overall views of the cluster of farm buildings. **Additional photographs or copies of old photographs are welcomed but not required.** Please place the photographs in an envelope. Do not attach them to the form! Photographs cannot be returned.

Photographs should be no smaller than 3½" x 5½" and should be hardcopies.

Number each photograph on the back and identify the views below. Enclose additional pages if necessary.

Please, list all buildings, structures, and any other important historic features on your farm (i.e., farmhouse, barn, sheds, windmill, chicken coop, windbreaks, etc.), the approximate date of construction, and the original and current use.

| Photo No. | Building/Structure | Year Built | Historic Use/Present Use |
|-----------|--------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
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| _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |

SECTION 5: FARM HISTORY

Please provide a brief history of the farm, including information about changes in crops over time and the physical evolution of the farm and its buildings. Please also provide biographical information about family members associated with the farm, including those who may have played an important role in other aspects of the community's development. Include any information you have about professional builders who constructed any of the farm buildings and structures. Enclose additional pages if necessary. **Do not leave this section blank.**

SECTION 6: SITE PLAN

Provide a sketch plan of your farm. You may use the below, or you may create your own map. Depending on the size of your farm, designate each square as representing one, 10, or 40 acres. Identify roads or highways and define your approximate property boundaries. Note the approximate location of your farm buildings and structures, using the numbers from the photographs, and of the other major features (i.e., railroads, lakes, streams, etc.). Also mark in the plan the known locations of no longer standing man-made structures or features, including any sites of houses, barns and outbuildings, mills, logging camps, or other industrial remains.

Don't forget to indicate the direction North and the number of acres each square represents in your drawing, (i.e., 1 square = 10 acres).

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SECTION 7: ARCHAEOLOGICAL

We are interested in identifying potential archaeological sites. Any information about historic or prehistoric Indian mounds, villages, camps, dance circles, or trails would be appreciated. Are there family cemeteries or abandoned cemeteries on or near your farm? If you or someone in your family has Indian, family, or pioneer artifacts, including farm equipment, that you would allow us to examine and photograph, please enclose a short description. Use additional sheets if necessary.

SECTION 8: CURRENT OWNER INFORMATION

Please include the following information for **all current owners** of the property. Please provide the names, addresses, phone numbers and signatures of all current owners. By signing below all current owners agree to the Centennial Farm designation request and the use of information indicated herein.

I do hereby certify that the above statements are true and correct with regard to the land described in this application, that this land has been owned and farmed by my family for 100 years or more, and that it is currently an active farm of 10 acres or more.

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| 1) _____ PRINTED NAME | _____ ADDRESS |
| _____ SIGNATURE | _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| _____ DATE | _____ PHONE |
| 2) _____ PRINTED NAME | _____ ADDRESS |
| _____ SIGNATURE | _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| _____ DATE | _____ PHONE |
| 3) _____ PRINTED NAME | _____ ADDRESS |
| _____ SIGNATURE | _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| _____ DATE | _____ PHONE |
| 4) _____ PRINTED NAME | _____ ADDRESS |
| _____ SIGNATURE | _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| _____ DATE | _____ PHONE |
| 5) _____ PRINTED NAME | _____ ADDRESS |
| _____ SIGNATURE | _____ CITY/STATE/ZIP |
| _____ DATE | _____ PHONE |

I have enclosed proof of present ownership, such as tax notice, assessment, receipt, or other document from local authorities. This document states both the owner's name and a legal description of the relevant property. (Required)

SECTION 9: CONTACT AND SHIPPING INFORMATION

All correspondence and marker will be mailed to the contact listed below:

Contact Name: _____ Relation to Applicant: _____
Shipping Address: _____

Contact Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

SECTION 10: CENTENNIAL FARM DESIGNATION REQUEST

By submitting this completed Centennial Farm application, I am requesting that my farm be certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm by the Historical Society of Michigan (HSM). I understand that, to be designated as a Centennial Farm, a property must be a working farm of 10 or more acres that has been continuously owned by the same family for at least 100 years.

The information submitted on this form is accurate to the best of my ability. I understand that HSM may attempt to verify the history of ownership with an outside organization or business, and I give my permission to share information from this form for this purpose. HSM may also contact me for additional information or missing information.

Furthermore, I agree to allow HSM to make information available about my property when certified as a Michigan Centennial Farm. This includes historical information about the farm, the address of the property as part of a list of certified farms, and the name of the owner(s) and original owner as indicated above. I also agree to allow HSM to use information provided as part of the application in HSM publications.

I have enclosed the following materials necessary to complete this application:

- A completed Michigan Centennial Farm Certification Application
- A non-refundable application fee of \$125.* This fee includes costs for the sign.
- Deeds or abstracts to evidence the farm's chain of title
- A recent tax bill, assessment, or receipt from local authorities to evidence current ownership
- Photographs showing each current building/structure on your farm

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Return the completed application and application fee* to:

Centennial Farm Program
The Historical Society of Michigan
7435 Westshire Drive
Lansing, MI 48917
Phone: (517) 324-1828

*Your application fee can be submitted via check or money order. Do NOT send cash. To charge your application fee to a major credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express), please see the next page.

FARM NAME AND YEAR SIGN

In addition to the traditional large Centennial Farm Sign, the Historical Society of Michigan also offers a customizable sub-sign meant to hang below the Centennial sign. This sign would feature your family surname(s) up to 22 characters. It also features the year, in which your farm was founded, for the price of \$49.95.

Year Founded: _____ Surname(s): _____

Quantity: _____ x \$49.95= Total _____



JONES FARM EST. 1850

FOR PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD ONLY

To charge your application fee to a major credit card (Visa, MasterCard, Discover, or American Express), please complete the following form. Do NOT complete this page if paying the application fee by check or money order.

| APPLICATION TYPE | PRICE |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Centennial Certification | \$125 |
| Name & Year Sign | \$49.95 |

Credit Card Type: Visa MasterCard American Express Discover

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ CVV Code: _____ Billing Zip Code: _____
(3-DIGIT CODE ON BACK OF CARD)

I authorize the Historical Society of Michigan to charge the Centennial Certification Application Fee to my credit card.

Signature: _____ Date: _____