Historic Property Plaque Program now accepting applications

In addition to historic designation by the city, the owners of notable Milwaukee properties can now apply for a plaque that draws attention to their property and makes note of its history, Alderman Terry L. Witkowski said.

“Milwaukee has a wonderfully unique heritage that is worth celebrating,” Alderman Witkowski said. “The Historic Property Plaque Program selects exceptional properties that contribute to the historic fabric of the city, researches their history and provides property owners with the opportunity to commemorate that history with a plaque on the building’s façade.”

The program currently provides design and logistical support for property owners who wish to commemorate the historic nature of a building, but the cost of procuring a plaque is the owner’s responsibility. Working with the Public Information Division of the Common Council / City Clerk’s office, the Historic Preservation Commission selected an eye-catching template for the historic plaques and located vendors to produce them.

“We’re pleased to be able to provide this service to the city at no material cost to taxpayers,” City Clerk Jim Owczarski said. “This program allows property owners countless opportunities to enhance the historic character of their neighborhoods.”

“Milwaukee is already a destination for history buffs and architecture enthusiasts,” Alderman Witkowski said. “Now an even greater number of people will be able to appreciate the city’s rich heritage.”

Property owners can learn more about the program and apply for a plaque online at milwaukee.gov/HPCplaques.

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An example of a historic property plaque:

Victor Berger House

Brady Street’s primary period of growth occurred during the 1880s and the 1890s during which time the street became firmly established as one of the city’s major ethnic commercial strips. Brady Street reached the zenith of its commercial importance when it included bakeries, groceries, dry goods stores, livery stables, saloons and a bowling alley.