



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT
COMMISSION
HISTORICAL MARKER DECISION**

PETITIONER: CHATHAM ARTILLERY, Benjamin Hill
122 Greenbriar Drive
Savannah, GA 31419

FILE No.: 20-005743-HM

LOCATION: EMMETT PARK, East Bay Street

DATE: January 7, 2021.

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The petitioner is requesting a recommendation of approval to the Savannah City Council to add a 30.5" x 56.5" granite ground slab to the existing Chatham Artillery Monument to commemorate and honor the service of the men and women assigned to the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, Savannah, Georgia Army National Guard for their service in Afghanistan, 2018-2019.

The tablet is to be laid on the east side of the Chatham Artillery Monument. The east side of the monument includes vegetation planted and upkept by the City of Savannah; this vegetation is proposed to be removed to install the tablet.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

Evaluating Themes for Markers and Monuments. New markers and monuments commemorate and honor people, places, and/or events.

Proposed themes should fall into one or more of the following categories.

Military History. Includes people, places, or events.

The proposed theme should have documented significant, clear and direct local relevance to the history and development of Chatham County. The local focus should be the predominant theme of the monument.

The level of significance should be high enough to warrant a public presence.

The person, place or event commemorated should not have been sufficiently commemorated elsewhere in the County. The theme should be distinct and original, and not be duplicated in other existing markers or monuments.

The theme should reflect a larger connection to the community as a whole, and not only to one distinct group.

Commemorated events should have enduring historical significance and have occurred over fifty years ago.

Commemorated persons should have enduring historical significance and have been dead at least twenty-five years. Living persons should not be commemorated.

Board Decision - Petition of Chatham Artillery
Address: Emmet Park
File No. 20-005743-HM
Date January 7, 2021
Page 2

There should be significant documented evidence (written or oral) of the commemorated event, person, or place.

The theme of the proposed tablet is Military History. There is a direct local focus. Although the commemorated events occurred less than fifty years ago and the commemorated persons have not been dead for over twenty-five years, the tablet is in keeping with the existing tablets commemorating recent military events and is of an appropriate theme for the existing monument.

Evaluating Sites for Markers, Monuments, or Public Art. *Certain factors should be taken into consideration when evaluating whether a site is the appropriate location for a marker, monument or public art [hereto referred to as "object" to indicate the inclusion of all three types]. These factors include:*

The installation of an object should not cause overcrowding of the site, if there are existing objects. Objects should be sited far enough away from other objects as to allow the visitor proper appreciation of each individually.

The proposed object should not damage or disturb existing established vegetation on the site including low tree limbs, or significant tree roots.

The proposed object should not require the removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.

The proposed site should be large enough to accommodate an object, and should not encroach on other existing object sites, buildings, or designated green space.

The proposed site should not be utilized for special events (such as sports, festivals, ceremonies, etc) on a regular basis which an object would disrupt.

The proposed site should not be prone to frequent automobile accidents which could damage the proposed object.

The proposed site should be easily accessible to pedestrians and the physically challenged (excluding marker sites).

The proposed site should be visible and accessible from a public right of way.

The proposed site should have adequate parking nearby (excluding marker sites).

The proposed site should not have a high probability of significant archaeology unless an archaeological study is part of the proposal.

The proposed site should be easy to maintain.

The installation of the object should enhance the space and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The installation of the object should not require the alteration or removal of existing signage (traffic, street, etc).

The installation of the object should not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines.

The installation of the object should enhance the design of the overall site.

The installation of the object should not require the removal or alteration of existing sidewalks, unless it is part of a comprehensive redesign for the entire site (which is generally discouraged).

If periodic memorial services are likely, the site should be able to accommodate them without causing undue disruption to the neighborhood, plantings, etc.

Board Decision - Petition of Chatham Artillery
Address: Emmet Park
File No. 20-005743-HM
Date January 7, 2021
Page 3

The installation of the tablet will not cause overcrowding of the site. Existing vegetation is proposed to be removed; however, this vegetation was planted by the City of Savannah and seemingly does not include the removal of low tree limbs or significant tree roots. All other site requirements are met.

Site in Relation to Theme for Markers or Monuments. *The relationship between site and theme for a marker or monument is critical in determining the appropriate site for a particular theme.*

Marker. *A marker should be erected in as close proximity to the site to which it is related as possible and be clearly visible from a public right-of-way.*

Markers commemorating an event should be sited within 100 feet of the event site or adjacent to the nearest public right-of-way.

Markers commemorating a person should be sited where that person was born, lived, died, or performed some act of enduring significance or adjacent to the nearest public right-of-way.

A marker commemorating a place, such as a significant piece of architecture, should be located within 100 feet of the place or adjacent to the nearest public right-of-way.

The theme of the proposed tablet is adding to the theme of the existing monument and is appropriate.

Design. *The design of a marker, monument, or public work of art should be of the highest quality and caliber, and enhance public space. In order to promote the high standards the City of Savannah has historically enjoyed in its markers, monuments, and public art, the following guidelines should be observed.*

Markers. *Markers may be mounted on a freestanding pole, wall-mounted, or embedded in the ground. As the primary purpose is to inform the public about an event, place or person, the aesthetic significance of a marker is generally minimal.*

Except the marker title, the marker text should be not more than 1" in height, and not less than 1/2".

Marker text should be created in a manner that, to the extent possible, prevents fading and erosion.

Markers should be made of an enduring, non-corroding material.

Markers should be considered permanent and designed accordingly.

The proposed tablet meets the design requirements and is to match the design of the existing tablets which have been installed at the monument in the past.

Funding.

Budget. *The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new markers, monuments, or works of art. The applicant is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, or lighting involved with a new marker, monument, or work of art.*

Board Decision - Petition of Chatham Artillery

Address: Emmet Park

File No. 20-005743-HM

Date January 7, 2021

Page 4

The applicant must provide a realistic budget in Part II Final Design and Funding. The budget should be based on cost estimates provided by the manufacturer, artist, installer and/or contractor, as appropriate. The budget should include funding goals and deadlines. Should funding goals and deadlines fail to be met, the HSMC may, at its sole discretion, reconsider the application. The applicant must be capable of raising the necessary funding. Construction of the monument or installation of the work of art will not begin until all of the funding has been secured.

Escrow Payment. *All markers, monuments and public art erected on public property become the property of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Aldermen assume responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the marker, monument or artwork. Therefore, an initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant subsequent to approval of the application. The Mayor and Aldermen, or their designee, will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant. The Escrow Payment must be paid prior to construction/installation of the monument or public art. Any marker, monument or artwork erected on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.*

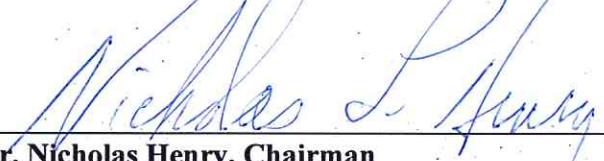
The funding and escrow payment information was not clearly established in the submittal and will need to be determined prior to a recommendation of approval to the Savannah City Council.

Board Decision - Petition of Chatham Artillery
Address: Emmet Park
File No. 20-005743-HM
Date January 7, 2021
Page 5

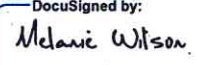
BOARD DECISION:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission does hereby recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for the addition of a 30.5" x 56.5" granite ground slab to the existing Chatham Artillery Monument to commemorate and honor the service of the men and women assigned to the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery Regiment, Savannah, Georgia Army National Guard for their service in Afghanistan, 2018-2019, with the following condition, because otherwise the petition meets the guidelines set forth within the HSMC Masterplan and Guidelines.

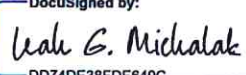
1. Ensure that the funding and escrow payment requirements are met.



Dr. Nicholas Henry, Chairman 1-7-2021
Historic Site and Monument Commission Date

DocuSigned by:


Melanie Wilson, Executive Director 1-7-2021
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission Date

DocuSigned by:


Leah G. Michalak, Director of Historic Preservation 1-7-2021
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission Date

LGM: raj