

**BERKELEY HEIGHTS VINTAGE HOME DESIGNATION FORM**

**Qualifications**

The structure (house) must be one hundred years or older and maintain at least part of its' architectural integrity. Taken into account is the historical significance of the house, the surrounding property, location, outbuildings or cultural aspects.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email/Contact No. \_\_\_\_\_

Year Home Was Built \_\_\_\_\_

What exterior parts of the house are original (i.e. facade, porches, gables, brickwork, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What interior parts of the house are original (i.e. basement, original trim/molding, ceilings, fixtures, wallpaper, fireplace, design, plaster walls, lathing, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are there any old outbuildings or man-made structures (i.e. rock walls, foundations, well, water pump, etc.) on the property? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Is there any historical significance to the house, its property or location? (i.e. Free Acres, farmhouse, prior residence of a prominent figure, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The houses that qualify will be provided with a wooden sign to display on their property free of charge but donations to the Littell-Lord Trust Fund are welcomed.

Submit applications to the Berkeley Heights Historic Preservation Committee via email to [hpcofbh@gmail.com](mailto:hpcofbh@gmail.com) or mail to Berkeley Heights Municipal Complex ; 29 Park Ave; Berkeley Heights NJ 07922; Attn: BH Historic Preservation Committee

Please note: This is not part of the National Historical Registry and will not be subject to any type of regulation.

## TROLLING FOR HISTORICAL CLUES IN YOUR HOME & SURROUNDINGS

**The House-** Exposed rafters in the attic and bricks in the basement can tell you a lot about how old your house might be. You might find dates or stamps left by the builder; different-sized bricks will tell you that the house was built in different construction cycles. Look in closets for old wallpaper or paint—certain paper patterns or color-schemes can be traced back to a popular period style.

**Outbuildings-**Does your property have more than one building. How was it used?

**The Backyard.** Scope out your backyard or garden. Look for buried items such as nails, construction materials, old glass bottles, glass or ceramic shard, etc. Items like that can tell you a lot about who lived in the house and when.(Possible source for how to proceed-See AIA-(Archeological Institute of America)

**Talk to people.** Talk to your neighbors, local business owners, even the mailman. They might be able to tell you who lived in the house before you and remember if any changes have been made to it over time.

Explore the neighborhood. Are there other older buildings that look similar? How does your house fit in—for example, does your house face a different way? It could have been built on land that was once a farm while the rest of your neighborhood was built later.

**Research land and property records.** A simple deed or title search can tell you who owned the property and when and tax records can tell you how the property has changed over time. Many city or county records offices also have Sanborn fire maps, which can date back as far as the 19th or 20th centuries and show the footprint of your house and layout of the neighborhood.

**Read Historic Publications** -For specific historical reference material on our town, The town library has a reference section dedicated to the history of Berkeley Heights. Below are a few books specific to Berkeley Heights.

- “From the Passaiack to the Wach Unks-A History of the Township of Berkeley Heights”- Edited by Helen Desmond et al; Publisher: Berkeley Heights Historical Society, , 1977.

-“Images of America-Berkeley Heights” by Virginia Troeger; Publisher: Arcadia Publishing, NH, 1996. Printed in Great Britain.

-“Images of America-Berkeley Heights Revisited” by Virginia Troger; Publisher: Arcadia Publishing, SC, IL, NH, CA, 2005. Printed in Great Britain