

Know Your State, and Make it Known

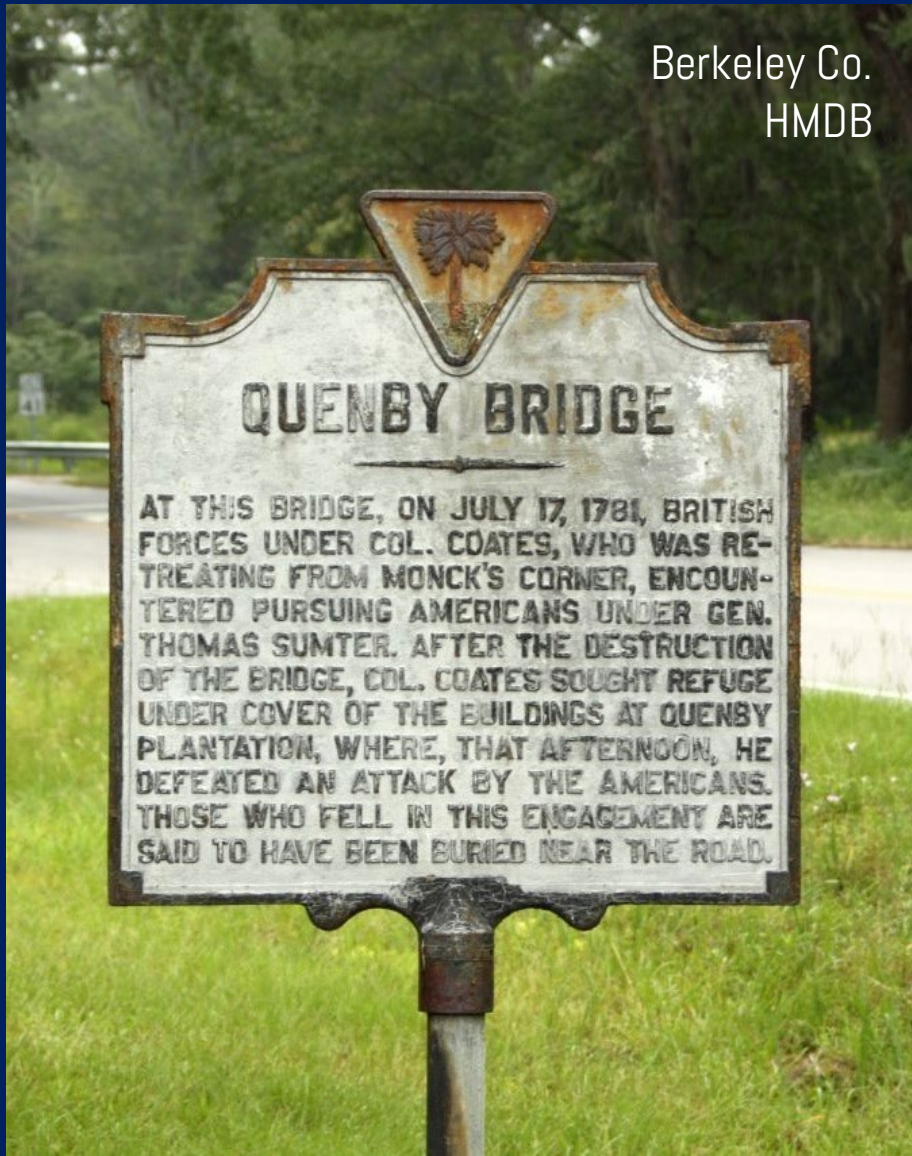
The South Carolina Historical Marker Program

Edwin C. Breeden, Ph.D.

Coordinator, S.C. Historical Marker Program



- 1905 – Creation of **State Historical Commission**, predecessor to S.C. Department of Archives and History



HISTORIC SITES TO BE MARKED

Miss Nora Davis Asked To
Supervise Work In State
For Oscar Doyle

GREENWOOD, Jan. 27.—At the request of the South Carolina Historical commission Oscar H. Doyle, of Anderson, American Legion representative on the commission, is sponsoring the project of marking the historic sites in South Carolina. Mr. Doyle has made a somewhat exhaustive study of the Virginia system of highway marking and is very enthusiastic over similar possibilities for South Carolina. Through his efforts a small federal appropriation has been obtained for this purpose.

Miss Nora M. Davis, of Troy, this county, who has been asked to

Greenville News (1936)

1936 - Establishment of
S.C. Historical Marker
Program

- Dr. Nora Marshall Davis,
Director of Historical Markers
Survey
- "Know your state, and make
it known to others"

Greenwood Index Journal (1939)



DR. NORA M. DAVIS

- (almost) 2,000 approved markers
- Evolving marker design
- Per county: ranges 14 → 223
- Today: Black-on-silver, City- and Country-Size



Georgetown Co.



Lexington Co.



Richland Co.

Applying for a State Historical Marker

Program:
*State-managed,
Locally driven*

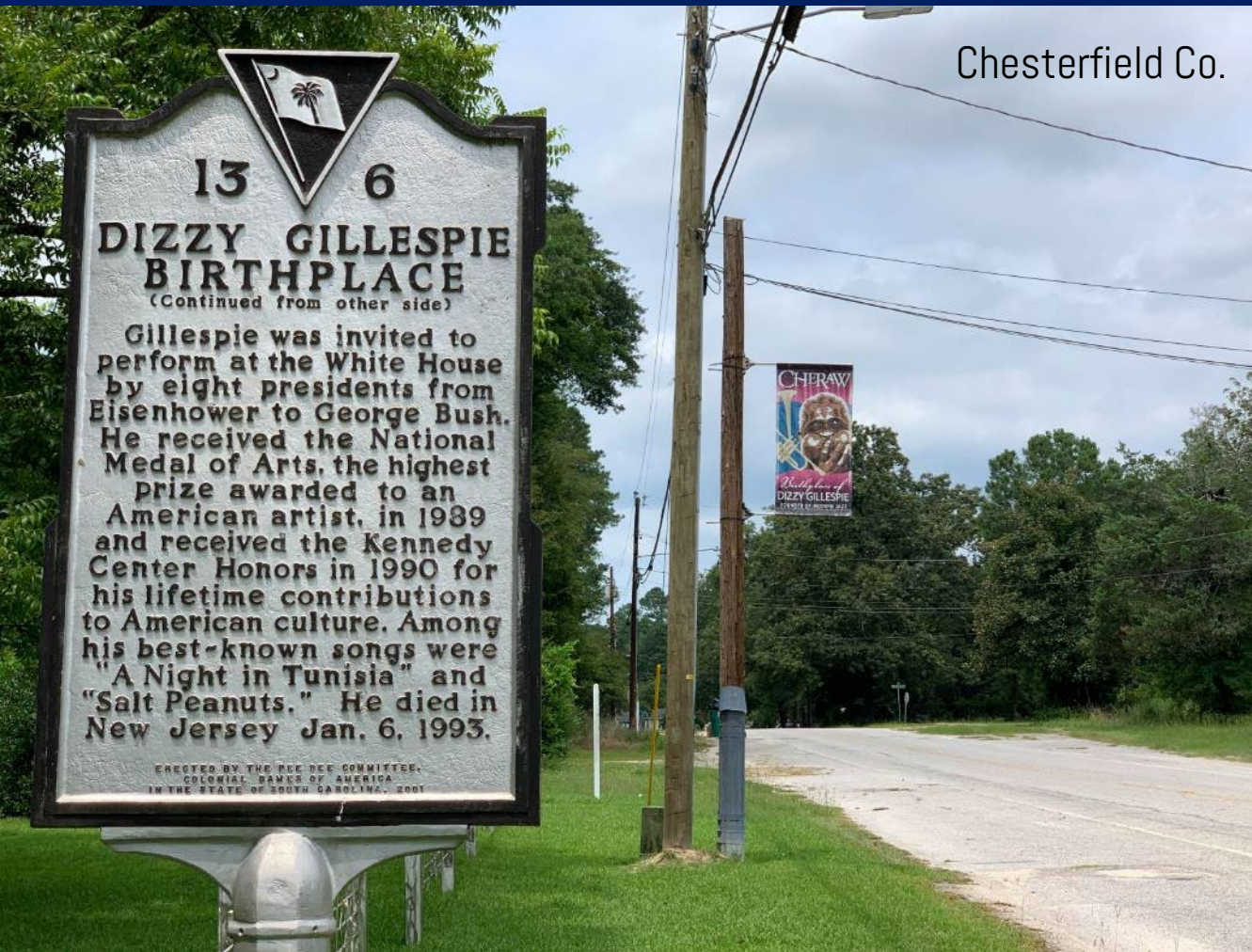
Sponsors...

- Propose
- Fund
- Install
- Maintain

Who can sponsor?



Berkeley Co.



Chesterfield Co.

Applying for an SC Historical Marker

- Marker Application Form
- 1-2 paragraph historical summary
- Copies of source materials
- \$250 application fee

Pickens Co.



Reviewing the Application

- Determine Eligibility
- Additional Research
- Draft, Refine Text
- Final approval by SCDAH Director

Ordering/installing markers

Current cost: \$2,380-\$2,750

- Application → installed marker timeframe



Barnwell Co.

What can markers be about?

- Eligible subjects: buildings, sites, events, people, activities, etc.
- But, must have meaningful connection to **place**
- "This place matters because
_____"

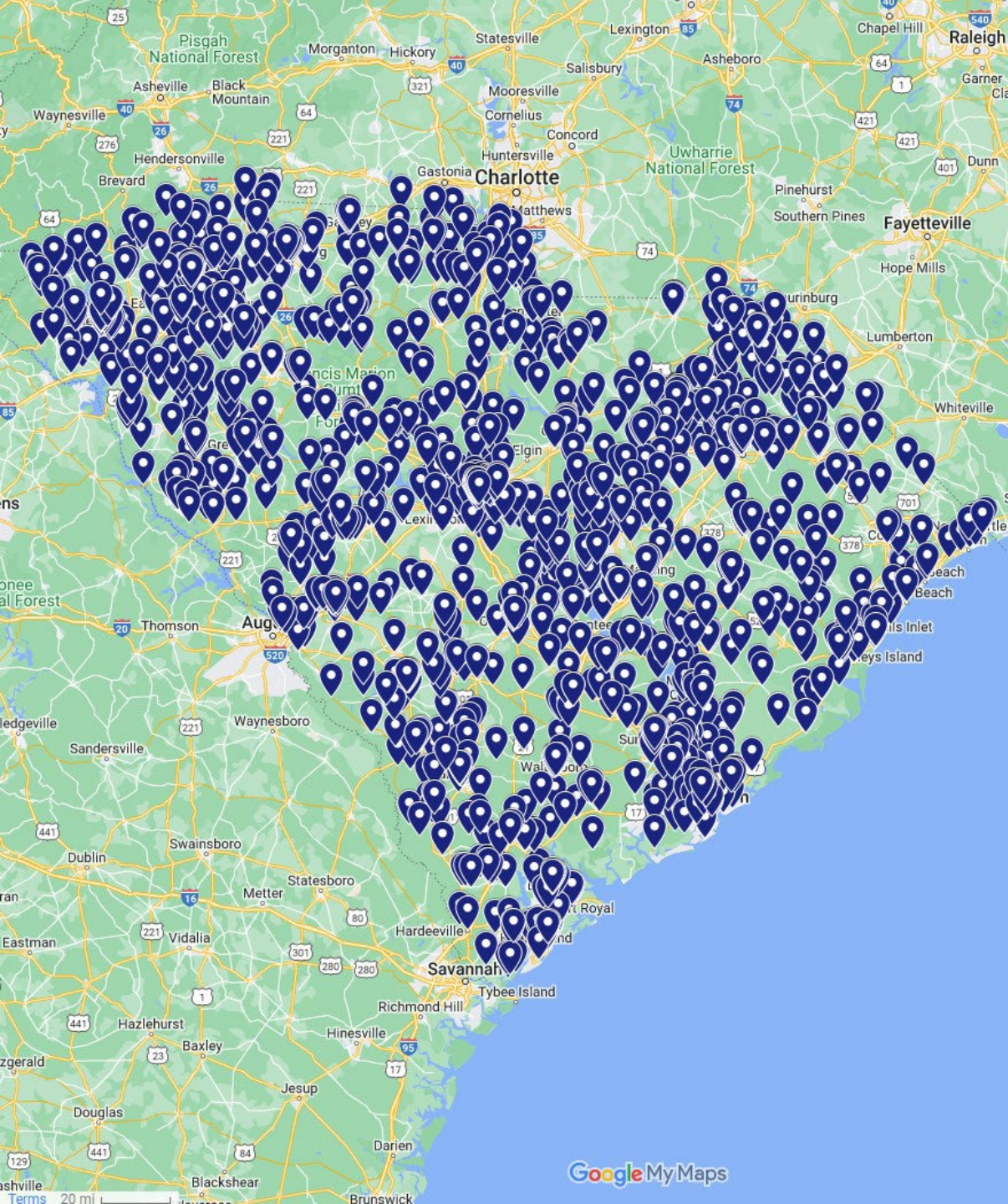


- Variety of topics → part of program's primary value and core aims
- Importance, of all types
- Tone = basic, matter-of-fact



What do state markers "do"?

- Not an official "state historic site"
- No property restrictions, no funding opportunities
- Awareness raising for preservation
- Inclusion in databases, lists, etc.

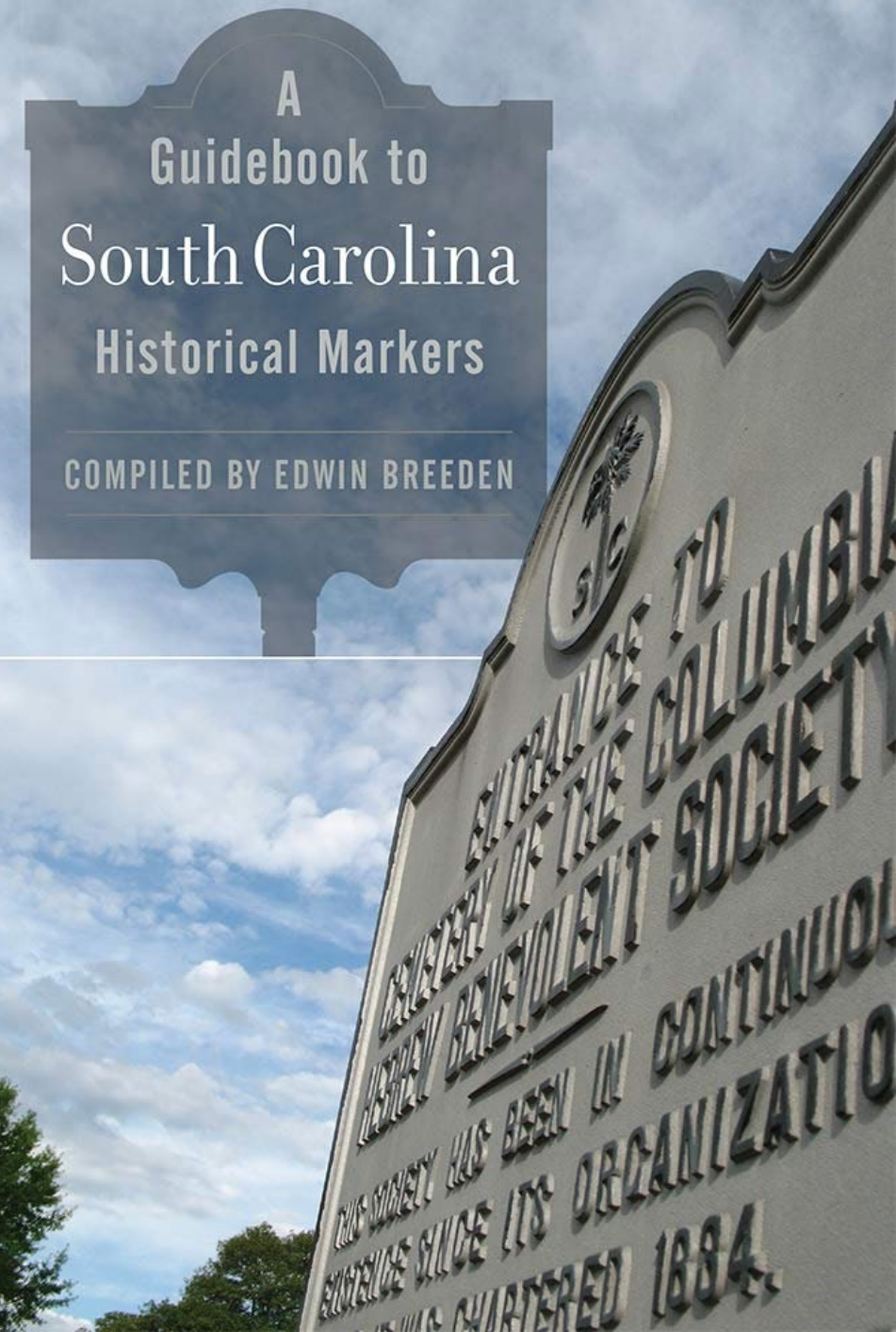


Interactive map of all approved SC Historical Markers

- Filter by select subjects/eras
- Updated three times annually

A Guidebook to South Carolina Historical Markers

- Published 2021 by
University of South Carolina Press
- Includes list of all official state historical
markers (with inscriptions), subject guides,
and introduction to program history and
application process



Questions?

Contact:

Edwin C. Breeden

ebreeden@scdah.sc.gov

803-896-6182

S.C. Historical Marker Program

S.C. Department of Archives and History

8301 Parklane Rd.

Columbia, SC 29223