

How to Find Historical Markers

Resource created by the Rev. Deacon Kay Drebert, serving Christ Episcopal Church in Binghamton and St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Bainbridge, New York.

Ready to learn more about [historical markers](#) in your area?

The most thorough website I have found is the Historical Marker Database: hmdb.org

If you click on “More Search Options” button that is located next to the blue arrow on the right you will be able to search for signs by zip code or chose other options. I find the “Post Office Proximity Search” method to be the most helpful.

If you are interested in the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign you can enter that in the blank next to the word “Search” next to the red arrow. If you already know the name of the sign you can also enter that information.



The search will bring up a list for you to review. You can work on filtering your search or scroll through the list. The first item of interest on my list is the one below. When you click on the name of the sign it will bring up further information. This includes directions, pictures, and other nearby or related markers. I print these out to guide us on our trips.

- 3 ► New York (Broome County), Binghamton — [Freedom Trail](#) — — ① ② ③ ④ ⑤
Fugitive slaves were aided on the Underground Railroad at this site. Dr. S. Hand house & nearby A.M.E. Zion and A.M.E. Bethel Church — [Map](#) (db m101993) HM

Another website that is helpful is Wikipedia’s List of NYS Historic Markers:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_New_York_State_Historic_Markers

I have found that some counties have more complete entries than others. For example, Broome County only has three. I have already discovered far more than that. Very few of the items on these lists include directions. However, they do provide the name of the sign, which you can enter into the search option at hmdb.org.

Another good place to begin your research is at local museums. The Roberson in Binghamton was helpful by providing an overview of the Sullivan-Clinton Campaign. The Chemung Valley Historical

Museum has a guide that pointed us the markers in and around Newtown Battlefield. There are signs on this guide that didn't appear on my other searches:

<https://www.chemungvalleymuseum.org/usr/Suillivan%20Clinton%20Driving%20Guide.pdf>

We have also found background information from local historians, colleges and universities. And of course, once you start talking about your project people will tell you about a sign they know about. Good luck on your quest!