

Certificate of Appropriateness

Filing Date: September 25, 2025
Case Number: **25-49-HPC**
Request: **Certificate of Appropriateness**
Project Address: 630 Commerce Street, Shreveport, LA 71101
Historic District: Downtown Shreveport Historic District
Zoning: D-1-E (Downtown Entertainment Sub-District)
Applicant: Adam Palmer / Wieland
MPC Review by: Walter Johnson, Community Planning Division
walter.johnson@shreveportla.gov
HPC Meeting Date: October 21, 2025

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

630 Commerce Street is a two-story commercial building located on the corner of Crockett and Commerce Streets & listed as a Contributing structure inside the Downtown Shreveport Historic district.

This location has served the public as a bar/night club under various names over the years. This building may best be classified as a “Two-Part Commercial Block Style” with Italianate influences, including features such as:

- Two-story brick construction possibly designed for mixed use
- Flat roof with decorative brick cornice/parapet
- Fluted Corinthian style cast iron columns (some of which have been partially removed)
- Tall narrow upper story windows with segmental (slightly arched) brick lintels and keystones.
- Street facing ground floor storefront apparently replaced with glass block in later renovations.

PROJECT SCOPE

The proposed project will be the conversion of the existing bar’s front outer façade. This building reflects a contemporary commercial/entertainment architectural style strongly influenced by Art Deco Revival and Modern Nightclub design. Key elements of this conversion include:

- Neon Signage and Lighting. The large, illuminated sign and colorful LED lighting echo Art Deco and Streamline Moderne aesthetics, often revived in entertainment venues.
 - Neon additions / accents added to the roofline to follow the building’s eastern and southern profile.
 - Addition of a mounted multicolored mural facing south, with consideration as to disturbing any underlying historic brickwork.
 - Sleek, Glossy Surfaces. The glass doors and black polished wall panels give a modern, upscale look of late 20th-21st century nightclub design.
 - Bold, geometric shapes. The signage and lighting create a sense of symmetry and geometric rhythm, reminiscent of past Art Deco influences that were popularized in the 1920’s.
 - Digital message board integration. The massive LED screen facade is a distinct 21st century urban entertainment element blending its’ technology into the front-facing architecture. Renderings indicate that this digital signage will have a slight wraparound to the south side of the building face; specifics for dimensions, support bracketing and/or mounting have not been fully detailed at this time.
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OTHER ACTIONS REQUIRED

The proposed project will require a Building Permit from the City of Shreveport Permits Division.

The proposed project will also require a **Variance** from the **Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA)** for the addition of the dimensional digital signboard above the main entrance on Commerce Street.

APPROVAL STANDARDS – Certificate of Appropriateness.

Per Shreveport UDC Article 21, Section 21.5, D. Approval Standards, for a Certificate of Appropriateness:

It is not the intention of these regulations to require the reconstruction or restoration of individual or original buildings and/or prohibit the removal or demolition of the same. Upon review of the application for a Certificate of Appropriateness, the Shreveport HPC and the Executive Director of the Shreveport-Caddo MPC, or his/her designee, must balance the following standards in making any recommendation and/or determination for approval:

1. *Whether the proposed activity involving exterior features and/or exterior architectural features is harmonious with the special character of the HPOD.*

MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity IS HARMONIOUS with the special character of the HPOD.

2. *Whether the proposed activity will adversely affect any exterior feature and/or exterior architectural feature.*

MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity WILL NOT adversely affect the exterior or architectural feature(s) and essence of the structure.

3. *Whether the proposed activity will adversely affect the historic character of the landmark, site, building, structure, landscape and/or object.*

MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity WILL NOT adversely affect the historic character of the structure and area.

4. *In considering new construction, if a contemporary design is used, the architectural styles from particular historic periods are not required; however, a determination regarding whether the contemporary design is harmonious with the character of the HPOD is required.*

MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the architectural style IS HARMONIOUS with the characteristics of the HPOD. The new addition(s) will retain the same architectural elements in color, siding and texture.

5. *Whether the proposed activity is in compliance with the design standards contained in Article 4.*

MPC STAFF COMMENTS: MPC staff finds that the proposed activity IS IN COMPLIANCE with the design standards contained in Article 4 of the Shreveport UDC.

MPC STAFF ANALYSIS

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

Based on the analysis of the approval standards, MPC staff finds that the proposed repairs and additions are appropriate for **630 Commerce Street**. Therefore, MPC staff recommends *Approval with Stipulations* of this requested Certificate of Appropriateness.

STIPULATIONS:

Approval of a Variance for the Commerce Street oversized digital signboard.

MPC STAFF RECOMMENDATION

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

MPC staff recommends **APPROVAL** of the requested **Certificate of Appropriateness** as it appears to meet the approval standards of Shreveport UDC *Article 21, Section 21.5, D*.

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit A. Front Façade View
- Exhibit B. Zoning Map
- Exhibit C. Vicinity Map
- Exhibit D. Project Scope

HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION (HPC) RECOMMENDATION (September 16, 2025)

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

MPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S DECISION (September 16, 2025)

CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS.

Executive Director Signature:	Date:
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Exhibit A. Front Facade View

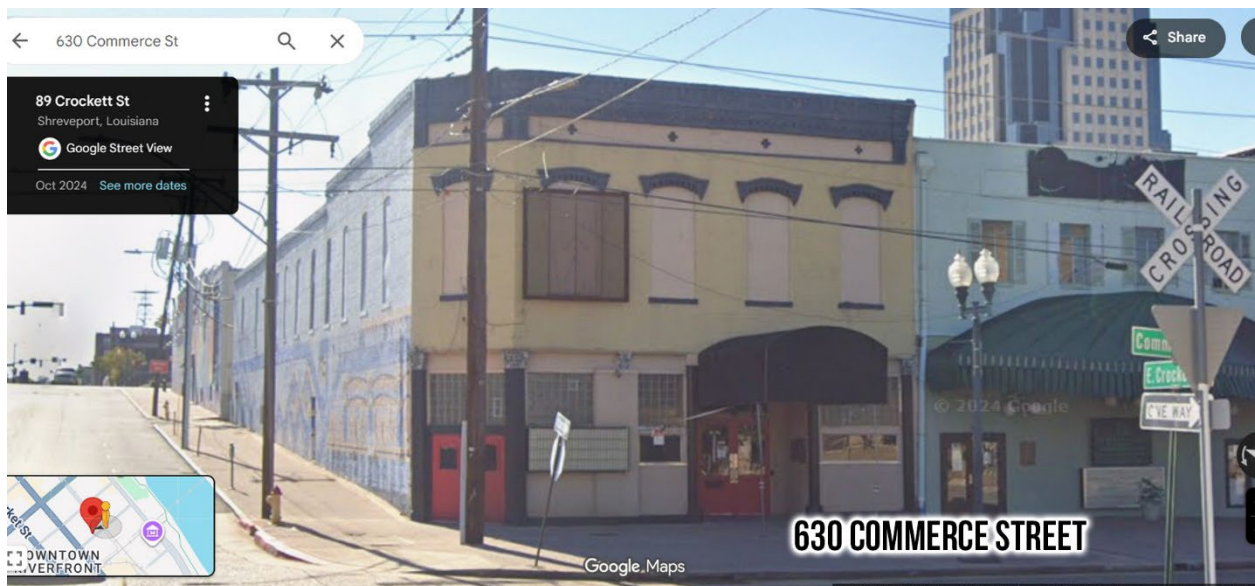


Exhibit B. Zoning Map

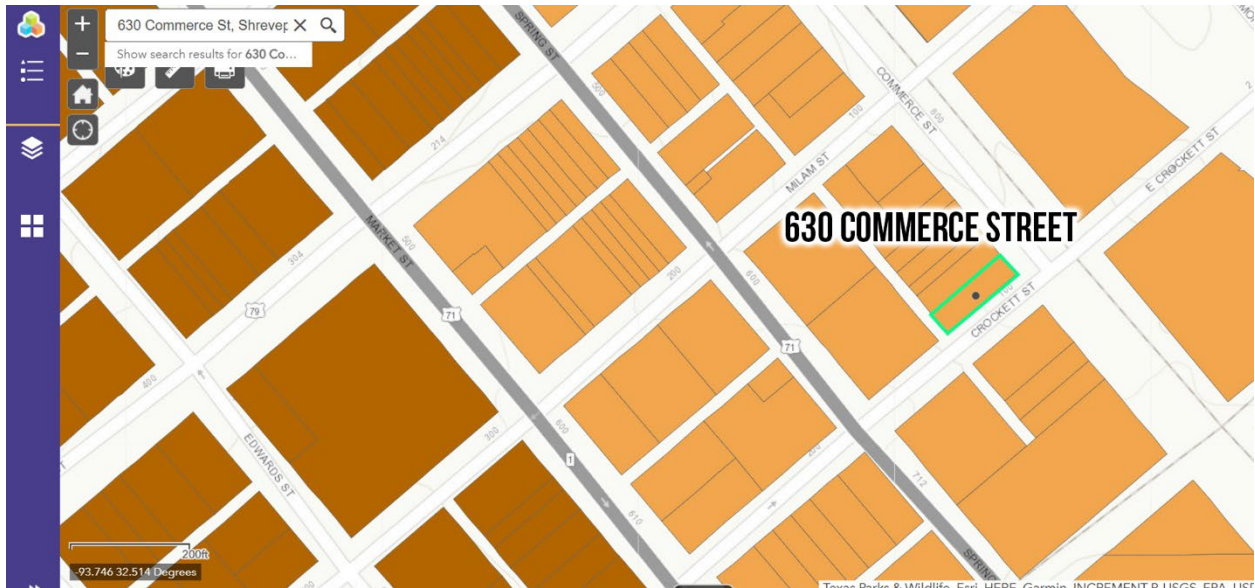


Exhibit C. Vicinity Map

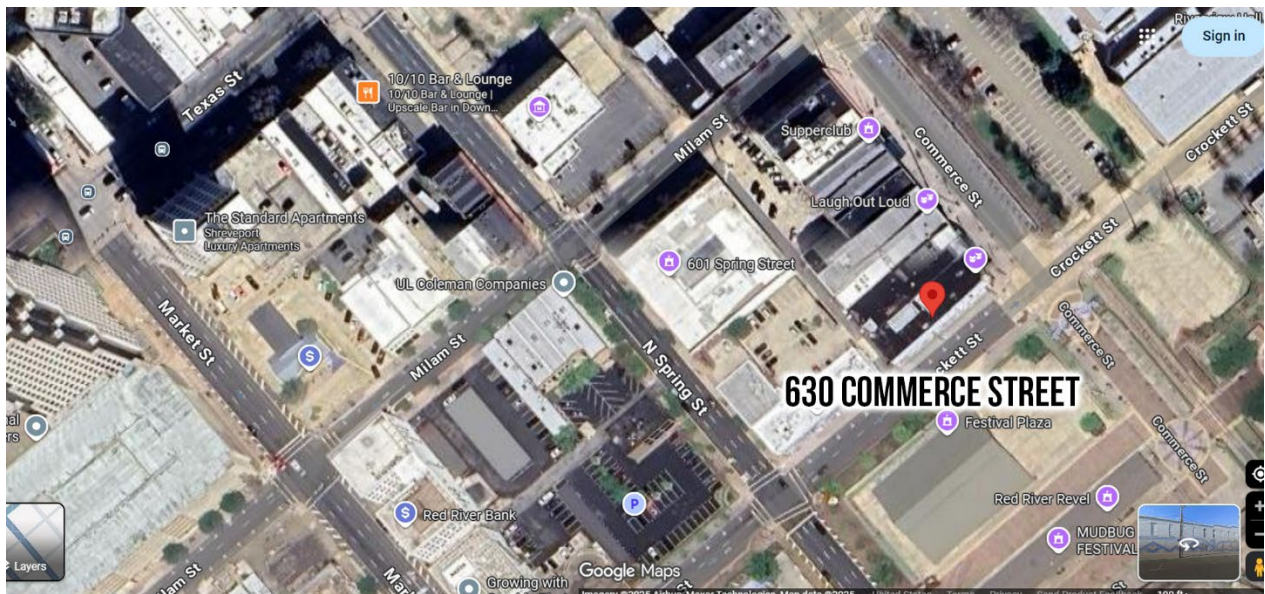


Exhibit D. Project Scope

