



PREPARED FOR THE LANDMARKS COMMISSION

Project Name: Madison Historic Markers Program
Legistar File ID # [89946](#)
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Background

The City approved a new historic markers program in 2024. Staff has developed language for the first phase of markers. We are consulting with tribal partners for the markers on Indigenous heritage and will return with those at a future meeting. The text for the markers must be brief, but accurate. The marker will include space for a QR code that will allow for more information on these topics. Below is the draft text with a mock-up of what those markers could look like. The QR codes shown in the renderings are not active and are just representational.

Draft Text

Outdoor Markets

- **Outdoor Markets:** In 1872, with horses banned from the square, farmers established a market here. Markets have grown to support Madison's economic diversity.
 - **Potential Location:** E Washington and N Pinckney Street



First African-American Neighborhood

- **Hill's Grocery:** One of Madison's first and longest operating Black-owned businesses was located here during most of the Twentieth Century.
 - **Potential Location:** Dayton Street at existing sign location



- **First Black Neighborhood:** Entrepreneurs & activists created a vibrant community for themselves here on Dayton Street.
 - **Potential Location:** Dayton Street at existing sign location



Geology

- **Glacial Lakes:** 14,000 years ago, a 1,600-foot tall glacier towered over the area. 6,000 years of movement and melting created our chain of lakes.
 - **Potential Locations:** Olin Park, Picnic Point, Warner Park



Staff Recommendation

Motion to approve the text for the historic markers as proposed.