

## Compliance Summary for Proposed Monument in Oglethorpe Square

### 1. Site Appropriateness: Oglethorpe Square

- **Relevance to Theme:** Oglethorpe Square is the most relevant location available due to the proximity of the Junior League of Savannah's first headquarters at the Owens-Thomas House. This connection offers direct, local relevance as required in Chapter 4, Site Criteria, p.13:

“The proposed site should be the most relevant location available to the monument theme, as demonstrated through the documentation regarding the direct local relevance of the proposed theme.”

- **Listed Site:** Oglethorpe Square is included in the 2006 list of potential "large" monument sites. Though not updated since, others site evaluated were not as appropriate in theme or as strong of a fit for space.
- **Site Feedback:** The Junior League consulted with the City of Savannah Parks and Tree Department and the MPC staff, both of whom encouraged moving forward with Oglethorpe Square.
- **Site Conditions:** The monument will not disturb vegetation, utilities, or historic sight lines, and enhances the space while respecting the Oglethorpe Plan. It will elevate the quadrant and make more use of the land, as it is now unwalkable.

“The location of monuments and public art in the Landmark District should respect the Oglethorpe Plan, particularly in terms of historic viewsheds and sight lines.” (p.13)

### 2. Thematic Alignment

- **Established Theme:** The monument aligns with several approved categories including Social and Humanitarian, Education, Civic and Institutional, and Women's History.
- **Underrepresented Category:** Women's contributions are listed as underrepresented in Appendix 2, p.35:

“Underrepresented Themes: Women's History, Women's Contributions”

- **Broad Representation:** Unlike recent monuments recognizing individual women, this monument represents the collective impact of thousands of local women over the League's 100-year history.
- **Historic Significance:** The theme meets the requirement that commemorated efforts span over 50 years as the organization has been active since 1926.

### 3. Design Compliance

- **Material and Context:** The monument is primarily wrought iron, consistent with materials used throughout Savannah's historic landscape.

- **Height and Scale:** The monument’s height has been calibrated for site compatibility. At 2.5 feet shorter than the surrounding lamp posts, it complements its surroundings without encroaching on sight lines, especially with the transparent design vs. solid. There are no specific height limitations in the design guidelines, nor documentation of height ranges for current fixed structures in the historic district squares for comparison.

“The context of the proposed site should be a major consideration in the mass and scale of the proposed object.” (p.13)

- **Original Design:** The monument is an original, site-specific piece, adhering to p.15:

“A monument should be of original design... and not resemble gravestones or replicate existing monuments.”

- **Durability and Safety:** Wrought iron and granite are weather-appropriate and vandal-resistant, and the design is free of sharp or unsafe components.
- **Visual Harmony:** The monument enhances the space, does not dominate its surroundings, and is compatible in scale and materials:

“Monuments and public art should be of superior quality and craftsmanship... and compatible in scale, materials, and form with its context.” (p.15)

#### 4. National Historic Landmark District Considerations

- As the Savannah Historic District is also a National Historic Landmark (NHL), we affirm alignment with best practices from the **National Park Service (NPS)**:
  - **No federal funding** is involved, so Section 106 review is not triggered.
  - NPS guidance encourages use of local preservation standards, which we have followed.
  - See: [NPS – Working on the Past](#)

#### Conclusion

This monument fully meets the City of Savannah’s requirements for theme, site, design, and process, and represents a meaningful addition to Oglethorpe Square and Savannah’s public art legacy. It honors a century of civic leadership by women and reflects both historic impact and enduring relevance.

Several sites were carefully considered as part of this process including the list of outlined monument sites by the MPC, but none met the criteria as fully as Oglethorpe Square. Other locations lacked either historical relevance, sufficient visibility, or contextual appropriateness under the Oglethorpe Plan. Oglethorpe Square offers a rare combination of documented historic connection, physical suitability, and alignment with both local and national preservation standards. It is the most appropriate and respectful setting to recognize the

collective contributions of generations of women whose work continues to shape Savannah's civic life.

The Junior League of Savannah thanks the Historic Sites and Monuments Commission for their careful feedback at the last meeting and their consideration of these updates as we have spent time deep diving since to best address all concerns.

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