



HISTORIC SITE AND MONUMENT COMMISSION (HSMC)

Instructions for Historical Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Application

This document is for information purposes only and does not need to be submitted with the Application Form.

Local Historic Districts: SAVANNAH DOWNTOWN HISTORIC DISTRICT, VICTORIAN HISTORIC DISTRICT, STREETCAR HISTORIC DISTRICT, AND CUYLER-BROWNVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT (See attached map)

Guidelines utilized in the review process: Refer to the *Markers, Monuments, and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines for the City of Savannah* prior to submitting application to ensure that all guidelines are met. The guidelines can be found at <https://www.thempc.org/images/Historic/Smc/Masterplan.pdf>

Definitions for Historical Markers, Monuments, and Public Art:

HISTORICAL MARKER: A marker is defined as any permanent or semi-permanent plaque with text that is embedded in the ground, mounted to a structure, or erected on a freestanding pole for the primary purpose of informing the public about a historic event, place, or person. If a marker is physically attached to a structure, the marker and structure operate independently. (The Georgia Historical Society administers the state's marker program. Call 912-651-2128 for further information on their marker program.)

MONUMENT: A monument is defined as any permanent or semi-permanent object (including statues, fountains, obelisks, planters, etc.) installed specifically to commemorate or memorialize an event, place, or person.

PUBLIC ART: Public Art is defined as any permanent or semi-permanent artwork crafted by an artist or craftsman and installed specifically to enhance the public space. Public art may consist of a variety of media including, but not limited to, sculpture, mosaic, fountains or other water elements, or murals. Public art may be existing artwork or commissioned artwork. If a public artwork is to commemorate or memorialize a person, place, or event, the artwork is considered a monument and evaluated as such.

A mural, which is considered Public Art, is further defined as a singular, flat work of art applied on a building, structure, fence, or other object from a public view. The work does not contain text, graphics, or symbols which advertise or promote a business, product, or service; nor does it promote a political candidate or party. The City Zoning Administrator will determine if a mural constitutes a sign and must, therefore, meet the requirements of the Zoning Ordinance. In the Savannah Local Historic District, a mural is considered a material change to a building and must receive a Certificate of Appropriateness from the Historic District Board of Review (HDBR) in addition to approval from the HSMC. It is recommended that a mural be reviewed by HDBR in advance of the HSMC.

Application Submission Procedures:

HSMC reviews all historical markers, monuments, and public art on public property or visible from the public right-of-way on private property within all local historic districts. They also review murals anywhere in the City if visible from the public right-of-way. (Exceptions include: cornerstones, names of buildings and dates of construction cut into any masonry surface and made a permanent and integral part of the building, and house plaques provided by Historic Savannah Foundation, Inc.)

Applications must be completed before HSMC can begin the review process. Submit an application form and all supplemental documentation as **required** on the appropriate checklist in PDF format. Please email files with the application to www.historic@thempc.org. Applications must be completed and received by **3:00 p.m. on the application deadline date** to be placed on the following HSMC agenda (see the meeting schedule on the application). There are no exceptions.