

Shreveport Historic Preservation Commission – Annual Report for FY2022

Purpose: The Shreveport Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) per Section 36.36, Chapter 36 submits the following annual report of its activities conducted during FY2022 (October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2022) to Mayor Perkins and City Council members.

HPC Structure Status for FY2022:

- *Commissioners:* are non-paid, performing a public service, all residing in Shreveport. For FY2022, HPC consisted of:
 - o Five regular Commissioners: Dr. Gary Joiner, Mr. Billy Wayne, Dr. Cheryl White, Mr. William Lane Callaway, and Ms. Jazmin Jernigan (confirmed and moved from Associate Commissioner to regular Commissioner in May).
 - o Two Associate Commissioners – Ms. Verni Howard and Ms. Mischa Farrell, were both confirmed and took oaths of office on September 20).
- *Staff:* Provided by Metropolitan Planning Commission (MPC) included the Ex-Officio, who remained Mr. Adam Baily throughout the entire period. Planners from MPC included Mr. James Djamba (until January), Ms. Emily Trant, and Mr. Walter Johnson (starting March) – who advised applicants / property owners in preparing Certificate of Demolition, Certificate of Appropriateness, or Determination of No Material Effect action for HPC consideration.
- *Legal Advising:* Assistant City Attorney, Ms. Manushka Gracia-Desgagne served the entire period of this report.

Certified Local Government (CLG): The City of Shreveport through the HPC was granted the CLG designation in October 2014 by the United States Department of the Interior / National Park Service. HPC has continued this certification through several normal renewal periods every three years, thus keeping the City of Shreveport in good standing and allowed to perform the following CLG oversight duties and functions working closely with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Baton Rouge:

- Review and comment on all nominations from Shreveport to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), on all actions impacting NRHP-listed properties in Shreveport, and as a consulting / interested party as part of CLG due diligence duties.
- Comment on Section 106 requests as covered by the National Historic Preservation Act to determine impact of proposed construction on NRHP-listed historic districts / historic properties as well as impact on historic / archeological-sensitive areas outside of an established historic district.
- For FY2022, Section 106 actions included:
 - o Section 106 Notification #6517662 for a small cell wireless facility vicinity 560 Merrick Street; there was no adverse historic or archeological impact of this project.
 - o Section 106 – construction of a 135 foot in height Verizon telecommunications tower in vacant lot near 9432 Kingston Road; no impact on historic or archeological sensitive areas.

- o Section 106 – construction in a vacant lot of a 185 foot in height Skyway Towers LLC telecommunications tower just off North Hearne Ave; no impact on historic or archeological sensitive areas.

HPC Meetings Conducted: HPC conducted 12 regular monthly meetings with 10 conducted in Council Chambers and two in the Council Chambers Conference Room. For these meetings; a total of 42 visitors attended. Public notification and agenda for each meeting was properly posted in accordance to state public meeting laws. Each HPC meeting conducted resulted in Minutes being written and subsequently approved by the Commissioners.

Summary of Certificate of Demolition and Certificates of Appropriateness Applications: The following table shows the number of Certificates of Appropriateness (COA) and Certificates of Demolition (COD) considered and recommended by HPC for NRHP-listed property or per the Uniform Development Code’s General Historic Preservation Overlay District (Overlay District).

<i>Historic District</i>	<i>COA New Construction</i>	<i>COA Alteration</i>	<i>COA Rehabilitation</i>	<i>COD Demolition</i>
Oakland Cemetery	--	--	--	--
SHV Commercial	2	2	2	1
St Paul’s Bottom	--	1	--	2
Fairfield	--	1	--	--
Highland	4	5	2	4
South Highland	7	--	--	--
Overlay District	--	--	1	1
<i>Total</i>	13	9	5	8

Determination of No Material Effect:

- For FY2022, the HPC Chair reviewed 28 requests for Determination of No Material Effect, submitted to MPC by the owner or contractor of a listed historic property.
- Determination of No Material Effect as considered by MPC involves a review by the HPC Chair. The Determination allows the owner of a NRHP-listed historic property to conduct normal repair and replace activities on the property without triggering a formal COA request to the HPC. Review by the HPC Chair reinforces HPC’s due diligence responsibilities for historical preservation.

Summary of Activities: Following is a summary of activities in advising, assisting, and furthering the historical heritage within the City of Shreveport. Items and projects listed below are annotated when started, since some were continuing from previous fiscal years.

- Efforts began in FY2022 to upgrade the NRHP-listed Holy Trinity Catholic Church and the Strand Theatre to National Landmark designation. This upgrade effort takes several years to accomplish and HPC is working closely with SHPO on both actions.
- Nomination to the NRHP began in FY2022 for the Pump House built in 1930 at Amis Water Works. This nomination effort includes a Historic American Engineering Record application as well. Expect this nomination to be finished in 2023.

- ❑ Nomination to the NRHP began in FY2022 for the Fair Park Christian Church built in 1946 and located at 3401 Greenwood Road. Expect this nomination to be finished in 2023.
- ❑ HPC advised in FY2022, Shreveport's Department of Community Development in the potential relocation and rehabilitation of NRHP-listed CC Antoine House (Allendale Neighborhood) after a property transfer from SPAR. This effort was coordinated with SHPO. The proposed re-location site would be on the property of the Civil Rights Museum on Williamson Street. Unfortunately, the CC Antoine House was destroyed in a fire on May 13. HPC collaborated with Shreveport Fire Department and provided documentation to SHPO to begin delisting the destroyed property off the National Register.
- ❑ HPC continued to work with Department of Community Development on the Civil Rights Museum repurposing of the NRHP-listed Old Galilee Church, started several years ago.
- ❑ HPC in FY2022 worked with the Office of the Mayor to get the title transferred to the Chamber of Commerce for the NRHP-listed Shreve Memorial Library (Shreveport Commercial Historic District); so timely preservation grant applications could be submitted.
- ❑ In FY2022, HPC began working with SHPO on the future nomination of the Lakeside Neighborhood Historic District to the National Register. HPC is also beginning concept on neighborhood historic districts for Allendale, Cooper Road, and Broadmoor.
- ❑ HPC advised MPC in FY2022 on proposed construction of a Dunkin Donut near northeast corner of Kings Highway and Thornhill vicinity of Highland Historic District and adjacent to the NRHP-listed Kings Highway Christian Church. Advising was on impact to nearby historical properties.
- ❑ HPC in FY2022, advised the Oakland Cemetery Association on the placement of a monument within the Oakland Cemetery Historic District honoring the Shreveport victims of the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1873. Expect this project to be done in 2023.
- ❑ In FY2022, HPC collaborated with Shreveport Green on its Urban Farm project in the St Paul's Bottoms Historic District.
- ❑ HPC had continued to advise since FY2021, the City Engineer on the look, scale and color of new traffic poles at the intersection of Kings Highway and Line Avenue. HPC advised the new traffic poles reflect those installed years ago at the intersection of Fairfield Avenue and Common Street.
- ❑ HPC has since FY2020 continuously advised the property owners of NRHP-listed Antioch Church (St Paul's Bottoms Historic District) on the rehabilitation and restoration of this historic church. HPC has advised on and advocated for historic preservation grants.
- ❑ Site visit was conducted on June 3, 2022 to make an assessment on the rehabilitation of the partially collapsed building at 114 Texas Street (Shreveport Commercial Historic District). A representative of the property owner and a certified architect joined Commissioner Callaway in surveying the property. The property had partially-collapsed in May 2010 and once HPC came into being in August 2013, HPC began to make inquiries. Property was bought at auction in November 2019 but the new owner did not gain the title until April/May 2020. The site survey findings on June 3, had 11 favorable considerations for the restoration, rehabilitation, and repurposing of the property and expressed concerned on potential harm to adjacent historic building due to sharing a party wall between the two buildings. The final report of the site visit was provided to the Office of the Mayor and presented to HPC Commissioners. Although the property owner had support and pending grants from the State of Louisiana, unfortunately the building was destroyed in a fire on September 21. HPC provided the document to SHPO for future delisting action.

- ❑ Site visit was conducted on August 16, 2022 to 400 Commerce Street (Shreveport Commercial Historic District) to better understand the recently constructed outdoor café as part of this historic building. The new addition was built without obtaining a COA and had several areas of safety and fire concerns as well. Situation was resolved in FY2022.
- ❑ HPC has advised several times during FY2022, on proposed art murals to be placed on Non-Contributing buildings within the Shreveport Commercial Historic District. Murals can adversely impact the future listing of an eligible historic building to the National Register and can impact on any historic tax credit application. Specifically advised on the Juneteenth mural (331 Milam Street) and the Community Enrichment Mural Project at (327 Crockett Street).
- ❑ For the past several years, HPC had continued to collect history data on historic buildings for the Civil Rights Heritage Trail.
- ❑ During FY2022 HPC continued to collaborate with Property Standards.

Special Recognition and Appreciation:

A special thanks to Alan Clarke, Director of MPC and to the Office of City Attorney for their assistance and collaboration throughout FY2020. To MPC planners – Adam Bailey, James Djamba, Emily Trant, and Walter Johnson for their assistance, expertise, and contributions and for adding documents to the HPC webpage. Special recognition to Mr. James Djamba (MPC Planner) for several years of outstanding assistance to HPC.

A special thank you to both Assistant City Attorneys; Ms. Manushka Gracia-Desgagne and Ms. Kristina Douglas.

A special thank you to Ms. Cheredith Rhone (SPAR), who posted paper HPC agendas beginning in FY2022. And a special thank you to Ms. Delores Baker (SPAR), who posted the paper HPC agendas for several years before her retirement in FY2022.

This annual report was approved during HPC meeting conducted on October 18, 2022.