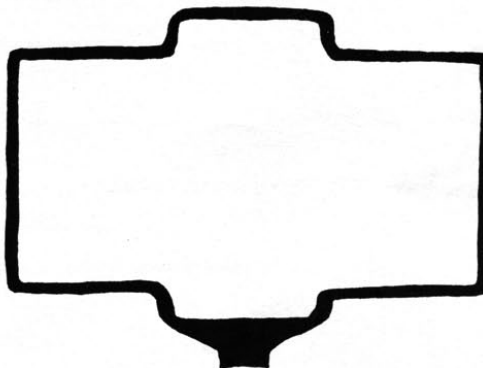


History Markers — 1995 Marker maintenance guidelines

The State Museum is in the process of updating its historical marker inventory and data base. As part of that renewed effort the Museum is encouraging local residents to undertake maintenance programs for local markers. In an area where lots of salt is used on our roads, we have lots of precipitation, and most early markers were cast iron, there is a real need for maintenance. If you belong to a service club or youth organization why not consider historic marker maintenance as a community good turn?

New York State Historic Markers Guidelines for Maintenance

Hundreds of historic site markers were erected in the early part of the 20th Century to designate locations of cultural significance. These signs are usually recognized by their distinctive shape and blue and gold colors.



The signs were made of cast iron and if not regularly repainted begin to deteriorate. Many need only a fresh coat of paint to be restored to their original condition. Others may be so rusted or damaged as to require substantial restoration and repair.

Funding for maintenance of State Historic Markers was not provided in the original legislation, which expired decades ago. Traditionally landowners on whose property markers stand have maintained them. Some local civic or historic organizations have taken this on as a public service project. But increasingly there is interest in restoring individual markers that have not been included in these projects in the past.

If you are interested in undertaking such a project, you should first confirm that the marker is one under our jurisdiction. State funded historic site markers will always have a state agency identification line at the bottom, usually "State Education Department." If the marker does not carry a state agency identification, it may have been erected with private funds and therefore does not come under state jurisdiction. You need the permission of the funding organization to undertake restoration on such privately funded markers.

History Markers — 1995 Marker maintenance guidelines

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If it is determined that the marker you wish to restore is state property, you should first check with the landowner to obtain permission to restore the marker. Even though the marker is state property, if it stands on private property the landowner has rights to be respected in terms of access to the marker and work undertaken on it. It may not be clear on whose property the marker stands and you may need to check property maps or consult your local government records to confirm ownership. Many markers that appear to be on private roadside land are actually on state highway rights of way, while some that appear to be on state lands may actually stand on private or municipal property.

Projects which follow these guidelines may proceed on any state marker on state land or any state marker on private land where the owner has been consulted.

Repainting is usually all that is required for restoration purposes. When restoring the blue and gold state colors, you may be able to obtain donations of paint from local state facilities, such as a Department of Transportation maintenance garage. You should provide your own containers and call ahead for approval of the request. You may also use commercial rust-proofing paints in colors that match or approximate the original state colors on the sign.

If there is very little rust on the marker, just wire brush the surface lightly to remove dirt and rust flakes, then paint the background blue color over the entire marker and let dry. Using a small brush or foam pad, paint on the yellow lettering. It works best to paint gently across the individual raised letters from one side and then the other without touching the background directly.

If the marker is more severely rusted, use a wire brush or brush attachment for an electric drill to thoroughly clean off all loose particles. Then prime the entire sign with rust-proofing primer, over which the final coats can be applied as above.

We do not recommend removing the marker from its post for restoration as they are extremely heavy and there is a risk of personal injury or damage to the sign.

If a marker is broken or otherwise damaged, a skilled welder may be able to repair the breaks or craft braces to hold the pieces together.

In some cases it may be impossible to repair the damage. If so, replacements can be cast by the same foundry that made the original. However, markers are now cast in aluminum and cost over \$400 each. Information on replacement markers, and answers to general questions about historic markers, can be obtained by writing the address below:

*Philip Lord, Jr.
Room CEC 3097
Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12230
(518) 473-3131*

History Markers — 1995 Marker maintenance guidelines

HAPPY NEW YEAR! TIME TO RENEW!!

Now is the time to renew your subscription to the *Historian's Newsletter*. Since 1983 the *Newsletter* has been produced by the Office of the Ontario County Historian bringing you county-wide news of upcoming events, compiling the activities of our many hard-working historical societies, providing a forum for family history questions, and other useful information related to local history. With 1996 just around the corner it is time to get ready for another full year. The subscription rate for 1996 has been set at \$7.00. This is only the second rate increase in 13 years and we hope you find the *Newsletter* worth the additional eight cents per month. It isn't much but it does help defray the rising costs of postage in particular.

Once again, this is a good time to remind everyone else of the importance of accurate addresses and Zip Codes. If there is a change in your address please take a minute to fill out the form below and send it in.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY INFORMATION ENCLOSED

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ONTARIO COUNTY HISTORIAN
Phone (716) 396-4034
3871 County Road #46
CANANDAIGUA, NY 14424

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731 Walker/Lake Ontario Rd.
Hilton NY 14468

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HISTORY MARKERS COMMITTEE

Garrett W. Roe, Chair

Richard W. Black

James C. Fallon

Norman J. Frisch

Brian S. Wilson

IMAGE NOTES

The three original 8.5 x 11" pages in black ink on light tan stock are from the December 1995 "Historians' Newsletter" distributed by the Ontario County Historian.

PRODUCTION NOTES

2015.08.12

The pages were lent to Norm Frisch for scanning by Mary E. Smith, Town of Hamlin Historian emerita

2015.08.18

Pages were scanned using a CanoScan 9000F Mark II scanner in greyscale mode at 300ppi and saved as jpg files at maximum quality. The files were opened in Adobe Photoshop™ where they were cropped to size, exposure adjusted and saved with jpg compression at maximum quality. That file was then placed in this InDesign™ document and saved. That file was then exported as a pdf file at 150ppi with jpg compression at high quality.

GENERAL INFORMATION LINKS

New York State Historic Markers

<http://www.nysm.nysed.gov/services/marker/srvmarkers.html>

Gen web

<http://www.mcnygenealogy.com/pics/index.php?category/83>