



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

Petitioner: Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR
File No.: 24-006170-HM
Location: 315 Martin Luther King Blvd (Listed as 601 Louisville Rd in Application)
Date: February 6, 2025
Staff Reviewer: Kelli Mitchell

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting to install an America 250! Patriot Marker inside Tricentennial Park.

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.

Arts and Humanities. Includes art, architecture, music, theater, literature, education, etc.

Science and Engineering. Includes technology, inventions, medical, communications, etc.

Civil and Institutional.

Social and Humanitarian.

Industry and Commerce. Includes economics, agriculture, transportation, etc.

Politics and Government.

Military History. Includes people, places, or events.

Religious History. Includes people, places, or events.

Maritime History.

Colonial History.

Local History. Includes folklore and/or local heroes.

Cultural and Ethnic History.

Education.

The themes for the marker will highlight Military, Colonial, and Local History.

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.

Board Decision - Petition of Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR

File No. 24-006170-HM

February 6, 2025

Page 2

Per the application, the marker will highlight the Siege of Savannah and those involved. The standard is met.

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

This standard is met.

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.

While the Siege of Savannah and the American Revolution is highlighted elsewhere in the city, such as with the Haitian Monument, staff believes that this standard is met.

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

The marker highlights are larger connection. The standard is met.

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.

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

The marker focuses on those who fought in the American Revolution, which has sufficient documented evidence both locally and nationally. It is worth noting that the proposed text for the marker is standard language that will be used on other DAR America 250 Patriots Markers. The only part of the text that will be unique to Savannah is the name of the sponsoring entity.

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.

While there are informative markers, a sign for the park, and benches in the area, the marker will be placed in an area that is not heavily occupied by other elements.

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

The installation of the marker will not negatively impact any vegetation.

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

Board Decision - Petition of Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR
File No. 24-006170-HM
February 6, 2025
Page 3

This standard is met.

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 marker will be located within a park. The standard is met.

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.

If special events are held on the sight, the marker will not be in the way of these events.

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

This standard is met.

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 marker will be located immediately beside the sidewalk and will be easily accessible to the general public.

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

Given that the sign will be located next to a sidewalk and other elements such as benches and an informative sign, the area has already been distributed. Also, the signpost is small in diameter. Installing such a sign will cause minimal disturbance.

The proposed site should be easy to maintain.

The site is easily accessible for maintenance purposes. The standards are met.

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).

Board Decision - Petition of Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR
File No. 24-006170-HM
February 6, 2025
Page 4

If periodic memorial services are likely, the site should be able to accommodate them without causing undue disruption to the neighborhood, plantings, etc.
The sign will not require the removal of any sidewalks or local signs and will not negatively impact site lines for drivers. The sign will also enhance the local park.

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.

Battlefield Memorial Park is a Revolutionary War site. Given that the marker is commemorating the American Revolution, the proposed location 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.*

Markers on a freestanding pole should be the standard Georgia Historical Society (GHS) Marker style: two-sided, cast aluminum with a 30" x 42" plate size. The shape should match the GHS marker shape. The marker should have a black background with white, silver or gold text. Temporary markers may be other shapes, sizes, and colors.

The sign will be 30" x 30". The letters and border will have a brushed satin finish. The proposed sign is a standard marker that DAR is using to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution. Given that this is a standard design for a national program, the intent of the standard is met.

Markers not erected through the GHS's marker program shall not bear the GHS or state seal.

The applicant is proposing to use the NSDAR logo and not the GHS or state seals.

Board Decision - Petition of Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR
File No. 24-006170-HM
February 6, 2025
Page 5

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

The standards are met.

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.

These standards are met.

The installation of a marker on building should not damage the historic fabric of the building.

The marker will be freestanding and will not negatively impact a historic building.

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.*

The applicant will be paying for the applicant

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 applicant is aware that the escrow payment must be paid.

Public Notice. *As required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property.*

Public Notice: As required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property. A sign was posted on the property fifteen days prior to the meeting. No comments were received from the public.

Board Decision - Petition of Lachlan McIntosh Chapter NSDAR
File No. 24-006170-HM
February 6, 2025
Page 6

BOARD DECISION:

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommends approval to the Savannah City Council for the application to install an America 250! Patriot Marker inside Tricentennial Park as requested to be docketed on a City Council agenda because the proposed work meets the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

DocuSigned by:
Catherine Kostilnik
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Catherine D. Kostilnik, Chair
Historic Site and Monument Commission

February 6, 2025
Date

DocuSigned by:
Melanie Wilson
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Melanie Wilson, Executive Director & CEO
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

February 6, 2025
Date

Signed by:
Jonathan Mellon
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Jonathan Mellon, Director of Historic Preservation & Urban Design
Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission

February 6, 2025
Date