

Overview of South Dakota Historical Marker Program

The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT), and local communities or historical societies share the responsibility for developing historical markers. Individuals or groups must provide the funding for the markers.

Individuals or groups desiring a historical marker are asked to: (1) identify the person, place, or event to be commemorated; (2) explain the historical significance; (3) specify the proposed location of the marker and why it is appropriate; and (4) provide suggested text for the marker.

An application form must be submitted along with proposed text to the SHPO. A staff member from the SHPO will review the application and make necessary corrections to the text. Once the application is approved, the office will notify the DOT (if marker location is on a state road) and request approval of the proposed marker location. After receiving approval from the DOT, the SHPO will forward the order to Sewah Studios, the official manufacturer of all South Dakota historical markers, for marker production.

Sewah Studios will process the order, bill the applicant for the cost of marker production, and make arrangements for delivery. All costs must be paid in full before marker delivery.

Please allow a minimum of 3 months from submission of application to the dedication of the marker. SHPO and DOT require additional time for processing the application. Sewah Studios requires at least 9 weeks for manufacture and shipping of markers.

[Back to Historical Markers](#)