

# Historic Preservation Design Review

February 26, 2015

HP-15-04, 219 W. Calhoun St. (City)

## I. THE REQUEST

**Applicant:** Charles Bostic

**Status of the Applicant:** Representative for property owner, Grace Baptist Church

**Request:** Design Review for signage at driveway entrances

**Location:** 219 W. Calhoun St.

**Present Use/Zoning:** Residential / R-6

**Tax Map Reference:** 228-05-05-026

**Adjacent Property Land Use and Zoning:**  
North – Residential / R-6 & R-15  
South – W. Calhoun St. & Residential / R-6  
East – Residential / R-9  
West – Residential / R-9 & R-6

## II. BACKGROUND

The applicant is requesting design review approval for signs placed at each of the driveway entrances to the church at 219 W. Calhoun St.

**Below:** Existing Church Façade



**Architectural/Historic Context**

This structure is an attractive church that was constructed in 1984 in the Greek Revival Style, with a dome. It is located within the Hampton Park Design Review District, and as such, any proposed exterior changes to the property or building must be reviewed and approved by the Historic Preservation Design Review Committee.

**Scope of Work:**

The photos below show the signage that has been installed at the entrances to the church:



There are a total of six of the blue signs placed on both sides of the three entrance driveways to the church. Furthermore, the signs appear to be located in the right of way for W. Calhoun St. If the sign design is approved by this Board and the signs are confirmed to be inside the right a way, the signs will then be required to be moved out of the right away to comply with the City’s Sign Ordinance per Section 8.h.5.

**Design Review Guidelines:**

**#19) SIGN COLORS SHOULD COMPLEMENT OVERALL BUILDING COLORS**

**b. Dark backgrounds with light letters are historically appropriate for sign colors.**

**#23) TRADITIONAL LETTERING IS RECOMMENDED**

**b. Serif style letters are appropriate and their use should be encouraged.**

- Although the signs are blue background with white lettering, the color does not complement the overall building colors or the district. The other commercial signage along W. Calhoun St. is dominated by muted earth tones and subdued colors.
- The font is sans serif, a modern style that does not reflect the traditional style of the church architecture.

***#45) SIGNS IN RESIDENTIAL AND OFFICE AREAS SHALL FOLLOW THE SIGN CODE***

**a. Signs erected in the residential or professional historic areas shall follow provisions of the City's Sign Regulation in the Zoning Ordinance.**

Signs along East West Calhoun Street are a mixture of various types of materials, design, and construction. The majority of signs used in these areas are freestanding signs on metal poles or on brick piers.

Signs shall not be higher than 5 feet and shall not exceed six square feet. These signs do meet these regulations.

**The design of signs, lettering, and materials should follow guidelines previously set forth for freestanding signs in the commercial area.**

- The signs do not reflect the design guidelines for the downtown commercial area.

**III. STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the church submit a sign package that considers reducing the number of signs, and replacing what has been installed with a design and color scheme more compatible with the Hampton Park Historic District. Any signs approved for this location should also be placed outside the SCDOT right of way.

**IV. DRAFT MOTION**

I move that the Sumter Historic Preservation Design Review Committee defer action on this issue pending submittal of a sign package.

I move that the Sumter Historic Preservation Design Review Committee approve HP-15-04.

**V. HISTORIC PRESERVATION – FEBRUARY 26, 2015**

The Sumter Historic Preservation Design Review Committee at its meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2015, deferred this request, directed that the current signs be removed and that a new sign package that is more compatible with the Hampton Park Historic District be submitted to the Planning Department staff for review.