



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.

The Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama Historic Cemetery Register, or Black Heritage Council seal is used as the emblem in the crest. To order a marker with one of the three available AHC seals, the property **must be listed** individually on the National Register of Historic Places or the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage; as a contributing resource in a listed National Register or Alabama Register Historic District; or on the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register.

Please note that as of May 28, 2024, all applications for the AHC marker and plaque program **must be submitted in electronic format** to the Alabama Historical Commission. Paper and/or emailed forms and supporting documentation will no longer be accepted.

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). The person or group ordering the marker is responsible for sending payment directly to Sewah Studios upon invoice. The AHC must authorize Sewah Studios to manufacture each marker. The current price for markers ranges from \$2,255 to \$3,595 depending on the size of the marker and the amount of text.

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 \$640, which includes mounting hardware and delivery. Plaques mounted on posts are also available for an additional cost.

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. The AHC receives no monies for marker and plaque orders; it is simply a service we facilitate.

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 installing the marker is allowed on the sponsor line at the bottom of the marker/plaque.

CONTENT

The marker narrative must include information about the property from the Alabama Register, National Register, or the Historic Cemetery Register file.

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/>

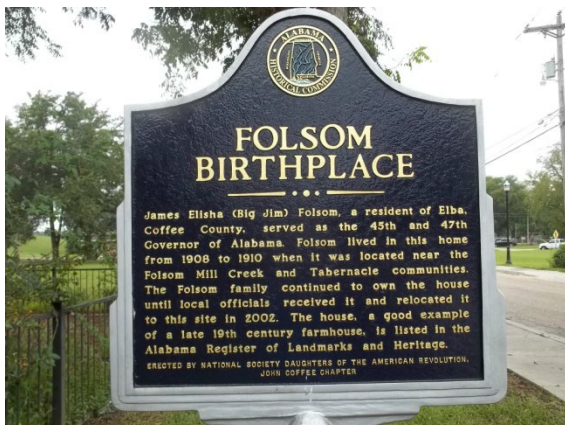
PROCEDURES FOR SECURING A MARKER or PLAQUE

1. An application must be completed and **submitted electronically** through Submittables. A suitable reference must be given for all statements to be included on a marker. Photocopies of unpublished sources should also be submitted. Mailed, faxed, or emailed copies of the application and text will no longer 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. ****After Sewah Studios receives the order and logs it into their system, they will send an invoice with payment information to the applicant.****
4. Historical markers and plaques mounted on posts will be delivered to a commercial delivery address **ONLY**. Plaques can be delivered to a residential or commercial delivery address by UPS. Contact Sewah Studios at (888) 557-3924 for specific shipping questions.
5. According to Sewah Studios, current fabrication times for markers is approximately 6-8 months. This does not include the review time by the Alabama Historical Commission.

INSTALLATION / DEDICATION / MAINTENANCE

The installation, dedication, and future maintenance of markers is the responsibility of the individual or organization ordering the marker. Advanced notice is required for AHC staff to attend and/or speak at a marker dedication event.

Examples of AHC Markers & Plaques



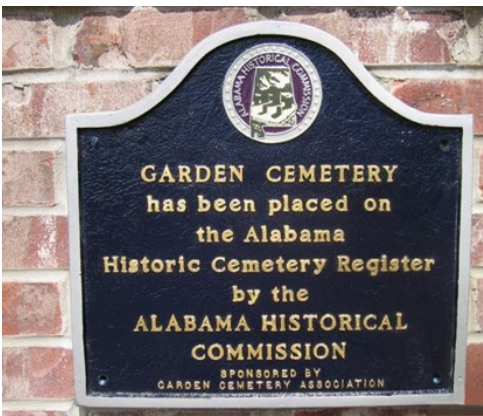
AHC Historical Marker (Small 24”h x 30”w)



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)



Marker with Photograph (Large 30”h x 42”w)



Marker with QR Code

Historical Markers Pricing Guide (effective January 1, 2026 - December 31, 2026)

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

All Prices includes gold leaf lettering, shipping, and a 7' post. Add \$100 for a 10' post.

Pricing Guide

Marker Size	Amount
24" x 30" (same text on both sides)	\$2,255
24" x 30" (different text on each side)	\$2,520
30" x 42" (same text on both sides)	\$3,145
30" x 42" (different text on each side)	\$3,595

Lettering Guide

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

Photographs, Etched Plates, and QR Codes can be added to markers for an additional cost.

Photo Prices:

4" x 6"	\$85 for the first, \$60 for duplicate (same photo on both sides) For a different photo on each side, the price is \$85 each.
5" x 7"	\$120 for the first, \$60 for duplicate (same photo on both sides) For a different photo on each side, the price is \$120 each.
8" x 10"	\$140 for the first, \$85 for duplicate (same photo on both sides) For a different photo on each side, the price is \$140 each.
11" x 14"	\$170 each
20" x 24"	\$250 each

Please note that photographs will decrease the number of letters and spaces per line.

Photos are printed on both sides of marker (duplicate) unless otherwise noted on order.

Please submit photos electronically in a PDF format.

Etched Plates:

Any size up to 10 x 10:	\$175
Any size up to 20 x 20:	\$300
Larger than 20 x 20:	Call for quote

Art Clean-Up Charge: \$250

QR Codes:

\$100 per pair of codes

Please note each QR code will decrease the allowed number of letters/spaces by approximately 50 characters.

QR codes are printed on both sides (pair) unless otherwise noted on order.

Shipping

Shipping is included in the price. However, please note that if a loading dock or forklift is not available for marker delivery, a \$200 fee will be added to the cost.

In addition, someone must be at the delivery site to receive the marker. If no one is present to receive the marker, the shipping company will NOT deliver the marker. An additional fee will be added to the cost for each day of missed delivery.

PLAQUES

Mountable plaques are available for \$640 (includes mounting hardware & delivery).

Plaque text will follow a similar format as below:

<p>The John Doe House c. 1858 has been designated a significant African American historic site 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>	<p>The John Doe House c. 1858 has been listed 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>
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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*): \$1,230

Cap Replace & Refurbish: \$1,485

Replacement Post: \$500 for 10' post / \$375 for 7' post

Contact Sewah Studios for refurbishments and 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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