



The Illinois State Historical Society  
PO Box 1800  
Springfield, Illinois 62705-1800

## Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards Program Application

Please type or print legibly. Deadline June 30, 2026

Houses of Worship must have operated continuously in Illinois for 150 years or more

Please note: THERE IS A \$50 NON-REFUNDABLE APPLICATION FEE

**Current Legal Name of House of Worship:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Street Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code:** \_\_\_\_\_ **County:** \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and title of organizational head: \_\_\_\_\_

Founding date: \_\_\_\_\_ Original location (if different) \_\_\_\_\_

Diocese, conference, synod or other affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please describe any changes in ownership or status: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of local or nearest newspaper: \_\_\_\_\_

**VERIFICATION OF FOUNDING DATE IS REQUIRED FOR THIS PROGRAM!**  
(See reverse for acceptable documentation to verify your house of worship's history)

### FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

Date received: \_\_\_\_\_ Application fee enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Documentation verified: \_\_\_\_\_

Photos received: \_\_\_\_\_ Certificate ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ Reservations Received: \_\_\_\_\_

## Acceptable Documentation

Along with a brief history of your House of Worship, please include one or more of the following primary source documents to verify the founding date:

- Minutes of early house of worship board meetings
- Marriage or baptismal records
- Official charter grant
- Contemporary newspaper advertisements or articles
- Old city directories

Original photos sent will become the property of the Illinois State Historical Society as a donation and will be stored at the Illinois State Library in Springfield.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Applying houses of worship are requested to furnish photographs, slides, or logos to help promote individual corporate histories in the media. Images (digital photographs are acceptable) should highlight the history and growth of your house of worship, but may include photographs of your founder, original and/or current building(s), and historic documents.

Your local or county historical society or public library might be helpful in locating documentation. Call us if you need a name or phone number.

Send this completed application form and verifying documents to:



## Illinois State Historical Society

Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards Program

PO Box 1800

Springfield, IL 62705-1800

Phone: (217) 525-2781

[kim.jones@historyillinois.org](mailto:kim.jones@historyillinois.org)

For more about the Sesquicentennial House of Worship Awards Program,  
please visit our website at [www.historyillinois.org](http://www.historyillinois.org)