

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

June 05, 2024

HDRC CASE NO: 2024-196
ADDRESS: 226 N HACKBERRY ST
506 MONTANA
202 CONNELLY ST
935 IOWA ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 592 BLK 7 LOT 1 CARVER COMPLEX SUBDIVISION
NCB 610 (ST JOSEPHS LANDMARK), BLOCK 14 LOT 24
NCB 1508 BLK 8 LOT 14 VETERANS OUTREACH SUBD
NCB 1404 BLK 2 LOT 8 THRU 20
ZONING: RM-4, AE-3, RM-4, HS, RM-4, HL
CITY COUNCIL DIST.: 2
DISTRICT: Dignowity Hill Historic District
LANDMARK: Individual Landmark
APPLICANT: Lindsey Logan/SAGE San Antonio for Growth on the East Side
OWNER: CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
TYPE OF WORK: Installation of four (4) markers
APPLICATION RECEIVED: May 09, 2024
60-DAY REVIEW: July 8, 2024
CASE MANAGER: Rachel Rettaliata

REQUEST:

The applicant is requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness to install four (4) 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 four (4) 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 four (4) markers near 226 N Hackberry, 506 Montana, 202 Connelly, and 935 Iowa. 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. The applicant received conceptual approval from the HDRC on December 20, 2023, for the installation of seven (7) historical markers, including the four (4) markers included in the current request. The remaining three (3) markers that received conceptual approval may be requested for final review at a later time.

- c. **MARKER DESIGN** – The applicant is requesting approval to install four (4) adorned bronze plaques. The plaques will be similar in design to the Texas Historical Commission plaques and will be mounted on two (2) posts for ADA cane notification 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 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 226 N Hackberry, 506 Montana, 202 Connelly, and 935 Iowa. The applicant has proposed to install the marker for 226 N Hackberry at the sidewalk in the public right-of-way at the Carver Community Cultural Center, to the north of the front entry near the retaining wall. The marker for 506 Montana is proposed for installation at the sidewalk in the public right-of-way at the Charles Williams Historical Museum site. The marker will be installed facing Montana Street, to the east of the existing corner retaining wall. The marker proposed at 202 Connelly is proposed for installation at the sidewalk, on the north side of the entry steps, three (3) feet from the building façade. The marker at 935 Iowa is proposed for installation in the public right-of-way at the Friendship Baptist Church & The Norris Wright Cuney School, to the west of the entry walkway steps, in front of the retaining wall. The markers placed in the public right-of-way will maintain a 36-inch clear dimension in front of the marker. The markers are proposed for installation at least 18 inches from any buildings for maintenance reasons but will remain out of pedestrian traffic. Staff finds the 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 has been coordinated and reviewed by the Office of Historic Preservation.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval based on findings a through e.



EAST SIDE MARKERS PROJECT PHASES 2 & 3

06-05-2024 FOR HDRC FINAL APPROVAL

Executive Summary

- Project Overview & History
- Public Input Session History

Marker Prototypes

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

List of Locations and Time Line

Phase 1, 2, 3 & TBD

Location Maps - Phases 1-3

Survey / Engineering Data

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 during Phase 1. They will be placed at a later date.

Phase 2 & 3 - The following sites were added**:

These 4 sites are to be placed this in this Scope of Work**.

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

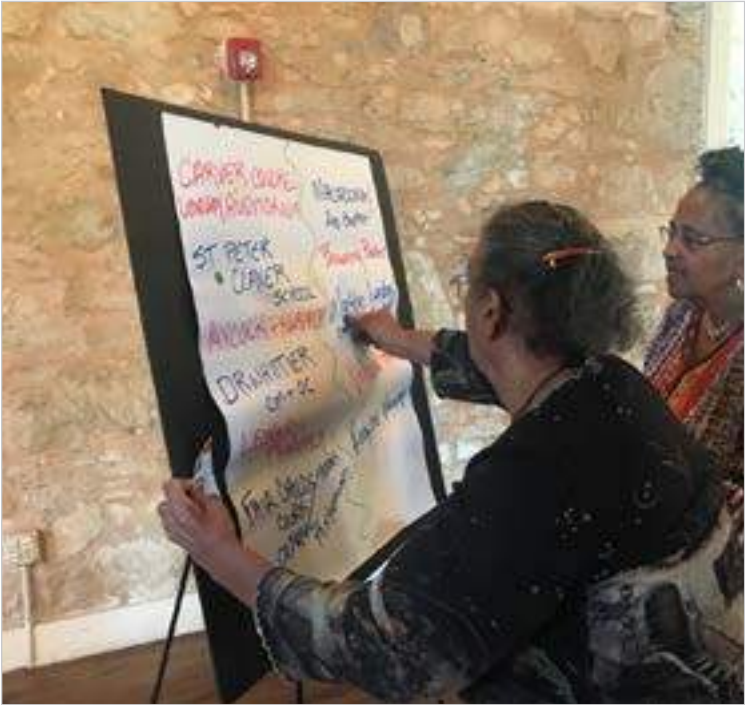
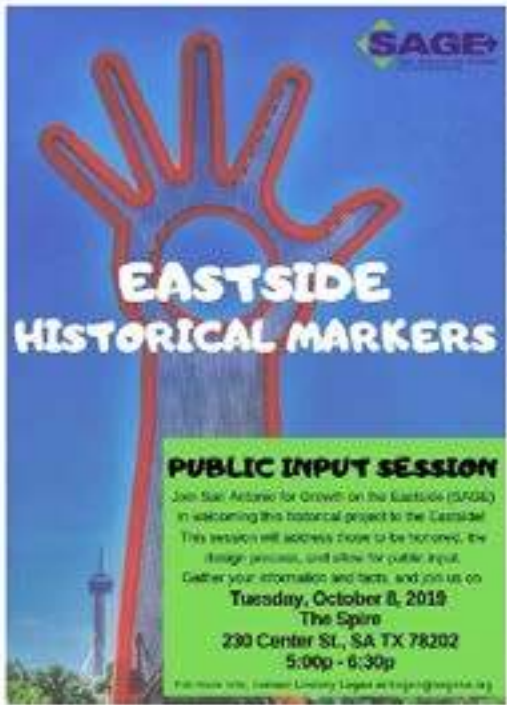
The East Side Markers Project is a project sponsored by San Antonio for Growth on the East Side (SAGE). There is a desire from many residents to commemorate special people and places located on the east side of San Antonio, that were important and influential African American business people and service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



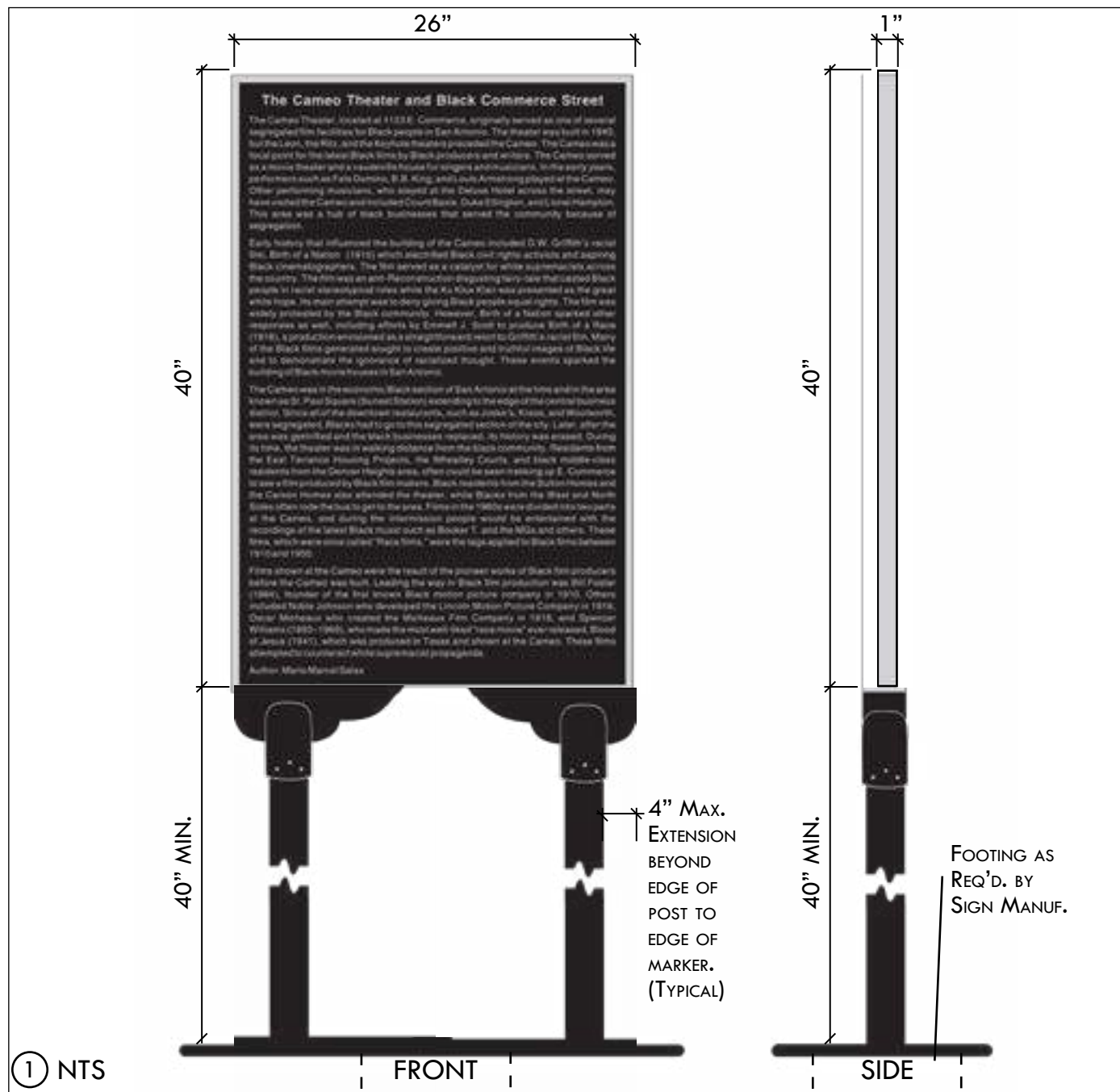
This project is an excellent way to share information regarding the architectural and cultural significance of the Eastside. The public was asked to share and shed light on overlooked areas/significant people within the Eastside community.

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.

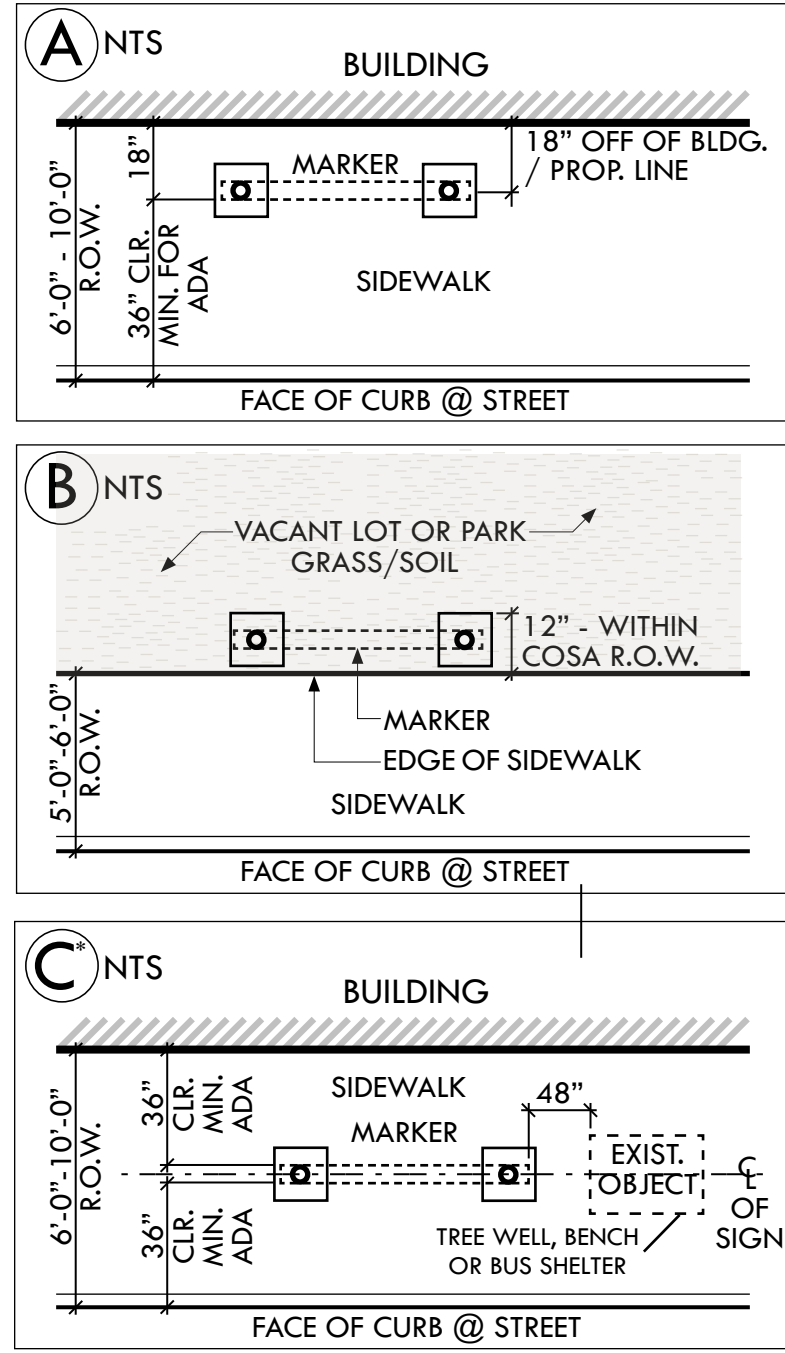
Goal 3: Determine from the public the historical and cultural significance within nearby neighborhoods and their importance. After educating the public for the reason of the public input session, the goal was to then determine which areas, corridors, individuals, buildings, structures, sites and objects 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.

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 maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic. At a curb or low wall, distance can be 4" if possible to allow for 36" clear space along sidewalk.

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

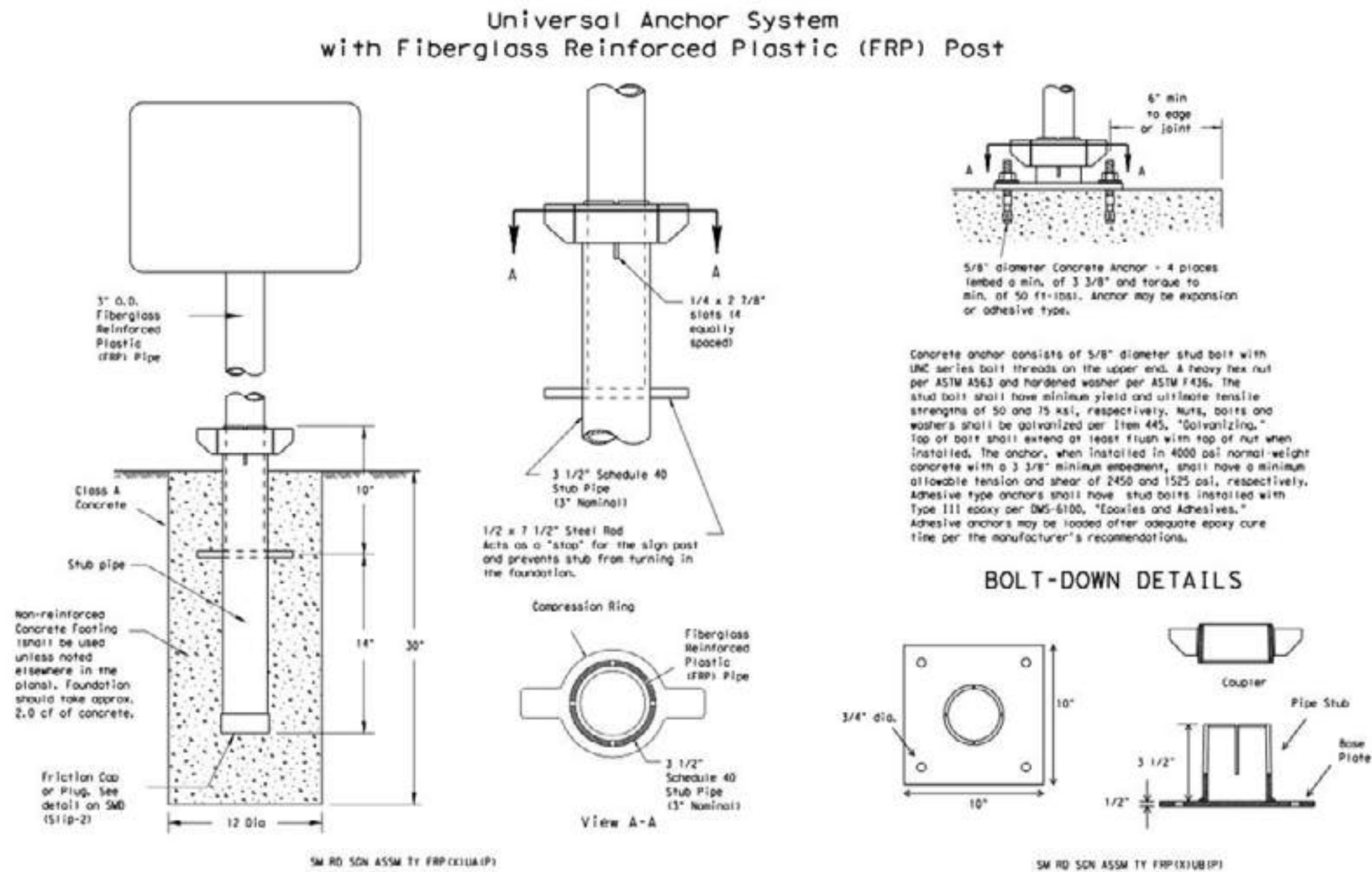
Follow Manufacturer's Mounting / Footing instructions.

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.



Marker Prototypes
Installation Location Sections A + B

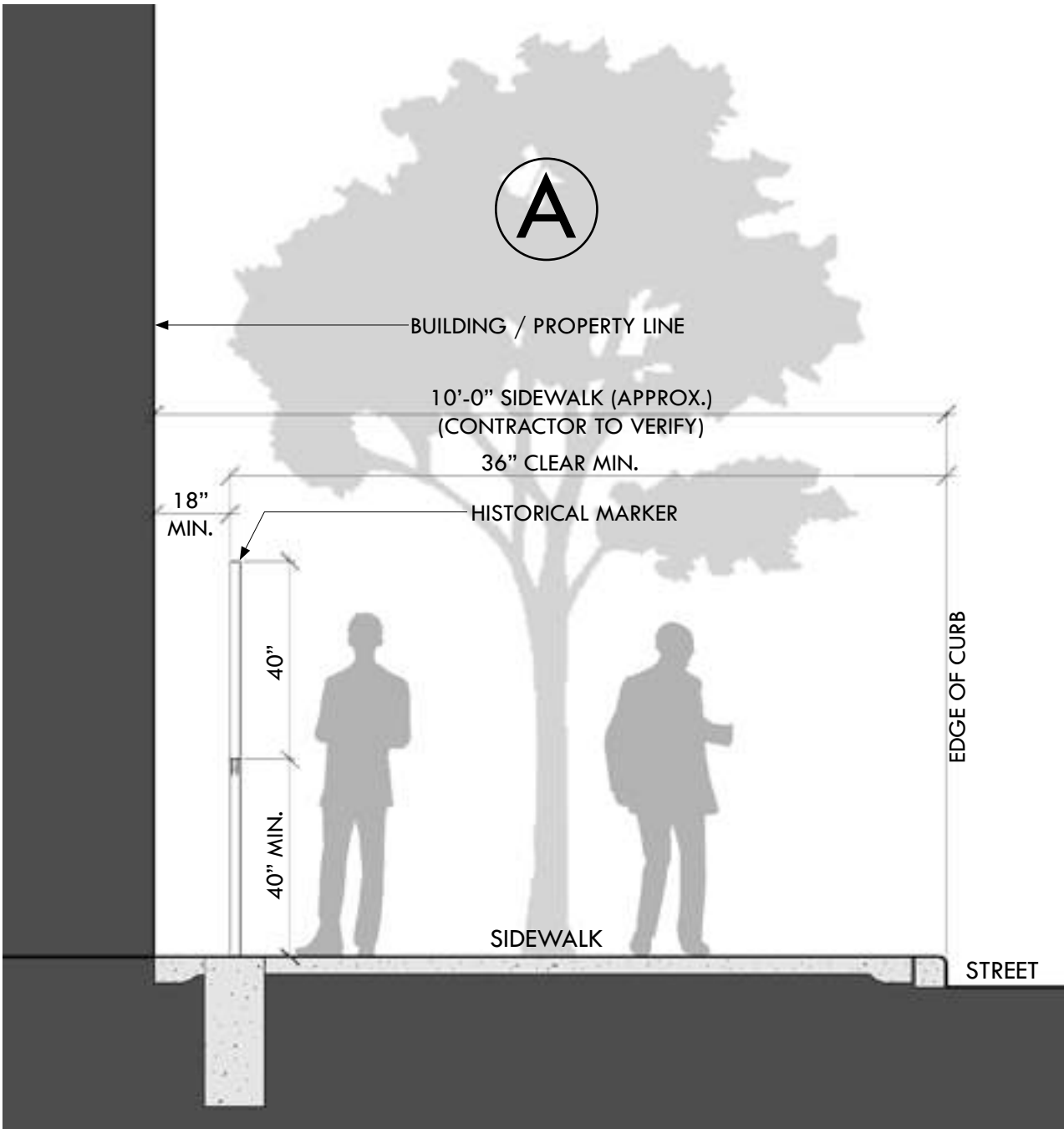
Location A & B are depicted on an approximate 10 foot wide and 5-6 foot wide sidewalk, respectively. Widths may vary by location and should be verified by Contractor / Sign Installer.

Installation Locations:

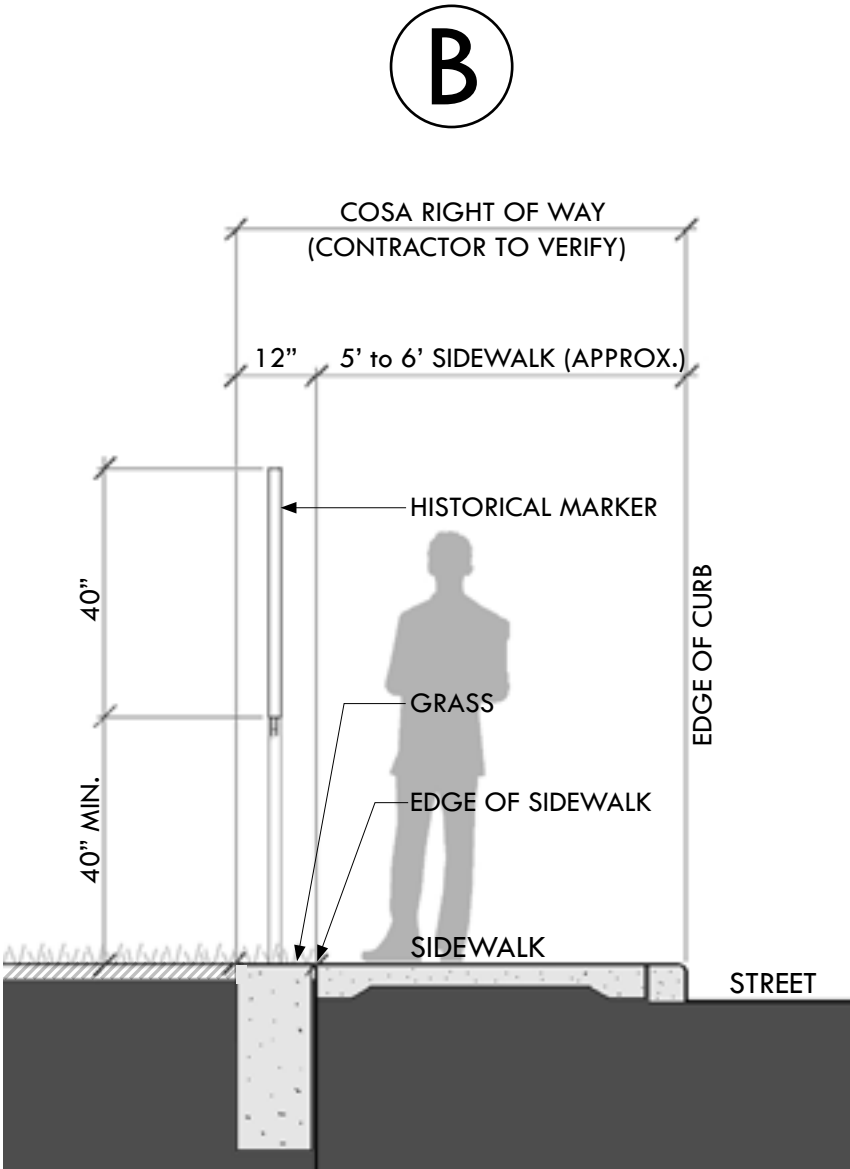
Location A:
When a monument is to be located near a building, marker should be placed in the City sidewalk ROW. A 36" clear dimension must be maintained in front of the marker. Marker to be 18" from building for building maintenance, but out of pedestrian traffic.

In this scope of work: At a low wall or curb, distance can be 4" to allow for pedestrian clearance on narrow sidewalks.

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

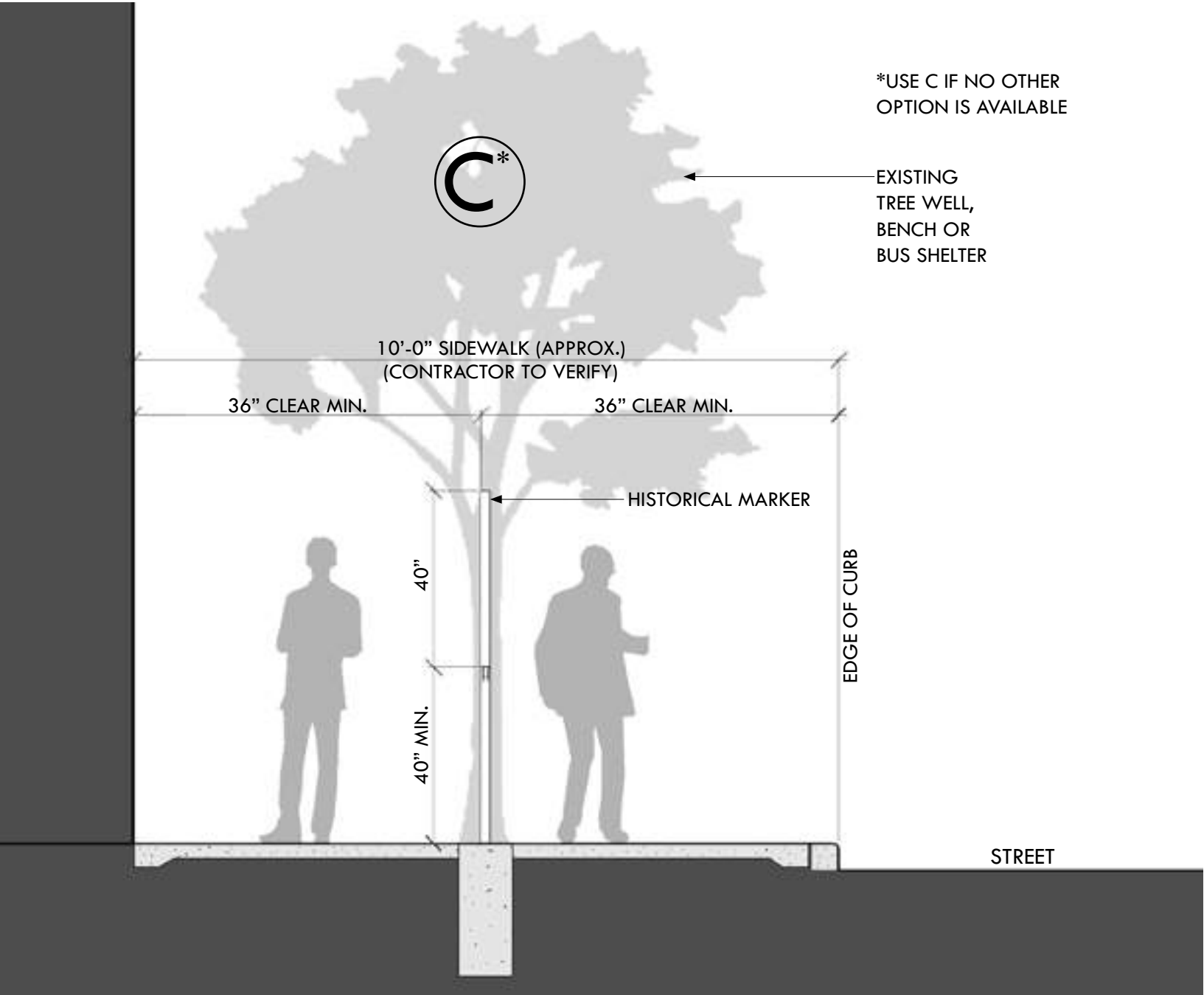


DESIGN INTENT, NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

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.

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		Pending
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	June 2024
Site 2	Walking Bridge Over Commerce	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 3	The Deluxe Hotel	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 4	The Manhattan Hotel	Moved to Later Phase	
Site 6	Charles Bellinger Gas Station	Moved to Later Phase	
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

Phase 2 & 3 Monuments Approved - In Scope, to be Placed

- 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.

Phase 1 Monuments Approved - Not in Scope - In Future Phase

- 5

Black Commerce Street, 1416 E. Commerce St.
- 12

G. W. Bouldin Newspaper, 230 N. Center St.

Phase 1 Monuments Approved - 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 2 & 3 Monuments Not Approved - Not in Scope

- 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.
- 4

The Manhattan Hotel, Cherry & E. Commerce St.
- 7

Homer Rodgers Office, E. Commerce St.
- 8

The Lifesaver Grill, N. Swiss St. & 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.

List of Locations & Time Line

Phase 1 and Phase 2 & 3

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.

Phase 2 & 3 monument sites 15, 16, 17 and 18 are to be placed in this scope of work, and are noted with a dark blue circle at left.

Phase 1 markers at sites 5 and 12 were approved but not placed due to site or adjacent construction issues. They will be placed in a later phase. They are noted with a dark green circle at left.

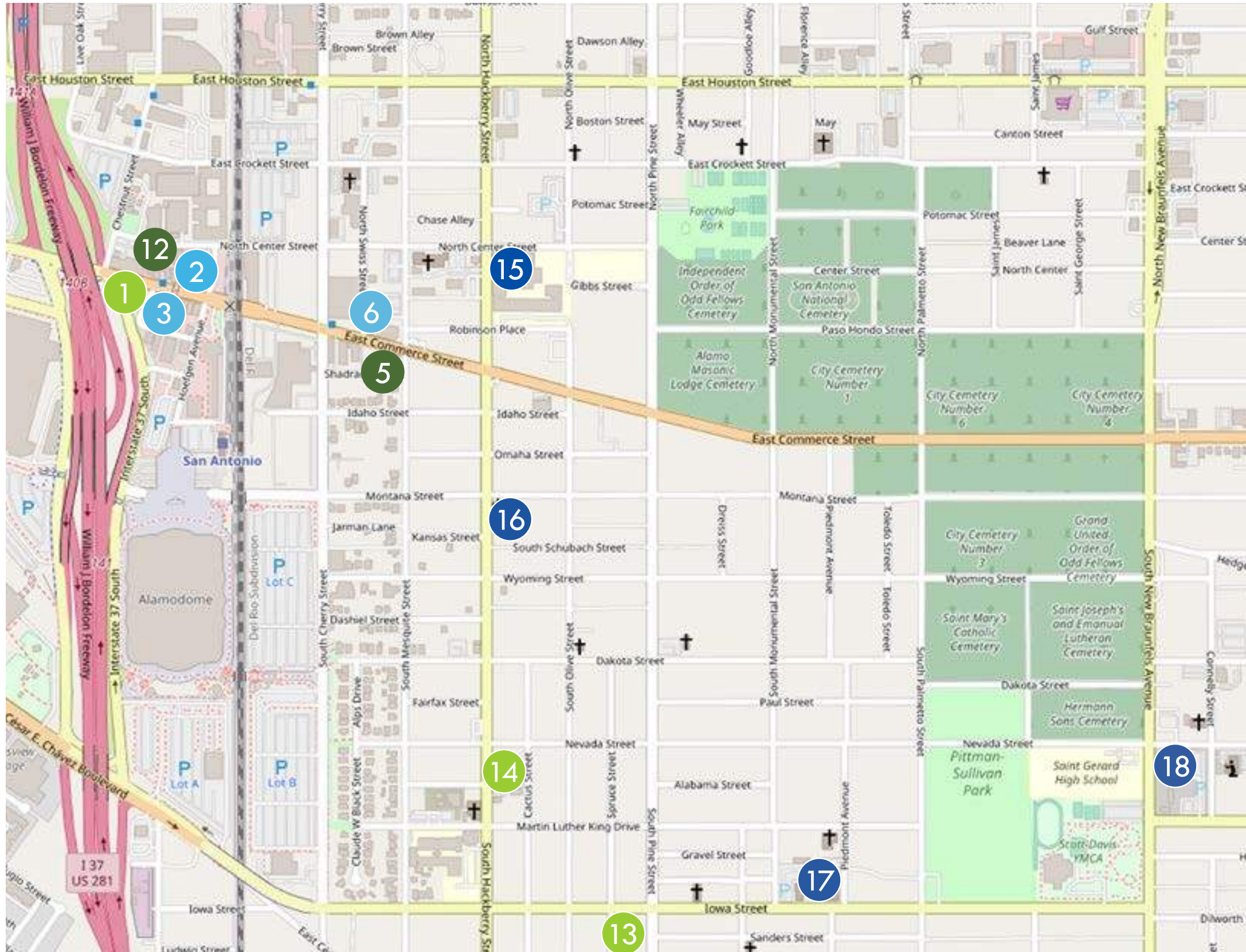
Phase 2 & 3 monument sites not included in this scope of work:

Sites 2, 3, and 6, initially part of this phase, are not included in this scope of work. They will be completed at a later phase. They are shown in light blue circle at left.

Sites 4, 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 are not included in this scope and will be completed in a later phase. They are shown in a gray circle at left.

Phase 1 monument sites completed:

The Phase 1 markers at sites 1, 13 and 14 were finalized and placed. They are noted with a green circle at left.



Location Maps Phase 1-3

Site Location Map

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LEGEND

Phase 2 & 3 Monuments to be Placed

- 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 Connolly St.

Phase 2 & 3 Monuments Not Included in Scope

- 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.

Phase 1 Monuments Approved, Not in Scope

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

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.

COLOR KEY

- Phase 1 Monuments Completed
- Phase 1 Monuments Pending
- Phase 2-3 Monuments to be Placed
- Phase 2-3 Monuments Not Included



This site is at the northwest corner of the block. The sidewalk is narrow along Hackberry, and traffic moves quickly, so the monument needs to be as tight as far away from the street as possible.

The marker should be located so that it aligns with the center of the windows on the left side of the steps, as the Carver Center personnel requested, because to the right of the steps conflicts with bus drop off.

The monument should be placed as tight to the low retaining wall as possible (4" if possible), so it doesn't affect that foundation, and so that it has 36" clear pedestrian space in front of it.

The marker should be located against the retaining wall, and out of sidewalk traffic, using a modified (tighter to the wall) Location Type A.

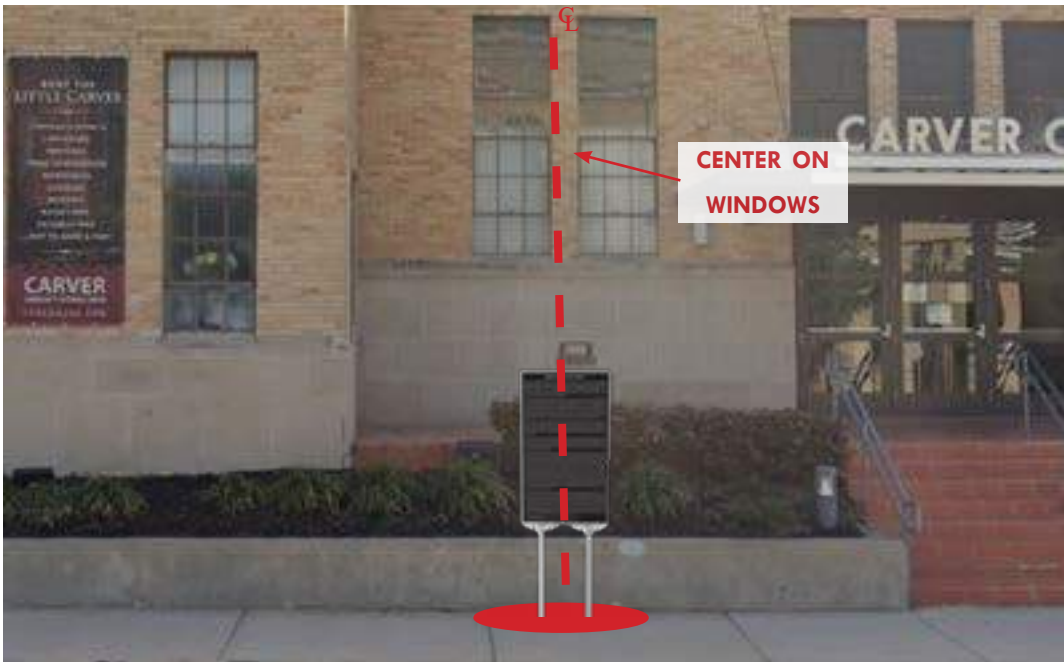
Address: 226 N. Hackberry
Monument Location: In Right of Way
Owner: City of San Antonio
Zoning Overlay Info: Individual Landmark, Military Notification Area, Historic District, Residential Mixed District, UZROW (Unzoned Right-of-Way)
Neighborhood: Dignowity Hill

Locations & Site Data

15 - Carver Community Cultural Center - 226 N. Hackberry

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

The elevation shows how the monument should be centered on the windows of the building, in order to show reverence to the structure, and be as tight to the retaining wall as possible, to keep 36" clear pedestrian area in front of the monument.



36" CLEAR WALK SPACE IN FRONT OF MARKER REQUIRED.



The Carver Community Cultural Center

The building known today as the Carver Community Cultural Center (generally called “the Carver”) was built in 1929 to serve as the “Colored Branch of the San Antonio Library and Auditorium.” The facility was constructed on the site of the Negro Community House, which opened in 1919 at 226 North Hackberry Street as a cooperative venture of War Camp Community Service and the Colored Library Association. The Colored Library Association was chartered on October 9, 1918, for “the support of a public library.” The Association’s papers of incorporation were signed by several of San Antonio’s most prominent African American activists, including Charles Bellinger, H.M. Tarver, F.E. Lewis, and George W. Bouldin (owner of the San Antonio Inquirer newspaper). Though not a charter member of the Colored Library Association, John A. Grumbles was unanimously elected as president of the newly formed San Antonio branch of the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), which was founded in March of 1918 by a group of local politicians, educators, and clergymen. Grumbles purchased the property for the Community House and enlisted the support of the War Services Board to fund the facility as a way to provide services to African American soldiers.

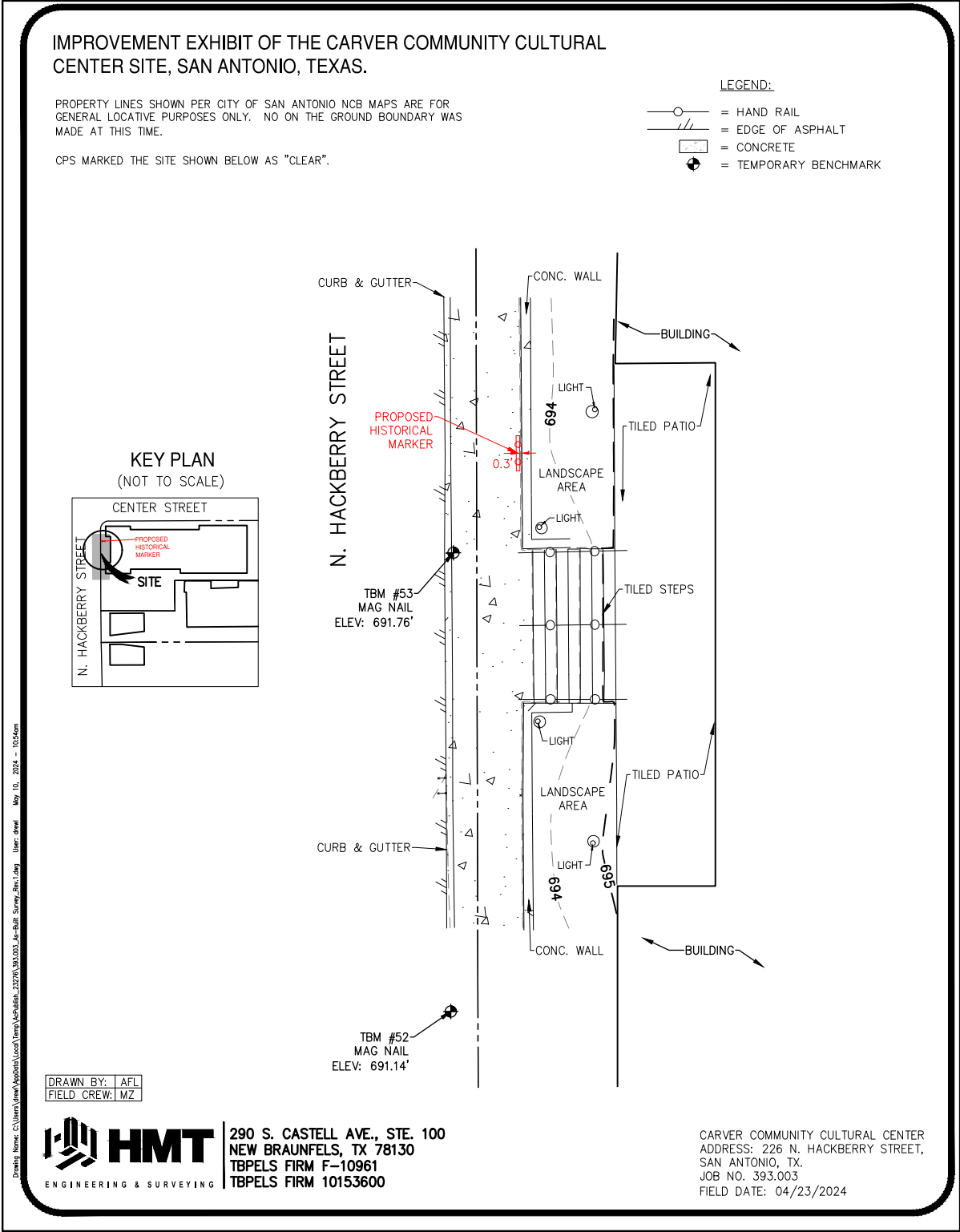
The Community House opened on January 19, 1919, and contained a barbershop, baths, a kitchen, and an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1000. It was the only such facility in the South that was erected and maintained for use by Black soldiers and civilians. The Community House became a popular gathering place for soldiers returning from World War I and local residents who were denied access to other facilities. The City of San Antonio purchased the property in 1925 and opened a branch of the public library here. A 1928 bond issue provided funds to construct a new library and auditorium on the site. The building, designed by local architects Carl Von Seutter and Malcolm Simons, opened in 1930. During the first six months, the local press covered a variety of events at this site: business sessions for the Negro Knights of Pythias national convention; a production of the San Antonio Negro Little Theater; a “midsummer minstrel” program, including a “buck-and-wing” contest; and the annual sessions for the Southwest Texas Institute for Negro Teachers. On October 10, 1930, soprano Florence Cole-Talbert and pianist E. Jessie Covington appeared in concert, performing spirituals and instrumental numbers for the benefit of St. Philip’s Junior College. By that time, the venue was commonly known as the Library Auditorium, and newspapers noted that “special reservations will be made for white patrons,” in defiance of the Jim Crow era practice of racial segregation. In 1938, the facility was officially named in honor of the George Washington Carver, the formerly enslaved scientist who eventually became an agricultural chemist at Tuskegee Institute and developed the practice of crop rotation.

From the time of its completion through post-World War II era, the Library Auditorium was a popular venue for the performance of African American culture. The auditorium hosted the most prominent African American entertainers of the period, including Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong, Billy Eckstine, Earl “Fatha” Hines, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Jimmy Lunceford, Sara Vaughn, the Smith Jubilee Singers, T-Bone Walker, and Ray Charles. It also hosted renowned religious and political figures, including Illinois Congressman Oscar De Priest, Dr. W. B. Crittenden, Langston Hughes, and Adam Clayton Powell, and was the site of high school and college graduations and many community and social functions. Following desegregation, use of the library and auditorium declined, and the building deteriorated. The library closed in 1973 when a new building for the George Washington Carver branch library was constructed on East Commerce Street at a site donated by Second Baptist Church, adjacent to its sanctuary. A group of concerned citizens led by Norva Hill, director of United Citizens Project Planning and Operating Corporation (UCPPOC), a local poverty agency, took action to save the building from the threat of demolition, using their bodies to block the bulldozers. The building remained unused until it was renovated and reopened as a performing arts and meeting facility in 1976, in conjunction with the United States Bicentennial celebration. The same firm that designed the new Carver library served as project architect (Haywood, Jordan, McGowan Associates), and the facility was named the George Washington Carver Community Cultural Center. That year, Jo Long assumed the executive director position and provided a passionate love for the facility and its historic importance to the overall community.

The success of the Carver as a venue for multi-ethnic artistic programming and community events led to the addition of modern support facilities in 1986, including dressing rooms, offices, storage space, and a loading dock. In 1987, the Carver Development Foundation Board was organized to secure ongoing funding for programming and capital improvements. In November 2002, the “Little Carver” annex opened on an adjacent parcel of land in the renovated chapel of the former Porter Memorial Christian Methodist Episcopal (C.M.E.) Church, which now serves as a flexible performance and meeting space. In 2003, the Carver Community Cultural Center was added to the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior National Park Service. Today, the Carver Community Cultural Center continues to serve the needs of the community by programming and hosting world-class events in its annual season of visual and performing arts, including plays, concerts, contemporary dance, film screenings, poetry readings, as well as a variety of educational programs, including dance classes, art galleries, and youth camps.

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

Monument Text:
The final text for the monument is shown at left. It has been approved by HDRC / OHP.



Locations & Site Data

15 - Carver Community Cultural Center - 226 N. Hackberry

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

The sidewalk is narrow along Hackberry, so the monument should be placed as close to the retaining wall as possible, so as to not impede pedestrian traffic.

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

16 - Charles Williams Historical National Museum

506 Montana St.

The sidewalk in front of this building along N. Hackberry is very narrow and there is a retaining wall and landscaping to contend with. Passing cars move quickly, so the monument should be placed along Montana St., just to the left of the monument signage. There is a bed of gravel along the sidewalk, so the monument should be located along the sidewalk edge next to it. Do not block their existing signage or ramp entry.

The Location Type would be B along the sidewalk.

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:

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

The elevations indicate where the monument should be placed, along the sidewalk, next to the gravel bed and away from the existing monument sign and ramp.



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 C. 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 rallies" on the eastern and west sides of the city (Register, March 31, 1939). John Inman was also a local abolitionist 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 for 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

(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.

Monument Text:

The final text for the monument is shown at left. It has been approved by HDRC / OHP.

Williams Historical National Museum

The Williams Historical National Museum celebrates the contributions and achievements made by San Antonio's Black community throughout the City's years of significant growth and development. Permanent and rotating temporary exhibitions recognize the distinguished men and women who served as forerunners in the pursuit of change and prosperity. These stories are shared through rare photographs, artifacts, and oral history interview accounts detailing factual records of events that helped shape the City's history.

Displays are designed to connect both youth and older generations with the past, foster increased awareness, and commemorate one of the City's most influential communities, whose civic engagement helped shape the local and national struggle for racial justice. The Williams Historical National Museum opened in November 2022, the realization of a 30-year dream by founder Mr. Charles E. Williams, Sr., who hoped "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."

Mr. Williams wanted to host a community space where younger generations would come together to learn about our collective history and to commemorate the collective dream of racial equity and unity. Born in 1937, during the era of racial segregation, Mr. Williams witnessed first-hand the social and political changes leading to integration. As an active participant in the civil rights movement in the 1950s-60s, he participated in sit-ins, demonstrations, and community organizing to end racial 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 also worked hard to collect artifacts from local knowledge holders to expand our collective understanding of social change in San Antonio.

City records indicate that the property at the corner of Montana and Hackberry streets has always had a church as its primary use. The 1897 City Directory lists 506 Montana as the location of the German Methodist Church, and the 1904 Sanborn Map shows the German Methodist Episcopal Church located at the corner, facing South Hackberry. The two-story residence is also identified on the map at the rear of the church facing Montana. The three buildings currently on this site were constructed in 1922-1923 for the Hackberry Street Methodist Church, which met at this location from 1919 until 1950. The property was then sold to Bishop Joseph Gomez for the St. Joseph AME congregation, which met at this location from 1950 until 2018, when Mr. Williams bought the church with grants and his own savings.

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 also sought funding from the City of San Antonio to support the power and purpose of the Williams Historical National Museum. According to museum 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, healthcare, 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 led local community organizations and initiated the effort to change the name of Nebraska Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive. He was chairman for the Black Chamber of Commerce for several years and served on a bank board to help improve relations between banks and the Black community. Mr. Williams also served as a member of the City's zoning and planning commission to address the specific needs in our community. This museum represents Charles Williams's strong desire to ensure that future generations learn about local Black history, fighters for progress, their selfless acts of courage, and their commitment to making life better for all in San Antonio.

Authors: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

Charles Williams Historical Museum

Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11

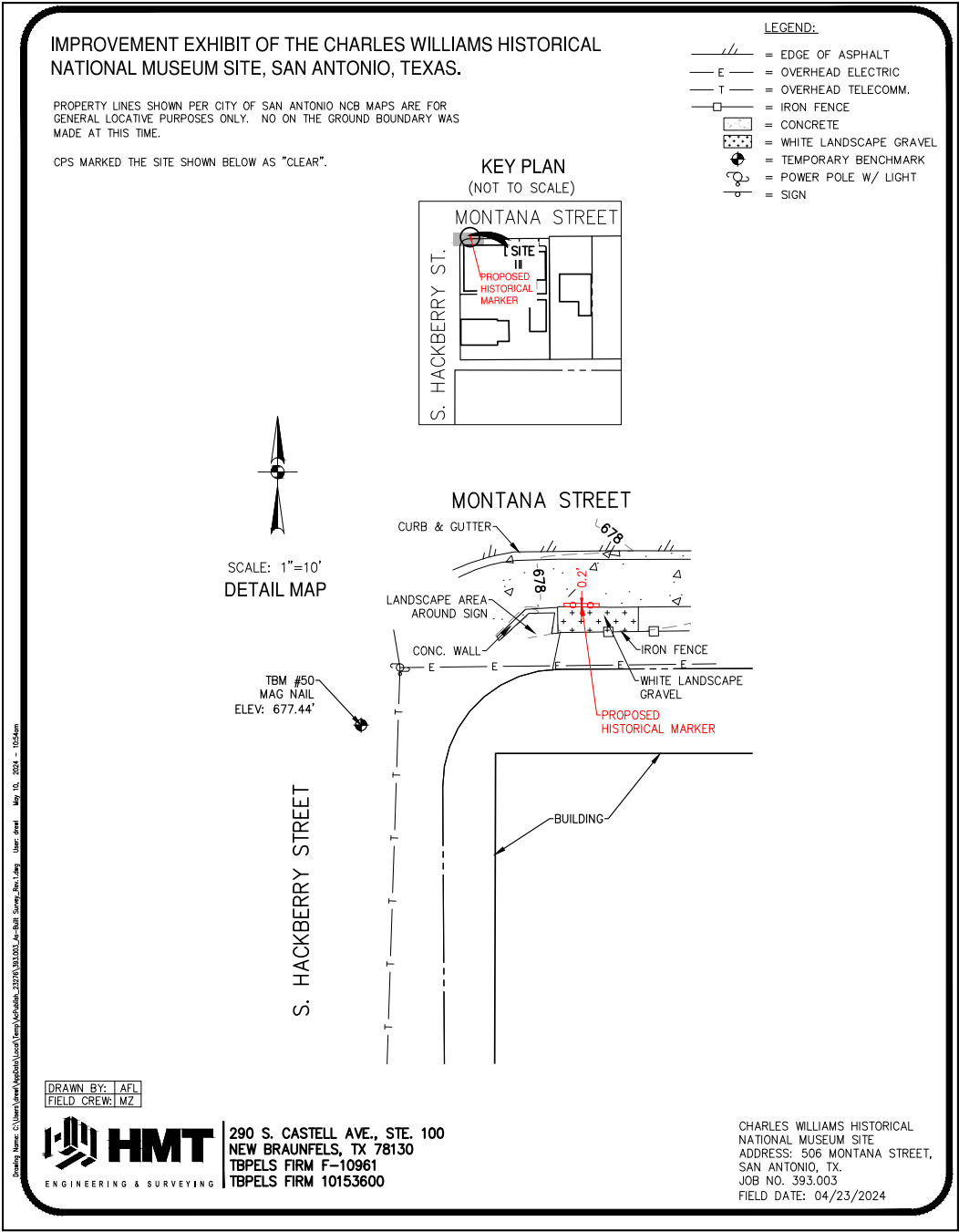
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Locations & Site Data
16 - Charles Williams Historical
National Museum

506 Montana St.

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

The location was selected because of the narrowness of the sidewalk along Hackberry. Location is adjacent to the sidewalk ROW along Montana.



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 a relatively tight sidewalk and fast moving traffic.

The monument should be located 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.

The location would require Location Type B alongside the low retaining wall.

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"

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 C. 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 rallies" on the eastern 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 for 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"

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

(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 final text for the monument is shown at left. It has been 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 neighborhood. The school is documented on a Ferguson Map dated 1896, sheet 34. In May 1902 it was named after an African American civic leader, Norris Wright Cuney (1846–1898).

Norris Wright Cuney was born on May 12, 1846, near Hempstead, Texas, the son of a white planter, Philip Minor Cuney, and an enslaved mother, Adeline Stuart. After attending George B. Vashon's Wylie Street School for Blacks in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Cuney eventually returned to Texas and settled in Galveston. There he studied law and by July 18, 1871, was appointed president of the Galveston Union League. Cuney was appointed as the first assistant to the sergeant-at-arms of the Twelfth Legislature in 1870 and served as a delegate to every Republican national convention from 1872 to 1892. In 1873 he presided at the state convention of Black leaders at Brenham. In 1883 Cuney was elected alderman on the Galveston City Council from the Twelfth District. In 1886 he became Texas national committeeman of the Republican party, the most important political position given to a Black man of the South in the nineteenth century. One historian of the Republican party in Texas characterizes the period between 1884 and 1896 as the "Cuney Era."

Cuney was also strongly committed to education. In 1871, he was appointed as a school director of Galveston County and supported the establishment of Prairie View State Normal and Industrial Institute for Colored Youth (now Prairie View A&M University). Cuney was first grand master of the Prince Hall Masons in Texas from 1875 to 1877. He also belonged to the Knights of Pythias and the Odd Fellows. While Cuney resided in Galveston, he made several trips to San Antonio to host conferences, consult with businessmen, and visit with friends. Cuney died on March 3, 1898, in San Antonio. According to a biography written by his daughter, Maude Cuney Hare, his body laid in state at St. Paul M.E. Church in San Antonio and was honored by the San Antonio Guards and "a colored militia regiment." "A special train, draped in mourning" transported the remains to Galveston, "accompanied by members of the family and intimate friends." Cuney was buried in Galveston at Lake View Cemetery.

In 1923, a two-room frame building was moved from the old Cuney campus to Iowa St. to become the Cuney Annex. It was also referred to as the Iowa Street School until the long-awaited brick building was constructed in 1932. While the old Cuney campus became the Burnet School Annex, the new twelve-room Norris Wright Cuney Elementary School also served junior high students from 1932-1933 until junior high schools were built. In 1969, in compliance with the Office of Civil Rights' mandates for racially balanced campuses, the San Antonio School Board closed Norris Wright Cuney Elementary. The building remained operational with preschool and extra-curricular classes, GED courses, Spanish language classes, SAISD Head Start, and City and group meetings. In the mid 1970s, the San Antonio Independent School District held an auction for the Cuney School Building, and in 1975 Friendship Missionary Baptist Church purchased the building as their permanent place of worship.

Friendship Baptist 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. 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" According to Archield Jr., "The building was destroyed by fire in 1975, but we the people became more on fire for the Lord, who rewarded us with the Cuney Elementary School building. We built a sanctuary with an iconic a two-story stained glass window." The church honours the vision of Norris Wright Cuney, 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

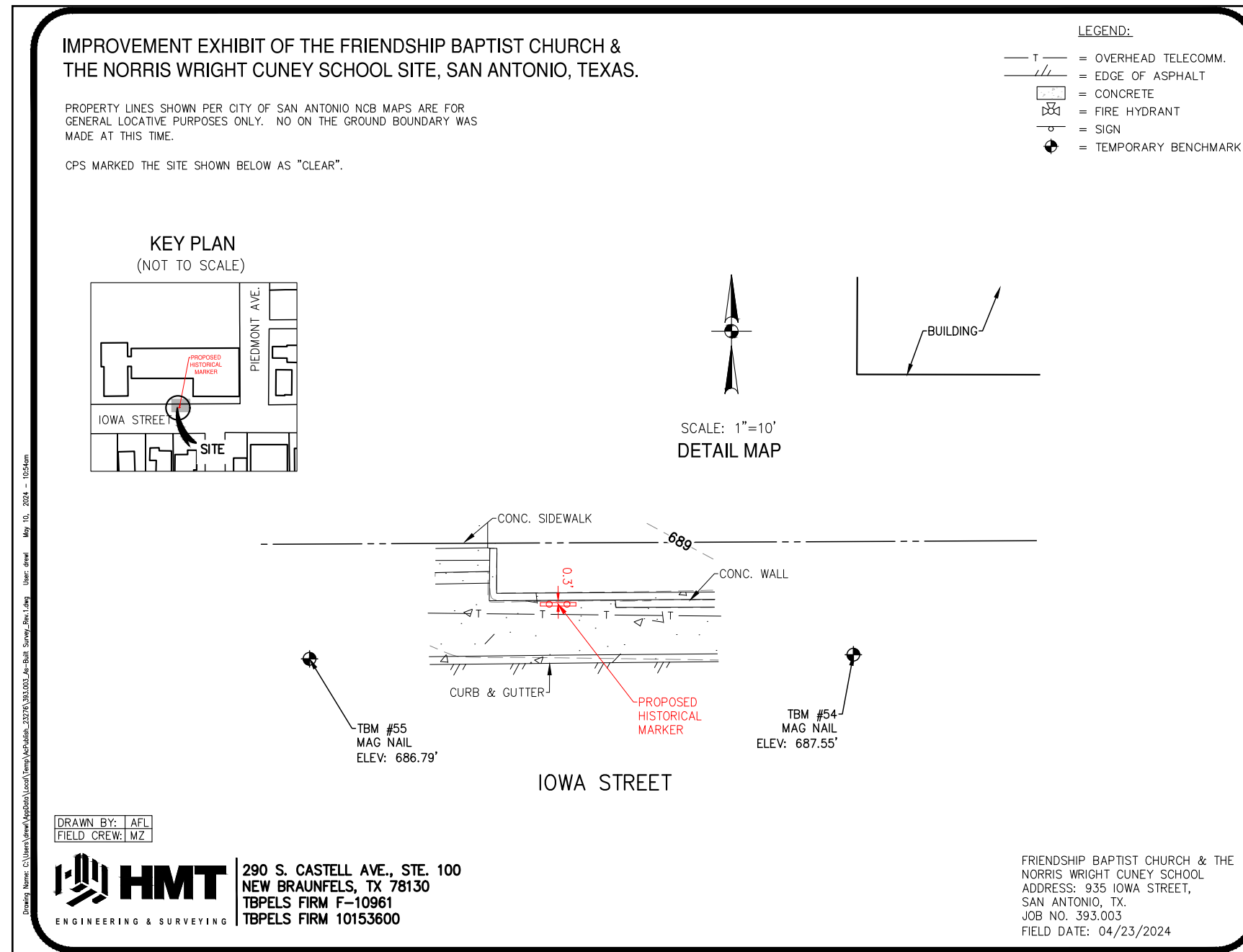
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

Locations & Site Data

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

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The location was selected because of the narrowness of the sidewalks along Iowa and Piedmont. The location should be as shown, as tight as possible to the existing retaining wall, and out of pedestrian traffic.



Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital 202 Connelly St.

This site is located on the historical entrance side of the building, or the west side, along Connelly St.

The sidewalk here is adequate, however the survey revealed that there is a telecom duct bank running under the sidewalk. The no ROW sidewalk is wide and is stamped and stained a terra-cotta color, so the owner should be notified prior to placement decisions, in order to get pre approval.

If approved by the owner, the monument should be located to the left of the historic entry, centered on the space between the basement window and the first pilaster at the steps. The monument should be also aligned with the face of the lowest step. These stairs are not used.

Signage Location Type A modified (against building, but along with the steps) should 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)

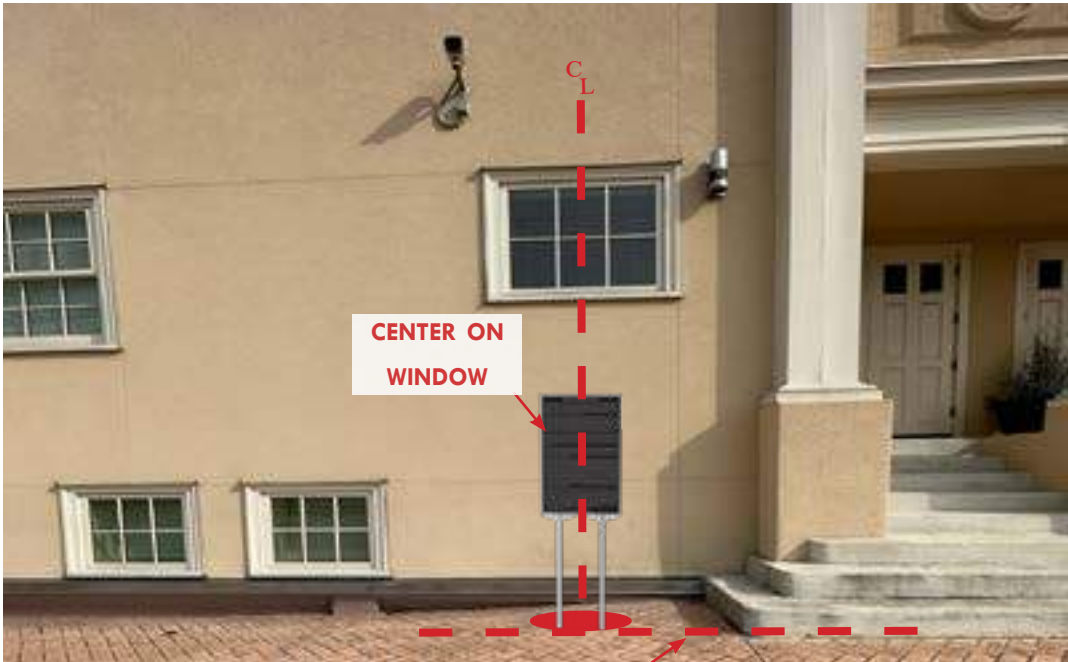


Locations & Site Data
18 - Good Samaritan Hospital
202 Connelly St.

Monument Text:
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Final HDRC / OHP approved text will be provided by
SAGE and can be found on the following page.

The elevations show where the monument should be located. Because of the telephone lines running in the sidewalk, locating the monument adjacent to it is not recommended. Therefore, the preferred location is aligned with the bottom step of the building's former entrance, and centered on the window, as shown.

The owner of the building must approve this location as it is not in the City ROW, because of the telephone line in the sidewalk issue.



CENTER ON
WINDOW

ALIGN POSTS
W/ FRONT STEP



John Inman Fighter for Human Rights

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Author: Mario Marcel Salas

Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital

202 Connelly St.

The Historic African American Good Samaritan Hospital

The Good Samaritan Hospital was built on the property that had once housed the East End Baptist Church. Located in the area that was predominately populated by African Americans, the Good Samaritan Hospital allowed for the members of the surrounding community to have easier access to health care. The major San Antonio hospitals served only whites or had a “Colored Clinic” physically separated from the rest of the hospital.

The East End Baptist Church congregation organized in 1905 and reportedly worshiped in a small house donated by Austin Horton at the corner of Wyoming and Polaris Streets. The first pastor was Rev. Brooks. They purchased the land for their future chapel in 1905, and construction began in 1909. On the earliest Sanborn Fire Insurance Map for the area (1912), the East End Baptist Church is shown on the southeast corner of Dakota and Connelly Streets. Between 1914 and 1926, the East End Baptist Church changed its name to the Corinth Baptist Church. In October of 1931, the church contracted with Charles Bellinger for improvements to the property. Bellinger was a successful businessman and a well-know and prominent political leader with the African American community in San Antonio. Due to his business and political standing, he was able to secure City funds for improvements to utilities and public facilities in the African American community. Corinth Baptist Church remained at that location until the need arose for a hospital in the area. The congregation decided to move the church to another location and build the hospital at the corner of Connelly and Dakota Streets. The church was able to purchase the 500 block of S. New Braunfels from the Bellinger Estate and constructed a three-story chapel there, which was completed and opened by 1950.

Prior to the opening of the Good Samaritan Hospital, discriminatory practices created a dilemma for many Black citizens, who had limited options for access to adequate health care. Many common health problems went untreated due to substandard care under the segregation system. The San Antonio Inquirer, a Black newspaper, largely promoted home remedies due to the lack of Black doctors. 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. Lillian Sutton-Taylor, the late former Texas state legislator, recalled that Black doctors could not operate in local hospitals and were forced to use segregated facilities. During the period of Jim Crow racial segregation, her husband, Garlington Jerome (G.J.) Sutton, organized the Volunteer Health League to raise funds for tuberculosis patients who could only obtain treatment in Kerrville, Texas. Charles Bellinger donated substantial funds to Santa Rosa Hospital to accommodate the needs of the “colored T.B. patients.” Some early attempts to address this critical need for health care were made by Mrs. Jemima Elizabeth Lee, who operated a small health care clinic at 716 Sherman Street in 1925, which provided some medical and dental services. In 1931, Black physician Dr. Charles A. Whittier founded the Whittier Clinic, located a short distance from this site, to help serve the health needs of the Black community. The Whittier Clinic and the Good Samaritan Hospital provided medical training otherwise unavailable to Black interns. In the post-integration era, Dr. Whittier became the first African American doctor on the Santa Rosa Hospital staff.

The Corinth Baptist Church congregation’s former home opened in 1948 as the Good Samaritan Hospital with the help of several benefits and fund drives organized by Greater Corinth and other community organizations. According to a 1948 San Antonio Light article, the church provided the location and funding for the hospital after being petitioned by two women who had recognized the need for a hospital within the African American community: Rachel Starr, a registered nurse, and Genevieve Troutman, a medical technician. The hospital provided in-house laboratory and x-ray facilities, an operating room, and labor and delivery rooms for mothers and their newborn children. Several prominent citizens were born at Good Samaritan Hospital, including John Henry Sanders, Jr., who served as a San Antonio City Councilman.

The hospital closed in 1963, and the building functioned as a dormitory-style dwelling for St. Philips College until 1989, where sometimes dances and other social activities took place. In 2013, the City completed an extensive renovation for the property to be leased by St. Philip’s College to operate a veteran’s outreach and training center. 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. 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.

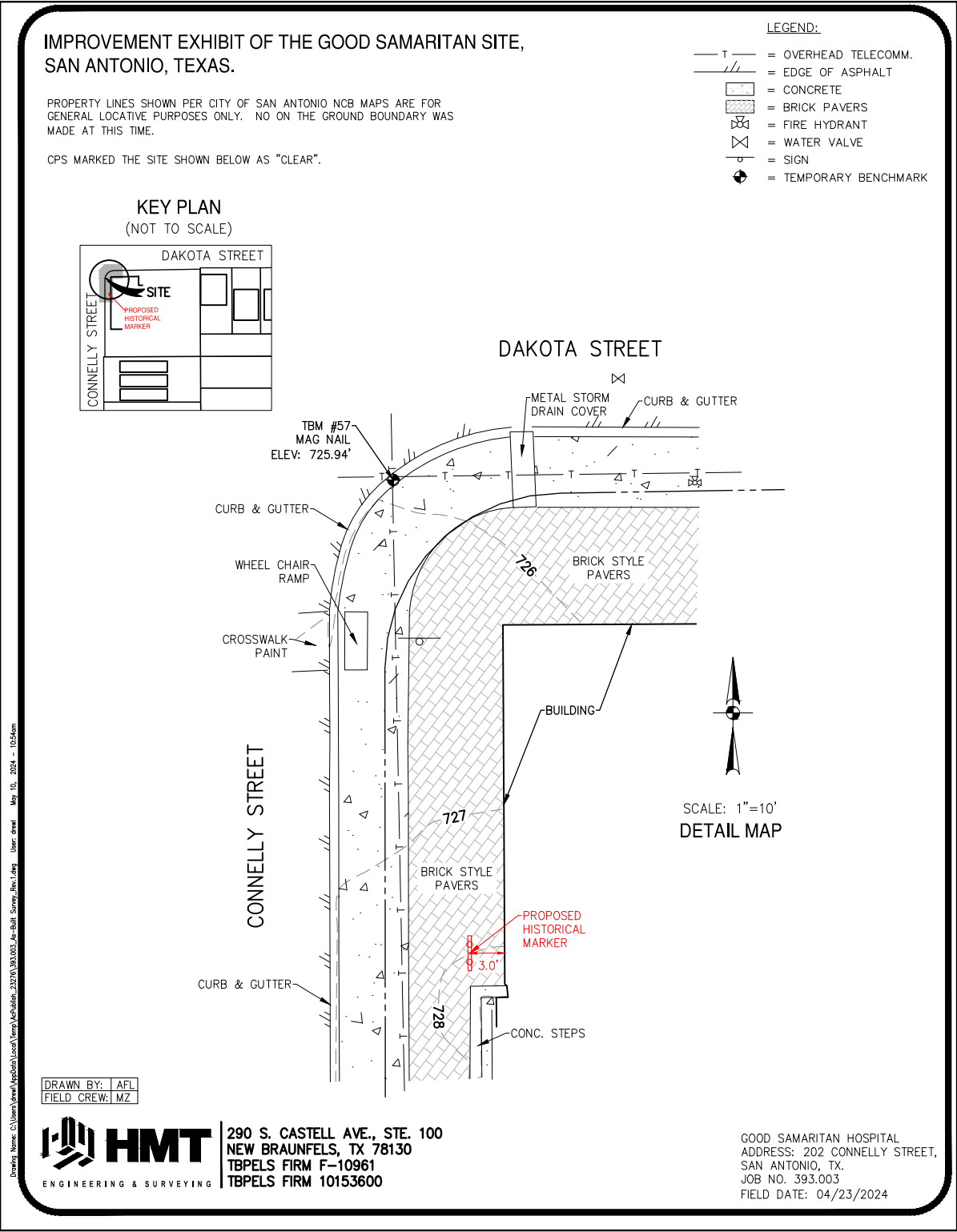
Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

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

Tax Increment Board Zone 11

Monument Text:

The final text for the monument is shown at left. It has been approved by HDRC / OHP.



Locations & Site Data

18 - Good Samaritan Hospital

202 Connelly St.

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The location was selected because of the utility lines running under the sidewalk along Connelly Street and Dakota Street. The signage should be aligned with the front of the existing (now unused) steps, out of pedestrian traffic, and away from the existing building as shown.

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

The following pages show Phase 1 monument sites 5 and 12.

- **Both Site 5 and Site 12 have approved monument text.**
- **Site 5's location is under construction and will be placed at a later date.
The site will need to be resurveyed prior to that, in a future phase.**
- **Site 12's original location was changed by the owner of the property, after approval.
A new site has been recommended and is awaiting approval and survey in a future phase.**

PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

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 B.

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

PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

THIS BUILDING IS UNDERGOING RENOVATION. PRIOR TO INSTALL, RE-SURVEY OF LOCATION WILL BE REQUIRED, AS WELL AS APPROVAL FROM OWNER.



Locations & Site Data

5 - Black Commerce Street

1416 E. Commerce St.

Monument Text:

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PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

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 business-man 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.”

Monument Text:
The final text for the monument is shown at left. It has been approved by HDRC / OHP.

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

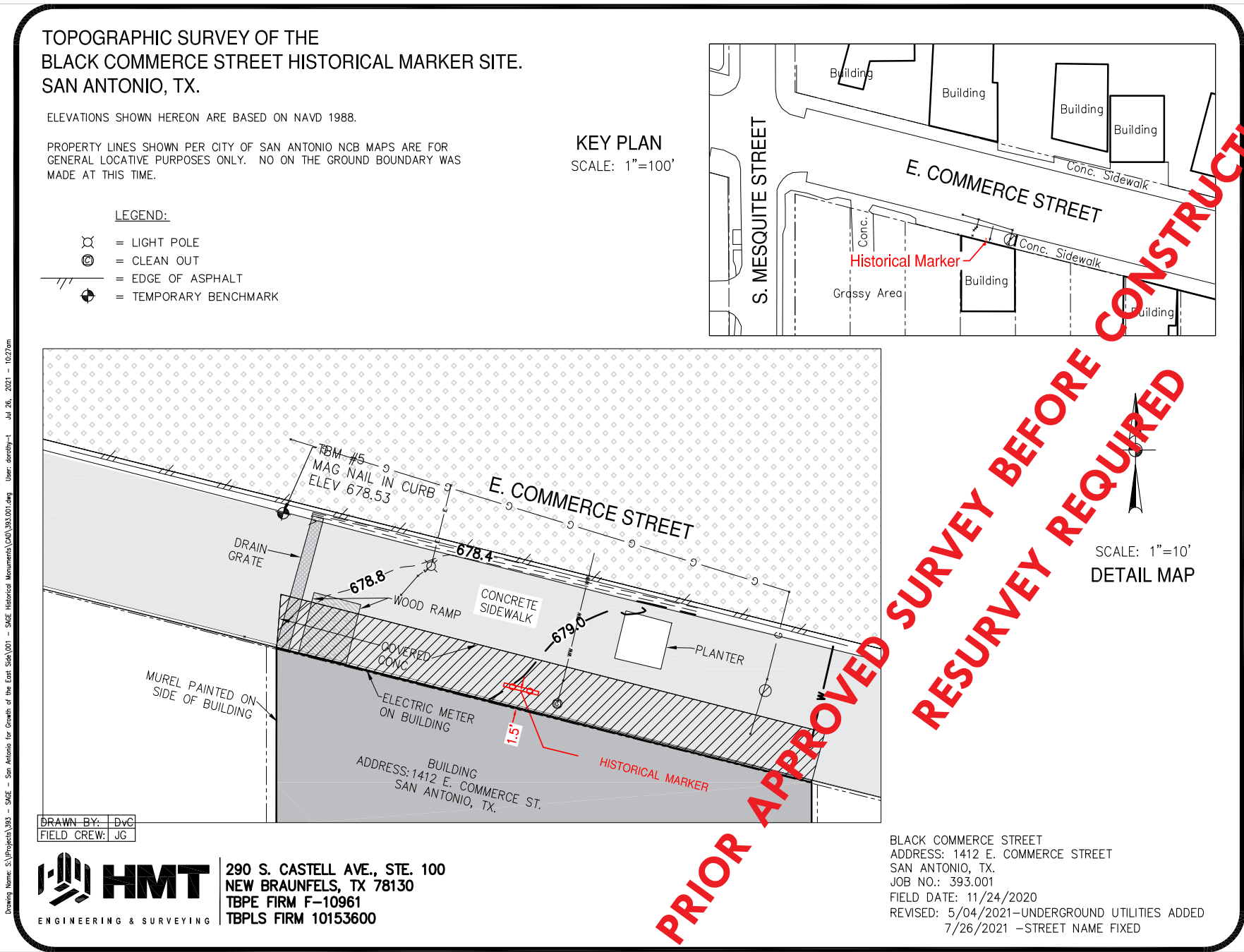
PHASE 1 MONUMENTS - PENDING CONSTRUCTION COMPLETION

THIS BUILDING IS UNDERGOING RENOVATION. PRIOR TO INSTALL, RE-SURVEY OF LOCATION WILL BE REQUIRED, AS WELL AS APPROVAL FROM OWNER.

Locations & Site Data
5 - Black Commerce Street
1416 E. Commerce St.

At left is the final approved survey, pending final approval by the owner of the property after ongoing construction is completed (2024 or later) and then verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

The site will need to be re marked and resurveyed prior to any new placement.



Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING SITE APPROVAL FROM OWNER

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, Individual Landmark, Downtown District.

Neighborhood: St. Paul Square

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SURVEY CREW AND THE ARCHITECT RECOMMEND LOCATION B, BECAUSE IT IS OUT OF THE MAIN FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE FINAL LOCATION MUST BE APPROVED UPON BY THE OWNER, AND THEN APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).

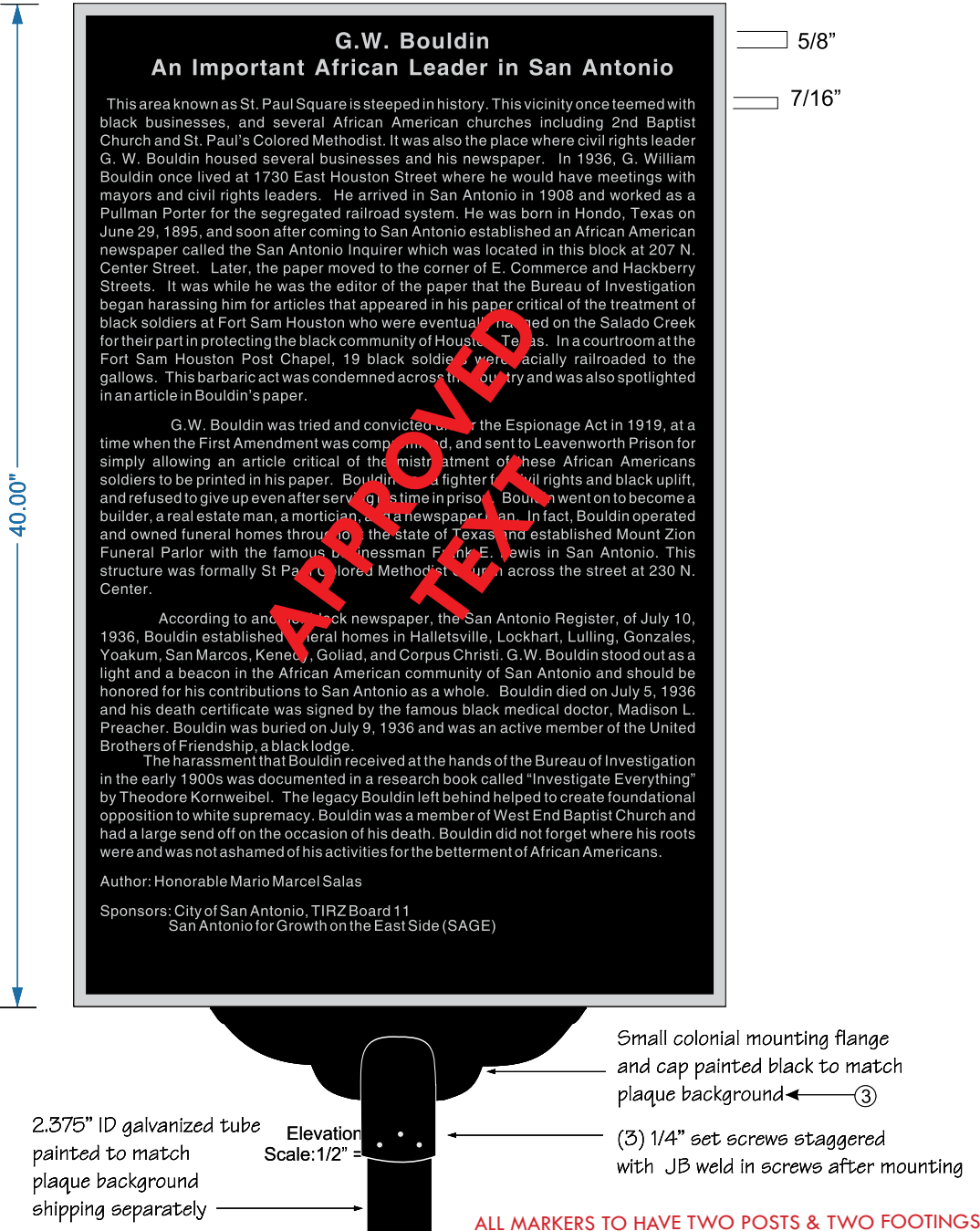
PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING SITE APPROVAL FROM OWNER

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.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SURVEY CREW AND THE ARCHITECT RECOMMEND THIS LOCATION, BECAUSE IT IS OUT OF THE MAIN FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE FINAL LOCATION MUST BE APPROVED UPON BY THE OWNER, AND THEN APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).



PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING SITE APPROVAL FROM OWNER

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

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.

According to another Black newspaper, the July 10, 1936 issue of the San Antonio Register, 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.

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.

Monument Text:

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

Author: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas

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

PHASE 1 MONUMENTS – PENDING SITE APPROVAL FROM OWNER

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



This location needs to be approved by the owner and resurveyed. Then get final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

The following Phase 2 & 3 Monument Sites are not a part of this Scope of Work.

- **They have text or locations that have not been finalized.**
- **They will be surveyed and placed in a later phase.**

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

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

THE RECOMMENDED LOCATION A ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE OWNER. THIS LOCATION NEEDS TO BE APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

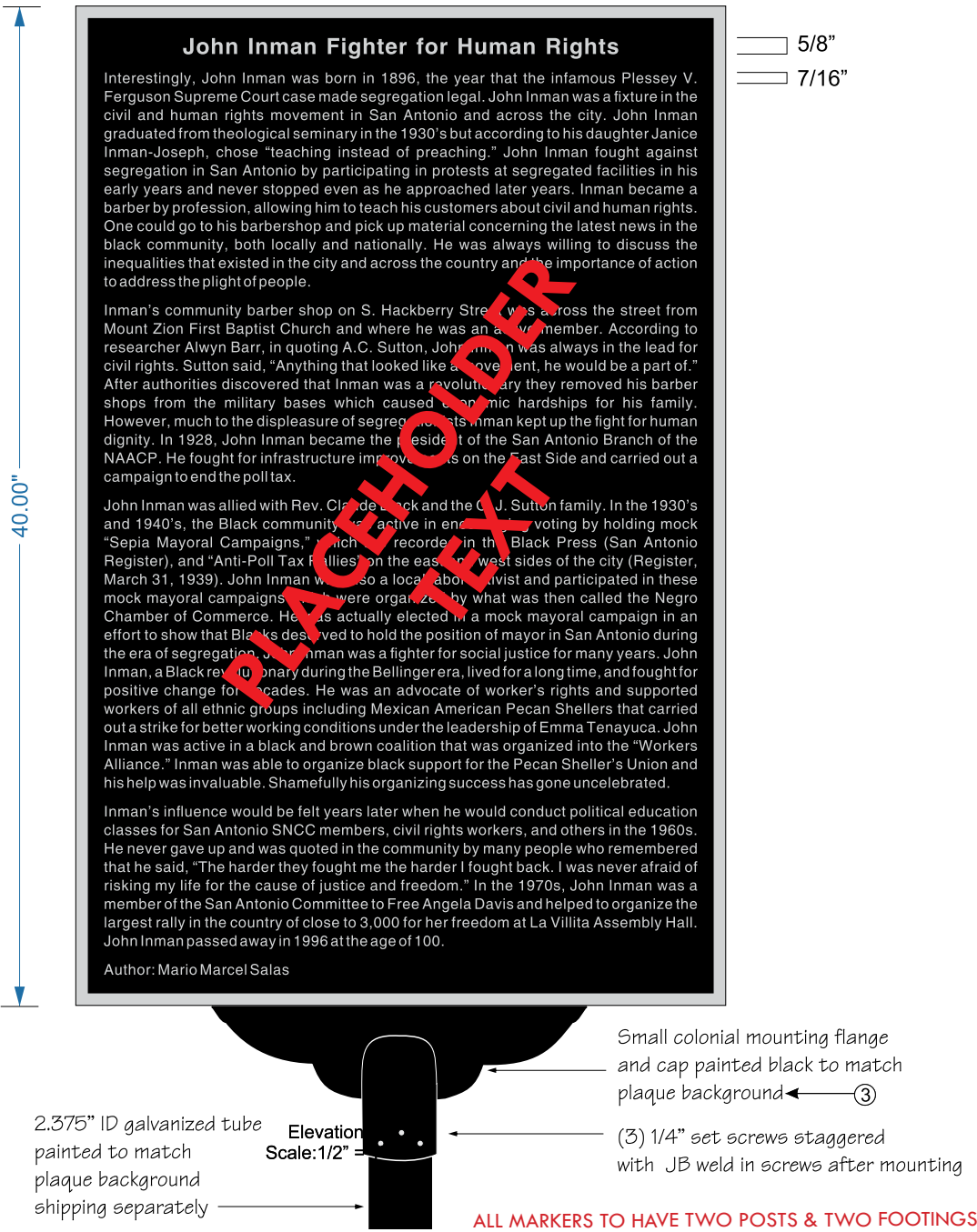
Locations & Site Data
2 - The Walking Bridge
1149 E. Commerce St.



NORTH SIDE



NORTH SIDE



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.

THE RECOMMENDED LOCATION A ON THE NORTH SIDE OF THE STREET HAS BEEN DECIDED BY THE OWNER. THIS LOCATION NEEDS TO BE APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

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

St Paul Square:The Walking Bridge

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.

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

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 Savers 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 Jessi J. Legall doing 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)

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

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

This location needs to be approved by the owner and surveyed. Then get final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

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

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SURVEY CREW AND THE ARCHITECT RECOMMEND THIS LOCATION, BECAUSE IT IS OUT OF THE MAIN FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE FINAL LOCATION MUST BE APPROVED UPON BY THE OWNER, AND THEN APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

Monument Text:

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40.00"

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 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 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"

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

ALL MARKERS TO HAVE TWO POSTS & TWO FOOTINGS

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

St Paul Square:The Deluxe 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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Authors: Honorable Mario Marcel Salas, Jean Rodgers-Clack
Sponsors: TIRZ Board 11
San Antonio for Growth on the Eastside (SAGE)

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data

3 - The Deluxe Hotel

1138 - 2 Sycamore St.

This location needs to be approved by the owner and surveyed. Then get final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

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

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SURVEY CREW AND THE ARCHITECT RECOMMEND THIS LOCATION, BECAUSE IT IS OUT OF THE MAIN FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE FINAL LOCATION MUST BE APPROVED UPON BY THE OWNER, AND THEN APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data
6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station
1403 E. Commerce St.

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.

The photos indicate where the monument should be located.

THE CIVIL ENGINEERING SURVEY CREW AND THE ARCHITECT RECOMMEND THIS LOCATION, BECAUSE IT IS OUT OF THE MAIN FLOW OF TRAFFIC. THE FINAL LOCATION MUST BE APPROVED UPON BY THE OWNER, AND THEN APPROVED BY SAGE AND THE CITY (OHP AND ROW).



PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data
6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station
1403 E. Commerce St.

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 included “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 in an effort 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 backed 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 needs 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)

PHASE 2 & 3 MONUMENTS – NOT INCLUDED IN THIS SCOPE

Locations & Site Data
6 - Charles Bellinger Gas Station
1403 E. Commerce St.

This location needs to be approved by the owner and surveyed. Then get final verification of any underground utility markings by CoSA, CPS Energy or SAWS, and Contractor.

SURVEY
TO BE
INSERTED

Final Underground Utility Verification to be completed by Contractor.



CITY OF SAN ANTONIO OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

HISTORIC AND DESIGN REVIEW COMMISSION

COMMISSION ACTION

This is not a Certificate of Appropriateness and cannot be used to acquire permits

December 20, 2023

HDRC CASE NO: 2023-493
ADDRESS: 1149 E COMMERCE ST
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: NCB 588 BLK 1 LOT 12
HISTORIC DISTRICT: St Paul Square, Dignowity Hill
LANDMARK: Individual Landmark
APPLICANT: Lindsey Logan/SAGE San Antonio for Growth on the East Side - 220 Chestnut
OWNER: EAST METRO INC - 8118 DATAPOINT DR
TYPE OF WORK: Monument/plaque placement

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.

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.

COMMISSION ACTION:

Approved as submitted.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Shanon Shea Miller". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shanon Shea Miller
Historic Preservation Officer