

State Entry Sign's Winning Design

The current Type I Minnesota state entry sign was developed through a student design competition at the University of Minnesota in 1996. The winning design for the entry sign emphasizes Minnesota's distinctive shape and the outstanding natural regions of the state.

Design Influence

The design shows the state divided into three sections, representing Minnesota's three predominant biomes: coniferous forests of the northeast, deciduous forests across the center of the state and the prairies of the south and west. The deciduous forest midsection is striped, symbolically representing the unique landscape of the Mississippi River. The Mississippi is the largest river in North America, with headwaters in northern Minnesota and water flowing across much of the state.



Type I Entry Sign



Winning Design For Type I Entry Sign



Type III Entry Sign

A Family of Signs

The theme from the winning design is repeated to create a "family" of signs scaled to the traffic volume of the various entry roads. Type III signs are metal panels supported by a metal frame. Similar to the Type I design, they incorporate a schematic outline of the state, the stylized rendering of the three regions and the same font for the word "Minnesota". These signs use a blue background chosen to symbolically represent Minnesota, "Land of 10,000 Lakes".

History Preserved

In order to respect and preserve Minnesota's roadside heritage, all the remaining historic state entry markers were restored between 1997 and 1999. New markers replicating the historic style have been erected at state entry points along several mid-level traffic volume routes. These historic and historic-style stone and wood markers are classified as Type II entry signs. The color schemes on the Type II wood panels have been slightly revised from the original signs in order to improve visibility for the motorist.



Type II Entry Sign