On April 26, 1937, the first highway historical marker, "State Capitol," was installed and dedicated in Charleston.

CSO: ELA.8.22

Investigate the Document: (State Papers and Public Addresses, Gov. Homer Holt, 1937-41; Charleston Gazette, April 27, 1937)

1. You have been commissioned by West Virginia Archives and History to create the text for a significant event or person from your home county. Use your own words to accurately write the inscription for a historical highway marker. (50-75 words)
STATE PAPERS
AND
PUBLIC ADDRESSES

HOMER ADAMS HOLT
Twentieth Governor of West Virginia
January 18, 1937 to January 13, 1941

Compiled and Annotated by WILLIAM E. HUGHES
REMARKS ACCEPTING WEST VIRGINIA'S FIRST HISTORICAL MARKER

CHARLESTON

APRIL 26, 1937

Mr. McCallough, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:

It is fitting and proper that this preserved space on the site of West Virginia's Capitol Building where first permanently established in Charleston should be selected to receive the State's first historical marker.

It is but a short distance from this point to the present magnificent structure that houses the divisions of the State government, but there is broad space for comparison between the new capital and the building wherein worked those comparatively early statesmen.

This, too, is as it should be. West Virginia has grown and progressed to a place of prominence in the sisterhood of states. Its industries have become an important factor in supplying the needs of the nation and of the world.

New industries have sprung up in all sections of the State, and the old industries have grown with amazing rapidity. The increase in manufacturing alone—particularly in this Kanawha Valley—is something that never fails to bring comment from visitors to the State.

I have no figures for the manufacturing in 1885, but the census of five years later—1890—shows only 20,329 persons employed in West Virginia industry, exclusive of mining and farming. Most of these were in manufacturing and lumber.

In 1936, according to the State Department of Labor, this figure had risen to 180,885.

In 1885, the mines of West Virginia produced only 3,367,062 tons of coal. In 1936, West Virginia stood as the leading bituminous coal producing state in the nation with an output of 117,607,452 tons. These early mines employed but few of our citizens. There are no figures for 1885, but in 1900, at the beginning of the present century, the total employed in our coal mines was only 28,017 men. The 1936 total was 111,408.

Farming was the principal industry of early West Virginia, but it

W. Wither McCallough, at that time director of the West Virginia office of the Works Progress Administration.
First Historical Marker, on Old Capitol Site, Presented to State
Four of the speakers who took part Monday afternoon in ceremonies marking the setting of the first historical highway marker in West Virginia are shown above. Left to right, Governor Holt, who accepted the first marker; Roy Bird Cook, Charleston druggist and state historical authority, member of a commission appointed to supervise the program; Burr H. Simpson, state road commissioner, who will have charge of setting the remaining markers throughout the state; and F. Witcher McCullough, state WPA administrator.