

**PROPOSAL GUIDELINES FOR  
ASABE HISTORICAL LANDMARKS IN  
AGRICULTURAL AND BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING**

(Adopted August 1, 2012)

1. History

The maturity of a profession can be judged, at least partially, by its knowledge of its own history. ASABE has, for a number of years, conducted a program of recognition of historic developments in Agricultural and Biological Engineering. This program has had the multiple benefits of educating the public, recognizing the creativity of those individuals responsible for historic developments, and creating awareness of ASABE and its activities. The ASABE Historical Commemoration Committee, M-170, has primary responsibility for considering nominations for recognition and assuring that all aspects of the nomination, commemorative plaque wording, and dedication ceremony arrangements are in order, before requesting approval from the ASABE Awards Coordinating Committee (M-102).

2. Selection Criteria (See also M-170 Bylaws)

2.1 The historic, engineering event to be commemorated must be associated with the advancement of agricultural and biological engineering technology in North America.

2.2 While people should be recognized, the event is the main thrust of the commemoration.

2.3 To insure objectivity in the selection process, the event must have occurred at least 20 years prior to the nomination.

2.4 The event must have caused a significant impact on the industry, profession and/or society as evidenced by the wideness of its acceptance, its monetary savings, or in its environmental enhancement or increased product safety for users or consumers. The change need not have persisted to present times.

2.5 The event must be original and unique to engineering in agriculture, food, and biological systems; for example, the adoption of the Diesel engine as a power source is not commendable because other industries had made similar adoptions earlier.

3. Procedure

Nominations for historic commemoration may be initiated by individuals, geographic units, communities or national committees of ASABE. Members of M-170 can gather information on an event and, if the evidence seems to indicate recognition, encourage the appropriate local unit(s) to pursue an official nomination. Nominations should follow the format of the attached Nomination Form. Nominations are to be addressed to the

Executive Director of ASABE.

#### 4. ASABE Policies

4.1 Bronze plaques shall be used to commemorate the historical events. Plaque dimensions shall be appropriate for the amount of the message displayed thereon, but should be at least 500 by 600 mm (20 by 24 inches) overall. The wording must be legible from a distance of at least 2 meters (6 feet). Proposed wording for the plaque is to be included in the nomination. The final wording will be worked out in cooperation with the Committee. The plaque shall include a reproduction of the ASABE emblem and may include a relief of the machine or practice. Upper case letters on the plaque must be at least 6.5 mm (0.25 inches) high. The message shall include the words “Historic Landmark of Agricultural and Biological Engineering” at the top of the plaque and “Dedicated by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers”, with the year at the bottom.

4.2 The ASABE geographic units will arrange for a place to locate and mount the plaque, for appropriate dedication ceremonies, and for publicity in connection with unveiling of the plaque. These arrangements should be done in cooperation with local chambers of commerce, historical societies, companies, or other involved groups. The staff of ASABE shall be kept fully informed of the details and assistance shall be given for publicity releases by the Society. Cost of ceremonies, such as food or drink service, honorariums, space rental, etc. ordered or arranged for by a local unit for an ASABE historic commemoration, shall be an obligation of that unit. A permanent mounting for each plaque, including such base stands or structures as appropriate, are also the financial responsibility of the units.

4.3 The location for each plaque must be made in consultation with the Committee. Sites must be dignified and must have perpetual care at no cost to ASABE. The sites must be easily accessible. It is preferred that the plaque be located at or very near to where the event occurred. The sites must be accessible to the general public.

4.5 Duplicate plaques may be erected at each location where the major events occurred, subject to approval of the Committee. M-170 shall make every effort to recommend approval of events that can be adequately recognized with a single plaque (or to word a single plaque in a way that fairly and adequately recognizes an event).

4.6 Plaques may be issued in cooperation with other contributing societies, such as other engineering and agricultural societies.

4.7 A part of the cost of the plaque(s) for each event will be borne by ASABE. ASABE has budgeted \$1600 per year to support two historic commemoration efforts. Cost per plaque (2011-12 era) has been approximately \$1200 each. Cost above the \$800 per event must be covered by the proposers. Contributions to pay for the basic cost of a plaque cannot be accepted from the person, their families, or companies being honored but their contributions can be used to pay for the cost of the unveiling ceremonies. Contributions

to pay for the plaque can be accepted from local and state historical societies and similar groups.

If one or more authorized units cannot commit funds to the expense of plaque and dedication, such dedication(s) will be held in abeyance until such time that the unit(s) can make all necessary commitments. In the meantime, plaque dedication shall not be delayed for those units that can provide funds. The text of all plaques honoring a single event will be worded identically, even if dedicated at different times, except for the year of dedication as indicated on the plaque. Therefore, approval of plaque wording must be obtained from all involved Units before M-170 forwards a recommendation for ASABE commemoration of the event. Units that delay plaque sponsorship should be aware that costs of plaques are likely to increase and that partial funding of plaques by ASABE Headquarters cannot be guaranteed in future years.

4.8 The sponsoring unit or committee shall examine the plaque periodically and report to the committee if the objectives of the commemoration are imperiled by deterioration of the plaque or its site.

4.9 A record of the nominations, person responsible for development, nomination materials, and approved plaque location(s) shall be kept on file at ASABE Headquarters.