



*Let's Talk About...*  
**MONUMENTS &  
MARKERS**

*Extended Options*



DELAWARE

**HUMANITIES**

# Continue the Conversation

To add additional activities to your event, this brief list provides some ideas for activities to facilitate further discussion.

- **Book Club:** select a book from the LEARN MORE section below for participants to read before meeting together to discuss the book, what they learned, and how they connected to the story.
- **Video Screening:** select a video from the LEARN MORE section below (or another film that discusses historic preservation or public history). After showing the film or video to participants, have them discuss what they learned and how it connects to their own communities.
- **News Analysis:** select news articles for participants to read from the LEARN MORE section below (or other relevant articles). After participants read their chosen article(s), gather the group for a discussion on what they learned and how their articles are interconnected, allowing participants to share their new knowledge with each other.

**A complete Quote Analysis Activity is included as the last two pages of this packet.**

## Learn More

Interested in learning more about public history sites and markers? Look through the resources listed below to dive deeper. These resources are provided both for participants to learn more about monuments, markers, and public history, and for leaders to do further research before hosting a toolkit event if they so choose. Leaders may also wish to incorporate quotes or clips from these resources into their toolkit experience for additional context and background depending on their group’s needs.

**Watch:**

Title & Author	Description
<a href="#">Documentary: Monumental Myths</a>  Released in 2009	“Monumental Myths is a 47-minute documentary that exposes the perpetuated myths of historic sites and markers. Travel across the United States in a 1965 Airstream Trailer as filmmaker Tom Trinley visits historic sites and monuments unveiling the many sides of history not told on the landscape or in history books. Inspired by

	<i>Lies My Teacher Told Me and A Peoples' History of the United States."</i>
<a href="#">YouTube: The History Guy - "History Remembered: Historic Markers"</a> Posted March 28, 2022	Short video by historian providing an overview of Historic Markers. From description: "Whether you are one of those who stops to read every one, or one of those that just take them for granted, historic markers are the fruit of the efforts of many groups and people who believe in an important maxim: that history deserves to be remembered."
<a href="#">YouTube: Public memory matters   Kim Campbell   TEDxSavannah</a> Posted June 22, 2023	TEDx talk featuring Kim Campbell, Senior Project Manager at Ethos Preservation, a preservation consulting firm in Savannah, Georgia. In this talk, Campbell "delves into the history of public markers in Georgia and distinguishes the historical facts from the larger story of what is being represented. She asks, 'If we know history is not written in stone, why is public memory?'"

### Read:

Title & Author	Description
<a href="#">Book: <i>Lies Across America: What Our Historic Sites Get Wrong</i></a> James W. Loewen. Touchstone Press, 1999.	From the publisher: " <i>In Lies Across America</i> , James W. Loewen continues his mission, begun in the award-winning <i>Lies My Teacher Told Me</i> , of overturning the myths and misinformation that too often pass for American history. This is a one-of-a-kind examination of historic sites all over the country where history is literally written on the landscape, including historical markers, monuments, historic houses, forts, and ships."
<a href="#">Book: <i>Marked, Unmarked, Remembered: A Geography of American Memory</i></a> Andrew C. Lichtenstein. West Virginia University Press, 2017.	From back cover: " <i>Marked, Unmarked, Remembered</i> presents photographs of significant sites from US history, posing unsettling questions about the contested memory of traumatic episodes from the nation's past. Focusing especially on landscapes related to African American, Native American, and labor history, <i>Marked, Unmarked, Remembered</i> reveals new vistas of officially commemorated sites, sites that are

	<p>neglected or obscured, and sites that serve as a gathering place for active rituals of organized memory.”</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Guidebook: <i>Controversial Monuments and Memorials A Guide for Community Leaders</i></u></a> David B. Allison. Rowman &amp; Littlefield Publishers, 2018.</p>	<p>From the publisher: “The events of summer 2017 that culminated in Charlottesville are outgrowths of ongoing dialogues and disputes about controversial history that encompass numerous historical situations and touch every part of US history. Strategies for working effectively with communities will be explored, and the book will delve into the ways that other countries have attempted to overcome their painful pasts. In addition, this book will highlight essays and case studies from numerous museum professionals, scholars and civic leaders as they grapple with the past they interpret for their visitors.”</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Book: <i>Memorial Mania: Public Feeling in America</i></u></a> Erika Doss. University of Chicago Press, 2010.</p>	<p>From publisher: “In the past few decades, thousands of new memorials to executed witches, victims of terrorism, and dead astronauts, along with those that pay tribute to civil rights, organ donors, and the end of Communism have dotted the American landscape... In <i>Memorial Mania</i>, Erika Doss argues that these memorials underscore our obsession with issues of memory and history, and the urgent desire to express—and claim—those issues in visibly public contexts.”</p>
<p><a href="#"><u>Article: <i>Delaware’s Roadside Historical Markers</i></u></a> Kevin Barni. National Parks Service, 2018.</p>	<p>From abstract: “Historical markers, while not typically thought of as roadside architecture, represent early efforts to highlight roadside places, encourage motorists to explore more roadways, and educate citizens about local and regional history. The first part of this paper explores the creation of the Delaware Historical Markers program and the choice to first implement the program along the state’s newest and most innovative highway. Secondly, this paper explores Delaware’s markers as roadside historical resources that are now, themselves, historical, and which must be conserved and interpreted.”</p>

**Listen:**

Title & Source	Description
<p><a href="#">Radio Segment: Preserving the past: The state of historic preservation in Delaware</a></p> <p>Delaware Public Media. Jan. 29, 2016.</p>	<p>Delaware Public Media segment on past, current, and future historic preservation in Delaware.</p> <p>From DPM: “As the nation marks the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act, preservationists in Delaware are savoring their victories, lamenting their losses and girding themselves for their next battle.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Radio Segment: Digital tools can preserve historic sites threatened by the effects of climate change</a></p> <p>National Public Radio (NPR). Aired on Delaware Public Media Dec. 8, 2021.</p>	<p>NPR interview with a Florida expert on historic preservation.</p> <p>From NPR: “Many of Florida's historic sites and artifacts are facing near certain destruction as a result of climate change. It's already taking a toll in some parts. Here's Brendan Rivers of member station WJCT.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Radio Segment: Examining plans for the former Forwood School site</a></p> <p>Delaware Public Media. Jul. 28, 2023.</p>	<p>From DPM: “Recently, what had been a wooded lot in central Brandywine Hundred was completely cleared out, creating a jarringly open site near the intersection of Silverside and Marsh Roads. The site used to be home to the historic Forwood School, but after years of slowly crumbling, that landmark building dating back to 1799 is gone, making way for new development. [In this segment], contributor Larry Nagengast reports on what’s next for the former Forwood School site.”</p>
<p><a href="#">Podcast: Why it's important to protect sacred, historic burial states across the U.S.</a></p> <p>National Public Radio (NPR). Aired on Delaware Public Media Nov. 27, 2023.</p>	<p>NPR interview with Sara Bronin, chair of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, on the importance of protecting historic burial sites.</p>

**In the News:**

Site/Topic	Articles
Grassroots Organizing and Preservation in Delaware	<p><a href="#">History Matters: Grassroots effort helps save Newark Passenger Train Station</a> - Delaware Public Media, Aug. 18, 2023</p> <p><a href="#">Celebrating historic preservation in the First State</a> - Delaware Public Media, Jan. 29, 2016</p>
Thinking About Historic Places Nationally	<p><a href="#">Here's The Latest List Of The Nation's Most Endangered Historic Places</a> - Delaware Public Media, June 3, 2021</p> <p><a href="#">Confederate monument melted down to create new, more inclusive public art</a> - National Public Radio (NPR), Oct. 23, 2023</p>
Native American and Indigenous Sites in Delaware	<p><a href="#">Indian Mission School Commemorated With Historic Marker</a> - WRDE, Jan. 17, 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Lenape tribe seeks remediation for site of historic schoolhouse</a> - Delaware Public Media, July 10, 2018</p>
Delaware Sites/Markers of Slavery	<p><a href="#">Historical marker in memory of the only documented lynching in Delaware is unveiled</a> - Delaware Online, June 25, 2019</p> <p><a href="#">Delaware just removed its last public whipping post. Here's a look at its history and significance.</a> - Philadelphia Inquirer, July 2, 2020</p>
Themed Grouping: Delaware, <i>Brown v. Board of Education</i> , and <a href="#">Hockessin Colored School #107</a>	<p><a href="#">Hockessin Colored School No. 107 opens as historic site</a> - Town Square Delaware, Dec. 14, 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Three historic Delaware schools gain national attention for their role in landmark court case</a> - Delaware Public Media, May 18, 2022</p> <p><a href="#">Delaware played a big role in Brown v. Board of Education. So did this Hockessin school</a> - Delaware Online, May 17, 2022</p>

	<a href="#">Documenting Delaware's 'Colored Schools'</a> - University of Delaware, May 12, 2023
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## Act and Engage

Delaware Public Archives Historical Marker Submissions

Want to suggest your own historic marker in the state of Delaware?

Delaware Public Archives accepts public submissions. [Click here](#) to submit an idea for a marker you would like to see created!

Before you submit, learn more about Delaware's historical marker criteria [here](#).







# Group Activity

***Use the following as a guide to lead your group through this activity. We recommend printing and distributing worksheets and have included these for you (in your box, if sent by mail; as an attachment, if sent by email).***

***The following text can be used as a script to follow for the activity portion.***

To begin thinking about the deeper impacts of public history, let's look at some quotes about public history. In questioning these quotes, don't be afraid to agree, disagree, have an emotional response, or otherwise. Feel free to share how these quotes make you feel, what past or current issues they make you think of, or other ideas you have while we read them together.

One of the most influential books about the importance of public history and understanding how it is shaped is *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History* by Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Trouillot was a Haitian American anthropologist. Trouillot's book reveals how power shapes both what has occurred in the past itself and our understanding of it, particularly through analyzing the silences in the many stages of historical knowledge production. In *Silencing the Past*, he wrote specifically about how the history of the Haitian Revolution has been impacted by things like missing or "silent" archival records, controversial public statues, and public protests.

Here are just a few powerful quotes from this small but mighty text that are tied to public history. **Reading through these quotes, what responses do you have? What do these quotes have to do with current public history debates in the United States?**

- “We are never as steeped in history as when we pretend not to be.” p. xxiii (preface).
- “I also want to reject both the naive proposition that we are prisoners of our pasts and the pernicious suggestion that history is whatever we make of it. History is the fruit of power, but power itself is never so transparent that its analysis becomes superfluous. The ultimate mark of power may be its invisibility; the ultimate challenge, the exposition of its roots.” p. xxiii (preface).
- “But the past does not exist independently from the present. Indeed, the past is only past because there is a present, just as I can point to something *over there* only because I am *here*” (emphasis original). P. 15.
- “Inequalities experienced by the actors lead to uneven historical power in the inscription of traces.” p. 48
- “Silences are inherent in history because any single event enters history with some of its constituting parts missing. Something is always left out while something else is recorded. There is no perfect closure of any event, however one chooses to define the boundaries of that event. Thus whatever becomes fact does so with its own inborn absences, specific to its production. In other words, the very mechanisms that make any historical recording possible also ensure that historical facts are not created equal. They reflect differential control of the means of historical production at the very first engraving that transforms an event into a fact.” p. 49

**After reading and briefly discussing these quotes as a group, divide participants into smaller groups of 2-4. Participants should use the Historic Markers Activity Worksheet provided and follow the steps to think about how history is represented on markers in Delaware.**