



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: GeorgAnna Wiley
File No.: 26-00 1708-PA
Address: 810 East 66th Street
PIN: 20114 01014
Staff Reviewer: Jodie Brown, AICP
Date: May 7, 2026

NATURE OF REQUEST:

The applicant is proposing to install an 8'x8' mural on the west façade of the building at 810 East 66th Street.

The property is located mid-block on the north side of East 66th Street within the Ray Ward. The building is one-story with an irregular floor plan and a flat roof. The building is wrapped with driveway and parking lot at the west and north sides. The building is not located within a locally listed or National Register historic district.

FINDINGS:

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

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 mural would be located on the side of a commercial building. The area fronts on to a driveway that leads to a rear parking lot. There do not appear to be any objects within the immediate vicinity. This standard is met.

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

The mural would be located on the side of a commercial building. There is no vegetation that will be impacted by its installation. This standard is met.

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

No ground utilities would be impacted by the installation of the mural. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should be large enough to accommodate an object, and should not encroach on other existing object sites, buildings, or designated green space.

The mural will be approximately 8' x 8' on a much larger wall surface. It will not encroach on any other objects, buildings or designated green space. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should not be utilized for special events (such as sports, festivals, ceremonies, etc.) on a regular basis which an object would disrupt.

The commercial entity appears to be an office that is not used for special events. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should not be prone to frequent automobile accidents which could damage the proposed object.

The mural is located mid-block off of a two-lane road with limited traffic. It does not appear to be a site prone to frequent automobile accidents. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should be easily accessible to pedestrians (excluding marker sites).

The site does not have consistent sidewalks, but the mural will be visible from the street, driveway, and nearby parking lots. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should be visible and accessible from a public right of way.

The mural will be visible from the public ROW. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should have adequate parking nearby (excluding marker sites).

The site has adequate street parking. This standard has been met.

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

Based on the age of the buildings, this area has been developed for several decades and any archaeology would be heavily disturbed. The proposed mural will not require any ground disturbance. This standard has been met.

The proposed site should be easy to maintain.

The site is surrounded by concrete and a limited amount of vegetation. The site should be easy to maintain. This standard has been met.

The installation of the object should enhance the space and character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The surrounding neighborhood is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

The installation of the object should not require the alteration or removal of existing signage (traffic, street, etc).

The mural will be located on private property and not negatively impact any existing signage. This standard has been met.

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

The mural will be located on private property and not negatively impact any traffic sight lines. This standard has been met.

The installation of the object should enhance the design of the overall site.

The early 1980s building appears to be rather bland, and the mural will enhance its façade. This standard has been met.

The installation of the object should not require the removal or alteration of existing sidewalks, unless it is part of a comprehensive redesign for the entire site (which is generally discouraged).

No existing pavement will require removal. This standard has been met.

If periodic memorial services are likely, the site should be able to accommodate them without causing undue disruption to the neighborhood, plantings, etc.

The work is limited to a mural and it does not appear that any memorial services will be associated with it. This standard has been met.

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.*

Public Art. *While public art by definition does not commemorate historical people, places, or events, its location is therefore less limited by relevance to the site. The theme of public art is considered Arts and Humanities and therefore the site should be appropriate for that theme.*

The proposed location for the mural is a painted, stucco surface. The placement of the mural is not inappropriate and will brighten an otherwise bland area. This standard has been met.

The location of public art in the Landmark District should respect the Oglethorpe Plan, particularly in terms of historic viewsheds and sight lines.

The proposed mural is not located within the Downtown Savannah Historic District. This standard has been met.

Design. *The design of a marker, monument, or public work of art should be of the highest quality and caliber, and enhance public space. In order to promote the high standards the City of Savannah has historically enjoyed in its markers, monuments, and public art, the following guidelines should be observed.*

Monuments and Public Art. *Monuments may take on many forms including works of art, benches, statues, sculptures, obelisks, sundials, etc. Monuments are typically commissioned, site-specific pieces.*

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.

The mural will be completed by Ashley Spero who painted the mural on the interior of the business. Her website is <https://www.speroart.org>. This standard has been met.

The applicant may choose to commission a work of art or monument. The artwork or monument must be of the highest quality and should adhere to the guidelines.

The muralist will be using oil based exterior paints. This standard has been met.

Public art should generally be considered permanent and be designed accordingly, except in special situations which will be evaluated on an individual basis.

The mural will be painted on an extant wall with oil-based exterior paints, so it is considered permanent. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be designed and constructed of materials suitable for outdoor display. All proposed materials should have performed satisfactorily in the local climate for a period of time long enough to assure permanence. Future maintenance and conservation requirements should be considered.

The muralist will be using oil based exterior paints. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be designed to be reasonably resistant to vandalism.

The mural will be on private property in an area that is not heavily trafficked, thus reasonably resistant to vandalism. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be designed so as not to pose a danger to the curious public, such as the use of sharp objects or loose parts.

It is a mural with no sharp edges. This standard has been met.

Monument and public art design should include landscaping, paving, seating, drainage, lighting, fencing, or other protective measures which may be considered necessary.

Protective measures do not appear to be necessary for this mural given its placement. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be of superior quality and craftsmanship.

The muralist will be using oil based exterior paints. This standard has been met.

A monument should be of original design, and public art should be an original work of art (one of a kind) or reproduced in editions of less than 200.

The mural is based on a similar design that is located on an interior wall of the existing business. The applicant did not provide an exact design of the mural but indicated that it would be a simpler version. The applicant indicated that the artist does not typically paint murals. Based on the artist's website, she appears to primarily work with canvas paintings. In speaking to another muralist, staff understands muralists tend to draw on the wall and then paint, while those who primarily work with canvas will freehand the artwork.

Monuments and public art should not replicate an original monument or work of art.

The mural is based on a similar design that is located on an interior wall of the existing business. The applicant did not provide an exact design of the mural but indicated that it would be a simpler version.

Monuments and public art should be designed to complement and enhance the site in which it is located. It should not compete with, dominate or encroach upon existing monuments, public art, or buildings.

The surrounding neighborhood is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be respectful of the architectural, historical, geographical, and social/cultural context of the site.

The surrounding neighborhood is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

Monuments and public art should be compatible in scale, materials, and form with its context. Context includes the buildings, monuments, public art, landscaping and open space to which the monument or public art is visually related.

The surrounding neighborhood is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

The artist's name may be incorporated into the design but should be in a discreet location on the work of art.

The applicant should clarify where the artist's name will be located.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have completed projects of similar size and scale in the public arena and be able to provide appropriate documentation.

The muralist painted a similar design on the interior of the existing business. Based on the website, other work appears to be on canvas.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should have an excellent reputation and be able to provide verifiable references attesting to the quality of work.

The applicant used the muralist previously, but there are no indications that she has an excellent reputation nor were any references provided.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to provide images or samples of existing similar monuments or works of art.

The applicant provided an image of the mural on the interior of the building but neither the applicant nor the muralist have any other samples of murals.

The designer and/or fabricator (for a monument) and the artist (for public art) should be able to demonstrate the ability to meet the proposed timeframe.

The applicant indicated that the muralist would only need 2 days to complete the work, but there is no information available to determine if that is valid.

Mural Policy. *Statement of Purpose: The purpose of regulating murals is to ensure the continued visual aesthetic of the community, by establishing a process for compatible artistic and creative expression through murals in appropriate locations and designs. The review criteria seek to establish guidance as to the compatibility and appropriateness of the theme, location and design of murals, with minimal intrusion into artistic expression and/or the substantive, personal or social/political expressive content of the artwork. Murals will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.*

Theme.

The theme of the mural should be respectful of the greater context of the community, including historic and socio-cultural contexts.

Per the applicant, the mural will pay homage to the medically underserved and politically underrepresented women of the community.

The content of a mural is protected under the laws of free speech.

This standard has been met.

The mural must comply with Georgia obscenity laws, as defined by O.C.G.A. § 16-12-80, and cannot depict sexual conduct or sexual explicit nudity, as defined on O.C.G.A. § 36-60-3, nor advertise any activity illegal under the laws of Georgia or the United States.

This standard has been met.

Location.

The installation of a mural should complement and enhance the building and be incorporated architecturally into the façade.

The surrounding neighborhood and proposed location of the mural is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

The location of the mural on the building should not cover or detract from significant or character-defining architectural features.

The building is not historically designated nor is it eligible. This standard is not applicable.

Murals should enhance and complement the character of the surrounding neighborhood.

The surrounding neighborhood is low-scale with primarily small businesses in what appears to be originally single- and multi-family buildings. The mural will enhance the area by bringing brightly colored art to a rather bland area. This standard has been met.

Murals should not be located in an area which may cause undue distraction to drivers thereby creating a safety hazard.

The mural will be located on private property and not create any travel hazards. This standard has been met.

Generally murals should be located in mixed use and commercial areas.

This standard is met.

Neighborhood support or opposition should be taken into consideration.

The applicant indicated that surrounding businesses are supportive of the mural. No documentation was provided to verify this claim.

Murals should be sited far enough away from other murals as to allow the visitor proper appreciation of each individually and not cause visual clutter to the block face.

There are murals several blocks away and the proposed mural will not cause visual clutter. This standard has been met.

Murals are not permitted on unpainted historic materials.

The proposed surface is already painted, and the building is not historic nor is it eligible. This standard has been met.

The treatment and application of murals located on any historic material should follow all relevant Preservation Briefs as published by the National Park Service Technical Preservation Services.

The proposed surface is already painted, and the building is not historic nor is it eligible. This standard has been met.

If proposed for a strictly residential area, neighborhood support is required.

The property is located in a commercial area. This standard has been met.

Design.

The scale of the mural should be appropriate to the building and the site.

This standard has been met.

The mural should be appropriate within the context of the surrounding neighborhood.

The proposed location for the mural is a painted, stucco surface. The placement of the mural is not inappropriate and will brighten an otherwise bland area. This standard has been met.

The mural should be an original design.

The applicant indicated that the mural would be a simplified version of the extant mural on the interior of the business.

Sponsor and artist names may be incorporated but should be discreet and not exceed 5% of the design.

The applicant should clarify where the artist's name will be located.

Paint utilized should be of superior quality and intended for exterior use. Generally reflective, neon, and fluorescent paints should not be used.

The muralist will be using oil based exterior paints. This standard has been met.

If intended to be permanent, the mural should have a weatherproof and vandalism-resistant coating.

This information was not provided by the applicant.

Artist Qualifications.

The artist should have completed projects of similar size and scale in the public arena and be able to provide appropriate documentation.

This documentation was not provided. The only mural noted was on the interior of the existing business.

The artist should have an excellent reputation and be able to provide verifiable references attesting to the quality of work.

The applicant used the muralist previously, but there are no indications that she has an excellent reputation nor were any references provided.

The artist should be able to provide images or samples of existing similar monuments or works of art.

The muralist painted a similar one on the interior of the existing business. Based on the website, other work appears to be on canvas.

The artist should be able to demonstrate the ability to meet the proposed timeframe.

The applicant indicated that the muralist would only need 2 days to complete the work, but there is no information available to determine if that is valid.

Funding.

Budget. *The Mayor and Aldermen do not fund new markers, monuments, or works of art. The applicant is fully responsible for funding the design, construction, installation, and any necessary landscaping, paving, or lighting involved with a new marker, monument, or work of art.*

The applicant must provide a realistic budget in Part II Final Design and Funding. The budget should be based on cost estimates provided by the manufacturer, artist, installer and/or contractor, as appropriate. The budget should include funding goals and deadlines. Should funding goals and deadlines fail to be met, the HSMC may, at its sole discretion, reconsider the application. The applicant must be capable of raising the necessary funding. Construction of the monument or installation of the work of art will not begin until all of the funding has been secured.

The applicant did not provide any information on funding.

Escrow Payment. *All markers, monuments and public art erected on public property become the property of the Mayor and Aldermen. The Mayor and Aldermen assume responsibility for the future maintenance and upkeep of the marker, monument or artwork. Therefore, an initial Escrow Payment is required of the applicant subsequent to approval of the application. The Mayor and Aldermen, or their designee, will determine the appropriate Escrow Payment and will notify the applicant. The Escrow Payment must be paid prior to construction/installation of the monument or public art. Any marker, monument or artwork erected on private property is the responsibility of the property owner.*

The mural will be located on private property. This section is not applicable.

Staff Report - MURAL
File No. 26-001708-PA
810 East 66th Street
May 7, 2026

Public Notice. *As required in the Master Plan and Guidelines, written notice was sent to all property owners, and the neighborhood association, within 200 feet of the subject property.*

MPC staff sent out notice as required. This standard has been met.

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STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

CONTINUE the request to install an 8'X8' mural on the building located at 810 East 66th Street to allow the applicant time to:

- **Provide a mock-up of the proposed design of the mural.**
- **Provide other examples of the artist's exterior murals and associated addresses.**
- **Provide written references for the artist.**

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.