

A Guide to the Library of Virginia, Public Services and Outreach Division, Highway Historical Marker Records, 1928-1975

Library of Virginia, Public Services and Outreach Division, Highway Historical Marker Records, 1928-1975
1928-1975



A Collection in the Library of Virginia 27998
Library of Virginia
2019

History

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Title Statement

A Guide to the Library of Virginia, Public Services and Outreach Division, Highway Historical Marker Records, 1928-1975

Subtitle: Library of Virginia, Public Services and Outreach Division, Highway Historical Marker Records

Collection: 27998

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Publication Statement

Date: © 2019 By The Library of Virginia. All Rights Reserved.

Publisher: Library of Virginia

Profile Description

Creation: Machine-readable finding aid created in EAD by Renee M. Savits, 3 March 2019

Language Usage: Description is in English

Descriptive Summary

Accession Number

27998

Language

English

Creator

Library of Virginia

Extent

19.5 cu. ft. (40 boxes)

Repository

The Library of Virginia

Administrative Information

Access Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Use Restrictions

There are no restrictions.

Acquisition Information

Transferred from Publications and Educational Services Division, The Library of Virginia, 8 March 1973.

Preferred Citation

Library of Virginia, Public Services and Outreach Division. Highway Historical Marker Records, 1928-1975. Accession 27998. State government records collection, The Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Biographical Information

Virginia's historical marker program is the oldest such program in the nation, beginning in 1927 when a handful of markers were erected along U.S. 1 between Richmond and Mount Vernon. Originally the Conservation and Economic Development Commission was tasked with creating historical markers. In 1949, the Virginia Department of Highways was assigned the responsibility for installing and maintaining new markers, and in 1950 the Library of Virginia took over researching and approving new markers. In 1966, management of the highway markers was transferred to the newly created Virginia Landmarks Commission, the predecessor agency of the Department of Historic Resources. Today VDOT (Virginia Dept. of Transportation) retains primary responsibility for installing new markers and maintaining existing ones.

More information on the marker program and an online database search is available at: [Virginia Department of Historic Resources Historical Highway Markers](#)

Scope and Content

Records, 1928-1975, including charts and keys, clippings, correspondence, inscriptions, invoices, maps, negatives, notes, photographs, and publications of the Highway Historical Markers program in Virginia. The collection is arranged into two series, Series I: Administrative records and Series II: Marker inscriptions and photographs. These records trace the design, construction, wording, and images of the Highway marker program in Virginia.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into the following series:

- Series I: Administrative records, 1928-1975
- Series II: Marker inscriptions and photographs, 1928-1975

Contents List

Series I: Administrative records, 1928-1975.

Boxes 1-12 (box)

Extent

Extent: 5.4 cu. ft. (12 boxes).

Scope and Content

Records, 1928-1975, including charts and keys, clippings, correspondence, histories, invoices, lists, orders, price lists, and publications documenting the administration of the Highway Historical Marker program in Virginia. Included is correspondence with members of the Advisory Committee, including Dr. Thomas Abernathy, Dr. Cannaday, and Dr. Swem; correspondence regarding the research involved in locating historical sites, correct spelling of signs, and the placement and ordering of signs; correspondence from other states requesting information on Virginia's highway marker program; requests and suggestions for signs; and correspondence regarding funding issues throughout the years [including wartime restrictions on materials]. Also included is correspondence with the Highway Department landscape engineers regarding the erection and replacement of various markers. Of note is the folder containing histories, memorandums, and policies of the highway program, 1930-1964.

Included is correspondence and price lists from sign making companies, Lake Shore Markers (Erie, Pa.), and Salem Foundry and Machine Works (Salem, Va.); lists of markers erected, markers needing further

work, markers broken, requests for markers, and lists of photographs of markers. Also included are folders relating to the marker coding system and index cards of marker inscriptions, arranged alphabetically. The index cards include the name of the marker, letter code, location, and dates ordered, relocated, photographed, and painted. Some of the index cards include small photographs of the markers.

Of note are the various editions of the *State Historical Markers of Virginia* publication and the maps of Virginia showing location of markers [oversize bound volume box 39]. While the bulk of the marker inscriptions are in Series II: Marker inscriptions and photographs, researchers should also check this series for information on marker coding, as well as markers erected, as the information is included in both series.

Arrangement

Arranged alphabetically by folder title.

Advisory Committee, Abernathy, Dr. Thomas P., 1946-1947

Box 1

Folder 1

Advisory Committee, Abernathy, Dr. Thomas P., 1948-1949

Box 1

Folder 2

Advisory Committee, Cannaday, Dr. D.A., 1947-1948

Box 1

Folder 3

Advisory Committee, Cannaday, Dr. D.A., 1948-1951

Box 1

Folder 4

Advisory Committee, Mason, George C., 1936-1951

Box 1

Folder 5

Advisory Committee, Miscellaneous, 1944-1949

Box 1

Folder 6

Advisory Committee, Swem, Dr. Earl Gregg, 1937-1940

Box 1

Folder 7

Advisory Committee, Swem, Dr. Earl Gregg, 1941-1951

Box 1

Folder 8

Advisory Committee, Tynes family, 1946-1951

Box 2

Folder 1

Clippings, 1932-1951

Box 2

Folder 2

Correspondence, 1929-1948

Box 2

Folder 3

Correspondence, 1949

Box 2

Folder 4

Correspondence, 1950

Box 2

Folder 5

Correspondence, 1951

Box 2

Folder 6

Correspondence, 1952 January-May

Box 2

Folder 7

Correspondence, 1952 June-December

Box 2

Folder 8

Correspondence, 1953

Box 3

Folder 1

Correspondence, 1954

Box 3

Folder 2

Correspondence, 1955 January-May

Box 3

Folder 3

Correspondence, 1955 June-December

Box 3

Folder 4

Correspondence, 1956 January-May

Box 3

Folder 5

Correspondence, 1956 June-December

Box 3

Folder 6

Correspondence, 1957 January-May

Box 3

Folder 7

Correspondence, 1957 June-December

Box 3

Folder 8

Correspondence, 1958

Box 3

Folder 9

Correspondence, 1959

Box 4

Folder 1

Correspondence, 1960

Box 4

Folder 2

Correspondence, 1961

Box 4

Folder 3

Correspondence, 1962-1968

Box 4

Folder 4

Correspondence, Inquiries about markers program from other states and countries, 1928-1949

Box 4

Folder 5

Correspondence, Inquiries about markers program from other states and countries, 1950-1957

Box 4

Folder 6

Dept. of Highways, Landscape engineers Turner and Neale, 1948-1949

Box 4

Folder 7

Dept. of Highways, Landscape engineers Turner and Neale, 1950

Box 4

Folder 8

Dept. of Highways, Landscape engineers Turner and Neale, 1951-1958

Box 5

Folder 1

Histories, memorandum, and policies, 1930-1964

Box 5

Folder 2

Lake Shore Markers, Inc., Correspondence, 1946-1959

Box 5

Folder 3

Lake Shore Markers, Inc., Price lists, 1953-1958

Box 5

Folder 4

List of broken and revised markers, 1930-1949

Box 5

Folder 5

List of graves of distinguished Virginians, undated

Box 5

Folder 6

Lists of markers, 1929-1948

Box 5

Folder 7

Lists of markers, 1949-1960

Box 5

Folder 8

List of markers erected, 1946-1950

Box 5

Folder 9

List of markers requiring further work, 1949

Box 5

Folder 10

Lists of payments received for broken markers, 1929-1949

Box 5

Folder 11

List of photographs of markers, undated

Box 5

Folder 12

Markers code lettering, undated

Box 5

Folder 13

Marker inscription index cards, A-V,

Box 6

Marker inscription index cards, W-Z, and Discarded markers,

Box 7

Large Highway maps of Virginia showing location of markers [bound volume]

Box 39

Marker construction, Specifications, 1932-1953

Box 8

Folder 1

Marker inscriptions, Tentative, undated

Box 8

Folder 2

Marker inscriptions, Various, undated

Box 8

Folder 3

Marker inscriptions, Private, 1953-1965

Box 8

Folder 4

Marker programs, Other states, List, 1949

Box 8

Folder 5

Marker programs, Other states, Alabama-Maryland, 1941-1959

Box 8

Folder 6

Marker programs, Other states, Massachusetts-Nevada, 1950-1951

Box 8

Folder 7

Marker programs, Other states, New Hampshire-Oklahoma, 1951-1959

Box 8

Folder 8

Marker programs, Other states, Pennsylvania-Vermont, 1951-1961

Box 8

Folder 9

Marker programs, Other states, Washington-Wyoming, 1951-1965

Box 8

Folder 10

Marker requests, Halifax County, 1936-1948

Box 9

Folder 1

Marker requests, Lynchburg, 1931-1951

Box 9

Folder 2

Marker requests, Various, 1947-1949

Box 9

Folder 3

Marker request, Various, 1950-1952

Box 9

Folder 4

Marker requests, Various, 1959-1966

Box 9

Folder 5

Marker requests, Not under consideration, 1928-1951

Box 9

Folder 6

Permits for placing markers, 1941-1947

Box 9

Folder 7

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia [Key to Inscriptions on Virginia Highway Historical Markers] , 1st Edition, 1929

Box 10

Folder 1

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia [Key to Inscriptions on Virginia Highway Historical Markers] , Col. Bryan Conrad copy, 2nd Edition, 1930

Box 10

Folder 2

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia [The Virginia Highway Historical Markers] , First issue, 1930

Box 10

Folder 3

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia [Key to Inscriptions on Virginia Highway Historical Markers] , 3rd Edition, 1932

Box 10

Folder 4

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 4th Edition, 1937

Box 10

Folder 5

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 5th Edition, Rough draft, 1941

Box 10

Folder 6-8

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 5th Edition, Daniel's marked copy, 1941

Box 10

Folder 9

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, 1948

Box 11

Folder 1-2

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, For printers, 1948

Box 11

Folder 3

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, Hemphill's desk copy, 1948

Box 11
Folder 4

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, Official work copy, 1948

Box 11
Folder 5

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, Additions and revisions, 1948-1958

Box 12
Folder 1-2

Publications, State Historical Markers of Virginia, 6th Edition, Additions and revisions, 1960

Box 12
Folder 3

Salem Foundry and Machine Works (Salem, Va.), Correspondence and orders, 1948-1950

Box 12
Folder 4

Salem Foundry and Machine Works (Salem, Va.), Correspondence and orders, 1951-1954

Box 12
Folder 5

Salem Foundry and Machine Works (Salem, Va.), Correspondence and orders, 1955-1959

Box 12
Folder 6

Series II: Marker inscriptions and photographs, 1928-1975.

Boxes 13-40 (box)

Extent

Extent: 14.1 cu. ft. (28 boxes).

Scope and Content

Records, 1928-1975, including correspondence, inscriptions, invoices, negatives, notes, and photographs documenting the historic marker program in Virginia. Subseries A. Marker inscriptions includes correspondence, draft and final wording of markers, invoices, newspaper clippings, notes, purchase orders, and requisitions. Includes correspondence regarding replacement of broken markers, and changes, placement, and suggestions for markers. Also includes notes on when the marker was erected and if it was replaced or broken. Subseries B. Photographs includes photographs and negatives of the markers arranged by marker number.

Arrangement

Arranged by marker number in two subseries : Subseries A: Marker inscriptions and Subseries B: Marker photographs.

Subseries A. Marker inscriptions

A1 - A15

Box 13
Folder 1

A16 - A30

Box 13

Folder 2

A31 - A39

Box 13

Folder 3

A40 - A49

Box 13

Folder 4

A50 - A62

Box 13

Folder 5

A72 - A94, A135

Box 13

Folder 6

AL5, AL10, AS1

Box 13

Folder 7

B2 - B25

Box 14

Folder 1

B26 - BX7

Box 14

Folder 2

C1 - C29

Box 14

Folder 3

C30 - C90

Box 14

Folder 4

CB1 - CL3

Box 14

Folder 5

D6 - D30

Box 14

Folder 6

E1 - E9

Box 14

Folder 7

E10 - E15

Box 14

Folder 8

E16 - E25

Box 15

Folder 1

E26 - E37

Box 15

Folder 2

E38 - E45

Box 15

Folder 3

E46 - E50

Box 15

Folder 4

E51 - E59

Box 15

Folder 5

E60 - E69

Box 15

Folder 6

E70 - E90

Box 15

Folder 7

EH8 - EP20

Box 15

Folder 8

F1 - F12

Box 16

Folder 1

F13 - F24

Box 16

Folder 2

F26 - F65

Box 16

Folder 3

F66 - F98

Box 16

Folder 4

FA1 - FR25

Box 16

Folder 5

G - GA

Box 16

Folder 6

I1 - I10

Box 16

Folder 7

I11 - I17

Box 17

Folder 1

J1 - J9

Box 17

Folder 2

J11 - J17

Box 17

Folder 3

J20 - J42

Box 17

Folder 4

J60 - J69

Box 17

Folder 5

J70 - J78

Box 17

Folder 6

J80 - J89

Box 17

Folder 7

JD1 - JE6

Box 17

Folder 8

JE15 - JJ10

Box 18

Folder 1

JJ12 - JT5

Box 18

Folder 2

JT6 - JX5

Box 18

Folder 3

K1 - K15

Box 18

Folder 4

K16 - K30

Box 18

Folder 5

K31 - K45

Box 18

Folder 6

K47 - K72

Box 19

Folder 1

K73 - K95

Box 19

Folder 2

K116 - K139

Box 19

Folder 3

K140 - K158

Box 19

Folder 4

K170 - K210

Box 19

Folder 5

K211 - K225

Box 19

Folder 6

K226 - K239

Box 19

Folder 7

K240 - K244

Box 19

Folder 8

K245

Box 20

Folder 1

K246 - K255

Box 20

Folder 2

K256 - K261

Box 20

Folder 3

K262 - K307

Box 20

Folder 4

K306

Box 20

Folder 5

KA8 - KC10

Box 20

Folder 6

KD5 - KG20

Box 20

Folder 7

KG21 - KY4

Box 21

Folder 1

KV7

Box 21

Folder 2

L3 - LT1

Box 21

Folder 3

M9 - M25

Box 21

Folder 4

M26 - MJ1

Box 21

Folder 5

N4 - N21

Box 21

Folder 6

N22 - N85

Box 22

Folder 1

ND4 - NW15

Box 22

Folder 2

Norfolk [City]

Box 22

Folder 3

O5 - O25

Box 22

Folder 4

O27 - O39

Box 22

Folder 5

O40 - O49

Box 22

Folder 6

OB2 - OC25

Box 23

Folder 1

OC35 - OQ5

Box 23

Folder 2

PA2 - PA25

Box 23

Folder 3

PA60 - PH6

Box 23

Folder 4

Q1 - Q5

Box 23

Folder 5

Q6 - Q7

Box 23

Folder 6

Q8A - Q8Q

Box 23

Folder 7

Q9 - Q11B

Box 24

Folder 1

QA1 - QC1

Box 24

Folder 2

R4 - R80

Box 24

Folder 3

RA4 - RG5

Box 24

Folder 4

S1 - S10

Box 24

Folder 5

S11 - S25

Box 24

Folder 6

S26 - S52

Box 24

Folder 7

S53 - S79

Box 25

Folder 1

SA5 - SN60

Box 25

Folder 2

T1 - T45

Box 25

Folder 3

U22 - U60

Box 25

Folder 4

U80 - U130

Box 25

Folder 5

UC5 - UT28

Box 25

Folder 6

V1 - V21

Box 26

Folder 1

X6 - X15

Box 26

Folder 2

X16 - X30

Box 26

Folder 3

XB4 - XP5

Box 26

Folder 4

W1 - W15

Box 26

Folder 5

W16 - W24

Box 26

Folder 6

W25 - W35

Box 26

Folder 7

W36 - W49

Box 27

Folder 1

W50 - W65

Box 27

Folder 2

W66 - W70

Box 27

Folder 3

W79 - W88

Box 27

Folder 4

W89 - W199

Box 27

Folder 5

W200 - W206

Box 27

Folder 6

W207 - W218

Box 27

Folder 7

WO12 - WP10

Box 28

Folder 1

WY5 - WY16

Box 28

Folder 2

WY17

Box 28

Folder 3

WY88 - WY92

Box 28

Folder 4

Z5 - Z98

Box 28

Folder 5

Z106 - Z185

Box 28

Folder 6

Z187 - Z269

Box 28

Folder 7

County line markers (A-Y counties)

Box 28

Folder 8

County line markers, Various

Box 29

Folder 1-2

Frontier forts

Box 29

Folder 3

Norfolk (John Hunter Holt)

Box 29

Folder 4

Norfolk's Historic Mace

Box 29

Folder 5

Orange County (First German Reformed Church, Germanna)

Box 29

Folder 6

State entrance signs

Box 29

Folder 7

Unidentified

Box 29

Folder 8

Oversize

Box 40

Subseries B. Marker photographs

Extra copies, 1951

Box 29

Folder 9

Sample markers, 1928

Box 29

Folder 10

Sample markers, 1928

Box 29

Folder 11

A1 - A10

Box 30

Folder 1

A11 - A20

Box 30

Folder 2

A21 - A30

Box 30

Folder 3

A32 - A45

Box 30

Folder 4

A46 - A92

Box 30

Folder 5

B2 - B33

Box 30

Folder 6

C4 - C22

Box 30

Folder 7

C23 - C34

Box 31
Folder 1

D30
Box 31
Folder 2

E1 - E9
Box 31
Folder 3

E11 - E20
Box 31
Folder 4

E21 - E50
Box 31
Folder 5

E52 - E60
Box 31
Folder 6

E62 - E72
Box 31
Folder 7

F1 - F20
Box 31
Folder 8

F50 - F75; FB2 - FB4
Box 31
Folder 9

G10 - GA34
Box 32
Folder 1

I1 - I9
Box 32
Folder 2

J1 - J15
Box 32
Folder 3

J29 - J65
Box 32
Folder 4

J66 - J75
Box 32

Folder 5

J77 - J87

Box 32

Folder 6

JT4 - JT12

Box 32

Folder 7

K1 - K20

Box 32

Folder 8

K21 - K30

Box 32

Folder 9

K31 - K40

Box 33

Folder 1

K43 - K75

Box 33

Folder 2

K76 - K140

Box 33

Folder 3

K206 - K218

Box 33

Folder 4

K221 - K239

Box 33

Folder 5

K242 - K250

Box 33

Folder 6

K251 - K260

Box 33

Folder 7

K262 - KC4

Box 33

Folder 8

KD5 - KG20

Box 33

Folder 9

L3 - LB5

Box 34

Folder 1

M10 - M30

Box 34

Folder 2

N4 - N17

Box 34

Folder 3

N20 - NW9

Box 34

Folder 4

O5 - O15

Box 34

Folder 5

O17 - O45

Box 34

Folder 6

OB2 - OB3

Box 34

Folder 7

PA2 - PA20

Box 34

Folder 8

PA23 - PA144

Box 34

Folder 9

Q

Box 35

Folder 1

S2 - S10

Box 35

Folder 2

S12 - S20

Box 35

Folder 3

S21 - S40

Box 35

Folder 4

S41 - S52

Box 35

Folder 5

S53 - S70

Box 35

Folder 6

S72 - S79; SA5 - SA30

Box 35

Folder 7

T3 - T8

Box 35

Folder 8

U25, UE5

Box 35

Folder 9

V1 - V7

Box 36

Folder 1

V8 - V12

Box 36

Folder 2

W2 - W10

Box 36

Folder 3

W11 - W20

Box 36

Folder 4

W21 - W30

Box 36

Folder 5

W31 - W39

Box 36

Folder 6

W42 - W50

Box 36

Folder 7

W52 - W50

Box 36

Folder 8

W61 - W90

Box 36

Folder 9

W149 - W205

Box 37

Folder 1

W206 - W214

Box 37

Folder 2

WY7 - WY92

Box 37

Folder 3

X6 - XB23

Box 37

Folder 4

Z1 - Z22

Box 37

Folder 5

Z31 - Z50

Box 37

Folder 6

Z51 - Z70

Box 37

Folder 7

Z71 - Z85

Box 38

Folder 1

Z86 - Z100

Box 38

Folder 2

Z102 - Z119

Box 38

Folder 3

Z124 - Z150

Box 38

Folder 4

Z151 - Z170

Box 38

Folder 5

Z173 - Z190

Box 38

Folder 6

Z196 - Z218

Box 38

Folder 7

Z221 - Z224

Box 38

Folder 8

Washington-Rochambeau Route

Box 38

Folder 9