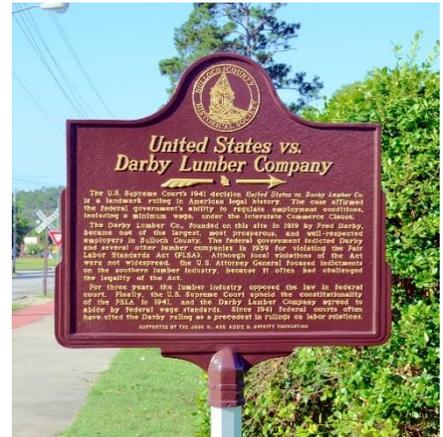




HISTORICAL MARKER GLOSSARY

HISTORICAL MARKER

Historical markers identify sites of significance associated with local events, people, and places. Historical markers typically exist on a freestanding pole within or near public or DOT right-of-way. Historical markers originated as a way to promote tourism as Americans increasingly gained access to better roads, vehicles, and leisure time. Unlike monuments, the primary purpose of a historical marker is to provide information or historical content about a particular topic and, usually, to associate that topic with a specific place. Markers are not intended to serve as tributes or memorials honoring the memory of a particular person, group of people, or event.



*"United States vs. Darby Lumber Company"
erected by the Bulloch County Historical Society*

GEORGIA HISTORICAL MARKERS

The Georgia Historical Marker Program continues to identify significant events, people, and places, and markers within that program have been erected by the Georgia Historical Commission, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the Georgia



Historical Society (GHS). Markers erected by state agencies are typically green with gold lettering and the Great Seal of Georgia, while markers erected by the Georgia Historical Society are black and silver with the GHS Seal. [Follow this link to learn more about identifying markers included in the Georgia Historical Marker Program.](#)

STATUE

A statue is a three-dimensional piece of art representing a person, a group, or an animal. Statues are created by carving, sculpting, molding, or building. Statues are considered monuments if they are dedicated to or in remembrance of an event, person, or place. See the picture of Patience, one of the New York Public Library lions, compared to the image of the George Washington Monument in the example below.



Image courtesy of the New York Public Library

MONUMENT

Monuments are pieces of public art erected to celebrate, commemorate, symbolize, memorialize, or otherwise publicly remember a person or event. Monuments are built for the specific purpose of commemorating a person, group of people, or event. Monuments can be statues, buildings, obelisks, or headstones. Often called memorials, monuments come in many different forms, from simple stone identifiers to elaborate statues and towering obelisks.



George Washington Monument, Boston, MA. Image credit: Sabrina Saturday

MEMORIAL

Memorials are typically associated with a public remembrance of a person or people who have died. Memorials are landmarks, monuments, or public spaces representing a memory or commemoration, such as the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC or the *HMS Otranto* Memorials pictured to the right.



Image featuring the Spirit of the American Doughboy historical marker contextualizing the Spirit of the American Doughboy memorial. Image credit: Wenda Bailey.

PLAQUE

Plaques are a type of sign that is permanently fixed to an existing building, structure, artwork, or other object. You may find plaques on buildings featuring the date it was built and the original occupant or on monuments including information about who/what the monument was erected for. Plaques can also be used as awards.



INTERPRETIVE SIGN

Interpretive Signs are typically found in museums, historic sites, along wildlife trails, monuments, etc. to educate visitors and contextualize meaning. Unlike historical markers, interpretive signs are typically larger, colorful, and incorporate graphic displays. They are usually made of a nonmetal material, such as laminate.



[*Pulaski Trail interpretive sign.*](#)

MARKER TRAIL

A marker trail is a collection of historical markers that identify local people, places, and events, with a common larger theme. For example, the Georgia Civil Rights Trail is comprised of Georgia Historical Markers that identify local people and events that contributed to the larger American Civil Rights Movement.

