

MEMORANDUM

To: Historic District Commissioners

From: Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator

Date: July 12, 2018

Re: Historic Plaque for 1044 W Liberty Street

This month staff received one application for a historic building plaque for the house at 1044 W Liberty Street, across from Eberwhite Boulevard. This one-and-three-quarter story gable fronter first appears in the 1919 Polk City Directory as the home of Jacob F. and Carolyn Fahrner. Jacob is listed as an Attorney-at-Law and Prosecuting Attorney. The home features a full-width, hip-roofed front porch with tapered round columns and square lattice skirting, original one-over-one windows and front door, wood lap siding, and shed dormers on the east and west elevations. It is in the National Register Old West Side Historic District.

The Historic District Commission will consider all of the following when reviewing an application for a historic property plaque.

- a) The building must be at least fifty years old, as documented by a combination of records (title search, tax records, wills, etc.).
- b) The building must have been maintained, over time, in its original condition, or must have undergone historically appropriate restoration or rehabilitation.
- c) The building may not have historically inappropriate features, enclosures or repairs.
- d) The principal facades of the building visible from the street or any public right of way must maintain integrity of form, materials, and architectural features consistent with the dominant period of the building.

The house is 99 years old. It has maintained its historic integrity and has had no significant exterior changes. The design of the house is ubiquitous in Ann Arbor, and its familiarity lends to its charm. It is an excellent, intact example of what an Ann Arbor home looked like a century ago.

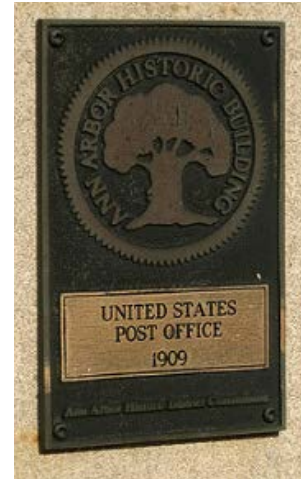
Staff feels that a historic plaque is appropriate for the Jacob F. & Carolyn Fahrner House, located at 1044 W Liberty Street, based on the age of the house and the unaltered appearance of its character-defining architectural features.

Sample Motion

I move that the 1919 Jacob F. & Carolyn Fahrner House at 1044 W Liberty Street meets the criteria for a City of Ann Arbor Historic Building marker based on its age, historic and architectural significance, and contribution to the history of Ann Arbor.

Historic Property Plaques

The Ann Arbor Historic District Commission considers requests for bronze plaques honoring significant historic buildings in the City of Ann Arbor. Plaques show the original or earliest known owner's name and the year in which the structure was built. Current property owners may apply to the Commission and, if approved, purchase a bronze plaque for their building.



What criteria will be applied?

The Historic District Commission will consider all of the following when reviewing an application for a historic property plaque.

- e) The building must be at least fifty years old, as documented by a combination of records (title search, tax records, wills, etc.).
- f) The building must have been maintained, over time, in its original condition, or must have undergone historically appropriate restoration or rehabilitation.
- g) The building may not have historically inappropriate features, enclosures or repairs.
- h) The principal facades of the building visible from the street or any public right of way must maintain integrity of form, materials, and architectural features consistent with the dominant period of the building.

If one or more of the criteria cannot be met, staff and the Commission will consider whether the building has special historic or architectural significance on a case by case basis.

The property must meet one of the following four criteria:

- 1) Listed or determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or State Register of Historic Sites
- 2) Included in the Individual Historic Properties Historic District listed in Title IX of the Ann Arbor Register of Historic Places prior to 2001
- 3) Received an award from the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission
- 4) Others may be approved for a historic property plaque by the Ann Arbor Historic District Commission on a case-by-case basis

How to Apply for a Historic Property Plaque

1. The current property owner should fill out the application and return it to the Historic Preservation Coordinator via email to hdc@a2gov.org, or by dropping

it off at the Planning & Development desk on the first floor of City Hall, 301 E Huron Street.

2. Be sure to include a description of how the property qualifies for a plaque (from the list above), and any information or history unique to the home. The application will be evaluated based on the information it provides.
3. After an initial screening by staff for completeness and content, the request will be placed on a Historic District Commission agenda for consideration. If the request is approved, the historic preservation coordinator will contact the plaque manufacturer (Arnet's, Inc. at 4495 Jackson Road) with the correct historic name and date of construction of the house. The cost of the plaque fluctuates based on the price of bronze, usually between \$175 and \$225. Arnet's will fax a proof to the Historic Preservation Coordinator, which the applicant must sign off on. Once the proof has been approved, Arnet's will manufacture the plaque and notify the applicant when it is ready to pick up. The applicant picks up and pays for the plaque at Arnet's at 4495 Jackson Road.
4. The applicant must mount the plaque on a visible spot at the front of the building, preferably near the front door, in a location that does not destroy or obscure historic architectural features of the building.

Questions? Please contact the Historic Preservation Coordinator at hdc@a2gov.org or 734-794-6265 x42608.