



Savannah Historic District Board of Review

Arthur A. Mendonsa Hearing Room
June 10, 2026
1:00 P.M.
DECISIONS

June 10, 2026 HISTORIC District Board of Review Meeting

A Pre-Meeting was held at 12:00 PM in the Jerry Surrency Conference Room, 112 East State Street. Items on the Agenda were presented by Staff, as time permitted, and the Board asked questions. No testimony was received, and no votes were taken.

Members Present: Thomas L. Thomson, Chair
Melissa Rowan, Vice Chair
Shedrick Coleman
Karen Guinn
Mariel Hamer
Michael Higgins
Robert Helms
Melissa Rowan
Sara Woodfield

Members Absent:

MPC Staff Present: Caitlin Chamberlain, Director of Historic Preservation
Jodie Brown, Principal Planner
Alexander Merced, Planner
Rohan Urs, Planner
Bri Morgan, Administrative Assistant II
Hind Patel, Information Technology

I. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

II. SIGN POSTING

III. CONSENT AGENDA

[1. Petition of Jerome Elder | 26-002485-COA | 112 West Broughton Street | Illuminated Sign](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet 112_W_BroughtonSt.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Report - 26-002485-COA 112 W Broughton.pdf](#)

Rohan Urs prepared the report regarding 112 West Broughton Street. The petitioner is requesting approval for exterior alterations to an existing commercial storefront within the Broughton Street Sign District. The scope of work includes a new exterior paint scheme for the storefront façade, updates to the graphics on an existing illuminated projecting sign, and installation of a new non-illuminated wall sign above the storefront entrance.

The subject property is located on the north side of West Broughton Street within the Savannah Downtown Historic District and the Broughton Street Sign District. The property is situated within a continuous commercial block frontage characterized by attached historic commercial buildings with storefronts, display windows, projecting signs, recessed entries, and pedestrian-oriented architectural features. The surrounding properties contain a mixture of retail, restaurant, and commercial uses typical of the Broughton Street corridor.

Staff recommended to approve of the exterior alterations at 112 West Broughton Street, as requested for the proposal is visually compatible and meets the standards.

Motion

Approve of the exterior alterations at 112 West Broughton Street, as requested for the proposal is visually compatible and meets the standards

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Melissa H. Rowan

Second: Shedrick Coleman

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[2. Petition of Hansen Architects P.C., Patrick Phelps | 25-003858-COA | 205 West Congress Street | Signage Amendment](#)

[📎 Submittal Packet - 205 W Congress.pdf](#)

[📎 Staff Report - 205 W Congress.doc](#)

Alexander Merced prepared the report for the applicant's request to install one illuminated wall sign above the storefront at 205 West Congress Street. This is an amendment to a still active COA that was originally approved as a staff level review on August 6, 2025.

The building was constructed in 1913 and is a contributing resource [within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District](#).

The original COA included one hanging sign below the awning, one small sign on the awning, and window signs along the storefront. This proposed amendment will replace the hanging sign and awning sign with one illuminated wall sign above the awning, while the window signs will remain unchanged.

Staff recommended to approve the proposed COA Amendment for a wall sign at 205 West Congress Street as requested because it is visually compatible and meets the standards.

Motion

Approve the proposed COA Amendment for a wall sign at 205 West Congress Street as requested because it is visually compatible and meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Melissa H. Rowan

Second: Shedrick Coleman

Karen Guinn	- Aye
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Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[3. Petition of Rose Architects, Kevin Rose | 26-002483-COA | 510 East McDonough Street | Porch Addition](#)

[📎 Submittal Packet - 510 East McDonough St.pdf](#)

[📎 Staff Report - 26-002483-COA 510 E McDonough.pdf](#)

Caitlin Chamberlain prepared the report of the applicant's request of approval to construct a side porch addition to the non-contributing building located at 510 East McDonough Street. The scope of work also includes changing a four-panel door on the rear elevation to a three-panel door.

510 East McDonough Street was built in 1999 and is a non-contributing resource within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District. There is a row of non-contributing brick townhouses directly next to it, and across the street are a mix of contributing and non-contributing houses.

Staff recommended to approve the proposed side porch addition and rear door configuration change for the property located at 510 East McDonough Street as requested because the work is otherwise visually compatible and meets the standards.

Motion

The Savannah Historic District Board of Review does hereby approve the proposed side porch addition and rear door configuration change for the property located at 510 East McDonough Street as requested because the work is otherwise visually compatible and meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Melissa H. Rowan

Second: Shedrick Coleman

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

IV. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

[4. Adopt the June 10, 2026 Historic District Board of Review Meeting Agenda as presented.](#)

Motion

The Savannah Historic District Board of review motioned to adopt the June 10, 2026 meeting agenda as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Melissa H. Rowan

Second: Shedrick Coleman

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Karen Guinn | - Aye |
| Michael Higgins | - Aye |
| Melissa H. Rowan | - Aye |
| Thomas L. Thomson | - Abstain |
| Sabrina Nagel | - Aye |
| Sara Woodfield | - Aye |
| Shedrick Coleman | - Aye |
| Mariel Hamer | - Aye |
| Robert Helms | - Aye |

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[5. Adopt the May 13, 2026 Historic District Board of Review Meeting Minutes as presented.](#)

📎 [05.13.26 MEETING MINUTES.pdf](#)

Motion

The Savannah Historic District Board of Review motioned to adopt the May 13, 2026 HDBR meeting minutes as presented.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Guinn

Second: Melissa H. Rowan

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------|
| Karen Guinn | - Aye |
| Michael Higgins | - Aye |
| Melissa H. Rowan | - Aye |
| Thomas L. Thomson | - Abstain |
| Sabrina Nagel | - Aye |
| Sara Woodfield | - Aye |
| Shedrick Coleman | - Aye |
| Mariel Hamer | - Aye |
| Robert Helms | - Aye |

VI. ITEM(S) REQUESTED TO BE REMOVED FROM THE FINAL AGENDA

VII. CONTINUED AGENDA

[6. Petition of Rose Architects, Kevin Rose | 25-005674-COA | 402 East Broughton St. | New Construction, Part 2](#)

Motion

CONTINUE the rehabilitation and alteration at 402 East Broughton Street

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Guinn

Second: Melissa H. Rowan

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

VIII. REQUEST FOR EXTENSION

IX. REGULAR AGENDA

[7. Petition of J. Elder Studio, Jerome Elder | 26-002486-COA | 100 East Bay Street | Rehabilitation and Alteration](#)

- [100 E Bay St - HDBR Submission.pdf](#)
- [Staff Report - 26-002486-COA 100 E. Bay St..pdf](#)
- [Applicant's Presentation.pdf](#)
- [060826 Johnson public comment.pdf](#)

Jodie Brown presented the applicant's proposal to alter the first-floor façade on the River Street side and reside the 2nd floor on the south elevation.

Designed by Boston architect William Gibbons Preston and constructed in the Richardsonian Romanesque style in 1886, the building was built over Drayton Street. The building's underpass is supported by cast iron columns that flank a wider lane for vehicles. On the outer portion of the columns are walkways. The building presents as 6-stories along River Street with a large, centrally located Palladian style window and a highly decorative 3-stories along Bay Street. The building was designed to function as a space for the King Cotton factors (brokers serving the planters' interest in the market) to congregate and set the market value of cotton to export to larger markets. By 1951, the Cotton Exchange was done, and the building was occupied by the Chamber of Commerce. In 1976, Solomon's Lodge No. 1 of the Free and Accepted Masons occupied the building.

At some point, in the 1960s or 1970s, the eastern walkway was enclosed to accommodate HVAC. Stucco walls were built on top of the brick pony wall leaving some of the columns exposed to the exterior with others enclosed.

The subject building is listed as a contributing resource within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District.

Staff recommended to approve the rehabilitation and alteration at 100 East Bay Street WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, to be reviewed by staff because the work is otherwise visually compatible and meets the Standards:

1. Note that the tongue and groove material at the south side of the 2nd floor is wood.
2. Include information on the proposed mortar type, color, and tooling.
3. Provide information on any replacement brick, including a physical sample with dimensions of existing and proposed.
4. Indicate how the brick will be cleaned, including product names.

Motion

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

APPROVE the rehabilitation and alteration at 100 East Bay Street WITH THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS, to be reviewed by staff because the work is otherwise visually compatible and meets the Standards:

Note that the tongue and groove material at the south side of the 2nd floor is wood.

Include information on the proposed mortar type, color, and tooling.

Provide information on any replacement brick, including a physical sample with dimensions of existing and proposed.

Indicate how the brick will be cleaned, including product names.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Sabrina Nagel

Second: Michael Higgins

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[8. Petition of Sunlight Solar | 26-001302-COA | 504 East Jones Street | Solar Panels](#)

[☞ Submittal Packet - 504 E Jones.pdf](#)

[☞ Staff Report - 504 E Jones St.pdf](#)

Alexander Merced presented the applicant's request to install 14 solar panels on the rear, lane-facing slope of the roof of 504 East Jones Street. This project was continued from the May 13, 2026 HDBR meeting. Since there will be a slight degree of visibility, the applicant is also requesting a Special Exception.

The building was constructed in 1861 and is a contributing resource [within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District](#). It sits in between a contributing house to the West and the non-contributing Macedonia Baptist Church to the East, with the rest of the block mostly composed of contributing resources.

Staff recommended to approve the special exception for the installation of 14 solar panels on the roof of 504 East Jones Street as requested because it meets the criteria for special exceptions and is otherwise visually compatible and meets the standards.

Motion

Approve the special exception for the installation of 14 solar panels on the roof of 504 East Jones Street as requested because it meets the criteria for special exceptions and is otherwise visually compatible and meets the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Karen Guinn

Second: Robert Helms

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Maribel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[9. Petition of Deborah Jones | 26-002466-COA | 512 East Hall Street | After-the-fact Chimney Removal](#)

[📎 Submittal Packet - 512 E Hall.pdf](#)

[📎 Staff Report - 512 E Hall St.pdf](#)

Alexander Merced presented the report regarding the applicant's demolished the exterior brick chimney on the west side of the house because it was flagged by Code Compliance as being in danger of falling into the street and onto the neighboring home. The applicant does not believe that she should be made to reconstruct the chimney as it was because she asserts that it was not original to the house and non-historic.

The building was constructed in 1883 and is a contributing resource [within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District](#). It is located within the Beach Institute Character Area and sits on a block with a mixture of contributing and non-contributing structures. Historic Sanborn Maps show some alterations were made in the years after construction, specifically, a front porch appears in the 1898 map, a rear porch appears in the 1916 map, and the rear porch appears to have been enlarged by the 1955 map. At no point does it specifically show an exterior chimney being added. Additionally, the Cadastral Survey conducted in 1937 shows that there was no exterior chimney at that time. Finally, the Georgia Historic Resources survey, conducted in 2000, notes that the building was renovated and altered in 1960, although it does not provide details on the changes that were made. At some point, the front porch was enlarged and enclosed and the house was covered in a brick veneer, and it is possible that these were the 1960 alterations referenced by the survey, although this is unclear. It is also possible that this is when the chimney was added, but this is also unclear, as the earliest definitive photographic evidence that we have for the existence of the chimney is a 2000 image that was included in the GHR survey. At some point between 2007 and 2012, the porch enclosure and the brick veneer were removed, bringing the house closer to its historic configuration.

Staff recommended to approve the After-the-Fact chimney demolition at 512 East Hall Street because it was a safety hazard that required immediate demolition. Also, staff recommends that the applicant not be made to rebuild the chimney because it was not historic, had not achieved historic status in and of itself, and is not in keeping with the character of the surrounding area.

Motion

Approve the After-the-Fact chimney demolition at 512 East Hall Street because it was a safety hazard that required immediate demolition. Also, staff recommends that the applicant not be made to rebuild the chimney because it was not historic, had not achieved historic status in and of itself, and is not in keeping with the character of the surrounding area.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Michael Higgins

Second: Shedrick Coleman

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[10. Petition of Studio H Architects, Julie Miller | 26-002480-COA | 114 West Bay Street | Rehab Amendment](#)

- [☞ Submittal Packet - 114 W Bay St.pdf](#)
- [☞ Stamped Drawings - 23-003320-COA - 114 West Bay Street.pdf](#)
- [☞ SIGNED Board_Decision_ - 23-003320-COA - 114_W_Bay_St.pdf](#)
- [☞ Staff Report - 26-002480-COA 114 W Bay.pdf](#)
- [☞ Public Comment - Quentin L Marlin.pdf](#)

Caitlin Chamberlain presented the applicant's request for a design amendment to the previously approved project at 114 West Bay Street, the building that houses the Cotton Sail Hotel. The project is an expansion to the existing Cotton Sail Hotel. The scope of work is focused on the expansion area, in the building that had most recently been Finnegan's Package Shop but has sat vacant for several years.

Bay Street Side:

- Existing exhaust cap to be removed
- Existing metal coping to be removed and replaced with new prefinished metal coping to match existing adjacent coping
- Existing stucco to be repaired and refinished
- Existing window trim to be removed
- Existing storefront to be removed and replaced with new wood storefronts to match the existing hotel storefront
- Preserve existing columns, repaint including gold trim and accents

River Street Side:

- Reinstalling windows in areas where there are none
- Replacing existing metal coping
- Removal of the existing enclosed second-floor balcony, and replacing with a new open-

air, covered balcony
-Stucco restoration and repainting

The historic building was constructed in 1852 and is a contributing resource within the National Historic Landmark District and the local Savannah Downtown Historic District. It is part of the row comprised of 112-130 West Bay Street.

The image below left shows the 1962 Ward Notebook image and the image to the right is present day. The upper-level windows have been covered and the storefront doors and windows have changed, though the columns and decorative work remain intact. The applicant intends to preserve these.

Staff recommended to continue the proposed rehabilitation work for the property located at 114 West Bay Street, to the July 8, 2026, Historic District Board of Review meeting to allow the applicant time to address the following:

1. Identify the stucco type to be used for repairs, to ensure it is a true stucco that matches the existing and confirm the color selection.
2. Provide product specifications for the storefront system, metal porch roof (including roof pitch detail), replacement doors, and mechanical screening to ensure that they meet the standards.
3. Provide a clear, detailed drawing of the balcony including material information and product specifications for the balcony elements such as the columns and railings, and if they will be painted or stained, and what the color will be.
4. Clarify whether the River Street ground level doors will be replaced with single doors as they are currently, or double doors as shown in the drawings.

Motion

The Savannah Historic District Board of Review does hereby deny the proposed project at 114 West Bay Street on the grounds that it is not visually compatible and does not meet the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Michael Higgins

Second: Sabrina Nagel

Karen Guinn	- Aye
Michael Higgins	- Aye
Melissa H. Rowan	- Aye
Thomas L. Thomson	- Abstain
Sabrina Nagel	- Aye
Sara Woodfield	- Aye
Shedrick Coleman	- Aye
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

[11. Petition of Mariela Orellana & Todd Nemanic | 26-001855-COA | 318 East Huntingdon Street | After-the-Fact Alterations](#)

📎 [Submittal Packet - 318 E Huntingdon St.pdf](#)

📎 [Staff Report - 26-001855-COA 318 E Huntingdon St.pdf](#)

Rohan Urs presented the applicant's request for after-the-fact approval for exterior alterations to a

contributing structure, including enclosure of an upper-level rear porch and expansion of an existing rear porch area, for the property located at 318 East Huntingdon Street. The work already completed includes the installation of new exterior wall materials, windows, and a rear door, resulting in an increase in building area and alteration of the rear building form. The improvements have been substantially completed prior to approval by the Board. This work was cited by the City's Code Compliance Department.

The subject property is located within the Downtown Historic District in an area characterized by contributing residential structures dating from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Buildings in the surrounding context commonly feature open rear porches, balconies, and decks that are secondary in character to the primary street facing façades. These rear elements are traditionally constructed of wood and maintain an open and lightweight appearance consistent with historic development patterns in the district.

318 East Huntingdon Street was built in 1895 and is a contributing resource in the local overlay and the National Historic Landmark District. It is a large three-story brick duplex, connected to 320 East Huntingdon Street along the corner lot on Huntingdon Street and Habersham Street. The rear porch area is visible from the vantage point of Habersham Street. Sanborn Maps show that there was a wooden one-story porch that went across the rear of both 318 and 320, but it appears that 320 has also modified theirs with a partial enclosure, but they maintained visibility of the earlier configuration showing decorative wooden arches (also seen in photos provided by the applicant).

Google Street View images from 2016 and 2017 show what the rear porch looked like, in part, before the enclosure work began. In these images, the decorative wood porch elements can be seen. These are still in existence but have now been enclosed with the current work that has taken place.

This project was first presented at the November 12, 2025, Historic District Board of Review meeting, where it was continued to allow the applicant time to provide additional information regarding the completed work. The Board requested detailed product specifications, visual documentation, and clarifications necessary to evaluate visual compatibility and conformance with the Savannah Downtown Historic District Ordinance.

Since the November meeting, the applicant had submitted additional photographs, product information, and supplemental clarification regarding the materials installed as part of the project for the February Meeting. Upon review, the petition was denied by the board due to material choices.

The current review is for a new application with the updated submittal. The additional documentation has allowed staff to more fully evaluate the completed work and its compliance with the applicable standards of the Savannah Downtown Historic District Ordinance.

The updated submittal identifies the windows as Jeld-Wen Sitrine Series clad wood double-hung windows, the siding as smooth-finish HardiePlank fiber cement siding, and provides additional information regarding the door and exterior finishes. Staff has reviewed the additional information and finds that many of the concerns identified during the previous review have been addressed. While the enclosure continues to obscure portions of the historic decorative porch features, those features remain in place and have not been removed.

Staff recommended to approve the after-the-fact request for exterior alterations at 318 East Huntingdon Street, as the proposal is visually compatible and meets the standards.

Motion

Deny the after-the-fact request for exterior alterations at 318 East Huntingdon Street, as the proposal is not visually compatible and does not meet the standards.

Vote Results (Approved)

Motion: Michael Higgins

Second: Mariel Hamer

Karen Guinn - Aye

Michael Higgins - Aye

Melissa H. Rowan - Aye

Thomas L. Thomson - Abstain

Sabrina Nagel - Aye

Sara Woodfield - Aye

Shedrick Coleman	- Nay
Mariel Hamer	- Aye
Robert Helms	- Aye

X. APPROVED STAFF REVIEWS

XI. WORK PERFORMED WITHOUT A CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

XII. REPORT ON ITEMS DEFERRED TO STAFF

XIII. NOTICES, PROCLAMATIONS, AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

[12. Stamped Drawings Report - June 2026](#)

[📎 June 2026 Report.pdf](#)

XIV. OTHER BUSINESS

XV. ADJOURNMENT

[13. Next HDBR Pre-Meeting - Wednesday July 8, 2026 at 12pm - 112 East State Street](#)

[14. Next HDBR Meeting - Wednesday July 8, 2026 at 1pm - 112 East State Street](#)

[15. Adjourn](#)

There being no further business to present before the Board, the June 10, 2026 Historic District Board of Review adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Caitlin Chamberlain
Director of Historic Preservation

/bm

The Chatham County - Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission provides meeting minutes which are adopted by the respective Board. Verbatim transcripts of minutes are the responsibility of the interested party.