



S A V A N N A H - C H A T H A M C O U N T Y
HISTORIC SITE & MONUMENT COMMISSION

Petitioner: City of Savannah Mobility and Parking Services, Sean Brandon
File No.: 25-005947 HM
Address: 906 Drayton Street
PIN: 20044 20012
Staff Reviewer: Jodie Brown, AICP
Date: January 8, 2026

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant would like to relocate an extant historical marker currently in front of the Savannah Economic Development Authority (SEDA) building at 906 Drayton Street to another location on the same block, but still in front of the SEDA building. Relocation would make room for a Department of Transportation (DOT) shuttle stop bench or shelter.

FINDINGS:

The following standards from the Historic Site and Monument Commission Guidelines for Markers, Monuments and Public Art apply:

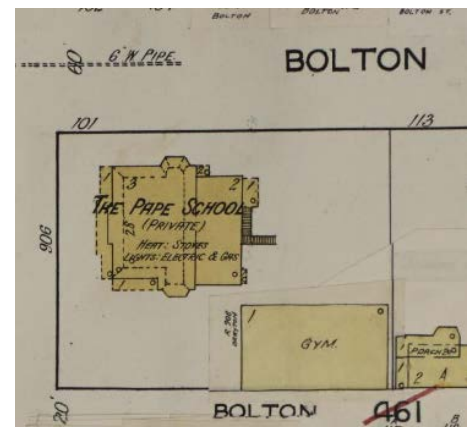
Site in Relation to Theme for Markers or Monuments. The relationship between site and theme for a marker or monument is critical in determining the appropriate site for a particular theme.

Marker. A marker should be erected in as close proximity to the site to which it is related as possible and be clearly visible from a public right-of-way.

Markers commemorating a person should be sited where that person was born, lived, died, or performed some act of enduring significance or adjacent to the nearest public right-of-way.

The historical marker for Nina Anderson Pape was placed at the location of the Pape School which she founded. The school was considered the premier school for females in the southeast. The school eventually became the Savannah Country Day School in the 1950s.

Per the Sanborn Map the Pape School, the school was located on the east side of Drayton Street between Bolton Street and Bolton Lane. Repositioning the marker elsewhere along the street frontage between Bolton Street and Lane would be appropriate as it maintains the marker within the school's original parcel.



Evaluating Sites for Markers, Monuments, or Public Art. *Certain factors should be taken into consideration when evaluating whether a site is the appropriate location for a marker, monument or public art [hereto referred to as “object” to indicate the inclusion of all three types]. These factors include:*

The installation of an object should not cause overcrowding of the site, if there are existing objects. Objects should be sited far enough away from other objects as to allow the visitor proper appreciation of each individually.

The proposed location is within the small front setback. The current location is at the northwest corner of the parcel. The proposed location could be either at the middle of the parcel fronting on to Drayton or at the southwest corner of Drayton Street and Bolton Lane. While the middle of the parcel seems to be clear of any other type of signage, the southwest corner is busier. Signage for the building, a stop sign, palm tree and light post are all within or close to this location. The addition of a sign would just make this corner more crowded.

The proposed object should not damage or disturb existing established vegetation on the site including low tree limbs, or significant tree roots.

At the middle of the parcel, there is only grass and planters up against the building. At the southwest corner there is grass and a palm tree. Palm trees generally have a root ball close to the base of the tree. It does not have roots that spread out. If the marker is set slightly away from the base of the tree, there should be no impact at either location.

The proposed object should not require the removal or alteration of existing above or below ground utilities.

The City of Savannah staff are currently evaluating the proposed sites for the impact to utilities.

The proposed site should not have a high probability of significant archaeology unless an archaeological study is part of the proposal.

The proposed areas have been heavily disturbed, and it is unlikely that there are any archaeological sites at these locations. Additionally, the area of disturbance for the marker is limited.

The installation of the object should not significantly affect automobile traffic sight lines.

The proposed sites will not have any impact on traffic sight lines.

Staff Report – Historical Marker
File No. – 25-005947 COA
Address – 906 Drayton Street
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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Savannah Historic Site and Monument Commission recommend APPROVAL to the Savannah City Council for the relocation of the Nina Anderson Pape Historical Marker at 906 Drayton Street AS REQUESTED because the work meets the standards within the Master Plan and Guidelines for Markers, Monuments, and Public Art.

MW: CC: JB

Note: This recommendation could change subject to new information provided at the Historic Site and Monument Commission meetings. Decisions or recommendations will be made by the Historic Site and Monument Commission at the public hearing based on information provided at the meeting, as well as information submitted for the staff recommendation.