



South Dakota Historical Markers Application and Criteria

September 2021

Overview of the South Dakota Historical Marker Program

The South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) manages the marker program for the South Dakota State Historical Society. Markers must reflect an accurate and well-rounded historical account of a person(s), place, or event(s). The State Historian may reject an application based on inaccurate, biased, derogatory, or offensive subject material/language.

The South Dakota Department of Transportation (DOT) assists in the installation of markers that are to be placed in the right-of-way of state highways. Installation in other locations is the responsibility of the applicant. The markers come with assembly instructions.

The person or group requesting the marker is responsible for paying for it. The State does not have funding to subsidize marker costs.

How the process works:

1. Applications are submitted to SHPO at the address or email included in the application.
2. Staff reviews the application and may propose changes/corrections before the subject matter is accepted.
3. If proposed to be located in a state highway right-of-way, staff will assist the applicant in filling out the DOT "Application For Permit to Occupy the Right of Way" form. DOT may suggest an alternative location due to safety/liability issues before approving the permit.
4. For markers proposed to be located on federal, county, municipal, or private land, the applicant needs to submit a letter of permission from the property owner or public manager of the public land. This should be included with the application. This does not apply if the applicant is the public official(s) or private landowner requesting the marker.
5. After the marker text is approved and placement has been determined, SHPO will forward the information to Sewah Studios for manufacturing. SHPO will also include your billing information and delivery address to Sewah Studios. If the marker is being installed in a state right-of-way by DOT, the marker will be shipped to the nearest regional DOT shop for installation.

Please allow a minimum of three months from the approval of the application to the delivery of the marker. Sewah Studios requires at least nine weeks for manufacturing and shipping times can vary.

Application for the South Dakota Historical Marker Program

Proposed title for the historical marker and the person(s), place, or event(s) to be commemorated:

County the marker is to be placed in: _____

What is the proposed location of the marker? Examples: 1) Ten miles west of Philip in the right of way of SD HWY 14, 2) Front lawn of Aurora County Courthouse, 3) County Road 56 approximately five miles east of Stickney in a privately owned pasture, 4) In the boulevard of 123 Elm Street in Sioux Falls

What is the relationship of the proposed location to the person(s), place, or event commemorated by the historical marker? Examples: 1) It is the boyhood home of Peter Norbeck, 2) The Sydney to Deadwood Stage crossed at this point, 3) The first motorcycle track in Sturgis was built on this field

Will the marker be located on private land (circle)? Yes No

Indicate type of public land (circle)? City County State Federal

Please use a separate sheet of paper to answer the following questions. Number your responses to correspond with the items listed below. Include a bibliography of where you got the information as well as photocopies of book and/or article pages with relevant information. Insufficient research will be returned to the applicant. Please type or print clearly.

1. Describe the person(s), place, or event(s) commemorated by the historical marker.
2. Explain why the person(s), place, or event(s) is significant to South Dakota history.
3. Explain in more detail the relationship between the proposed location and the commemorated person(s), place, or event(s).
4. Please include digital or hardcopy photographs of the proposed location.
5. Please include the proposed marker text not to exceed 200 words on a separate sheet of paper.

Return to the South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office, 900 Governors Drive, Pierre, SD, 57501 or email to SHPO@state.sd.us. Questions call 605-773-3458.

**Prices for the Standard 30" x 42" Markers
Good through 1 May 2022**

Standard Marker Design

5/8" letter size that has the same text on both sides	\$2,565
5/8" letter size that has a different text on each side	\$2,930

Other Marker Options

1" letter size that has the same text on both sides	\$2,315
1" letter size that has a different text on each side	\$2,645
1½" letter size that has the same text on both sides	\$2,270
1½" letter size that has a different text on each side	\$2,565

***Note larger letter sizes reduce word count**

Refurbishment Options

Marker Refurbishment (no new post included)	\$800
Cap repair/Refurbishment (no new post included)	\$900

A smaller marker 18" x 24" is also available through the foundry. Please contact SHPO for more information.