



# 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; markers, monuments, and public art visible from the public right-of-way on private property within all local historic districts; murals visible from the public right-of-way. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

<b>HISTORICAL MARKER:</b>	<b>MONUMENT:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Freestanding	<input type="checkbox"/> Person
<input type="checkbox"/> Wall-Mounted	<input type="checkbox"/> Place
<input 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."

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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

**2020 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 5, 2019	January 2
<input type="checkbox"/> January 9	February 6
<input type="checkbox"/> February 6	March 5
<input type="checkbox"/> March 5	April 2
<input type="checkbox"/> April 2	May 7
<input type="checkbox"/> May 7	June 4
<input type="checkbox"/> June 4	July 2
<input type="checkbox"/> July 9	August 6
<input type="checkbox"/> August 6	September 3
<input type="checkbox"/> September 3	October 1
<input type="checkbox"/> October 8	November 5
<input type="checkbox"/> November 5	December 3
<input type="checkbox"/> December 3	TBD

**Estimated Cost of the Proposed Work:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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: \_\_\_\_\_

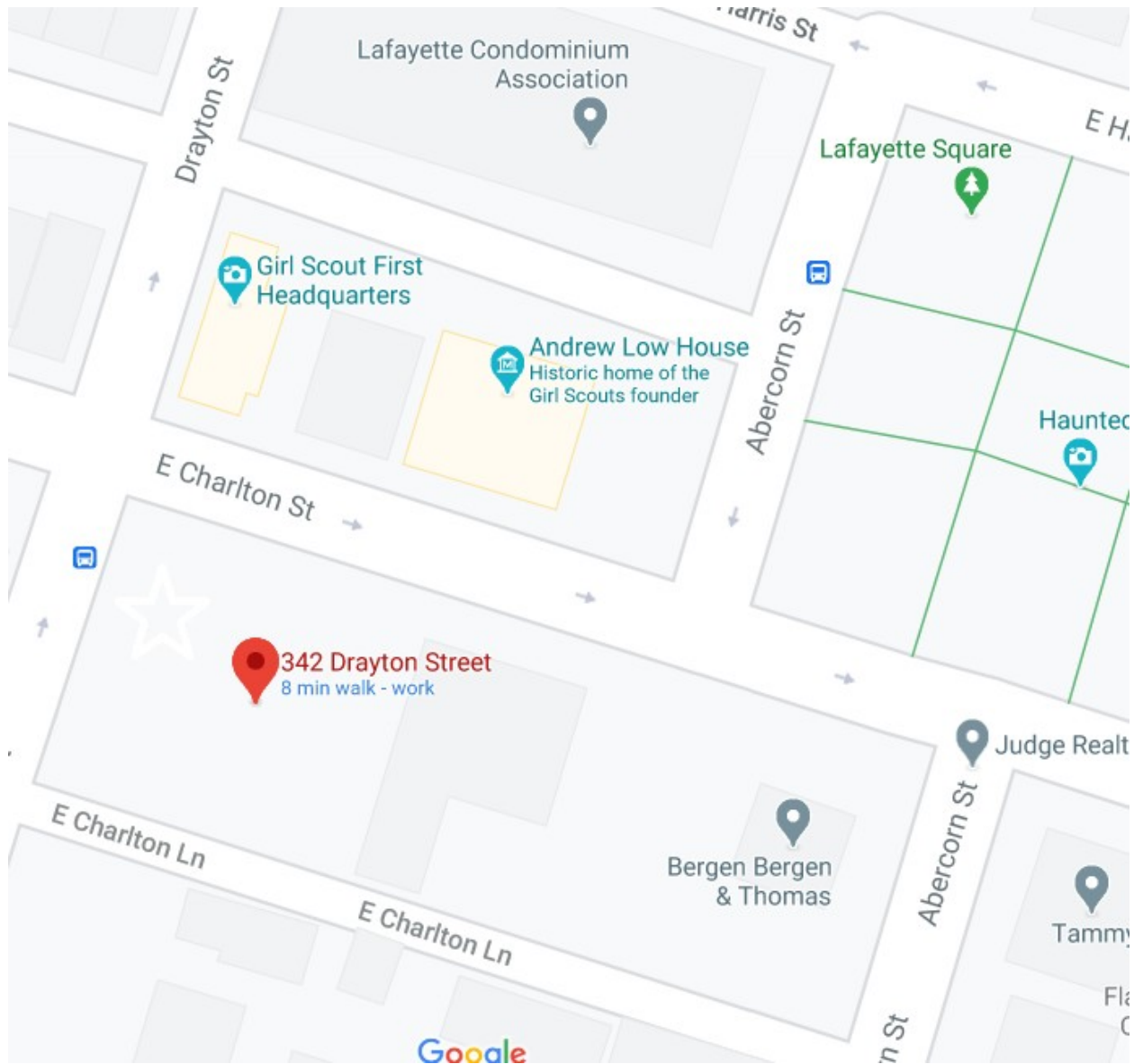
## **A: Project Description**

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS) in partnership with Colonial Group, Inc., will erect a new historical marker commemorating the founding and history of Colonial Group, Inc. The company, founded and headquartered in Savannah, is one of the oldest and most successful family-run businesses in the Southeast. The historical marker is part of the Georgia Historical Society's Business History Initiative, which teaches Georgia students, citizens, and tourists alike about the pivotal and under-examined role of Georgia's leading businesses in the economic, cultural, and social development of Georgia and the United States. For more information about the Georgia Business History Initiative please visit

<https://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/historical-markers/business-history-initiative/>.

The proposed historical marker (see Supplement E) highlights Colonial Group's founding, growth, and impact within the context of local, state, and regional history, and will be located at the site of the company's first service station (see Supplement B). The historical marker will also be a part of Colonial Group, Inc.'s larger centennial anniversary celebration.

## B. Photographs and Maps



The historical marker is to be located on E. Charlton Street near 342 Drayton Street, the site of the first service station.



The historical marker is to be installed in the Charlton Street right-of-way.

## C. Themes

The Colonial Group, Inc. historical marker demonstrates the themes of Industry and Commerce, Maritime History, and Local History.

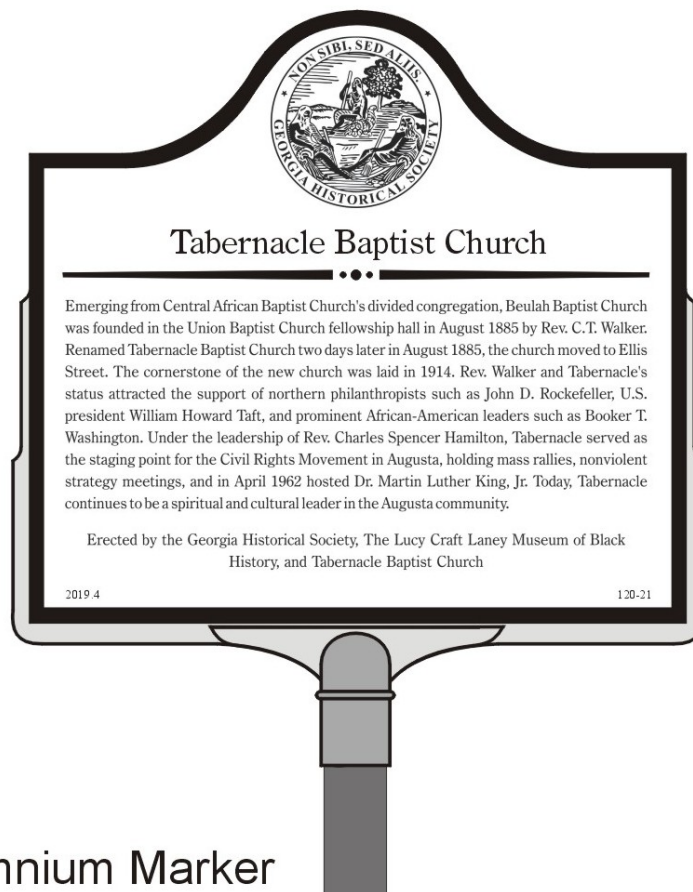
Established at a time when automobiles were leading a transformation of all aspects of American life, the American Oil Company was founded by the Demere family in 1921. Headquartered in Savannah throughout its one-hundred-year history, the company was the first independent wholesale petroleum company in the city. Since that time, the company has expanded its services from a petroleum company to include a group of subsidiaries including Colonial Oil Industries, Inc.; Colonial Terminals, Inc.; Colonial Fuel & Lubricant Services, Inc.; Enmark Stations, Inc./Enmarket; Colonial Compliance Systems, Inc.; Colonial Energy, Inc.; Colonial Towing, Inc.; Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.; Savannah Yacht Center, Inc; and Aqua Smart, Inc.

The fourth-generation, family-owned company maintains its headquarters, yacht services, marine terminal, distribution center, and several service stations (Enmark) in the Savannah-area. As such, Colonial Group has contributed to the success and expansion in Georgia's ports as well as Savannah's economic growth and prosperity through the creation of countless jobs that brought employment to generations of Savannahians. Further, through its kaolin terminals, Colonial Group plays a key role in Georgia's vital paper and timber industry. Colonial Group continues to have significant economic impact on Savannah, Georgia, and the nation as one of the largest privately-held companies in the US, employing over 2,000 people and operating in nearly 40 states.

In recognition of the significance of corporate citizens like Colonial in shaping the history of Georgia over the past century, the Georgia Historical Society has made a focused effort in recent years to acknowledge those contributions through the Georgia Business History Initiative. With the installation of this proposed historical marker, Colonial Group, Inc. joins other local companies and organizations such as Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation and Georgia Ports Authority, as well as iconic Georgia companies across the state such as The Coca-Cola Company, Delta Air Lines, and Chick-fil-A, as part of this Initiative. In this program, companies work with GHS to develop a historical marker that tells the story of that company's contribution to the development of our state and nation while maintaining the high standards of historical accuracy in the Georgia Historical Marker program. This executive summary of the company history is erected at a site of historical significance to the company and the community, in this case at the site of the first full-service American Oil Company (now Colonial Group, Inc.). Like all markers within the Georgia Historical Marker Program, this marker will be included in all online and print educational materials created to promote Georgia history through the marker program, including the award-winning GHS Historical Marker website and mobile app.

## D. Marker Drawing

Representative sample of the historical marker.



42" x 38" Cast Aluminium Marker

## **E. Historical Marker Text**

Colonial Group, Inc.  
Originally American Oil Company

Raymond McAllister Demere founded the American Oil Company on July 21, 1921, as Savannah's first independent wholesale petroleum company, and he opened his first service station at this site in 1923. Renamed Colonial Oil in 1933, the company is now known as Colonial Group, Inc. In 1934 the company built its first independent ocean terminal on the Savannah River, contributing to the growth and diversification of the Port of Savannah. In 1964 Colonial launched Interstate Stations, now Enmarket, for the operation of convenience stores in the Southeast. At its 100th anniversary in 2021, the fourth-generation family-owned company remained headquartered in Savannah and was one of the area's largest employers having expanded with multiple, diverse subsidiaries to become one of the largest privately-held corporations in the United States.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and Colonial Group, Inc.



## **F. Marker Installation**

The historical marker is freestanding. As the proposed location is within the public right-of-way, the Georgia Historical Society and Colonial Group, Inc. will coordinate installation with the City of Savannah.

## **G. Estimate of Costs**

The estimated overall cost for a historical marker within the Georgia Historical Marker Program is \$5,000.00

## **H. Funds Secured**

The Georgia Historical Society has secured funds of \$5,000.00 for the total cost of the historical marker.

## **I. Escrow Payment**

The Georgia Historical Society, as administrators of the Georgia Historical Marker Program, along with Colonial Group, Inc. take responsibility for the repair and replacement of the submitted historical marker. We therefore ask that the Escrow Payment mentioned in the MPC Historical Marker Application be waved.

Please contact the Georgia Historical Society with any questions or concerns about ongoing maintenance of this proposed marker.

## **J. Letter of Consent**

Pending approval.