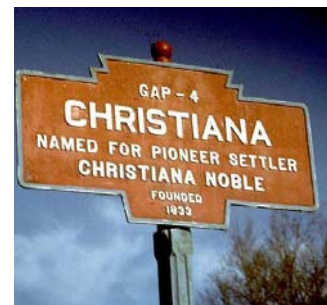




A GOOD SIGN FOR THE FUTURE

The Keystone Marker, with its ornate pole and brilliant blue and gold keystone, once made a monumental statement about many of our Pennsylvania places. Where they survive, they define and reflect a character that is purely local, but perfectly Pennsylvania. From their distinctive shape, which hearkens back to a time when Pennsylvania really was the keystone that kept the growing republic strong, to their cast metal construction emblematic of the Commonwealth's ironclad past, to their brilliant bold blue and gold colors, the markers speak to a pride we once had in our places and ourselves.

The Keystone Marker Trust is dedicated to preserving, interpreting, and re-creating these proud symbols of our past as a way of orienting our Commonwealth—literally and philosophically—toward a better future. Core elements in establishing pride-of-place, the markers are under-utilized tools in engaging young people with what it means to be a Pennsylvanian. Adopting a marker is a very visible, low-cost, high-return means for schools, historical societies, and local governments to teach not only local and state history, but also larger concepts of responsibility, volunteerism, and stewardship and to highlight the good works they are doing in their town. By re-affirming the identity of "home," the markers encourage young people to appreciate our special places and prepare them to re-invest in them in the multiple senses of that word later in life.



Recent treatments of the markers make a less enthusiastic representation at best and, at worst, smack of a sad disinvestment in place. Many markers have been lost; many others are abandoned. Others have had their historic poles discarded or have been moved. New replacements for these markers have, by and large, been unavailable or wholly lacking of the character of the originals. To curb these unfortunate trends, the Keystone Marker Trust was established to raise funds and awareness to:

1. Create new patterns to allow towns, historical societies, etc., to replicate their historical marker signs and poles
 - Most towns had at least 4 historically; rivers, borough lines, creeks, trails, and distances also used keystone markers
 - This will require re-designing the historic poles to meet current PennDOT standards
2. Work with PennDOT to establish a uniform set of principles about what markers can be grandfathered in to current safety standards as well as guidelines for marker care.
3. Create an Adopt-a-Marker Educational tool kit to enable schools to build local and state history programs around a marker
4. Create an interactive on-line database of all current and historic Keystone Markers
5. Create a revolving loan and small grant fund to assist municipalities and interested organizations in replicating and restoring their markers
6. Work with Waymarking groups to integrate the markers into their activities. Will enable geo-coordinates to be correlated to markers.
7. Work with municipalities, historical societies, civic improvement groups, and historic preservation groups to utilize www.keystonemarkertrust.org as a way to highlight their special places and their preservation, community development, educational, or volunteerism initiatives and achievements.

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CELEBRATING PENNSYLVANIA



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