

HISTORIC LANDSCAPE INITIATIVE
The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc.

SURVEY HINTS

The purpose of the Garden Club of Georgia's Historic Landscape Initiative is to identify, record, and promote the State's rich garden heritage. Using the publication *Garden History of Georgia: 1733-1933* as a starting point, Garden Club members will discover which of these significant gardens remain, which have been destroyed, and what changes have occurred to those still in existence. Survey documentation will be housed in the Cherokee Garden Library in Atlanta for use by anyone interested in Georgia's historic gardens and landscapes. The information identified through this project should be useful to scholars, writers, landscape architects, gardeners, and basically anyone who appreciates the diversity and beauty found in the State's garden and landscape history.

As you begin surveying Georgia's historic gardens, here are some tips.

1. Always contact the property owner before visiting a site. Be sure you have permission to walk through the garden. No trespassing, please!
2. Do not survey a garden by yourself. It's more fun for 2 or 3; work gets done more quickly, and it's safer.
3. Wear comfortable shoes and clothes. Be prepared for inclement weather. Be sure to take bottled water and bug repellent.
4. Don't forget your camera and survey form. If in doubt whether or not to take a picture, *take* the picture—better too much information than not enough. Also take a clipboard or something else that provides a hard surface on which you can write.
6. To research a garden, talk to the current owner and find out as much as possible about the changes that have occurred to the site. Ask if they knew previous owners. Visit your local library. Ask your librarian if vertical files are maintained that might mention old garden tours and/or have old newspaper clippings of interest. Check with your local historical society. Old photographs often show a wealth of information.
7. If no site plan is available for the garden, don't hesitate to draw a rough sketch. You don't have to be an artist. Attach a sketch to the survey form or use the back page after Item 10. Your sketch should show the spatial relationship of buildings and landscape features. It does not need to be drawn to scale. A north arrow would be helpful and should be included on the map.
9. Be sure to send your survey information to the following address:

Staci L. Catron, Director
Cherokee Garden Library
Kenan Research Center
Atlanta History Center, Margaret Mitchell House
130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW
Atlanta, GA 30305-1366
404.814.4046 fax: 404.814.4175
SCatron@AtlantaHistoryCenter.com

You are taking part in a project that will identify and record some of Georgia's most significant historic gardens. A survey of this type is so important because it is a key component in promoting the State's garden heritage.

Have fun as you learn more about Georgia's historic gardens. Please know that your work is an important step in preserving this history for future generations.

Georgia Historic Landscape Survey Form

Please Note: If the property you are studying has been destroyed, please compile a written history of the property. This may simply be a few paragraphs or a more extensive documentation, if possible. This effort will serve researchers in the future.

1. **Name of garden/historic site:** Mr. and Mrs. William H. Kiser Home and Garden (Knollwood)

2. **Location:**

Street & Number: 3351 Woodhaven Road, NW

City or Town: Atlanta

Zip Code: 30305 County: Fulton

3. **Geographical Data**

Size (acres): 2.9 acres of the original 90-acre tract remain

4. **Owner/Administrator**

Name: Barbara S. Morgan (Owner)

Address: 3351 Woodhaven Road, NW, Atlanta, Georgia 30305

Telephone: 404.467.9144 E-mail: _____

Other Contact Name/Title: _____

Telephone: _____ E-mail: _____

Check one:

- Private
- Public- local
- Public- state
- Public – federal

5. **Landscape Type**

Setting (Check where appropriate)

- Urban
- Small city/town
- Rural
- Suburban (Originally suburban; now urban)

SAMPLE SURVEY

Type of Garden/Historic Site (check all that apply)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> naturalistic/informal garden | <input type="checkbox"/> park |
| <input type="checkbox"/> colonial revival garden | <input type="checkbox"/> battlefield |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> formal garden | <input type="checkbox"/> square/commons |
| <input type="checkbox"/> rose garden | <input type="checkbox"/> public buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> woodland garden | <input type="checkbox"/> farm |
| <input type="checkbox"/> kitchen garden | <input type="checkbox"/> monument grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> water garden | <input type="checkbox"/> cemetery |
| <input type="checkbox"/> perennial garden | <input type="checkbox"/> fort/other military site |
| <input type="checkbox"/> parterre garden (a formal garden construction on a level surface consisting of planting beds, commonly edged in boxwood or other clipped hedgings to form decorative geometric patterns.) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other – please describe: _____ | |

General description of garden

2.9 acres of the original 90-acre tract remain at Knollwood. Stonewalls with lichen, brickwork walls, wisteria vines, mature oak trees and boxwoods remain from original garden. One tier exists from original plan. The front lawn of Knollwood retains elements of the original plan including mature oak trees that shade the gentle sloping land. A gazebo has been added. Ivy climbs the brick walls of Knollwood. Many of the formal gardens no longer exist and have been replaced by a large swimming pool bordered by a boxwood hedge.

Garden elements and features (check all that apply)

- residence
- historic building
- new building (constructed within the last 50 years)
- containers/raised beds
- paving
- garden paths
- benches/seats
- statuary
- fences (brickwork fence)
- gazebo (later addition to the garden)
- greenhouse
- arbors/pergolas/trellises
- tool shed
- potting shed
- pit garden (also called a cold frame, plant pit or hot house; this is a small garden structure used to provide protection for frost-sensitive plants and to assist in the germination of seeds for spring planting.)
- pool house
- water features
- parterre
- herbaceous plants
- trees
- shrubs (boxwood)
- walls (stone walls; stone steps)
- roadways/carriageways/drives (paved driveway with bricks and stamped concrete)
- vistas
- other outbuildings

6. Landscape Status

Indicate the overall condition of the garden/historic site:

- Excellent: new or recently restored/fully functional
- Good: basically sound and functional
- Fair: deterioration evident, not fully functional
- Poor: advanced deterioration evident, compromised function, loss of major elements

Is the garden/historic site threatened in any of the following ways?:

Threats:

- adjacent development (including roads) (Notes: West Paces Ferry Road and Woodhaven Road border the property across the side street from the Governor’s Mansion. Surprisingly, privacy is maintained by plantings around the perimeter of Knollwood. Current owner is very pleased and interests in the history of Knollwood.)
- compromised viewshed
- insects and diseases
- deer or other animals
- over visitation
- neglect
- damage/vandalism
- other (explain: _____)

Access:

- Unrestricted
- Restricted
- No Access
- By appointment Freedom to wander Guided tours

7. Design History

Approximate date designed or built: c.1918

Original landscape architect, architect or designer: Norman C. Butts

Gardener/horticulturist: _____

Changes to the garden/historic site:

Original drive most likely no longer exists. No thickets of bamboo and pampas grass exist and only a few dogwoods remain on the property. Only one terrace level remains from the formal garden. Paired mimosa trees no longer exist nor vegetable or cutting gardens. No roses remain. Despite the many changes, the garden retains its formality.

8. Significance of garden/historic site:

Associated with prominent owner: Mrs. William H. Kiser was the President of the Garden Club of America.

Associated with important designer: Norman C. Butts

Good example of its design type or style: _____

Exceptional features: Brick walls with mature trellis; stone walls with lichen; large, mature oak trees; original boxwoods along brick wall; one level of original terrace garden still extant; greenery around property provides privacy. Knollwood is directly across the street (side street) from the Governor’s Mansion.

9. Sources of Information/Supporting Material

Availability and location of landscape plans and/or historic photographs or documents:

Nurseries that supplied plant material: _____

10. Form Prepared by:

Name: Barbara C. Taylor

Title/organization: Garden Club of Georgia Historic Preservation Committee, Spalding Garden Club, and Bellmere Garden Club

Address: 1950 Drummond Pond Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004

Date: March 19, 2007

Photographer:

Name: Brencie Werner (digital photographs) and Barbara C. Taylor

Address: 1950 Drummond Pond Road, Alpharetta, Georgia 30004

Date: March 19, 2007

Names of other members of survey team:

Brencie Werner and Jim Cothran

Please label and date photographs. Include garden name, location and subject of each photograph.