The Lake County Historical Society is looking for the following when considering applications for Heritage Home Markers:

1) Significant Lake County family history is part of the property history such as a mayor of a village or a well-known artist lived in the home.  
2) Significant architectural style such as Craftsman or a Sears catalog home.  
3) Significant historic element is part of the home such as a door was salvaged from another significant building that was going to be demolished and it was placed on the current structure.

When submitting the application, please provide evidence of the historic claim. Primary source evidence such as deeds, personal documents like letters, or living testimony will be given preference to secondary sources such as newspaper articles, essays about the house written by someone other than an owner, or hear say.

The Lake County Historical Society can help with the research. We have historic maps and we have a large genealogy collection that can give insight into the history of families that owned properties. However, the name of the owner needs to be known first for the Historical Society to help with that research. The best source of ownership information is the Lake County records office.

Instructions –

- Heritage Survey & Register Form to be completed
- Application is self-explanatory but you may have questions
- Information to help complete registration form also attached
- Items 1-9 are accessible from the Auditor’s Office
- Items 10-26 owner should be able to answer
- A digital photo of the exterior and interior should accompany the application
- There is a $25 up front charge for processing paperwork (if a member this fee is waived). The $25 needs to accompany the application. Check should be made out to the Lake County Historical Society.

Once we receive the completed information (above), we will have our architect look over application and any attached information.

Once the application is approved, we will notify you and the Heritage Home Plaque can be ordered.

If there are any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Research Department
Lake County Historical Society
440-639-2945
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>LCHS HERITAGE SURVEY &amp; REGISTER</strong></th>
<th>4. <strong>OWNER</strong></th>
<th>H.H Number:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>1. ADDRESS</strong></td>
<td>5. <strong>OTHER NAME FOR STRUCTURE/PROPERTY</strong></td>
<td>15. <strong>NO. OF STORIES</strong></td>
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<td><strong>2. SPECIFIC LOCATION</strong></td>
<td>6. <strong>DATE OF CONSTRUCTION</strong></td>
<td>16. <strong>BASEMENT</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Twp.  Range</td>
<td>7. <strong>STYLE</strong></td>
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<td>Tract Lot</td>
<td>8. <strong>ARCHITECT/OWNER</strong></td>
<td><strong>17. FOUNDATION MATERIAL</strong></td>
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<td>SubDiv SubLot</td>
<td><strong>18. WALL CONSTRUCTION</strong></td>
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<td>23. <strong>SITE PLAN</strong> - SHOW NORTH (arrow)</td>
<td><strong>19. ROOF</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>20. WALL MATERIAL</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>21. PLAN SHAPE</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>**24. <strong>OPEN TO PUBLIC</strong></td>
<td><strong>22. CHANGES (Explain in Text)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Application date</td>
<td>Additions</td>
<td>25. <strong>CONDITION</strong></td>
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<td>Approved, yes</td>
<td>no</td>
<td><strong>26. ENDANGERED?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td><strong>27. VISIBLE FROM ROAD</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marker issued yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
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</table>

**INSTRUCTIONS**

1. (For guidance, use LCHS Guide to Researching Your Building. For data not known, indicate "not known" in space.
2. Include all the following on separate sheets, type or print.
3. Describe in detail:
   A. Construction and architectural features of structure
   B. Interior and exterior design detail
   C. Reconstruct (probable) original floor plan. Show changes and approximate dates and present floor plan (sketch is sufficient. Professional scale drawings are not necessary.
   D. If structure was moved, give original site and moving date if known.
   E. Include at least one (1) digital photo of front elevation. Interior photos of important detail are useful but not required. Early photos or illustrations of structure are helpful. Black and white photos are best. Slides and polaroids are not acceptable.
4. Complete chain of ownership (records of deeds, property tax, etc) at least during life of structure.
5. Document dates (construction, alterations, changes.)
6. Indicate historical significance of structure, occupants, or events connected.
7. Describe environment (outbuildings and neighborhood)
8. Complete list of sources (show author, title, volume and page number of works cited)
9. All material submitted becomes the property of Lake County Historical Society Research Library. Applicants are urged to retain a copy for their records.
I. Why research?
* Curiosity or interest.
* Helps in restoration or repair work.
* To participate in historical programs.
* Tax incentives - (income producing building).

II. When - The Order of Things.
* Architectural features of your house.
* Title (deed) search - (Present back to original builder.)

III. Architecture of your house.
* Study the exterior.
  -Shape, materials used, additions, roof, neighborhood houses, location on lot, location in town, outbuildings, etc.
* Study the interior.
  -Basement, attics, nails, screws, moldings, latches and hinges, beams, framing, additions, fireplaces, chimneys, floor plans, windows, etc.

IV. The Registry of Deeds. (**Use pencil**)
* Recorder's Office in Painesville
  -Look for indexes, deed books, plan books, and maps.

Beginning the Title Search

* Start with your own deed.
  -Property description: size, shape, and location.
  -"Reference" - record: name of person who conveyed the property to the grantor, when, in what book, and what page it is filed.
  -Continue this process until the chain is completed - no dwelling appears on the land in question.
  -Things to note:
    * Size of property
    * Price
    * Spouses and relatives that witnessed the document.
    * Property numbers: lot, range, etc.
    * Townships
People who live in older houses sometimes wonder about the history of their house. When was it built? What did it look like when it was first built? Who lived in it previously?

For some homeowners these questions are a matter of curiosity. But others are interested in restoration, and they would like historical information to recreate the architectural authenticity of their houses.

To begin, walk around the house and look carefully at the details: Are the walls plaster or wallboard? Wallboard was introduced around 1950. Houses with plaster walls generally predates that.

Next examine the surface of the wood for saw marks. In most cases any saw marks can give you a rough idea of when the wood was cut. That, however, does not mean that your house was built at that time. It is possible that the lumber was used to build a house that was later demolished. A thrifty carpenter could have salvaged the wood. It is important then to gather additional information.

Examine the nails used to hold the exposed framework in the attic. It is relatively easy to recognize timbers, sometimes called post and beam, construction. The house was framed of evenly spaced, straight saw marks in an unevenly spaced, zigzag pattern. Those timbers were probably cut in the 18th century by a two-man team using a pit saw.

Saw marks can give you a rough idea of when the wood was cut. That, however, does not mean that your house was built at that time. It is possible that the lumber was used to build a house that was later demolished. A thrifty carpenter could have salvaged the wood. It is important then to gather additional information.

Very old beams may have straight saw marks in an unevenly spaced, zigzag pattern. Those timbers were probably cut in the 18th century by a two-man team using a pit saw. Saw marks can give you a rough idea of when the wood was cut. That, however, does not mean that your house was built at that time. It is possible that the lumber was used to build a house that was later demolished. A thrifty carpenter could have salvaged the wood. It is important then to gather additional information.

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How to Date an OLD HOUSE

Who built it and when? What style is it? What did the house originally look like? Who owned and lived in it? How was it used? Who built the house and when? What style is it? Who owned and lived in it? What did the house originally look like—inside and out? These are the questions that you'll want to ask when you are researching and restoring an old house.

Researching an old house is something that many owners put off "until the more important things are done." Unfortunately, this common attitude is the wrong way to approach a vintage house. It's like trying to construct a home without building a foundation. When restoring or rehabilitating an old house, the goal is to do work that is in keeping with the style and tradition of the structure. Restoring the original charm of the house is the best way to preserve its long-term market value. But to do a restoration, you have to know what the house was like originally. And that means research—looking for answers to such questions as:

- Who built the house and when?
- What style is it?
- Who owned and lived in it?
- What did the house originally look like—inside and out?
- What changed in a house that has meant so much to so many.

THE HUMAN LINK

By starting with the most recent occupants, you may be able to trace the line of ownership. If you're lucky, the house may have been lived in by fewer than five families. In addition, you can probably gather names of other people associated with the house—former neighbors, friends of the family, housekeepers, etc.

These can be contacted for additional information, clarification of details and possible photos. Consulting local telephone directories should tell you whether any of these people—or their relatives—are still in the area. Phone calls or letters to them can quickly determine whether they can provide any helpful data.

It's a good idea to have a checklist of questions to guide you in your conversations. When dealing with people's recollections, it is very easy to be sidetracked by interesting but irrelevant stories. One cautionary note: Make a fragile thing of any personal item you may pick up during your research. You may later find it interesting. But it may be and may change hands from another source.

DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE

Usually there will be one or more public records that contain information relevant to your property. The latter the house was built, the more likely it is that you'll find specific information about the place. Records and deeds before 1850 tend to be vague, relating more to land transfer than to the dwellings on the land.

Procedures for filing public documents vary from town to town, so you'll have to discover any local idiosyncrasies for yourself. The building department, however, is likely to be your best source of information—if it was operating at the time your house was built. This is the office that would have issued the original building permit and permits for subsequent major alterations.

DELIVERING IN THE DEEDS

A second source of information is the Deed Office, which registers real estate transactions. This source will give you names and dates of owners of the land— and sometimes sketchy information about the dwelling on the property.

Be warned, though, about deed information. When the deed goes back to the 1700s or early 1800s, you can't automatically assume that the structure you own is the same one referred to in the earliest deed. Fire may have destroyed the original house, and you may be living in a replacement built at a later date. Houses were also moved with surprising frequency in the old days.

TRACKING THE PEOPLE

Having obtained a list of owners from the deed records, you can try to find the people in old city directories (if compiled for your community, they should be available in the public library or local historical society). In cases where occupations and titles are given, you can often see the rise (or fall) in the fortunes of past owners by noting the changes in their occupational description from year to year. If any of the owners achieved prominence in the community, there may be detailed obituary notices that you can find through your public library. Federal census information—although confidential for this century—is available before 1880. In the Federal Archive and Record Center for your area you may be able to locate the census questionnaires filled out by the families who lived in your house.

The Educated Guess

When no written records can be found, you have to fall back on information you can infer from the house itself. Houses built before 1830 probably made up to that time, most construction materials were handmade—and there are enough variations in materials and methods to provide dating clues.

Here are some of things a trained antiquarian would look for:

- Nails were handwrought until the 1790s. Then a series of technical developments made possible machine-made nails. Nail manufacture changed several times up to 1830. A good variety of nails, therefore, can help you date a house as before 1790, or somewhere between the 1790s and 1840s or after 1850.

- Screws without points were in wide use until 1846. New machinery at that date made it possible to make screws with points—which won rapid acceptance. So the presence of screws without points in old hinges or elsewhere probably indicates that a house was built before 1846.

- Moldings on original doors give clues. Until about 1833 all moldings were cut as an integral part of the door with hand molding planes. When cheap machine-cut strip moldings started to become available, many builders quickly adopted them. Any door with these separate molding strips was almost certainly made sometime after 1835.

- Latches and hinges can also yield dating clues. Unfortunately, in many cases the original latches may have been replaced. The best place to look for original hardware is in the interior rooms on upper floors, attic doors, etc. In some cases these less important spaces were simply ignored when other areas were "modernized."

A house frame made up of large sixteen-inch (or larger) timbers held together with wooden pegs indicates the house was built before 1840. Balloon framing (based on two-by-fours) came into use in the 1840s. You can usually see the framing members in the attic. This attic is also a good place to look for other original materials, nails and such, and for signs of alterations. Don't draw any conclusions from a single piece of evidence. Instead try to date as many pieces of material as you can—and then see what patterns develop.

The Old-House Journal, from which this article was adapted, is a monthly publication specializing in techniques for the restoration, maintenance and preservation of houses built prior to 1914. Subscriptions are $52 per year. To order— or for free sample copy—write: The Old-House Journal, 157 Park St., Cambridge 38, Mass.
Hints for hunting your home’s heritage

Once a house has been around for 80, 100, 130 years or more, it will have piled up a heap of history. Just consider what’s gone on there since you moved in, then multiply that times the number of previous occupants. Cleveland, settled in 1796, and many surrounding communities have an enviable concentration of old dwellings. Experienced hands here who have examined the often poignant, occasionally juicy past of their own houses suggest the following steps for homeowners who want a glimpse into the secrets their homes harbor.

Ten steps to uncovering your home’s past

1. Read your home carefully. There are clues everywhere. Notes scrawled beneath the wallpaper, mementos hidden under kitchen drawers, bulges in the plaster. All are potential messages from previous occupants.

2. Find the “permanent parcel number” on your deed or at your county auditor’s Web site. It’s essential in any records search since it probably has remained the same since before your house was built. In Cuyahoga County, it’s an eight-digit number.

3. Learn when your home was built. The date may be on your deed or on the auditor’s Web site (though some list all pre-1900 homes as having been built that year).

4. Spend quality time in the county archives. Listed at right are phone numbers for auditor’s offices for seven Northeast Ohio counties. Call and ask where you can go to search records and whether someone will help you. Seekers have reported they’ve confronted friendly, helpful clerks at these offices.

5. Contact your community historical society. In recent years, there have been as many as 63 such organizations, many providing homeowners guidance in searching the history of a house.

6. Check out the nearest library. Archivists at some branches have amassed resources — plat maps, old city directories, housing records, old newspapers on microfiche — that can reveal details about your house and its past inhabitants.

7. Build relationships at your town’s building department. It may have records of building permits applied for over the years, important clues to what changes previous owners have made.

8. Go online. Try directories and search engines like Yahoo!, AltaVista, Google or HotBot to see what’s on the Web about your neighborhood and previous owners, the architect and the home’s builder or developer. (But bring a measure of skepticism to information you find; it’s not necessarily accurate just because it’s on the Web.)

9. Talk to long-standing neighbors. Often, they have the most interesting — and intimate — stories to tell about what transpired at your home over the years.

10. Seek out previous owners. They may be eager to talk about their time in your house. The quid pro quo is, they might want to know what you’ve been up to since you’ve occupied it.

How to reach auditor’s offices in Northeast Ohio

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Auditor’s Office</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Web Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cuyahoga</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>216-443-7010</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ohio.gov/cfo/auditors">www.ohio.gov/cfo/auditors</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geauga</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>440-273-2722</td>
<td><a href="http://www.geauga.org/auditor">www.geauga.org/auditor</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lake</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>440-356-2532</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.lake.oh.us">www.co.lake.oh.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lorain</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>440-329-5207</td>
<td><a href="http://www.loraincounty.com/auditor">www.loraincounty.com/auditor</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medina</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>330-725-9754</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.medina.oh.us">www.co.medina.oh.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Portage</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>330-297-3570</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.portage.oh.us">www.co.portage.oh.us</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Summit</td>
<td>Auditor’s Office</td>
<td>330-643-2637</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.summit.oh.us">www.co.summit.oh.us</a></td>
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<td>Summit</td>
<td>Real Estate Dept</td>
<td>330-643-2637</td>
<td><a href="http://www.co.summit.oh.us">www.co.summit.oh.us</a></td>
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Frame houses built after ca. 1850 but before ca. 1900 were usually balloon frame, that is frame with long, milled lumber raised from the foundation plate directly to the roof line. Such houses had great strength and rigidity, but, usually, no "fire shield." Later, frame houses were built vertically, but in sections, with the second and additional storeys being added to the first: "platform frame."

Brick structures were laid up in various ways:

Foundation materials commonly found:

Dormers are an important detail feature:
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<tr>
<th>ITEMS</th>
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<th>CITY</th>
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<tr>
<td>BIRTH &amp; DEATH RECORDS</td>
<td>HEALTH DISTRICT</td>
<td>33 MILL STREET</td>
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<td>MARRIAGE RECORDS</td>
<td>CLERK OF COURTS</td>
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<td>440-350-2784</td>
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<td>DIVORCE RECORDS</td>
<td>CLERK OF COURTS</td>
<td>25 N. PARK PLACE</td>
<td>PAINESVILLE</td>
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<td>TAX RECORDS</td>
<td>TREASURER'S OFFICE</td>
<td>105 MAIN STREET</td>
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<td>NATURALIZATION RECORDS</td>
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