



HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION (HSMC)

Application for Historical Markers, Monuments, and Public Art

2025

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 that do not provide documentation or required materials will be noted as incomplete and may result in delays in the Commission or Staff's review of the application and/or denial of the request. Revisions made to the applications after the submittal deadline

and prior to the Commission hearing may be continued to the following month's hearing. The Commission reserves the right to require additional information if it believes that the submission of such information is necessary to understand the nature of the intended activity.

Submissions will only be accepted when emailed to historic@thempc.org. Ensure the file size does not exceed 10 MB.

For questions, email preservationquestions@thempc.org or call 912-651-1440.

Do not email questions to historic@thempc.org. If email is not available, contact the office for alternate arrangements.

File No.: _____ *(staff only)*

Applicant Contact Information:

Name: C.J. Bogle on behalf of the Dr. Otis S. Johnson Cultural Arts Center (Cultural Resources)

Address: 201 Montgomery Street

City: Savannah State GA Zip 31401

Phone: 912-651-6783 E-Mail Address cboogle@savannahga.gov

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: (PIN information can be found at www.sagis.org.)

Public Property Private Property PIN (Property Identification Number): 20031 02002

Address: 201 Montgomery Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Scope of Work: (Check all that apply.)

HISTORICAL MARKER:	MONUMENT:
<input checked="" 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:
PUBLIC ART / MURAL (Commissioned or Existing Work):	NAMING AND RENAMING:
<input type="checkbox"/> Mural	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Property
<input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Facilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Other:	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Streets

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.”

The Oglethorpe Lane Building Interpretive Marker will discuss the building site history of the Dr. Otis S. Johnson Cultural Arts Center, including a brief history of the Wetter House, the Savannah Female Asylum and Orphanage, additional uses, and Elbert Ward.

Contact staff to schedule a pre-meeting: preservationquestions@thempc.org or call 912-651-1440.

Pre-meetings must be held a minimum of ONE WEEK before a deadline.

2025 Savannah-Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission Meeting Schedule:

Application Deadline, by 3:00 P.M.	Meeting Date	4:00 P.M.
<input type="checkbox"/> Thursday, December 5, 2024	Thursday, January 9, 2025	<i>** rescheduled due to holiday</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> January 2	February 6	
<input type="checkbox"/> February 6	March 6	
<input type="checkbox"/> March 6	April 3	
<input type="checkbox"/> April 3	May 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> May 1	June 5	
<input type="checkbox"/> June 5	July 10	<i>**rescheduled due to holiday</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> July 3	August 7	
<input type="checkbox"/> August 7	September 4	
<input type="checkbox"/> September 4	October 2	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> October 2	November 6	
<input type="checkbox"/> November 6	(December 4)	(January 8, 2026)

Estimated Cost of the Proposed Work: \$ 3,600.00

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: Charles J. Boyle

Date: 09/23/2025

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A complete application submission consists of:

1. Complete, signed application
2. Complete, signed checklist(s) for each request
3. Checklist documentation
4. Payment receipt

Applications that do not provide documentation or required materials will be noted as incomplete and may result in delays in the Commission or Staff's review of the application and/or denial of the request.



HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION

Commission Review Checklists for HSMC Application

Historical Marker on Private or Public Property

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HISTORICAL MARKER ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC PROPERTY

REQUIRED Pre-Application Conference:

Date attended and with which staff member: September 17th, 2025 w/ Kelli Mitchell

Provide electronic payment receipt and indicate amount: \$ N/A -No filing fee is required for HSMC review.

Provide one (1) electronic copy of the entire submittal packet. (Email to historic@thempc.org – max file size 10 MB)

Page No. 1 : Written project description.

Page No. 1-2 : Provide color photographs and a map of the proposed marker location.

Page No. 3 : Provide a drawing of the marker indicating the shape, size, material, color, and text placement. For temporary markers, provide a plan for removal or replacement of the marker at the end of the temporary period.

Page No. 3-10 : Provide a title and the exact text for the marker. Indicate the text size and font style. Should quotations be a part of the proposed text, include a written permission letter from the appropriate authority. Include footnotes and a bibliography. Ensure that primary resources are utilized and documented when possible. County histories should not be relied upon solely as sources of information and should be considered secondary sources. Final wording of the text will rest with the HSMC.

Page No. N/A : If the marker is to be installed on an historic building, indicate how the marker will be installed.

Page No. 10 : Provide the theme for the marker. Markers commemorate people, places, and/or events. The marker should embody one or more of the following themes. For each theme selected, provide a statement explaining how the subject is significant in respect to the history of Chatham County or Savannah; stress the historical importance of the theme:

- Arts and Humanities (including art, architecture, music, theater, literature, education, etc.)
- Science and Engineering (including technology, inventions, medical, communications, etc.)
- Civic and Institutional
- Streets, lanes, and sidewalk.
- Social and Humanitarian
- Industry and Commerce (including economics, agriculture, transportation, etc.)
- Military History (people, places, and/or events)
- Religious History (people, places, and/or events)
- Maritime History
- Colonial History

- Local History (folklore and/or local heroes)
- Cultural and Ethnic Heritage
- Page No. 10 : Provide a cost estimate that includes the marker fabrication and installation.
- Page No. 11 : Provide a statement indicating the amount of funds currently secured. If complete funding has not been secured, indicate the plan to secure the remainder of the funds. The applicant/owner is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, and lighting required as The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new historical markers.
- Page No. 11 : Provide a statement of understanding that an Escrow Payment is required for any historical marker erected on public property and that the monument becomes the property of The Mayor and Aldermen who become responsible for all future maintenance of the marker. An initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant/owner prior to construction and installation; The Mayor and Aldermen will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant/owner.
- Page No. N/A : If the marker will be located on private property, provide a consent letter from the property owner.

Affidavit Certifying Completeness of Application:

I hereby acknowledge that I understand the requirements listed above for what constitutes a complete application. I have checked off each box and included a page number where the item is located. I confirm that the requirements for a complete application have been met.

Signature: Charles J. Boyle

Date: 09/23/2025

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Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker

Project Description:

The Oglethorpe Lane Building Interpretive Marker will discuss the building site history of the Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D. Cultural Arts Center, including a brief history of the Wetter House, the Savannah Female Asylum and Orphanage, additional site uses, and Elbert Ward.

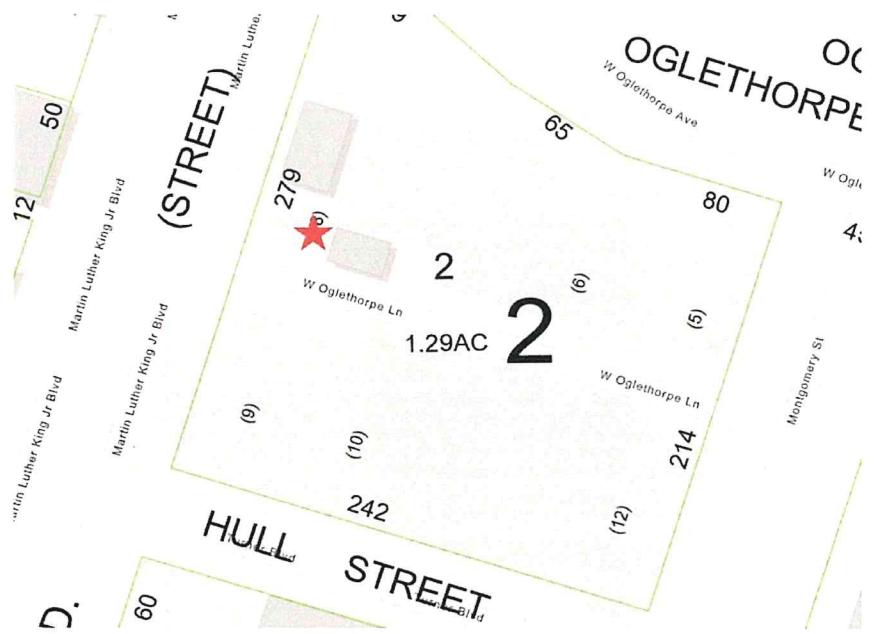
Marker Location:

Public Right-of-Way near the intersection of Oglethorpe Lane and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, Savannah, GA.

The marker will be located in the public right-of-way in the western corner of the Oglethorpe Lane Building near Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. The marker will be located in the flower bed between the walking paths. The City of Savannah Cultural Resources Department, with consultation from the Municipal Archives, has reviewed and approved the installation at this location. An 811 request will be submitted to ensure the location is clear of all utilities before installation. The marker will be free-standing and installed in-ground.

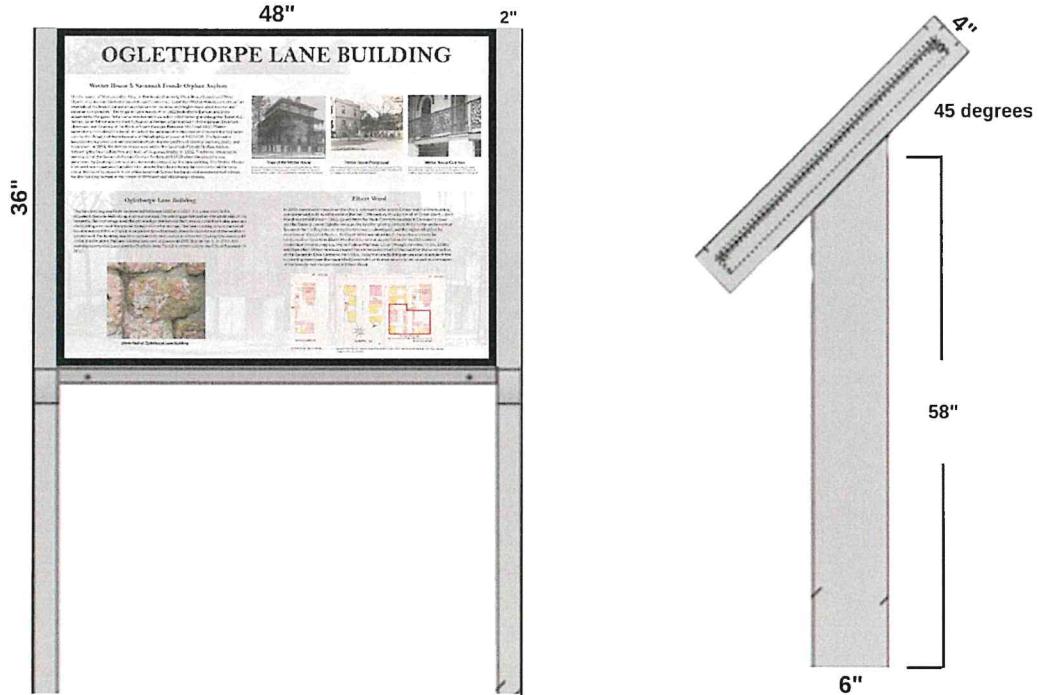


Oglethorpe Lane Building Historical Interpretive Marker



Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker

Design Proposed:



36" H x 48" W

NPS Style Double Traditional Pedestal – Black Powder Coated Aluminum
Aluminum Composite Graphic

The marker is free-standing and will be installed in-ground.

Proposed Text:

Title: Oglethorpe Lane Building

Wetter House & Savannah Female Orphan Asylum

On the corner of Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (formerly West Broad Street) and West Oglethorpe Avenue (formerly South Broad Street) once stood the Wetter House, considered an example of the best in Savannah architecture for its time, with highly decorated interior and exterior components. The original home was built in 1822 by Anthony Barclay and then acquired by Margaret Telfair, who transferred it via will in 1859 to her granddaughter, Sarah A.C. Telfair. Sarah Telfair was married to Augustus Wetter, a German-born civil engineer, Savannah alderman, and Director of the Bank of South Georgia. Between 1853 and 1861, Wetter extensively remodeled the home, including the

Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker

addition of elaborate cast-iron exterior balconies cast by the Wood and Perot Foundry of Philadelphia at a cost of \$100,000. The balconies' balustrades featured cast iron medallions featuring the profiles of classical authors, poets, and statesmen. In 1891, the Wetter House was sold to the Savannah Female Orphan Asylum following the financial decline and death of Augustus Wetter in 1882. The home remained in possession of the Savannah Female Orphan Asylum until 1950, when the property was purchased by Dearing Chevrolet and demolished except for the lane building. The Wetter House iron work was repurposed at other sites around the city, including the fence around the terra cotta Red Lion fountain in front of the Savannah Cotton Exchange and as ornamental railings for the building located at the corner of Whitaker and McDonough streets.

Oglethorpe Lane Building

The lane building was likely constructed between 1888 and 1889. It is a one-story brick structure that was built along and incorporated the existing garden wall on the south side of the property. The orphanage used the enclosed garden behind the home as a children's play area, and the building was most likely used during this era for storage. The lane building is constructed of Savannah grey brick and what is suspected to be Bermuda stone in the remnant of the southern garden wall. The building was later added on to and used as an office for Dearing Chevrolet until 1986. In later years, the lane building was used as Savannah EMS Station No. 1. In 2001, the entire property was purchased by Chatham Area Transit and then sold to the City of Savannah in 2011.

Elbert Ward

In 2018, construction began on the Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D. Cultural Arts Center, and the Lane Building was preserved in its existing state as the last 19th-century structure in all of Elbert Ward. Elbert Ward was established in 1801, carved from the Town Common set aside in Savannah's town plan by General James Oglethorpe as public land for grazing animals. Prior to the settlement of Savannah by the English colonists, this land was undeveloped, and the region was inhabited by members of the Creek Nation. As Elbert Ward was developed, it was characterized by residential construction. Elbert Ward and its central square fell victim to 20th-century modernization and progress, first as Federal Highway 17 cut through the center in the 1930s and then when Urban Renewal cleared the entire eastern half of the ward for the construction of the Savannah Civic Center in the 1960s. Today, the lane building serves as an example of the supporting structures that once filled Savannah's utilitarian service lanes, as well as a reminder of the history that has been lost in Elbert Ward.

Oglethorpe Lane Building Historical Interpretive Marker

OGLETHORPE LANE BUILDING

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Front of the Wetter House



Wetter House Playground



Wetter House Cast Iron

Oglethorpe Lane Building

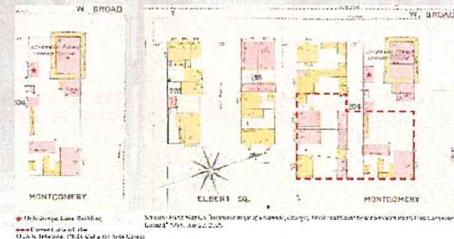
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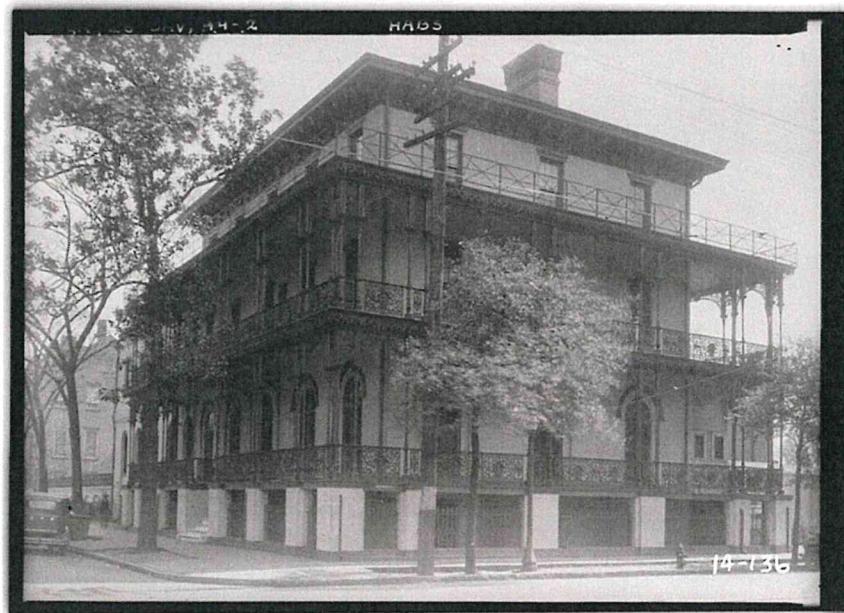
Stone Wall of Oglethorpe Lane Building

Elbert Ward

In 2012, construction began on the Otis S. Johnson, PhD, Cultural Arts Center and the lane building was preserved in its existing state as the last 19th century structure in all of Elbert Ward. Elbert Ward was established in 1801, carved from the Town Common set aside in Savannah's town plan by General James Oglethorpe as public land for grazing animals. Prior to the settlement of Savannah by the English colonists, this land was undeveloped, and the region inhabited by members of the Creek Nation. As Elbert Ward was developed, it was characterized by residential construction. Elbert Ward and its central square fell victim to 20th century modernization and progress, first as Federal Highway 17 cut through the center in the 1930s and then when Urban Renewal cleared the entire eastern half of the ward for the construction of the Savannah Civic Center in the 1960s. Today the lane building serves as an example of the supporting structures that once filled Savannah's utilitarian service lanes, as well as a reminder of the history that has been lost in Elbert Ward.



Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker



Front of the Wetter House

Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator, and Augustus Wedder. Wetter House, 425 Oglethorpe Street, Savannah, Chatham County, GA. Savannah Georgia Chatham County, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph.



Wetter House Cast Iron

Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator, and Augustus Wedder. Wetter House, 425 Oglethorpe Street, Savannah, Chatham County, GA. Savannah Georgia Chatham County Georgia, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph.

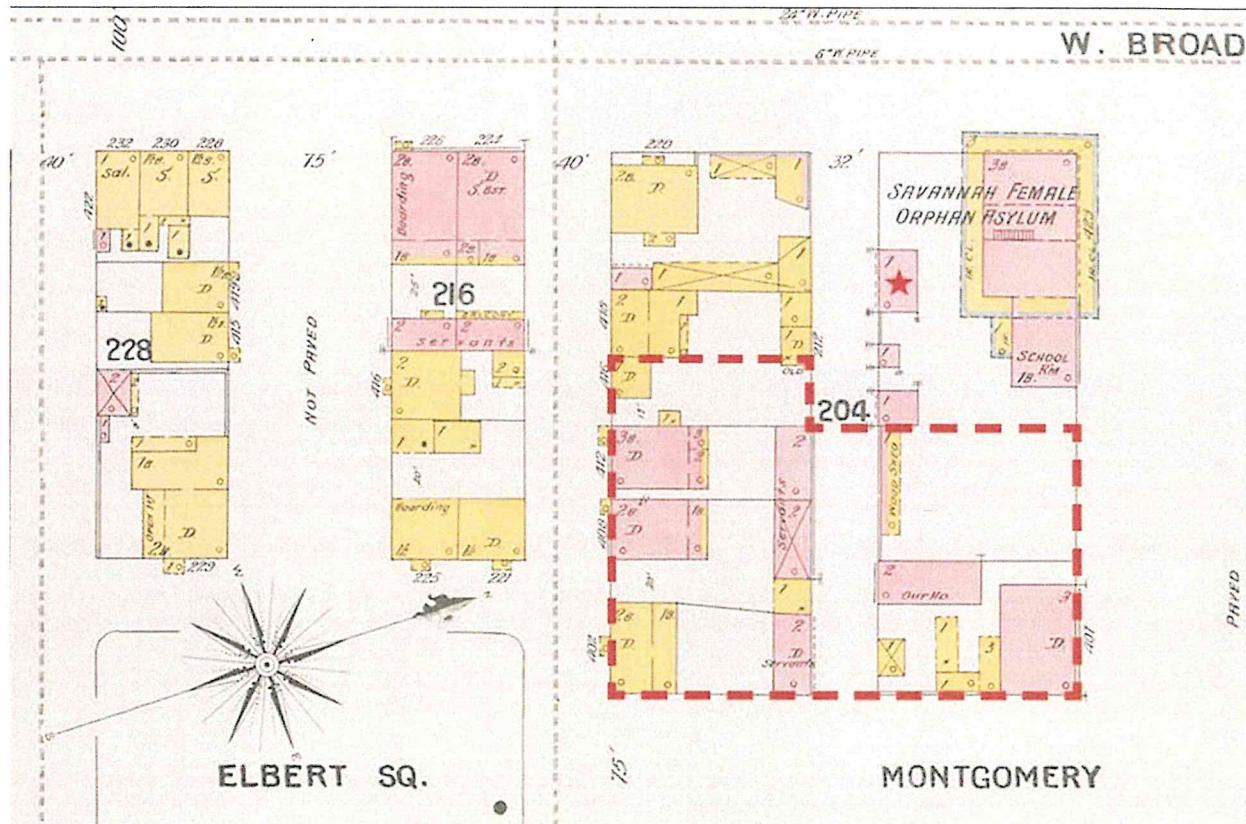
Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker



Wetter House Playground

Foltz Photography Studio (Savannah, GA). "Wetter House, Savannah, GA." Photograph. Savannah: 1948. From Georgia Historical Society: GHS 1360-PH-08-23-04, Cordray-Foltz Photography Studio photographs.

Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker



Sanborn-Perris Map Co. "Insurance maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1898 / published by the Sanborn-Perris Map Company Limited." 1898. July 22, 2025.



Oglethorpe Lane Building

■ ■ ■ Current site of the Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D. Cultural Arts Center

Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker



Stone Wall of Oglethorpe Lane Building

Sources:

Gunn, Meyerhoff, Shay Architects, 2014.

Historic American Buildings Survey, Creator, and Augustus Wedder. *Wetter House, 425 Oglethorpe Street, Savannah, Chatham County, GA*. Savannah Chatham County Georgia, 1933. Documentation Compiled After. Photograph. <https://www.loc.gov/item/ga0067/>.

Spracher, Luciana M. *Lost Savannah: Photographs from the Collection of the Georgia Historical Society*. Charleston, SC: Arcadia Pub, 2003, 32.

Unattributed, "Historic Home Comes Down," *Savannah Morning News*, December 17, 1959.

Curl, Eric. "Cultural Arts Center Site Links Savannah's Past, Future." *Savannah Morning News*, April 12, 2014.

Municipal Archives, and Luciana Spracher, Historical Context: Savannah Cultural Arts Center Property § (2018).

Ledvina, Kathy, to W. Ray Luce, 2002.

Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker

Sweet, Julie. "Yamacraw Indians." New Georgia Encyclopedia, last modified Jul 15, 2020.
<https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/yamacraw-indians>

Text Size and Font:

Title: Font Bell MT, 180pt

Subheading: Font Bell MT, 50pt

Body: Font Lato, 33pt

Marker Themes:

The marker addresses the themes of architecture, the evolution, and the history of the Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D. Cultural Arts Center's building site, and the development of Elbert Ward as part of the General James Oglethorpe town plan.

Architecture: The marker discusses the architecture and evolution of the building site from the Wetter House (1822), the Savannah Female Orphan Asylum (1882), the Oglethorpe Lane Building (1888), and the Otis S. Johnson, Ph.D. Cultural Arts Center (2018). The marker indicates the construction material of the Oglethorpe Lane Building's Savannah grey brick and Bermuda Stone as part of the original wall and building construction. The marker discusses the reuse and relocation of the decorative cast iron work to other locations in Savannah.

Streets, Lanes, and Sidewalks: The marker discusses the history of Elbert Ward from the area's original Creek Nation Native Americans to Oglethorpe's town plan, to the modernization of the surrounding streets due to the automobile, and the construction of the Savannah Civic Center in the 1960s.

Local History: Anthony Barclay constructed the Wetter House in 1822, and it was acquired by Margaret Telfair in 1859, and transferred the property to her granddaughter, Sarah A.C. Telfair in 1859. Sarah A.C. Telfair, married to Augustus Wetter, were the owners and primary residents of the Wetter House between 1853 and 1861.

Costs:

Marker Fabrication Cost: \$3,251.00 (Exact cost to be determined when Text is finalized)

Installation Costs: \$250.00

Funding is secured by the City of Savannah's approved FY25 Budget.

Funding is secured for the Escrow Payment by the City of Savannah.

Oglethorpe Lane Building
Historical Interpretive Marker

Secured Funding:

The funding for the interpretative marker is from the FY25 City of Savannah, Cultural Resources Department's annual budget. The budget was approved by the Mayor and Aldermen on December 19th, 2024. Agenda Item: # 47: *Adoption of the 2025 Service Program and Budget, Five-Year Capital Plan.*

The Cultural Resources Department has budgeted and secured \$3,600.00 for the construction (\$3,251.00) and installation (\$250.00) of the Oglethorpe Lane Building Historical Marker.

Escrow Payment:

The escrow payment for construction, installation, and maintenance is included in the annual Cultural Resources Department's facility maintenance budget. Funding is secured by the City of Savannah. The marker is being installed by the City of Savannah and will be the property of the City of Savannah Mayor and Aldermen, and the City of Savannah will be responsible for all future maintenance of the marker.

Oglethorpe Lane Building Historical Interpretive Marker

OGLETHORPE LANE BUILDING

Wetter House & Savannah Female Orphan Asylum

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Wetter House Playground



Wetter House Cast Iron

Oglethorpe Lane Building

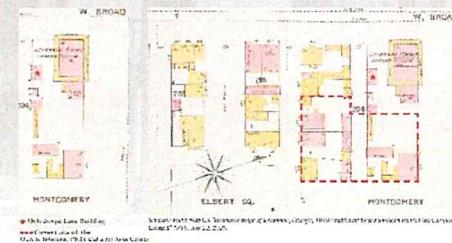
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Stone Wall of Oglethorpe Lane Building

Elbert Ward

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Proposed Marker Design