

SOCIETY POLICY

HISTORY AND HERITAGE LANDMARKS

I. PREFACE

Society By-Law B2.1 states, “The Society shall publicize the engineering profession through the achievements of engineers.”

II. PURPOSE

A. The American Society of Mechanical Engineers wishes to:

1. Encourage mechanical engineers and others to become aware of their technological heritage;
2. Inform the public of such contributions;
3. Foster the preservation of the physical remains of historically important engineering works;
4. Provide an annotated roster of landmarks, sites, and collections in mechanical engineering for engineers, students, educators, historians, scholars and travelers;
5. Promote the inclusion of information about such achievements in guidebooks and maps for use by the general public; and finally,
6. Call attention to the great mechanical engineers who were associated with the invention, development or production of these singular technological achievements.

B. Occasionally a certain work may be recommended as a joint landmark with other professional or engineering organizations.

III. POLICY

The criteria to designate historic mechanical engineering work are:

- A. The work must be an example of mechanical engineering. Where the historic mechanical engineering work is part of a larger entity, the mechanical engineering work must be specifically identified in the nomination.

If the work is designated, the designation will be specific to the mechanical engineering work and not to the larger entity.

- B. The work must be:
1. An artifact that was (or could have been) conceived, designed, developed, or constructed by a mechanical engineer, and/or
 2. A body of knowledge, analytical tool or code of practice developed or produced primarily by a mechanical engineer for use primarily by mechanical engineers, and/or
 3. A place of historic significance to the practice and profession of mechanical engineering.

For a significant mechanical engineering achievement not reflected by a tangible artifact, such as a theory or an accomplishment for which it is impossible to identify an appropriate artifact, a work may be designated as a “virtual” landmark. This designation will be implemented on a trial basis for three years beginning in 2017 and evaluated at the conclusion of the period.

- C. The work must represent a significant step in the history of mechanical engineering.
- D. The work must have made a contribution to humanity in general and the profession and/or practice of mechanical engineering in particular.
- E. The work must be distinguished by being unique (e.g., one-of-a-kind, last-surviving example of a widely used type) or possessing some other distinction. Complete reconstructions are usually not designated, but will be considered on their merits.
- F. The designation of the historic mechanical engineering work must:
- 1) Enhance the public's understanding of the role of mechanical engineers in society, and/or
 - 2) Celebrate and enhance the profession of mechanical engineering in general, and ASME in particular.

Preference will be given to a work that is accessible to mechanical engineers, historians, and the public.

- G. Although work of any age will be considered for designation, sufficient time must have elapsed to enable objective judgment to be made of its lasting value.
- H. The work should be tangible, visible, and accessible to mechanical engineers, historians, and/or the public.

- I. The ASME designation should be the first such recognition of the historic mechanical engineering significance of the work by a professional society or historical organization. If such recognition has already been made, the Policy is to only consider a designation by ASME when it adds important value to the existing recognition.

IV. PROCEDURE

- A. **PROCEDURES FOR NOMINATING LANDMARKS (INCLUDING HERITAGE SITES AND COLLECTIONS)**

The ASME member who nominates a candidate for landmarking has the responsibility for submitting the nomination form with proper documentation, written acceptance of ASME unit sponsorship, and appropriate notifications. ASME unit sponsorship includes responsibility for completion of the designation process through the preparation, execution and funding of the designation ceremony and publication of the approved commemorative brochure.

- B. **PROCEDURE FOR NOMINATING JOINT LANDMARKS**

The Chair of the History and Heritage Committee will forward the nomination to the appropriate organization, requesting consideration of joint sponsorship with ASME. The nominating ASME unit will be advised of the action.

When Landmarks are co-sponsored, the staff liaisons of the respective organizations work closely together on brochure copy, invitations, mailing lists and ceremony details with the involved ASME units. All costs are shared equally.

- C. **APPROVALS**

When a Landmark is approved by the Committee, the Chair informs the nominator in writing. The staff works closely with the sponsoring unit in arranging the ceremony, brochure, invitations and plaque casting.

- D. **FUNDING**

Although there is no quota on the number of landmarks to be designated each year, the location, designation ceremony costs, availability of funds, and other factors must be considered in arranging the specific designation date and ceremony.

- E. **DEFERRALS**

Decision on a proposed landmark may be deferred for lack of sufficient information until the next Committee meeting. In these cases the Chair writes to the nominator explaining the reason for the deferral, what further information is required and when the next meeting will be, so that the nominator has time to respond. This information is sent to the staff liaison for transmittal to the History and Heritage Committee.

F. REJECTIONS

When a proposed landmark is rejected, the chair writes to the nominator, explaining why the nomination did not meet the criteria. The nominator may return to the Committee with additional information asking that the nomination be reconsidered.

G. DESIGNATION PROCEDURES

A formal designation ceremony is held for each Landmark. In addition to the ceremony, a brochure is prepared and a plaque is made for permanent display at the Landmark. The formal designation is developed with the assistance of the ASME staff liaison and generally includes a brief ceremony, a luncheon, dinner, or suitable refreshments, and tour where appropriate. The President of ASME is generally present, as is a representative of the History and Heritage Committee.

H. BUDGETING

The History and Heritage Committee's budget contains modest funds for plaques, Committee representation, staff assistance in planning, web publishing, promoting and related communications and to assist sponsoring ASME units with the printing of commemorative brochures and invitations, should aid be necessary. Nominating sponsors (ASME units) are responsible for all other expenses incurred, and this may include funds raised or provided in-kind from local sponsors and the landmark owner. The History and Heritage staff liaison should be consulted early in the planning stages for assistance.

Responsibility: History and Heritage Committee

Reassigned from Public Affairs and Outreach Sector 9/19/14

Reassigned from Centers Board of Directors/Board on Public Awareness
6/2012

Reassigned from Council on Public Affairs/Board on Public Information
6/12/05

Adopted: January 19, 1984

Reaffirmed: March 17, 1995

Revised: (editorial changes 6/87)
(editorial changes 8/88)
March 17, 1995
June 12, 1996
(editorial changes 11/97)
June 9, 1999
June 12, 2005

(Unit Reassignment Due to Reorganization 6/2012)
February 1, 2017