

# MISSISSIPPI FREEDOM TRAIL

## Framework for Marker Applications

**The Scholars Committee for the Mississippi Freedom Trail, in consultation with Visit Mississippi which oversees the trail, has developed the following evaluation criteria for markers:**

The freedom movement is defined as the struggle for Black political rights and equal opportunity, and the fight against legal segregation.

The primary focus of the trail will be on the modern civil rights movement (1945-1970), but can also include markers denoting key events that laid the groundwork for the movement, including expansion of political rights during Reconstruction and eventual retrenchment, and the movement's lasting impact. All events commemorated must have happened at least 30 years ago.

Markers will be assessed using national, statewide, and local significance criteria.

**National:** covered in the national press; influenced the national civil rights movement.

**Statewide:** Is a vital part of the Mississippi civil rights story. Event or person was involved in the statewide movement.

**Local:** Had an impact in a particular community but was not part of the state or national story.

Higher priority will be given to markers of national and statewide significance. Local significance is sufficient to receive a marker if there is strong community support. Local significance markers should tell a broader history of the local movement rather than focusing on a specific individual or event.

Markers on subjects before 1945 or after 1970 must have at least a statewide significance.

Markers will not simply document the atrocities of white supremacy, like lynching, but rather violence that suppressed political and social empowerment or inspired efforts to change the system.