

Mounting and Caring for Your National Register Historic Plaques

Concealed Mount Instructions

Mounting Where There Is No Access to the Back: Your plaque is supplied with four aluminum studs that are 1-3/4 inches long. Screw the studs into the back of the plaque. Determine the position of the plaque and mark the location of the studs onto the mounting surface. Next, mark the holes with a center punch. Use a masonry bit with a diameter ranging from 7/16 inch to 1/2 inch to drill the hole deep enough to accommodate the studs.

Obtain a small quantity of hydraulic cement. This is the generic name for what is commonly referred to as “expanding cement.” Common brands include Ace Brand Hydraulic Cement Quick Set and Thoro Water Plug and sell for less than \$10. There are many others. The clerk at your local hardware store will be happy to help you find the brand it carries. Please note, however, that **it is important to use hydraulic cement so that if you ever need to remove the plaque, you can do so without damaging the wall on which it is mounted.** Follow the instructions to mix the cement and then insert the cement into each hole with a trowel or putty knife. Then mount the plaque onto the surface (hurry—the cement sets up quickly), and hold the plaque in place until the cement hardens. Make sure to wipe the excess cement from the plaque before it dries.

Mounting Where There Is Access from the Back: Use 3/8-inch course thread aluminum bolts in the length required to fit through the material. Drill holes in the back of the plaque. If you need to adjust the length of the bolts, washers can be used. Be careful not to force the bolts into the plaque.

Post Mount Instructions

Note: Installing the sign on a post requires some tools and handy skills. If you are not handy, consult with and/or hire a seasoned handyman.

1. Purchase a 2 1/4-inch-diameter threaded pipe from your hardware or plumbing supply store. Most building owners purchase enough post (usually 6 feet) so that even after you bury it, the sign will be at the correct height (usually about waist high). You’ll need to adjust the post length to fit your situation, but in most cases, two-feet of the post will be underground and four feet will be above ground. We advise you to take the sign with you when purchasing the pipe to ensure that the threads match.
2. Purchase a small bag of ready-mix concrete to set the pipe into. Some people find that placing a coffee can or bucket into the hole before pouring the concrete and setting the pipe, makes the task easier. It may also help if you want to move the sign in the future.
3. Select a site on your property close to the public right of way. Dig a two-foot-wide by two-foot-deep hole.
4. Mix the concrete and pour it into the hole. If using a coffee can or bucket, place the can into the hole and then pour the concrete into it.

5. Set the pipe into the concrete, make sure it is vertically level, and prop it upright with small pieces of lumber glued or screwed temporarily to the pipe.
6. Let the concrete set following package instructions.
7. When the concrete is dry and the post is secure, remove the props, then screw the sign onto the pipe.

Caring for Your Plaque

The plaque is waxed when you receive it. We recommend that you wax your plaque with a good quality carnauba wax twice a year. If the plaque surface becomes dull, you can clean it with a slightly abrasive cleaner. Waxing should follow cleaning.