

Historical markers are an excellent tool to create a narrative of our state's history. The Georgia Historical Society created a few guidelines to assist with the drafting of historical marker text. If you have any questions about the Georgia Historical Marker Program and the historical marker application process, please contact GHS Programs Assistant at sboone@georgiahistory.com or at 912.651.2125 ext. 131.

Historical Marker Text Do's

- Construct historical marker text so that it is a point by point, chronological narrative of the subject and its historical significance.
- Each line in the historical narrative should be verifiable with resources cited in the bibliography of the historical document.
- Propose historical marker text that is 125 words or less. This does not include titles and "erected by" language.
- Place the historical marker subject in a larger narrative, showing significance *beyond the local level*.
 - For example, when speaking about a church, cemetery, or school, explain how the subject shows larger state-wide or national trends. Rather than saying "ABC School was established in 1950 for the education of African-American children in X County," the text could illustrate broader significance by explaining "ABC School, established in 1920 for the education of African-American children in X County, was part of the Rosenwald school building program that matched funds from philanthropist Julius Rosenwald with community donations to build schools for African Americans during the era of segregation."

Historical Marker Text Don'ts

- As historical markers are not intended to be monuments or advertisements, the use of overly adulatory language that departs in any way from an objective and dispassionate recounting of historical documented facts will not be approved.
- Marker texts with quotes or lists of names are discouraged.
- Illustrations may not be included on the historical marker.
- The use of "firsts" is highly discouraged unless it can be proven without question.