

Sam Bass Marked For History

Already one of Texas' better marked historic cities, Round Rock may get yet another historic marker, this one pointing out the death site of Sam Bass.

Myreta Matthews, chairman of the Williamson County Historic Commission, told members of Round Rock's Historic Preservation Commission Monday that the Hoblitzelle Foundation is considering a grant to provide the marker, but that a site for it is needed.

According to Anice Reed, director of programs for the Texas Historical Commission, the Dallas foundation has made a grant to the state commission which provides research and fabrication of the markers, but installation costs must be otherwise provided.

Sam Bass, while probably Round Rock's best known historic figure, is the subject of no permanent marker other than his tombstone in Old Round Rock Cemetery.

Bass was shot on Main Street but managed to ride some distance from town before falling from his horse. He was found, badly wounded, and was returned to a small house which may have been used as a hotel, where he died.

That structure, according to Bass historians, was located about where the Mobil service station now exists on North Mays at Round Rock Avenue.

Miss Matthews told the city (See MARKER Page 12A)

SAM BASS MARKER MAY BE COMING—

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commission that the owners of the service station property do not want to

put the marker on their land and asked if the city would provide a place for it.

Commissioners suggested placing the marker either in the alleyway between the service station and the old telephone building (now a hair cutting shop) or under the water tower facing Round Rock Avenue.

The commission adopted a resolution favoring the city providing a place for the marker and City Mgr. Bob Bennett said he saw no problem in finding a city-owned site if needed.

The commission also urged moving the old Round Rock depot back to the downtown area as soon as possible.

The depot was sold by the Missouri-Pacific Railroad into private hands some years ago, but it was later

purchased by the Sam Bass Centennial Commission and donated to the city.

Larry Jackson, chairman of the historic commission, recommended that the building be moved as soon as possible to prevent further deterioration during the winter and to avoid possible vandalism.

Several sites have been recommended for the old depot, including under the water tower and across from the Palm House between the Post Office and the City Hall Annex.

Possible uses for it range from a museum to a city courtroom to a community activity room. The structure is about 20 feet by 35 feet in size.