



Century Home Program

The Ashtabula County Historical Society's Century Home Program honors properties that have reached 100+ years of age. The program began in early 1970's in an effort to encourage homeowners to learn about and preserve the histories of their homes. The Historical Society has a directory of all homes in the program online.

In order to qualify for the program, the property must meet the criteria for the designation they're seeking. Then the applicant must submit an application for verification to the Society with the corresponding research of the property. Homeowners are permitted to provide their own research or may request research be conducted by the Historical Society for a fee. Once researched has been conducted and verification completed by the Program committee, the property will be inducted into the program with a plaque. You do not need to be a professional historian or researcher to apply. The Century Home Committee may conduct additional research or contact you for clarification or supporting documentation during the review process.

This program is an honorary award only. It does not qualify homes for national historical designation, does not place restrictions upon work to the house in any way, nor does it provide financial assistance for maintenance of designated homes.

Program Benefits

- Official recognition of your property's age and history.
- Celebrate your home's unique story.
- Receive an official Century Home certificate.
- Opportunity to purchase an honorary plaque.
- Preserve your property's legacy for future owners.
- Connect with local preservation professionals.
- Optional inclusion in the Program Directory listed on the Society's Website.
- Participate in future program events.
- Potential opportunities for property spotlights.
- Become part of Ashtabula County's historic-property community.
- Help preserve the character of your community

Celebrating Your Designation

Being designated a Historic Property is a special opportunity to celebrate the history and story of your property with the community. Following approval, the Ashtabula County Historical Society may recognize your property through a dedication ceremony, featuring the presentation of your official designation plaque and an opportunity to celebrate the property's history with family, friends, neighbors, and the community. Designated properties may also be featured through ACHS social media and other promotional efforts, helping share the stories, architecture, and people connected to these special places. Each designation is a celebration of the property's past and the care that helps carry its story into the future.

Program Designations

Century Home

A Century Home is a residential property within Ashtabula County that has existed for at least 100 years. Homes fitting this designation are recognizable as a product of their time. Architectural features have been preserved or restored, rooflines have been maintained, and the original design of the home has been respected.

Criteria

- **Age:** Must be at least 100 years old, as verified by county records, and the original use must have been as a residential property.
- **Occupancy:** Owner must occupy the home as primary residence at the time of designation. Exceptions may be made if there is a significant historical past.
- **Environment:** landscaping, outbuildings, etc. must be well-maintained. The addition of modern buildings on a property NOT attached to the original home will not exclude a site from this program.
- **Structure:** Distinguishing original qualities or character of the building must be preserved. Alterations to external facades must be compatible with the character of the original structure. External changes to the building should maintain the architectural details of the original structure (i.e., windows, doors etc.). Maintenance-saving changes such as vinyl siding and windows will not immediately exclude a home from consideration.

Associated Fees

- **Application & Verification Fee** - \$250 (covers the cost of review & verification of research)
 - **Plaque** – cost varies by material selected
 - **Hourly fee for research conducted by the society**
- Digital-only discount** - \$25
Membership discount - \$25
- *Optional - Contact us for more info*

Century Homesite

A Century Homesite is a property in Ashtabula County that has been continuously occupied as a residence for at least 100 years, as demonstrated by a clear history of owners and property use.

These properties contain dwellings that have been modified or updated to an extent that it cannot be designated as a Century Home, but the owner wishes to document and preserve the history of the property as part of the historical record of our county. Aimed at preserving the historical stories of homesites throughout the county, this designation allows homeowners to submit the rich and varied research of homes that do not necessarily meet the architecture-oriented requirements of our more traditional Century Home designation.

Criteria

- **Age:** Must be at least 100 years old, as verified by county records, and the original use must have been as a residential property.
- **Occupancy:** Owner must occupy the home as a primary residence at the time of designation. Exceptions may be made if there is a significant historical past.
- **Environment:** Exterior site, including landscaping, outbuildings, etc. must be well-maintained.
- **Historical Documentation:** The owner must be able to demonstrate continued occupancy of the property for at least 100 years. We do not require the chain of occupants to be related. In addition to the chain of ownership, owners are encouraged to supply stories and photographs of the property.

Associated Fees

- **Application & Verification Fee:** \$125 verification fee (covers the cost of review & verification of research)
 - **Plaque** – cost varies by material selected
 - **Hourly fee for research conducted by the society**
Optional - Contact us for more info
- Digital-only discount - \$25**
Membership discount - \$25

Historic Business

Many century homes throughout the county have been converted for use as a business. The Ashtabula County Historical Society will consider awarding a Century Home Designation to businesses operating in a century home. Century Homes used as businesses must meet the criteria and changes made to the property to facilitate the operation of the business must be well-documented (including installation of fire suppression, etc.) Business owners are encouraged to contact the Society prior to submission of an application to discuss an individual property.

Associated Fees

- **Application & Verification Fee:** \$125 verification fee (covers the cost of review & verification of research)
 - **Plaque** – cost varies by material selected
 - **Hourly fee for research conducted by the society**
Optional - Contact us for more info
- Digital-only discount - \$25**
Membership discount - \$25

Research

To aid in the verification of the property, homeowners (or hired researchers) must provide a clear history of the ownership of the property from initial construction of the home forward.

When available, history of individual owners should be part of the story of the property.

Research provided should include:

- Deed search report and copies of deeds establishing chain of ownership *
- Copies of historical sources pertaining to the architecture and social history of the home *
- Surveyors' sketches of the house and parcel *
- Tax records, especially where significant changes in the value of the property are noted *
- Photos – current and historic – of the home, unique features, and architectural elements documenting the history of construction *
- Maintenance records, where available, especially when indicative of preservation of historic elements
- Descriptions of building materials

*Required for all program designations - Materials provided will not be returned.

Tips for Streamlining Your Application

- Provide an interesting, written summary or history of your home. This will be preserved in the record of your century home and will become part of the ACHS archives.
- Provide several recent, full-color photos of your home
- Utilize the deed chain report as a cover sheet for copies of deeds pertaining to the home

Scan to Download the Application

Or send us an email to request a copy: ashcohs@gmail.com

Research

Suggested Resources

Ashtabula County Recorder (Deeds and other land records) -

<https://www.ashtabulacounty.us/348/Recorder>

Ashtabula County Auditor (Tax Records) - <http://www.ashtabulacountyauditor.org/>

Ashtabula County Probate Court (Estate Searches) -

https://courts.co.ashtabula.oh.us/probate_court.htm

Ashtabula County District Library (Genealogy & other historical records) -

<https://www.acdl.info/genealogy/>

Sanborn Insurance Maps - <https://oaks.kent.edu/sanborn>

This Old House - How to Research Your Old House -

<https://www.thisoldhouse.com/21015083/how-to-research-the-history-of-your-house>

U.S. Census Records - <https://www.archives.gov/research/census/online-resources>

Ohio Obituary Index - <https://www.rbhayes.org/main/ohio-obituary-index/>

Local Historical Societies - Contact us for information

Program Directory

The Century Home Program Directory is a growing public record celebrating the historic properties recognized through the Ashtabula County Historical Society's Century Home Program. The directory highlights designated homes and other qualifying historic properties throughout Ashtabula County, helping preserve their stories and connect our community with the places that have shaped our shared history. Because historical records are always evolving, the directory may not yet include every previously designated property. We welcome community members to help us identify missing designations and ensure these stories are not forgotten.



Program Directory



Update Property Info

Contact Us!

For more information on the Century Home Program, don't hesitate to reach out!

Get Involved!

**If you are passionate about preserving the character in our community,
we'd love to have you on our team!**

Courtney Sowry, Century Home Committee Chair

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