

World's Largest Buffalo Monument

Dakota Thunder, the World's Largest Buffalo Monument, has been standing watch over Jamestown, ND since 1959. Dakota Thunder was recently named at the 50th birthday celebration of the monument.

In the late 1950s, the new Interstate highway was making its way across North Dakota. Harold Newman, local businessman and Chamber of Commerce President, decided that Jamestown needed a man-made attraction to draw tourists off the new road and into Jamestown.

Drawing inspiration from the statue of Paul Bunyan and Babe the Blue Ox in Bemidji, MN, and the thousands of travelers it drew, Newman met with a committee to decide just what form this man-made attraction should take. After much debate, the committee chose the buffalo to commemorate



1959



1960



DISCOVER
JAMESTOWN
NORTH DAKOTA

Jamestown, ND

the vast herds that once roamed the prairies. Jamestown College Art Professor and Sculptor, Elmer Peterson, was commissioned to complete the project.

Engineering for the project started in April of 1959 and was completed in October. Cost for the project totaled \$8,500. Presidential candidate/ New York Governor Nelson Rockefeller and North Dakota Governor John Davis were present at the official dedication of the World's Largest Buffalo Monument in 1960.

In 2007, the Hampton Inn Save-A-Landmark program helped to refurbish and repaint the World's Largest Buffalo Monument. The original sculptor, Elmer Peterson, was also involved in this refurbishment.

In 2010, just in time for the 50th birthday celebration, the Name That Buffalo contest was launched. Over 3,500 names were entered from 35 states and 7 foreign countries. The public voted and on July 24th 2010, Dakota Thunder, the World's Largest Buffalo, received his name.

Dakota Thunder can be viewed free of charge year-round at the Frontier Village, located at the end of 17th St SE in Jamestown, ND. Check for hours.



Dimensions

- Height: 26 Feet
- Width: 14 Feet
- Length: 46 Feet
- Weight: 60 Tons

Materials Used

- 8 Inch Steel Beaming
- 3/8 Inch Reinforcing Rod
- 1/4 Inch Wire Mesh
- 3 Inch Gunite (Sprayed Cement)

