

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

December 20, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2023-493
ADDRESS: 1149 E COMMERCE ST
1403 E COMMERCE ST
226 N HACKBERRY ST
506 MONTANA
935 IOWA ST
202 CONNELLY ST
1138 E COMMERCE ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 588 BLK 1 LOT 12
NCB 591 BLK 4 LOT 21
NCB 592 BLK 7 LOT 1 CARVER COMPLEX SUBDIVISION
NCB 610 (ST JOSEPHS LANDMARK), BLOCK 14 LOT 24
NCB 1404 BLK 2 LOT 8 THRU 20
NCB 1508 BLK 8 LOT 14 VETERANS OUTREACH SUBD
NCB 679 BLK 1 LOT 27
ZONING: D, AE-1, RM-4,HE, AE-3, RM-4,HL, RM-4,HS, D,HS
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 2
DISTRICT: St Paul Square, Dignowity Hill Historic District
LANDMARK: Individual Landmark
APPLICANT: Lindsey Logan/SAGE San Antonio for Growth on the East Side
OWNER: EAST METRO INC
TYPE OF WORK: Marker installation
APPLICATION RECEIVED: December 01, 2023
60-DAY REVIEW: January 30, 2024
CASE MANAGER: Rachel Rettaliata

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting conceptual approval to install 7 historical markers as part of phases 2 & 3 of the proposed East Side Markers Project.

APPLICABLE CITATIONS:

Sec. 35-645. - Signs and Billboards on Public Property or Right-of-Way.

(a) General Provisions. All non-regulatory signage on public property, on the public right-of-way, or overhanging the public right-of-way shall conform to all city codes and must be approved by the historic preservation officer prior to installation. Permits must be obtained following approval of the application. The historic preservation officer may submit an application under this section to the historic and design review commission for their recommendation prior to approving, denying, or approving with conditions the application. Memorials, markers, naming rights of public property, and recognition of charitable donations given to the City of San Antonio shall be additionally governed by existing policies for memorials and markers and/or any formal action passed by city council. Temporary displays approved by the department exercising control of the public property are authorized if in accordance with chapter 28 of the City Code of San Antonio, Texas.

FINDINGS:

- a. The applicant has proposed to install 7 historical markers on San Antonio's east side as part of phases 2 & 3 of the East Side Markers Project. The applicant has proposed to install seven (7) markers near 1149 E Commerce, 1138 – 2 Sycamore (1138 E Commerce), 1403 E Commerce, 226 N Hackberry, 506 Montana, 935 Iowa, 202 Connelly. A public input session was facilitated by the applicant and community feedback was incorporated in

the project proposal. It is anticipated that the Eastside Historical Markers Project will include 18 markers in total. At this time, 13 sites have been considered for this project.

- b. **CONCEPTUAL APPROVAL** – Conceptual approval is the review of general design ideas and principles. Specific design details reviewed at this stage are not binding and may only be approved through a Certificate of Appropriateness or final approval.
- c. **MARKER DESIGN** – The applicant is requesting approval to install seven (7) adorned bronze plaques. The plaques will be similar in design to the Texas Historical Commission plaques and will be mounted on posts that are installed into a footing embedded in concrete. The signage area will be approximately 7 square feet and the post will be a minimum of 40 inches. The total height of the pole-mounted plaque will be approximately 6' – 7". The text has not been finalized at this time but should be uniform in font and size. Staff finds that the proposed plaque is in accordance with UDC Section 35-645 and is appropriate.
- d. **MARKER LOCATION** – The applicant has proposed to install the markers nearby the locations associated with the person, place, or event being commemorated. The requested markers will be placed near 1149 E Commerce, 1138 – 2 Sycamore, 1403 E Commerce, 226 N Hackberry, 506 Montana, 935 Iowa, 202 Connelly. The applicant has proposed two precise locations for each marker, with the exception for the proposed marker at 226 N Hackberry. Staff finds the preliminary proposed marker locations appropriate and consistent with the UDC.
- e. **MARKER POLICY** – The applicant has met all requirements of the City of San Antonio Monuments, Memorials, Markers and Plaques Policy. The applicant has assumed financial responsibility for the complete design, manufacturing, installation, and maintenance endowment to ensure the adequate quality care for the marker. The applicant has provided evidence of existing funding for the proposed adorned bronze plaques and all associated costs. Improvements made on City lands become the property of the City of San Antonio. The final text on the plaque will be reviewed by the City's Cultural Historian.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends conceptual approval based on findings a through e.



EAST SIDE MARKERS PROJECT

PHASE 2 & 3

12-01-2023 FINAL DRAFT

FINAL DOCUMENT WILL BE PROVIDED PRIOR TO FINAL HEARING,
PENDING OHP TEXT & SITE APPROVALS

Executive Summary

- Project Overview & History
- Public Input Session History

List of Locations and Time Line

- Phase 1, 2, 3 & TBD

Marker Prototypes

- Typical Elevation & Installation Location Types
- Universal Anchor Detail - Design Intent
- Installation Location Type A & B
- Installation Location Type C*

Location Maps - Phases 1-3

(Phase 1 Complete)

Locations & Site Data - Phase 1-3

(Phase 1 Complete)

- Sites 5, 12, 2, 6, 15, 16, 17 & 18

Survey / Engineering Data - (Surveys TBD)

On October 8, 2019, an Eastside historical markers public input session was held at The Spire, 230 Center St, San Antonio. - The information and the images on the following pages depict the results:

The locations listed below were the subjects at hand for discussion:

- 1. The Cameo (1123 E Commerce St) **
- 2. The Walking Bridge Over Commerce St. (1149 E Commerce St) **
- 3. The Deluxe Hotel (1138 - 2 Sycamore St)**
- 4. The Manhattan Hotel at Cherry and E. Commerce
- 5. Black Commerce Street (1416 E. Commerce St.)
- 6. Charles Bellinger’s Gas Station (1403 E Commerce St)
- 7. Homer Rodger’s Office **
- 8. The Lifesaver Grill, between Mesquite and Cherry on E. Commerce
- 9. Reus Liquor Store and Restaurant at S. Hackberry and E. Commerce
- 10. Sunset Station (1174 E Commerce St) **
- 11. Macedonia Baptist Church (Center and Chestnut St.) **
- 12. Office of G. W. Bouldin Newspaper, (230 N. Center St.) **
- 13. SNCC Legacy Project
- 14. John Inman, Fighter for Human Rights, (333 Martin Luther King Dr.)

Phase 1

Due to unforeseen circumstances, some sites were inaccessible at the time of this project. They may be included in future phases.

Phase 2 & 3 - The following sites were added:

- 15. Carver Community Cultural Center (226 N. Hackberry)
- 16. Charles Williams Historical National Museum (506 Montana St.)
- 17. Friendship Baptist Church and the Norris Wright Cuney School (935 Iowa St.)
- 18. Good Samaritan Hospital (202 Connelly St.)

Community Input:

The following sites were also listed and briefly discussed for possible inclusion into the Historical Markers Project:

- Carver Colored Library Auditorium
- St. Peter Claver School
- Aycock Pharmacy
- Dr. Whittier CM + OC
- Leonard’s Pharmacy
- Fair Childs Tennis Courts Central Playground
- Macedonia/2nd Baptist
- Browning Barber
- Mattie Landry/Campfire Campfounders Girls
- Victoria St.
- Register Newspaper
- Cactus and MLK / Abernathy Texas Landmark
- Green Book Lodging
- Colored YWCA
- E. Commerce as a corridor
- Pullman Porters (Sunset Station)
- Parks - Lincoln Park
- Kennon BBQ
- Mint’s Beauty Nook
- Bellinger Mansion
- Pittman Sullivan (Sunken Garden)
- Ezell land
- Brackenridge Colored High School
- Douglas High School

Project Overview

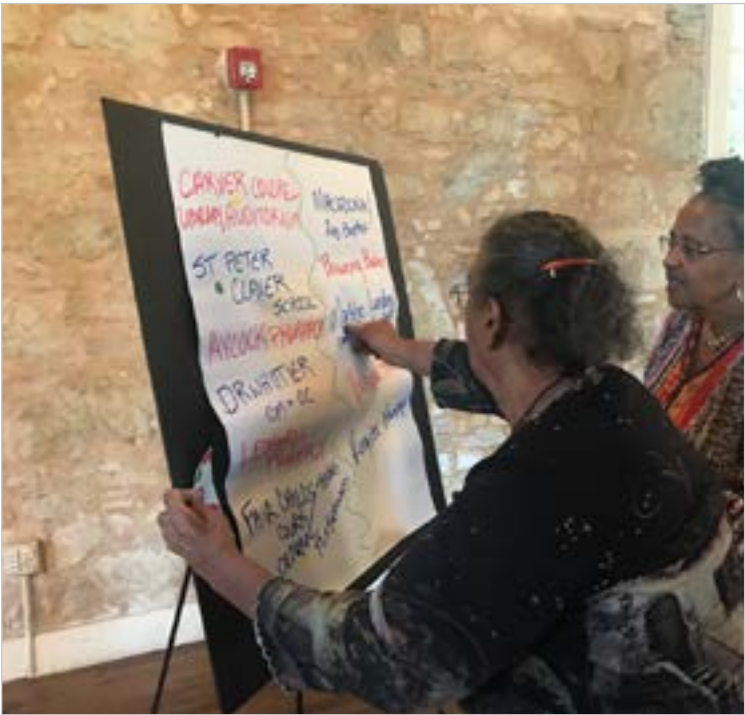
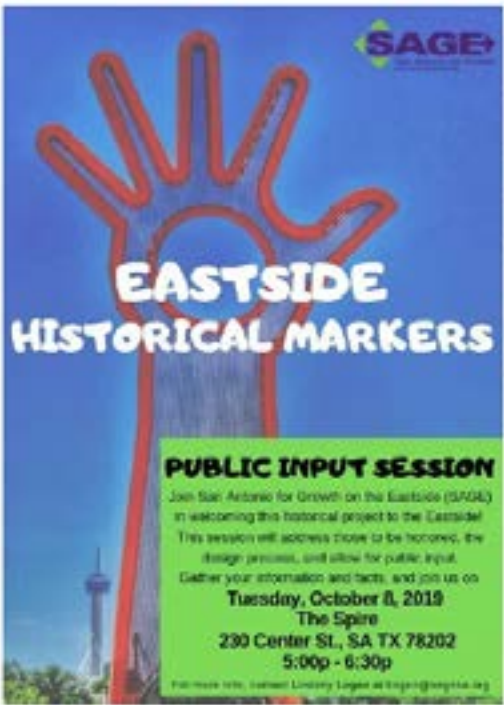
The East Side Markers Project is a project sponsored by San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE). There is a desire from many residents to commemorate special people and places located on the east side of San Antonio, that were important and influential African American business people and service providers in the past.

Many of the places are no longer standing, and it is the hope that these markers will connect current and future residents to the past and the people who lived through and were affected by a difficult and painful period in the history of the United States, and San Antonio in particular.

These markers will be installed in various location on the Eastside. This document strives to illustrate the background and the detail needed to inform the City and installers as to the intent of SAGE and the members of the team spearheading the effort.

History

This project is part of a TIRZ Board Initiative.



Goals of the Public Input Session:

Goal 1: Educate the community about the Eastside Historical Markers Project.

The most important first step of the public input session was to inform the public about the Eastside Historical Markers Project - how it will actually be done, and what it will mean for those in the community. It is important to inform the public about who will be conducting the process (SAGE through approval from the TIRZ department, Neighborhood and Housing Services Department, Office of Historic Preservation, and Arts & Culture Department), what that process looks like, and to communicate the initiation of historic landmark or district designation. The public input session provided recommendations for potential historic designations and preservation priorities. Educating the community about the public about the Eastside Historical Markers Project will answer questions, clarify misconceptions, and ensure transparency throughout the project.

Goal 2: Garner public interest in the culture of Eastside history and identify potential monumentalizations.

In addition to educating the public, a significant component of the public involvement process is stimulating interest, enthusiasm, and support from the community for the Eastside Historical Markers Project. This project is an excellent way to share information regarding the architectural and cultural significance



TIRZ Boundaries:

All historical markers identified through this Eastside Historical Markers Project must be located within the TIRZ boundaries, San Antonio, TX.

Funding:

Discussion of \$100,000 in TIRZ funding allotted for this Eastside Historical Markers Project (anticipated to include thirteen markers). Participants were explained that SAGE is managing the Eastside Historical Markers Project.

Age/Historical Significance:

- 1. Subject markers must date back at least 50 years, historic events may be marked after 30 years, and individuals may be marked or mentioned in a historical marker text after they have been deceased for 10 years.
- 2. Historical significance: A topic is considered to have historical significance if it had influence, effect or impact on the course of history or cultural development; age alone does not determine significance. Age alone is not sufficient for marker eligibility.

Types/styles of markers: Markers size, cost, and design



MARKER TYPE /
APPEARANCE PRECEDENT

DOUBLE POST @ EACH MARKER REQUIRED
FOR ADA CANE “NOTIFICATION”

This project is an excellent way to share information regarding the architectural and cultural significance of the Eastside. The public was asked to share and shed light on overlooked areas/significant people within the Eastside community.

There is a strong need to preserve and protect Eastside history, which in turn, should generate a greater pride of place and a sense of connectivity to the community.

Goal 3: Determine from the public the historical and cultural significance within nearby neighborhoods and their importance. After educating the public for the reason of the public input session, the goal was to then determine which areas, corridors, individuals, buildings, structures, sites and objects are most significant to their community and share its importance. This information plays a pertinent role in determining the historical significance.

Goal 4: Provide the public with a platform for sharing significant information about their community’s history. The final goal of the public input session was to provide a mechanism for the community to adequately share information about their communities with the SAGE staff. Each public input session attendee provided their contact information for further input and follow-up. SAGE may opt to continue some of the public input sessions to continue to gather information about the historical narrative of the Eastside areas at hand for discussion.

List of Locations & Time Line
Phase 1 and Phase 2 & 3

Phase 1 (Completed)

Sept. - Dec. 2020	Dec. 2020	Jan. - March 2020
Site 1 The Cameo Theater		Completed
Site 5 Black Commerce Street		Pending, Due to construction
Site 12 G. W. Bouldin Newspaper		Moved to Phase 2 & 3 due to site issues
Site 13 The SNCC Legacy Project		Completed
Site 14 John Inman, Fighter for Human Rights		Completed
DESIGN	PERMIT	INSTALL

Phase 2 & 3

Nov. - Dec. 2023	Dec. 2023	Dec. 2023
Site 2 Walking Bridge Over Commerce		To Be Placed
Site 3 The Deluxe Hotel		To Be Placed
Site 4 The Manhattan Hotel	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 6 Charles Bellinger Gas Station		To Be Placed
Site 7 Homer Rogers Office	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 8 The Lifesver Grill	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 9 Reus Liquor Store	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 10 Sunset Station	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 11 Macedonia Baptist Church	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 15 Carver Community Cultural Center		To Be Placed
Site 16 Charles Williams Historical National Museum		To Be Placed
Site 17 Friendship Baptist Church and the Norris Wright Cuney School		To Be Placed
Site 18 Good Samaritan Hospital		To Be Placed
DESIGN	PERMIT	INSTALL

The tables at the left show the eighteen sites that were considered for this project, many of which were identified as potential sites at the East Side Markers Meeting.

The Phase 1 markers listed were finalized and placed, with the exception of Site 5 and Site 12, which had site and adjacent construction issues, which prevented their installation. They are shown in the table at the top.

This document includes the details, illustrations and location information for the six Phase 2 & 3 monument sites: Site 2, Site 6, Site 15, Site 16, Site 17 and Site 18, which are shown in dark blue at left.

Site 5 and 12 with their address locations are shown in teal, below left.

Site 5 will be completed when construction on its site allows for its placement.

Site 12 will be included and placed with the markers included in Phases 2 & 3.

Phase 1 Monuments Completed

- 1 The Cameo Theater, 1123 E. Commerce St.
- 13 The SNCC Legacy Project, 709 S. Pine St.
- 14 John Inman, Fighter for Human Rights, 333 Martin Luther King Dr.

Phase 1 Monuments to be Placed

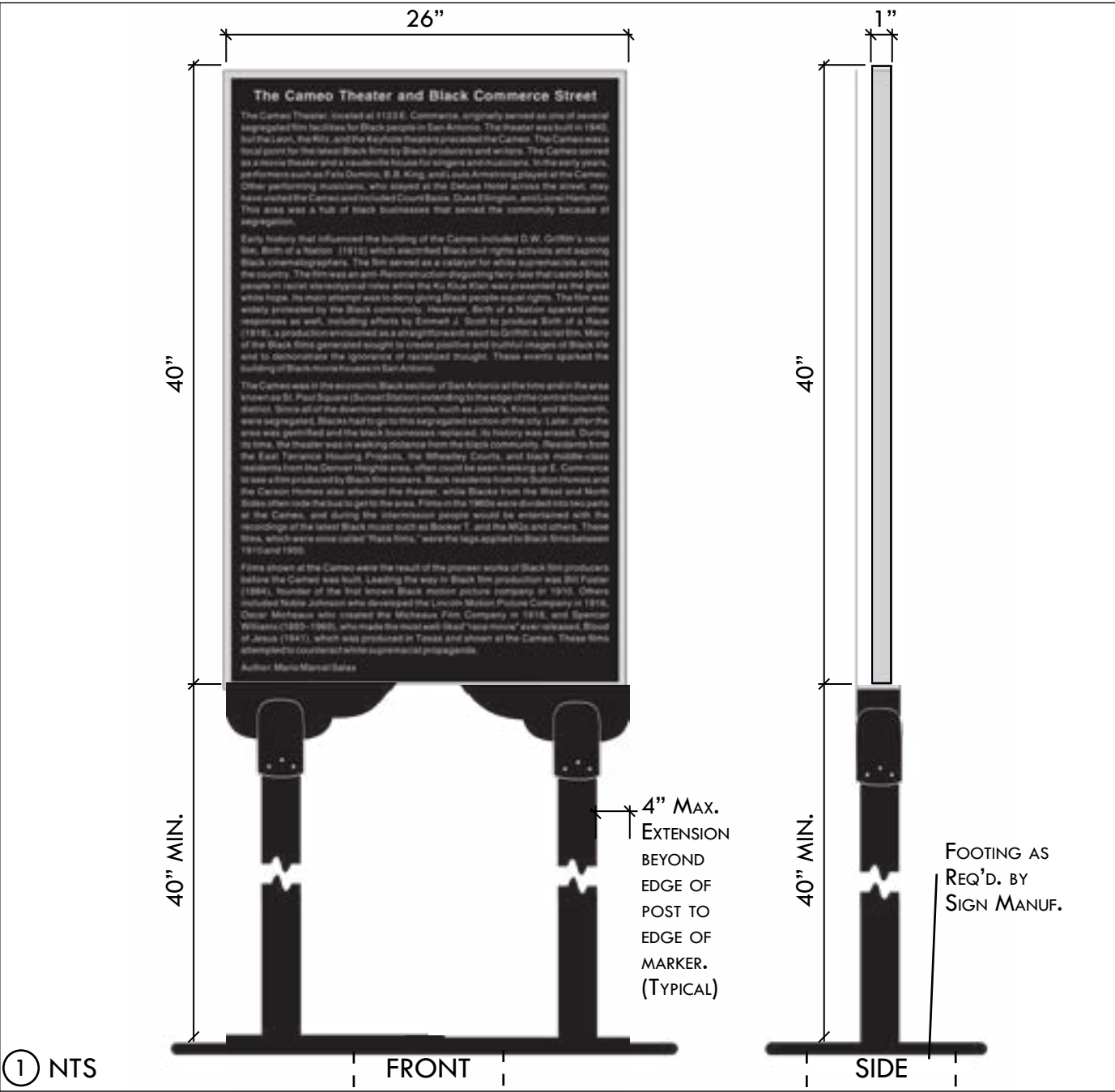
- 5 Black Commerce Street, 1416 E. Commerce St.
- 12 G. W. Bouldin Newspaper, 230 N. Center St.

Phase 2 & 3 Monuments to be Placed

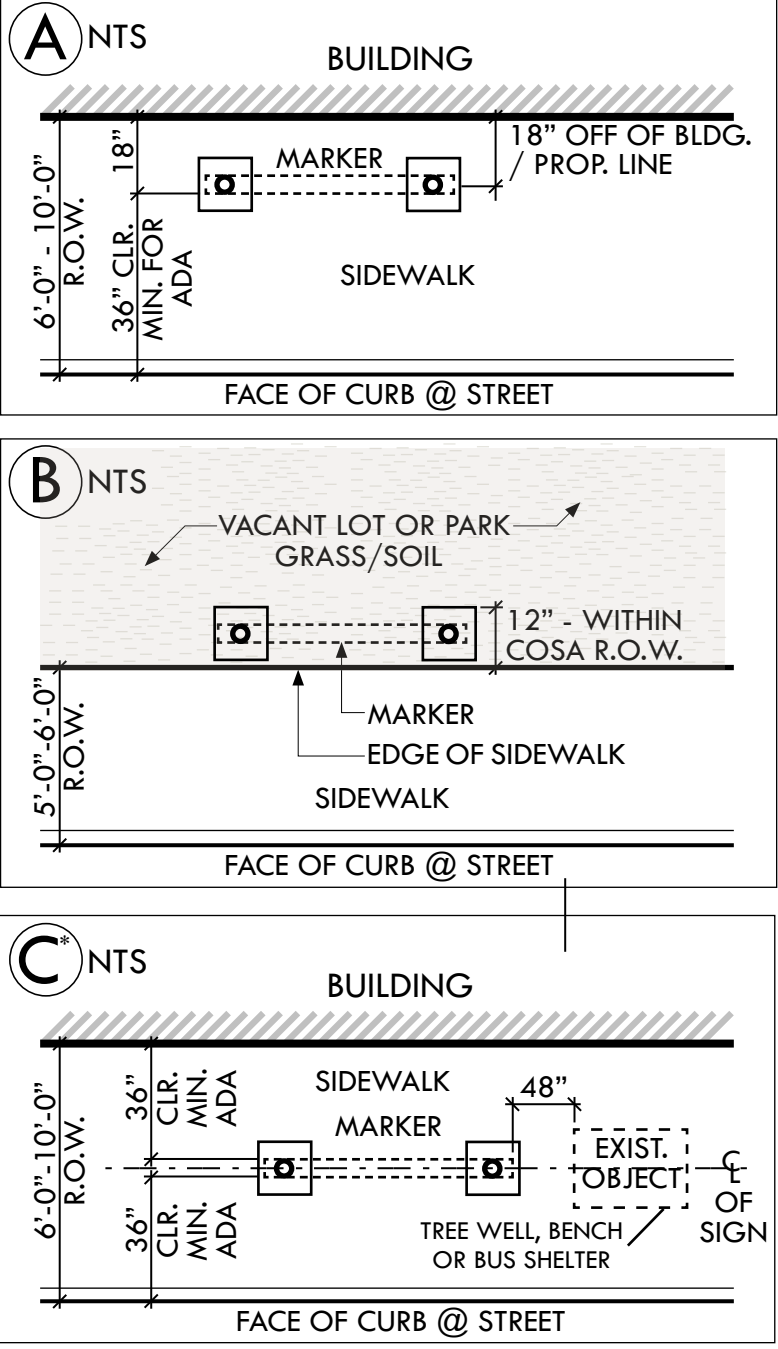
- 2 Walking Bridge Over Commerce and the Deluxe Hotel, 1149 E. Commerce St.
- 3 The Deluxe Hotel, 1138 - 2 Sycamore St.
- 6 Charles Bellinger Gas Station, 1403 E. Commerce St.
- 15 Carver Community Cultural Center, 226 N. Hackberry
- 16 Charles Williams Historical National Museum, 506 Montana St.
- 17 Friendship Baptist Church and the Norris Wright Cuney School, 935 Iowa St.
- 18 Good Samaritan Hospital, 202 Connelly St.

Monuments Not Included in this Scope of Work - to be Included in Future Phases

- 8 The Lifesaver Grill, N. Swiss St. & E. Commerce St.
- 4 The Manhattan Hotel, Cherry & E. Commerce St.
- 7 Homer Rodgers Office, E. Commerce St.
- 9 Reus Liquor Store, S. Hackberry and E. Commerce St.
- 10 Sunset Station, 1174 E. Commerce St.
- 11 Macedonia Baptist Church, Center St. & Chestnut St.



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Typical Marker Elevation
At left are front and side elevations of a typical monument showing dimensions. Footing per Manufacturer's requirements.

Installation Locations:

Location Type A:
When a monument is to be located near a building, marker should be placed in the City sidewalk ROW. A 36" clear dimension must be maintained in front of the marker. Marker to be 18" from building for building maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic.

Location Type B:
When a monument is to be located at a vacant lot/park location, locate along the sidewalk edge, in the soil or grass and within the City's ROW area, maintaining 36" clear dimension in front of the sign.

Location Type C*:
In cases where A and B are not possible, and if approved by the City, the sign could be mounted next to an existing tree well, fixed bench or bus shelter. Maintain 48" away from object, and maintain 36" clear walkway around sign. *CoSA must approve.

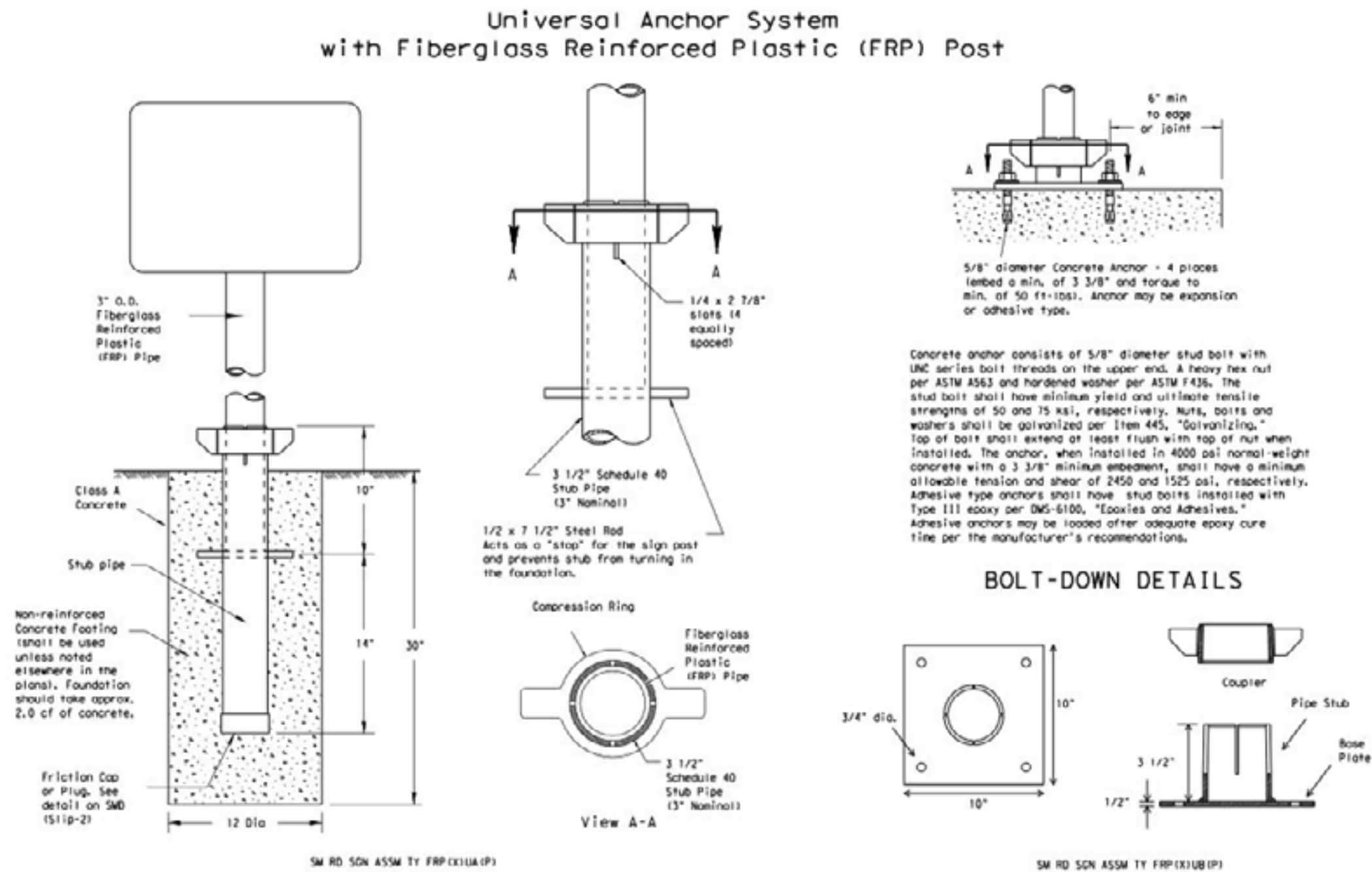
- LEGEND**
- ① Typical Sign Elevations
 - Ⓐ Plan @ Building / Sidewalk
 - Ⓑ Plan @ Vacant Lot / Park Sidewalk Edge
 - Ⓒ *Plan Near Existing Sidewalk Object
- Follow Manufacturer's Mounting / Footing instructions.

Each marker will need to be installed into a footing that is embedded in concrete. This detail will be provided by the signage manufacturer. The details at left are from typical signage details used by Tx-DOT for sign installation and are shown for design intent only.

It is recommended that the base be a break away type base, so that if by chance the sign is struck by a vehicle, the sign breaks away from the base.

Refer to Signage Manufacturer's Details for Specific Footing / Installation requirements.

Design Intent, Not for Construction.



DESIGN INTENT OF POST FOOTING, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS AND TWO FOOTINGS

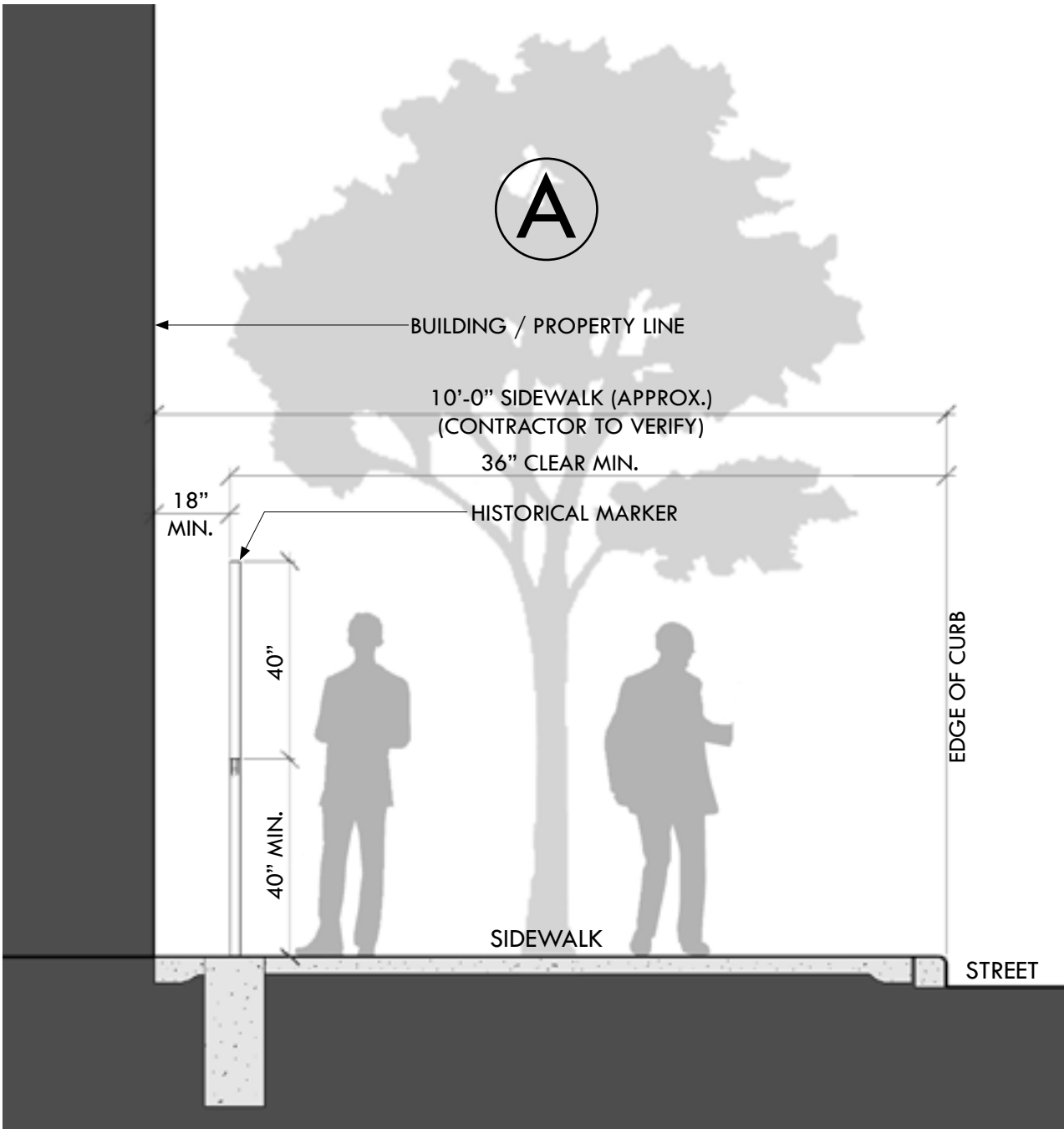
Marker Prototypes
Installation Location Sections A + B

Location A & B are depicted on an approximate 10 foot wide and 5-6 foot wide sidewalk, respectively. Widths may vary by location and should be verified by Contractor / Sign Installer.

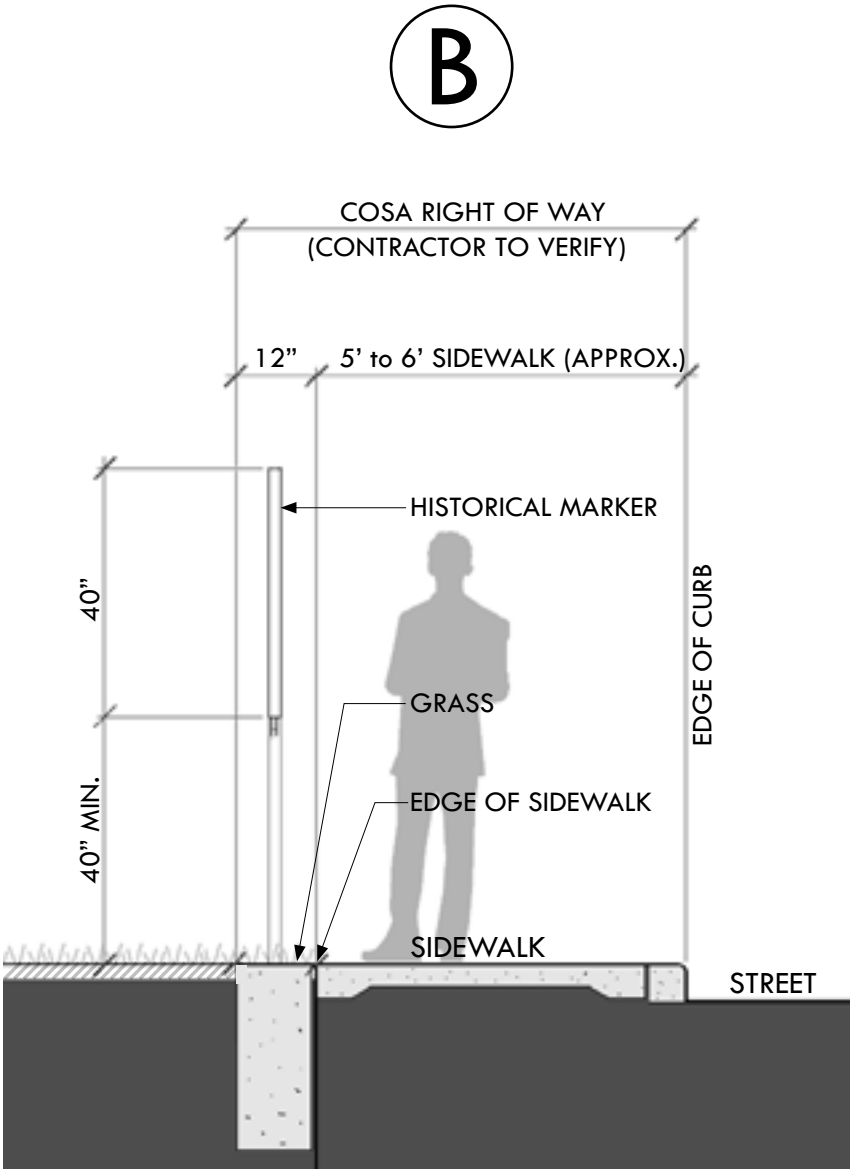
Installation Locations:

Location A:
When a monument is to be located near a building, marker should be placed in the City sidewalk ROW. A 36" clear dimension must be maintained in front of the marker. Marker to be 18" from building for building maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic.

Location B:
When a monument is to be located at a vacant lot/ park location, locate along the sidewalk edge, in the soil or grass and within the City's ROW area, maintaining 36" clear dimension in front of the sign.



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



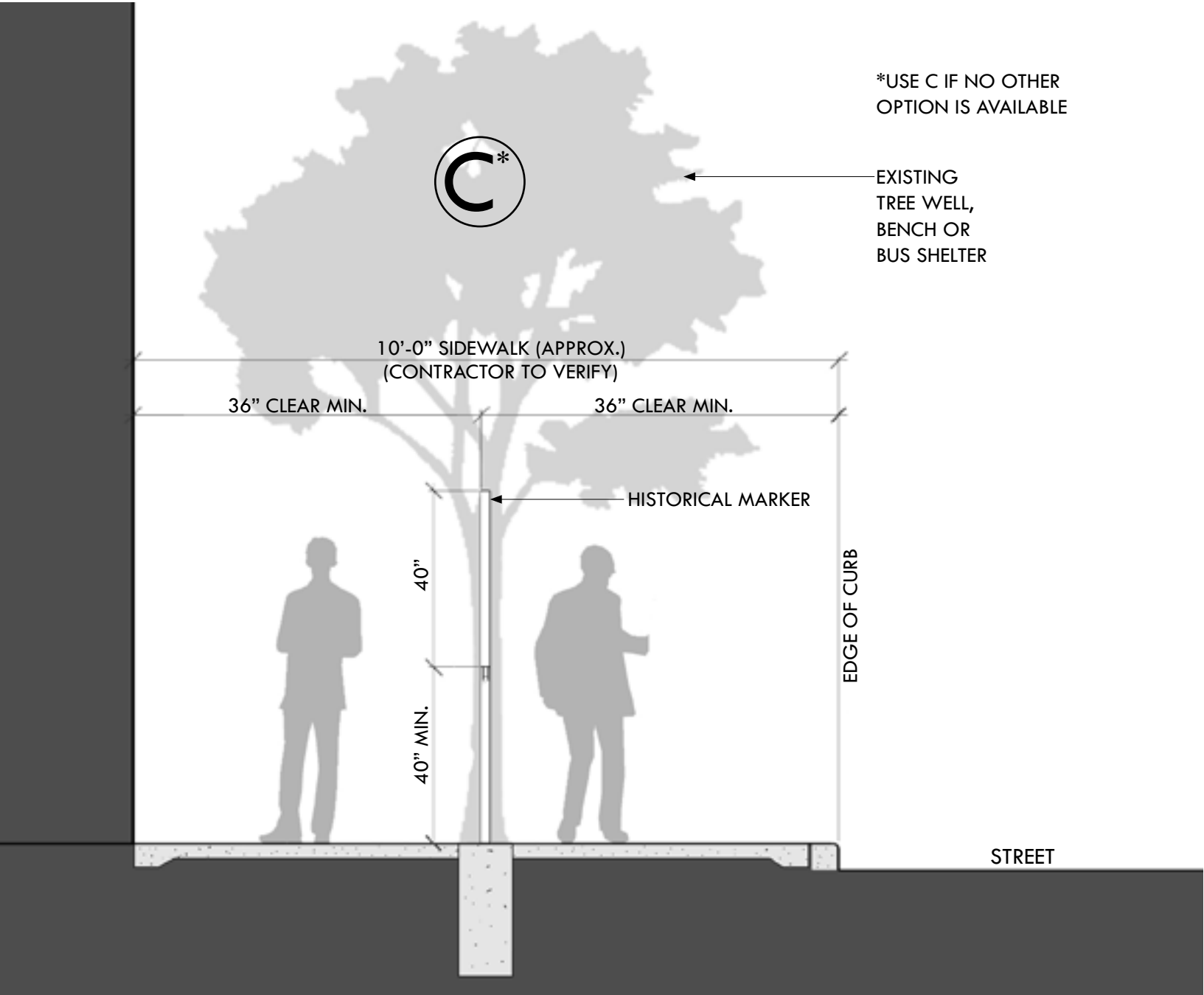
DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Design Intent, Not for Construction.

Location C is depicted on a 10 foot Sidewalk

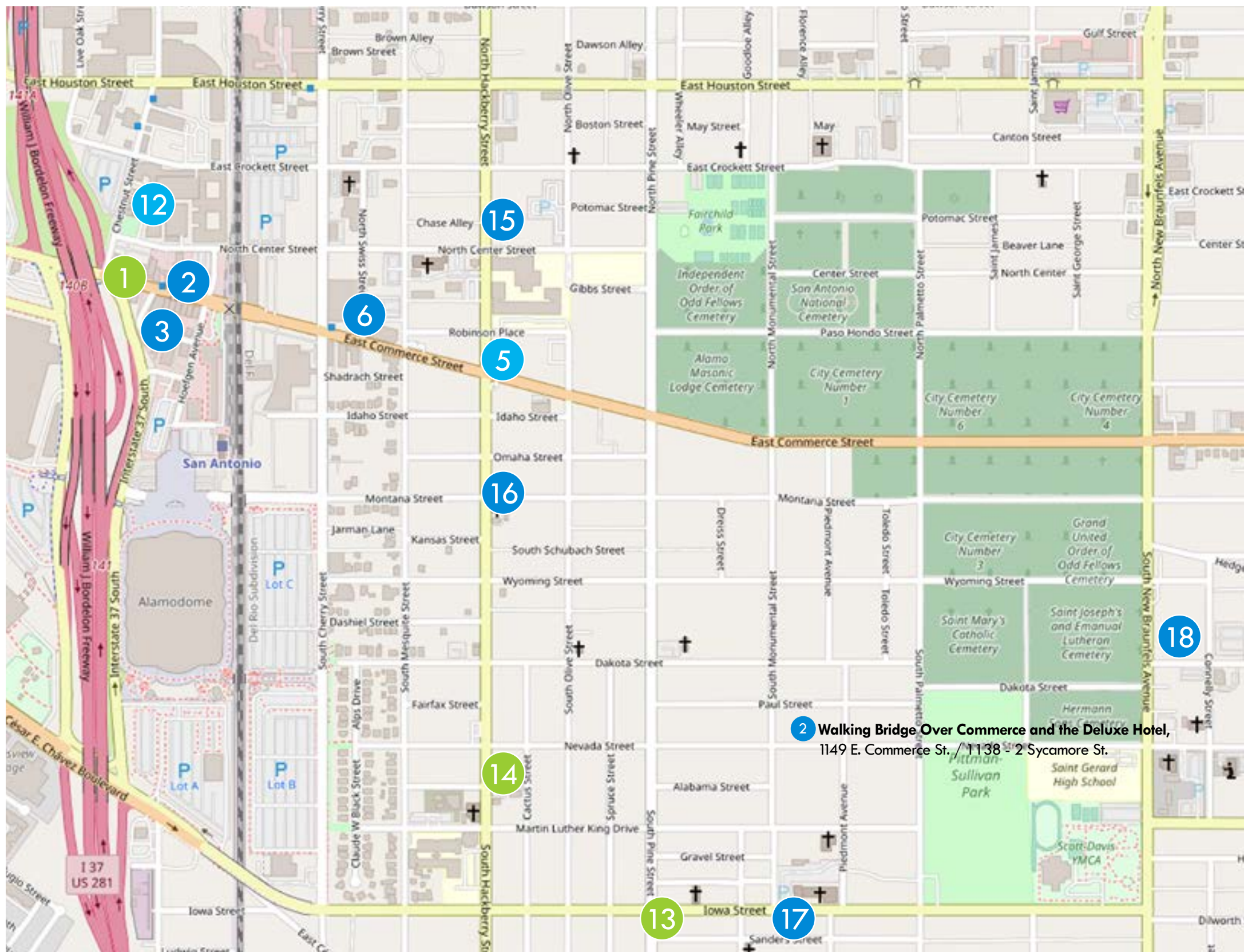
Installation Locations:

Location C:
In cases where A and B are not possible, and if approved by the City, the sign could be mounted next to an existing tree well, fixed bench or bus shelter. Maintain 48" away from object, and maintain 36" clear walkway around sign. *CoSA must approve.



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Design Intent, Not for Construction.



Location Maps Phase 1-3

Site Location Map

LEGEND

Phase 1 Monuments Completed

- 1 The Cameo Theater,
1123 E. Commerce St.
- 13 The SNCC Legacy Project,
709 S. Pine St.
- 14 John Inman, Fighter for Human Rights,
333 Martin Luther King Dr.

Phase 1 Monuments to be Placed

- 5 Black Commerce Street,
1416 E. Commerce St.
- 12 G. W. Bouldin Newspaper,
230 N. Center St.

Phase 2 & 3 Monuments to be Placed

- 2 Walking Bridge Over Commerce,
1149 E. Commerce St.
- 3 The Deluxe Hotel,
1138 - 2 Sycamore St.
- 6 Charles Bellinger Gas Station,
1403 E. Commerce St.
- 15 Carver Community Cultural Center,
226 N. Hackberry
- 16 Charles Williams Historical National Museum,
506 Montana St.
- 17 Friendship Baptist Church and the Norris Wright Cuney School,
935 Iowa St.
- 18 Good Samaritan Hospital,
202 Connelly St.

COLOR KEY

- Phase 1 Monuments Completed
- Phase 1 Monuments to be Placed
- Phase 2-3 Monuments

Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

This is a Phase 1 marker being placed during phase 2 and 3, once construction on the adjacent building is complete. The property is temporarily fenced.

“Black Commerce Street” is a site that marks the location of several black-owned businesses that were located in the same building along a section of East Commerce Street that had many other black-owned businesses on it. This particular building housed several professional offices and services.

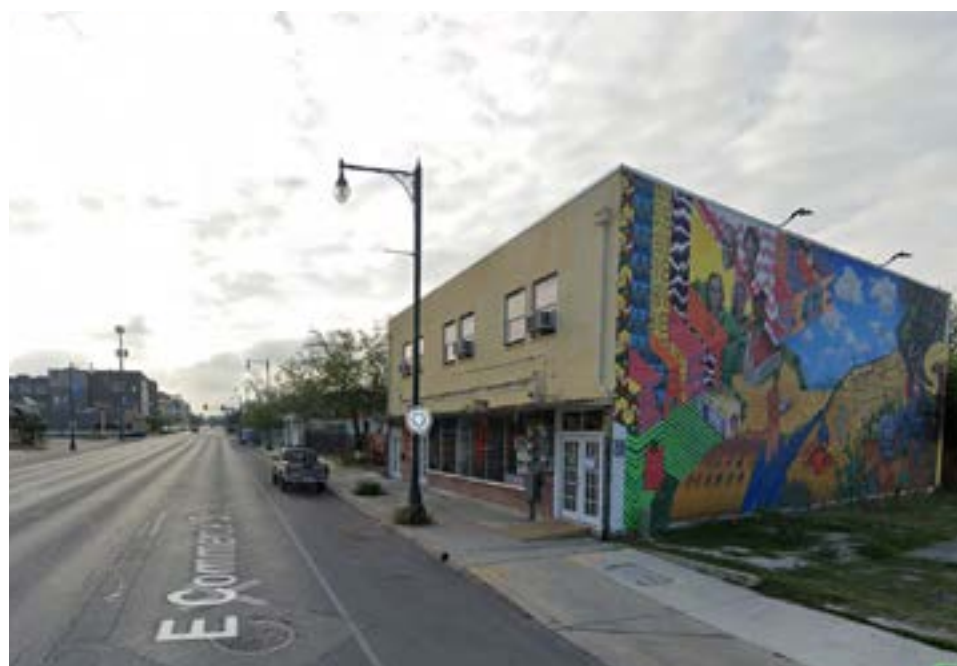
The marker could be located against the building at Locations Type A or A1.

Address: 1416 E. Commerce St.

Owner: Southwest Public Workers Union / Centro por la Justicia.

Zoning Overlay Info: Historic District , Arts and Entertainment District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



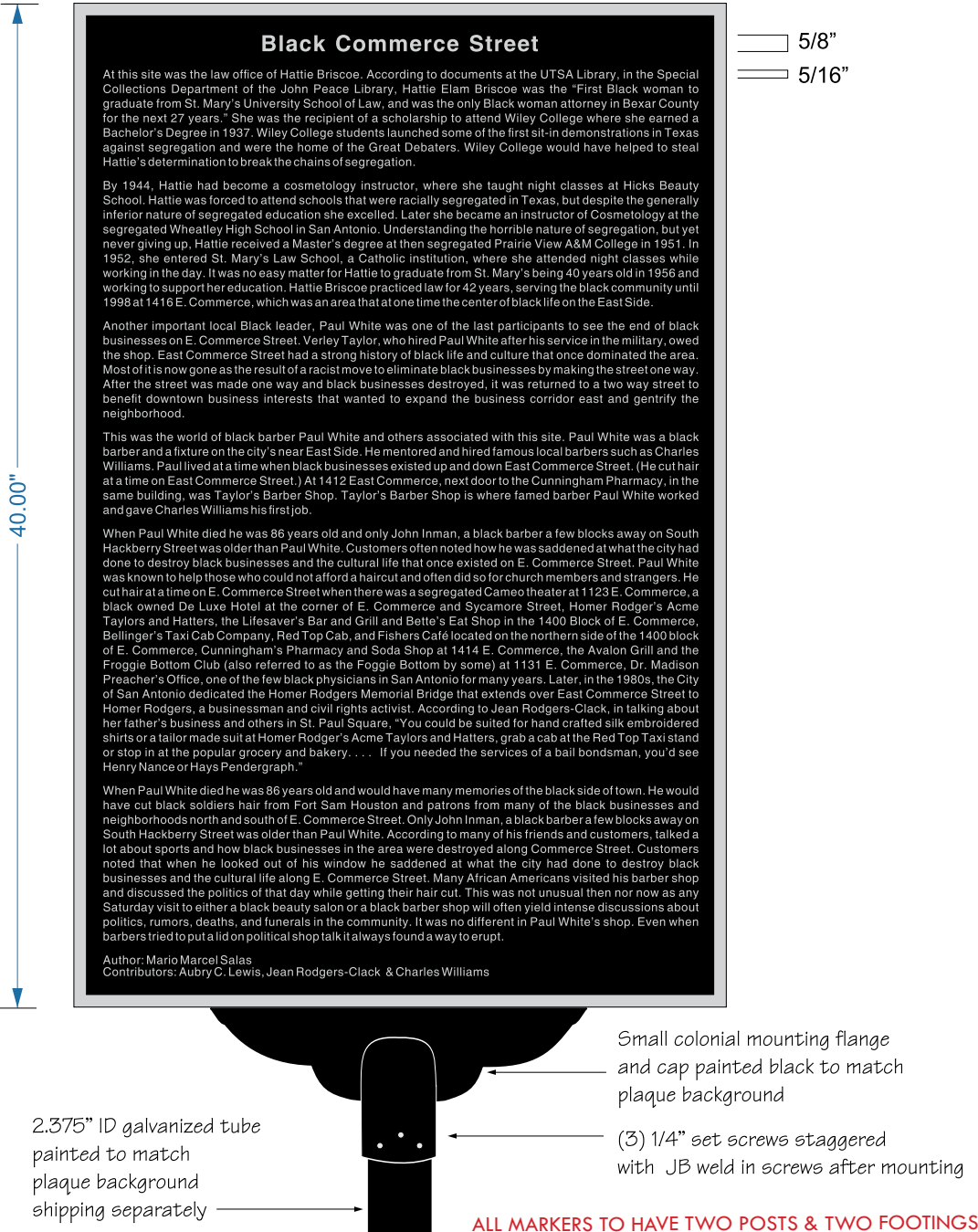
Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.



Black Commerce Street

At this site was the law office of Hattie Briscoe. According to documents at the UTSA Library, in the Special Collections Department of the John Peace Library, Hattie Elam Briscoe was the "First Black woman to graduate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and was the only Black woman attorney in Bexar County for the next 27 years." She was the recipient of a scholarship to attend Wiley College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1937. Wiley College students launched some of the first sit-in demonstrations in Texas against segregation and were the home of the Great Debaters. Wiley College would have helped to steal Hattie's determination to break the chains of segregation.

By 1944, Hattie had become a cosmetology instructor, where she taught night classes at Hicks Beauty School. Hattie was forced to attend schools that were racially segregated in Texas, but despite the generally inferior nature of segregated education she excelled. Later she became an instructor of Cosmetology at the segregated Wheatley High School in San Antonio. Understanding the horrible nature of segregation, but yet never giving up, Hattie received a Master's degree at then segregated Prairie View A&M College in 1951. In 1952, she entered St. Mary's Law School, a Catholic institution, where she attended night classes while working in the day. It was no easy matter for Hattie to graduate from St. Mary's being 40 years old in 1956 and working to support her education. Hattie Briscoe practiced law for 42 years, serving the black community until 1998 at 1416 E. Commerce, which was an area that at one time the center of black life on the East Side.

Another important local Black leader, Paul White was one of the last participants to see the end of black businesses on E. Commerce Street. Verley Taylor, who hired Paul White after his service in the military, owed the shop. East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. Most of it is now gone as the result of a racist move to eliminate black businesses by making the street one way. After the street was made one way and black businesses destroyed, it was returned to a two way street to benefit downtown business interests that wanted to expand the business corridor east and gentrify the neighborhood.

This was the world of black barber Paul White and others associated with this site. Paul White was a black barber and a fixture on the city's near East Side. He mentored and hired famous local barbers such as Charles Williams. Paul lived at a time when black businesses existed up and down East Commerce Street. (He cut hair at a time on East Commerce Street.) At 1412 East Commerce, next door to the Cunningham Pharmacy, in the same building, was Taylor's Barber Shop. Taylor's Barber Shop is where famed barber Paul White worked and gave Charles Williams his first job.

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. Customers often noted how he was saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life that once existed on E. Commerce Street. Paul White was known to help those who could not afford a haircut and often did so for church members and strangers. He cut hair at a time on E. Commerce Street when there was a segregated Cameo theater at 1123 E. Commerce, a black owned De Luxe Hotel at the corner of E. Commerce and Sycamore Street, Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, the Lifesaver's Bar and Grill and Bette's Eat Shop in the 1400 Block of E. Commerce, Bellinger's Taxi Cab Company, Red Top Cab, and Fishers Cafe located on the northern side of the 1400 block of E. Commerce, Cunningham's Pharmacy and Soda Shop at 1414 E. Commerce, the Avalon Grill and the Froggie Bottom Club (also referred to as the Froggie Bottom by some) at 1431 E. Commerce, Dr. Madison Preacher's Office, one of the few black physicians in San Antonio for many years. Later, in the 1980s, the City of San Antonio dedicated the Homer Rodgers Memorial Bridge that extends over East Commerce Street to Homer Rodgers, a businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor made suit at Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. . . . If you needed the services of a bail bondsman, you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and would have many memories of the black side of town. He would have cut black soldiers hair from Fort Sam Houston and patrons from many of the black businesses and neighborhoods north and south of E. Commerce Street. Only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. According to many of his friends and customers, talked a lot about sports and how black businesses in the area were destroyed along Commerce Street. Customers noted that when he looked out of his window he saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life along E. Commerce Street. Many African Americans visited his barber shop and discussed the politics of that day while getting their hair cut. This was not unusual then nor now as any Saturday visit to either a black beauty salon or a black barber shop will often yield intense discussions about politics, rumors, deaths, and funerals in the community. It was no different in Paul White's shop. Even when barbers tried to put a lid on political shop talk it always found a way to erupt.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas
Contributors: Aubry C. Lewis, Jean Rodgers-Clack & Charles Williams

Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

Black Commerce Street

East Commerce Street was the business heart of the east side African American community. Here, Black residents could secure services not available to them elsewhere in segregated San Antonio. These businesses were owned and led by African American professionals and community leaders. East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. Most of it is now gone, the result of several barriers designed to segregate the area, including McAllister Freeway which established an additional barrier to the existing railroad tracks. After the street was made one way, most of the last remaining black businesses were destroyed.

Preachers Professional Building at 1416 E. Commerce housed several of these businesses, among them was the law office of Hattie Briscoe. Hattie Elam Briscoe, the first Black woman to enroll, and graduate, from St. Mary's University School of Law. Graduating first in her class in 1956, she would serve as the only Black woman attorney in Bexar County for the next 27 years. Briscoe earned her bachelor's degree from Wiley College, a historically black liberal arts college in Marshall Texas, after receiving a scholarship to attend. Home of the Great Debaters, Wiley College students launched some of the first sit-in demonstrations against segregation in Texas which would have helped to steel Hattie's determination to break the chains of segregation.

By 1944, Briscoe had become a cosmetology instructor, teaching night classes at Hicks Beauty School on S. Pine Street. She later became an instructor of cosmetology at the segregated Wheatley High School in San Antonio. Briscoe continued to seek higher education for herself. Although forced to attend racially segregated Texas schools, Briscoe nonetheless excelled despite the generally inferior nature of segregated education, receiving a master's degree at then segregated Prairie View A & M College in 1951. In 1952, she entered St. Mary's Law School, a Catholic institution, where she attended night classes while working in the day. Briscoe practiced law for 42 years.

Also located on E. Commerce was an important barbershop. At 1412 East Commerce, next door, and in the same building, as the Cunningham Pharmacy and Soda Shop, was Taylor's Barber Shop. Verley Taylor hired Paul White after White completed his military service. White would go on to run the barbershop and become one of the last businessmen to witness the end of black businesses on East Commerce Street. White would cut Black soldiers' hair from Fort Sam Houston and patrons from many of the Black businesses and neighborhoods north and south of East Commerce Street. Many African Americans visited his barbershop and discussed politics while getting their haircut. This was not unusual then, or now, as any Saturday visit to either a black beauty salon or a black barbershop will often yield intense discussions about politics, rumors, deaths, and funerals in the community. It was no different in Paul White's shop. Even when barbers tried to put a lid on political shoptalk, it always found a way to erupt.

Mr. White mentored and hired one such famous local barber Charles Williams. Williams would become an entrepreneur opening his own shop and a barber college. When Paul White died, he was 86 years old. Only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street, was older than White. Customers often noted how he was saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life that once existed on East Commerce Street.

White cut hair at a time on E. Commerce Street when the Cameo theater at 1123 E. Commerce was dedicated to entertaining black audiences and featuring black performers. Also operating at the time, was the black owned De Luxe Hotel at the corner of E. Commerce and Sycamore Street, Homer Rodger's Acme Taylors and Hatters, the Lifesaver's Bar and Grill, Bette's Eat Shop, Bellinger's Taxi Cab Company, Red Top Cab, Fishers Café, the Avalon Grill, the Froggie Bottom Club (also referred to as the Foggie Bottom by some) and Dr. Madison Preacher's office, one of the few black physicians in San Antonio for many years.

Later, in the 1980s, the City of San Antonio dedicated the Homer Rodgers Memorial Bridge that extends over East Commerce Street to Homer Rodgers, a businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor-made suit at Homer Rodger's Acme Taylors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. If you needed the services of a bail bondsman, you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

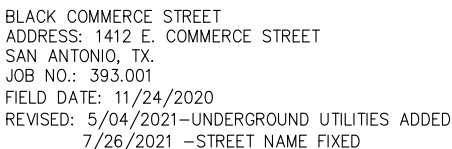
Contributors: Aubry C. Lewis, Jean Rodgers-Clack and Charles Williams

Monument Text:

The Final HDRC / OHP approved text for the monument is shown at left.

At left is the final approved survey, pending final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

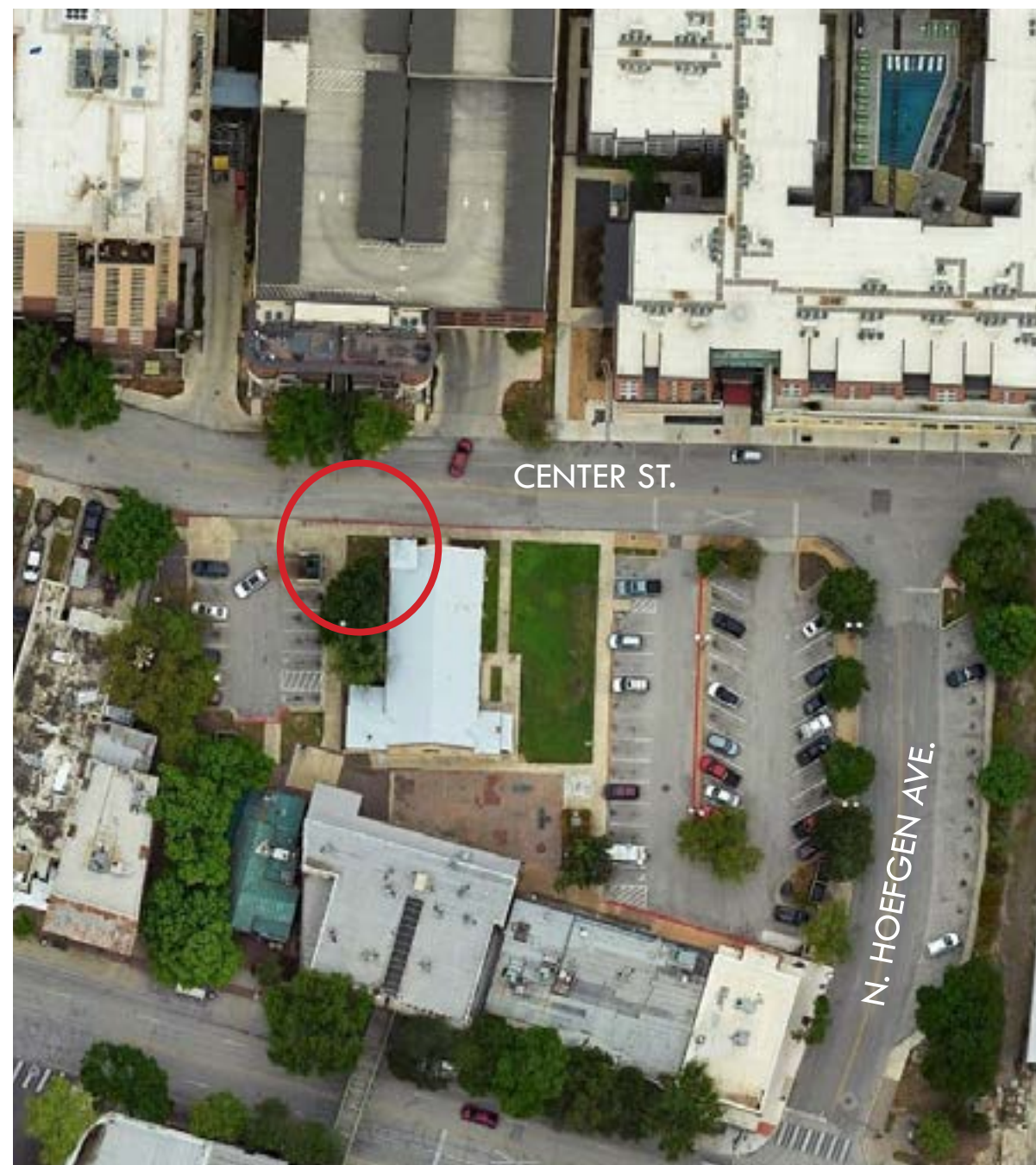
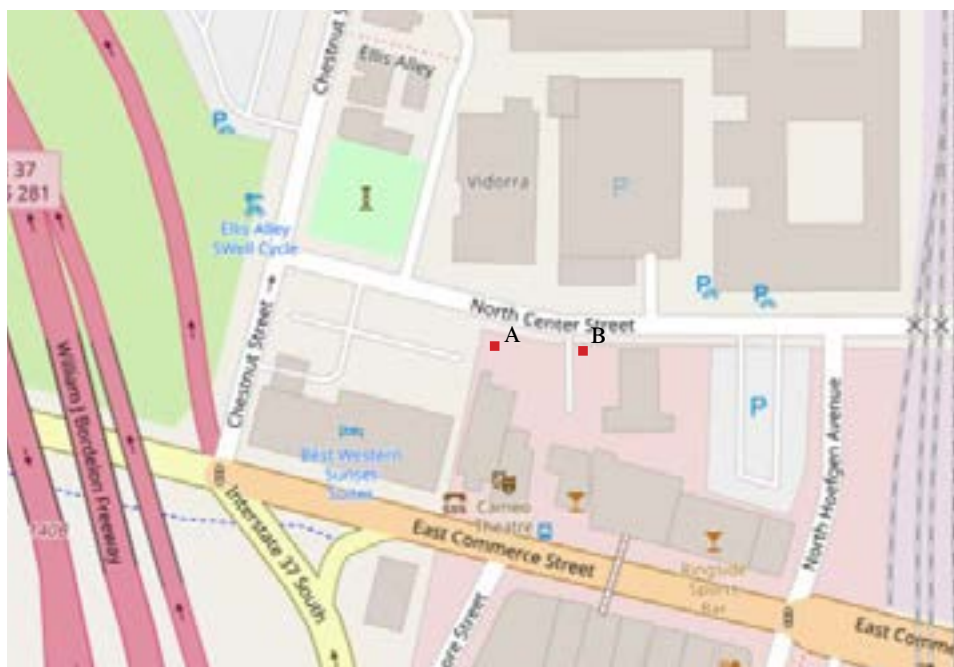
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Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper 230 N. Center St.



This site that housed G.W. Bouldin's newspaper buildings is approximate but generally located across the street from the proposed monument location options. There are row houses on the approximate site, which is covered by trees, so the team thought that the Bouldin monument could be located across the street, in the right-of-way adjacent to the church now called "The Spire" at 230 Center St.

Two options were considered by the team.

The first is centered on a stucco wall, and aligned with an existing light pole, to keep it out of the walking area.

The second is at the edge of the sidewalk and the open grassy area, just west of the church spire.

The marker could be located at the edge of the sidewalk - Type B or in line with street signage -Type C.

Address: 230 N. Center St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: East Commerce Realty LLC / City Tribe

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Sq. Historic District,

Locations & Site Data

12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper

230 N. Center St.

Monument Text:

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40.00"

G.W. Bouldin
An Important African Leader in San Antonio

This area known as St. Paul Square is steeped in history. This vicinity once teemed with black businesses, and several African American churches including 2nd Baptist Church and St. Paul's Colored Methodist. It was also the place where civil rights leader G. W. Bouldin housed several businesses and his newspaper. In 1936, G. William Bouldin once lived at 1730 East Houston Street where he would have meetings with mayors and civil rights leaders. He arrived in San Antonio in 1908 and worked as a Pullman Porter for the segregated railroad system. He was born in Hondo, Texas on June 29, 1895, and soon after coming to San Antonio established an African American newspaper called the San Antonio Inquirer which was located in this block at 207 N. Center Street. Later, the paper moved to the corner of E. Commerce and Hackberry Streets. It was while he was the editor of the paper that the Bureau of Investigation began harassing him for articles that appeared in his paper critical of the treatment of black soldiers at Fort Sam Houston who were eventually hanged on the Salado Creek for their part in protecting the black community of Houston, Texas. In a courtroom at the Fort Sam Houston Post Chapel, 19 black soldiers were racially railroaded to the gallows. This barbaric act was condemned across the country and was also spotlighted in an article in Bouldin's paper.

G. W. Bouldin was tried and convicted under the Espionage Act in 1919, at a time when the First Amendment was compromised, and sent to Leavenworth Prison for simply allowing an article critical of the mistreatment of these African Americans soldiers to be printed in his paper. Bouldin was a fighter for civil rights and black uplift, and refused to give up even after serving his time in prison. Bouldin went on to become a builder, a real estate man, a mortician, and a newspaper man. In fact, Bouldin operated and owned funeral homes throughout the state of Texas and established Mount Zion Funeral Parlor with the famous businessman Frank E. Lewis in San Antonio. This structure was formally St Paul Colored Methodist Church across the street at 230 N. Center.

According to another black newspaper, the San Antonio Register, of July 10, 1936, Bouldin established funeral homes in Hallettsville, Lockhart, Luling, Gonzales, Yoakum, San Marcos, Kenedy, Goliad, and Corpus Christi. G. W. Bouldin stood out as a light and a beacon in the African American community of San Antonio and should be honored for his contributions to San Antonio as a whole. Bouldin died on July 5, 1936 and his death certificate was signed by the famous black medical doctor, Madison L. Preacher. Bouldin was buried on July 9, 1936 and was an active member of the United Brothers of Friendship, a black lodge.

The harassment that Bouldin received at the hands of the Bureau of Investigation in the early 1900s was documented in a research book called "Investigate Everything" by Theodore Kornweibel. The legacy Bouldin left behind helped to create foundational opposition to white supremacy. Bouldin was a member of West End Baptist Church and had a large send off on the occasion of his death. Bouldin did not forget where his roots were and was not ashamed of his activities for the betterment of African Americans.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Sponsors: City of San Antonio, TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE)

5/8"

7/16"

Small colonial mounting flange and cap painted black to match plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

2.375" ID galvanized tube painted to match plaque background shipping separately

Elevation Scale: 1/2"

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper

230 N. Center St.

Monument Text:

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G. W. Bouldin, An Important African American Leader in San Antonio

This area known as St. Paul Square is steeped in history. This vicinity once teemed with Black businesses, and several African American churches including 2nd Baptist Church and St. Paul's Colored Methodist. It was also the place where civil rights leader G. W. Bouldin housed several businesses and his newspaper. In 1936, G. William Bouldin lived at 1730 East Houston Street where he would have meetings with mayors and civil rights leaders. He arrived in San Antonio in 1908 and worked as a Pullman Porter for the segregated railroad system. He was born in Hondo, Texas on June 29, 1895, and soon after coming to San Antonio established an African American newspaper called the San Antonio Inquirer in 1906, located in this block at 207 N. Center Street. Later, the paper moved to the corner of E. Commerce and Hackberry Streets. It was while he was the editor of the paper that the Bureau of Investigation began harassing him for articles he published critical of the treatment of Black soldiers of the 24th Infantry during the "Houston Riot" and tried at Fort Sam Houston. The article that was used to prosecute Bouldin was contained in the November 24, 1917 edition of his newspaper. On December 11, 1917, the soldiers were hanged on the Salado Creek for their part in protecting the black community of Houston, Texas. In a courtroom at the Fort Sam Houston Post Chapel, 19 Black soldiers were racially railroaded to the gallows. This barbaric act was condemned across the country and was also spotlighted in an article in Bouldin's paper.

G. W. Bouldin was tried and convicted under the Espionage Act in 1919, at a time when the First Amendment was compromised, and sent to Leavenworth Prison for two years for simply allowing an article critical of the mistreatment of these African Americans soldiers to be printed in his paper. His sentence was commuted by the President to one year and a day. Bouldin was a fighter for civil rights and Black upliftment and refused to give up even after serving his time in prison. Bouldin went on to become a builder, a real estate man, a mortician, and a newspaper man. In fact, Bouldin operated and owned funeral homes throughout the state of Texas and established Mount Zion Funeral Parlor with the famous businessman Frank E. Lewis in San Antonio in 1923. This structure was formerly the St. Paul Colored Methodist Church across the street at 230 N. Center.

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Bouldin was a member of West End Baptist Church which had a large send off on the occasion of his death. Bouldin did not forget where his roots were and was not ashamed of his activities for the betterment of African Americans.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Sponsors: City of San Antonio, TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE)

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NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

2 - The Walking Bridge

1149 E. Commerce St.



This site consists of two sides of the street where the walking bridge is located, crossing over E. Commerce Street and resting upon two sets of steel columns. Either side of the street was considered by the team, and the final location is to be determined by the City and OHP.

Both locations are near the bridge supports.

The location on the north side has existing trash cans between the supports, so the proposed location is just to the west of the supports, perpendicular to the support post, with plenty of clearance, but sits in the shade of large trees.

The location on the south side of the street could go between the two support posts. The southern location is sunnier and less obtrusive to pedestrians.

The marker could be located against or between the support - Location Type C.

Address: 1149 E. Commerce St.

Monument Location: In Right of Way

Owner: Guild Mortgage Company / City Tribe

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Square Historic District, Individual Landmark, Downtown District.

Neighborhood: St. Paul Square



John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

Inman's community barber shop on S. Hackberry Street was across the street from Mount Zion First Baptist Church and where he was an active member. According to researcher Alwyn Barr, in quoting A.C. Sutton, John Inman was always in the lead for civil rights. Sutton said, "Anything that looked like a movement, he would be a part of." After authorities discovered that Inman was a revolutionary they removed his barber shops from the military bases which caused economic hardships for his family. However, much to the displeasure of segregationists Inman kept up the fight for human dignity. In 1928, John Inman became the president of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP. He fought for infrastructure improvements on the East Side and carried out a campaign to end the poll tax.

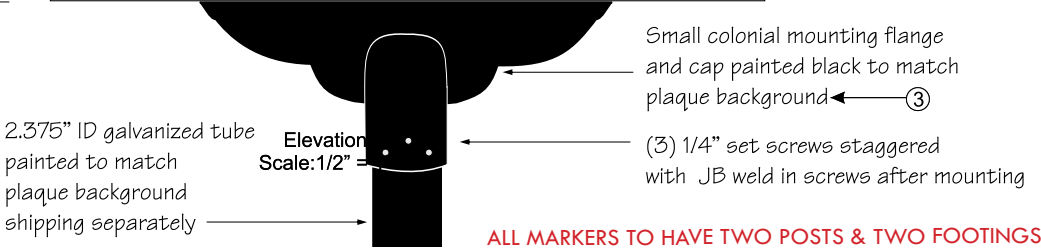
John Inman was allied with Rev. Claude Black and the G. J. Sutton family. In the 1930's and 1940's, the Black community was active in encouraging voting by holding mock "Sepia Mayoral Campaigns," which were recorded in the Black Press (San Antonio Register), and "Anti-Poll Tax Hallies" on the east and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local labor activist and participated in these mock mayoral campaigns which were organized by what was then called the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He was actually elected in a mock mayoral campaign in an effort to show that Blacks deserved to hold the position of mayor in San Antonio during the era of segregation. John Inman was a fighter for social justice for many years. John Inman, a Black revolutionary during the Bellinger era, lived for a long time, and fought for positive change in decades. He was an advocate of worker's rights and supported workers of all ethnic groups including Mexican American Pecan Shellers that carried out a strike for better working conditions under the leadership of Emma Tenayuca. John Inman was active in a black and brown coalition that was organized into the "Workers Alliance." Inman was able to organize black support for the Pecan Sheller's Union and his help was invaluable. Shamefully his organizing success has gone uncelebrated.

Inman's influence would be felt years later when he would conduct political education classes for San Antonio SNCC members, civil rights workers, and others in the 1960s. He never gave up and was quoted in the community by many people who remembered that he said, "The harder they fought me the harder I fought back. I was never afraid of risking my life for the cause of justice and freedom." In the 1970s, John Inman was a member of the San Antonio Committee to Free Angela Davis and helped to organize the largest rally in the country of close to 3,000 for her freedom at La Villita Assembly Hall. John Inman passed away in 1996 at the age of 100.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"
7/16"

40.00"



Monument Text:

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Locations & Site Data

2 - The Walking Bridge

1149 E. Commerce St.

St Paul Square: The Walking Bridge

This area was once completely St Paul Square and the surrounding area is steeped with important historical events and structures that point to a Black community that was once very large in the area. The St. Paul Square Historic District, on the east side of San Antonio, was derived from the Old St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church constructed in the late 1880s.

The walking bridge across E. Commerce and was dedicated to Homer Rodgers and important businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, one of the daughters of Homer Rodgers, when the walking bridge was dedicated they took a photo on top of the bridge which featured Homer Rodgers, Jr. (son), Rev. LaVelle Lowe, Jr. (Vice Chairman-San Antonio Development Agency), Jean Rodgers-Clack (daughter), Flossye M. Rodgers (wife), Burghardt (Burk) O. Edwards, Jr. (St. Paul Square Development Coordinator, San Antonio Development Agency), and others. The late City Councilman Joe Webb, the District 2 representative at the time helped secure the dedication of the bridge

According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor made suit at Homer Rodger's Acme Taylors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. . . . If you needed the services of a bail bondsman you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. After the street was made one way and black businesses destroyed, it was returned to a two street to benefit downtown business interests that wanted to expand the business corridor east and gentrify the neighborhood. In this area was the popular Deluxe Hotel which welcomed guests. Black retail businesses lined the area and black performing artists Count Basie, Duke Ellington, and jazz great Lionel Hampton, Louie Armstrong and exemplary blues vocalists and other entertainment celebrities were among the numerous visitors of the hotel. Inside this bustling area guests could eat at the Little Steak and Fish Café and partake of great food at the Life Saver Bar and Grill.

According to Suzanne Smith her father, Pinkie Smith, became manager of the Cameo Theater, and opened the Deluxe Hotel at the northern corner of Sycamore Street and East Commerce, which housed a drug store operated on the corner of the building. The Deluxe had a soda fountain, a beautiful dining room and a spacious lounge. She was quoted in a channel 12 news report by reporter Leslie D. Hollado as saying, "Everybody came to the Deluxe, especially because of the Cameo." Smith said it made for a perfect night out, "A nice meal, a nice evening, you know, go to see a movie." Black visitors coming to San Antonio had to seek Black owned hotels or boarding arrangements found in the historic "Green Book" which was a guide for Black people who faced segregated facilities in San Antonio. She said her father also owned two motels, one of them was named after her; the Suzanne Motel and the Ritz Motel, both further east of St. Paul Square but used by Black visitors as well.

Authors: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas, Jean Rodgers-Clack

Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11

San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Monument Text:

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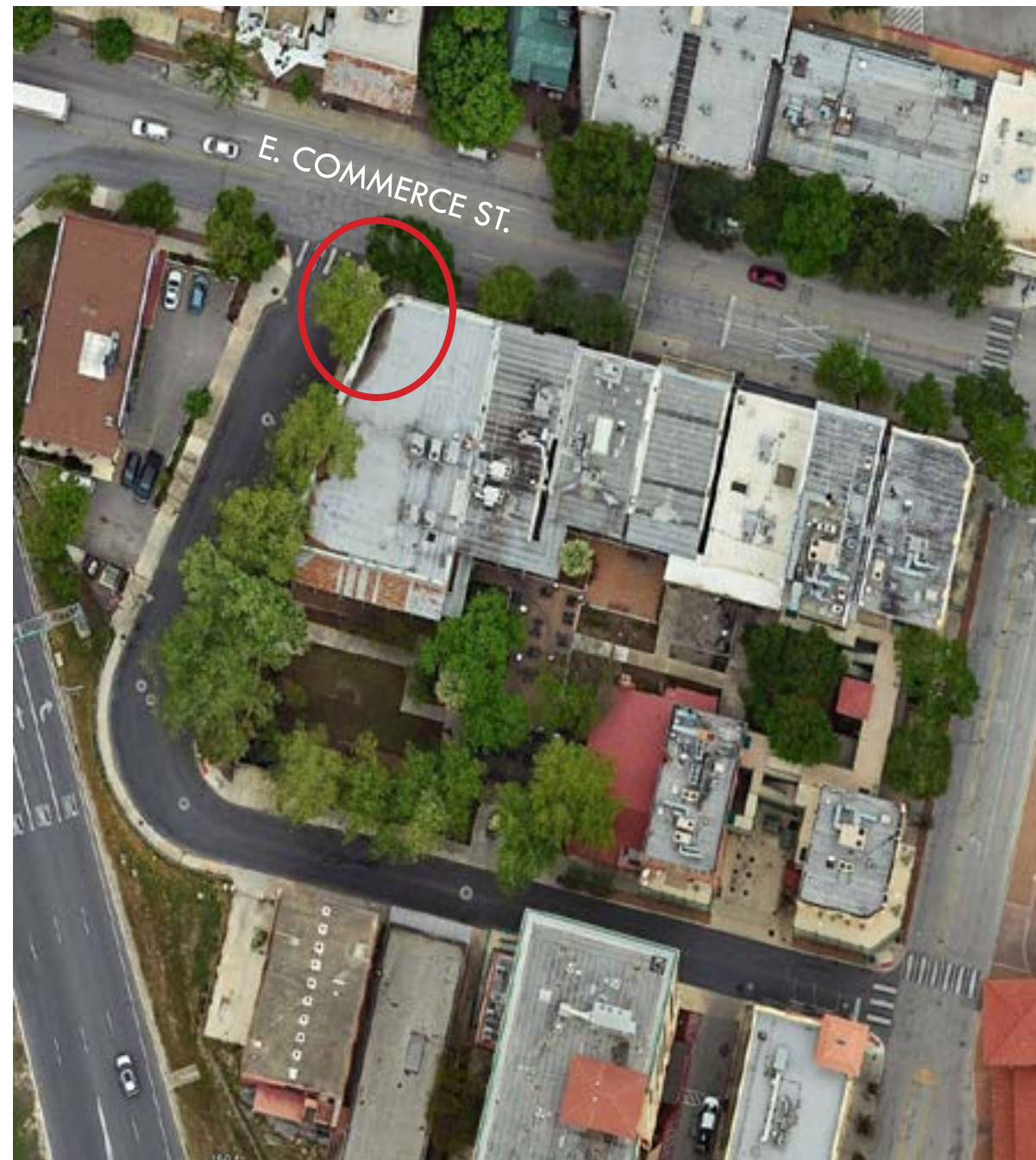
**NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED**

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.



This site is located at the corner of E. Commerce St. and Sycamore. There are two location options. This building, which has been used as an office building for decades, and which is entered at the midpoint on the western elevation, has corner entry at E. Commerce St.

Both locations flank the door located on the chamfered corner of the building, with the address number 1138-2 Sycamore St.

The first location option could run parallel to E. Commerce St., in line with and just east of an existing light pole.

The second location option could run parallel to Sycamore St., just north of an existing tree well, and an existing drainage grate.

The type of sign would be in line with street elements - Location Type C.

Address: 1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: TBD

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Square, Historic District, Individual Landmark, Downtown District.

Neighborhood: St. Paul Square

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

Monument Text:

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Black Commerce Street

At this site was the law office of Hattie Briscoe. According to documents at the UTSA Library, in the Special Collections Department of the John Peace Library, Hattie Elam Briscoe was the "First Black woman to graduate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and was the only Black woman attorney in Bexar County for the next 27 years." She was the recipient of a scholarship to attend Wiley College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1937. Wiley College students launched some of the first sit-in demonstrations in Texas against segregation and were the home of the Great Debaters. Wiley College would have helped to steal Hattie's determination to break the chains of segregation.

By 1944, Hattie had become a cosmetology instructor, where she taught night classes at Hicks Beauty School. Hattie was forced to attend schools that were racially segregated in Texas, but despite the generally inferior nature of segregated education she excelled. Later she became an instructor of Cosmetology at the segregated Wheatley High School in San Antonio. Understanding the horrible nature of segregation, but yet never giving up, Hattie received a Master's degree at then segregated Prairie View A&M College in 1951. In 1952, she entered St. Mary's Law School, a Catholic institution, where she attended night classes while working in the day. It was no easy matter for Hattie to graduate from St. Mary's being 40 years old in 1956 and working to support her education. Hattie Briscoe practiced law for 42 years, serving the black community until 1998 at 1416 E. Commerce, which was an area that at one time the center of black life on the East Side.

Another important local Black leader, Paul White was one of the first participants to see the end of black businesses on E. Commerce Street. Verley Taylor, who hired Paul White after his service in the military, owed the shop. East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. Most of it is now gone as the result of a racist move to eliminate black businesses by making the street one way. After the street was made one way and black businesses destroyed, it was returned to a two way street to benefit downtown business interests that wanted to expand the business corridor east and gentrify the neighborhood.

This was the world of black barber Paul White and others associated with this site. Paul White was a black barber and a fixture on the city's near East Side. He mentored and hired famous local barbers such as Charles Williams. Paul lived at a time when black businesses were being destroyed along E. Commerce Street. (He cut hair at a time on East Commerce Street.) At 1412 East Commerce, next door to the Cunningham Pharmacy, in the same building, was Taylor's Barber Shop. Taylor's Barber Shop is where famed barber Paul White worked and gave Charles Williams his first job.

When Paul White died he was 86 years old. Near him, John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. Customers often noted how he was saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life that once existed on E. Commerce Street. Paul White was known to help those who could not afford a haircut and often helped poor church members and strangers. He cut hair at a time on E. Commerce Street when there was a segregated Cameo theater at 1123 E. Commerce, a black owned De Luxe Hotel at the corner of E. Commerce and Sycamore Street, Homer Rodgers' Acme Tailors and Hatters, the Life Saver's Bar and Grill and Betty's Eat Shop in the 1400 Block of E. Commerce, Bellinger's Taxi Cab Company, Red Top Cab, and Fishers Cafe located on the northern side of the 1400 block of E. Commerce, Cunningham Pharmacy and Soda Shop at 1414 E. Commerce, the Avalon Grill and the Froggie Bottom Club (also referred to as the Froggie Bottom by some) at 1131 E. Commerce, Dr. Madison Preacher's Office, one of the few black physicians in San Antonio for many years. Later, in the 1980s, the City of San Antonio dedicated the Homer Rodgers Memorial Bridge that extends over East Commerce Street to Homer Rodgers, a businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor, a suit at Homer Rodgers' Acme Tailors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. . . . If you needed the services of a bail bondsman, you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and would have many memories of the black side of town. He would have cut black soldiers hair from Fort Sam Houston and patrons from many of the black businesses and neighborhoods north and south of E. Commerce Street. Only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. According to many of his friends and customers, talked a lot about sports and how black businesses in the area were destroyed along Commerce Street. Customers noted that when he looked out of his window he saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life along E. Commerce Street. Many African Americans visited his barber shop and discussed the politics of that day while getting their hair cut. This was not unusual then nor now as any Saturday visit to either a black beauty salon or a black barber shop will often yield intense discussions about politics, rumors, deaths, and funerals in the community. It was no different in Paul White's shop. Even when barbers tried to put a lid on political shop talk it always found a way to erupt.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas
Contributors: Aubry C. Lewis, Jean Rodgers-Clack & Charles Williams

- 5/8"
- 5/16"

2.375" ID galvanized tube
painted to match
plaque background
shipping separately



- Small colonial mounting flange
and cap painted black to match
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ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data
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1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

St Paul Square:TheDeluxe Hotel

Monument Text:

This area was once completely St Paul Square and the surrounding area is steeped with important historical events and structures that point to a Black community that was once very large in the area. The St. Paul Square Historic District, on the east side of San Antonio, was derived from the Old St. Paul Methodist Episcopal Church constructed in the late 1880s.

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Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

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Locations & Site Data

6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station 1403 E. Commerce St.

This site is located on the site of the property, which is still used as a service station and a U-Haul truck rental, and as such, the majority of the parking area is drivable, with no curbs. Therefore, there is little room in which a monument could be placed and not be in the way of vehicles maneuvering trucks and cars into the site.

Two locations were considered by the team, both at the southwest corner of the site, and out of traffic. An existing street light is there, so the two location options should be adjacent to the base, but not conflict with it.

The first location option could be set perpendicular to E. Commerce St., and just east of the light pole.

The second location option could be set in front of the light pole and parallel to E. Commerce.

Either location needs to leave clearance for the connection bolts on the base of the light.

The marker could be located in line with or in front of the light pole - Locations Type C.

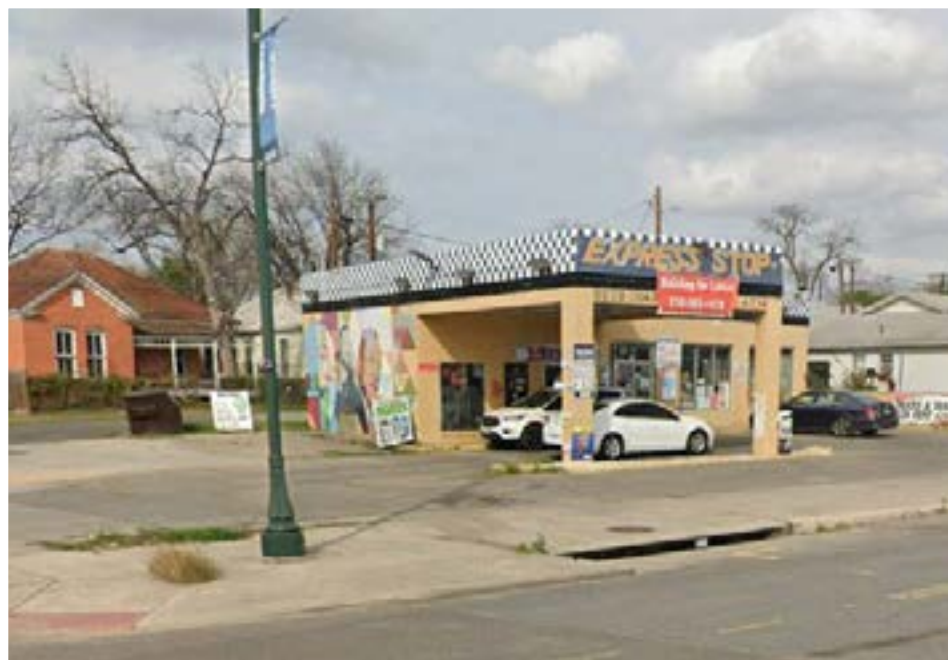
Address: 1403 E Commerce St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Business Thrills Inc

Zoning Overlay Info: Historic District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



Locations & Site Data

6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station

1403 E. Commerce St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.



John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

Inman's community barber shop on S. Hackberry Street was across the street from Mount Zion First Baptist Church and where he was an active member. According to researcher Alwyn Barr, in quoting A.C. Sutton, John Inman was always in the lead for civil rights. Sutton said, "Anything that looked like a movement, he would be a part of." After authorities discovered that Inman was a revolutionary they removed his barber shops from the military bases which caused economic hardships for his family. However, much to the displeasure of segregationists Inman kept up the fight for human dignity. In 1928, John Inman became the president of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP. He fought for infrastructure improvements on the East Side and carried out a campaign to end the poll tax.

John Inman was allied with Rev. Claude Black and the G. J. Sutton family. In the 1930's and 1940's, the Black community was active in encouraging voting by holding mock "Sepia Mayoral Campaigns," which were recorded in the Black Press (San Antonio Register), and "Anti-Poll Tax Hallies" on the east and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local labor activist and participated in these mock mayoral campaigns which were organized by what was then called the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He was actually elected in a mock mayoral campaign in an effort to show that Blacks deserved to hold the position of mayor in San Antonio during the era of segregation. John Inman was a fighter for social justice for many years. John Inman, a Black revolutionary during the Bellinger era, lived for a long time, and fought for positive change in decades. He was an advocate of worker's rights and supported workers of all ethnic groups including Mexican American Pecan Shellers that carried out a strike for better working conditions under the leadership of Emma Tenayuca. John Inman was active in a black and brown coalition that was organized into the "Workers Alliance." Inman was able to organize black support for the Pecan Sheller's Union and his help was invaluable. Shamefully his organizing success has gone uncelebrated.

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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"

7/16"

40.00"

2.375" ID galvanized tube
painted to match
plaque background
shipping separately

Elevation
Scale: 1/2"

Small colonial mounting flange
and cap painted black to match
plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered
with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Charles Bellinger

At this site was a business office of Charles Bellinger (1875-1937), who was perhaps the best well-known “Black political leader” in the early 1900s. He was very wealthy and was able to control a large Black voting bloc that secured leniency from white authorities. He provided electoral support that kept San Antonio mayors in power. Racialized Whites in San Antonio did not want to see independent Black institutions that would challenge the segregation of the day. This control extended to the political arena where the wealth and power of Charles Bellinger would be used to provide infrastructure improvements on the East Side for political favors.

Under these segregated conditions, Charles Bellinger established numerous businesses in San Antonio as a result of acquiring wealth through gambling. He was able to establish a saloon, a cab company, a pool hall, a real estate company, a theater, a barbershop, an African American newspaper (The San Antonio Register), and numerous other economic ventures. He was also able to provide jobs for many of San Antonio’s Black citizens. San Antonio Mayor Charles McClellan “Mac” Chambers (1927-1933) used Bellinger’s influence to win elections as was done by the next San Antonio mayor Charles K. Quin (1933-1939).

Blacks were not allowed to run for office during this period of Jim Crow law but could vote after paying a poll tax which Bellinger paid keeping the receipts for the voters at this location. He would later use the receipts and his cabs to pick up black voters when elections were held. Eventually, Bellinger would incur the threats of the San Antonio Ku Klux Klan and in 1935 as they would burn a cross at his mansion on South New Braunfels Street. Ironically, Bellinger would support the pro-KKK mayor Charles Quin. The city’s political machine used segregation to maintain power and favored maintaining the disenfranchisement of Blacks as long as Bellinger could assure their electoral victory. Charles Bellinger was able to garner the support of the Black Church, despite his enterprises that include “bootlegging” of alcohol during prohibition, gambling and other vices. Bellinger was able to secure political favors to uplift the Black community that included improving the sidewalks, streets, and drainage projects and providing other infrastructure. He also provided funds to pay for a section of segregated Santa Rosa Hospital that would provide medical services to the Black community.

Later, in the 1950s, the Good Government League (GGL) was founded and it sought to maintain the exclusion of Mexican Americans and Black people while at the same time handpicking minority leadership. This was a shift in power relations, for in the 1920s and 1930s, Charles Bellinger brokered the Black church and its votes. After Bellinger’s death, his son inherited this political model that was originally established by San Antonio Black leader Lafayette Walker during Reconstruction.

According to Henderson (1970), the methods of dealing with political power on the East Side shifted to Valmo Bellinger, the son of Charles Bellinger. The church always played a role in these events either criticizing the corrupt nature of East Side politics or going along with it. These strategies lead to splits within the Black community between the more progressive elements and those who were handpicked by white city leaders. Out of this developed a rift between those who were fighting white supremacy and those who were willing to accommodate it.

Bellinger’s grip on the voting bloc of the Black middle class and the NAACP, was enhanced by his relationship with several corrupt mayors. Bellinger would eventually be convicted of income tax evasion as a result of NAACP President Harold Tarver revealing to banker Walter W. McAlister and Maury Maverick Sr. that Bellinger was not paying income tax on several businesses. Traver sought to make the NAACP more representative of the community and separate from the business interests of Bellinger. Bellinger would be pardoned by Franklin D. Roosevelt the President of the United States. Bellinger. He soon died after his release from prison on June 14, 1937.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. It has to be approved by HDRC / OHP.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas
Sponsors: San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE)
Tax Increment Refinance Board 11 (TIRZ Board 11)

The survey at left is preliminary, pending final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

**NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED**

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

15 - Carver Community Cultural Center - 226 N. Hackberry



This site is at the northwest corner of the property. The team felt that there was just one location to consider, along the brick retaining wall along N. Hackberry, and to the right of the entry steps.

The monument should be placed so that it is centered on the double windows, but in the sidewalk right-of-way.

The marker should be located against the retaining wall, and out of sidewalk traffic, using Locations Type A.

Address: 226 N. Hackberry

Monument Location: In Right of Way

Owner: City of San Antonio

Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Military Notification Area, Historic District, Residential Mixed District, UZROW (Unzoned Right-of-Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill

Locations & Site Data

15 - Carver Community Cultural Center - 226 N. Hackberry

Monument Text:

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John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

Inman's community barber shop on S. Hackberry Street was across the street from Mount Zion First Baptist Church and where he was an active member. According to researcher Alwyn Barr, in quoting A.C. Sutton, John Inman was always in the lead for civil rights. Sutton said, "Anything that looked like a movement, he would be a part of." After authorities discovered that Inman was a revolutionary they removed his barber shops from the military bases which caused economic hardships for his family. However, much to the displeasure of segregationists Inman kept up the fight for human dignity. In 1928, John Inman became the president of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP. He fought for infrastructure improvements on the East Side and carried out a campaign to end the poll tax.

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5/8"

7/16"

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2.375" ID galvanized tube painted to match plaque background shipping separately

Elevation Scale: 1/2"

Small colonial mounting flange and cap painted black to match plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

The Carver Community Cultural Center

John Grumbles, who was the first President of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP, initiated the building of a Black Library that would service the needs of the African American community. According to documents stored at the Carver in 1903, Andrew Carnegie donated “several hundred volumes” of books which were initially housed in the Riverside Colored High School eventually renamed the Frederick Douglass School. In 1919, the library received support from the War Services Board to finance construction of the facility. John Grumbles facilitated the moving of a house that would become a library and then in 1925 the City of San Antonio assumed control of several properties on which the structure set which was being used as a “colored recreation center,” which was used by returning Black soldiers from WW1. Sources indicate that Grumbles had circulated the idea of a library for Black people as early as 1914. In 1929, the old building was demolished, and Charles Bellinger was able to get a new structure funded in a bond floated by the City of San Antonio in the amount of \$75,000 in 1928. Charles Bellinger provided infrastructure improvements on the East Side, and eventually led to funding for the “Carver Colored Library.”

As a result of the desire to establish a structure that could educate Black people, the “Colored Library Association” was chartered in 1918. Grumbles sold his stake in three properties where the library was to be built to the “Colored Library Association” in 1918. The initial members of the association included Charles Bellinger, Harold Tarver, the second president of the local NAACP, F.E. Lewis, and George W. Bouldin, a contractor, and owner of a Black newspaper called the San Antonio Inquirer. In 1919, the facility housed a barbershop, a café, and a dance venue. The facility, affectionally known as “The Carver,” was officially named in honor of the George Washington Carver in 1938. Carver was born into slavery, being kidnapped by another slave owner, but eventually becoming an agricultural chemist who developed the idea of crop rotation. There was controversy surrounding the usage of the facility as segregationists in San Antonio did not want bond money to be used for an auditorium. In playing to the racist sentiment of the main library board, Mayor C.M. Chambers presented an ultimatum which stated that the auditorium be built, along with the library, or the main library would have to desegregate. Under these conditions the city’s white only library board refused to desegregate, and both the library and auditorium was built.

The Carver Library Auditorium opened on Saturday August 9, 1930, with no mention of it in the white press or the white only library board. This led to many programs and event highlighting Black talent including Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong, Billy Eckstine, Earl Hines, Duke Ellington, Sara Vaughn, Smith Jubilee Singers, T-Bone Walker, and Ray Charles. Civil rights leaders also gave speeches here including Black Congressman Oscar De Priest, Dr. W.B. Crittenden, Langston Hughes, Adam Clayton Powell, and many others.

In 1973, residents became aware that the City of San Antonio intended to demolish the structure. Alarmed citizens led by Norva Hill, director of United Citizens Project Planning and Operating Corporation (UCPPOC), a local poverty agency, negotiated to save the structure by standing in front of wrecking equipment while refusing to let the machinery demolish the structure. The City subsequently designated the building a Bicentennial project and committed \$339,000 in revenue sharing funds for its renovation. Black architect Norcell Haywood, and the firm Jordan & McGowan Associates, designed the new Carver library, while Haywood served as project architect. The renovated facility was named the George Washington Carver Community Cultural Center. In 2003, the Carver Community Cultural Center was named on the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service. In 1976, Jo Long assumed the executive director position and provided a passionate love for the facility and its historic importance to the overall community.

The Carver Community Cultural Center continues to service the needs of the community as a functioning first class venue for all sorts of events. Today, the Carver sponsors dozens of events in an annual season of visual and performing arts, including plays, poetry readings, community educational programs, and a variety of events that includes dance classes, and art exhibits. The other Carver on the property includes the restored African American Porter Memorial Church now called “The Little Carver.”

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. It has to be approved by HDRC / OHP.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas
Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)
Research provided by Executive Director Cassandra Parker -Nowiki

The survey at left is preliminary, pending final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

16 - Charles Williams Historical National Museum

506 Montana St.

This site has two options for monument location. The sidewalk is fairly tight, and there is a retaining wall and landscaping to contend with. Passing cars move quickly, so the monument placement should not in any way impeded pedestrian traffic or force people into the street.

If possible, the monument could be located in the grass, next to the sidewalk.

The first location could be just north of the building sign's landscaping edge, next to the concrete curb. The second location could be located just south of the west stained window, centered in the solid wall to the right of the window, but next to the concrete retaining curb, or in the grass on the other side of the curb.

The Location Type would be A at the north location, or Location Type B at the south location.

Address: 506 Montana St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Williams, Charles E Sr.

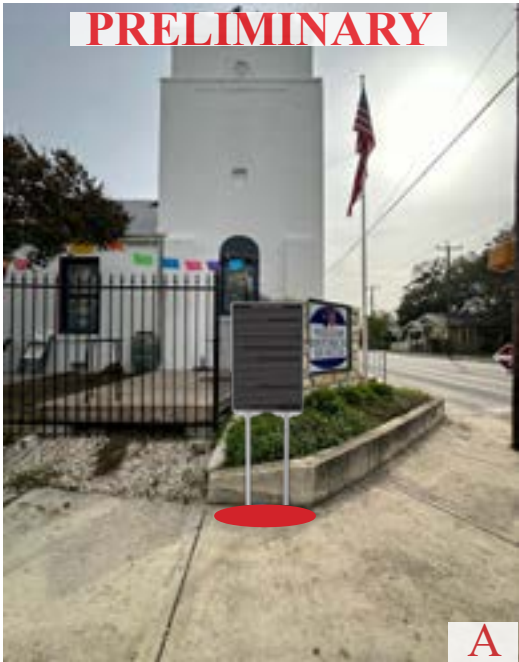
Zoning Overlay Info: St. Josephs Landmark, Arts and Entertainment District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



Locations & Site Data
16 - Charles Williams Historical
National Museum
506 Montana St.
Monument Text:

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Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by
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John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

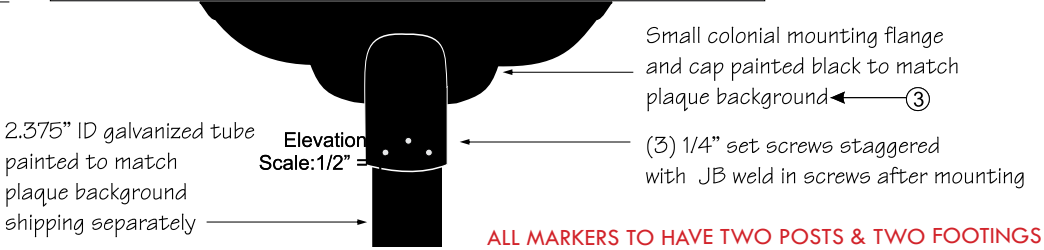
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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"
7/16"



Locations & Site Data

16 - Charles Williams Historical National Museum

506 Montana St.

Monument Text:

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Williams Historical National Museum

The Williams Historical National Museum celebrates the contributions and achievements made by San Antonio's historic Eastside throughout the City's enormous years of growth and development. Standing and rotating exhibitions recognize the distinguished men and women who served as forerunners in the pursuit of change and prosperity. These stories are shared through never seen before photographs, artifacts, and oral history interview accounts detailing factual records of events that helped shape the City's history.

Displays connect both, young and older age groups with the past and bring about an increased awareness of knowledge commemorating the influence of one of the City's oldest communities whose engagement helped shape integration and racial justice for our city and nation. The Williams Historical National Museum has been open since November, 2022. The opening of the museum is the realization of a 30-year dream by Mr. Williams who said, "It had been a dream of mine for almost thirty years to facilitate a place that could house the memories and artifacts of the past so the future generation can know whose shoulders they stand on and what kind of sacrifice these people made to make things better today and in the future."

The founder, Mr. Charles Williams has wanted to host a community space where younger generations would come together to learn about our collective history to commemorate the collective dream of racial equity and unity. Born in 1937, having lived through segregation, and then integration, Mr. Williams witnessed firsthand social and political changes. As an active participant in the civil rights movement in the 1950s-60s, he participated in sit-ins, demonstrations, and community organizing to usher in the ending of segregation in the south. Because of his personal experiences, he wanted to share his individual knowledge of the immense changes that have taken place. He has also worked hard to collect artifacts from local knowledge holders to expand our collective understanding of social change in San Antonio. Mr. Charles Williams was the first to initiate the change of Nebraska Street to MLK Drive. Mr. Williams is so deeply invested in younger generations knowing about the collective strength of Black people and those of the African Diaspora that he used part of his retirement and personal savings to develop the museum. He managed to raise funding support from the City of San Antonio that believes in the power and purpose of the Williams Historical National Museum.

According to the museums documents, "The museum focuses on Black history in south central Texas, with an emphasis on San Antonio, from the 1940s to the present. The museum also describes conditions of racial segregation in Texas more broadly from the sharecropper era (approximately 1880s) to about the 1960s. The museum covers a range of social issues including sports, medicine, education, business and economic life, housing, fashion and beauty. The museum focuses on written history and has the unique component of oral history that is passed from the Museum director, Charles Williams Sr., to those who visit the museum."

Mr. Williams became a barber and barber college owner and instructor, and then went on to be the first Black person who was appointed as chairman of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation barber board. Mr. Williams has headed up organizations in this community. He was chairman for the Black Chamber of Commerce for several years. He was also one of the first to serve on a bank board in this community which improved relations between the bank and the Black community. Mr. Williams also served as a member of the city's zoning and planning commission who understood the specific needs in our community. Charles Williams's strong desire involved ensuring that future generations learn about local Black fighters for progress, through their selfless acts of courage and service to the community. In this museum, people learn about local Black history and how they are connected to their accomplishments to make life better for San Antonio.

Authors: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Charles Williams Historical Museum

Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11

San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Locations & Site Data
16 - Charles Williams Historical
National Museum
506 Montana St.

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**NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED**

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

17 - Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School 935 Iowa St.

This site has two options, however the team felt that the western most option was the best. The site has a relatively tight sidewalk and fast passing traffic.

The first location is at the corner of Piedmont Ave. and Iowa St., along the sidewalk adjacent to the building sign, however, the building sign is angled, and the monument would bring attention to that fact. The sign should be located out of the sidewalk and away from the sloped sidewalk.

The second location was preferred by the team, as it was in front of the handsome, historic school building, where the existing retaining wall steps back and the sidewalk widens.

The sign should be placed so that it is centered on the double window to the right of the entry sidewalk.

Both locations would require Location Type A or B, alongside the grass.

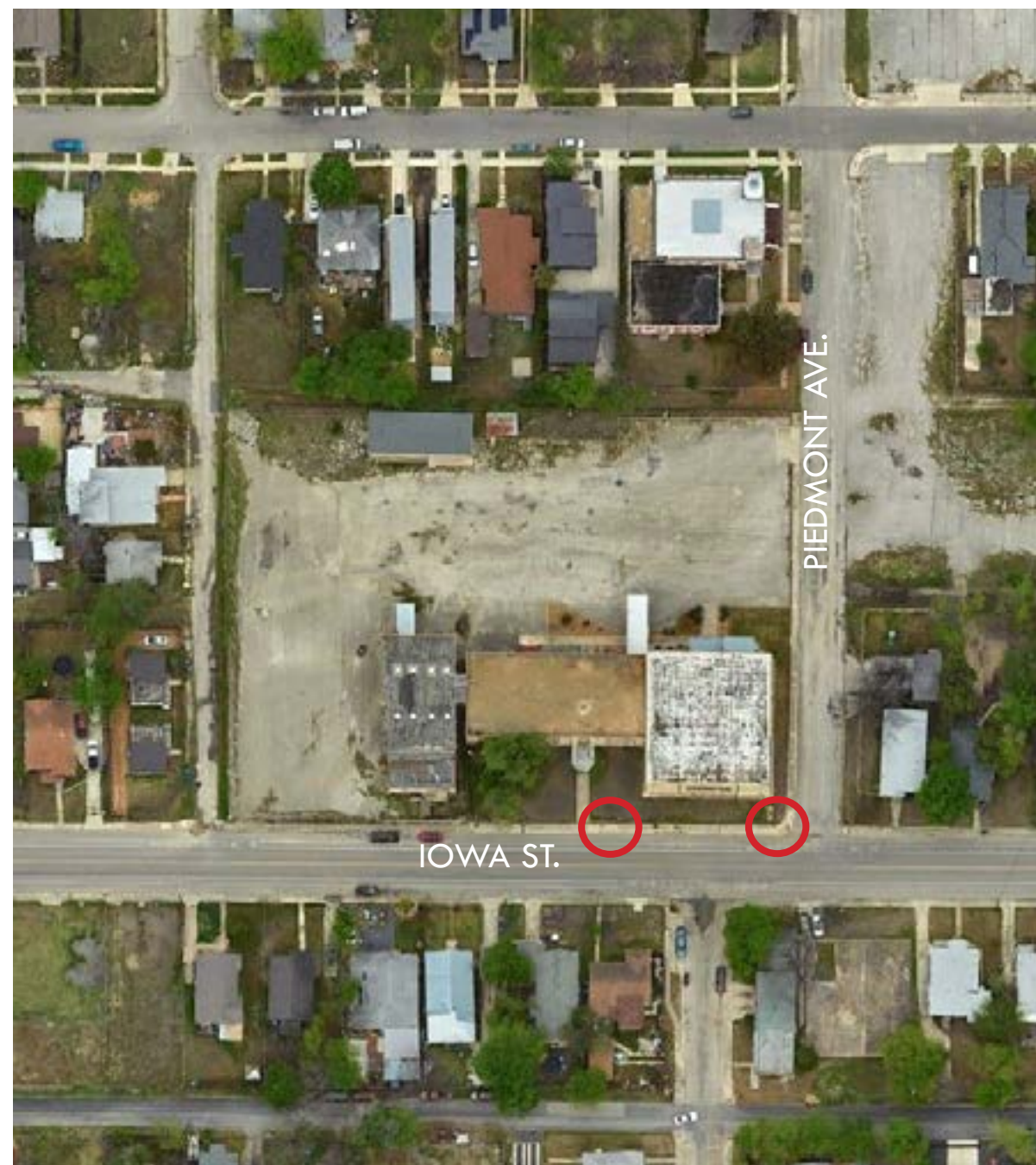
Address: 935 Iowa St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Friendship Baptist Church

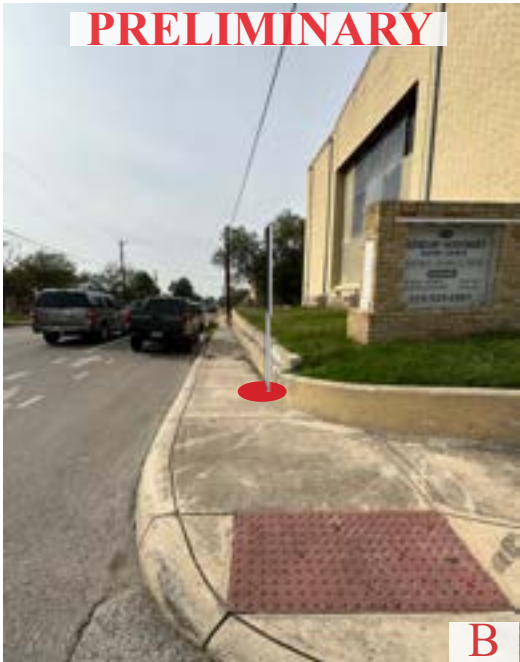
Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Historic District, Residential Mixed, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Denver Heights



Locations & Site Data
17 - Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School
 935 Iowa St.
Monument Text:

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40.00"

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7/16"

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Elevation Scale: 1/2"

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(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

17 - Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School

935 Iowa St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. It has to be approved by HDRC / OHP.

Friendship Baptist Church and the Norris Wright Cuney School

According to records at the San Antonio Independent School District, the Norris Wright Cuney Elementary School, a campus for African American students, was originally opened as the Santa Clara Public School in 1884 at South Center Street between Santa Clara and Newton streets in the old Baptist Settlement. The school is documented on a Ferguson Map dated 1896, sheet 34. In May 1902 it was named after an African American politician and member of the Texas Legislature, Norris Wright Cuney. In 1923, a two room frame building was moved to Iowa Street and named the Cuney Annex. In September of 1925 the District moved a frame portable building to the corner to open a school for Black children. In 1932 the school was moved to 935 Iowa Street in a new 12 room brick building which is now Friendship Baptist Church. In 1932 1933 the school served both elementary and junior school students. Unfortunately, Cuney was closed in 1969 when schools were unfairly reorganized to comply with Civil Rights' mandates for racially balanced campuses which were sabotaged by calling Mexican Americans white.

In 1871, Cuney would become School Director of Galveston County where he would try to advance the cause of education among African Americans. Cuney would help with the establishment of Prairie View State Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Youth. According to a book written in 1913, by the daughter of Norris Wright Cuney, Maude Cuney Hare, Norris Wright Cuney's remains were held in state at St. Paul M.E. Church in San Antonio. According to Cuney's daughter, Cuney's body was honored by the San Antonio Guards, "a colored militia regiment" and "a special train, draped in mourning, which bore the remains, accompanied by members of the family and intimate friends, to our Galveston home." This is why the name of Norris Wright Cuney persisted in San Antonio. Also, we have a street in the Denver Heights called "Cuney Way." Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is now a part of that legacy.

After Pastor R.L. Archield, Sr. passed away, the congregation called his son, Reverend Ruben Archield, Jr. to the pastorate. According to Pastor Archield Jr., "The Friendship Missionary Baptist Church is the place where: God's servants of hope care about you". The church was organized on July 11, 1929, two blocks west of the present location. The Reverend Doctor G.F.C. Curry was called to be the first pastor. He served until 1939 when God called him home. Other pastors of Friendship were Reverends J.H. Hardeman, George H. Johnson, I.C. Green, G.C. Coleman, A.V. Brown, and R. L. Archield, Sr. During the pastorate of Pastor R.L. Archield, Sr., racist arsonists burned our church to the ground on September 6, 1975. According to Archield Jr., "The building was destroyed but we the people became more on fire for the Lord, who rewarded us with the Cuney Elementary School building. We built a sanctuary along side, with an iconic a two-story stained glass window." The church honours the vision of Norris Wright Cuney, who was part of the Texas Legislature, during the reconstruction era, to empower people with God's love and with opportunities through unity and education.

Authors: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Pastor Ruben Archield Jr.

Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11

San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Locations & Site Data
**17 - Friendship Baptist Church &
The Norris Wright Cuney School**
935 Iowa St.

The survey at left is preliminary, pending final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

**NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED**

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital 202 Connelly St.



This site has two location options. Both are on the historical entrance side of the building, or the west side, along Connelly St. The sidewalk here is stamped and stained a terra-cotta color, so the owner should be notified prior to placement decisions, in order to get pre approval.

The first location could be at the corner, along the existing sidewalk and perpendicular to the corner of the building.

The second location could be located to the left of the historic entry, along the sidewalk, or against the building (if approved by owner), and centered on the space between the basement window and the first pilaster at the stairs.

Signage Location Type B (along sidewalk) or A (against building) could be used.

Address: 202 Connelly St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: City of San Antonio

Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Military Lighting Overlay District, Historic District, Residential Mixed, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Denver Heights

Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital

202 Connelly St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.



John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

Inman's community barber shop on S. Hackberry Street was across the street from Mount Zion First Baptist Church and where he was an active member. According to researcher Alwyn Barr, in quoting A.C. Sutton, John Inman was always in the lead for civil rights. Sutton said, "Anything that looked like a movement, he would be a part of." After authorities discovered that Inman was a revolutionary they removed his barber shops from the military bases which caused economic hardships for his family. However, much to the displeasure of segregationists Inman kept up the fight for human dignity. In 1928, John Inman became the president of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP. He fought for infrastructure improvements on the East Side and carried out a campaign to end the poll tax.

John Inman was allied with Rev. Claude Black and the G. J. Sutton family. In the 1930's and 1940's, the Black community was active in encouraging voting by holding mock "Sepia Mayoral Campaigns," which were recorded in the Black Press (San Antonio Register), and "Anti-Poll Tax Hallies" on the east and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local labor activist and participated in these mock mayoral campaigns which were organized by what was then called the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He was actually elected in a mock mayoral campaign in an effort to show that Blacks deserved to hold the position of mayor in San Antonio during the era of segregation. John Inman was a fighter for social justice for many years. John Inman, a Black revolutionary during the Bellinger era, lived for a long time, and fought for positive change in decades. He was an advocate of worker's rights and supported workers of all ethnic groups including Mexican American Pecan Shellers that carried out a strike for better working conditions under the leadership of Emma Tenayuca. John Inman was active in a black and brown coalition that was organized into the "Workers Alliance." Inman was able to organize black support for the Pecan Sheller's Union and his help was invaluable. Shamefully his organizing success has gone uncelebrated.

Inman's influence would be felt years later when he would conduct political education classes for San Antonio SNCC members, civil rights workers, and others in the 1960s. He never gave up and was quoted in the community by many people who remembered that he said, "The harder they fought me the harder I fought back. I was never afraid of risking my life for the cause of justice and freedom." In the 1970s, John Inman was a member of the San Antonio Committee to Free Angela Davis and helped to organize the largest rally in the country of close to 3,000 for her freedom at La Villita Assembly Hall. John Inman passed away in 1996 at the age of 100.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas

- 5/8"
- 7/16"



Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital

202 Connelly St.

The Historic African American Good Samaritan Hospital

This site served as a hospital for Blacks in San Antonio. The major San Antonio hospitals served only whites or had a “Colored Clinic” physically separated from the rest of the hospital. The original structure was Corinth Baptist Church in 1915. Eventually, well-known Black contractor W. C. White added a second story. In 1948, with the help of Corinth Baptist Church and others, the structure became a hospital for Black people. Two women who were hospital workers originally proposed the hospital; Rachel Starr was a registered nurse and Genevieve Troutman a hospital technician.

According to a 1948 San Antonio Light Newspaper article, “Mrs. Starr said that for years she felt a deep sympathy for the city’s Negroes (Blacks) in their need of a hospital. Negro surgeons never have been allowed to operate in white hospitals.” The Good Samaritan Hospital allowed for the members of the surrounding community to have easier access to health care. Completed in 1948, the Good Samaritan Hospital began servicing the needs of the community. During this period, Black people predominately populated the area. Several citizens were born there including John Henry Sanders Jr. who served as a City Councilman for the City of San Antonio. Paradoxically, slave owner Samuel Augustus Maverick (1803-1870) originally owned some of the area. Maverick was part of the racialized leadership in San Antonio and a supporter of white supremacy and a pro-slavery group known as the Knights of the Golden Circle (KGC). Unlike his later liberal relatives, Samuel Augustus Maverick was a signer of the Texas Constitution of 1836, which enshrined slavery. In fact, Samuel Augustus Maverick owned seven slaves before coming to Texas in 1837. Contrary to some beliefs, San Antonio was as segregated as any other southern city.

In 1925, at 716 Sherman Street, a small health care clinic operated by Mrs. Jemima Elizabeth Lee, provided some medical and dental services. Forced to use segregated areas of local hospitals, Black doctors could not operate in white hospitals as revealed in archival records by the late Lillian Sutton-Taylor. The Reverend Claude Black, born in San Antonio in 1916, remembered that he was born at home because blacks could not go to white hospitals. Charles Bellinger, the African-American political leader, donated substantial funds to Santa Rosa Hospital, to accommodate the need of the “colored T. B. patients” Discriminatory practices created a dilemma in health care for many African-Americans. Some of the more common health problems, left untreated, was due to substandard care under the segregation laws.

The San Antonio Inquirer, a Black newspaper, largely provided home remedies due to the lack of Black doctors. Attempts to address this critical need for health was Black physician Dr. Charles A. Whittier. In 1931, Dr. Whittier founded the Whittier Clinic, located a short distance from this site, to help serve the health needs of the black community. The clinic and this hospital provided medical training not available to Black interns. Dr. Whittier later became the first African American doctor on the Santa Rosa staff after integration. During the days of Jim Crow, the Volunteer Health League founded by G. J. Sutton, organized to raise funds for tuberculosis patients who could only obtain treatment in Kerrville, Texas.

The TIRZ (Tax Increment Refinance Zone) Board and the City of San Antonio awarded several million dollars for renovation in collaboration with St. Philips College and the Alamo Community College District who would provide veterans outreach services. In 2015, The TIRZ Board voted for restoration of the Eastside landmark, which held important historical meaning. According to Salas, in an article by Adolfo Pesquera of the Virtual Builders Exchange, “Back when this TIRZ was first formed, one of things we really wanted to do was the Good Samaritan Hospital. This was originally an African-American hospital when the hospitals in San Antonio were segregated.”

At one point, the building became a women’s dormitory for St. Philips College and dances often took place there in later years. In December of 2011, the San Antonio City Council approved a collaboration with the Alamo Community College District and St. Philip’s College to renovate the former hospital into a veteran’s outreach center. The Good Samaritan Veteran’s Outreach and Transition Center provides personalized services to all active duty, retired, veteran’s, their families, and the community in the San Antonio Area.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Sponsors: San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Tax Increment Board Zone 11

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. It has to be approved by HDRC / OHP.

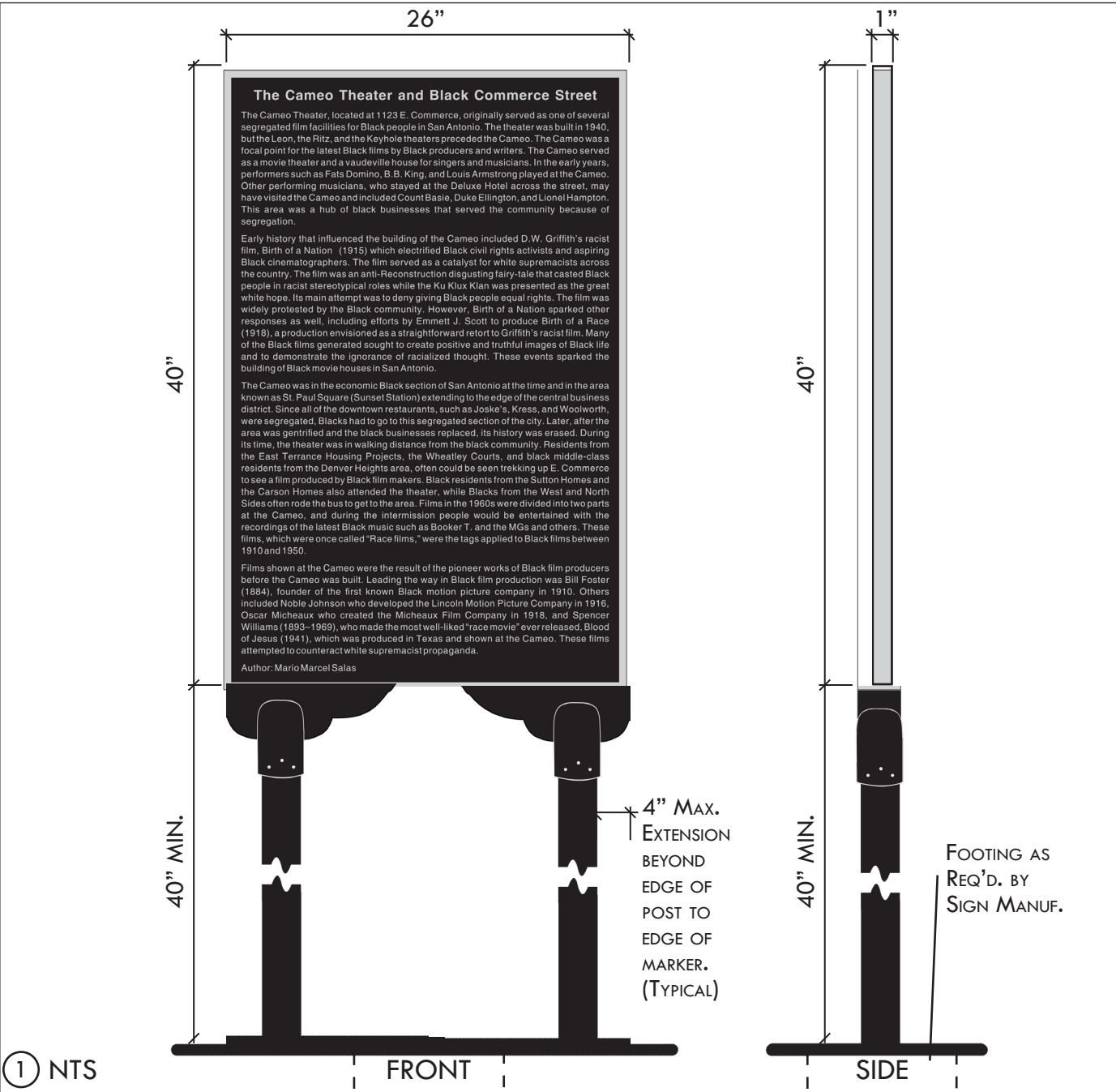
The survey at left is preliminary, pending final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

NEW SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

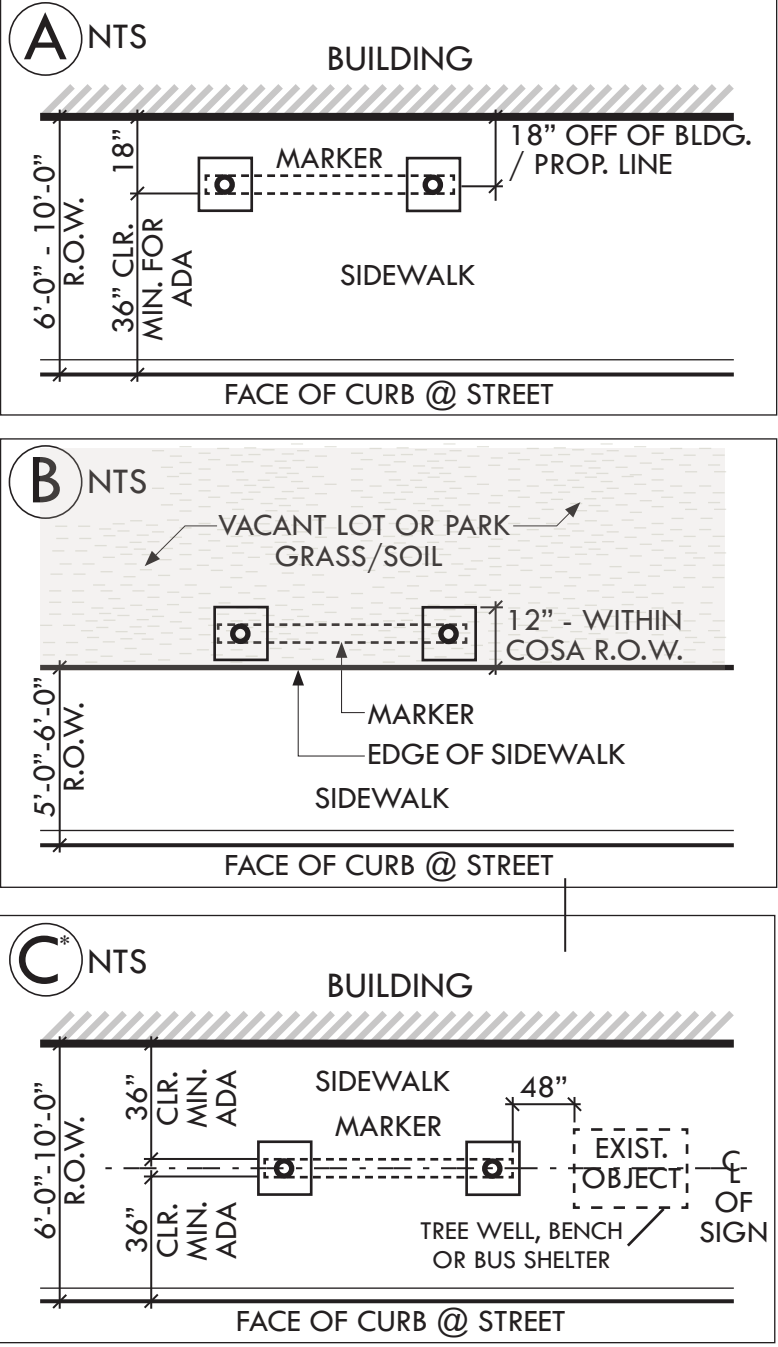
Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Marker Prototypes

Typical Elevations & Installation Types



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Typical Marker Elevation

At left are front and side elevations of a typical monument showing dimensions. Footing per Manufacturer's requirements.

Installation Locations:

Location Type A:

When a monument is to be located near a building, marker should be placed in the City sidewalk ROW. A 36" clear dimension must be maintained in front of the marker. Marker to be 18" from building for building maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic.

Location Type B:

When a monument is to be located at a vacant lot/park location, locate along the sidewalk edge, in the soil or grass and within the City's ROW area, maintaining 36" clear dimension in front of the sign.

Location Type C*:

In cases where A and B are not possible, and if approved by the City, the sign could be mounted next to an existing tree well, fixed bench or bus shelter. Maintain 48" away from object, and maintain 36" clear walkway around sign. *CoSA must approve.

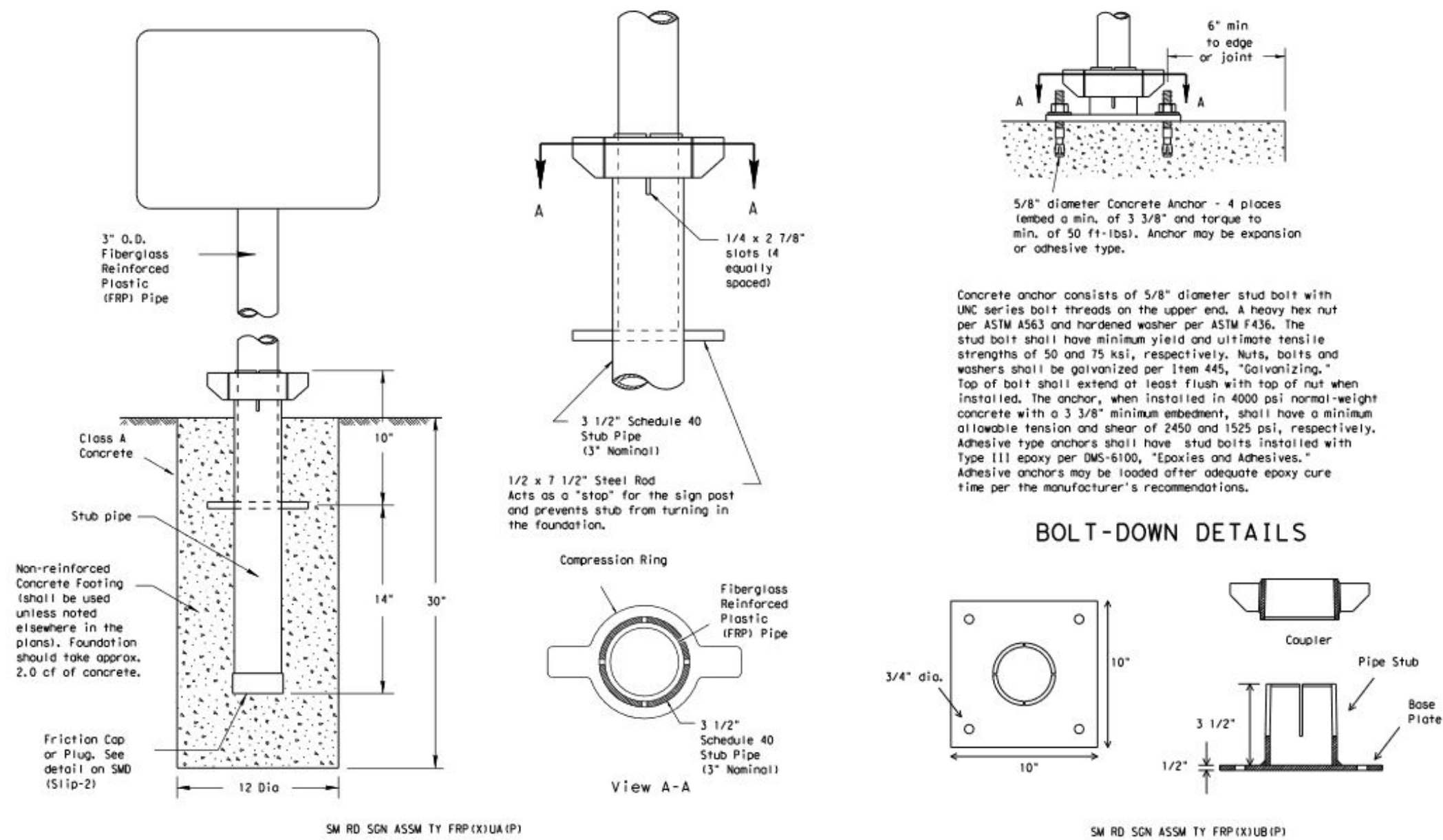
- LEGEND**
- ① Typical Sign Elevations
 - (A) Plan @ Building / Sidewalk
 - (B) Plan @ Vacant Lot / Park Sidewalk Edge
 - (C) *Plan Near Existing Sidewalk Object
- Follow Manufacturer's Mounting / Footing instructions.

Universal Anchor System
with Fiberglass Reinforced Plastic (FRP) Post

Each marker will need to be installed into a footing that is embedded in concrete. This detail will be provided by the signage manufacturer. The details at left are from typical signage details used by Tx-DOT for sign installation and are shown for design intent only.

It is recommended that the base be a break away type base, so that if by chance the sign is struck by a vehicle, the sign breaks away from the base.

Refer to Signage Manufacturer's Details for Specific Footing / Installation requirements.



DESIGN INTENT OF POST FOOTING, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION
ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS AND TWO FOOTINGS

Design Intent, Not for Construction.

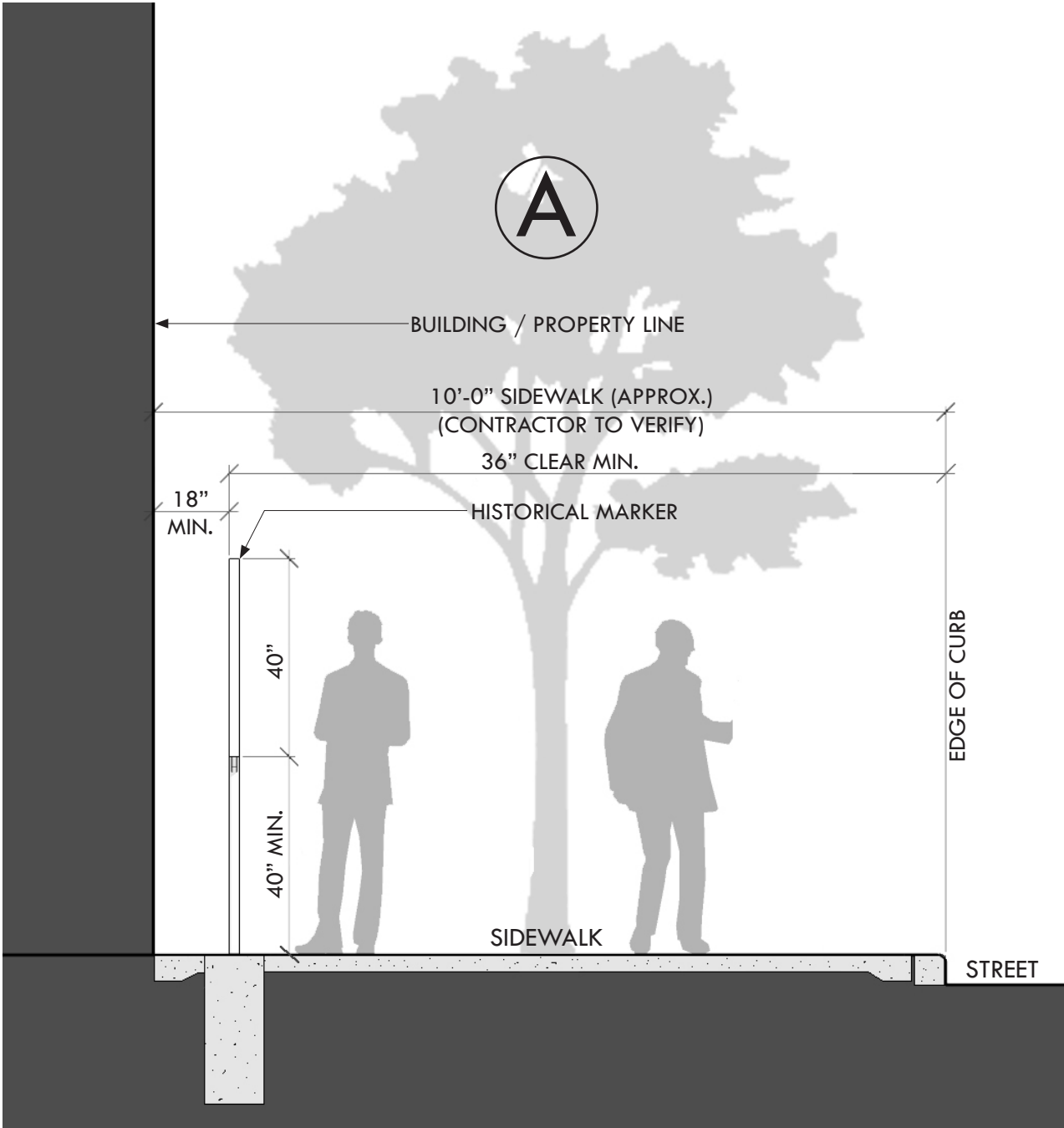
Marker Prototypes
Installation Location Sections A + B

Location A & B are depicted on an approximate 10 foot wide and 5-6 foot wide sidewalk, respectively. Widths may vary by location and should be verified by Contractor / Sign Installer.

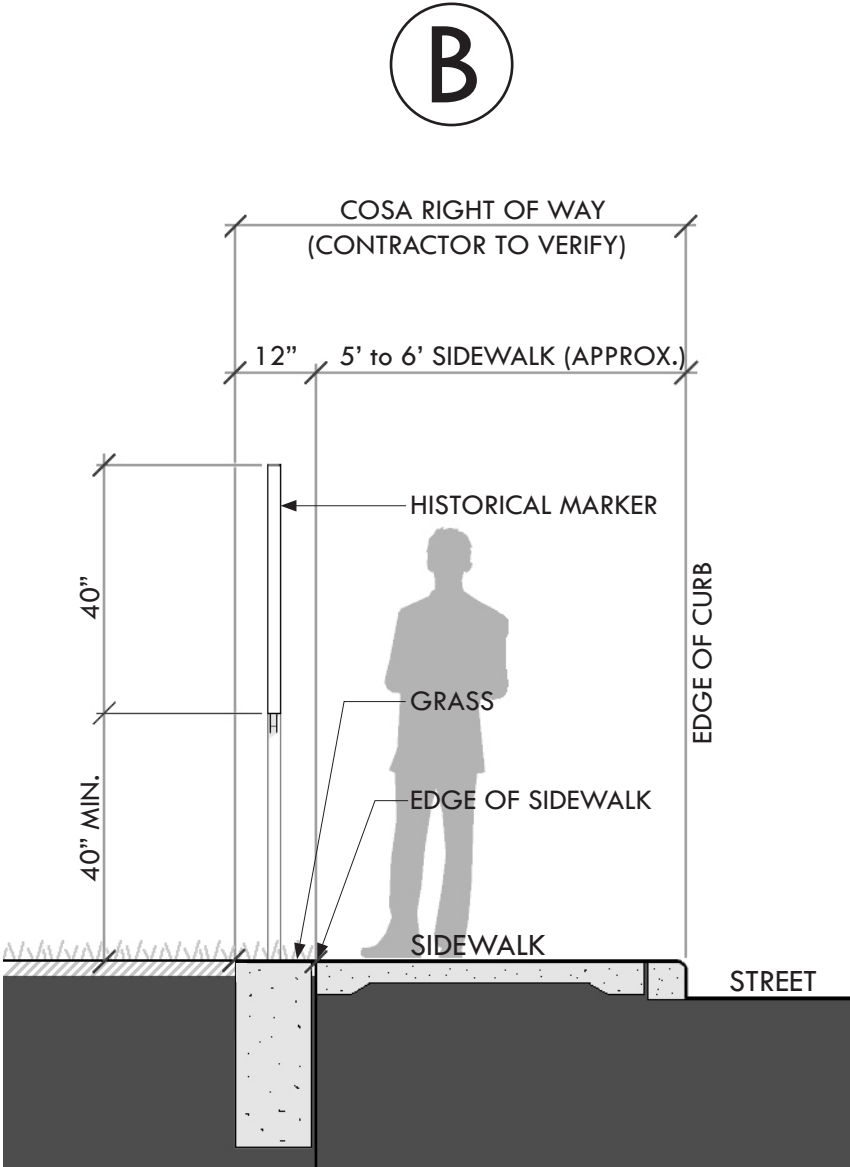
Installation Locations:

Location A:
When a monument is to be located near a building, marker should be placed in the City sidewalk ROW. A 36" clear dimension must be maintained in front of the marker. Marker to be 18" from building for building maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic.

Location B:
When a monument is to be located at a vacant lot/ park location, locate along the sidewalk edge, in the soil or grass and within the City's ROW area, maintaining 36" clear dimension in front of the sign.



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION



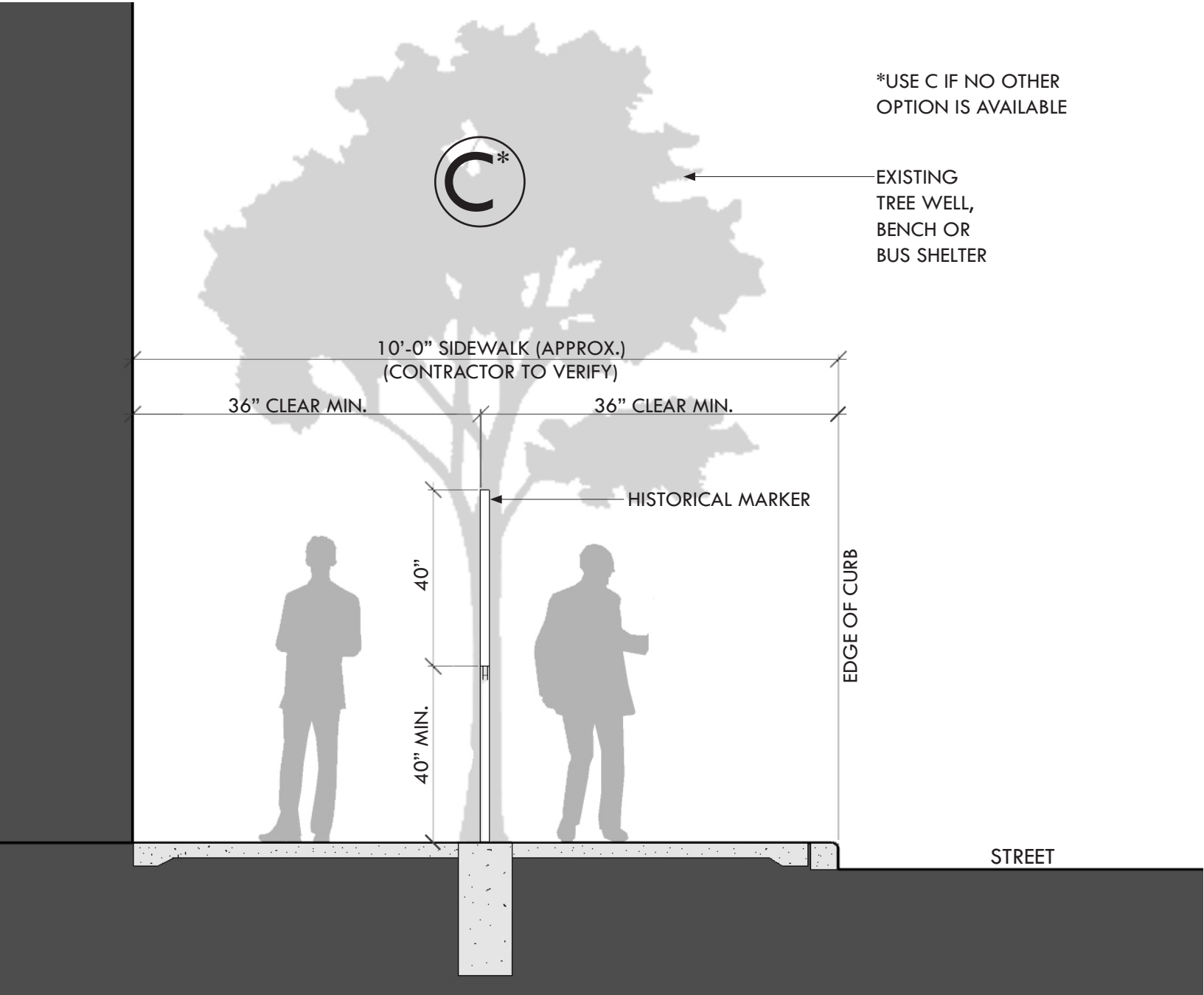
DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Design Intent, Not for Construction.

Location C is depicted on a 10 foot Sidewalk

Installation Locations:

Location C:
In cases where A and B are not possible, and if approved by the City, the sign could be mounted next to an existing tree well, fixed bench or bus shelter. Maintain 48" away from object, and maintain 36" clear walkway around sign. *CoSA must approve.



DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

Design Intent, Not for Construction.

Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

This is a Phase 1 marker being placed during phase 2 and 3, once construction on the adjacent building is complete. The property is temporarily fenced.

“Black Commerce Street” is a site that marks the location of several black-owned businesses that were located in the same building along a section of East Commerce Street that had many other black-owned businesses on it. This particular building housed several professional offices and services.

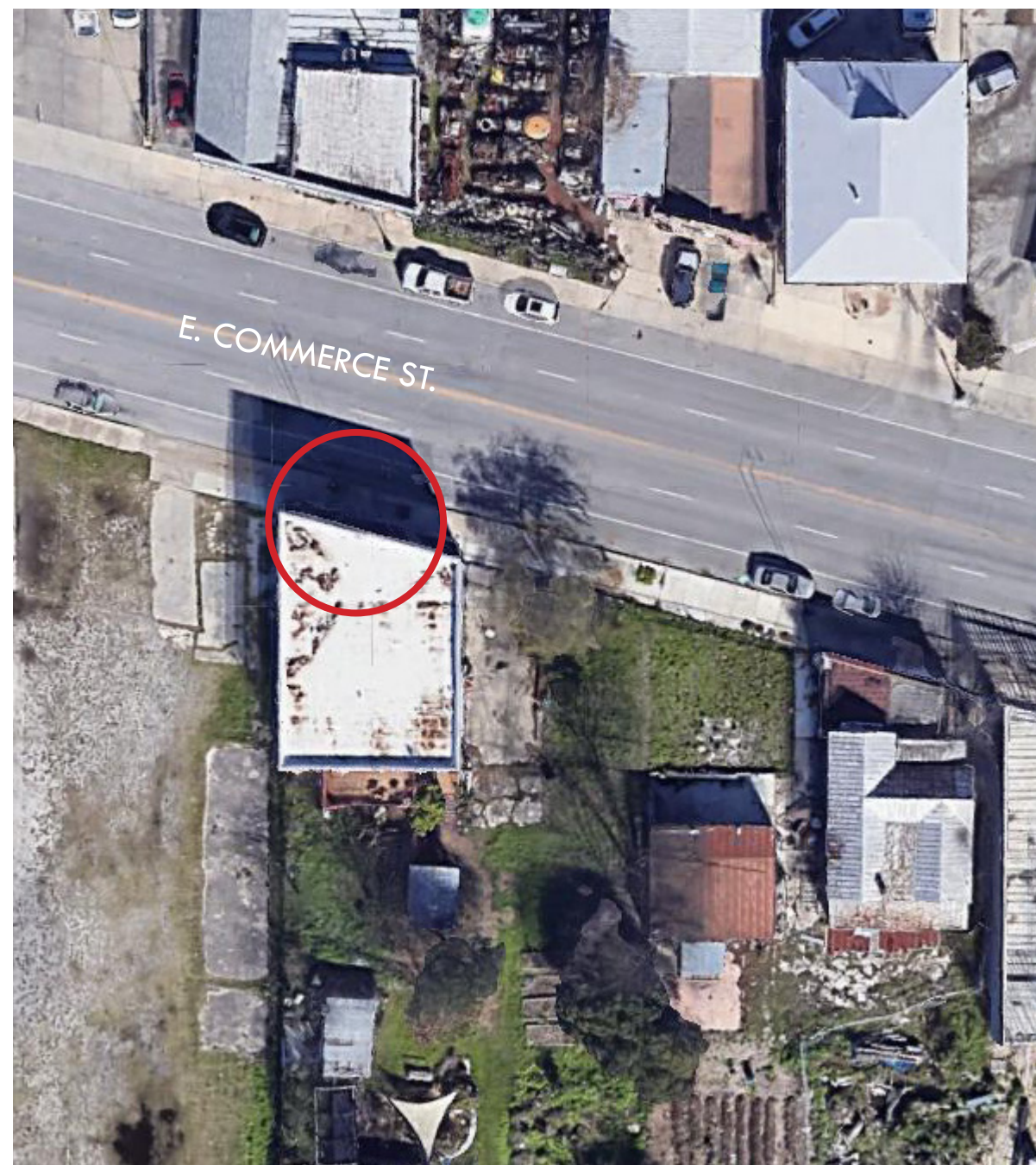
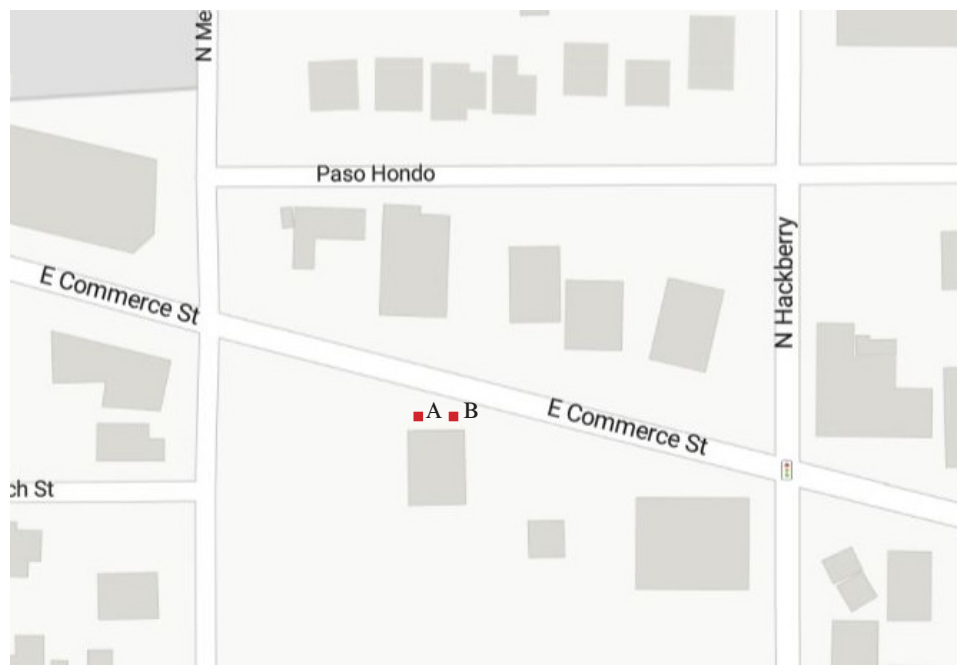
The marker could be located against the building at Locations Type A or A1.

Address: 1416 E. Commerce St.

Owner: Southwest Public Workers Union / Centro por la Justicia.

Zoning Overlay Info: Historic District , Arts and Entertainment District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.



Black Commerce Street

At this site was the law office of Hattie Briscoe. According to documents at the UTSA Library, in the Special Collections Department of the John Peace Library, Hattie Elam Briscoe was the "First Black woman to graduate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and was the only Black woman attorney in Bexar County for the next 27 years." She was the recipient of a scholarship to attend Wiley College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1937. Wiley College students launched some of the first sit-in demonstrations in Texas against segregation and were the home of the Great Debaters. Wiley College would have helped to steal Hattie's determination to break the chains of segregation.

By 1944, Hattie had become a cosmetology instructor, where she taught night classes at Hicks Beauty School. Hattie was forced to attend schools that were racially segregated in Texas, but despite the generally inferior nature of segregated education she excelled. Later she became an instructor of Cosmetology at the segregated Wheatley High School in San Antonio. Understanding the horrible nature of segregation, but yet never giving up, Hattie received a Master's degree at then segregated Prairie View A&M College in 1951. In 1952, she entered St. Mary's Law School, a Catholic institution, where she attended night classes while working in the day. It was no easy matter for Hattie to graduate from St. Mary's being 40 years old in 1956 and working to support her education. Hattie Briscoe practiced law for 42 years, serving the black community until 1998 at 1416 E. Commerce, which was an area that at one time the center of black life on the East Side.

Another important local Black leader, Paul White was one of the last participants to see the end of black businesses on E. Commerce Street. Verley Taylor, who hired Paul White after his service in the military, owed the shop. East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. Most of it is now gone as the result of a racist move to eliminate black businesses by making the street one way. After the street was made one way and black businesses destroyed, it was returned to a two way street to benefit downtown business interests that wanted to expand the business corridor east and gentrify the neighborhood.

This was the world of black barber Paul White and others associated with this site. Paul White was a black barber and a fixture on the city's near East Side. He mentored and hired famous local barbers such as Charles Williams. Paul lived at a time when black businesses existed up and down East Commerce Street. (He cut hair at a time on East Commerce Street.) At 1412 East Commerce, next door to the Cunningham Pharmacy, in the same building, was Taylor's Barber Shop. Taylor's Barber Shop is where famed barber Paul White worked and gave Charles Williams his first job.

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. Customers often noted how he was saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life that once existed on E. Commerce Street. Paul White was known to help those who could not afford a haircut and often did so for church members and strangers. He cut hair at a time on E. Commerce Street when there was a segregated Cameo theater at 1123 E. Commerce, a black owned De Luxe Hotel at the corner of E. Commerce and Sycamore Street, Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, the Lifesaver's Bar and Grill and Bette's Eat Shop in the 1400 Block of E. Commerce, Bellinger's Taxi Cab Company, Red Top Cab, and Fishers Cafe located on the northern side of the 1400 block of E. Commerce, Cunningham's Pharmacy and Soda Shop at 1414 E. Commerce, the Avalon Grill and the Froggie Bottom Club (also referred to as the Froggie Bottom by some) at 1431 E. Commerce, Dr. Madison Preacher's Office, one of the few black physicians in San Antonio for many years. Later, in the 1980s, the City of San Antonio dedicated the Homer Rodgers Memorial Bridge that extends over East Commerce Street to Homer Rodgers, a businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor made suit at Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. . . . If you needed the services of a bail bondsman, you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and would have many memories of the black side of town. He would have cut black soldiers hair from Fort Sam Houston and patrons from many of the black businesses and neighborhoods north and south of E. Commerce Street. Only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. According to many of his friends and customers, talked a lot about sports and how black businesses in the area were destroyed along Commerce Street. Customers noted that when he looked out of his window he saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life along E. Commerce Street. Many African Americans visited his barber shop and discussed the politics of that day while getting their hair cut. This was not unusual then nor now as any Saturday visit to either a black beauty salon or a black barber shop will often yield intense discussions about politics, rumors, deaths, and funerals in the community. It was no different in Paul White's shop. Even when barbers tried to put a lid on political shop talk it always found a way to erupt.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas
Contributors: Aubry C. Lewis, Jean Rodgers-Clack & Charles Williams

5/8"

5/16"

2.375" ID galvanized tube painted to match plaque background shipping separately

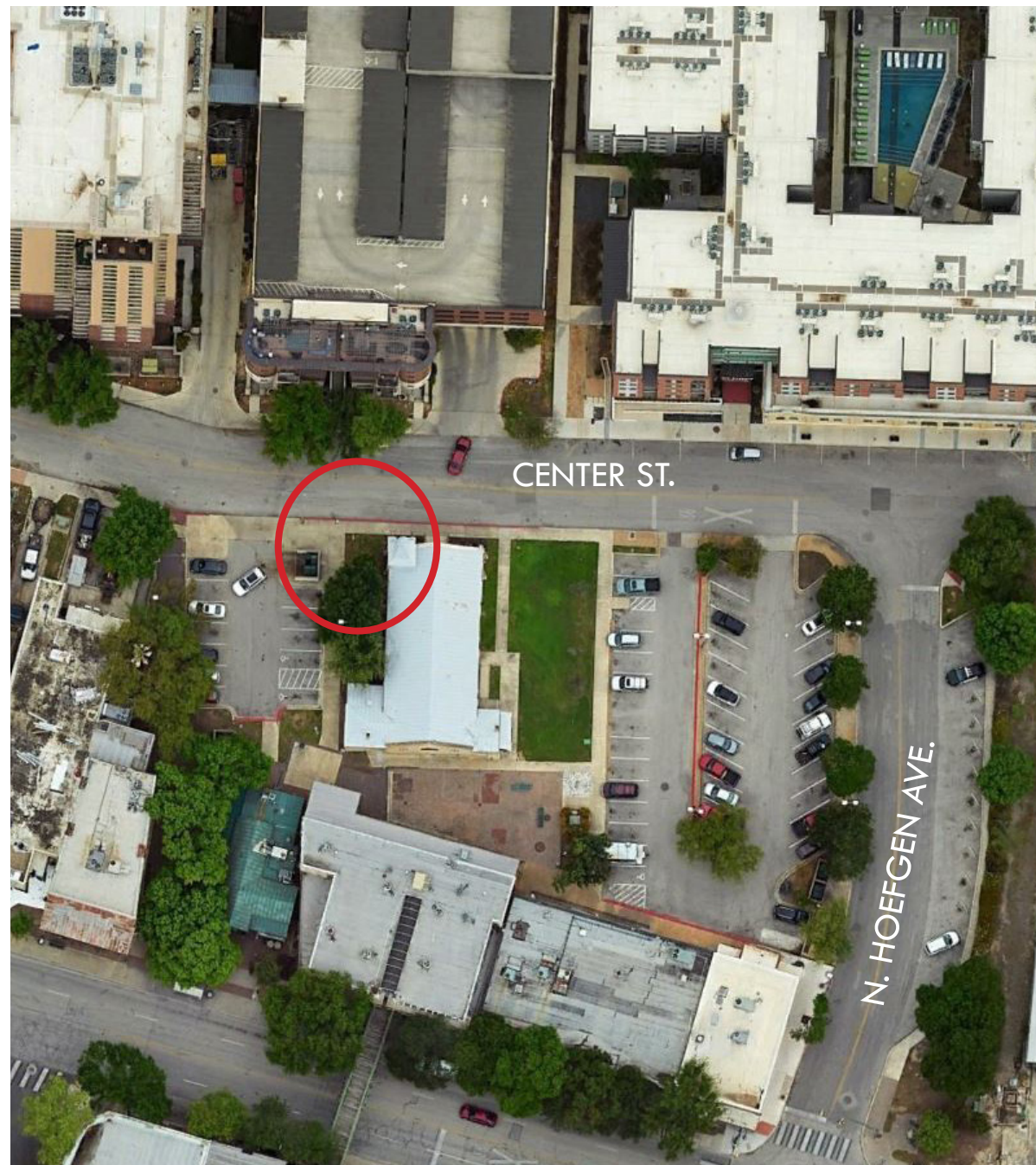
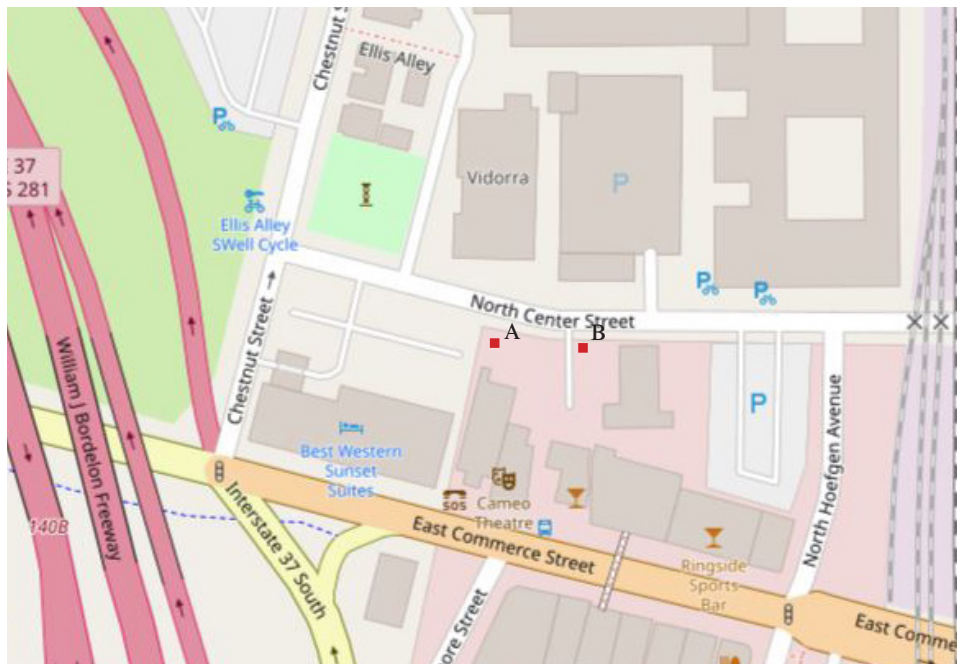
Small colonial mounting flange and cap painted black to match plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper 230 N. Center St.



This site that housed G.W. Bouldin's newspaper buildings is approximate but generally located across the street from the proposed monument location options. There are row houses on the approximate site, which is covered by trees, so the team thought that the Bouldin monument could be located across the street, in the right-of-way adjacent to the church now called "The Spire" at 230 Center St.

Two options were considered by the team.

The first is centered on a stucco wall, and aligned with an existing light pole, to keep it out of the walking area.

The second is at the edge of the sidewalk and the open grassy area, just west of the church spire.

The marker could be located at the edge of the sidewalk - Type B or in line with street signage -Type C.

Address: 230 N. Center St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: East Commerce Realty LLC / City Tribe

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Sq. Historic District,

Locations & Site Data

12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper

230 N. Center St.

Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.



40.00"

G.W. Bouldin
An Important African Leader in San Antonio

This area known as St. Paul Square is steeped in history. This vicinity once teemed with black businesses, and several African American churches including 2nd Baptist Church and St. Paul's Colored Methodist. It was also the place where civil rights leader G. W. Bouldin housed several businesses and his newspaper. In 1936, G. William Bouldin once lived at 1730 East Houston Street where he would have meetings with mayors and civil rights leaders. He arrived in San Antonio in 1908 and worked as a Pullman Porter for the segregated railroad system. He was born in Hondo, Texas on June 29, 1895, and soon after coming to San Antonio established an African American newspaper called the San Antonio Inquirer which was located in this block at 207 N. Center Street. Later, the paper moved to the corner of E. Commerce and Hackberry Streets. It was while he was the editor of the paper that the Bureau of Investigation began harassing him for articles that appeared in his paper critical of the treatment of black soldiers at Fort Sam Houston who were eventually hanged on the Salado Creek for their part in protecting the black community of Houston, Texas. In a courtroom at the Fort Sam Houston Post Chapel, 19 black soldiers were racially railroaded to the gallows. This barbaric act was condemned across the country and was also spotlighted in an article in Bouldin's paper.

G. W. Bouldin was tried and convicted under the Espionage Act in 1919, at a time when the First Amendment was compromised, and sent to Leavenworth Prison for simply allowing an article critical of the mistreatment of these African Americans soldiers to be printed in his paper. Bouldin was a fighter for civil rights and black uplift, and refused to give up even after serving his time in prison. Bouldin went on to become a builder, a real estate man, a mortician, and a newspaper man. In fact, Bouldin operated and owned funeral homes throughout the state of Texas and established Mount Zion Funeral Parlor with the famous businessman Frank E. Lewis in San Antonio. This structure was formally St Paul Colored Methodist Church across the street at 230 N. Center.

According to another black newspaper, the San Antonio Register, of July 10, 1936, Bouldin established funeral homes in Hallettsville, Lockhart, Luling, Gonzales, Yoakum, San Marcos, Kenedy, Goliad, and Corpus Christi. G. W. Bouldin stood out as a light and a beacon in the African American community of San Antonio and should be honored for his contributions to San Antonio as a whole. Bouldin died on July 5, 1936 and his death certificate was signed by the famous black medical doctor, Madison L. Preacher. Bouldin was buried on July 9, 1936 and was an active member of the United Brothers of Friendship, a black lodge.

The harassment that Bouldin received at the hands of the Bureau of Investigation in the early 1900s was documented in a research book called "Investigate Everything" by Theodore Kornweibel. The legacy Bouldin left behind helped to create foundational opposition to white supremacy. Bouldin was a member of West End Baptist Church and had a large send off on the occasion of his death. Bouldin did not forget where his roots were and was not ashamed of his activities for the betterment of African Americans.

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Sponsors: City of San Antonio, TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE)

5/8"

7/16"

Small colonial mounting flange and cap painted black to match plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

2.375" ID galvanized tube painted to match plaque background shipping separately

Elevation Scale: 1/2"

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

2 - The Walking Bridge

1149 E. Commerce St.

This site consists of two sides of the street where the walking bridge is located, crossing over E. Commerce Street and resting upon two sets of steel columns. Either side of the street was considered by the team, and the final location is to be determined by the City and OHP.

Both locations are near the bridge supports.

The location on the north side has existing trash cans between the supports, so the proposed location is just to the west of the supports, perpendicular to the support post, with plenty of clearance, but sits in the shade of large trees.

The location on the south side of the street could go between the two support posts. The southern location is sunnier and less obtrusive to pedestrians.

The marker could be located against or between the support - Location Type C.

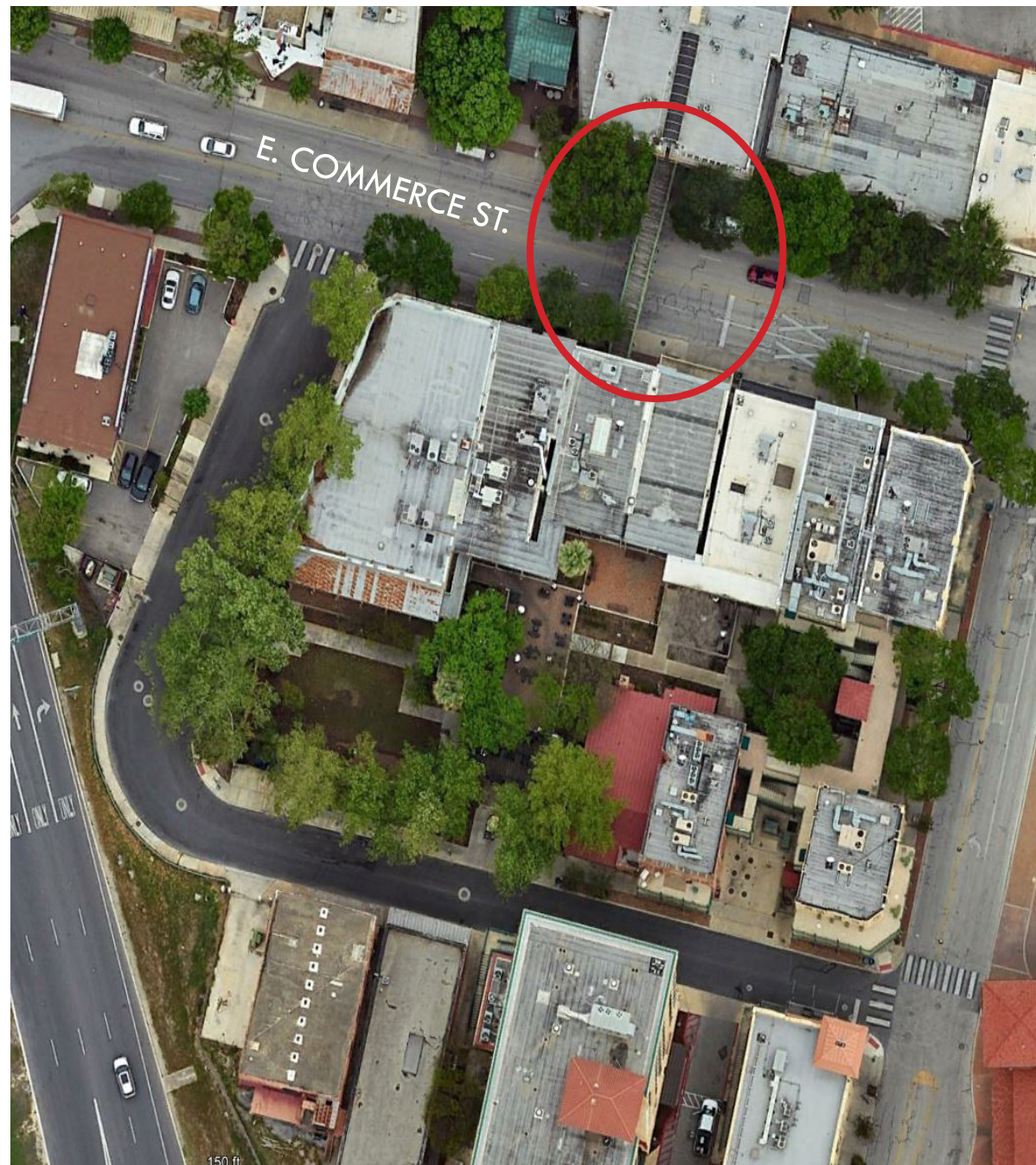
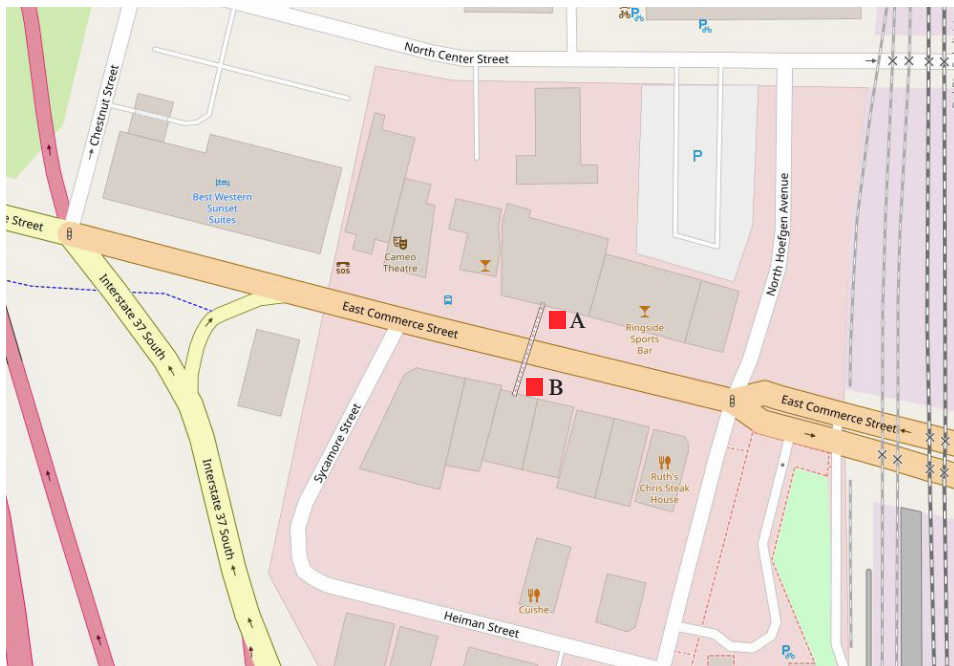
Address: 1149 E. Commerce St.

Monument Location: In Right of Way

Owner: Guild Mortgage Company / City Tribe

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Square Historic District, Individual Landmark, Downtown District.

Neighborhood: St. Paul Square





John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

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John Inman was allied with Rev. Claude Black and the G. J. Sutton family. In the 1930's and 1940's, the Black community was active in encouraging voting by holding mock "Sepia Mayoral Campaigns," which were recorded in the Black Press (San Antonio Register), and "Anti-Poll Tax Hallies" on the east and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local labor activist and participated in these mock mayoral campaigns which were organized by what was then called the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He was actually elected in a mock mayoral campaign in an effort to show that Blacks deserved to hold the position of mayor in San Antonio during the era of segregation. John Inman was a fighter for social justice for many years. John Inman, a Black revolutionary during the Bellinger era, lived for a long time, and fought for positive change in decades. He was an advocate of worker's rights and supported workers of all ethnic groups including Mexican American Pecan Shellers that carried out a strike for better working conditions under the leadership of Emma Tenayuca. John Inman was active in a black and brown coalition that was organized into the "Workers Alliance." Inman was able to organize black support for the Pecan Sheller's Union and his help was invaluable. Shamefully his organizing success has gone uncelebrated.

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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"
7/16"

40.00"



Monument Text:

The placeholder text for the monument is shown at left. Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by SAGE and can be found on the following page.

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

This site is located at the corner of E. Commerce St. and Sycamore. There are two location options. This building, which has been used as an office building for decades, and which is entered at the midpoint on the western elevation, has corner entry at E. Commerce St.

Both locations flank the door located on the chamfered corner of the building, with the address number 1138-2 Sycamore St.

The first location option could run parallel to E. Commerce St., in line with and just east of an existing light pole.

The second location option could run parallel to Sycamore St., just north of an existing tree well, and an existing drainage grate.

The type of sign would be in line with street elements - Location Type C.

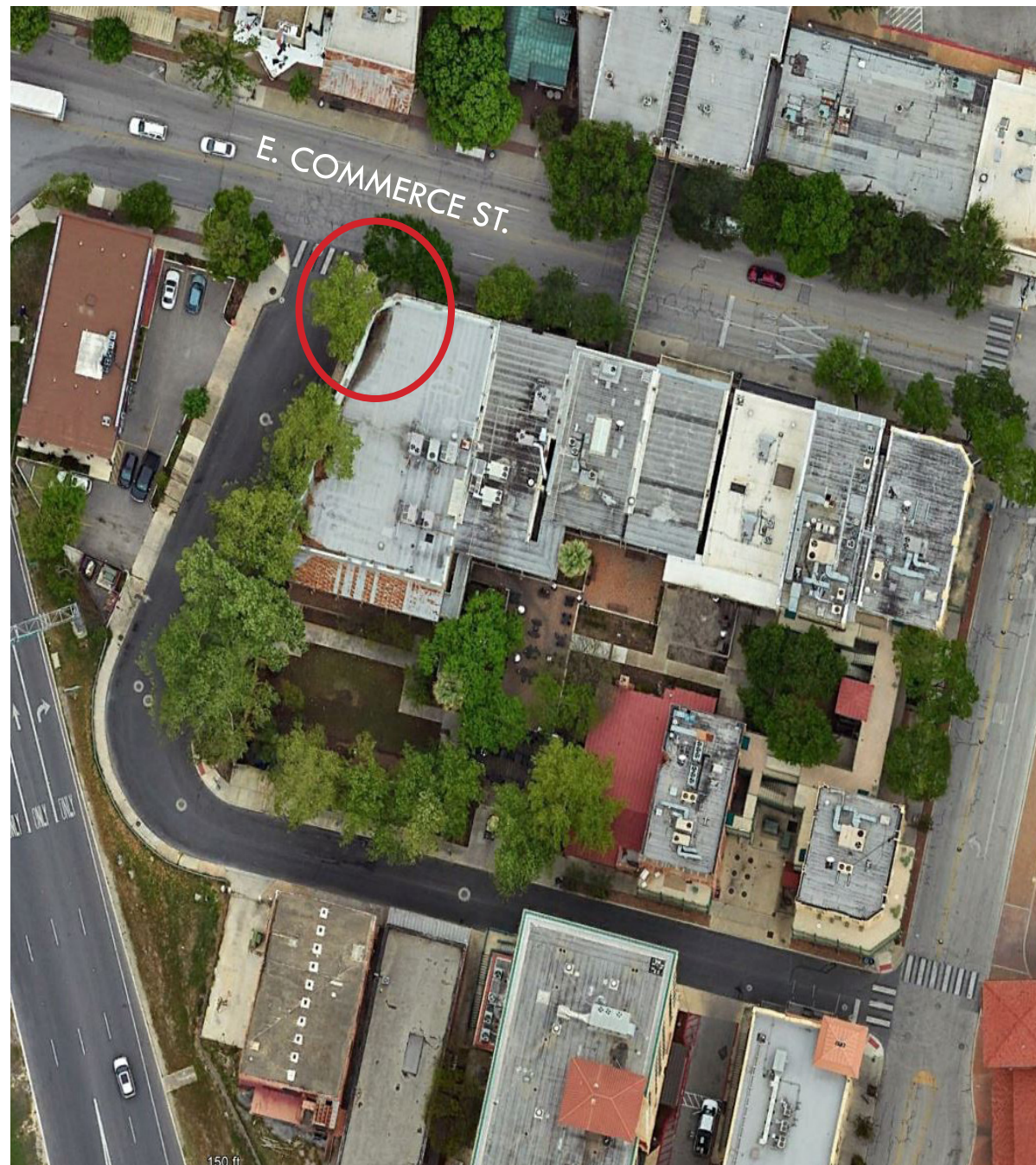
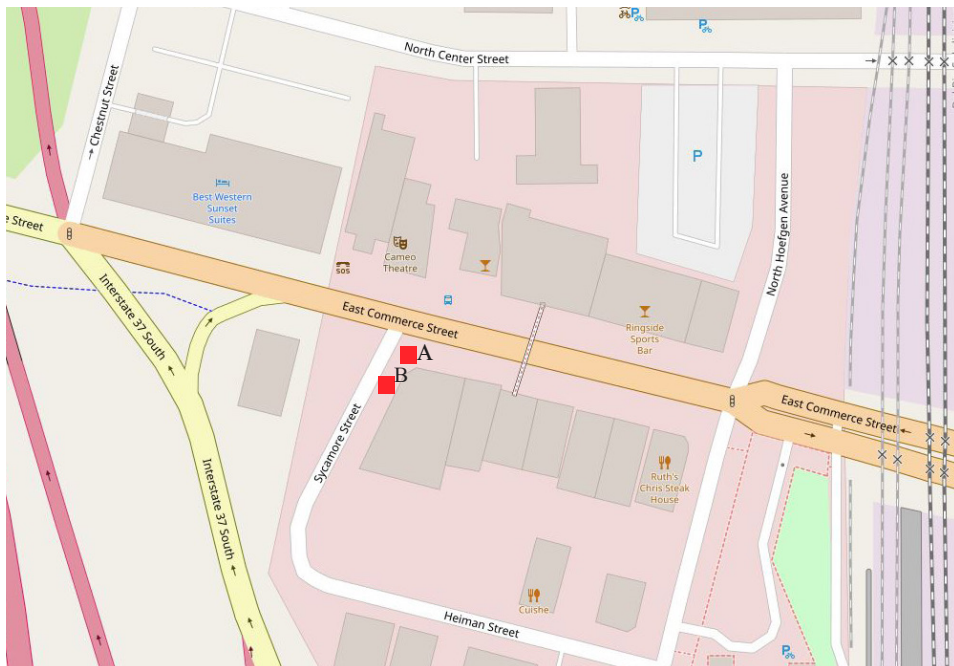
Address: 1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: TBD

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Paul Square, Historic District, Individual Landmark, Downtown District.

Neighborhood: St. Paul Square



Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

Monument Text:

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Black Commerce Street

At this site was the law office of Hattie Briscoe. According to documents at the UTSA Library, in the Special Collections Department of the John Peace Library, Hattie Elam Briscoe was the "First Black woman to graduate from St. Mary's University School of Law, and was the only Black woman attorney in Bexar County for the next 27 years." She was the recipient of a scholarship to attend Wiley College where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in 1937. Wiley College students launched some of the first sit-in demonstrations in Texas against segregation and were the home of the Great Debaters. Wiley College would have helped to steal Hattie's determination to break the chains of segregation.

By 1944, Hattie had become a cosmetology instructor, where she taught night classes at Hicks Beauty School. Hattie was forced to attend schools that were racially segregated in Texas, but despite the generally inferior nature of segregated education she excelled. Later she became an instructor of Cosmetology at the segregated Wheatley High School in San Antonio. Understanding the horrible nature of segregation, but yet never giving up, Hattie received a Master's degree at then segregated Prairie View A&M College in 1951. In 1952, she entered St. Mary's Law School, a Catholic institution, where she attended night classes while working in the day. It was no easy matter for Hattie to graduate from St. Mary's being 40 years old in 1956 and working to support her education. Hattie Briscoe practiced law for 42 years, serving the black community until 1998 at 1416 E. Commerce, which was an area that at one time the center of black life on the East Side.

Another important local Black leader, Paul White was one of the first participants to see the end of black businesses on E. Commerce Street. Verley Taylor, who hired Paul White after his service in the military, owed the shop. East Commerce Street had a strong history of black life and culture that once dominated the area. Most of it is now gone as the result of a racist move to eliminate black businesses by making the street one way. After the street was made one way and black businesses destroyed, it was returned to a two way street to benefit downtown business interests that wanted to expand the business corridor east and gentrify the neighborhood.

This was the world of black barber Paul White and others associated with this site. Paul White was a black barber and a fixture on the city's near East Side. He mentored and hired famous local barbers such as Charles Williams. Paul lived at a time when black businesses were being destroyed along Commerce Street. (He cut hair at a time on East Commerce Street.) At 1412 East Commerce, next door to the Cunningham Pharmacy, in the same building, was Taylor's Barber Shop. Taylor's Barber Shop is where famed barber Paul White worked and gave Charles Williams his first job.

When Paul White died he was 86 years old. John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. Customers often noted how he was saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life that once existed on E. Commerce Street. Paul White was known to help those who could not afford a haircut and often helped school or church members and strangers. He cut hair at a time on E. Commerce Street when there was a segregated Cameo theater at 1123 E. Commerce, a black owned De Luxe Hotel at the corner of E. Commerce and Sycamore Street, Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, the Life Saver's Bar and Grill and Betty's Eat Shop in the 1400 block of E. Commerce, Bellinger's Taxi Cab Company, Red Top Cab, and Fishers Cafe, located on the northern side of the 1400 block of E. Commerce, Cunningham's Pharmacy and Soda Shop at 1414 E. Commerce, the Avalon Grill and the Froggie Bottom Club (also referred to as the Froggie Bottom by some) at 1131 E. Commerce, Dr. Madison Preacher's Office, one of the few black physicians in San Antonio for many years. Later, in the 1980s, the City of San Antonio dedicated the Homer Rodgers Memorial Bridge that extends over East Commerce Street to Homer Rodgers, a businessman and civil rights activist. According to Jean Rodgers-Clack, in talking about her father's business and others in St. Paul Square, "You could be suited for hand crafted silk embroidered shirts or a tailor in the suit at Homer Rodger's Acme Tailors and Hatters, grab a cab at the Red Top Taxi stand or stop in at the popular grocery and bakery. . . . If you needed the services of a bail bondsman, you'd see Henry Nance or Hays Pendergraph."

When Paul White died he was 86 years old and would have many memories of the black side of town. He would have cut black soldiers hair from Fort Sam Houston and patrons from many of the black businesses and neighborhoods north and south of E. Commerce Street. Only John Inman, a black barber a few blocks away on South Hackberry Street was older than Paul White. According to many of his friends and customers, talked a lot about sports and how black businesses in the area were destroyed along Commerce Street. Customers noted that when he looked out of his window he saddened at what the city had done to destroy black businesses and the cultural life along E. Commerce Street. Many African Americans visited his barber shop and discussed the politics of that day while getting their hair cut. This was not unusual then nor now as any Saturday visit to either a black beauty salon or a black barber shop will often yield intense discussions about politics, rumors, deaths, and funerals in the community. It was no different in Paul White's shop. Even when barbers tried to put a lid on political shop talk it always found a way to erupt.

Author: Mario Marcel Salas
Contributors: Aubry C. Lewis, Jean Rodgers-Clack & Charles Williams

- 5/8"
- 5/16"

40.00"

2.375" ID galvanized tube
painted to match
plaque background
shipping separately



Small colonial mounting flange
and cap painted black to match
plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered
with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station 1403 E. Commerce St.

This site is located on the site of the property, which is still used as a service station and a U-Haul truck rental, and as such, the majority of the parking area is drivable, with no curbs. Therefore, there is little room in which a monument could be placed and not be in the way of vehicles maneuvering trucks and cars into the site.

Two locations were considered by the team, both at the southwest corner of the site, and out of traffic. An existing street light is there, so the two location options should be adjacent to the base, but not conflict with it.

The first location option could be set perpendicular to E. Commerce St., and just east of the light pole.

The second location option could be set in front of the light pole and parallel to E. Commerce.

Either location needs to leave clearance for the connection bolts on the base of the light.

The marker could be located in line with or in front of the light pole - Locations Type C.

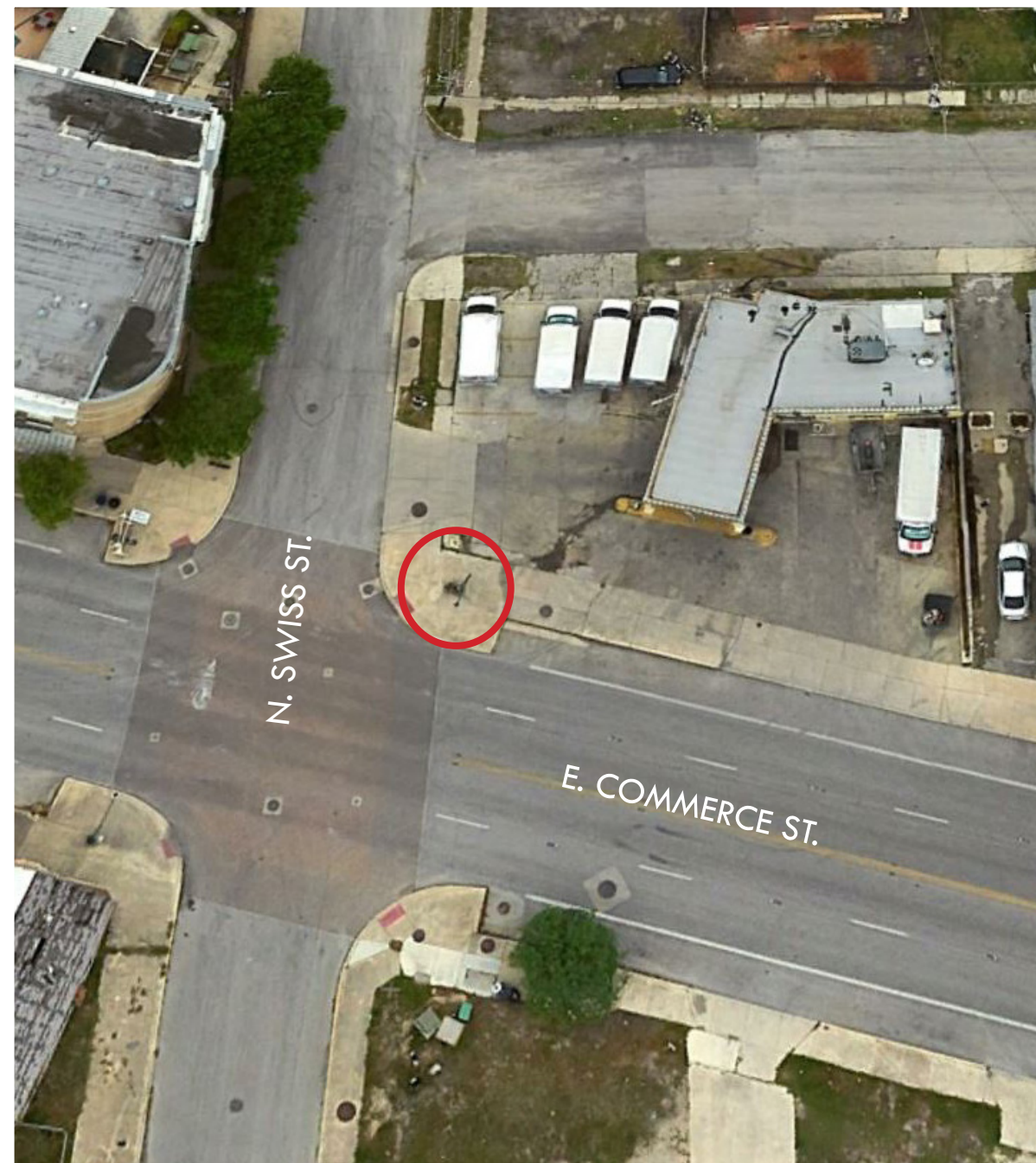
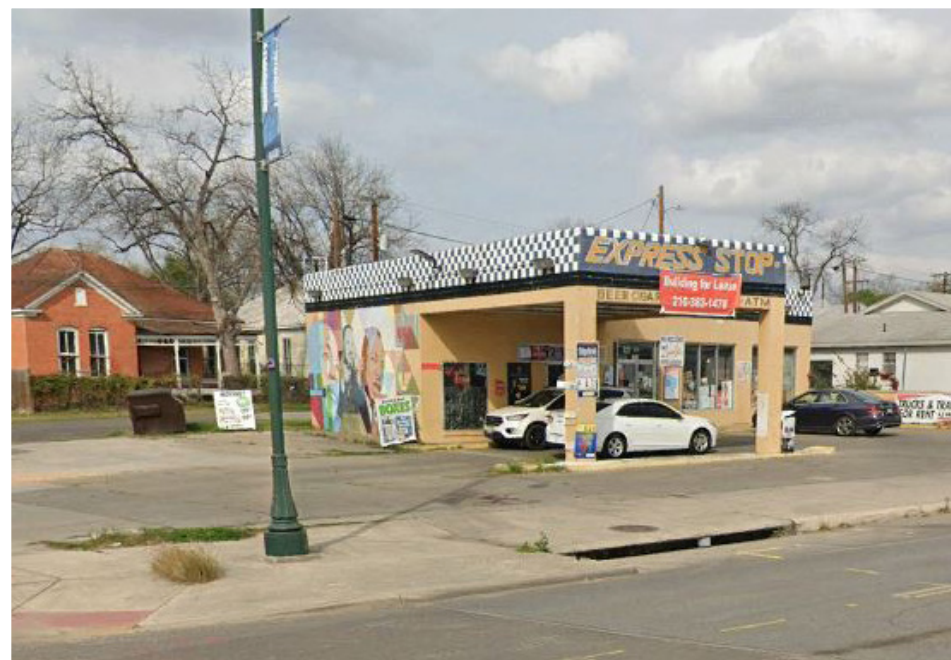
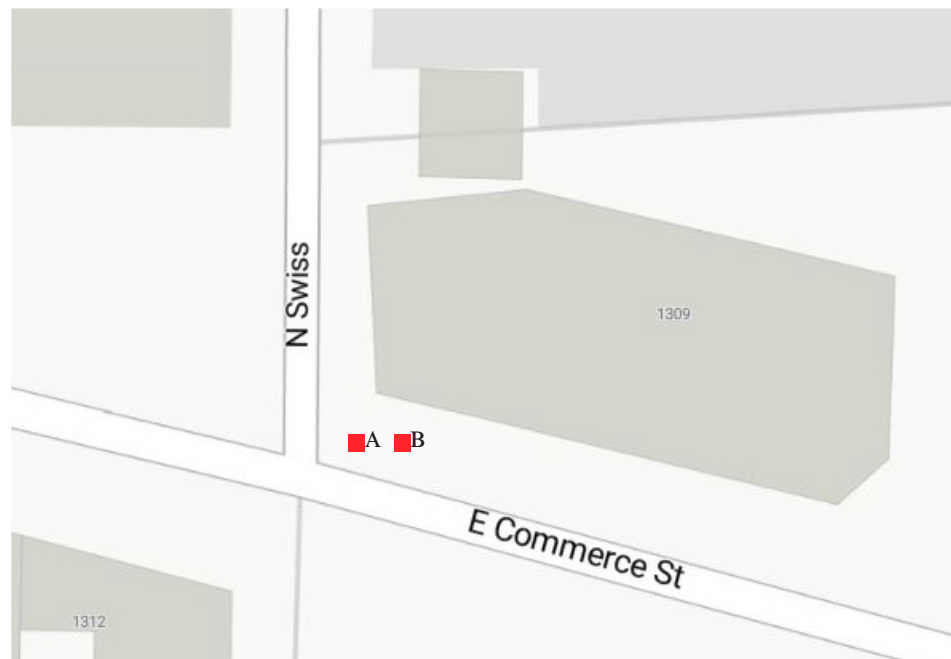
Address: 1403 E Commerce St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Business Thrills Inc

Zoning Overlay Info: Historic District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



Locations & Site Data

6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station

1403 E. Commerce St.

Monument Text:

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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"

7/16"

40.00"

2.375" ID galvanized tube
painted to match
plaque background
shipping separately

Elevation
Scale: 1/2"

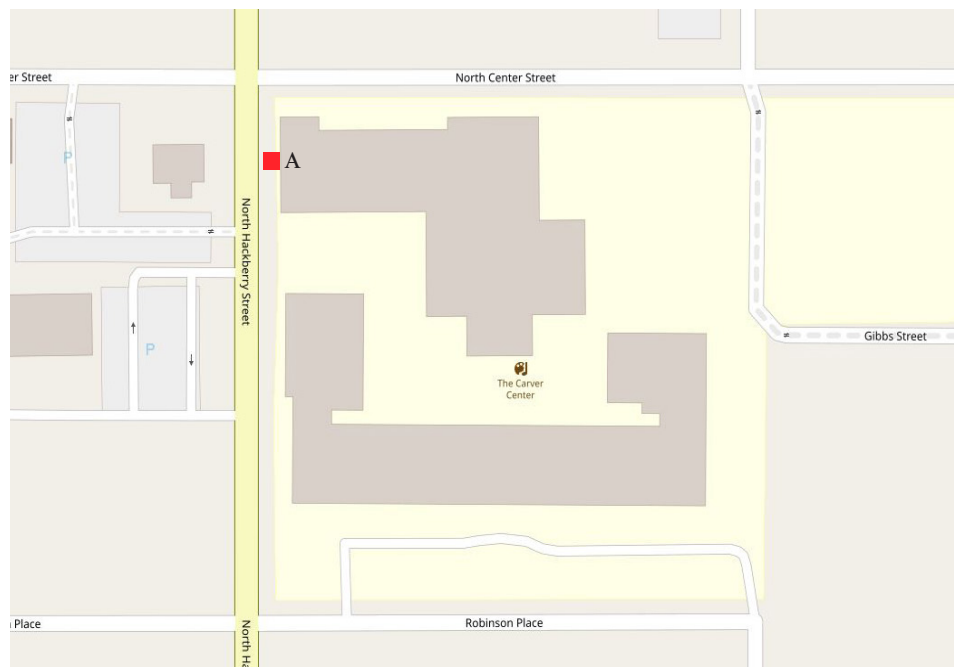
Small colonial mounting flange
and cap painted black to match
plaque background

(3) 1/4" set screws staggered
with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

15 - Carver Community Cultural Center - 226 N. Hackberry



This site is at the northwest corner of the property. The team felt that there was just one location to consider, along the brick retaining wall along N. Hackberry, and to the right of the entry steps.

The monument should be placed so that it is centered on the double windows, but in the sidewalk right-of-way.

The marker should be located against the retaining wall, and out of sidewalk traffic, using Locations Type A.

Address: 226 N. Hackberry

Monument Location: In Right of Way

Owner: City of San Antonio

Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Military Notification Area, Historic District, Residential Mixed District, UZROW (Unzoned Right-of-Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill

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- 7/16"

40.00"

2.375" ID galvanized tube painted to match plaque background shipping separately

Elevation Scale: 1/2"



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(3) 1/4" set screws staggered with JB weld in screws after mounting

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

Locations & Site Data

16 - Charles Williams Historical National Museum

506 Montana St.

This site has two options for monument location. The sidewalk is fairly tight, and there is a retaining wall and landscaping to contend with. Passing cars move quickly, so the monument placement should not in any way impeded pedestrian traffic or force people into the street.

If possible, the monument could be located in the grass, next to the sidewalk.

The first location could be just north of the building sign's landscaping edge, next to the concrete curb. The second location could be located just south of the west stained window, centered in the solid wall to the right of the window, but next to the concrete retaining curb, or in the grass on the other side of the curb.

The Location Type would be A at the north location, or Location Type B at the south location.

Address: 506 Montana St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Williams, Charles E Sr.

Zoning Overlay Info: St. Josephs Landmark, Arts and Entertainment District, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill



Locations & Site Data
16 - Charles Williams Historical
National Museum
506 Montana St.
Monument Text:

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Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by
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5/8"
7/16"



Locations & Site Data

17 - Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School 935 Iowa St.

This site has two options, however the team felt that the western most option was the best. The site has a relatively tight sidewalk and fast passing traffic.

The first location is at the corner of Piedmont Ave. and Iowa St., along the sidewalk adjacent to the building sign, however, the building sign is angled, and the monument would bring attention to that fact. The sign should be located out of the sidewalk and away from the sloped sidewalk.

The second location was preferred by the team, as it was in front of the handsome, historic school building, where the existing retaining wall steps back and the sidewalk widens.

The sign should be placed so that it is centered on the double window to the right of the entry sidewalk.

Both locations would require Location Type A or B, alongside the grass.

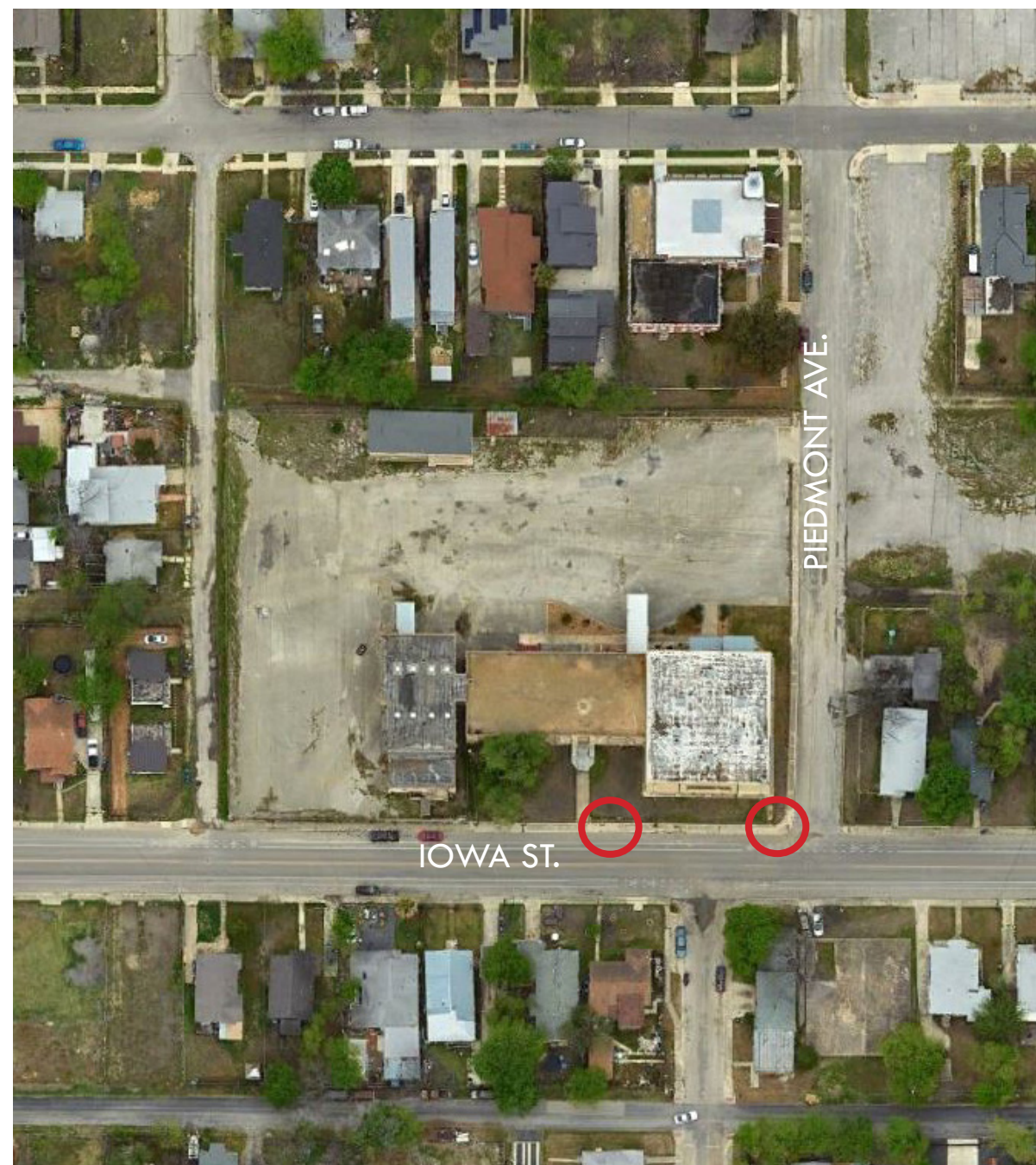
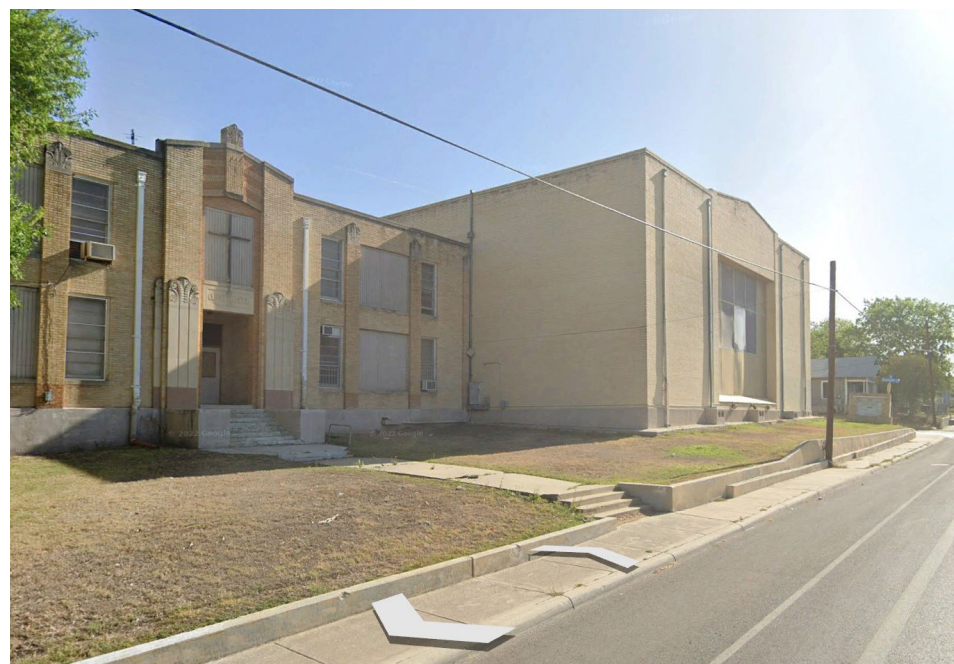
Address: 935 Iowa St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: Friendship Baptist Church

Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Historic District, Residential Mixed, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Denver Heights



Locations & Site Data
17 - Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School
 935 Iowa St.
Monument Text:

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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

- ☐ 5/8"
- ☐ 7/16"



Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital

202 Connelly St.

This site has two location options. Both are on the historical entrance side of the building, or the west side, along Connelly St. The sidewalk here is stamped and stained a terra-cotta color, so the owner should be notified prior to placement decisions, in order to get pre approval.

The first location could be at the corner, along the existing sidewalk and perpendicular to the corner of the building.

The second location could be located to the left of the historic entry, along the sidewalk, or against the building (if approved by owner), and centered on the space between the basement window and the first pilaster at the stairs.

Signage Location Type B (along sidewalk) or A (against building) could be used.

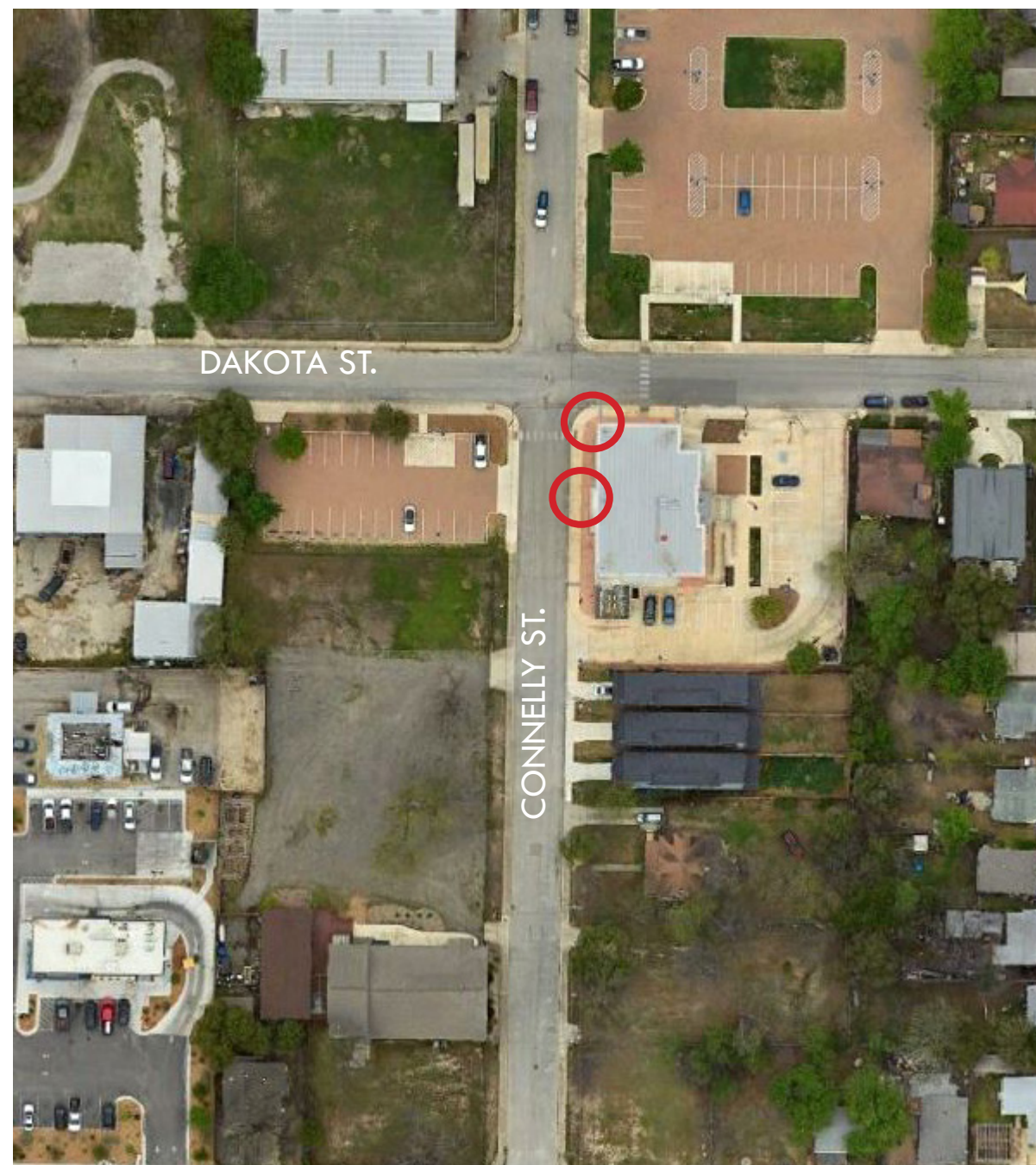
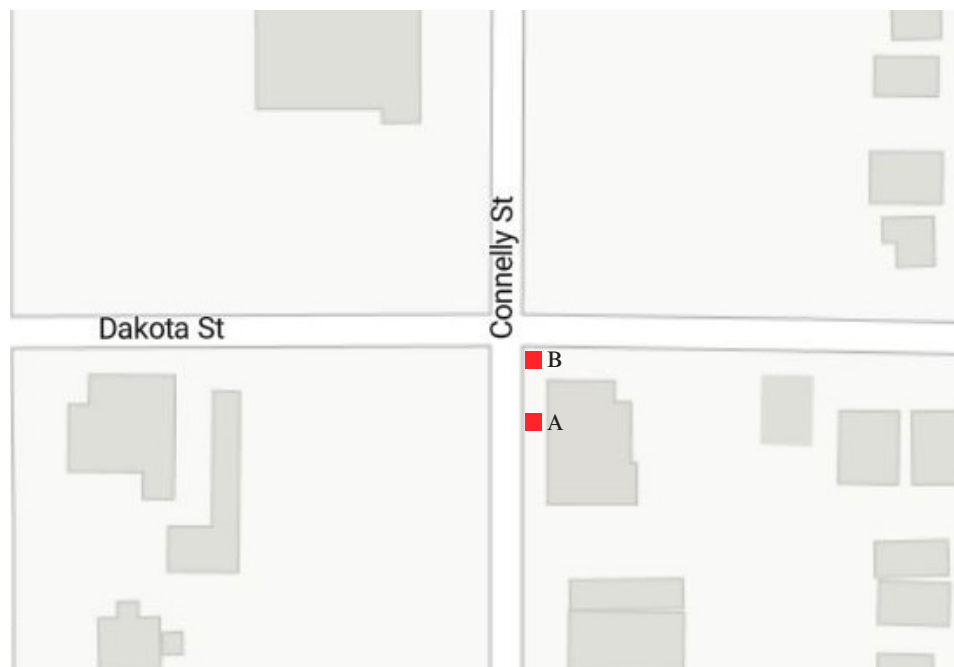
Address: 202 Connelly St.

Monument Location: In Right-of-Way

Owner: City of San Antonio

Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Military Lighting Overlay District, Historic District, Residential Mixed, UZROW (Unzoned Right of Way)

Neighborhood: Denver Heights



Monument Text:

The preliminary text for the monument is shown at left.
Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by
SAGE and can be found on the following page.



John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

Interestingly, John Inman was born in 1896, the year that the infamous Plessey V. Ferguson Supreme Court case made segregation legal. John Inman was a fixture in the civil and human rights movement in San Antonio and across the city. John Inman graduated from theological seminary in the 1930's but according to his daughter Janice Inman-Joseph, chose "teaching instead of preaching." John Inman fought against segregation in San Antonio by participating in protests at segregated facilities in his early years and never stopped even as he approached later years. Inman became a barber by profession, allowing him to teach his customers about civil and human rights. One could go to his barbershop and pick up material concerning the latest news in the black community, both locally and nationally. He was always willing to discuss the inequalities that existed in the city and across the country and the importance of action to address the plight of people.

Inman's community barber shop on S. Hackberry Street was across the street from Mount Zion First Baptist Church and where he was an active member. According to researcher Alwyn Barr, in quoting A.C. Sutton, John Inman was always in the lead for civil rights. Sutton said, "Anything that looked like a movement, he would be a part of." After authorities discovered that Inman was a revolutionary they removed his barber shops from the military bases which caused economic hardships for his family. However, much to the displeasure of segregationists Inman kept up the fight for human dignity. In 1928, John Inman became the president of the San Antonio Branch of the NAACP. He fought for infrastructure improvements on the East Side and carried out a campaign to end the poll tax.

John Inman was allied with Rev. Claude Black and the G. J. Sutton family. In the 1930's and 1940's, the Black community was active in encouraging voting by holding mock "Sepia Mayoral Campaigns," which were recorded in the Black Press (San Antonio Register), and "Anti-Poll Tax Hallies" on the east and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local labor activist and participated in these mock mayoral campaigns which were organized by what was then called the Negro Chamber of Commerce. He was actually elected in a mock mayoral campaign in an effort to show that Blacks deserved to hold the position of mayor in San Antonio during the era of segregation. John Inman was a fighter for social justice for many years. John Inman, a Black revolutionary during the Bellinger era, lived for a long time, and fought for positive change in decades. He was an advocate of worker's rights and supported workers of all ethnic groups including Mexican American Pecan Shellers that carried out a strike for better working conditions under the leadership of Emma Tenayuca. John Inman was active in a black and brown coalition that was organized into the "Workers Alliance." Inman was able to organize black support for the Pecan Sheller's Union and his help was invaluable. Shamefully his organizing success has gone uncelebrated.

Inman's influence would be felt years later when he would conduct political education classes for San Antonio SNCC members, civil rights workers, and others in the 1960s. He never gave up and was quoted in the community by many people who remembered that he said, "The harder they fought me the harder I fought back. I was never afraid of risking my life for the cause of justice and freedom." In the 1970s, John Inman was a member of the San Antonio Committee to Free Angela Davis and helped to organize the largest rally in the country of close to 3,000 for her freedom at La Villita Assembly Hall. John Inman passed away in 1996 at the age of 100.

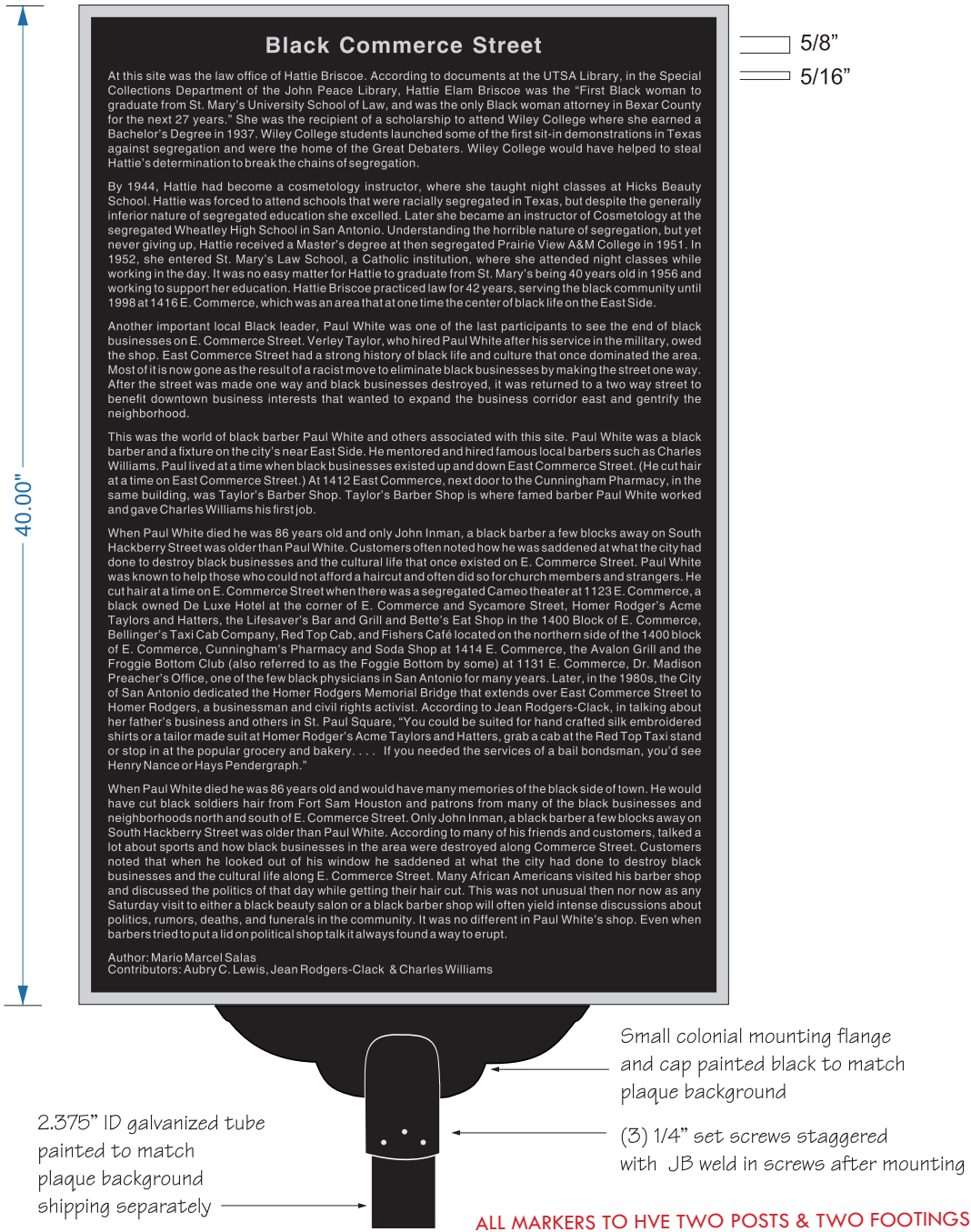
Author: Mario Marcel Salas

5/8"
7/16"



PENDING TEXT
APPROVAL
FROM HDRC / OHP

Locations & Site Data
5 - Black Commerce Street
1412 E. Commerce St.



PENDING TEXT
APPROVAL
FROM HDRC / OHP

Locations & Site Data
12 - G. W. Bouldin Newspaper
230 N. Center St.



PENDING TEXT
APPROVAL
FROM HDRC / OHP

Locations & Site Data
2 - The Walking Bridge
1149 E. Commerce St.



PENDING TEXT
APPROVAL
FROM HDRC / OHP

Locations & Site Data
3 - The Deluxe Hotel
1138 - 2 Sycamore St.



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Locations & Site Data

16 - Charles Williams Historical

National Museum

506 Montana St.

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APPROVAL

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Locations & Site Data
17 - Friendship Baptist Church &
The Norris Wright Cuney School
935 Iowa St.

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