



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT of NATURAL and CULTURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION of HISTORICAL RESOURCES

19 Pillsbury Street CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03301
Phone: 271-3483 Fax: 271-3433

March 5, 2021

The Murray Family
C/o Julie Murray
2119 E. Marshall Street
Richmond, VA 23223

RE: NH Historic Highway Marker Application.

Dear Julie,

It is with regret and a heavy heart that I inform you the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (NHDHR) cannot approve at this time your application for a Historic Highway Marker recognizing the 2004 disappearance of your sister Maura. There is no doubt that this decision was difficult to make based on the subject matter and loss your family has endured over the last 17 years.

The reasons we arrived at our decision are based on program requirements and local community outreach. The program requires that the subject matter being defined by a marker be at least 50 years old. 50 years is a philosophical, nationally recognized period of time that allows historians a broad context to evaluate an event, person, place or story for its historic significance. For example, an old building cannot be considered for recognition on the National Register of Historic Places until it is at least 50 years old. This time frame would also apply to the rise of social media and its place in history.

Aside from the timeframe not being met, the NH Department of Transportation (our partner in the marker program) has indicated that they would not support locating a Marker at or near the proposed location based on the road shape and lack of road width or shoulder.

Along with not meeting basic program and NHDOT requirements, the communities of Haverhill / Woodsville have clearly expressed a desire to

not have a Historic Highway Marker located in town or at the proposed location. Having broad community support may be the most important aspect of the Highway Marker program. The Marker program is not only about celebrating the stories and history of the State of New Hampshire for our citizens and visitors, but is also about an opportunity to bring communities together for a common cause.

For these reasons stated above and to protect the legitimacy of the Highway Marker program, I am again regretful that the NHDHR cannot accommodate your request. If you have questions or concerns regarding the content of this decision, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Most Sincerely,

Benjamin H. Wilson
Director, Div. of Historical Resources
State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc' Christopher T. Sununu, Governor State of New Hampshire
Joseph d. Kenney, NH Executive Council. District 1.
Robert Giuda, NH State Senator. District 2.
Rick Ladd, State Representative. District 4.
David Binford, State Representative. District 15.
Debra L. DeSimone, State Representative. District 14.
Sarah Stewart, Commissioner, NH Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation.
Brigitte Codling, Town Manager, Town of Haverhill.