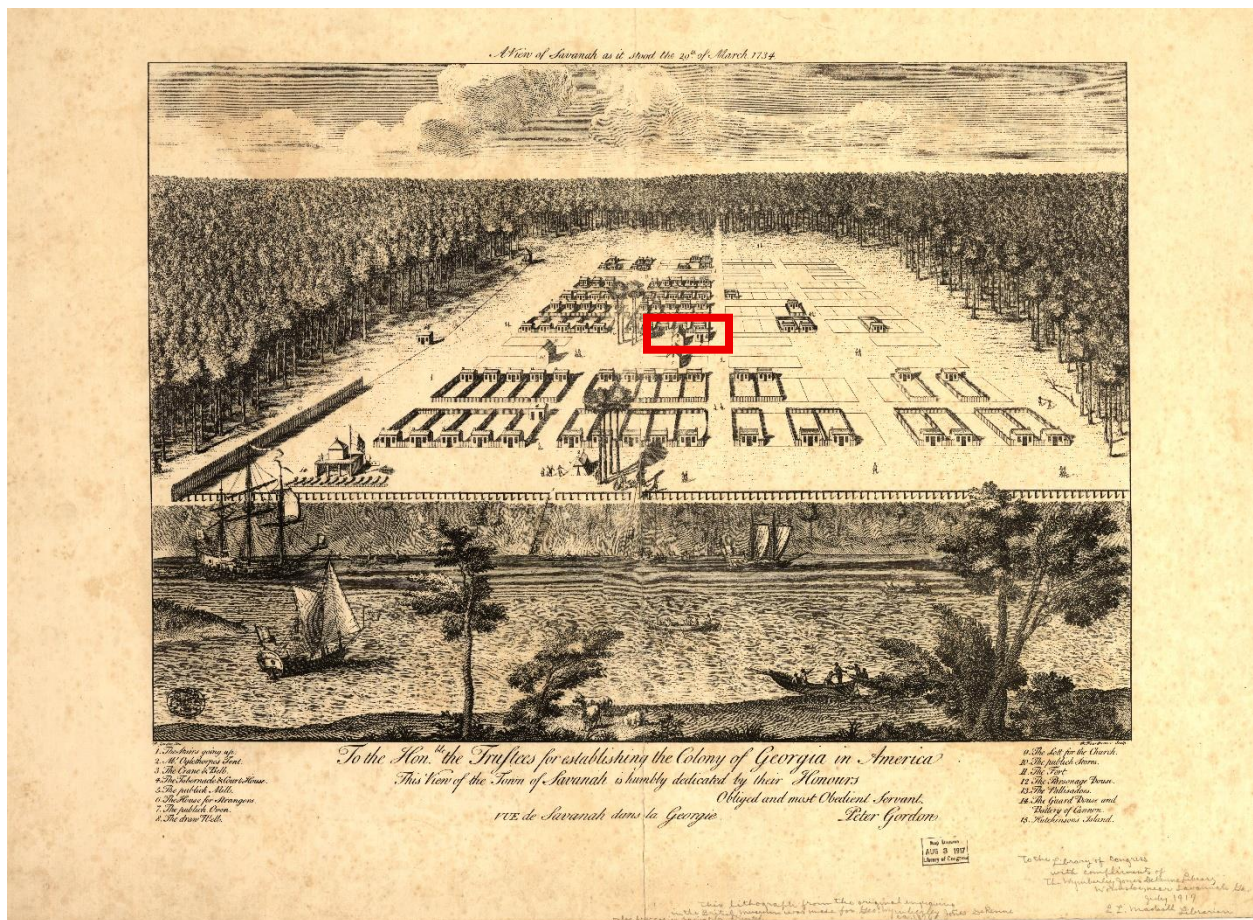


## Oglethorpe Square – History

Oglethorpe Square (Anson Ward) was established in either 1736 or 1742 depending on the source. Sources say that it was originally known as Upper New Square with Anson Ward being known as Upper New Ward.

The Library of Congress holds a map titled “A view of Savannah as it stood the 29th of March 1734,” which is seen below. The buildings in the red box was historically The House of Strangers and the Public House and were likely on the site or in the area of the United Community Bank (27 Bull St), which is beside Johnson Square. What would become Oglethorpe Square would either be the wooded or cleared to the left of the map. The map can be found on the Library of Congress [website](#).



Staff found a reference to Upper New Ward in Letters from Georgia, v. 14205, 1740 June-1741 May. The full document can be found at this [link](#).

In this document, there is a transcript of a letter written by James Oglethorpe that reads:

James Oglethorpe Esqr.

To Andrew Duchee —

By Virtue of Powers Granted from his Majesty George the Second by the Grace of God King of Great Britain France and Ireland Defender of the Faith &c, I Do Appoint you Andrew Duchee, to be Constable of Percival Heathcoat and the Upper New XXX Wards; You are to Train and Exercise the Militia of the Said Wards and to keep the peace and Obey all such Orders as you shall receive from me, or from such Person or Persons, As I shall appoint to Command, Train and Exercise the Militia, and this shall continue in full force untill I or such as I shall Succeed, to my Commands shall recall the Same, And then it shall Cease and determine

Given under my hand and Seal at Savannah in Georgia the 9th, day of April 1740.  
James Oglethorpe

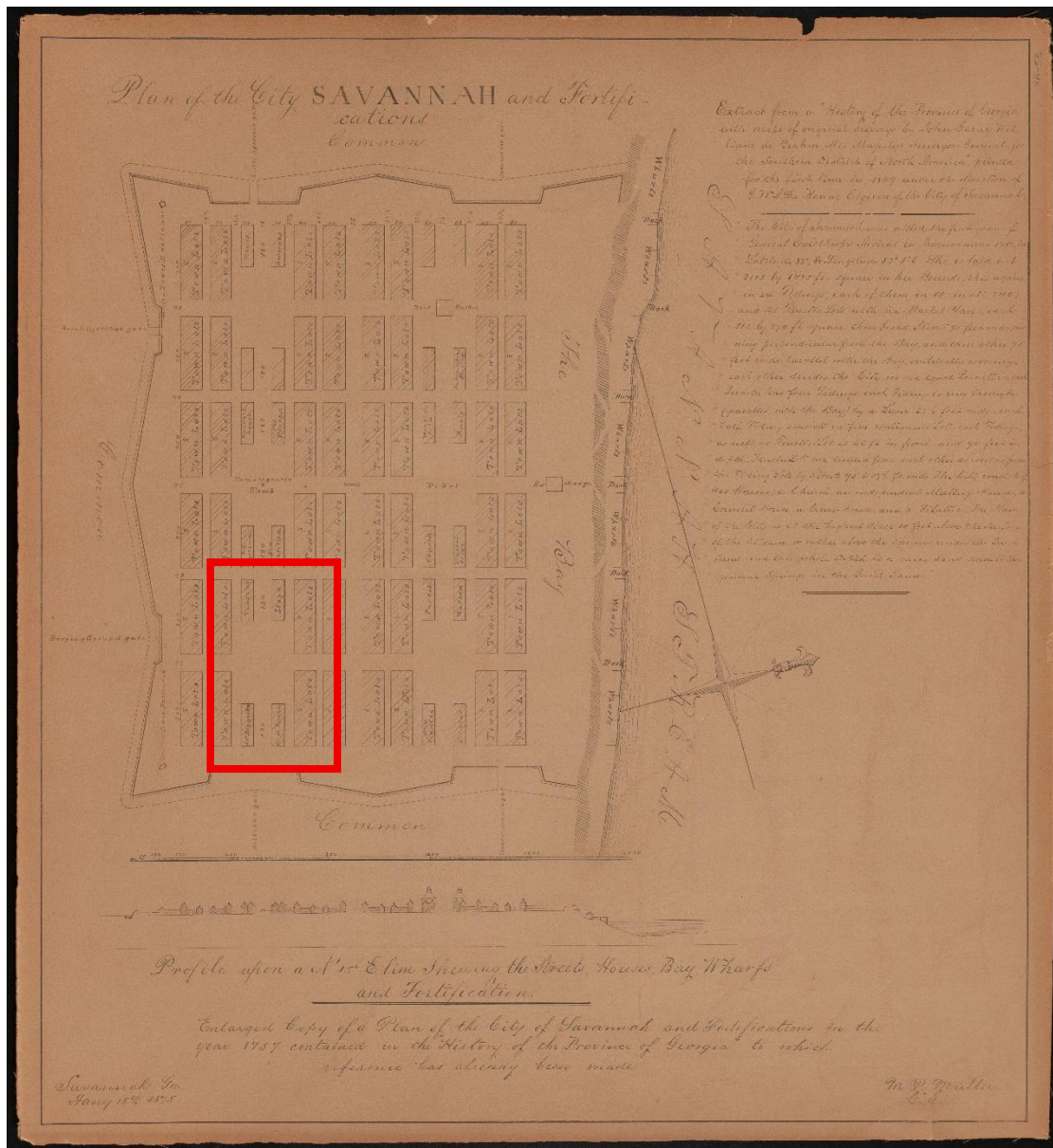
In a document that is titled Letters from Georgia, v. 14203, 1737 June-1739 January, there is a section called "List of the Several Plantations within the District of Savannah 26 August 1738." Screenshots from that a section of this list is provided below.

Upper New Ward		
201	James Colvin, on his 5 Acre Lot 2 planted. . . . .	2
203	John Burton (Vide 225)	
208	Francis Percy 3 Acres of his 5 Acre lot planted by Fat Grant who rented it (vide 166) . . . . .	3
211	Jos: Wardrops (vide 189) his 5 Acre Lot all planted by Fat Graham who rented it . . . . .	5
75 (216)		
		(217) Add to these what Mr. Bradley has planted on a Farm for the Truste. . . . . 14
No.	Acres	
214	Augustine Spangburgh 5 Acre Lot planted . . . . .	5
216	Andrew Walker planted all his 5 Acre Lot . . . . .	5
219	Monr. David Beckmans 5 Acre Lot was all planted . . . . .	5
222	Benjamin Adams (vide No. 76)	
225	Martin Evertsen his 5 Acre Lot rented by John Burton who has planted of it (Vide No. 203) . . . . .	1½
235	James Anderson planted 2 of his Brothers Lot (No. 290) . . .	2
Add Mr. Bradleys		14
		42½
		Derby Ward . . . . . 47½
		Deckers Ward . . . . . 60
		Percival Ward. . . . . 46½
		Heathcote Ward . . . . . 38½
		Lower New Ward . . . . . 25
		<b>Upper New Ward . . . . . 42½</b>
		Total . . . . . 260.

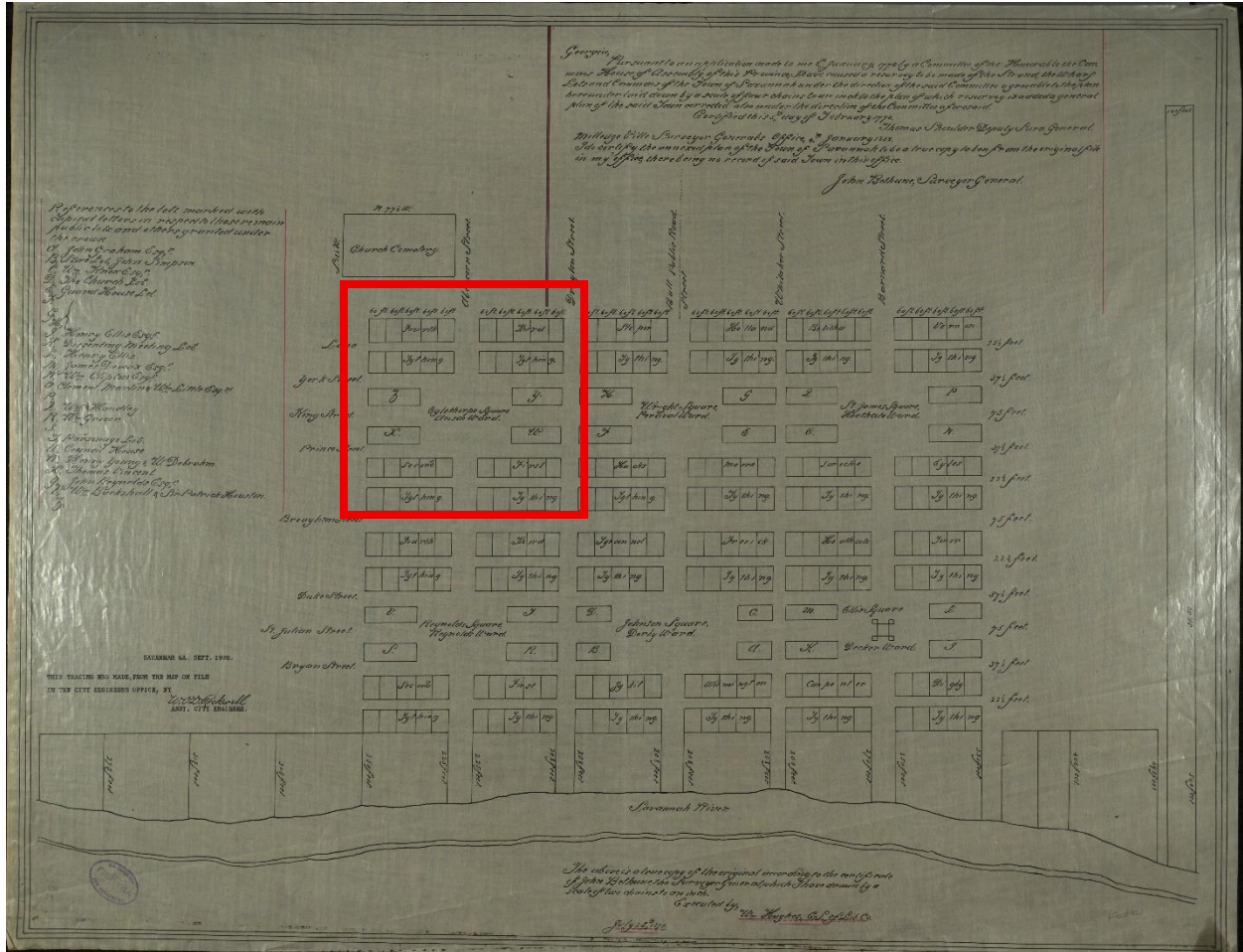
The document as a whole can be found at this [link](#).

While neither source directly mentions Oglethorpe (Upper New) Square, they, at minimum, show that the surrounding ward had been established by 1738 and 1740.

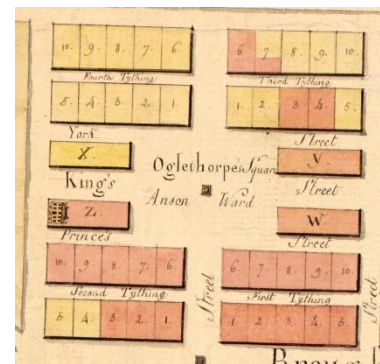
The Digital Library of Georgia website has a map titled "Plan of the City of Savannah and its fortifications." Based on the notes on the map, it was likely created in 1875 but is an "Enlarged Copy of a Plan of the City of Savannah and Fortifications in the year 1757 contained in the History of the Province of Georgia to which reference..." Oglethorpe Square was likely the area highlighted in red. The map is shown on the next page and can be found at this [link](#).

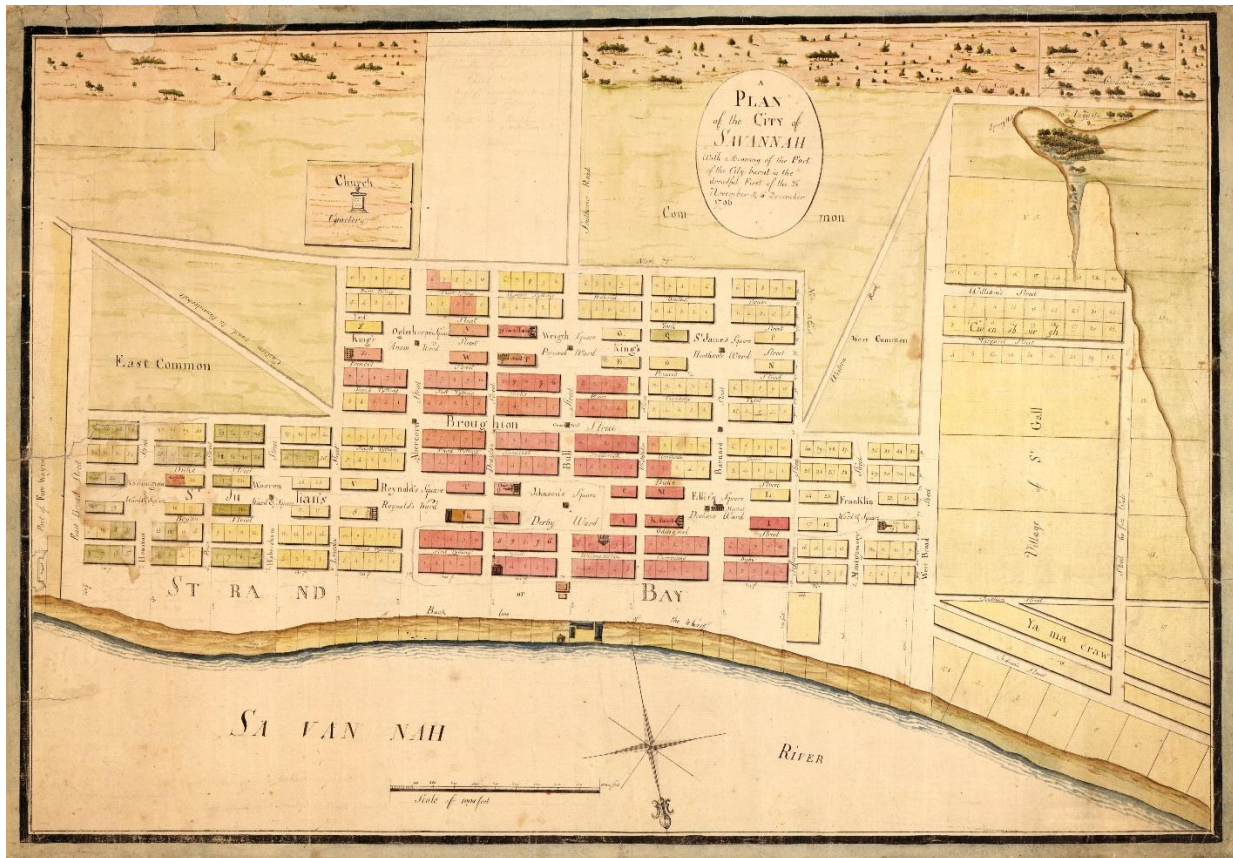


Also on the Digital Library of Georgia website is a map titled “[Savannah] Georgia, pursuant to an application made to me 8th January, 1770 by a committee of the honorable the Commons House of Assembly of this province, I have caused a resurvey to be made of the strand, the wharf lots and commons of the town of Savannah.” The map that is shown is a copy but can provide context as it shows Oglethorpe Square that year. The map is held by the University of Georgia but can be found on the Digital Library of Georgia [website](#).



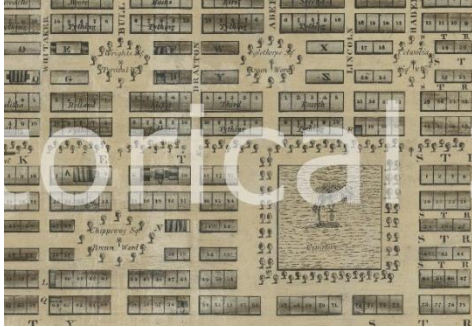
The Library of Congress has a map entitled “A plan of the city of Savannah : with a drawing of the part of the city burnt in the dreadful fires of the 26 November & 6 December, 1796.” The map shows Oglethorpe Square with its current name. A closeup of the square is shown to the right while the map in its entirety is shown on the next page for reference. The link to the item on the Library of Congress website can be found [here](#).



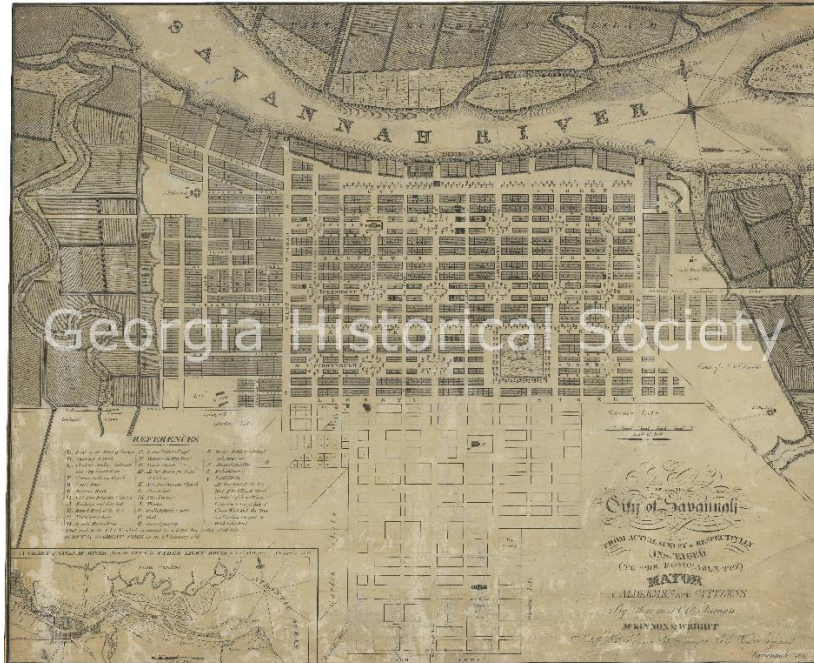


**NOTIFICATION.**  
**T**HE Members of the Grand Lodge of Georgia, and the respective Lodges by their proper Representatives, are desired to attend at the Lodge Room in the Filature, in the city of Savannah, on Saturday the 7th March next, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, being a Grand Quarterly Communication.  
 By Order of the Right Worshipful Grand Master,  
 JOHN M'CALL, Grand Secretary.  
 Savannah, 20th February, 5801.  
 For Lease or Ground Rent for five or seven years,  
**The Trust Lot W. Oglethorpe**  
 squares, being 180 by 60 feet, whereon the subscriber lived prior to the fire in 1796.  
 The Lot adjoining James Alger's and Estate of Furse, at Yamacraw, being 100 feet front on Yamacraw main street, and convenient to the river.  
 For terms apply to col. Josiah Tattnall, or to  
**JAMES JACKSON.**  
 Either of the above lots will be divided to accommodate applicants.  
 February 26.

The earliest reference to the square in a newspaper that staff could find at the time of writing this report was found in the February 26, 1801, edition of The Georgia gazette. A clipping from this newspaper is provided to the left.



The Georgia Historical Society has a map entitled “Plan of the City of Savannah,” which is dated to 1820. A closeup of the square is shown to the left while the entire map is shown below. Like the map from 1796, the square is shown and has its current name. (Link to the GHS website can be found [here](#).)



The Census of the City of Savannah, second edition, published in 1848 provides the following description of Anson Ward:

Anson Ward is one of the oldest wards in the city – named after Lord Anson the celebrated navigator ; its square, containing one acres, is named Oglethorpe Square ‘ has in it a public cistern, for the use of the fire department. Population 300 whites and 300 coloured. In this ward there are no public buildings, except the Methodist Sunday School Room. Number of dwelling houses 60 – of brick 8, wood 52. Private wells of water 8.

The link to the source can be found [here](#).

The *Pleasure Guide for Northern Tourists and Invalids*, published in 1875, states that

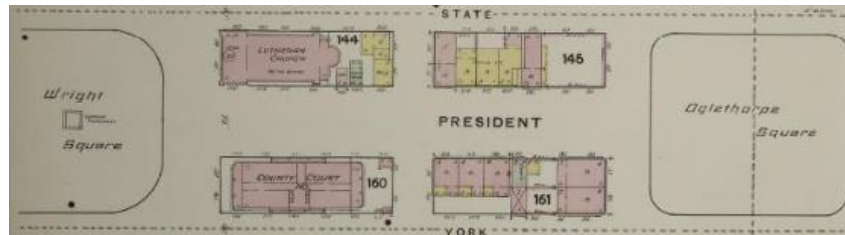
Anson Ward, is one of the old wards of the city - named after Lord Anson, the celebrated navigator; its square, containing one acre, is name Oglethorpe Square.

The link to the source can be found [here](#).

Oglethorpe Square is shown in the 1884 and 1888 Sanborn Maps. The 1884 map shows the walkways that defined the square.



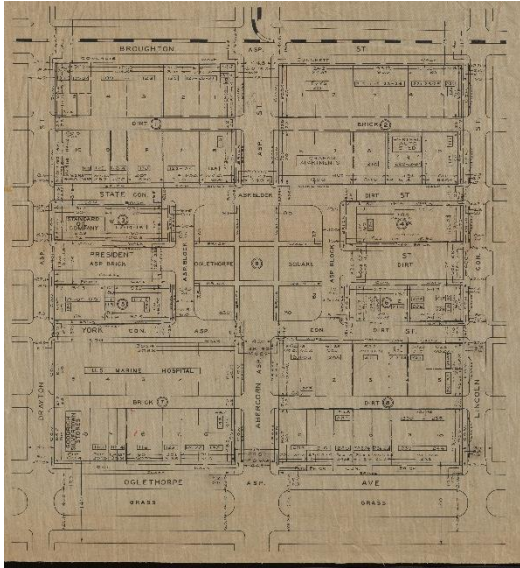
1884



1888

The photo to the left below shows a portion of the square circa 1900 while the one to the right was taken in 1933 when the Moravian Monument was being dedicated. Both are from the Georgia Historical Society.





The Cadastral Survey, which was completed in 1939 or 1940, shows the same walkways that are seen in the 1884 Sanborn. At that time, the walkways were constructed of brick. The Georgia Historical Society photo above was taken in circa 1940s per the GHS website while two photos below were taken at an unknown time.

