

# Michigan Heritage Home™ Frequently Asked Questions

## **Q1: Can I apply for Michigan Heritage Home™ status for a house I do not own?**

Ordinarily, you must own the house in order to nominate it as a Michigan Heritage Home. An exception would be nominating a house that is now publicly owned, such as a historic house, on behalf of the ownership organization.

## **Q2: Will Michigan Heritage Home status qualify my house for grants, loans, or tax advantages?**

No. Michigan Heritage Home status is strictly honorary.

## **Q3: Will Michigan Heritage Home status require me to seek approval for repairs or alterations to my house?**

No. Michigan Heritage Home status places no restrictions on home maintenance or alterations, although extensive alterations may result in a revocation of status as a Michigan Heritage Home.

## **Q4: My house has been altered since its construction. Can I still apply for a Michigan Heritage Home designation?**

Yes. All old houses have undergone some alterations. The house must, however, remain in substantially original condition. HSM staff will evaluate the extent of the alterations to determine if the house can qualify as a Michigan Heritage Home and may send the application to a committee for review.

## **Q5: How do I determine the name for my house, such as “Smith House” or “Jones House?”**

The name to use is that of the original owner/occupant. This applies regardless of the builder or later occupants. The Michigan Heritage Home program follows the practice used by the U.S. Department of the Interior for houses it places on the National Register of Historic Places.

## **Q6: My house was built over a period of time. What year should I specify for the designation?**

Use the year in which the construction was completed.

## **Q7: What if I can't document the exact construction date of my house?**

It's not always possible to determine the precise date of construction. We may use “circa” (abbreviated “c.”) for the date; for example, “Smith House, c. 1892.”

**Q8: Will a non-residence qualify as a Michigan Heritage Home if a portion of it was used as a residence, such as a store with apartments on the upper floor?**

The building's original primary purpose must have been as an owner-occupied dwelling.

**Q9: Is this the same program as the green Michigan Historical Markers?**

No. Michigan Historical Markers are placed by the Michigan Historical Commission. They recognize historically-significant buildings and sites, and are unrelated to the Michigan Heritage Home program.

**Q10: Does a Michigan Heritage Home designation require that my house have an association with a famous person or event?**

No. The designation only requires that the house be at least 100 years old and in substantially original condition.

**Q11: Does a Michigan Heritage Home designation require that my house have remained in my family since it was built?**

No. Family ownership is only required for our Centennial Farm program.