



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

**HISTORICAL MARKER RECOMMENDATION**

**PETITIONER:** Georgia Historical Society

**FILE No.:** 23-006359-HM

**LOCATION:** 202 St. Julian Street

**DATE:** January 4, 2024

**NATURE OF REQUEST:**

The applicant is requesting approval of freestanding historical marker located facing the side elevation of 202 St. Julian Street and perpendicular to Barnard Street. The purpose of the marker is to tell the history of the Montmollin Building and its use as brokerage and as the Bryan School.

**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.*

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*Colonial History.*

*Local History. Includes folklore and/or local heroes.*

*Cultural and Ethnic History.*

*Education.*

Per the application, the marker will fall under the following themes: Arts and Humanities, Cultural and Ethnic Heritage, Industry and Commerce, 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.*

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

These standards are 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.*

The marker is commemorating the history of the building as well as the people, institutions, and events affiliated with the structure. There are no other markers, monuments, or similar items on site commemorating the building's history.

*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.*

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

The applicant provided information related to the structure's history and how the marker relates to the themes discussed in the standards. This information is provided within the application. These standards are met.

***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.*

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The marker will not cause overcrowding as there are no other markers, signs, or similar elements in the immediate area.

*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.*

There are no significant tree roots, vegetation, or above ground utilities in the proposed sign area, but staff recommends that the applicant ensures that there are no 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 site is large enough to accommodate the sign.

*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.*

While located on a public sidewalk, the marker is located in an area where it will not disrupt foot traffic or be a disruption if events are held in the area.

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

The proposed site is not known for frequent 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.*

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

The standards are met.

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

The marker will be located on a public sidewalk that has already been disturbed and would likely not yield a significant amount of artifacts, features, or material culture.

*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).*

The marker will be located within the street and will not require removal of existing signage.

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*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.*

These standards 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.*

This standard is met. The marker will be located outside of the building it is commemorating.

***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.*

*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.*

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

The marker is being designed by the Georgia Historical Society, who oversees the marker program. The design will meet the standards.

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

The marker will be freestanding and will not impact the historic fabric of the 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 marker will be funded by the Georgia Historical Society.

***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 has accepted and taken on the role of all future maintenance of the marker, relinquishing the requirement of supplying an escrow payment to the City of Savannah.

**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.

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**RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL:**

The Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend approval to Savannah City Council for the application to install the freestanding historical marker beside the side elevation of 202 St. Julian Street and perpendicular to Barnard Street as requested because the project meets the standards in the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

DocuSigned by:

*Catherine Kostilnik, PhD*

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**Catherine Kostilnik, PhD, Chair**  
**Historic Site and Monument Commission**

**January 4, 2024**  
**Date**

DocuSigned by:

*Melanie Wilson*

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**Melanie Wilson, Executive Director**  
**Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

**January 4, 2024**  
**Date**

DocuSigned by:

*Jonathan Mellon*

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**Jonathan Mellon, Director of Historic Preservation**  
**Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission**

**January 4, 2024**  
**Date**