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Historical Marker & Plaque Program Information

PURPOSE

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) historical marker program began in 1975 to assist Alabama historians and historic preservationists in educating the public about historically significant properties in the state.

HISTORICAL MARKERS

Sewah Studios in Marietta, Ohio manufactures all AHC markers and plaques in the “Georgia” Pattern. Historical markers are available in two sizes, small (24”h x 30”w) or large (30”h x 42”w) and come standard with a 7’ post (a 10’ post is available for an extra charge of \$25). An Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, or Black Heritage Council seal is used as the emblem in the crest. The person ordering the marker is responsible for sending payment directly to Sewah Studios upon invoice. The AHC Historical Marker Coordinator must authorize Sewah Studios to manufacture each marker. The current price for a marker ranges from \$1750 to \$2790 depending on the size of the marker and the amount of text. The price includes delivery.

PLAQUES

A mountable plaque is also available for purchase for properties. The plaque measures 16”h x 16.5” w and also features the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, or Black Heritage Council seal as the emblem in the crest. The cost is \$500, which includes mounting hardware and delivery.

FUNDING

No state funds are available for markers or plaques. Individuals and organizations must have available funds to purchase it before the AHC submits the order. The cost of the marker is paid directly to the marker company upon invoice.

RESTRICTIONS ON MARKER TEXT

The names of living persons of less than national significance will not be considered for inclusion in marker narratives. The names of the people or the organization erecting the marker is allowed on the sponsor line at the bottom of the marker/plaque.

Content

Your proposed text should be succinct and factual. Avoid statements and sweeping generalizations such as “first” and “only” unless these facts are documented through primary resources. Please keep the narrative to the physical place as much as possible.

To confirm the accuracy of proposed text the AHC requires the individual or group seeking a marker to provide source documentation as part of the application process. Please at least provide a list of sources consulted for the marker text. It is preferable that photocopies of the materials are submitted with the application. Information that cannot be verified by the AHC will not be included in the marker text.

The AHC recommends the following resources that may offer support in the preparation of the narrative text:

The Encyclopedia of Alabama – An online, peer-reviewed resource featuring thousands of articles on the state’s history, culture, and geography <http://encyclopediaofalabama.org/>.

The Alabama Review – The scholarly journal of the Alabama Historical Association, published continually since 1946 <https://www.alabamahistory.net/the-alabama-review>.

Alabama Heritage Magazine – Alabama Heritage features articles such as Alabama’s historic structures and the role of religion in the state’s history. The magazine features stories that cover a number of topics related to Alabama’s history <https://www.alabamaheritage.com/>.

Alabama Department of Archives and History – Offers several collections at the can be utilized in research and in drafting the text for proposed markers <https://archives.alabama.gov/>.

PROCEDURES FOR SECURING A MARKER or PLAQUE

1. An application must be completed and submitted to the AHC Historical Marker Coordinator. A suitable reference must be given for all statements to be included on a marker. Photocopies of unpublished sources should be submitted. Faxed or emailed copies of the marker text will be accepted.
2. The AHC Marker Coordinator will edit the narrative and submit a copy to the person or organization for approval. Suggested changes must be returned to the AHC Historical Marker Coordinator. The AHC staff has final approval of all narratives submitted.
3. Once the marker text is finalized by the AHC and verified by the applicant, the AHC sends an authorization letter to Sewah Studios who then manufacturers the marker. Sewah Studios begins to process the order as soon as it is received.
4. The marker is shipped by a freight carrier to commercial addresses only. No residential addresses or post office boxes. Plaques are delivered by UPS to a home address.
5. According to Sewah Studios, current fabrication times for markers is 6 to 12 weeks. This does not include the review time by the Alabama Historical Commission.

ERECTION

The erection of markers is the responsibility of the individual or organization ordering the marker.

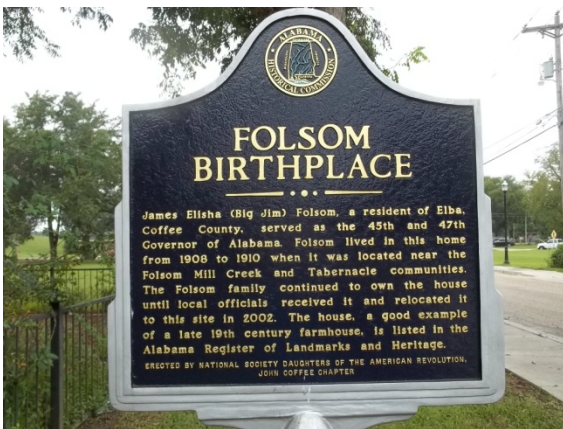
DEDICATION

The dedication of the marker is left entirely to the group who ordered the marker.

MAINTENANCE

All future maintenance of historical markers is the sole responsibility of the applicant.

Examples of AHC Markers & Plaques



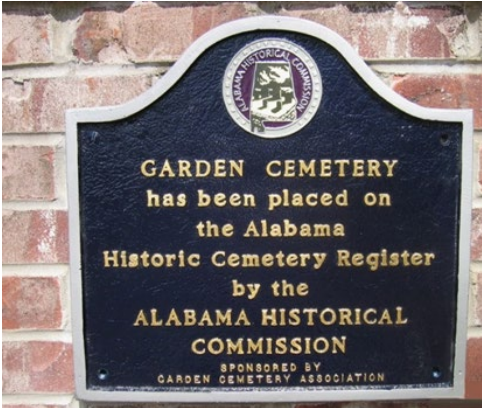
AHC Historical Marker (Small 24”h x 30”w)



AHC Historical Marker (Large 30”h x 42”w)



BHC Marker (Large 30”h x 42”w)



AHC Historical Plaque (16”h x 16.5”w)



BHC Historical Plaque (16”h x 16.5”w)

Historical Markers Pricing Guide (effective July 1, 2020)

(Sewah Studios, Inc. determines the price, not the Alabama Historical Commission)

All Prices includes gold leaf lettering, shipping and a 7' post. Add \$25 for a 10' post.

Lettering Guide

Marker Size	Amount
24” x 30” (same text on both sides)	\$1750
24” x 30” (different text on each side)	\$1960
30” x 42” (same text on both sides)	\$2440
30” x 42” (different text on each side)	\$2790

30” x 42”	20 lines per side 62 letters/spaces per line
24” x 30”	16 lines per side 43 letters/spaces per line

AHC PLAQUES

A wall-mounted plaque is available for \$500 (includes mounting hardware & delivery).

Plaque text will follow a similar format as below:

<p>The First Colored Baptist Church, Selma has been designated as a significant African American historic site by the Black Heritage council of the Alabama Historical Commission</p> <p>Sponsored by Dr. John and Mary Doe in 2021</p>	<p>The John Doe House c. 1858 has been placed in the Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage by the Alabama Historical Commission June 16, 2014</p> <p>Sponsored by Dr. John and Mary Doe</p>	<p>The John Doe House c. 1858 was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on June 16, 2014</p> <p>Sponsored by Dr. John and Mary Doe</p>
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Other Services Available from Sewah Studios, Inc.

Refurbishment Costs

Refurbish only (*minor repair and paint refinish to like new condition; round trip prepaid freight included*): \$800

Cap Replace & Refurbish: \$900

Replacement Post: \$350 for 10' post / \$325 for 7' post

Contact Sewah Studios for more information at (888) 557-3924

QUESTIONS

If you have any questions concerning the Alabama Historical Commission Historical Marker Program, please contact:

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