



ILLINOIS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PO Box 1800
Springfield, Illinois 62703
Telephone: 217-525-2781
www.historyillinois.org

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Since 2010, the Illinois State Historical Society (ISHS) has recognized and celebrated Illinois houses of worship that have served their congregations continuously for 150 years or more. As you know, in the early history of Illinois many of these institutions were the sole repository of historic records in the state, recording births, deaths, marriages, and other significant events in the history of ethnic communities. To date, more than 200 of these faith-based institutions have received recognition from the ISHS.

The ISHS Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards Committee invites eligible sesquicentennial houses of worship to complete the attached application form and return it, along with appropriate documentation and a non-refundable payment of \$50 (administrative fee), to the ISHS. The administrative fee supports the work of the ISHS, a private not-for-profit organization that receives no tax dollars from state government bodies.

Each recognized house of worship will receive a certificate from the Illinois State Historical Society recognizing its sesquicentennial (or greater) anniversary and have its history recorded by the Society as well as at the Illinois State Library's Illinois Digital Archives (IDA) for use by future researchers. Recognized houses of worship will be honored at a special luncheon in Springfield in the fall of 2026. We look forward to meeting you and receiving your house of worship's history as part of our state's own. Deadline for application submission June 30, 2026.

We look forward to hearing from you and celebrating your Illinois Sesquicentennial House of Worship in September.

Sincerely yours,

William Furry
Executive Director
Illinois State Historical Society