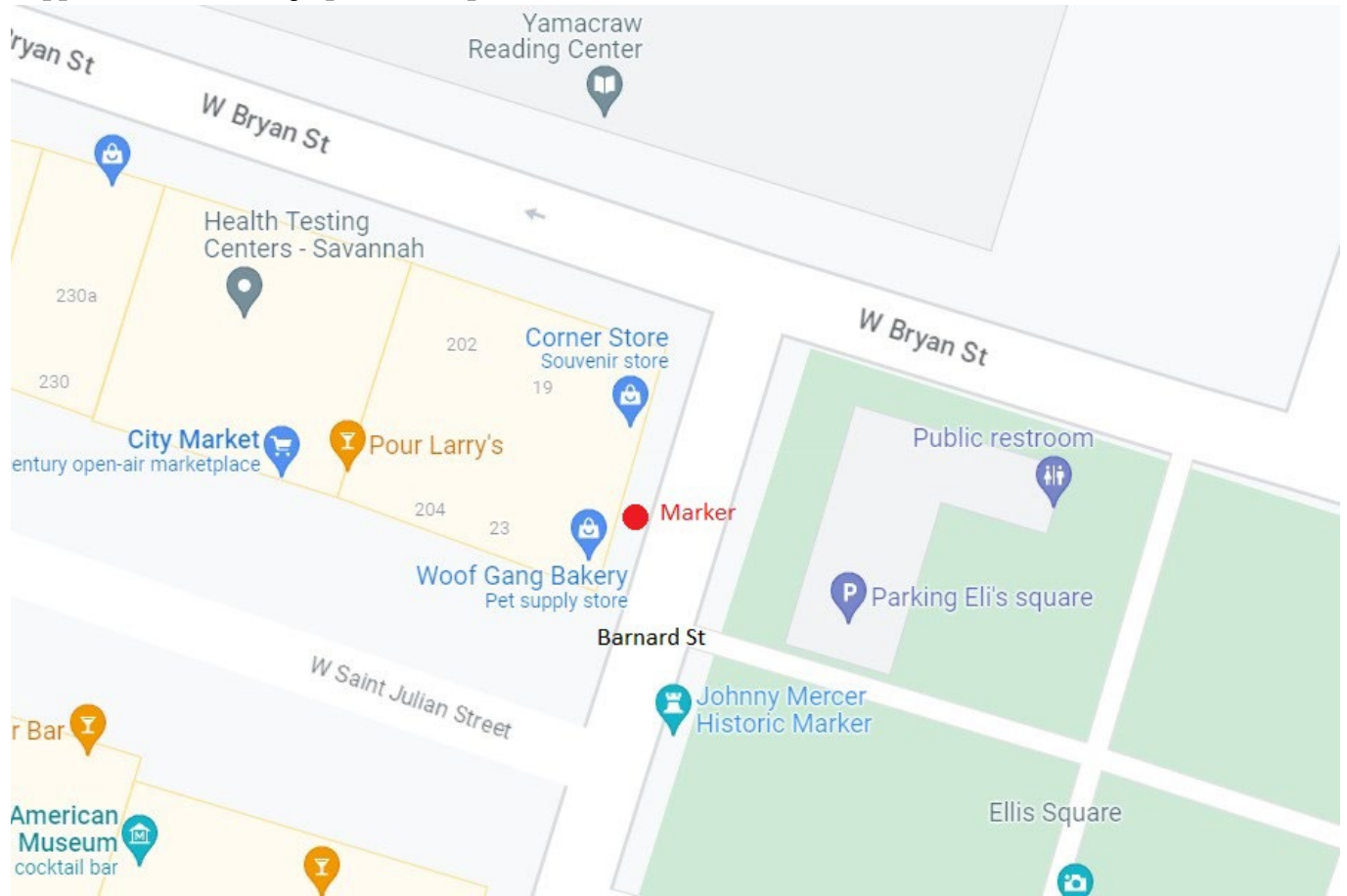


Historical Sites and Monuments Commission  
Historical Marker Application Materials

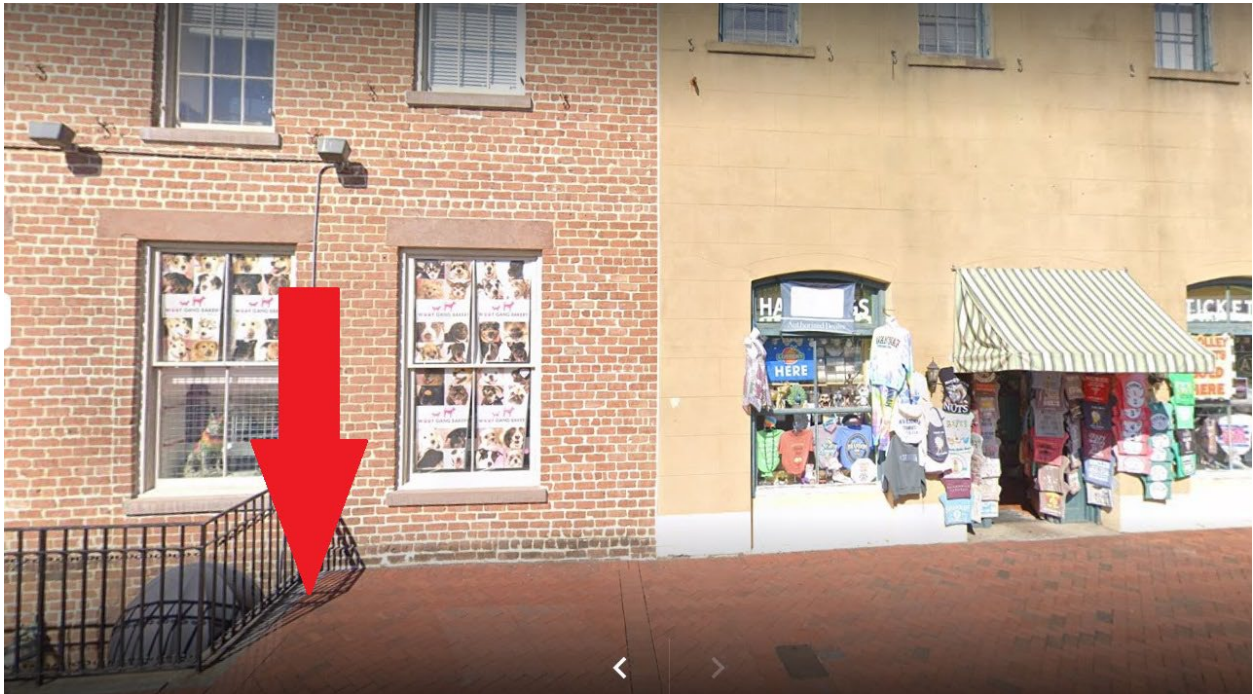
**Supplement A: Project Description**

The Georgia Historical Society (GHS), in partnership with the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, will erect a new historical marker that narrates the history of the Montmollin Building, illustrating its use as both a brokerage that held and sold enslaved people, as well as its time as Bryan School, a school for freed Black people in Savannah after emancipation. The historical marker (see Supplement E) highlights the efforts made by Savannah's Black community to gain an education during the Civil War and immediately following emancipation (see Supplement C) on a local, statewide, and national level. The proposed location for the historical marker is in the public right-of-way adjacent to the Montmollin Building at 23 Barnard Street, the building in which these events occurred (see Supplement B).

**Supplement B – Photographs and Maps**



The proposed historical marker will be placed along the sidewalk adjacent to the Montmollin Building at 23 Barnard Street.



The proposed historical marker will be placed in the public right-of-way adjacent to the Montmollin Building, on the east side with the marker text facing north and south (parallel to the

handrail in the picture above). Bret Bell, Chief Operating Officer; Gordon Denney, PLA, Senior Director at the City of Savannah Parks & Tree Department; Kimberly Phillips, Managing Director of City Market, which owns the Montmollin Building; and the owner and tenant of the adjacent building consulted with the applicant on this location.



The placement, orientation, and approximate size of the proposed historical marker is modeled above.

## Supplement C – Themes

The Bryan School historical marker illustrates the themes of “Arts and Humanities,” “Cultural and Ethnic Heritage,” “Industry and Commerce,” and “Local History.”

### Arts and Humanities

The Bryan School historical marker demonstrates the Arts and Humanities theme by focusing on the efforts of Savannah’s Black community to fund and establish educational opportunities for Black children in the city immediately following emancipation. Created by the Savannah Educational Association (SEA), Bryan School was among the first legal Black schools in Savannah. It opened in January 1865, and sources indicate that as many as 450 students in one session took classes. In July 1865, more than 350 SEA schoolchildren publicly showcased their knowledge of grammar, history, geography, arithmetic, and other subjects at Bryan School.

### Cultural and Ethnic Heritage

The Montmollin building is a physical reminder of both Savannah’s role in the slave trade and the Black community uplift following emancipation. As both a slave mart and a free school, the building’s transition from one to the other is symbolic and powerful. On January 10, 1865, the day Bryan School opened, hundreds of Black children marched from First African Baptist Church to the school. Later that year, in July 1865, SEA schoolchildren publicly showcased their knowledge of grammar, history, geography, arithmetic, and other subjects.

### Industry and Commerce

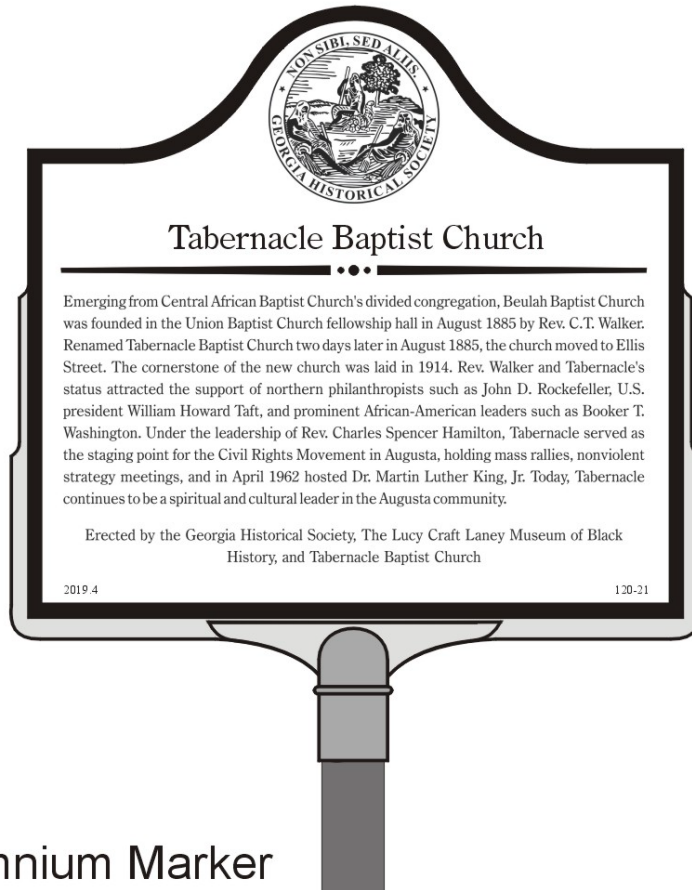
By the start of the Civil War, Savannah was the regional hub for the domestic slave trade, a lucrative industry at the core of the South’s economy. When US General William T. Sherman captured Savannah in December 1864, the US government implemented emancipation, ending the domestic slave trade and the Montmollin building’s use as a slave mart. In addition, the US government confiscated the building and provided it to Savannah’s African-American community, which formed the Savannah Educational Association (SEA) to fund and establish schools. This building became the site of Bryan School.

### Local History

Around 1856, banker and slave trader John S. Montmollin commissioned the building for his brokerage business in Savannah. Montmollin was involved in the dispersal of the enslaved Africans brought to Georgia on the slave ship *Wanderer*, an act that violated the 1807 federal Slave Importation Act, and made Montmollin a participant in the illegal importation of slaves. After Montmollin’s death, Alexander Bryan continued using the building as a space to hold and sell enslaved people as well as other property. At this time, Savannah was the regional hub for the domestic slave trade.

The Savannah Educational Association (SEA) was created by and for Black Savannah residents to fund and establish schools. The first two schools they established were the Bryan School, located in the Montmollin building, and the Oglethorpe School, which would have been along today’s Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The American Missionary Association, a northern benevolence organization, absorbed SEA and founded the Beach Institute in 1867, consolidating several schools, including Bryan School and Oglethorpe School.

Supplement D – Marker Drawing



42" x 38" Cast Aluminium Marker

## Supplement E – Historical Marker Text

### The Montmollin Building and Bryan School

Banker and slave trader John S. Montmollin commissioned the adjacent building (c.1856) for his business. After Montmollin's death, Alexander Bryan continued using the building to hold and sell enslaved people. When US General William T. Sherman captured Savannah in December 1864, the US government, implementing emancipation, confiscated the building and provided it to Savannah's African-American community, which formed the Savannah Educational Association (SEA) to fund and establish schools. This building became the site of Bryan School. On January 10, 1865, at the school's opening, hundreds of Black children marched here from First African Baptist Church. SEA schoolchildren publicly showcased their knowledge of grammar, history, geography, arithmetic, and other subjects in July 1865. The American Missionary Association, a northern benevolence organization, absorbed SEA and founded the Beach Institute in 1867, consolidating several schools, including Bryan School.

Erected by the Georgia Historical Society and the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah

**Supplement F – Marker Installation**

The historical marker is freestanding and will be installed by the City of Savannah's Park and Tree Department.

**Supplement G – Estimate of Costs**

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

**Supplement H – Funds Secured**

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

**Supplement I – Escrow Payment**

The Georgia Historical Society, as administrators of the Georgia Historical Marker Program, along with the historical marker sponsors, 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.

**Supplement J – Letter of Consent**

Pending approval.