

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION OF A ROADSIDE HISTORIC SITES MARKER

State-funded Roadside Historic Site Markers will be placed at sites that meet the following criteria for historic significance. **Historic significance** is the importance of a property to the history, architecture, archeology, engineering, or culture of the State, nation, or world.

I. The site has achieved significance for its association with an event that has made a contribution to the broad patterns of history on a statewide, nationwide, or international level and is:

- a. The birthplace of a significant individual;
- b. The burial place of a significant individual;
- c. The place where an individual or group completed a significant accomplishment;
- d. The site of an event of prehistoric or historic significance;
- e. The residence of a famous individual closely identified with Vermont or associated with the life of an individual significant to our past; or
- f. The site marking unique, exemplary, or important surviving physical evidence of the state's geologic, military, economic, political, social, or cultural past.

II. Fifty-year Rule

- a. The event must have occurred 50 years prior to its consideration for recognition.
- b. An individual commemorated must be deceased for 50 years and the associated event or work being recognized must have happened 50 years prior for recognition.

III. Except in unusual cases, there shall be only one Marker per individual or event statewide.

IV. Markers will not be provided for an overly commercial purpose for a private individual, corporation, or institution.

During the selection process, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation will also consider the following factors:

- Widespread historic reputation of the individual or group to be recognized;
- Level of historic significance with descending order of priority: international, national, state significance;
- Accessibility to the Marker (ability to be viewed by larger public);
- Interest of the public in historic context;
- Enhancement of the setting and preservation of the site;
- Ability to provide education related to apparent historic biases of gender, ethnic, racial, or field in the program;
- Geographic distribution of Markers statewide;
- Options for presenting site history to the public;
- Redundancy of the Marker's historic context and significance statement; and

- Local sponsor willing to contribute a portion of the costs for the Marker and willing to assume ongoing maintenance of the Marker.

SPECIFICATIONS OF HISTORIC SITES MARKER

1. Overall size to be 44' wide and 46.5" high, including mounting base. Seal and border are approximately 1" thick with the background approximately 1/4" thick. The lettering panel is 29" high and 39-1/2" wide.
2. The text of the marker must NOT be greater than 765 characters (letters and spaces). This count does not include the base signature that reads "Vermont Division for Historic Preservation."
3. The design is unique to Vermont with the same lettering used since the first signs were made in the 1948. We do not know the font design because of the custom typesetting. The lettering size depends on the number of letters and spaces in the text. The lettering shall be 5/8", 1", 1-1/2", 2" and 3" in upper and lower case letters.
4. The marker shall be placed on a highway right-of-way as near as possible to the site it marks, at least 200 feet from the nearest adjacent sign.
5. Markers will not be placed on a curve or hill in such a place at which a slowing car could cause a traffic hazard. There should be a minimum of 500 feet visibility; 1200 feet is desirable.
6. Wherever possible the marker will be placed at a pull-off where an automobile will be able to park completely off the traveled portion of the highway. The pull-off should be 10 feet wide and between 200 and 400 feet long. The sign should be placed approximately 4 feet back from the pull-off.
7. The 12' aluminum posts, available for pickup at the President Calvin Coolidge State Historic Site in Plymouth Notch, should be set approximately 4 feet deep. The post should be fitted with bearing plates made of two wooden 2" x 12" two-foot long bolted perpendicular to the post at a point 6" below ground level. You will be responsible for providing these and for picking up the post. These bearing plates will be parallel to the sign.
8. The marker shall be located so that its post does not interfere with underground utilities. ("DIG SAFE")

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

- The Division will negotiate final text and site with nominating individual or institution.
- The Division will ask the Vermont Agency of Transportation to evaluate the proposed marker location for safety.
- The Division will contract and pay for the manufacture of the cast aluminum marker and have it delivered to an approved location.
- The community or the sponsoring organization shall be responsible picking up the 12' aluminum post and for erecting the marker.
- The marker's sponsor will arrange publicity and unveiling ceremony in cooperation with the Division for Historic Preservation.
- Unsuccessful nominations will be kept on file with records of eligibility and reasons for non-

approval. An unsuccessful nomination is eligible for reconsideration in a subsequent year if it is resubmitted for consideration. It will have no advantage over a new nomination and will be judged solely by the Marker criteria.

Contact for Questions:

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