

# QUALITY OF LIFE ELEMENT

# 08

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## QUALITY OF LIFE

### Introduction

Chatham County seeks to provide an excellent quality of life for its citizens. In an effort to maintain such a high level, the County has a responsibility to promote and support programs and regulations that positively impact the quality of life of its residents. The citizens of this community can only achieve a superior quality of life when a safe, active, and healthy environment exists.

This element includes an inventory and assessment of the following quality of life aspects: Historic and Cultural Resources, Education, Health, Public Safety, and Broadband.



Historic Resources



Public Safety



Education



Broadband



Community Health

# HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Savannah and Chatham County showcase centuries of growth and change, treasured parks and squares, valued and varied culture, and historic architecture. Historic preservation, synonymous for many with quality of life, is a valuable planning tool that is used to protect the community's historic, cultural, and archaeological resources. The preservation of these resources ensures that the history of Savannah and Chatham County is retained and honored while planning for its future.

Establishing historic districts is one of the main ways to engage in historic preservation. Savannah and Chatham County have dozens of both locally and federally recognized districts. National Register historic districts are recognized by the Federal government and qualify property owners for

significant tax incentives, but provide little protection of the actual resources.

Local historic districts are established by ordinance and include specific design standards. These standards which ensure that rehabilitation of historic structures and new development is consistent with the historic character of the district by requiring a Certificate of Appropriateness review process.

It is important to note that historic preservation is not only a mechanism for protecting historic assets and ensuring compatible new development, but for affecting social, demographic, and economic change in our communities.



## Beginnings of Historic Preservation

Historic preservation in Savannah had its official beginning in 1955, when the Historic Savannah Foundation was established. Spurred by the proposed demolition of the Isaiah Davenport House, an 1820s brick home on Columbia Square, a group of women came together to save the home. Following the loss of many significant buildings, such as the 1901 Grand Union Station and the City Market building in Ellis Square, the public began to recognize the importance of preserving architecturally and culturally significant buildings and sites. Historic preservation in Savannah and Chatham County, as it did around the country, began to be a priority.

The legacy of the Oglethorpe Plan in Savannah is evident in its unique layout and architectural diversity. In 1966, this legacy paved the way for downtown Savannah to become a designated National Historic Landmark. By 1973, a historic zoning ordinance was adopted by the Savannah City Council; as a result, thousands of resources all over the city were identified and protected. Other neighborhoods sought designation leading to 16 historic districts in the City of Savannah, 6 historic districts in Chatham County and numerous registered historic places and individual properties throughout the City and County today.

## What is the Oglethorpe Plan?

The nucleus of the Oglethorpe Plan, created by James Edward Oglethorpe, is the ward. Each ward centers on a square of greenspace and is part of a larger integrated regional land system that originally expanded out to include five-acre garden plots and forty-five-acre farms; these were intended for each of the new members of the Georgia colony.

The plan informed the architecture and development patterns in the region for decades, with a dense urban pattern of townhouses and carriage houses in the original town and a more suburban pattern as development extends into former farm lots.





# HISTORIC RESOURCE SURVEYS

## Historic Resource Surveys

A historic resources survey collects and records information about historic structures, sites, landscapes, and objects within a given area and provides detailed information through photographs and field notes. Historic resource surveys are vital to the planning and preservation process and promotes awareness of a community’s historic and cultural resources.

## Resources Impacted by Climate Change

Due to its location on the coast of Georgia, climate and sea level rise (SLR) is an important topic when preparing for and ensuring protection of our historic and cultural resources. The first step in planning for the climate resiliency of historic and cultural resources is assessing which areas, structures, and sites are at a higher risk of impact from sea level rise, natural disasters, and other effects of climate change. Surveys in Savannah and Chatham County should focus on those resources that may require adaptation or mitigation strategies in the next 5 to 10 years. This will likely include coastal areas or areas that are more at risk of inundation, such as Skidaway, Talahi, Whitmarsh, and Wilmington Islands.

## Inclusive Surveying

Historic preservation has often underrepresented or deliberately overlooked historic and cultural resources in communities of color and places associated with LGBTQ history. This leaves thousands of historic and culturally important resources at risk of being lost, increasing the threats of displacement and gentrification. Inclusive surveying in Savannah and Chatham County is a necessary step to ensuring that these groups can protect the history and culture of their community while they grow.

## Historic Preservation in Chatham County

In 2005, Chatham County adopted a historic preservation ordinance and was designated as a Certified Local Government (CLG), allowing them to designate local historic districts. The County has designated 2 local historic districts and 3 local individual properties, in addition to federally recognized districts and places, such as Fort Pulaski and Wormsloe Plantation.

Since 2005, however, preservation at the County level has fallen off. In 2019, the County’s status as a Certified Local Government lapsed. Efforts need to be made to reinstate the CLG status of the County and continue to survey and list all eligible sites, neighborhoods, and properties in Savannah and Chatham County on the local and national registers.

*Historic preservation is architectural history, community planning, historical research and surveys, oral history, archaeology, economic revitalization, and so much more. Quality of life, sense of place, pride of place—it’s all connected to historic preservation.*  
—Preservation in Pink

## The Savannah City—Wide Survey Project

Since 2012, the MPC Preservation Department, the City of Savannah, and the Georgia DNR’s Historic Preservation Division have been working on a city-wide survey project. The project idea developed after 30 eligible historic areas were identified within the city limits. These areas were

identified by the (SHPO) State Historic Preservation Office and/or City Preservation Officer through the prior National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 reviews and were also previously identified as “historic” in the Chatham County-Savannah Comprehensive Plan. A major deciding factor was that all identified neighborhoods were over 50 years old and maintained a high level of integrity. The plan was that areas to be surveyed would be selected by the City based on an established set of criteria including interest, need, and size. The areas that have been surveyed or re-surveyed under this project include: Carver Village, Victorian Historic District, and Cuyler-Brownville Historic District (two phases). Future phases are intended for this project until all existing outdated resource surveys are updated, and new areas are complete.

## Markers, Monuments & Public Art

Objects such as markers, monuments, and public art are vital cultural resources for the community, and it is critical that the surveys of such resources are kept up-to-date and accurate. In 2013, the MPC Preservation Department updated the maps and lists, which keep track of what and where these resources are. While the installation of markers, monuments, and public art continued to be approved, the catalog of these resources was not being actively updated. A comprehensive update to the maps and lists of all monuments, markers, and public art within Chatham County was completed in 2020. Moving forward, this catalog of resources should be kept actively up to date as new markers, monuments, and public art are approved.



# PRESERVATION & AFFORDABLE HOUSING

It is important to note that historic preservation in Savannah and Chatham County is not only a mechanism for protecting historic assets and ensuring compatible new development, but for affecting social, demographic, and economic change in our communities. Preservation in low-income communities raises concerns about fairness, affordability, and inclusion. It is imperative that preservation goals be combined with efforts to preserve affordable housing and promote economic diversity.

## Old Housing is Affordable Housing

New construction can often be unaffordable and built far from city centers, disconnecting people from their communities and resources. Older and historic neighborhoods, on the other hand, are often closer to services such as shopping, public transportation, and job centers. 57% of housing built prior to 1950, the majority of housing in these neighborhoods, has a monthly cost of less than \$1,000 (Rypkema, The Preservation Alliance). Partnership between historic preservation and affordable housing efforts and organizations in Savannah and Chatham County is critical to ensuring that the existing affordable housing and neighborhoods, as well as their historic character, is preserved.

## Adaptive Reuse

Historic preservation also presents an opportunity for providing new affordable housing through adaptive reuse. Redesigning historic properties into multi-family supportive and affordable housing revitalizes communities while preserving their character and avoiding displacement of existing residents.

### CUYLER-BROWNVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Cuyler-Brownville, a historically African American neighborhood, was designated a National Register Historic District in 1997. However, the attached rowhouses and working-class housing that typify the neighborhood remain threatened by demolition and gentrification. Although the historic preservation efforts have been able to ensure the protection of many historically affordable homes, Cuyler-Brownville is also an area that illustrates where preservation alone may not be able to ensure affordability and avoid displacement in the future. Broadening preservation efforts and partnerships, such as reevaluating design standards and engaging with the community about tax credit opportunities, can be tools with which the community is able to retain its historic integrity and be resilient against displacement.



# HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

Old and historic places, many of which were planned before the advent of the car, often exemplify the characteristics of healthy community design. These older communities, such as the historic districts in Savannah, are likely to be walkable with ample access to open space and healthy foods. In addition to walkability, the preservation of our community's histories also provides a host of mental health benefits. Savannah and Chatham County's historic sites, structures, and communities foster a sense of continuity and identity that is emotionally and psychologically beneficial and grounding.

People and health-centered preservation work is vital for becoming more resilient against public health threats and fostering healthier communities overall. To ensure that preservation continues to promote community well-being, continued reevaluation of the tools and standards of historic preservation must occur.

## Historic District Walk Scores

Walk scores measure of the walkability of a neighborhood, a vital component of community health, based on proximity to amenities and pedestrian friendliness.

- 90 Victorian Historic—Walker's Paradise
- 87 Landmark Historic District—Very Walkable
- 87 Streetcar Historic District—Very Walkable
- 69 Cuyler-Brownville Historic District—Somewhat Walkable

### COVID-19 PANDEMIC

COVID-19 officially became a pandemic in March of 2020. This global health crisis has had tremendous economic, cultural, and social impacts on all aspects of life, including historic preservation work. The mental and physical health benefits of preservation, including access to open spaces, affordable older housing, walkability, and sense of community identity, are all critical components in the needed multifaceted approach to creating healthier and more resilient communities. COVID-19 has also had operational and economic impacts on historic preservation work. New tools and contingency plans are needed in order to ensure that preservation work is accessible to the public virtually and able to be adaptable in times of community health threats.





# PRESERVATION & CLIMATE RESILIENCY

## Climate Resiliency

Climate scientists predict that coastal regions like Chatham County will see anywhere from 0.5 to 1.5 meters of sea-level rise by the year 2100. According to a 2012 study of the effects of one meter of sea level rise on Chatham County, the Georgia Conservancy places 94,000 buildings and 105 historic sites at risk. New adaptation and mitigation tools are needed to support Savannah and Chatham County in addressing the challenges of implementing climate adaptation strategies to historic buildings and sites.

## Natural Disaster Preparedness

With the changing climate comes not only sea level rise, but increasingly severe natural disasters and extreme weather events. Creating a climate resiliency and natural disaster preparedness plan for the City and County's historic and cultural resources is vital to preparing for the effects of climate change, as well as preventing further impacts.

FUN FACTS

4,300

acres of landfill space saved by recycling debris and avoiding demolition\*

569

million tons of construction debris was generated in 2017\*

\*EPA Report on Construction & Demolition Debris, 2017

## Sustainability

As architect Carl Enfante said, “The greenest building is the one that is already built.” Historic preservation is an important tool for sustainable growth and development. Reusing existing buildings, with a focus on retaining historic materials, prevents millions of tons of construction debris from entering the landfill through demolition and new construction. Additionally, adaptive reuse encourages infill development while allowing for upgrades to energy efficiency in historic buildings.

As architect Carl Enfante said, The greenest building is the one that is already built.



# INCLUSIVE HISTORY

## Building Inclusive Preservation Practices

Historic preservation is deeply linked with the stories that it tells and the histories of the peoples that it represents. Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC), and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people have often been deliberately underrepresented in preservation. Grounding historic preservation in "people over places" builds a more inclusive practice in the identification, understanding, and protection of historic places. Focusing on intangible histories, such as stories, cultural festivals, and social practices, is an important component of preserving the histories of BIPOC and LGBTQ communities in Savannah and Chatham County.

## Promoting Underrepresented Stories

The creation of the Pin Point Heritage Museum was a community-led effort that resulted in a site that exemplifies the importance of recognizing and preserving intangible histories. The Heritage Museum is a physical space that houses the stories and customs of the Gullah/Geechee people, ensuring that their heritage remains grounded in the present. Recognizing sites throughout Chatham County with

### INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE

Intangible cultural heritage includes oral traditions, performing arts, social practices, rituals, festive events, knowledge, and practices concerning nature and the universe or the knowledge and skills to produce traditional crafts.  
—United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization

intangible cultural heritage like Pin Point requires expanding the criteria for what is considered historically significant and worth preserving.

## Problematic Histories

The City of Savannah and Chatham County have several monuments and sites that carry problematic histories, such as the confederate monuments in Savannah. The Savannah Civil War Memorial Task Force was conscripted to provide recommendations about the path forward for these monuments, considering measures such as removal and storage. Acting on these recommendations is an important step towards more inclusive preservation practices. However, there is more work is to be done in identifying sites with problematic histories within Chatham County and developing plans for how to manage these sites moving forward.



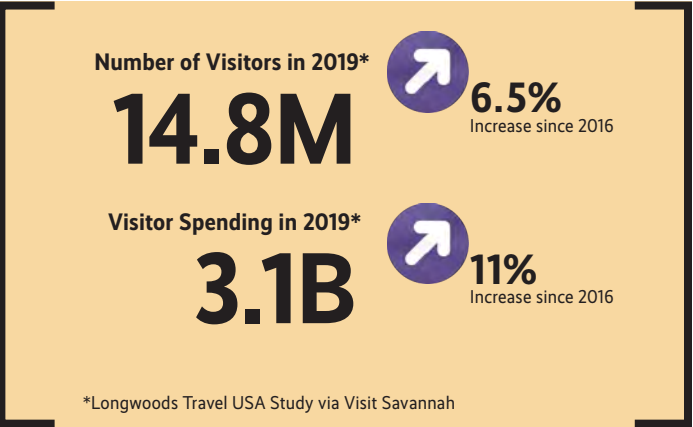
# HERITAGE TOURISM

Exploration of Savannah and Chatham County reveals centuries of history and culture encased in diverse architectural styles, historic sites, and design patterns. As defined by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, heritage tourism is traveling to experience the places, artifacts, and activities that authentically represent the stories and people of the past and present. This includes visitation to cultural, historic, and natural resources.

## Heritage Tourism & Economic Vitality

Historic places and landmarks are a huge draw for those who come to visit Savannah and Chatham County, with historic places making up 32% of visitor’s activities of special interest in 2019. The rich history of Savannah and Chatham County not only provides for a varied and engaging experience for visitors but is essential to the economic wellbeing of the region. Between 2016 and 2019, visitors to Savannah contributed a total of \$11.8 billion to the local economy.

## Tourism Stats 2019



## Expanding Heritage Tourism in Chatham County

Heritage tourism in City of Savannah provides visitors with a chance to learn more about the history of the area, while providing economic benefits to the community. Expanding upon the strategies that have contributed to Savannah’s robust tourism program into Chatham County, such as promoting and identifying heritage sites, is key to bringing the economic benefits of tourism to the County, as well as ensuring that visitors receive a full history of the area.



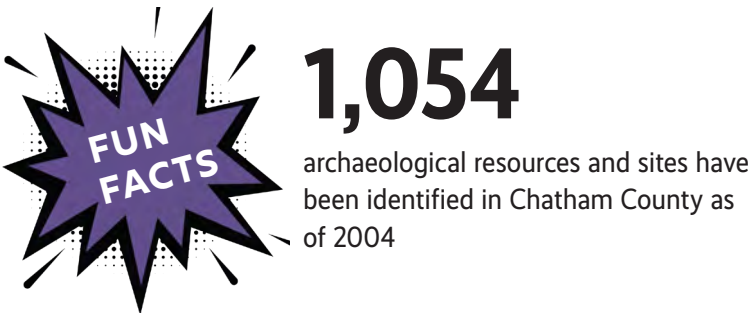
# ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Virtually every tract of land in Chatham County has the potential to contain cultural remains from the community’s prehistoric and historic past. Many of these sites have been identified and researched, but many others go undetected. Archaeological sites, like historic buildings, are considered cultural resources if they meet eligibility requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act.

## Archaeology Ordinance

In 2019, the City of Savannah adopted an archaeology ordinance that requires survey, evaluation, and mitigation of potential archaeological resources for city projects/land over 1,500 square feet. However, programs and policy to support, strengthen, and promote the further survey of archaeological resources and sites within the larger Chatham County area is vital to continuing to uncover the important history that archaeological resources contain.

Additionally, the City and the County should work to adopt an archaeology ordinance which employs an archaeologist at the County and/or City level and expands its purview to private property in addition to public property.



## ARCHAEOLOGY

The science that studies human cultures through the recovery, documentation and analysis of material remains and environmental data, including architecture, artifacts, bio-facts, human remains and landscapes.





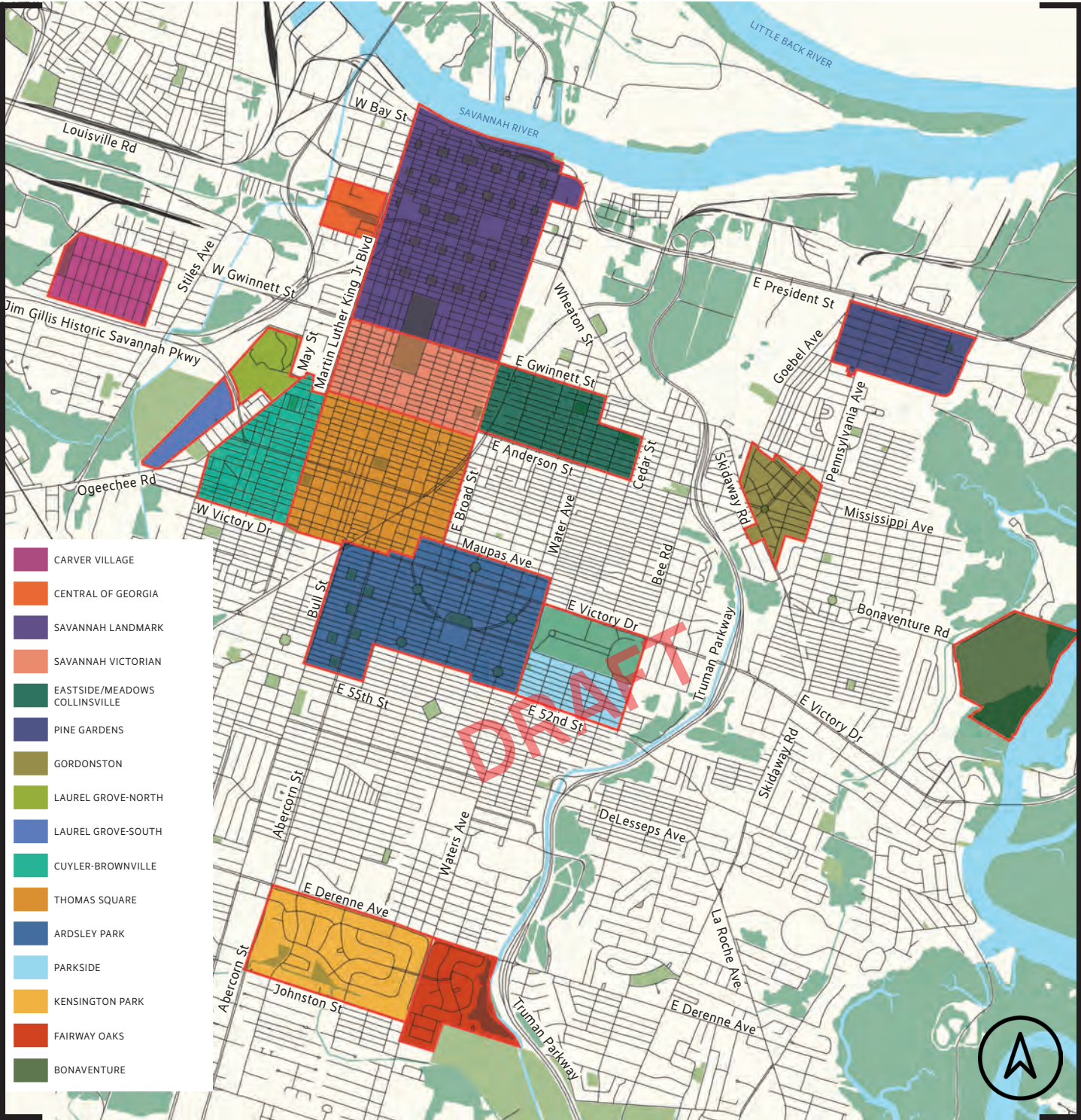
Historic Districts:  
National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)—City of Savannah

	Date Listed	Area (In Acres)	Contributing Resources
Savannah National Historic Landmark	1966	528.5	1,296 (2002 Survey)
Victorian	1974/82	185.2	628 (2016 Survey)
Central Georgia Railroad Shops & Terminal Facility	1976/78	41.3	16 (1978 Survey)
Laurel Grove South Cemetery	1978	38.8	Unknown
Laurel Grove North Cemetery	1983	51.5	Unknown
Ardley Park - Chatham Crescent	1985	391.9	1,056 (1985 Survey)
Thomas Square-Streetcar	1997	322.9	1,114 (1997 Survey)
Cuyler-Brownville	1998	184.9	678 (2020 Survey)
Daffin Park - Parkside Place	1999	161.7	269 (1999 Survey)
Gordonston	2001	86.2	128 (2001 Survey)
Bonaventure Cemetery	2001	145.3	134 (2000 Survey)
Eastside	2002	156.7	459 (2002 Survey)
Fairway Oaks - Greenview	2009	111.8	207 (2009 Survey)
Kensington Park - Groveland	2014	234.8	390 (2014 Survey)
Pine Gardens	2014	128.3	516 (2014 Survey)
Carver Village	2019	108	625 (2014 Survey)
Total		2,877.8	7,516

NATIONAL REGISTER  
OF HISTORIC PLACES

The National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) is the United States federal government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worth of preservation for their historical significance.

Figure 8.1–Historic Districts (NRHP)—City of Savannah



Map 8.1–Historic Districts (NRHP)—City of Savannah

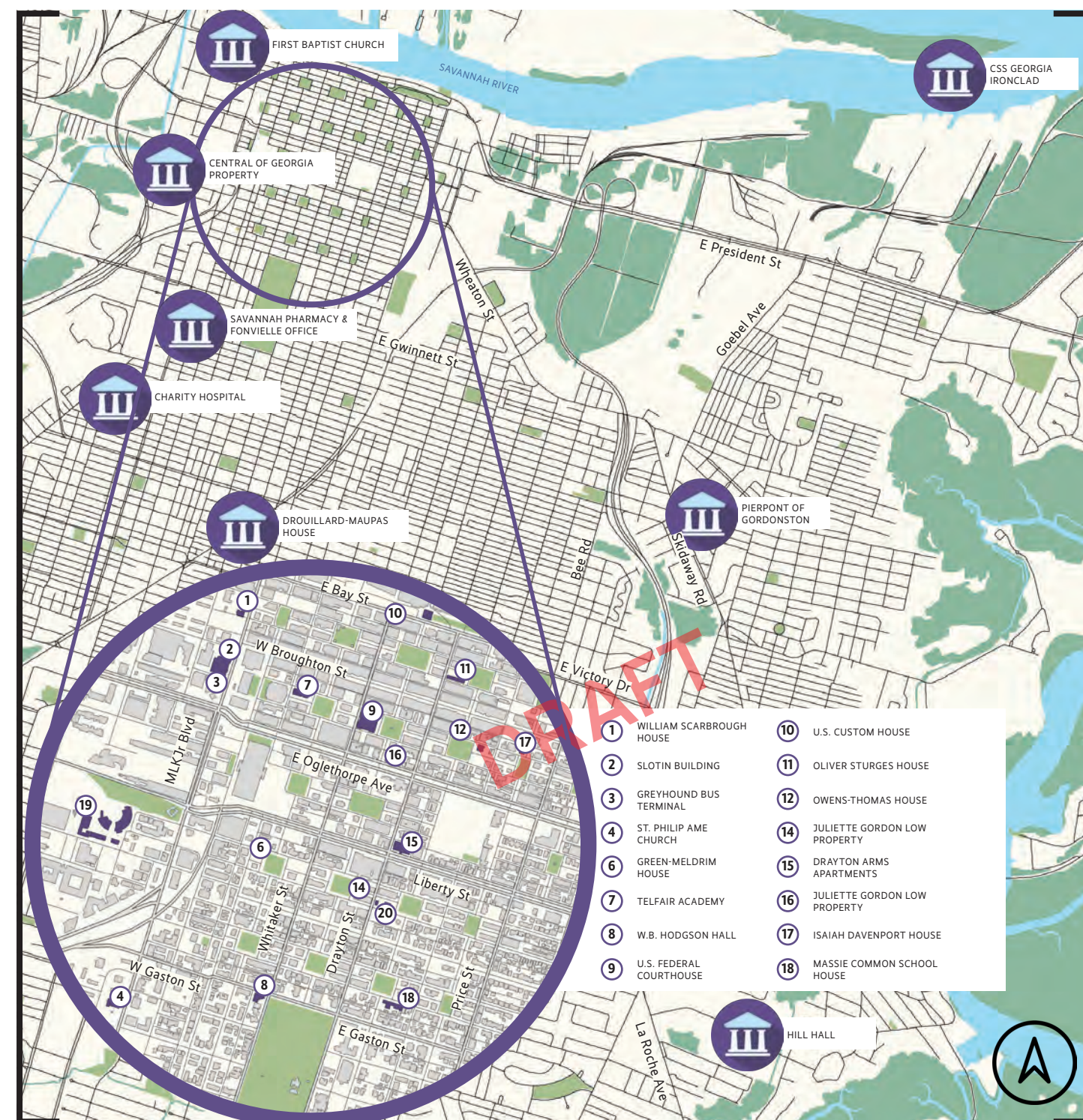


## Individual Properties: National Register of Historic Places (NRHP)—City of Savannah

Name	Date Listed	Address
Atlantic Greyhound Bus Terminal	2016	109 MLK Jr. Blvd
Central of Georgia Depot & Train shed	1976	MLK Jr. Blvd & Liberty St
Central of Georgia Railway Company Shop Property	1970	West Jones St & Louisville Rd
Charity Hospital	1985	644 West 34th St
CSS Georgia (ironclad)	1987	Address Restricted
Isaiah Davenport House	1972	324 East State St
Drayton Arms Apartments	2013	102 East Liberty St
Drouillard–Maupas House	1991	2422 Abercorn St
Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse	1974	125 Bull St
First Bryan Baptist Church	1978	575 West Bryan St
Green-Meldrim House	1974	14 West Macon St
Hill Hall at Savannah State University	1981	3219 College St

Name	Date Listed	Address
W.B. Hodgson Hall (GHS)	1977	501 Whitaker St
Juliette Gordon Low	1965/1966	10 East Oglethorpe Ave
Massie Common School House	1977	207 East Gordon St
Owens-Thomas House	1976	124 Abercorn St
Savannah Pharmacy & Fonvielle Office	2013	914-918 MLK Jr. Blvd
William Scarbrough House	1970	41 MLK Jr. Blvd
Slotin Building	1983	101 MLK Jr. Blvd
St. Philip AME Church	1984	613 MLK Jr. Blvd
Oliver Sturges House	1971	27 Abercorn St
Telfair Academy	1976	121 Barnard St
Two Pierpoint Circle	1990	2 Pierpoint Circle
U.S. Customhouse	1974	1-3 East Bay St

Figure 8.2—Individual Properties (NRHP)—City of Savannah



Map 8.2—Individual Properties (NRHP)—City of Savannah



## Historic Districts: Local—City of Savannah

	Date Listed	Area (In Acres)	Contributing Resources
Savannah Downtown Historic District	1973	749.8	1,789 (2011 Survey)
Victorian Historic District	1980	223.9	628 (2019 Bdry Expansion)
Streetcar Historic District	2005	337.8	1,045 (2019 Bdry Expansion)
Cuyler-Brownville Historic District	1998	220.8	753 (2018–2021 Survey)
Total		1,532.3	4,215

Figure 8.3—Historic District (Local)—City of Savannah

## Historic Districts: Conservation—City of Savannah

Name	Date Listed	Address	Contributing Resources
Ardsley Park-Chatham Crescent	2018	391.9	1,056 (1985 Survey)
Ardmore	2018	117.5	Unknown
Daffin Park - Parkside Place	2019	161.7	269 (1999 Survey)
Historic Carver Village/Flatman Village	2020	121.7	636 (2019 Bdry Update)
Total		792.9	1,961

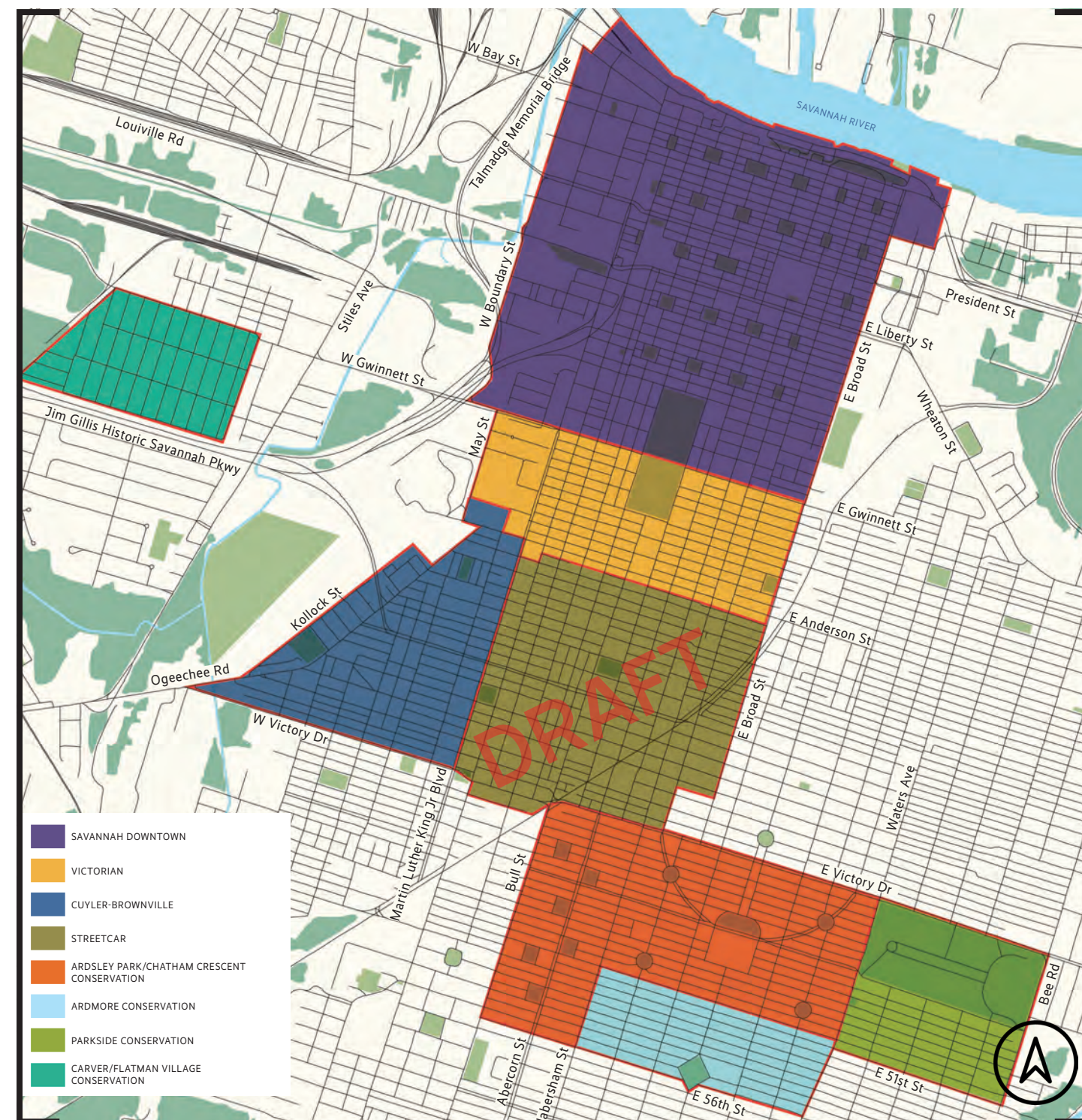
Figure 8.4—Historic District (Conservation)—City of Savannah

## LOCAL HISTORIC DISTRICT

As designated by the Mayor and Aldermen, local historic districts provide a procedure to protect, enhance, perpetuate, and use buildings, structures, sites, objects, or a combination thereof that have pre-historic, historic, architectural or cultural significance.

**CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

A Conservation Overlay District establishes a process and standards to evaluate the demolition of contributing buildings to ensure historic buildings are preserved and the character of the district is maintained.



Map 8.3—Historic Districts (Local & Conservation)—City of Savannah



## Historic Districts: NRHP—Unincorporated Chatham County

	Date Listed	Area (In Acres)	Contributing Resources
Fort Pulaski National Monument	1966	571.9	7 (1996 Survey)
Wormsloe Plantation	1973	1,315.1	Unknown
Bethesda Home for Boys	1973	652.2	19 (1973 Survey)
Isle of Hope Historic District	1984	91.5	Unknown
Ossabaw Island	1996	29,284.5	227 (1996 Survey)
Savannah and Ogeechee Canal	1997	199.7	18 (1997 Survey)
Total		32,114.9	271

Figure 8.5—Historic District (NRHP)—Unincorporated Chatham County

## Individual Properties: NRHP—Unincorporated Chatham County

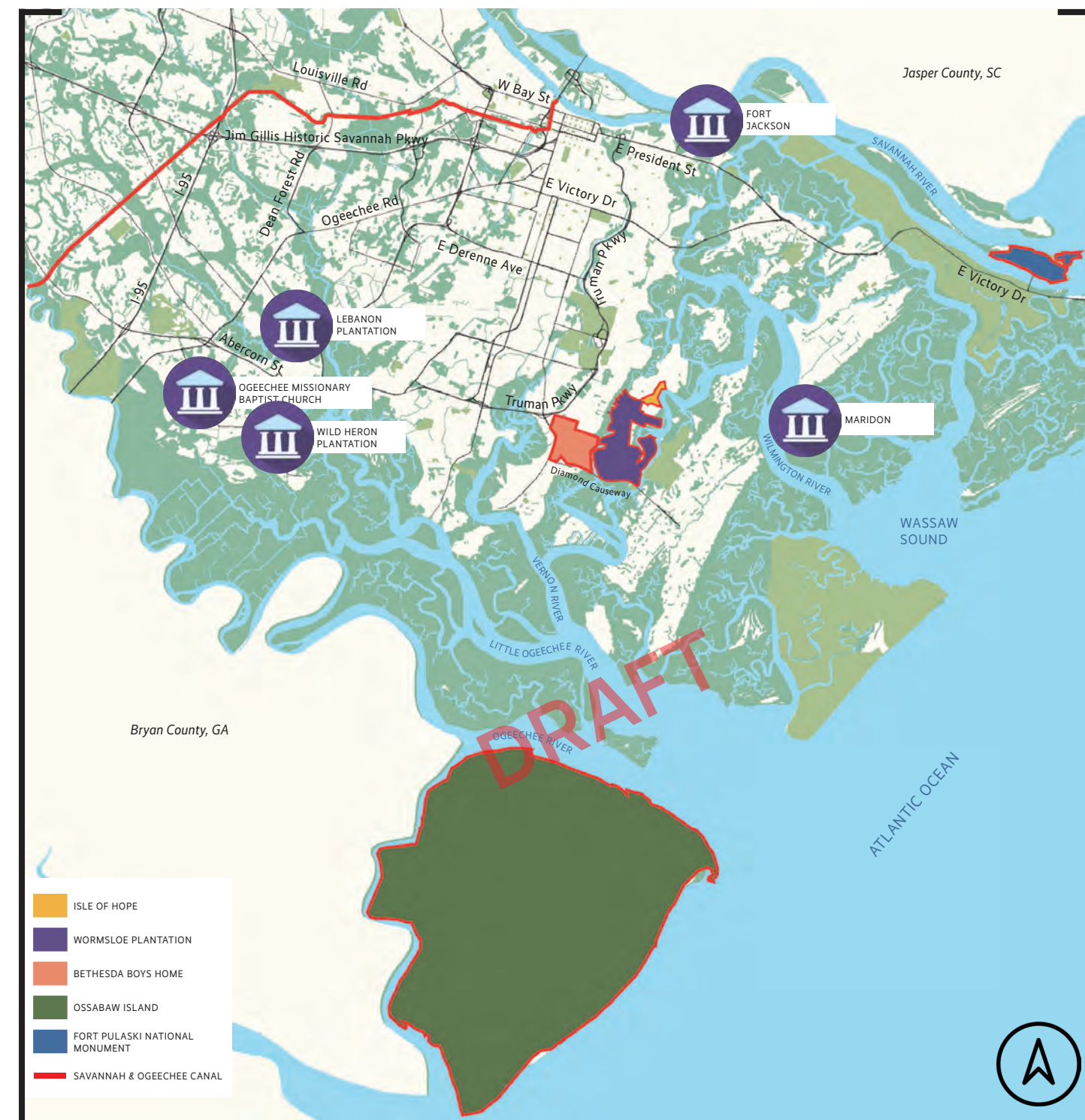
Name	Date Listed	Address
Eureka Club-Farr's Point	2002	2326 East Blvd
Fort James Jackson	1970	1 Fort Jackson Rd
Lebanon Plantation	1979	5745 Ogeechee Rd
New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church	2001	751 Chevis Rd
Wild Heron Plantation	1977	2148 Grove Point Rd

Figure 8.6—Individual Properties (NRHP)—Unincorporated Chatham County

**LOOKING FOR MORE  
INFORMATION?**

In the appendix of Plan 2040, you can find a more comprehensive history of Savannah and Chatham County, as well as more detailed information about their historic districts in the appendix of Plan 2040.

**Check it out on page XX!**



Map 8.4–Historic Districts (Historic & Individual Properties)—Unincorporated Chatham County





Historic Districts:  
Local—Unincorporated Chatham County

	Date Listed	Area (In Acres)	Contributing Resources
Pin Point	2007	1,024	15
Pennyworth Island	2011	169.66	1
Total		1,193.66	16

Figure 8.7—Historic District (Local)—Unincorporated Chatham County

Individual Properties:  
Local—Unincorporated Chatham County

Name	Date Listed	Address
New Ogeechee Missionary Baptist Church	2007	751 Chevis Rd
Maridon (AKA Eureka Club—Farr’s Point)	2007	2326 East Blvd
Isle of Hope Missionary Baptist Church	2019	8415 Ferguson Ave

Figure 8.8—Individual Properties (Local)—Unincorporated Chatham County

HISTORY OF  
PENNYWORTH ISLAND

Since 1911, Pennyworth Island has remained largely undisturbed and has seen no human use or occupation. Prior to that time, the island served as a rice plantation and seasonal residence for several of its prominent owners. An archaeological survey in 1994 described Pennyworth as “one of the best represented Savannah River rice plantations in historical record” (ACOE, 1994). In January of 2011, Pennyworth Island, in recognition of its archaeological and historic significance, was listed as a local historic district in Chatham County.



Map 8.5—Historic District (Local) & Individual Properties (Local)—Unincorporated Chatham County



# HISTORIC & CULTURAL RESOURCES GOALS

## GOAL 1

*Survey culturally, historically, and architecturally significant sites, buildings, and structures in Savannah and Unincorporated Chatham County*

Historic resource surveys are one of the most critical tools for historic preservation planning, as they lay the groundwork for the identification, evaluation, and registration of historically and culturally significant sites and properties. While the City of Savannah has surveys for its local historic districts, re-surveying these areas and surveying new areas throughout Savannah and Chatham County ensures the protection of additional resources that may have been overlooked and new resources that have never been surveyed before.

Special attention must be paid to those resources that are at-risk due to climate change or may be of importance to communities that have been historically underrepresented in surveying, including BIPOC communities and places associated with LGBTQ+ history.

### Objectives:

- Work with Chatham County to reinstate their status as a Certified Local Government
- Survey areas that have been identified as at-risk or historically underrepresented
- Update the Historic Site and Monument Commission’s Master Plan and Guidelines and provide on-going updates to the maps and lists of the monuments, markers, and public art within the City of Savannah and Chatham County
- Establish on-going outreach initiatives to engage with and educate the community on the importance of historic preservation efforts

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SURVEY OF TABBY CABINS ON OSSABAW ISLAND





**CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

When a community becomes a Certified Local Government (CLG), they become active in the Federal Historic Preservation Program and agree to follow required Federal and State requirements. CLG status gives governments access to funding, technical assistance, and other preservation resources.

## GOAL 2

*Incorporate affordable housing strategies into current and future preservation plans*

Historic preservation can be a powerful mechanism for affecting social, demographic, and economic change, particularly in low-income neighborhoods.

In recognizing this and moving towards more equitable preservation planning, cultivating partnerships between historic preservation and affordable housing efforts and organizations in Savannah and Chatham County is ensures that historic preservation efforts are preserving affordable housing and promoting economic diversity.

### Objectives:

- Broaden partnerships with community planning and housing authorities in Savannah and Chatham County to combine preservation and affordable housing efforts
- Identify where increased flexibility in preservation practice is appropriate to retain existing affordable housing and promote additional affordable housing
- Promote and educate the community about federal and state preservation tax incentives for rehabilitation

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOUSE





GOAL 3

Identify and address community health issues that impact historic preservation efforts and encourage healthy communities through historic preservation

Old and historic places provide a host of physical and mental health benefits, including walkability and sense of place, that make them an important component of healthy communities. People and health-centered preservation work is vital for becoming more resilient against public health threats and fostering healthier communities overall.

To ensure that preservation continues to promote community well-being, continued reevaluation of the tools and standards of historic preservation must occur, such as creating plans for continuing to operate safe, equitable, and accessible preservation planning efforts in the event of a public health threat like COVID-19.

Objectives:

- Identify and address potential community health threats to preservation efforts
- Create contingency plans to address the economic, operational, and social impacts on historic preservation associated with a community health event
- Promote and support reinvestment in older and historic places as a key component of community health and resiliency

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HISTORIC GREENSPACE



GOAL 4

Identify and address climate resiliency strategies and incorporate them into a climate resiliency plan for Savannah and Chatham County's historic and cultural resources

Numerous cultural and historic sites and resources are at risk due to climate change, whether in the form of sea level rise and increased natural disasters. Historic preservation itself, through adaptive reuse and recycling historic materials, is a critical component of sustainable growth and development.

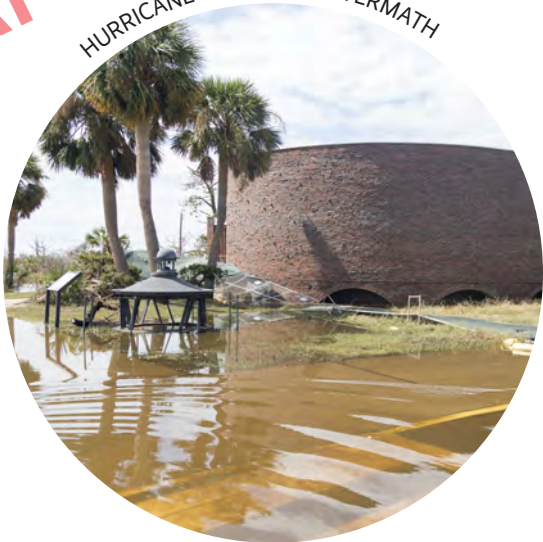
However, creating a climate resiliency and natural disaster preparedness plan for the City of Savannah and Chatham County's historic and cultural resources is vital for expanding the sustainable initiatives of historic preservation planning to prepare for the effects of climate change, as well as preventing further impacts.

Objectives:

- Incorporate historic and cultural resources into disaster planning strategies
- Identify and address strategies for increasing the resiliency of historic and cultural resources
- Establish a clear process for the protection and management of historic resources in the result of a natural disaster

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HURRICANE MATTHEW AFTERMATH





GOAL 5

*Broaden historic preservation efforts to highlight and include historically underrepresented stories, sites, and communities*

Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ) people have often been deliberately underrepresented in historic preservation efforts.

Historic preservation efforts in Savannah and Chatham County have often failed to incorporate intangible resources, such as stories, oral traditions, and performing arts, an important component of preserving BIPOC and LGBTQ history. Grounding historic preservation in recognition of people over architectural features builds a more inclusive practice in the identification, understanding, and protection of history and culture.

Objectives:

- Review and modify practices that impede the identification, nomination, and designation of historic places meaningful to underrepresented communities
- Develop and implement new tools for the identification of intangible resources
- Follow and expand upon the recommendations of the Savannah Civil War Memorial Task Force



GOAL 6


*Create new and support existing heritage tourism programs in Savannah and Chatham County in order to highlight their cultural and historic heritage*

In the City of Savannah, heritage tourism provides visitors with a chance to learn more about the history of the area while providing economic benefits to the community. While tourism is already a well-established industry in Savannah, attention must be paid in the future to balancing heritage tourism programming with the concerns and needs of the local community.

Expanding upon the strategies that have contributed to Savannah's tourism programming into Chatham County not only brings economic benefits to the County but provides visitors to the area a full and broadened history of Savannah and Chatham County.

Objectives:

- Expand heritage tourism programming in Chatham County
- Promote the economic and place-based benefits of heritage tourism to the public
- Balance the goals of heritage tourism with local concerns



**HERITAGE TOURISM**

Refers to leisure travel that has as its primary purpose that experience of places and activities that represent the past. A principal concern of heritage tourism is historical authenticity and long-term sustainability of the attraction visited.

—National Agricultural Library





GOAL 7

Promote the preservation and public awareness of culturally and archaeologically significant sites in Savannah and Chatham County

Virtually every tract of land in Chatham County has the potential to contain cultural remains from the community’s prehistoric and historic past. Archaeological sites, like historic buildings, are considered cultural resources if they meet eligibility requirements set forth in the National Historic Preservation Act.

In addition to the 2019 Archaeology Ordinance set forth by the City of Savannah, programs and policy that support further archaeological survey in the County and educate the public on the importance of archaeology are needed to continue to uncover the important history that archaeological resources contain.

Objectives:

- Survey, identify, and protect archaeological resources through legislation and other means
- Support projects that educate the public about archaeology and important Savannah and Chatham County cultural sites and resources
- Develop partnerships with community groups to develop an ethical process for discovery, storage, and ownership of archaeological artifacts

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