



Mason County Historic Preservation Commission

Application for a Historical Building, Structure, or Place Plaque Program

Thank you for your interest in applying to the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission's Historical Building, Structure, or Place Plaque Program. The intent of the program is to acknowledge the historical value of buildings, structures, or places in Mason County that should be considered historically important, possess unique architectural or other characteristics, are associated with important events in Mason County history, or some or all of these values. Please note that the Plaque Program application is not the same as applying to have a property listed into the Mason County Historic Register.

The primary requirements for the award of a plaque is straightforward and rests on the applicant providing sufficient information in the application form about the history and/or historical associations, if any, of a Mason County building, structure, or place (see Application Form, below). Providing such detailed information in the application enables the Historic Preservation Commission to evaluate and consider whether the building, structure or place should be recognized as important in the County's history and awarded a plaque that can then be mounted. If you are considering applying for a plaque and have questions, please feel free to contact the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission via email (hpc@masoncountywa.gov), by phone (360-427-9670, ext. 282), or in person (615 W Alder St, Shelton, WA 98584).

Sources of Information: Appendix A, below, provides useful information and definitions about the historical and architectural values of structures, buildings, and places. Please note that the information in Appendix A is meant only as an aid and guide to the applicant in assessing whether a building, structure, or place may have importance and/or significance, and therefore could be potentially qualified for receiving a Mason County 'Place of Historic Interest' or 'House of Historic Interest' plaque. Again, the items in Appendix A are only informative and provide additional background information sources and guidelines to assist those interested in submitting a Plaque Program application.

Application Form for a Historical Building, Structure, or Place Plaque

In this application form, please provide as much information as possible in response to each of the questions, below. Please attach copies of any relevant supporting documents or other information along with any period photographs if any of these are available. Current photographs of the building, structure, or place should each have a caption and brief description (e.g., front view, side view overview of front of building, detail of porch, detail of west addition).

At the end, please provide a brief summary of why the building, structure, or place should be considered as important in the history of Mason County. If you have questions, please feel free to contact the Mason County Historic Preservation Commission via email (hpc@masoncountywa.gov), by phone (360-427-9670, ext. 282), or in person (615 W Alder St, Shelton, WA 98584).

Provide the Following Information about the Building, Structure, or Place:

A. Location (Physical address) of the building, structure, place:

B. Application prepared by (contact information: name, address, email, telephone)

C. When was the building or structure built, or when was the place in use:

D. If known, what was the historical or original function or use of the building, structure, or place?

E. What is the current function or use of the building, structure, or place? For example, as a residence, as a business or other commercial use, a barn, transportation-related, a community gathering area, schoolhouse, etc.? Is it within a known historical district?

F. Have there been any additions or remodeling to the original structure or building (exterior and or interior)? Please describe them briefly. If known, please mention when these additions or remodels were done.

Attachments: Documents and Photos (required).

Please attach as many additional numbered pages as necessary.

Appendix A – Useful Guidelines and Links

The following National Register evaluation criteria information is excerpted from the National Park Service's *National Register Bulletin 15: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (National Park Service 1997). For detailed information about the process and requirements in evaluating the significance and National Register eligibility of historic buildings, structures, or places discussed in National Register Bulletin 15, an online link to a brief overview of the National Register of Historic Places is presented below, along with a link to the full Bulletin 15 as a PDF document at:

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NR_Brochure_Poster_web508.pdf

https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/upload/NRB-15_web508.pdf

Also useful are historical building guidelines and definitions found on the State of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) public website pages at:

<https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-preservation/historic-buildings/architectural-style-guide>

<https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-preservation/preservation-topics/cultural-landscape-preservation>

<https://dahp.wa.gov/historic-registers/washington-heritage-register>

National Register Criteria for Evaluation (NPS Bulletin 15) - excerpted

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- D. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history

Criteria Consideration

In reviewing the following criteria and definitions, applicants should consider whether the building or structure is or may be associated with or possesses any of the qualities discussed below. Please mention any that may apply where relevant in the application above.

Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, or graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:

- a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
- b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is significant primarily for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
- c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building directly associated with his or her productive life; or
- d. A cemetery which derives its primary significance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
- e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
- f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
- g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.

Definitions

Buildings

A building, such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction, is created principally to shelter any form of human activity. "Building" may also be used to refer to a historically and functionally related unit, such as a courthouse and jail or a house and barn.

Examples of buildings include:

administration building
carriage house
church
city or town hall
courthouse
detached kitchen, barn, and privy
dormitory
fort
garage
hotel
house
library
mill building
office building
post office
school
social hall
shed
stable
store
theater
train station

Structures

The term "structure" is used to distinguish from buildings those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter.

Examples of structures include:

aircraft
apiary
automobile
bandstand
boats and ships
bridge
cairn
canal
carousel
corncrib
dam
earthwork
fence

gazebo
grain elevator
highway
irrigation system
kiln
lighthouse
railroad grade
silo
trolley car
tunnel
windmill

Places

The term "place" is used to distinguish from buildings and structures those functional constructions made usually for purposes other than creating human shelter.

Examples of places include:

cemeteries
birthplaces and graves
prehistoric and historical period archaeological sites
sites associated with traditional cultural communities practices
rural communities that reflect patterns of cultural traditions
urban neighborhoods associated with particular cultural groups