

# **Staff Report**

### **Design Review Board**

File Number: 1-B-22-DT

Meeting: 1/19/2022

**Project:** Supreme Court Building Signage

Applicant: Robin Easter

### **Property Information**

**Location:** 625 Cumberland Ave. **Parcel ID** 94 M C 01503

**Zoning:** DK (Downtown Knoxville)

**Description:** 

Mid-twentieth-century, Art Deco-style State Supreme Court building clad in Tennessee pink marble with an adjacent six-story addition towards the rear.

### **Description of Work**

Level I Sign

New signage package for adaptive reuse of Tennessee State Supreme Court building and adjacent office tower. Signage includes three new signs: two wall signs and one projecting/blade sign.

Wall sign 1: to be located on the left side of east elevation (original building façade, fronting Locust Street). Wall sign measures 3.5' tall by 10' wide (35 sq. ft.) and features dimensional metal gold script lettering, which will be attached to the exterior limestone cladding.

Wall sign 2: to be located on the right side of west elevation (fronting Henley Street). Wall sign to measure 2.5' tall by 7.5' wide (18.75 sq. ft.) and features dimensional metal gold script lettering, attached to the exterior cladding.

Projecting sign: to be located on southwest corner of building (fronting Henley Street and Cumberland). Projecting sign measures 24.5' tall overall (19' tall letters with 5.5' of total additional detail on top and bottom) and 3' wide (73.5' sq. ft.). Sign features internally illuminated letters with additional lighting via gold tube lights with opaque white minimal bulbs at the end.

### **Applicable Design Guidelines**

**Downtown Design Guidelines** 

- B. The Traditional Grid District
- 1. Signs
- 1a. Wall signs on sign boards that are above a transom or first story and mounted flush to the building façade.
- 1b. Projecting signs of modest size (9 square feet, maximum); a larger sign must be approved by the board.
- 1c. Window signs, less than 30 percent coverage, including neon signs
- 1d. Building name sign and /or building directory

### **Comments**

The property is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places so the Historic Resources section of the

guidelines does not apply. The building is considered "eligible" for the National Register.

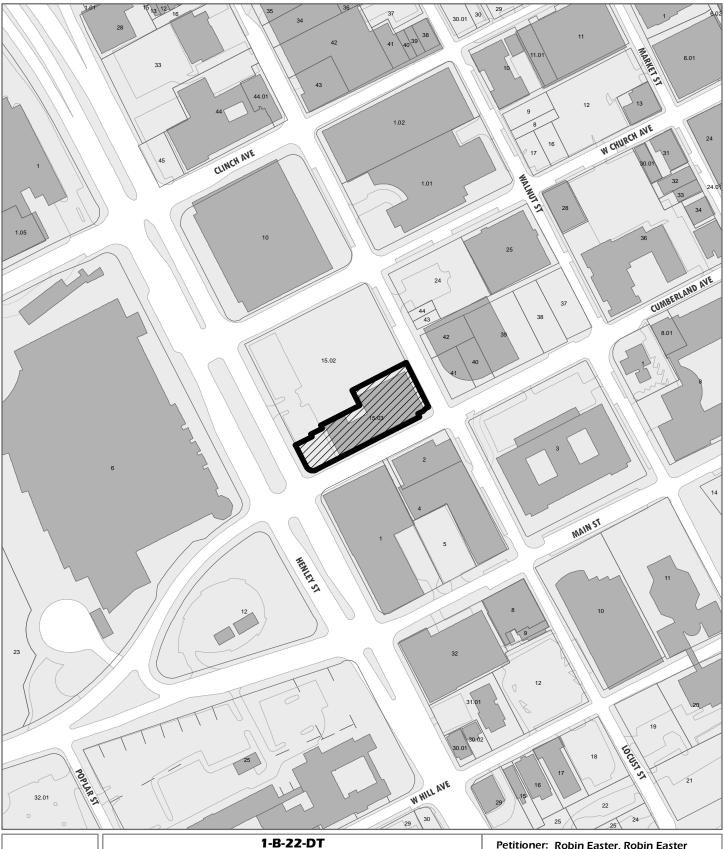
While the projecting sign is significantly larger than the 9 square feet recommended in the design guidelines, it is appropriately scaled to the multi-story building and intended to be visible from Henley Street and Cumberland Avenue.

One wall sign is proposed for the east elevation, which is the original façade of the Tennessee State Supreme Court building. The sign is proposed to be fixed directly to the historic limestone panels, which will require multiple new connection points (most likely holes drilled into the wall) to receive the sign. No existing holes are currently visible on the area to receive the sign. The limestone panels also have very narrow

"joints" which would most likely not suffice as connection points for the new sign. As the limestone cladding is the primary character-defining feature of the building, all efforts should be made to reduce the number of connection points for the proposed wall sign, or the sign could be redesigned as a projecting or window sign to reduce impact on the building's historic materials. The applicant should provide information on how they intend to reduce the number of connection points/new holes drilled into the exterior limestone veneer, or provide a revised sign design. Such information will be also relevant to the wall sign fronting Henley Street.

#### Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of Certificate 1-B-22-DT, subject to one condition: 1) applicant provide revised wall sign proposal which reduces the number of connection points/new holes drilled into the exterior limestone veneer, or provide a revised sign design which minimizes the effect on historic limestone veneer elements.



### DOWNTOWN DESIGN REVIEW BOARD

## APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATE OF APPROPRIATENESS

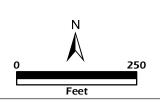


625 Cumberland Ave.

Level 1: Sign

Original Print Date: 1/10/2022 Revised: Knoxville/Knox County Planning - Downtown Design Review Board

# Petitioner: Robin Easter, Robin Easter Design





## DESIGN REVIEW REQUEST

☐ DOWNTOWN DESIGN (DK)

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Meeting Date (if applicable)	File Numbe	r(s)	
should be directed to the approved contact	ct listed below.		
Company			
City	State	Zip	
nail			
Owner Address	Ow	vner Phone	
berland Ave	094MC01503		
Parcel I	D		
Zoning			
Lindsay Crockett	1.	1.3.22	
Please Print	Da		
ricase i iliit		te	
	Architect/Landscape Architect  Company  City  Owner Address  aberland Ave  Parcel I  Zoning	Architect/Landscape Architect  Company  City  State  Owner Address Overland Ave  Parcel ID  Zoning  Lindsay Crockett  Tile Numbe  File Numbe  Owner Address Overland Ave  O94MC01503	

## **REQUEST**

DOWNTOWN DESIGN	Level 1:  ☐ Signs ☐ Alteration of an existing building/structure  Level 2: ☐ Addition to an existing building/structure  Level 3: ☐ Construction of new building/structure ☐ Site design, parking, plazas, lands are required Downtown Design attachment for more details. ☐ Brief description of work:			
HISTORIC ZONING				
INFILL HOUSING				
STAFF USE ONLY	ATTACHMENTS  Downtown Design Checklist  Historic Zoning Design Checklist  Infill Housing Design Checklist  ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS  Property Owners / Option Holders  Level 1: \$50 • Level 2: \$100 • Level 3: \$250 • Level 4: \$500	FEE 1:  FEE 2:  FEE 3:	TOTAL:	

## THE TRIBUTE

SIGN MOCKUPS

FOR DOVER SIGNATURE PROPERTIES

1-3-2022







#### ENTRANCE SIGN

2 qty

(1) Locust entrance 10 × 3.5 ft

(1) Henley entrance 7.5 × 2.5 ft

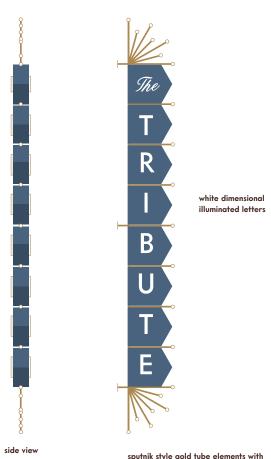
dimensional metal gold script lettering spot lit at night



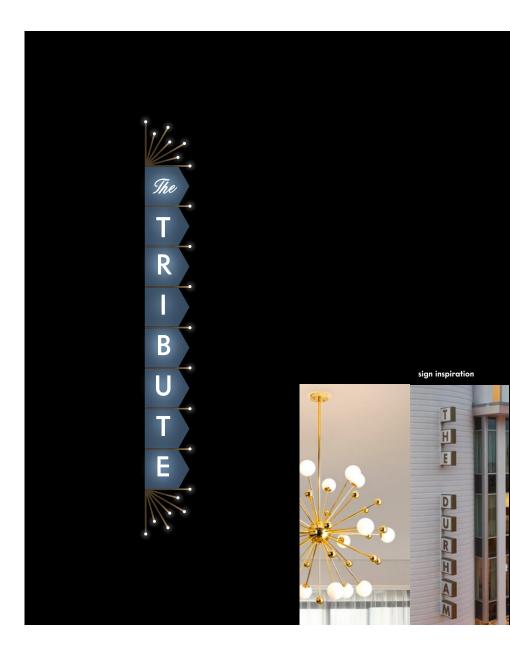


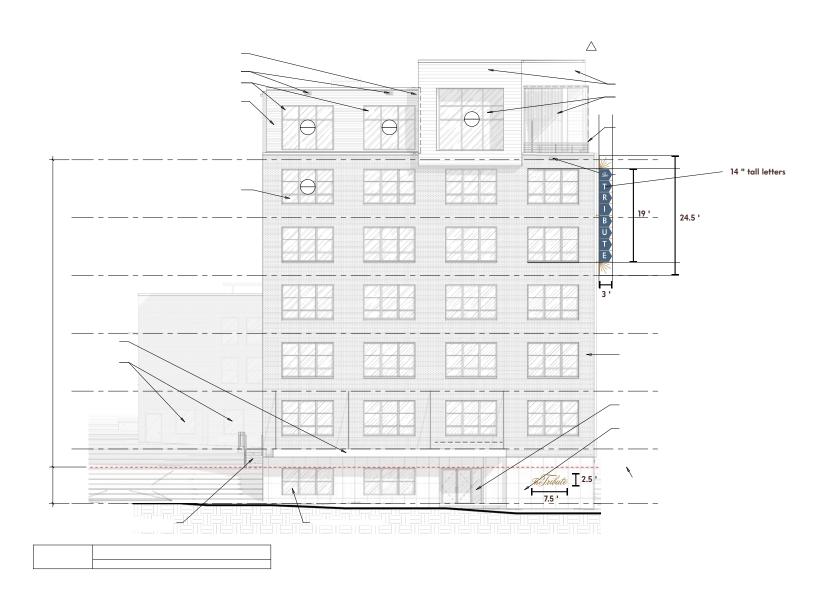
#### BLADE SIGN MOCKUP

1 qty 24.5'h × 3'w × 1'd

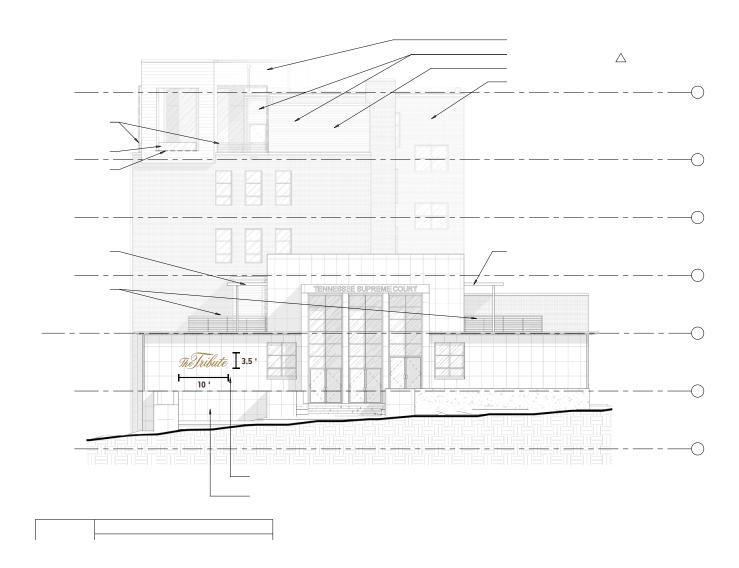


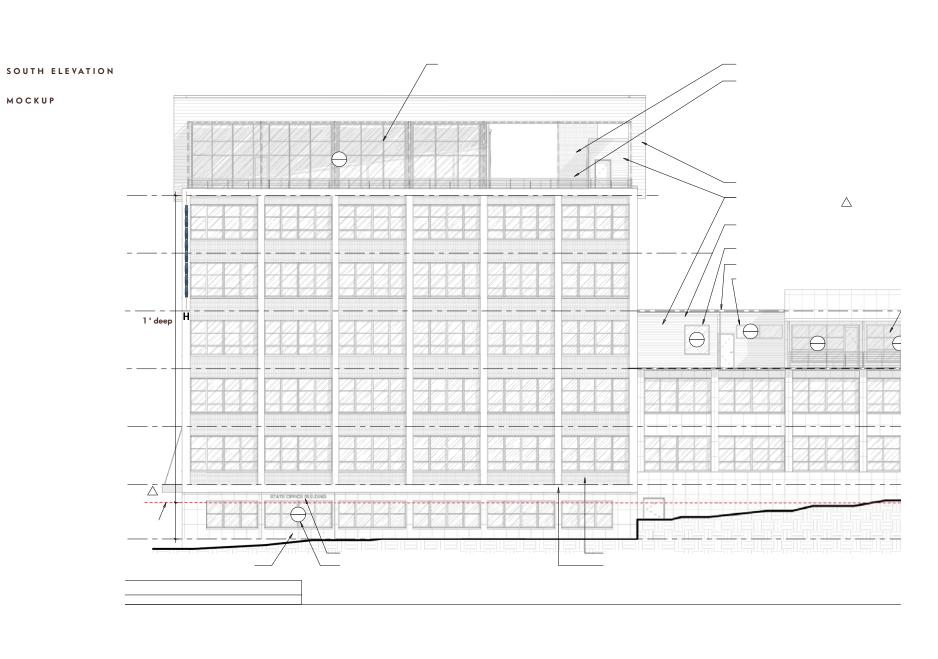
sputnik style gold tube elements with opaque white minimal bulbs on the end





#### MOCKUP





MOCKUP