

**Frequently Asked Questions
Homes of Historic Distinction Program (HHDP)
Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission (YLPC)**

Q1. What is the difference between the Traditional Landmarks Program and the Structures / Homes of Historic Distinction Program?

A1. The *Historic Structures of Distinction* program is a new initiative developed by the Yorktown Landmarks Preservation Commission, and sanctioned by the Yorktown Town Board. The initiative provides homeowners with a customized plaque that specifies the structure's historical significance along with supporting dates. It is a community outreach program, designed to create a sense of pride in Yorktown, celebrate its historical heritage and preserve it for future generations.

The Traditional Landmarking Program is the "gold standard" of historic preservation as it ensures that an historic property or site can never be destroyed except in cases of financial hardship. Landmarking does not restrict an owner's right to make appropriate alterations and the YLPC will assist owners to ensure that their plans preserve the historic character and value of their home. Designated structures receive a large and attractive marker for their property. Our hope is to foster appreciation for the large number of structures that remain and the lives of the people who built them. Yorktown offers a real property tax exemption to owners who increase the value of their traditionally landmarked properties through rehabilitation.

2. How do I obtain an historical marker?

A2. If you are interested, contact Nancy Milanese at nmilanese@yorktownny.org or write to the address listed below and ask for the *Request to Designate a Yorktown Home of Historic Distinction* template.

Nancy Milanese
Town of Yorktown
Landmarks Preservation Commission - Planning Department
Yorktown Community & Cultural Center
1794 Commerce Street, Room 222
Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Complete the template and return it to Nancy along with your check *for \$100 made out to the Town of Yorktown.*

Include a simple statement in 25 words or less why the structure qualifies for an historical marker and your recommended two lines of copy (see template sample).

3. How does a structure qualify for an historical marker under the Homes of Historic Distinction Program?

3A. To qualify, homes must have historical significance in one of more of the following areas:

1. Age of the home--typically over 100 years old but more recent homes may also qualify.
2. Architectural significance--being designed by a renowned architect or serving as a well-preserved example of an architectural style or type.
3. Previous ownership--if the house was once owned by a person of local, regional or national prominence.
4. Relationship to a significant historic events--For example, Yorktown has many structures that were involved in events of national significance during the Revolutionary War.

4. What does the marker look like and say?

A4. Each marker is custom made by a local sign fabricator. It is 12 x 15 inches, made of a wood-like composite weather-proof material with beveled edges. It is painted with durable sign paint. Holes are pre-drilled and stainless mounting screws are provided. Each sign is Yorktown green with a white routed border and letters and features three lines of copy. The first line indicates why the structure is of historical importance. The second line indicates any date of significance. If the exact date cannot be determined, then a "ca" for circa will be added to the marker. The last line of copy on each marker will state, Historic Yorktown, for community consistency.

5. Where should I place the marker?

A5. The marker should be placed on the outside of the home or structure, at eye level, facing the street, if at all possible, using the stainless steel hardware provided. If the architectural features or landscaping make that

impractical, markers may be mounted at higher levels, including the second floor. Care should be taken to minimize confusion with your house number. A member of the YLPC is available to assist you in placement and mounting.

6. Where do I get the information to support designation as an historic home or structure?

A6. If you already know the basis for historic marking, provide any information or proof you have to the YLPC along with any dates you deem appropriate. The Landmarks Preservation Commission will help with a complimentary analysis to verify the structure's authenticity to correctly identify/authenticate the basis for historic marking and dates. However, we cannot guarantee the absolute accuracy of the data due to the nature of many historical records. The YLPC reserves the right to deny specific requests for markers based on a review of historical data.

7. Who can participate in the historic marker program?

A7. Any homeowner in Yorktown, with a single or multi-family house, whose structure can be authenticated, can qualify for historic marker status.

8. How long does it take to produce each marker?

A8. Your marker will be ready in approximately two – three weeks after the YLPC has approved your application and authenticated your requested marker copy. You will be notified by telephone and/or email when your marker is ready to be placed at your home.

9. If my marker is damaged, lost or stolen, can I order a replacement marker?

9A. Yes, a replacement marker can be reordered. However, you will need to pay \$100 for a replacement fee.

10. How many structures of historical significance or distinction are there in Yorktown?

A10. There is a rich inventory of local structures that survive from the past. In fact, a recent survey conducted by the architectural

preservation firm, *Larson and Fisher*, identified over 200 houses of historic interest in Yorktown. These new markers will create a sense of local pride and stimulate renewed interest in Yorktown's robust history.