



Oregon Travel Experience
1500 Liberty St. S.E., Suite 150
Salem, OR 97302
503-378-4508 1-800-574-9397
503-378-6282 FAX



Thank you for your interest in Oregon Historical Markers.

Oregon's Historical Markers have a history of their own. Many were built by the Oregon Department of Transportation in the 1940's, 50's and 60's. They are majestic, routed wood signs made from native Port Orford cedar and routed by master craftsmen. When Oregon Travel Experience adopted the program in 1991, signs had not been built for many years and many were suffering the effects of Oregon's climate.

Oregon Travel Experience is currently restoring old markers with the assistance of dedicated volunteers. Recent markers tell their tales through panels of colorful text and graphics mounted on cedar frames and posts. The program relies on sponsors, such as you, to keep this program growing. By sponsoring a new marker, you will help share Oregon's diverse history.

Enclosed in this packet are all the materials you will need to submit your idea for a new historical marker. For an overview of the program and the marker development process, we suggest you read *Attachment A* "Oregon Historical Marker Information". Should you have any questions regarding any information in this packet please feel free to contact

Annie Von Domitz
Oregon Travel Experience
Phone: 503-373-0864
Fax: 503-378-6282
Email: anniev@oregonte.com

**OREGON HISTORICAL MARKER
PRE-APPLICATION FORM**

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. Name of event, person, place or geologic feature to be commemorated:
(See Attachment B for criteria)

B. Sponsoring Group or Individual _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

C. Contact Person _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Cell Phone _____

Fax _____

Email _____

II. PROPOSED LOCATION

A. Proposed location on state highway right-of-way or other public land: _____

B. County: _____

C. Current use of land and current landowner: _____

D. Explanation of why the proposed site is appropriate: _____

E. Site or Location Plan:

1. Include plan (sketch) of location of proposed marker(s). Indicate location of buildings, trees, roads, and all existing features.
2. Attach city or county map enlargement with proposed site(s) noted.
3. Attach photographs of proposed site(s).

III. MARKER STYLE

- _____ 45" x 60" panel on cedar mount
- _____ 28" x 36" panel on aluminum pedestal

IV. MARKER THEME (A brief description of the person, event, place or geologic feature to be commemorated, including the historical significance. *For suggestions on how to write a theme see Attachment C.*)

V. SUBMIT THE FORM TO:

Annie Von Domitz
Oregon Travel Experience
1500 Liberty St. SE, Ste. 150
Salem, OR 97302

anniev@oregonte.com
503-373-0864
1-800-574-9397

Attachment A

**OREGON HISTORICAL MARKER
INFORMATION**

The following information outlines the process, design options, and costs involved in an Oregon Historical Marker project. If you have any questions, please contact Annie Von Domitz, Oregon Travel Experience, 503-373-0870 or 1-800-574-9397.

The Process

1. Review the accompanying information to assess the eligibility of your proposed subject and location and determine the appropriate marker style and expenses. *(see attachment B for criteria)*

2. If your subject appears eligible and funding is available, submit a pre-application form to Oregon Travel Experience, 1500 Liberty St. SE, Ste 150, Salem, Oregon 97302. A pre-application form has been enclosed with this information sheet.

3. You will be notified whether your pre-application is approved or denied by the Historical Marker Committee. The committee may request additional information or revisions prior to making a decision.

4. If the pre-application is approved, you may then submit a full application. Applications must be received at least two weeks prior to the Historical Marker Committee meetings that are held on the second Tuesday of February, May, August, and November.

Submission of an application does not guarantee that a marker will be erected. If the application is approved and funding is committed, the marker will be placed on a priority list for production.

5. *When marker production begins, you will work with the Historical Marker Committee, Oregon Travel Experience staff, and the design firm to develop the marker panel's content and layout. We have found through experience that this process requires repeated review and feedback from your organization. It is helpful if one person is authorized to work with the committee and staff to avoid confusion and delays. This stage can take a year to complete.*

6. Coordinate a marker dedication event with assistance from Oregon Travel Experience.

Marker Styles

There are two styles of markers designed for different locations and purposes. Please review the accompanying photographic examples and their corresponding costs.

Marker Expenses

The sponsoring group's expenses cover marker production, manufacturing, and a small endowment for long-term maintenance. Oregon Travel Experience is responsible for the marker design, shipping, installation, and coordination expenses as well as performing marker maintenance. Completed markers become the property of the State of Oregon.

Sponsor expenses:

45" x 60" fiberglass embedded color panel with text and graphics, mounted on a cedar frame:	\$6,800.00
28" x 36" fiberglass embedded color panel with text and graphics, mounted on an anodized aluminum pedestal:	\$3,200.00

Attachment B

APPLICATION CRITERIA OREGON HISTORICAL MARKER PROGRAM

Markers are erected to commemorate persons, groups, events, places, or geologic features of state or national significance. The following criteria are meant to serve as guidelines in determining the applicability of your subject. For specific marker examples, refer to the “Guide to Oregon Historical Marker and Heritage Trees” brochure.

PERSONS generally, who have been dead at least 50 years in order for their ideas, services, and/or accomplishments to be placed in accurate historical perspective. The importance of the location could have been related to: (1) place of birth; (2) place of death (if death was of state or national significance); (3) place lived for a substantial period of time at a permanent residence; (4) where they performed some significant act; or (5) represent a significant cultural group in Oregon.

GROUPS who made important social, political, and economic contributions to the historic development of Oregon. The location may be associated with a particularly important leader or member, home base of the group, or location of particularly important accomplishment. Includes ethnic and ancestral groups.

EVENTS which generally took place in Oregon at least 50 years ago, are mentioned in at least one authoritative historical work, and were either (1) military operations; (2) meetings with historically important results; (3) acts of such historic importance as to have changed the course of state or national history.

PLACES that are (1) where a historic event occurred; (2) associated with ethnic or Native American culture; (3) associated with a historically important person; (4) sites of significant exploration and settlement.

GEOLOGIC FEATURES which are generally within one mile of the marker site or visible from the site and (1) are of state or national historic significance; (2) are unique to the Oregon or the Northwest, e.g. deepest, widest, first, last, oldest, etc.; (3) illustrate hazards, e.g., volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, which are of continuing concern; and/or (4) are exemplary examples of natural events or formations.

Attachment C

What is a theme?

A *topic* is frequently confused with a theme. They are not the same.

A topic is:

- the subject or title of a historical marker
- not a full idea
- usually only a few words

Examples:

James Nesmith
Celilo Falls
Ice Age Floods

A *theme* is one or more sentences that tell the central idea about a topic. A well-stated theme answers the questions of “so what” or “who cares” about the topic.

A theme is:

- the focus of your historical marker
- a complete sentence that expresses an idea
- the “take home message” you want visitors to walk away with

Examples:

James Nesmith, an Oregon Trail emigrant of 1843, was a leading statesman in early Oregon history. Elected to the territorial legislature in 1847, Nesmith went on to become Territorial Marshall, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, U.S. Senator and Congressman.

Wyam Falls, known today as Celilo Falls, comprised the fishing grounds of all Indian tribes of the middle Columbia River for thousands of years. When The Dalles Dam was built in 1957, the storage basin behind it inundated the ancient fishing grounds.

During the last Ice Age, 13,000-15,500 years ago, catastrophic floods poured out of Glacial Lake Missoula in what is today southwest Montana. The torrents of water scoured the Columbia River Gorge and flooded the Willamette Valley leaving a geologic legacy that affects us to this day.