National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

CREATING MONUMENTS & MARKERS

PURPOSES AND DUTIES OF COMMITTEES

Historical markers and monuments at significant sites effectively teach history of events, places, or people to today's generation. Plaques, statues, narrations, kiosks, and images help visitors understand past events and their modern relevance. Local SUP chapters are encouraged to research local history and participate in monument or marker projects.

Chapter monument committees, headed by a Committee Chairman, identify notable trails, events, people, and sites from historical records. They recommend and plan memorials or markers, document projects, collaborate with agencies, raise funds, manage publicity for dedications, and submit reports to the National Monuments Director who is available for consultation throughout these activities.

GUIDELINES

For plaques, monuments, or trail markers, the chapter committee should choose the subject, location, obtain necessary permissions, and **inform the National Monuments Director of their plans.**

When a monument is placed on private property, there should be an agreement as to who will own and maintain it. When one is placed on public land, ownership likewise needs to be determined and legal clearances need to be obtained from the appropriate planning commissions, legal departments, elected officials, parks departments, or whomever has jurisdiction, whether it be state, county, city or other municipal entity. **Beware of "hold harmless" legal clauses** shifting liability from the municipality to the SUP. All copy and illustrations with the application must be approved with the application form by being signed by the National Monuments Director in coordination with the National Monuments Committee to assign a **unique SUP Site number** to prevent duplication and maintain accurate records.

The SUP Site number should be illustrated on the monument with the SUP logo being optional. The chapters are responsible for the cost and placement of all markers/monuments they install. When a site is finished, please provide digital high-resolution pictures suitable for either print or website publication preferable in the "jpg" picture format by email or other electronic means to the National Monuments Director.

A minimum of three photographs is required: **a close-up image of the plaque(s) on the monument, a picture showing the monument in its entirety, and a picture documenting the location.** Additional images that document the historical site may also be included if available.

As important as it is to erect historical monuments, it is equally important that they be maintained. Both the effects of nature and of man can dim the beauty of the markers making the historical significance of the area less appreciated. Materials for building monuments or markers should be chosen carefully and with local professional advice to assure lasting beauty. Also, establish a program of periodic cleaning and restoration. Chapters should use caution in using cleaning solutions that may further damage a marker. A local expert's advice should be sought.

In many instances there may be monuments in your area erected by others whose organization is no longer functioning. An example of such a situation is the Utah Pioneer Trails and Landmarks Association, (UPTLA), who were organized in the 1930's by George Albert Smith and others, and who erected, often with others, more than 130 monuments during its 25+ year history. In recent years, and at the request of the remnants of the organization, the SUP has assumed the responsibility for locating, recording, and preserving these historic markers along with our own. Restorations have also been conducted by local chapters for them and other markers (with proper owner's permission). A search in your area should be conducted to see if there are any of these that need attention.

If there are any questions, the National office can be contacted for help, 801-484-4441, or contact the National Monuments Director, Mark Walker (Cell: 801-540-6506) to obtain an email address to send applications for approval and pictures upon completion of the project.

(See next page for application to be completed and submitted for approval)

National Society of the Sons of Utah Pioneers

Application For SUP Monument Approval and Site Number Assignment

SUP Chapter sponsoring: _____

Name of Monument, Person or Place to be honored:

_____

Exact Location – address, directions to locate: _____

GPS Coordinates: _____

Description of proposed construction, plaque wording or other narrative on monument (attach plans, illustrations, blueprints, site pictures etc.): _____

_____

_____

Anticipated date of completion and dedication: _____

Please provide a final report with digital high-resolution pictures (jpg format) to the National Monument Director preferably by email. The pictures should show a **readable** close-up of plaque, another with a full view of monument, and another with a location view showing surroundings. Other pictures are desirable as needed for clarity. **Remember, it is not completed until the final report is provided.**

Do you need an SUP Logo? **Yes** [ ] **No** [ ]

Approved [ ] by Chapter Officer _____ Office _____

Date: _____

Person Submitting Application

Name: _____ Address: _____

Phone: _____ _____

_____

Approved/Received [ ] by National Monuments Director _____

Date: _____

Assigned SUP Site Number: _____

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Materials for SUP Monuments

Best materials for outdoor monuments exposed to weather:

- **Bronze** - Perhaps one of best materials, but subject to theft because of the scrap value of the metal. If scratched, bronze will autogenously heal the scar. Expect that it will tarnish with age.
- **Anodized Aluminum –** Long lasting, weathers well, but does not have eloquence of bronze. Also, any scratches or surface defects do not heal, but take on an abused appearance. It is less subject to theft than bronze. Can be used with pictures and in colors.
- **Granite, Basalt, Trap Rock or Quartzite -** are excellent materials. (Recent observations have indicated that with raised lettering in granite with painted background, the painted background deteriorates rapidly from weather).
- **Glass and Ceramic materials -** weather well but are brittle and may be easily blemished by the public.
- **Stainless-Steel** grade of 300 series may be a good choice but check with the manufacturer.
- **Copper** can be used in appropriate artistic renditions if it is recognized that it will oxidize in a short time and change color. Brass also pits.

Materials <u>not</u> recommended:

- **Limestone or Dolomite** of any form.
- **Shale, Slate or Sandstone**. Sandstone can be made into a beautiful monument, but it is NOT long lasting. However, using a seal coating and resealing it every few years can extend its life.
- **Plastics or Polymers, Marble, Painted Wood, Iron or Steel** (see above for stainless steel**)**
- **Fiberglass -** Very high strength – strong and flexible material, and with proper coatings, it can have a life of 10 to 20 years. Then it begins to fade with sun exposure and age. If the edges are not properly coated with a gel or encased in metal or other framing, glass fibers can cause a problem. Coatings are still polymers that tend to deteriorate with time – particularly when colors are involved.

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Summary in order of preference:

1. **Bronze is still the best of all material**
2. **Anodized Aluminum**
3. **Stainless Steel (300 series)**
4. **Most Granites**
5. **Portland Cement Concrete:** All Portland Cement Concrete placed in a freezing environment should be at least a 6-bag mix with 6-7 percent air-entrainment and placed with a 4-5inch slump. No water added to the mix at the project site.
6. Stay away from all **limestone, marbles, dolomites, sandstones and concretes.**

Prepared by: Reid H. Brown, PhD. P.E., 2008, (with revisions)

Cleaning Caution: cleaning chemicals should be carefully chosen so as not to damage the Marker. No hydrochloric or muriatic acids should be used on aluminum. Lime-A-Way can be used if it is **not allowed to dry and washed off immediately**. Vinegar is suitable.]

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CHAPTER RECOGNITION OR EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Erecting monuments and maintaining them is an integral part of earning a Chapter Award. To earn a Chapter Award of Recognition or Excellence, the chapter must have accomplished one of these "Historical Preservation" criteria:

- ❑ Establish one approved new monument or historical marker, or major reconstruction of an existing monument.
- ❑ Clean, repair or improve two existing monuments or markers.
- ❑ Maintain or restore one Pioneer-era structure that is available for public view.
- ❑ Organize Members to accomplish a specific project in the SUP Library in cooperation with Library Directors.
- ❑ Other Historical Preservation Projects with written permission from the National Executive Council.

Description of Accomplishment:

_____