



## HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION (HSMC)

Application for Historical Markers, Monuments, and Public Art

HSMC reviews all historical markers, monuments, and public art on public property and all markers visible from the public right-of-way on private property within all local historic districts. Applications must be complete before the HSMC can begin the review process. Submit this application form and all supplemental documentation as required in the "Instructions: Submittal Criteria Checklist" with one hard copy and in PDF electronic format. Electronic files can be emailed (10mb limit) or submitted with the application on a disc.

File No.: \_\_\_\_\_ (staff only)

### Applicant Contact Information:

Name: Sandy Battise representing the "Crusader Club"  
Address: 81 Coffee Bluff Road Villa Road  
City: Savannah State: Georgia Zip: 31409  
Phone: (512) 923-6782 E-Mail Address: SBATTISE@gmail.com

### Property Owner Contact Information and Consent (Complete only if the marker will be on private property):

Name: City of Savannah  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Official Correspondence: ☒ Applicant ☐ Owner ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (Check all that apply)

### Property Information for Proposed Marker: (PIN information can be found at [www.sagis.org](http://www.sagis.org).)

☒ Public Property ☐ Private Property PIN (Property Identification Number): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: ① 745 White Bluff Ave ② 367 Coffee Bluff Villa Road  
③ 616 Rose Dhu Road ④ W Back Street 2-0770-01-0052

### Scope of Work: (Check all that apply.)

HISTORICAL MARKER:	MONUMENT:
<input type="checkbox"/> Freestanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Person
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall-Mounted	<input type="checkbox"/> Place
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground-Embedded	<input type="checkbox"/> Event
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	<input type="checkbox"/> Other
<b>PUBLIC ART (commissioned or existing work):</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Mural	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other	

**Project Description:** Describe the proposed project and scope of work in detail. Additional pages may be attached. Submit all supplemental documentation as required in the separate "Instructions: Submittal Criteria Checklist."

These four markers will help preserve the cultural identity of the African-Americans that settled in the Coffee Bluff/White Bluff area. This community thrived on fishing + agriculture and these markers help identify four important cultural location where this took place.

Questions: Email the Preservation Department at [historic@thempc.org](mailto:historic@thempc.org) or call 912-651-1440.

Email, Hand Deliver or Mail Applications: MPC, Historic Preservation Department, 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401

**2018 Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting Schedule:**

<b>Application Deadline</b> (Due by Close of Business: 5pm)	<b>Meeting Date</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> December 7, 2017	January 4, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> January 4, 2018	February 1, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> February 1, 2018	March 1, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> March 1, 2018	April 5, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> April 5, 2018	May 3, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> May 3, 2018	June 7, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> June 7, 2018	July 5, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> July 5, 2018	August 2, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> August 2, 2018	September 6, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> September 6, 2018	October 4, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> October 4, 2018	November 1, 2018
<input type="checkbox"/> November 1, 2018	December 6, 2018

**Estimated Cost of the Proposed Work:** \$ 2,000

**Filing Fee Schedule:**

No filing fee is required for HSMC review.

**Public Notice for Historic Site and Monument Commission Meetings:**

The applicant is responsible for posting the Board Meeting signs provided by the MPC fifteen (15) days prior to the HSMC Meeting. Refer to *Chapter 9 of the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines for the City of Savannah* for additional posting requirements.

**Signature of Legal Owner or Authorized Agent:**

I have read and understand all the information enclosed in this application form. I understand that an Escrow Payment is required for any historical marker erected on public property. I hereby certify that I am the legal owner or authorized agent for the legal owner of the subject property.

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

Questions: Email the Preservation Department at [historic@thempc.org](mailto:historic@thempc.org) or call 912-651-1440.

Email, Hand Deliver or Mail Applications: MPC, Historic Preservation Department, 110 East State Street, Savannah, GA 31401



**Briefing Document for White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Cultural Marker Request**  
**Prepared by Sandy Battise, Historian for Crusader Club**  
**December 12, 2018**

**About Crusader Club:** The organization was established in 1954 to provide recreational services for youth and seniors in the community. The mission is to enhance the quality of life for residents in the White Bluff/Coffee Bluff area. Our vision includes preserving our cultural identity for future generations to know the legacy from freed slaves settling in this community.

**Purpose of markers:** The purpose of this document is to provide more insight on the importance of the public waterways for preserving the cultural identity of African-Americans settling in the White Bluff/Coffee Bluff community. This application is the first step in preserving the cultural identity of this community. The goal of these markers is to tell the story and enhance interest in preserving the rich history in this community as it relates to the waterways. The three components for understanding the Gullah/Geechee culture in White Bluff are: waterways, food, and spirituality. In this document we will reference White Bluff as the settlement since Coffee Bluff was considered part of the White Bluff Community as referenced in the book, [Drums and Shadows](#).

The resource referenced in this document provides more insight into the connection of waterways to freed slaves settling in Gullah Geechee communities like White Bluff. The report is entitled ***Low Country Gullah Geechee Culture***. Here's a link to this report: [https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ab25ce\\_e88bcc2a4da94185b28bedbbbb7dc544.pdf](https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/ab25ce_e88bcc2a4da94185b28bedbbbb7dc544.pdf)

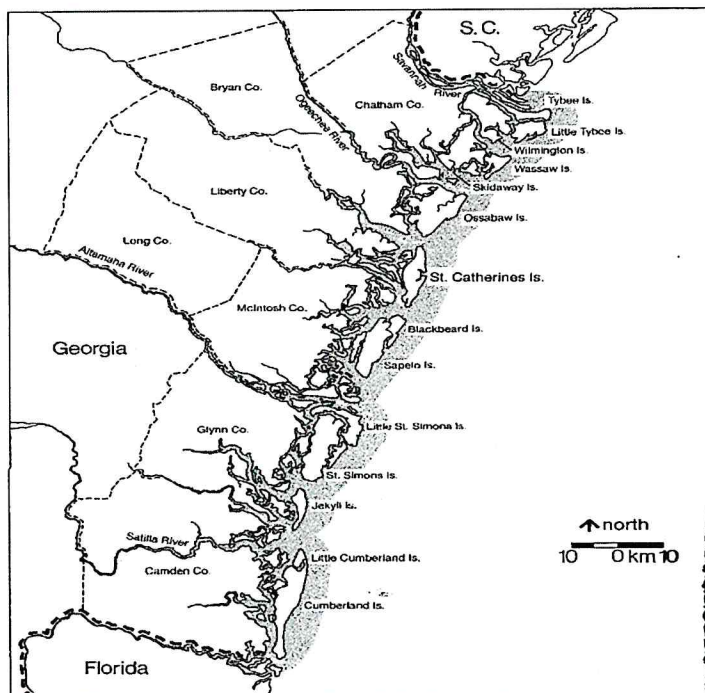
**Background Info about White Bluff**

The close proximity of St. Catherines Island, Ossabaw Island, and Sapelo Island (see Exhibits 1 and 2) was important to the intermingling of slaves and the eventual settlement in White Bluff/Coffee Bluff. They used their skills with fishing, shellfish, and agriculture in this new community. A major focus was on purchasing land.

The resource document, *Low County Gullah Geechee Culture*, provides more insight about African-Americans serving on these waterways as guides, oarsmen, and fishermen for three centuries (page D44). This resource guide provides information on how the isolation of the islands and then the isolated settlement of White Bluff/Coffee Bluff helped to preserve the culture now referred to as Gullah/Geechee. Most of the history about waterways in White Bluff is oral history.



This picture is from the waterway site located at 745 White Bluff Avenue. If you look closely you can see the oyster shells. The women in the community would go to this location to shuck oysters. You can feel the oyster shells when you walk this pathway down to the marsh. The residents of this community would use these locations to access fishing, crabbing, and oystering.



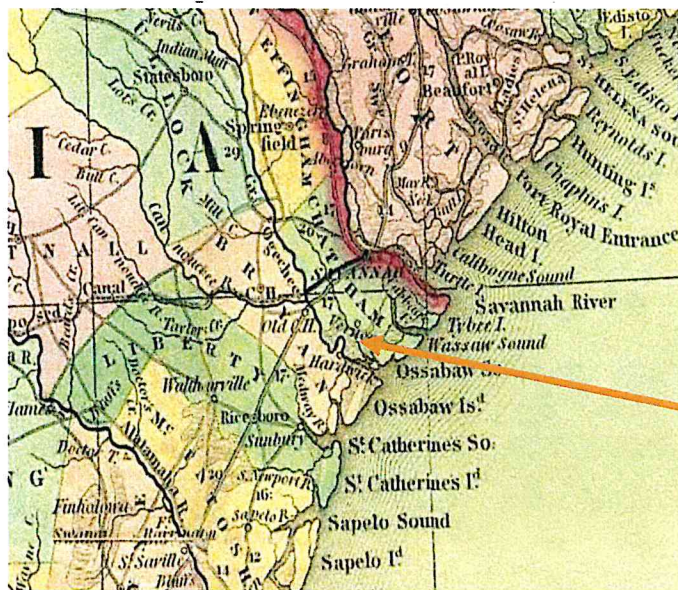
### EXHIBIT 1

Ossabaw Island approximately 20 miles south of White Bluff

St. Catherines Island approximately 24.8 miles to White Bluff

Sapelo Island approximately 42 miles

Note: Inhabitants of the islands communicated information as they moved back and forth from island to island.



Chatham County, 1834

### EXHIBIT 2

Note: Close proximity by water to Vernon River and Ogeechee River, location of White Bluff settlement.



**HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION**  
**APPLICATION FOR HISTORICAL MARKER**  
Coffee Bluff/ White Bluff Cultural Markers

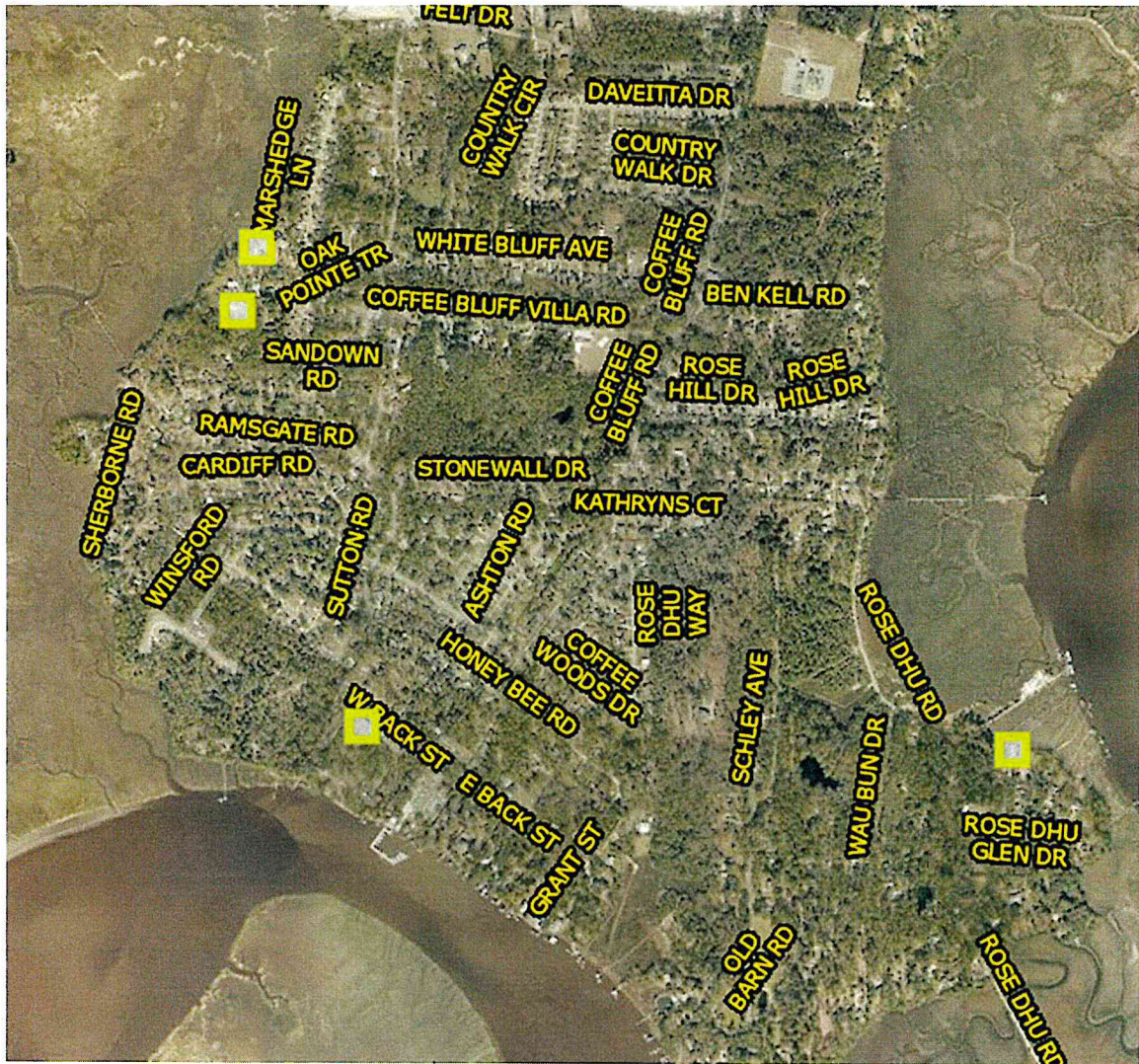
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- a. Provide a completed application form.

**Attached**

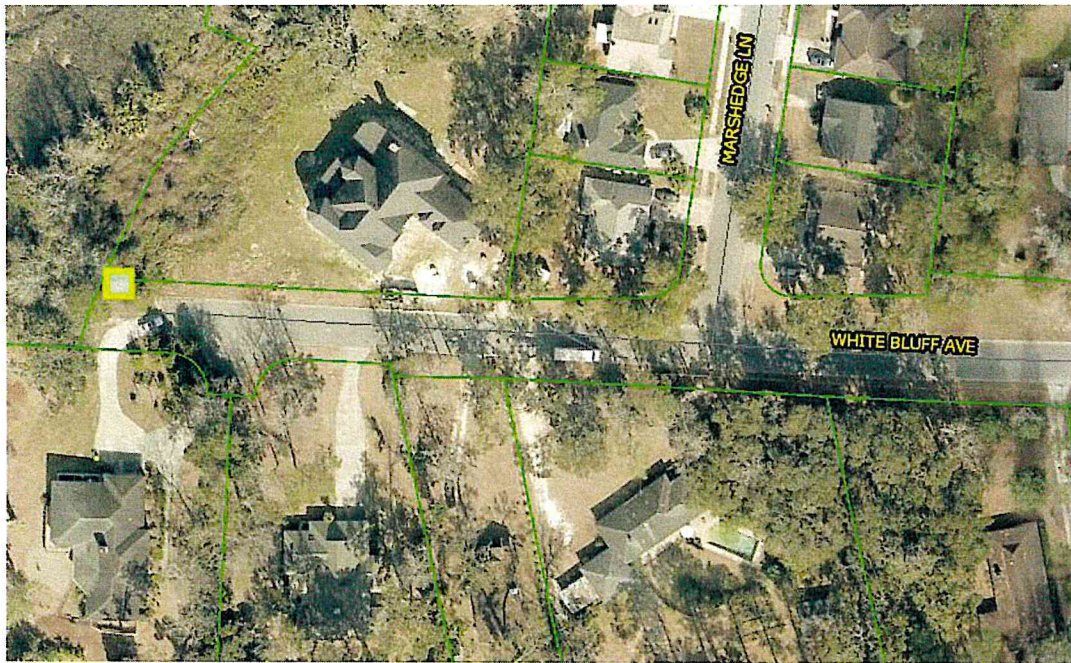
- b. Provide color photographs and a map of the proposed marker location.

**All four locations**





**Location 1- Adjacent to 745 White Bluff Ave**





Location 2- 367 Coffee Bluff Villa Road



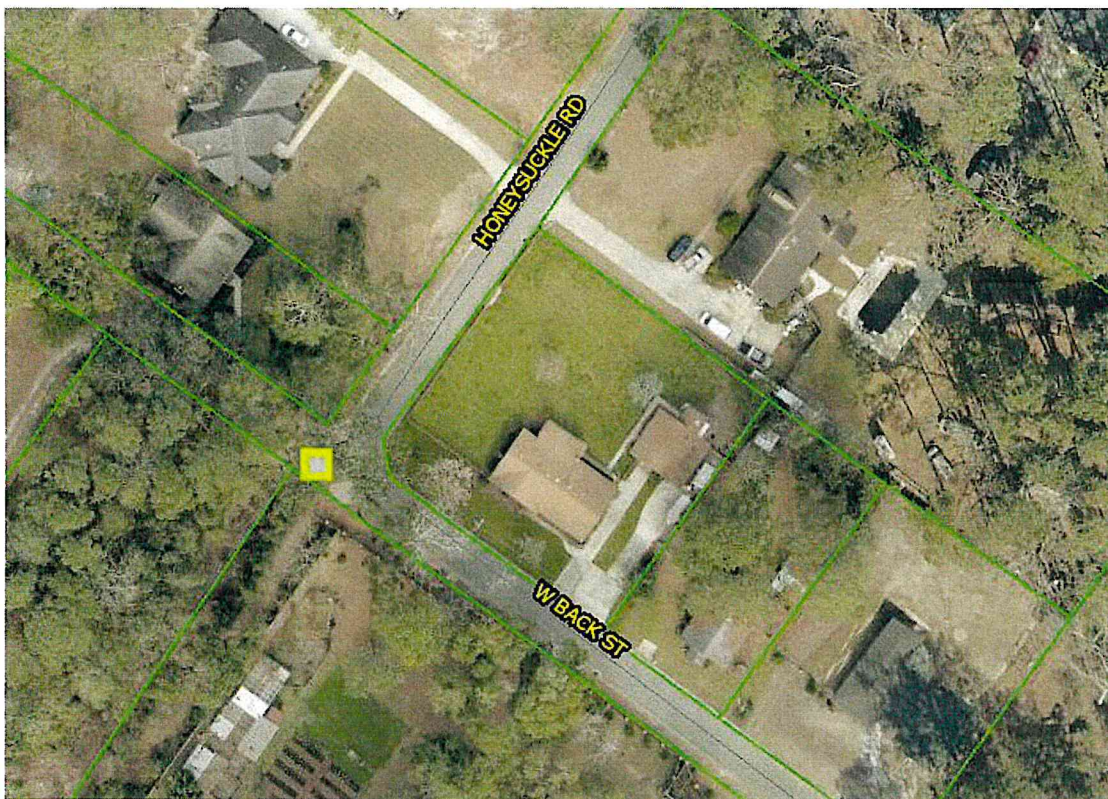


**Location 3- 616 Rose Dhu Road**





#### Location 4- West Back Road





c. Provide the theme for the marker. Markers commemorate people, places, and/or events. The marker should embody one or more of the following themes. For each theme selected, provide a statement explaining how the subject is significant in respect to the history of Chatham County or Savannah; stress the historical importance of the theme:

- Industry and Commerce (including economics, agriculture, transportation, etc.)

**These four sites were access points for the African American population to fish. All fish would then be walked or drawn by horse to Savannah's City Market to be sold.**

- Local History (folklore and/or local heroes)

**These sites help reflect the local history of these neighborhood and its people.**

- Cultural and Ethnic Heritage

**The Coffee Bluff/White Bluff community has a significant history of how freed slaves assimilated to the community and local economy. There is important Gullah presence in this area's history including families from St. Catherine Island, Sapelo Island, and Ossabaw Island.**



- c. Provide a drawing of the marker indicating the shape, size, material, color, and text placement. For temporary markers, provide a plan for removal or replacement of the marker at the end of the temporary period.

Marker will be 4.5 feet from ground. The marker sign face will be 2.5 feet tall and 3.5 feet wide. Sign will be erected on wood treated posts with tamper resistant hardware. Sign will be green with gold lettering. Text will be placed in center of sign.

**Don't Sign Signs** **QUICKQUOTE** Pricey estimate and response for a better one. PROJ CODE **Crusad112018DB03**

THIS FORM IS THE PROPERTY OF DON'T SIGN SIGNS. IT IS TO BE USED ONLY FOR THE PURPOSES OF OBTAINING A QUOTE. IT IS NOT TO BE REPRODUCED OR USED FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE. PLEASE REFER TO THIS NUMBER WITH / IN ALL CORRESPONDENCE. THANK YOU!

11/20/18  
Sandy Battise  
Crusader Club  
sbattise@gmail.com

*PLEASE PARDON MY TERRIBLE & INFORMALITY (I CAN'T TYPE!)*  
*Thanks very much for this opportunity!*

*Hi Sandy- very sorry for the delay... hope we can still help! ~~as~~*

*Thank you!*

**WHITE BLUFF COFFEE BLUFF**  
**CRUSADERS**

THIS SIGNPOST IS TO BE PLACED IN THE  
CENTER OF THE ROAD AT THE INTERSECTION OF  
THE ROAD AND THE ROAD TO THE  
CRUSADER CLUB. THE SIGNPOST IS TO BE  
MADE OF 2" X 3" X 8" ALUMINUM. THE  
SIGNPOST IS TO BE MOUNTED ON TWO  
4" X 4" X 8" PAST TREATED WOOD POSTS (2)  
WITH TAMPER RESISTANT HARDWARE.

**④ 2"X3"X8" ALUMINUM 9F SIGN'S**  
**WITH 4"X4"X8" PAST TREATED WOOD POSTS (2)**  
**MOUNTED WITH TAMPER RESISTANT HARDWARE**

**\$325.00 (MATERIALS)** **ADD FOR INSTALL \$115.00**

**3 Weeks**

**BUY IT NOW:** **FULL PAYMENT IN ADVANCE REQD** **50% DEPOSIT REQUIRED FOR ALL JOBS OVER \$500.**

**Charge the** ☐ **Deposit** ☐ **Total to my:** ☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC ☐ **DATE OF COMPLETION**

☐ I'll send a check ☐ I'll call with a credit card info ☐ Use the credit card to pay the balance due upon completion

☐ I'll send a check ☐ I'll call with a credit card info ☐ Use the credit card to pay the balance due upon completion

**PLEASE NOTE: A 3% fee will be added for credit card processing, etc. Thank you!**

**Don't Sign**



- d. Provide a title and the exact text for the marker. Indicate the text size and font style. Should quotations be a part of the proposed text, include a written permission letter from the appropriate authority. Include footnotes and a bibliography. Ensure that primary resources are utilized and documented when possible. County histories should not be relied upon solely as sources of information and should be considered secondary sources. Final wording of the text will rest with the HSMC.

**Title of marker: White Bluff/Coffee Bluff Cultural Marker**

**The descendants of freed slaves in this community placed this marker to preserve the cultural identity of African-Americans settling in this community known as White Bluff/Coffee Bluff (circa 1827). This community thrived on fishing and agriculture to feed families and provide resources to sell at the city's market. These families came from St. Catherine Island, Sapelo Island, and Ossabaw Island.**

- g. Provide a cost estimate that includes the marker fabrication and installation.

**\$2,000**

- h. Provide a statement indicating the amount of funds currently secured. If complete funding has not been secured, indicate the plan to secure the remainder of the funds. The applicant/owner is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, and lighting required as The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new historical markers.

**Complete fund is secured by Alderman Tony Thomas**

- i. Provide a statement of understanding that an Escrow Payment is required for any historical marker erected on public property and that the monument becomes the property of The Mayor and Aldermen who become responsible for all future maintenance of the marker. An initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant/owner prior to construction and installation; The Mayor and Aldermen will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant/owner.

**Understood. City of Savannah is partner in this project.**