

Dear Rye Resident and Homeowner,

The original house plaque program was started in the early 1970s by the "Every Other Tuesday Club" and was taken over by the Rye Historical Society (RHS) when it was founded in 1976. Louise Tallman did research on the oldest homes in Rye using genealogical information and five Rye maps from the 1800s which showed owners of houses. That research continues today through the Rye Advocates for historic preservation. They may be reached through member Alex Herlihy by email at alexherlihy@comcast.net.

Rye has an architectural legacy that includes most of the recognized styles found in the country, from center chimney farmhouses, Cape style, Georgian, Federalist, "Victorians" (with mansard roofs, porches, and cupolas), shingle style, New Englander, bungalow, Sears & Roebuck prefab., etc. Many interesting styled houses were built after WWII.

In 2021, RHS turned the house plaque project over to the Rye Heritage Commission (RHC), a branch of town government, one of whose charges is to preserve historic buildings. As you move about the town, you will notice more and more of these plaques and how much they enhance the heritage of Rye.

To research your house beyond the information you have, contact the Rye Advocates through Alex Herlihy, alexherlihy@comcast.net, go to the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds online, which is user friendly, or you can go to their office in Brentwood where assistance will be provided. Unless written documentation has been handed down, the dating of houses is a very inexact science and thus most house plaques should have a: c. before the date. Before 1952, when planning and zoning were adopted in Rye, the town did not record the building of private houses. Architectural historians are another good resource to help establish an approximate year built (AYB).

When applying for a plaque, it is advisable to do so before the 2nd Thursday of the month when the RHC meets. Since RHC is a town government board, all spending, including house plaques, must be done at its monthly meeting. Following this process will allow applicants to receive their plaque in a timely manner.

Plaques usually list the name of the original owner and builder of the house and the approximate year built. For example:

Methodist	or	David
Episcopal		Wedgwood
Parsonage		c. 1790
c. 1843		

Plaque Example



House Plaque Application - Rye Heritage Commission

Plaques are created and lettered at Timberline Signs, Lafayette Road, Rye, the first business just north of Washington Road on the left. When you apply and pay for a plaque and the RHC receives your application, we will send it over to Timberline. They will coordinate with you on plaque lettering and final approval. When it is done, you will be notified so you can pick it up at Timberline.

Spacing on plaques is important – consider using three or maximum of four lines. Plaques are \$95 with checks made out to Rye Heritage Commission or paid online at the town website: <https://www.town.rye.nh.us/heritage-commission>. Please choose “heritage merchandise” in the drop down.

House plaque applications may be filled out online at the RHC webpage on the town website, or mailed to: Rye Heritage Commission, 10 Central Road, Rye, NH 03870.

Please fill out information below:

Name_____

Address_____

Tel._____

E-mail_____

Signature_____

Payment enclosed_____

Proposed Plaque Lettering - suggested maximum of nine letters per line (Timberline will adjust spacing)

First line_____

Second Line_____

Third Line_____

Fourth line_____

Please list any resources used to determine who built the house and the approximate date built. Unless there is written documentation of exact date built, all dates should be preceded with - c. For documentation purposes, please include a photo of your house.

If you are not sure of the name of the original owner/builder that you want on your plaque, please contact: alexherlihy@comcast.net and he will assist you. We want to make sure the information will be clear for Timberline, the plaque’s creator.

**Thank You,
Rye Heritage Commission**