

MEMORANDUM

To: Historic District Commission

From: Jill Thacher, Historic Preservation Coordinator

Date: May 12, 2022

Re: 537 Elizabeth Historic Plaque Request

The property owner of 537 Elizabeth has requested approval for a historic property plaque. Staff believes this is a significant historic building and meets the four criteria:

- a) The building dates to 1878 and is therefore more than 50 years old!
- b) The building has been maintained largely in its original condition.
- c) The building has a nominal amount of non-historic features (AC unit, rear decks). These features are easily removable and reversible.
- d) The principal facades of the building are architecturally significant and have maintained features that have been lost on most buildings of this era. Especially notable is the delicate woodwork on the front porch trim and brackets, and window and door hood molds with scrollwork intact. It also features a stone foundation, mostly original windows, original front and porch doors, and wide board trim in the eaves. The front stoop is not original but is compatible in its simplicity and code compliance while not confusing the historic record.

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.

- 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.

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.

ANN ARBOR HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION
APPLICATION for HISTORIC MARKER

100 N. Fifth Avenue Ann Arbor, MI 48104 (734)794-6265 x42608 Fax: (734) 994-8312
Historic District Email: hdc@a2gov.org; www.a2gov.org

Section 1: Applicant Information

Name of Property Owner: THOMAS L. EWING
Address of Owner: P.O. Box 7728 ANN ARBOR, MI
Daytime Phone: () NOT GIVEN OUT TO CITY - NO MESSAGE TAKING CAPACITY
Fax: () NONE
Email: HAPPYDAD@PROTONMAIL.COM
Signature of owner: [Signature] date: 4-12-22

Section 2: Historical Information (attach additional sheets as necessary)

Address of Property: 537 ELIZABETH ST
Name of Historic District, if applicable: OLD FOURTH WARD
Name of First Owner of building: THOMAS FITCHOLL
Bibliographic Source: LOGS of CITY DIRECTORIES VIA JILL THACKER
Date of Construction: 1878
Bibliographic Source: AS ABOVE?

Additional history of the property—including ownership, evolution of the building and its use:
CONVERTED TO 3 APARTMENTS BY PREVIOUS OWNERS
- WHICH ONE I DO NOT KNOW FOR SURE FITS ALL 4 CRITERIA
REAR 2 STORY DOCK PERMITTED AND ADDED AROUND
1996 COPPER GUTTERS & DOWNSPOUT
ITALIANATE DESIGN, WELL MAINTAINED, SOON TO BE
OWNER OCCUPIED AGAIN. (continue on reverse or on additional sheets)

Section 3: Photographs (attach or submit electronic copies of photos of the building)

Staff Use Only

Date Submitted: _____ Date of HDC Action: _____
Staff signature: _____ Action: _____ HDC Approval _____ HDC Denial _____
Comments: _____



NE Corner



North Elevation



West/Rear Elevation



Old 4Four Car
Taxi Garage
NW Corner - On
Alley



Old Four Car Taxi Garage on SE Corner



East Elevation



South Elevation next to 533 Eliz