



**SAVANNAH-CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT
COMMISSION**

HISTORICAL MARKER RECOMMENDATION

PETITIONER: John Fogarty
FILE No.: 24-000087-HM
LOCATION: 135 Montgomery Street
DATE: February 1, 2024

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting approval of a freestanding historical marker located at 135 Montgomery Street. The purpose of the marker is to tell the history of the City's first St. Patrick's Day Parade.

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 marker's themes will include Cultural and Ethnic Heritage, Local History, and Religious History. The application goes into more detail on how the marker relates to these themes in their application.

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 marker describes the first St. Patrick's Day Parade in the City of Savannah and is directly related to the history of the city and the county.

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

This standard is met as the St. Patrick's Day Parade is still an active part of the community.

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.

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 relates to the community as it mentions different religious groups, and while it relates heavily to the Irish, the event is part of the community as a whole.

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

This standard is met, as the event took place in 1824 and the St. Patrick's Day Parade is an event that takes place yearly.

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

This standard is met.

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

The applicant provides a list of sources for the information.

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 marker will be located in the public right of way and within a lawn that sits between the walking path, sidewalk, and parking garage. This area is not crowded and is easily accessible.

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

This standard appears to have been met.

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

This standard has been met. The applicant has submitted an 811 request to confirm that the marker will not impact underground 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 marker will be placed in an open lawn area that can accommodate it.

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 marker will be located in an area that is not utilized for special events.

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

The marker will be located away from the sidewalk and curb, limiting the risk of automobile accidents.

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.

These standards are met as the marker will be close to a public sidewalk.

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

This standard is met.

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

The proposed site is between a sidewalk and a parking garage. The site has likely been disturbed due to the presence of both elements. The marker will also not greatly disturb the land it's located on as the marker support does not require a substantial amount of space.

The proposed site should be easy to maintain.

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

These standards are met.

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

Existing signage will not be removed, altered, or disturbed.

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

The marker will not be located near lanes of traffic and will not impact automobile traffic.

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

This standard is met.

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).

The marker will not require the alteration or removal of existing sidewalks. This standard is 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.

According to the information provided, the St. Patrick's Parade began on the site. This standard is met.

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.

This standard is met.

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

The marker has the City of Savannah seal. This standard is met.

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

The body of the text is .8" tall per the application. This standard is 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. Temporary markers may be considered provided they serve an educational function, are made of a material designed to last for the proposed life of the marker, and a plan for removal or replacement of the marker at the end of the temporary period is submitted.

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

These standards are met.

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 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.

A budget was provided as part of the application. This standard is met.

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 application included an escrow payment as part of the budget. This standard is met.

Staff Recommendation - Petition of John Fogarty

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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. As of the writing of this report no comments were received from the public.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to the Savannah City Council for the application to install the freestanding historical marker located at 135 Montgomery Street as requested because the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

MW: JM: KM