

SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION

**PRE-MEETING
112 EAST STATE STREET**

JERRY SURRENCY CONFERENCE ROOM

July 3, 2008

3:30 P.M.

MINUTES

HSMC Members Present:

**Walter Wright, Chairman
Gordon Smith, Vice-Chairman
LaVerne Ricks-Brown, Secretary
Walt Harper
Ryan Madson
Phillip Williams**

HSMC/MPC Staff Present:

**Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director
Ellen Harris, Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

Mr. Wright thanked everyone for coming to the preliminary meeting and passed out information about the proper way to conduct a meeting. He said he would ask for the first petition of the interpretative panels. The information that was given in the advance package is substantially different than what was given to the Committee. Then, they will move to the World War II petition with Staff giving the briefing. The Commission can ask questions and he will invite the petitioner to give their revised concept and emphasize that there can only be one speaker and the architect. If anyone else wants to speak, they can speak when he calls for public comments. He understood that there is a poetry reading and a DVD, and it can be done during the public comments and not at the time where they will be focused on the revised concept. The veterans can give their presentation, the Commission can question them, he will invite the public to comment, he will ask for a show of hands, and then ascribe a time limit to each side that will probably be 30 minutes for the public and 30 minutes for the petitioner to answer the public.

Mr. Thomson suggested that each side for and against get equal time.

Mr. Wright asked if he should divide the time between who is for and against.

Mr. Thomson stated that the maximum time according to the rule the MPC uses is 30 minutes unless the Chairman asks the Board to extend more time. He thought the rebuttal only needs to be 10 minutes because 30 minutes is a long rebuttal.

Mr. Wright asked if he has to give the speakers equal time.

Mr. Thomson stated he has to give each side equal time. He said those for or against the petition will decide who will speak.

Mr. Williams stated that they were assuming that those for the petition were a part of one group.

Mr. Thomson stated when the Commission is done asking questions of the applicant, to ask who is for and who is against, count them, then the Chairman could use his judgment on how much time to give. Whatever side has more people determines how long each side gets.

Mr. Wright stated that they would have to get equal time even if there were only two people for the monument and 20 wanted to speak against it or vice versa.

Mr. Thomson stated that one way to do it would be to give everyone three minutes and figure out who is for and against, calculate the time, and if one side takes longer then other people may comment.

Mr. Wright stated that all speakers will identify themselves into the microphone, there will be one speaker at a time, no shouting, no comments shouted from the rear, no interruptions, no physically rushing forward at the Commission, and no personal criticisms of Staff or the Commission will be allowed. He said if there is any such behavior that he will cancel the meeting. He asked if he could cancel the meeting.

Mr. Thomson stated that he couldn't but that someone on the Commission could make a motion to adjourn and if there is a second, then the Commission meeting ends.

Ms. Harris stated that she received a phone call from Ms. Beverly Williams who was interested in sign language interpretation because she knew that there are some deaf people interested in coming to the meeting. She said that Ms. Williams asked that before the meeting is started if she could ask in sign language if there is anyone needing sign language interpretation.

Mr. Wright asked if Ms. Williams would sign the audience to see if anyone responds.

Ms. Harris stated that if someone responds then Ms. Williams would translate the meeting.

Ms. Ricks-Brown asked if the Commission knows who Ms. Williams is and would she really be translating what the Commission is saying.

Ms. Harris stated that Ms. Williams is a certified interpreter and has worked with other City Boards but has not worked with us.

Mr. Wright stated that the Commission should not get into debates with the public and don't ask a lot of questions. He said the Commission wants to hear their comments, thank them for their comments, and say that the Commission would take it under advisement when they decide to take action.

Mr. Thomson stated that he would encourage the Commission to ask if anyone else want to speak. He said then someone should make a motion to close the public hearing, second it and vote on it, and then only the Chairman gets to decide if he wants to talk to someone in the audience. Primarily, the petitioner and Staff would be the focus. This will help to keep the people in their seat or they will be out of order.

II. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp

SAVANNAH - CHATHAM COUNTY HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION

**REGULAR MEETING
112 EAST STATE STREET**

ARTHUR A. MENDONSA HEARING ROOM

July 3, 2008

4:00 P.M.

MINUTES

HSMC Members Present:

**Walter Wright, Chairman
Gordon Smith, Vice-Chairman
LaVerne Ricks-Brown, Secretary
Walt Harper
Ryan Madson
Phillip Williams**

HSMC/MPC Staff Present:

**Thomas L. Thomson, Executive Director
Ellen Harris, Preservation Planner
Janine N. Person, Administrative Assistant**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m.

III. Petition of the Georgia Department of Transportation

**Jim Pomfret
File No.: C-080625-50521-2
Marker Application
Riverfront Maritime Interpretive Markers**

Ms. Harris stated that there were technical difficulties and that she will hold up the visual images that were the same as the ones in the Commission's packets.

Present for the petition was Mr. Jim Pomfret.

Ms. Harris gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST: The petitioner is requesting approval for 15 interpretive panel markers to be erected along the Riverfront. The petitioner came before the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the Historic Site and Monument Commission (HSMC) at the May 1, 2008, meetings to receive feedback on the concept.

The TAC recommended including a reference to the American Colonization Society, as Savannah was a departure point to take freed slaves to Liberia. They also recommended keeping the theme of each

marker related to maritime history. The HSMC recommended that the Number 12 panel regarding the Native Americans in Savannah be moved to the Number 2 panel in the sequence and, that they consider incorporating how the storm water and sewer systems relate to the riverfront and maritime commerce.

The project originated with efforts to mitigate the adverse effects to a historic shipwreck caused by the replacement of a bridge. The mitigation efforts included a public outreach component which has developed into a series of fifteen interpretive panels along River Street. Chatham County is working on a similar project for Hutchinson Island and efforts have been combined to ensure consistency and collaboration.

The Hutchinson Island portion of the project has a broader timeframe and will be reviewed by the Historic Site and Monument Commission later in the year.

FINDINGS:

Theme: The theme of the project is maritime history.

Location: The location of the panels will be along the Riverfront - see attached map for approximate locations. Panels will be attached to existing railing as shown. Panels will be at a 45 degree angle to discourage their use as seats or cup holders.

Design: Each panel will have relevant graphics to the topic, see attached. The petitioner has contracted with a consultant to develop better graphics for the panels. At the time of this Staff report, only two of the revised panels had been completed (Panels 3 and 5). The remainder of the revised panels will be distributed to the Commission as soon as they are completed (prior to or at the Commission meeting). The text on the panels will not be revised- only the graphics.

Panels will be constructed of high pressure laminate, and are guaranteed against deterioration and fading for 10 years. The fabricator is Fossil, the same fabricator that the National Park Services uses. The panels will be two feet by three feet. While the Master Plan and Guidelines encourage the Georgia Historical Society (GHS) Marker design, this design is not conducive to the graphics appropriate to this project type.

Text: Refer to attached materials for the text for each panel. Staff has provided a “clean copy” of the panels and a “marked up copy” of the panels with suggested revisions.

Funding: The project cost is approximately \$25,000 and is being funded by Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) and The Federal Highway Administration. The Director of the Park and Tree Department has waived the escrow payment for this project.

RECOMMENDATION: Approval with revisions to the text as noted. Revised Panel 9 (with more extensive revisions) should be submitted to Staff for approval.

Mr. Smith asked if the layouts given to the Commission members were the same layouts they received in the packet. He said that they had been dramatically changed.

PETITIONER’S COMMENTS:

Mr. Jim Pomfret (Georgia Department of Transportation) stated that they went through a design change at the last minute because they felt the original panels were too crowded and lacked some creative design.

Mr. Smith stated that there are some inaccuracies.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Al Nichols asked if there was an effort to coordinate what the GDOT is doing and what is being done across the river.

Mr. Pomfret stated that the same consultant who designed the panels will be designing the panels for Chatham County on the other side and there should be a great deal of continuity between them. He said the panels should look relatively the same.

HSMC ACTION: **Mr. Smith made a motion that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission approve the petition with the condition that the petitioner work with Staff on correcting the language, content, and the layout of the panels. Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.**

**IV. Petition of the Veterans Council of Chatham County
Jim Vejar, Junior Vice-Chairman
File No.: C-050817-88954-2
Monument Application- Revised Concept Design
World War II Monument**

Present for the petition were Mr. Jim Vejar and Mr. Eric Meyerhoff.

Ms. Harris gave the Staff report.

NATURE OF REQUEST: The petitioner is requesting revised design concept approval of the proposed World War II Monument in Oglethorpe Square. Previous actions were:

- August 24, 2005, the Historic Site and Monument Commission (HSMC) approved the theme of a WWII Monument.
- December 15, 2005, the HSMC approved Oglethorpe Square as the location for a WWII Monument.
- February 16, 2006, City Council approved Oglethorpe Square as the location for a WWII Monument.
- April 5, 2007, the HSMC and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) reviewed the design concept and both review bodies recommended continuing the petition for further study of the design.
- May 1, 2008, the HSMC and the TAC reviewed the concept. The TAC recommended approval of the entire concept and the HSMC recommended approval of the concept of the two

hemispheres with an unspecified reduction in scale. A consensus on the concept of the nine statues was not reached at the HSMC meeting.

FINDINGS:

Phasing: The petitioner plans to erect the monument in two phases. The first phase will consist of the two hemispheres, paving, and landscaping. The second phase will consist of the erection of nine bronze figures which will be done in four unveiling ceremonies, on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day in 2009 and 2010.

Hemispheres: The proposed monument will consist of a central element divided into two hemispheres. The hemispheres will be 26 feet 4 inches wide, at the widest point, and 17 feet 10 inches tall and have an internal metal framing system consisting of two-inch aluminum tubing covered by a perforated aluminum covering (Note: It states on the drawings that the covering will be stainless steel, where this should read aluminum). The petitioner is in the process of obtaining samples of all materials which will be available at the meeting, if possible. The land masses will be 3/16 inch aluminum, painted a light bronze color. Placement and other details of the land masses will be submitted during the design detail phase.

Visitors will be able to walk through the center of the two hemispheres. There will be a five-foot-wide open passage through the two hemispheres, tapering upwards and outwards. The walls of the passage will consist of an eight-foot-tall concrete masonry unit (CMU) wall with a 3/4-inch thick granite veneer. Above this wall will be the same perforated aluminum that covers the exterior. The interior of the hemispheres will not be accessible to the public, but there will be an access panel in the base to allow for maintenance. The names of the 494 soldiers from Chatham County who died in WWII will be displayed on an aluminum panel, the background of which will be painted black. The names will be in raised letters, the face of the letters will be aluminum (not the black paint). The aluminum panel will be mortared and fastened to the granite veneer. Details of this interior passage will be submitted during the design detail phase. A life-size bronze statue of Rosie the Riveter will be positioned on the interior working on the hemisphere. The material of the interior floor will consist of bluestone pavers.

The proposed hemisphere manufacturer is Federal Heath Sign Company which designed the globe at Universal Studios.

The hemispheres will be attached to a base which will be a two-foot-tall CMU block wall with a 3/8-inch thick granite veneer.

Lighting: Lighting for the interior has been proposed but no lighting plan has been submitted. Inset floor lighting, lighting on the interior of each hemisphere, or overhead lighting on the interior of the walkthrough have been mentioned as possibilities.

Figures: There will be eight life-size bronze figures representing the six branches of the armed services (Army, Navy, Marines, Army Air Corps, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines), and two auxiliary corps (Women in the Military and Nurses Corp) surrounding the globe. The statues will stand on granite bases measuring two feet by two feet by four inches, will be no taller than six feet, and will be situated ten feet from the globe, facing outward. The sculptors of these figures will be Susie Chisholm and Garland

Weeks. Each figure will be clothed in the appropriate uniform. The Mighty Eighth Air Force Museum will be providing the uniforms to the sculptors to ensure accuracy. Rosie the Riveter will be on the interior of the globe.

Ruptured Duck: There will be a flat, two-sided aluminum medallion hanging from the top center aluminum support tie in the walkway. The medallion will be approximately 24 inches across at its widest point and have an image of the “Ruptured Duck” inscribed on both sides. The Ruptured Duck was originally a badge and later a lapel pin issued to soldiers with honorable discharge.

Dedication Plaque: The dedication plaque will be on the interior wall of the globe where Rosie the Riveter is working and consist of similar materials and construction as the name plates.

Text: Text for the monument will be minimal and will include the names of the service members from Chatham County who died during WWII and the dedication plaque.

Paving: The proposed design includes paving the entire center of the square and repaving all existing walkways. There will be a circle of bluestone pavers in which the hemispheres will be placed, extending five feet beyond the hemispheres. Around this circle will be a ring of inscribed memorial bricks which will be seven feet wide (sample provided). Around the memorial brick will circle bricks to match the city sidewalks.

Landscaping: There will be four landscaped beds in each of the corners of the center quad. Plantings will be at the discretion of the Park and Tree Department.

COMMENTS FROM THE MAY 1, 2008, MEETING AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The HSMC reviewed the WWII design concept on May 1, 2008, and had the following concerns:

Hemispheres: The HSMC indicated that the scale of the monument was too large for Oglethorpe Square. The proposed hemispheres at the time were 25 feet 2 inches wide at their widest point, and 18 feet 4 inches tall. The petitioner has changed the size of the hemispheres to 26 feet 4 inches wide and 17 feet 10 inches tall. The MPC has produced computer modeling of the hemispheres to evaluate the size and scale which will be shown during the Staff presentation on July 3.

Additionally, Staff recalculated the volume of the hemispheres, eliminating the interior walk through space from the calculation formula, by essentially “pushing together” the two hemispheres. (Please note that calculations are approximate due to the complex nature of the geometric forms involved.)

Hemispheres 1:

The Veterans Council originally proposed hemispheres that were 25 feet wide, 19 feet 4 inches tall with a four-foot-wide walkway. This element is the one reflected in the model from the last meeting and included an expanded base with ramps. Staff worked with the Veterans Council to reduce the size of the base and eliminate the ramping. The volume of these hemispheres, without the walkway, was 4,823 cubic feet.

Hemispheres 2:

The HSMC reviewed these hemispheres at the May 1, 2008, meeting. The hemispheres proposed were 25 feet wide, 18 feet 4 inches tall with a five-foot-wide walkway. The volume of these hemispheres, without the walkway, was 3,882 cubic feet.

Hemispheres 3:

The petitioner is currently proposing hemispheres that are 26 feet 4 inches wide, 17 feet 10 inches tall with a five-foot-wide walkway. The volume of the hemispheres, without the walkway, is 4,298 cubic feet. This represents an 11 percent reduction in the size of the hemispheres from the first submittal.

The proposed hemispheres are smaller by volume than the Whitfield Gazebo (the largest element in any square) which has a volume of 4,747 cubic feet, though they are larger than the Jasper Monument (the largest monument in any square) which has a volume of 2,424 cubic feet.

Figures: The HSMC indicated at the last meeting that nine statues were too many and would clutter the square, while creating too large a footprint. The statues were originally 13 feet away from the base of the globe and were situated on eight feet by two feet by two feet granite blocks which would also serve as seating.

The petitioner has moved the statues three feet closer to the globe, to ten feet from the base. The petitioner has also eliminating the seating element of the statues and reduced the bases to two feet by two feet by four inches.

Paving/Landscaping: The HSMC expressed concern at the last meeting about the quantity of paving. The number of landscaped beds has doubled to four, one in each corner of the center quad. The petitioner is proposing three types of paving for the center quad: city sidewalk bricks, inscribed memorial bricks, and bluestone pavers. This helps to break-up the original appearance of a “sea” of bricks.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES FROM ORIGINAL SUBMITTAL TO CURRENT PROPOSAL

- Eliminated ramping
- Eliminated interior access
- Added eight feet tall CMU with granite veneer walls to both sides of the interior walkthrough
- Added the “Ruptured Duck” element
- Reduced the size of the base
- Reduced size of hemispheres by 11 percent
- Changed the hemisphere materials to aluminum
- Changed the hemisphere base from brick to CMU with granite veneer
- Relocated exterior location of dedication plaque to interior wall of a hemisphere
- Doubled number of planting beds
- Provided varied paving
- Reduced the size of the statue bases to two feet by two feet by four inches, with a maximum statue height of six feet
- Moved the statues three feet closer to the hemispheres
- Provided additional details and dimensions

Since the last HSMC meeting, MPC Staff has met with representatives of the Veterans Council several times to address the issues of the HSMC and Staff. Progress has been made; however, many details remain to be determined prior to the HSMC reviewing the design details and making a final recommendation to City Council. Representatives from the Veterans Council have expressed a need for a clear action on this concept so they can enter into a contract to provide the design detail information necessary for review and recommendation to City Council. **Staff recommends approval of the concept with specific direction on remaining areas of concern (if any), so that the project can move to the next step where further details can be developed to finalize the monument.**

Mr. Wright stated that he would like for the petitioner to have one speaker and the architect, and anyone else who wants to speak can do so during public comments.

PETITIONER'S COMMENTS:

Mr. Bill Quinan (Chairman of the Veterans Council of Chatham County) introduced the following: Jimmy Ray, Senior Vice-Chairman; Jim Vejar, Junior Vice-Chairman and Chairman of the World War II design; Eric Meyerhoff, Architect; Mr. Joe Cetti, Chairman of the Veterans Council; Susie Chisholm, Sculptress; Mr. Doug Andrews, member of the World War II Committee, and Ms. Helen Stone, First District Chatham County Commissioner. He asked Mr. Vejar and Mr. Meyerhoff to come forward.

Mr. Jim Vejar stated that approximately two years ago he was asked to participate in developing, designing, and building a World War II monument. He said they held a design competition. There were eight or ten presentations from the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) and some from individuals throughout the city. They took the designs to the Veterans Council to vote on and this is the result of the selection process. They have appeared before the Commission twice and several times with subcommittees to try and resolve problems in the design. They have reduced the size, put the plaques inside, decreased the size of the statues, and reduced the amount of paving. They tried to listen to what was said and redesigned the whole interior on Mr. Brown's (City Manager) determination that they did not want anyone to get inside and hide.

The actual design cannot be done until the concept is approved. They have spent a lot of money to have the drawings done, are a poor organization, do not have money to waste, and are asking for concept approval so they can go to engineering design and come up with the plans to be taken to the City engineers to make sure they are meeting the requisites for hurricanes, heavy winds, and rain. The materials provided will stand up to all elements in the long term with a few cleanings in between. The materials are of top quality and have been used before in places such as Universal Studios and Las Vegas.

Mr. Smith asked if Federal Heath Sign Company, LLC, is the company that will be handling this.

Mr. Vejar answered yes.

Mr. Smith asked if they have entered into a contract.

Mr. Vejar answered no.

Mr. Smith stated that they only have a 12-month guarantee on the warranty.

Mr. Vejar stated that was what they had said.

Mr. Eric Meyerhoff (Architect) stated that the process has taken them through a lot of thought and revisions initiated by the Commission, the MPC, and others, and they feel that the monument is better than it was when first presented. He said that they have been discussing a globe and it is not a globe but two spheres. The sphere for the Pacific theatre starts at the east coast of China and goes to the west coast of the United States. The European theatre shows the east coast of the United States and goes all the way to Turkey. The bottom of Africa, South America, and Australia will not be seen.

They did not bring the model because so many changes have been made to the model that it would be confusing. He said they have been trying to get a sample of the aluminum mesh but the initial person they were working with at Federal Heath has retired and the person who took over for them went on vacation.

The site plan is not of Oglethorpe Square but the site plan of the interior quad of Oglethorpe Square. The note at the top gives the dimension and shows that the square is 41,925 square feet. There is an error in the note where it says 145 feet by 215 feet and should be 195 feet by 215 which gives the 41,925 square feet. The center quad is 58 feet in the north/south direction by 55 feet in the east/west direction, which equates to 3,190 square feet. The monument from the center point of the pathway extending to the outside of the statues is a 12-foot dimension, and the entire monument will have a 22.5-foot radius from the center of the monument which equates to 1,590 square feet. In ground area the monument takes up 49.8 percent of the center quad and is not solid but is in between the statues, the pathway, etc. Since the center quad is only 7.6 percent, the total area of ground cover of the monument is 3.7 percent of Oglethorpe Square from the outside of the statues to the inner core of the monument.

The input they have received has been very helpful. The Federal Heath Company out of Dallas has done this for many years, the warranty is standard of ten years for construction and not maintenance, and they will assemble the monument here.

He said that the height is now 17 feet 10-inches.

Mr. Wright stated that the width is 26 feet.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that it is 26 feet in one direction and 20 feet 10-inches in the other direction. He said they have had many suggestions and have moved the statues closer to the monument. They have gone to three materials in the center quad and now they have the Pennsylvania Blue stone in the center and the 5 feet around the monument. The darker circles around it are the memorial bricks and approximately 500 bricks can fit in that area. The white areas are the standard brick pavers in the squares and are a different color than the memorial bricks. They have a larger green area inside of the quad where before they had an area of 112 square feet of planting with two planters, they now have 656 square feet of green in the quad. They have listened, made adjustments, and are presenting the drawings today to ask for approval of the concept as presented on the drawings.

He said they fully understand that it is concept approval, that they have to get working construction documents from the company building it, and get the local engineer who will design the footings to take into account the utility lines, the soil, and the weight of the monument. They also understand that they need to work with Staff regarding the lettering, wordage, the minor details, and the materials before they receive the Commission's full approval. In order to move forward with Federal Heath they have to get approval first.

Mr. Smith stated that there is a picture of a Ruptured Duck World War II pin that will be suspended from the rods between the two-hemispheres. He asked why it has the Masonic square and compasses in the middle.

Mr. Meyerhoff said he would have to ask one of the Veterans to explain it to him.

Mr. Vejar stated that the design he has does not have that.

Mr. Smith asked if they are going to take the square and compasses off.

Mr. Vejar stated that it will not be on there.

Mr. Smith stated that on the drawings the Moravian monument was moved to the middle parlor of the Owens-Thomas House. He asked if it was deliberate or did he have permission from the Owens-Thomas House to move it out of the square completely and into the house.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that is an error.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Wright asked for a show of hands for how many wanted to speak for or against. He said he would limit everyone ten minutes each to speak.

Mr. Thomson stated that the rules or procedure Mr. Wright passed out indicated a maximum of 30 minutes per side. He said to ask who is for and who is against and decide whether 30 minutes is needed. It could be less than 30 minutes.

Mr. Wright stated that he did not want to do that because some people might not be for or against but just want to comment.

Mr. Thomson stated that the Chairman had the choice of how much time, but 30 minutes was max. He said those for the monument get equal time.

Mr. Wright stated that it would be 30 minutes per side; the petitioner could rebut, for 30 minutes. He asked for the speakers to come forward and gave ground rules for individuals to introduce themselves into the microphone. There would be one speaker at a time, no shouting or yelling of comments or questions from the back of the room, and no interruptions. They did not want anything that resembled the last meeting.

Mr. Ervin Houston stated that he is a downtown resident and president of the Friends of the Owens-Thomas House and is not an architect, a designer, or a builder. He said he is pleased to see the recognition of World War II veterans because he had many relatives that served in the conflict in Europe and the Pacific. He would like to see the monument designed in another venue with a better-fitted scale like Forsyth Park on the main walkway between Park Street and the Confederate Memorial. It would be experienced by a greater number of residents and visitors. His main concern is that wherever the monument is built, that it be built with the quality and solidarity that it deserves and needs. The materials used and the structural design need to withstand the weather without deterioration. Much of the aluminum will be painted and he is concerned that the painting will need constant replacement or redoing due to fading and peeling. He thought a high-quality powder coating might be a better solution for the long-term. The structure and strength should be able to withstand hurricane force winds because such violent weather is not unknown to Savannah, and he would hate to see pieces of the memorial breaking and the cost to repair it. He suggested using a glass wall inside of the hemispheres that is etched with the names of local veterans. The glass will lighten the feel of the wall and give impressive lighting opportunities. He suggested looking at the glass holocaust memorial in Boston. The changes that have been made benefit the overall design of the memorial and he urged that the process continue in a collaborative way. The World War II veterans and their families deserve nothing less than the best and most unified effort.

Ms. Elizabeth Sprague (Vice President of the Downtown Neighborhood Association - DNA) stated that the DNA supports the project honoring the heroic sacrifices of World War II and the men and women who fought so valiantly. She said the DNA members include many veterans, that the association represents almost 300 families who have invested their finance and energy in the Historic Landmark District, and they care deeply about maintaining the visual integrity of the district. The hesitation is entirely about placing the monument of the proposed proportion in any of Savannah's small public squares. They applaud the Commission's cautious approach and effort to ensure a careful evaluation before the City agrees to the proposed monument. Any monument placed anywhere will be there for generations and it is worthwhile to take the time to ensure it is appropriate. The monument, even with the proposed reduction, appears to be too massive for the square and the design seems too interesting to downsize significantly further. A mock-up in Oglethorpe Square for public reaction is a great idea to determine visually whether it fits the space or not. They recommend that consideration be given to a location where the monument will have adequate room for the tourists. On a more generous site, the monument could be an outstanding and important Savannah destination rather than another monument squeezed into a square. The Board of the DNA wants to help in any way to find a suitable way to display Savannah's gratitude and respect to the veterans, and the Board voted to make a contribution to the Veterans Council to help defray the cost of a mock-up if that is what the Commission decides.

Mr. Christopher Hendrix (Professor of History at Armstrong Atlantic State University) stated that he was speaking for the Wachovia Historical Society and the approximately 100,000 members of the Moravian Church living in America, many who were descents of the Moravian settlers who came to Savannah. He was curious why there had been no discussion of the Moravian monument in Oglethorpe Square that is adjacent to the town lots the Moravians occupied when they moved to Savannah in 1735. Many city officials were surprised to learn that there was a monument in the square, even though it has been there 75 years. In the discussions people have been treating the square as a blank canvas, and when he saw the plans, he thought maybe one of the reasons is that the monument is shown on a trust lot and not in its actual position. City officials suggested that the World War II monument did not present a

threat to the Moravian monument but he disagrees. The plans for the World War II monument with statues and walkways make the entire square the memorial. The walkways literally encompass the Moravian monument, absorbing it into the World War II memorial, which is ironic and inappropriate given the fact that it was a pacifist religious group. Some people suggested that since the Moravians were only in a colony for ten years that it would be appropriate to move the memorial, but that negates the importance of the Moravians in founding the city and the state. The relationship with John Wesley, the educational work with Native Americans and the efforts to improve the treatment of enslaved African-Americans across the river are important parts of the story of this community and they deserve to be remembered. John Wesley was only here for a year, and it would be ridiculous to suggest moving his memorial. Because of its age, the Moravian monument is now a contributing feature of the Landmark Historic District, and moving it will trigger a federal review under Section 106 of the 1966 Historic Preservation Act. When the Wachovia Historical Society presented the Moravian monument to the city in 1933 as a gift for Savannah's bicentennial, they wanted a modest memorial built to a scale suitable to the site to not dominate the square. They hired Henrik Wallin and he designed the simple classical column for a modest monument to a modest people. Seventy-five years later Mr. Meyerhoff has a grander vision appropriate for the tremendous sacrifices made by the brave soldiers of World War II. He believes it would be disrespectful to the veterans not to allow the full vision of the memorial to come to fruition, and agrees that it is not possible in Oglethorpe Square where they will be forced to accept a fractionalized version of the monument. However, it would be possible in another downtown location like Forsyth Park. The historic military training ground is the site of three monuments dedicated to war veterans, the monument could be built to its original grand design, and many Savannahians and tourists will be able to enjoy it and pay their respects. People would be able to purchase trees dedicated to the memory of their loved ones like what is happening at other memorials around the country, including Fort Stewart, instead of buying bricks. If it is not possible and the design moves forward, he would suggest a compromise. This memorial completely overshadows the existing Moravian monument and literally incorporates it into its design. The problem could be alleviated by relocating the World War II memorial to the southwest quadrant of the square, and that way the two groups would be separated, giving some measure of respect to both groups.

Dr. Daves Rossell (Professor of Architectural History, Savannah College of Art and Design – SCAD) stated that he is present to make a strong recommendation against the World War II memorial and said that he has two qualifications that allow him some standing to make comments. He said that his family had many generations give military service to the country and the other qualification is related to his professional standing. He came from a long military lineage where his father and his mother's brother fought in World War II, has relatives buried at West Point and at Arlington, and has visited their graves many times. He hates the business of war but wants respect for those who served. He has devoted his life to an understanding and interpretation of the built environment being a professor of Architectural and Urban History at the Savannah College of Art and Design, with a specialty in architectural and cultural landscape in the United States. He has published issues on Savannah and the Low Country, as well as topics on monuments and commemorations, serves as Chairman of the Chatham County Historic Preservation Commission, although the statements are his alone. He cares deeply about the best quality of life and physical fabric in Savannah and its surroundings, but good logical sense and not heated sentiment should prevail. The proposed monument is simply too big for the proposed setting. Aesthetics and symbolism aside, while efforts have been made to bring it to a more suitable scale for the square, the efforts have not gone far enough. The monument has decreased in height but is still three times as tall as him and has increased in width. Such a size can work beautifully

given proper context, but Oglethorpe Square is not the right fit. He recommends either further dramatically scaling back the current design, changing the design to allow for a more appropriately scaled monument, or moving the monument design to a more appropriate setting decided by more knowledgeable people. If the monument is brought down to a manageable scale, Oglethorpe Square seems particularly ill-fitting given the previously existing memorial to Colonial pacifists. Commemoration is important but not in what can only be seen as a full-scale assault on the precedent of the precious historic setting, and in defiance of a precedent set by most memorials around the world. In words that may seem painful to some military-minded, the monument needs downsizing and diplomacy.

Ms. Cassie Dolecki (Historic Savannah Foundation - HSF) stated that she is representing the Board of Trustees and HSF supports the concept for recognizing and memorializing the men and women who heroically served and sacrificed during World War II. She said that the members and other residents of the Landmark District are concerned about the height and mass of the large center structure, and feel a smaller scale would be more appropriate.

It has been brought to HSF's attention that the monument is to be constructed of an un-powder coated aluminum, which is not a material normally used for a public work of art. The sign company has offered only a one-year warranty on the materials, which is not an acceptable guarantee for a monument of such great importance. In a letter to the petitioner dated June 27, 2008, Federal Heath Sign Company stated, "as far as the aluminum, it will last for a lot of years..." They enclosed photos of their other work from Las Vegas and Orlando.

Susie Chisholm's reputation as a master sculptor has preceded her. They have no doubt that her work on the bronze statues will be truly outstanding. The focal point of the overall monument, however, deserves as much time and consideration as Ms. Chisholm's statues. The Federal Heath Sign Company are sign makers and not sculptors of public art. They ask that the Veterans Council consider the Recommended Artist Selection Process as laid out in Appendix 3 of the Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines for the City of Savannah. They ask that the Commission and designers continue working, with input from the public, toward a memorial that reflects the community's respect for World War II veterans, while maintaining the integrity of one of the original squares designed by Savannah's founder, General James Oglethorpe.

Mr. Harry DeLorme stated that he is an artist and a member of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Site and Monument Commission, but is not speaking in their behalf. He said he applauds the Veterans Council for proposing a much needed and overdue monument for the residents in Chatham County who served in World War II. He was part of the group who approved the design concept, but had and still has reservations regarding the scale and the compatibility of the design with the site. He thought there were improvements to the latest version of the design, especially in terms of the landscaping and paving. He encouraged the Commission to ask the petitioner to build on the improvements and continue refining the project in regard to the scale and materials, in order for it to become a truly fitting memorial to those who served and one appropriate to its setting as an outstanding public monument in its own right.

Mr. Wright asked if he is representing the Telfair Academy.

Mr. DeLorme stated that he is speaking for himself.

Ms. Josephine Warshauer stated that she lives in North Carolina and attends Williams College in Massachusetts, but has connections to Savannah through her grandparents who are long-time residents of the city's downtown Historic District. She said that she had relatives who fought in World War II and supports constructing a monument commemorating those who gave their lives, but has reservations concerning the monument's design and hopes that the Commission would take necessary precautions to ensure the memorial is well-conceived. A monument of this stature deserves consideration so it will be worthy of the soldiers it will represent. She urged the Commission to approve a design only when the plans prove the structure is lasting, and should not simply be a memorial to the soldiers but a permanent reminder to those removed from the events of World War II by time. It should be a tribute to recall the triumph of justice, the heroism offered to protect humanity, and the destructive potential of mankind so that conflicts like World War II may be avoided. She thought the design for the monument could be further streamlined and suggested constructing the memorial so the bracing could be eliminated, incorporate the ruptured duck as a bronze element as part of the central pathway, respect the historic nature of the site by increasing the transparency of the monument, and reducing the scale. Most importantly, she hoped that the labor, funds, and materials would be focused on the central globe even if the nine surrounding statues are eliminated and alternatively placing representation of the military branches on the base of the globe. The concept of a world apart and the globe should be lasting and impact the on-lookers. She hopes that revisions will be made to the design and that the excellent idea can only be improved upon with diligence.

Mr. Al Nichols stated that he is a retired lieutenant colonel, loved the military, and that his dad was a full colonel in World War II who played a key role in the invasion of North Africa. He said he has strong feelings about the military and the need for the World War II veterans to be honored. He is a designer and there is something about the basic design that bothers him because he thinks the veterans need something better. He likes the individual statues, is not against the globe concept, but is against the globe being presented as a sphere because it does not look right. He thought they could do better for the veterans.

Mr. Steven High (Director of the Telfair Museum of Art) stated that he is representing the staff of the Telfair Museum and said that the Owens-Thomas House is one of their properties that faces Oglethorpe Square. He said he wants to commend everyone for all of the hard work that has been done so far on the rethinking and redesigning of the monument. Having worked through a number of public art projects in the past, he recognizes that there is a lot of give and take that goes with the process and commended Mr. Meyerhoff. He believes that the project as designed is not conducive in scale to Oglethorpe Square, and he agrees with others who spoke and urged the Commission to consider a larger site that will put the monument in its best advantage. If the monument is to be situated in Oglethorpe Square, great care should be given to the quality of the materials and the massing of the form so the monument will guarantee a lasting monument for the World War II veterans and the community.

Mr. Doug Andrews stated that tomorrow is July 4th and for 232 years non-pacifists decided that we needed to be independent and free, and God bless those who are not pacifists. He did not know if there are any Moravians in the room, but feels they need to recognize those who have kept this nation free and independent. He knew that everyone supports the veterans but is troubled by the people coming now and saying not Oglethorpe. That is a dead issue because the City Council and the Mayor approved Oglethorpe Square and now they need to put something in that is appropriate. He is also concerned about the broad and general statements of "not-to-scale" and asked scale of what. If you look around the

square, the sphere is a little bit taller than the lamp posts, and if it were moved to the MPC building, it would fit at about the same level as the awning of the six-story parking garage. To the right is an apartment building that is at least five stories. What used to be the Marine Hospital is now a SCAD building that is a massive building. He asked how many have been to the Canton Chinese restaurant in the red brick building on the corner. Every side of the square has massive buildings and the sphere is not massive. There is the Owens-Thomas House and no one wants to do anything that detracts from it. Mr. DeLorme who is on the TAC, which unanimously approved the concept without exception, stated that having seen the model to-scale, he was no longer concerned about scale. He is not sure why Mr. DeLorme now thinks there is a concern about the scale.

The monument is not moving from Oglethorpe Square as far as he is concerned. He said they have made adjustments, it is not overpowering, would not say anything more about the Moravians, and asked how many of them knew the monument was there. The World War II monument will not be overshadowing the Moravian monument; history has overshadowed the Moravian monument.

Mr. Jimmy Ray (Vice-Chairman of the Veterans Council) stated that on both sides great points were made and he wanted to let everyone know that the men and women who served in World War II were approved for Oglethorpe Square, which is named after James Edward Oglethorpe, a military man. He said that probably 90 percent of the men and women that served in the military, those who worked in the shipyards and the medical core lived north of Victory Drive. South of Victory Drive in 1941 to 1945 it was all country. Around Broughton and Abercorn Streets were five movie theatres and Broughton Street was the most important street in Savannah during World War II. They sat in the square and counted 37 buses of tourists in one hour and twenty minutes and they were all full. The tourists will see the monument and walk back to the monument. Everything that took place in Savannah when the people were young took place downtown, and they want to see it built in this square because 90 percent of the people that are still alive are from Savannah and not from somewhere else. This is where they want their monument, in their square, which is was approved by City Council.

Mr. Vejar stated that they did not want the monument to fall down either. He said they did not want it to be damaged or destroyed or in a position of repairing or repainting it every year. The globe at Universal Studios has been there a long time and he asked how many hurricanes have gone through the Orlando area. The globe is still standing, is as colorful as ever, they don't have to put a lot of maintenance in it, and that is what they are looking for. It is a company that has done this before - they have put one in Las Vegas, and the sun beats down on it there. If they put it up and it is painted, done well and lasting, then he did not have a problem with it. They will ensure that it is done right. If it requires a powdered surface, and he did not understand all of that, but when they get all of the engineering diagrams and the other items they will discuss exactly how it should be painted, put together, and what it should be constructed of.

He said that as far as the location, they have heard both the plus and minus sides and they were told that they have Oglethorpe Square. They have done everything they possibly could do to reduce it in size. The constraints are the latitude and longitude that they need to show the battle areas of World War II. If they are too small you won't be able to see the small islands where the major activity in the Pacific Theatre took place. They have scientifically designed it, the Commission has seen what they put together, and they have talked with the City Manager and satisfied him with all of the safety problems and other things. They will provide the Commission with things that they haven't already provided

which are the engineering diagrams, the construction materials, and the final look at the statues as they are created. He hoped the Commission would satisfy them by approving the concept.

Mr. Meyerhoff stated that Federal Heath is a sign company and they could not make a living if they just did monuments. They have been in business for 100 years and have done spherical monuments before. They know about the hurricanes, which is why they have the cross members at the top of the spheres to tie it together. It will be designed for hurricane winds because otherwise it wouldn't meet the approval of the City Building Department. Glass plaques will not work because of the pedestrian traffic, and they will be destroyed in a very short time. He wanted to apologize about the location of the Moravian monument and said that was done when they went from his original drawings to the computer drawing that the City Engineering Department provided for them. He failed to notice that the monument had been moved into the trust lot. Concerning the mock-up they talked with Federal Heath and they said if they want a mock-up, they would make it, but the Veteran's Council would have to pay two times for the monument. They would not make a mock-up out of burlap and wood but out of the materials to get a full concept of what it would look like. Otherwise, it would be misleading so they dropped the idea of a mock-up. The aluminum painting would be sealed and is long-lasting. Every monument, whether it is stone or aluminum, needs maintenance over a period of time.

Mr. Tommy Brunson stated that they are trying to micromanage this. He said that no one can build anything without a building permit from the City of Savannah. To get a building permit you have to meet all of the codes and regulations as far as the type of material, how it is constructed, how it is anchored, and everything. They would have to meet all seismic regulations in the case of an earthquake, wind, etc. It would all be done by the Engineering Department of the City of Savannah. They can talk about it but what they need to do is get past what they're doing right now and let the veterans get the final design and build the monument. Time is marching on, the timeline in the paper showed when it started and where they are today, and they are not any closer today than they were in 1946. He urged the Commission to grant them permission to move on with the design and build the monument while some of the veterans are still here to enjoy it.

County Commissioner Helen Stone stated that tomorrow is Independence Day and each and everyone in the room enjoys the life that we live because of the people that fought for this country. She said what is seen is not a good depiction and those who were present at the last meeting had an opportunity to see the monument. She understood it is a mock-up but it really does not do the monument justice. She has had the unique opportunity to work with the veterans and feels in her heart that it is owed to them. She thinks it is sad that they have to build their own monument.

Mr. Jim McNear stated that he is blessed to only be involved in the final operation of World War II in the invasion of Okinawa when the war came to an end. He said that two weeks ago today a fellow Marine, Clyde R. Anderson, was buried and who knows who will be next. They have waited so long for this that he did not know if he would live long enough to see the reality, but hoped and prayed that God would allow him that and that it would not be 15 to 20 years before it becomes a reality.

HSMC ACTION: Mr. Madson made a motion that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission close the Public Discussion. Mr. Harper seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. Wright stated that the Commission heard from the public and that all of the speakers against the monument stated universally that they weren't against the monument but against this design being in Oglethorpe Square. They offered Daffin Park back at the beginning of this and were told no because there was not enough foot traffic and visibility. They insisted upon Oglethorpe, which was approved, but it is contingent upon a suitable design.

Mr. Harper stated that Mr. Ray pointed out that they had stood in Oglethorpe Square and watched several buses going by but they never stopped. He said they didn't stop because there is nothing there. He believed that if and when the monument is built that the tourists will come. Mr. Ray figured that within an hour and twenty minutes there were about 8,000 tourists that went by the square in the trolleys. There are 8,000 potential tourists that will flock to that square.

Mr. Thomson stated that there is a stop on the Owens-Thomas House side of the square and you can get on and off at all of the trolley stops and visit locations. He suggested that the Commission focus on the design and not the location because the location had been approved.

Mr. Harper stated the Moravian monument is in the square and asked how close the Moravian monument would be to the World War II monument.

Ms. Harris stated that she did not know the exact footage but that the monument is in another quadrant, not in the center quadrant, but in the northeast quadrant.

Ms. Ricks-Brown stated that it was discussed that the Moravian Monument is in the square at the very first meeting when the whole thing was presented. She said that she did not want anyone going away thinking that the Commission just found out about it today because they have talked about it since the very first meeting.

Mr. Wright stated that he did not see it as an issue because it is so far away. However, there may be some philosophical issues as one monument has a militaristic theme and the other has a pacifist theme.

Mr. Harper stated that it is in a totally different quadrant.

Mr. Wright stated that there is no physical encroachment on it.

Ms. Ricks-Brown stated that the location is a done deal.

Mr. Wright stated that is provided there is a fitting design.

Mr. Madson stated that the Savannah Morning Newspaper article described how they arrived at the concept. He said it was originally designed for a more suburban site like Hunter Army Airfield. It was not originally designed for the square and was taken out of its original design context and retooled in some ways to fit in the square.

Mr. Williams stated that he feels the design violates a lot of the guidelines and seems very industrial to him. He said it didn't seem to meet the guidelines and distracted from the overall site.

HSMC ACTION: Mr. Smith made a motion that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission deny the petition and rescind the Commission’s previous approval of the design concept based on the continued incompatibility of the project with the following guidelines:

1. The design violates Guideline 13 which provides that monuments and public art should be designed to compliment and enhance the site in which it is located. It should not compete with or encroach upon existing monuments, public art, or buildings.

The design concept presented is incompatible with the pre-existing Moravian pulpit monument designed by Henrik Wallin, renowned Savannah architect, that was dedicated in Oglethorpe Square’s significant northeast corner in April of 1933. Moreover, the sheer mass, magnitude, and orientation of the proposed globe design and appurtenant statues overpower the square, its walkways, its trees, and other objects within the square, as well as totally blocking the open vistas contemplated in Oglethorpe’s original city design concept. It clearly could threaten the loss of Savannah’s National Landmark Historic District status.

2. The design violates Guideline 14 which provides that monuments and public art should be respectful of the architectural, historical, geographical, and social cultural context of the site.

The aluminum covering of the globe presents a view of a great metal globe akin to a giant colander in the middle of a wooded park site. It is completely antagonistic to such surrounding structures as the Owens-Thomas House, a regency home of international note, and the United States Marine Hospital built in 1905.

3. The design violates Guideline 15 which provides that monuments and public art should be compatible in scale, materials, and form with its context.

The great mass of the metal colander is far out-of-scale with the size of Oglethorpe Square, and its metal covering is incompatible materials in form in the square.

4. The design violates Guideline 5 which provides that monuments and public art should be designed and constructed of materials suitable for outdoor display. Future maintenance and conservation requirements should be considered.

The metal covering of the globe, no matter what its material, cannot possibly escape erosion and corrosion in the open and exposed situation of the live oak trees in this climate. Future maintenance will be expensive and will be required often. It is our understanding that the manufacture, a sign company out of Dallas, offers only a one-year warranty on its work. This monument, however, should be forever.

5. The design violates Guideline 16 which provides that monuments and public art should be designed so that they are reasonably resistant to vandalism.

The metal globe would naturally attract climbers, especially attracted by the metal rods holding the two sides of the globe together. In addition, the multitude of statues constitutes safety hazards to hikers and bicyclers.

Mr. Williams seconded the motion. Mrs. Ricks-Brown abstained. Mr. Harper was opposed. The motion passed 4 to 1.

V. MEETING MINUTES - May 1, 2008

Mr. Wright stated that he wanted to give Ms. Person a big vote of thanks for working two weeks to get the minutes together.

HSMC ACTION: Mr. Harper made a motion that the Savannah – Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Smith seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Savannah - Chatham County Historic Site and Monument Commission, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Harris
Preservation Planner

EH/jnp