

Michigan Milestone Award Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: Other than the plaque, what benefits does the Michigan Milestone Award provide to my organization, business, or municipality?

Our Award provides numerous benefits for its recipients:

- Recognition certificate suitable for framing
- Complimentary 1/8th-page advertisement in the quarterly *Chronicle Magazine*
- Milestone Award emblem for your use on websites, social media, and marketing materials
- Presentation of your plaque by an HSM representative*

*Upon request of the awardee.

Q2: What type of historical document must be provided with my application to verify the founding date of my business/organization/municipality? How would I find this document?

To process your Milestone Award application an applicant must provide a primary or secondary source document that verifies the founding date. The good news is that even if your organization doesn't have the document on file, it can be easily found by starting with your local library. Your local reference librarian can help you access local or state of Michigan library services to obtain a copy of a historical primary or secondary source document that verifies the founding date of your organization, business, or municipality.

A primary source document provides direct or firsthand evidence about an event or formation of an organization, business, or municipality. This document provides a firsthand account because it was written or produced in that time period.

Examples of a primary source document that could be used to verify a founding date are (but not limited to):

- Historical and legal documents (such as tax records; business licenses issued by a government, trade association, or other official entity, charters, relevant correspondence to or from the founder(s) at the time of founding)
- Minutes from a meeting of board members or officials
- Eyewitness accounts
- Audio and video recordings
- Copy of a speech given at the time of the founding
- Copy of a program from the inaugural founding event/ceremony

A secondary source document describes, discusses, interprets, comments upon, analyzes, evaluates, summarizes, and processes primary sources. Secondary source materials can be items such as:

- Articles in a newspaper (from the time of the founding date) or popular magazines
- Published reviews
- Articles found in scholarly journals that discuss or evaluate someone's original research
- Business directory, such as a *Polk Business Directory* (Polk directories were the Michigan "Yellow pages" from years past for many Michigan cities, towns and villages listing local businesses, places of worship, clubs, etc.)

An excellent start to finding a secondary source for your research is to go to your local library or historical archives. The library will have electronic or microfiche copies of the local newspapers. Your local research librarian would be a fantastic resource to help you get your hands on a copy of the right article or directory.

Reaching out to your local historical society is another option. Your local historical society may have resources to aid your search.

Q3: Why am I being asked to include photos or a historical account of my organization, business, or municipality with my application?

The Historical Society of Michigan wants to help you tell your story! Photos and a historical background story are not required for the processing of your application, but they are strongly encouraged.

One of the benefits of the Michigan Milestone Award is the possibility of a news item in *Michigan History magazine* with a statewide readership of 100,000+ or *Chronicle*, with a statewide readership of 20,000+.

Providing the Historical Society of Michigan with useful pictures and interesting background information both from the past and present will help us potentially feature your content in a visually compelling way in one of our publications.