National Votes for Women Trail: National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites

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Goal: To create an online database and erect 250 markers for women's suffrage sites reflecting the diversity of the suffrage movement

• across place;
• across cultures, races/ethnicities, classes, genders;
• over time.
Diversity across place

- Urban, rural, village;
- North-South;
- Puerto Rico to Hawaii,
- Florida to Alaska.
Diversity across races/ethnicities, classes, genders, cultures

- European American, African American, Native American, Asian American
- Middle, upper, working classes
- Various religious groups
Diversity over time:
Precursors before 1848

Margaret Brent, Maryland, 1648
Diversity over time: Organized Movement, 1848-1920

Seneca Falls to Nineteenth Amendment
“The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.”

Nineteenth Amendment, 1920
Post-1920: States could still deny suffrage for reasons other than sex.

- **African Americans.** Southern states implemented legal and social restrictions on voting for people of color, women and men.
- **Native Americans.** Indian Citizenship Act granted citizenship in 1924, but states could deny voting rights until 1947.
- **Asian Americans.** McCarran-Walter Act granted Asian immigrants the right to become citizens in 1952.
- **Voting Rights Act, 1965.** gave federal protection for voting rights for people of color.
- **Shelby v. Holder, 2013.** Supreme Court gutted Voting Rights Act.
Methods

• Crowd-sourcing: any interested person can suggest women’s suffrage sites to be added to the database

• Use Google survey: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdY5NXPB4uUmsDhwX6DemhzVSn7TLjyMUj0gVHn_Jxji3nRA/viewform?usp=sf_link.

• Organized by state coordinators,

• Reviewed by National Advisory Committee
Results

• Database: almost 1000 sites already listed: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1oQeqMKrNYk0DYK1p0ZV0QhAgOMiC8vDdfRuleVw4/edit#gid=1292213976.

• Historic Markers: William G. Pomeroy Foundation will fund 250 markers across the country

  • https://vimeo.com/291130697/f71c03b0e1
How you can help

• Identify women’s suffrage sites in your area.
• Add to database through Google survey.
• Volunteer to be a state/territorial coordinator.
• Publicize this project through your organizations.
• Work with State Historic Preservation Offices to list some of these sites on the National Register.
• Develop interpretive programs: exhibits, tours, talks, etc.!
For more information

• National Collaborative for Women’s History Sites: [www.ncwhs.org](http://www.ncwhs.org)

• Marsha Weinstein, President, NCWHS, [mweinst413@gmail.com](mailto:mweinst413@gmail.com).

• Nancy Brown, Chair, NVWT, [nbrown@gesdk12.org](mailto:nbrown@gesdk12.org).

• Judith Wellman, Chair, Advisory Committee, [historicalnewyork@me.com](mailto:historicalnewyork@me.com)
Joanne Goodwin, University of Nevada, Las Vegas: Nevada’s experience in finding and marking suffrage sites

Liz Almlie, State Historic Preservation Office, South Dakota: South Dakota Suffrage and SHPO