



121 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. N | Dover, DE 19901 | (302) 744-5000

Historical Marker Criteria and Eligibility

General Criteria

- The subject of a marker may be events, places, persons, groups, or institutions significant in Delaware's local, regional, state, or national history.
- Eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Delaware Public Archives.
- Marker candidates must have historic significance based on its influence, effect, or impact on the course of history or cultural development in Delaware.
- Markers may be subject to category-specific age requirements (see below).
 - Age requirements are taken into consideration with historic context and may be extended by the Delaware Public Archives.
- A building, group, site or event will not be considered eligible for a marker based on age alone.
- The State Archivist (Director of the Delaware Public Archives) has final approval of all marker text and may exercise the right to revision at any point in the development of the text or after a marker has been installed.
 - Historical discoveries are made every day and new research may lead to revisions to existing markers.
- The Delaware Public Archives reserves the right to deny a marker request based on the amount of similar sites already represented by the Historical Marker Program.
- Information will not be included in a marker text unless it has been verified with appropriate documentation identified by the Delaware Public Archives staff or provided by the constituent. Delaware Public Archives staff will carry out a reasonable amount of research in an attempt to verify information from an applicant for use in writing the text of the marker.
- The Delaware Public Archives retains the right to deny any marker requests that does not meet these criteria.

Category Specific Requirements

Structures/ Architecture

- A building or structure may be eligible for a marker if:
 - The structure is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of Delaware history.
 - The structure embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction.

Places of Worship

- When researching and approving a place of worship for a historical marker the Delaware Public Archive strives to tell unique and underrepresented histories.
- A place of worship is eligible for a marker if:

- The site/structure is connected with a significant historical event or person. The person cannot already be recognized on another marker.
- The site's/structure's congregation has existed for at least 150 years.
- The site/structure itself was constructed over 100 years ago **and** has been in continuous use since its construction.
- The site/structure has historically significant architectural features.

Cemeteries

- A cemetery is eligible for a marker if:
 - The site derives its primary significance from distinctive design features.
 - The site is associated with or integral to historic events.
 - A cemetery will not be considered eligible based solely for its notable burials or age.

Notable Delawareans

- Notable Delawarean markers will not be approved for a living person.
- An individual is eligible for a marker if:
 - They have made significant contributions to the history or development of the state, region or nation, or are the key player in a major historic event.
 - Individuals will not be singled out when many persons have shared equally in an event of historical importance.
 - Subjects which are purely genealogical or family related will not be considered.

Societies/ Social Groups

- Societies and Social Groups are eligible for a marker if:
 - They can demonstrate that their specific group, hall, lodge, meeting house, etc. was integral to the history or development of the state, region or nation, or is the key player in a major historic event.
- Individual groups, halls, lodges, meeting houses, etc. will not be considered eligible if their parent organization is already recognized and they do not meet any other previously listed criteria.

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