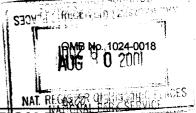
01-741



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Prope	rty					
historic name other names/site		listoric District N/A				
2. Location						
street & number city, town Sava	Pennsylvania	nded by Skidaway l Avenue.	Road, G	oebel Avenue,	Gwinnett S	Street, and () vicinity of
county Chat		code 051				() Vicinity of
state Georgia		zip code 31404				
3. Classification Ownership of Pro (x) private	perty:		Cat	tegory of Prop	perty:	
() public-local () public-state () public-federal			 () building(s) (x) district () site () structure () object 			
Number of Resou	rces within Pr	operty: <u>Cont</u>	ributing	Nonco	ntributing	
build	linas		126		48	
sites	•		0		0	
struc	tures		2		0	
obje	cts		0		0	
total			128		48	

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 2 Name of previous listing: Two Pierpont Circle (listed April 4, 1990).

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification	
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preserva nomination meets the documentation standards for registering preets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.	roperties in the National Register of Historic Places and
Rice Cox Signature of certifying official	$\frac{8.22-0(}{Date}$
W. Ray Luce Historic Preservation Division Director Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer	
In my opinion, the property () meets () does not me continuation sheet.	et the National Register criteria. () See
Signature of commenting or other official	Date
State or Federal agency or bureau	Date
5. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	
(entered in the National Register	latink Ardrus 10/11/2001
() determined eligible for the National Register	
() determined not eligible for the National Register	
() removed from the National Register	
() other, explain:	
() see continuation sheet	

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling Recreation and Culture: park

Education: school

Current Functions:

Domestic: single dwelling, multiple dwelling

Recreation and Culture: park

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Late 19th and 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival

Late 19th and Early 20th Century American Movements: Bungalow/Craftsman

Modern Movement: Ranch Style.

Materials:

foundation Concrete

walls Wood: weatherboard

roof Asphalt other Brick

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Gordonston Historic District is an approximately 80-acre suburban development that was laid out in 1917 and built through 1950. Located east of downtown Savannah, Gordonston is distinguished by its Beaux-Arts inspired radial plan in which only Henry Avenue joins Savannah's established grid-iron plan of streets (figure 1). The neighborhood is organized around Pierpont Circle from which many of the principal streets radiate. Gordsonton is significant because of its plan, architectural resources, and landscape features.

Historic Plan of Gordonston

The Beaux-Arts radial plan, laid out by J. G. Langdon, is centered on Pierpont Circle, a small, landscaped park that serves as a central traffic node (photos 3-4). Other major thoroughfares radiate from Pierpont Circle. Henry, Anderson, and Kinzie avenues are wide boulevards lined with live oaks and landscaped medians (photos 2,8, 17, and 28). The live oaks form a canopy above the street. Nearly every property is served by a rear service alley. Some of these lanes do not completely traverse the block, but instead end in the interior of the block. As a planned subdivision,

Section 7--Description

deed restrictions stipulated a range of minimum construction costs based on the location of the building lot. Thus, larger homes are located near Pierpont Circle, Anderson Avenue, and the park. Small bungalows are located on smaller lots on less prominent streets.

Historic Architectural Resources of Gordonston

The first houses in the district were Craftsman-style bungalows built mostly on Gordonston and Kinzie avenues during the 1910s and 1920s (photos 20 and 22). An excellent example is the bungalow at 101 Edgewood Avenue (photo 21). Built in 1924, the one-story cottage features a large front-facing dormer and a full-width engaged porch. The house is clad in wood shingles and includes casement windows. The low-pitched roof is distinguished by its open-rafter system and large brackets that support the raking gable. 1901 Henry Street is an example of a two-story Craftsman-style foursquare house (photo 30). It features a square plan with four principal rooms on each floor. The exterior is clad in weatherboard. The full-width front porch and the low-pitched hip roof and hip dormer are characteristic of Craftsman houses.

Many of the houses built in Gordonston during the 1920s and 1930s were large Colonial Revival-style houses (photo 19). E. Lynn Drummond, an architect practicing in the early years of the subdivision, wrote that architects in the area were getting away from "high ceilings and geegaws." He was a strong proponent of the Dutch Colonial style, which he stated "more nearly meets modern requirements." He felt this style was "free from jimcracks and gingerbread, restful in design and truly homelike." He stated that there were "no longer long rows of closely packed facades, but residential parks of individual homes. . . . Porches are no longer run as galleries across the fronts of houses regardless of their exposure. They are placed to catch the prevailing breezes and to provide the proper privacy and the most attractive outlook." He describes side porches as outdoor living rooms with grass rugs and willow furniture.

E. Lynn Drummond and Henrik Wallin designed the Colonial Revival-style house at 411 Gordonston Avenue in 1914 (photo 27). It is a two-story house set back from the street. It is clad in weatherboard siding and covered with a side-gable roof. The house includes a one-story side ell with a recessed entrance arcade. Many of the Colonial Revival-style houses built during this period have green slate roofs. 202 Anderson Avenue, built by Faquar McRae, is another finely detailed Colonial Revival-style house. Other examples are located at 409 Kentucky Avenue (photo 18, left) and 312 Gordonston Avenue (photo). Two Pierpont Circle, which is listed in the National Register, is a good example of the Colonial Revival style (photo). Smaller Cape Cod-style houses were built in the historic district, such as 302 Anderson Avenue, which was built in 1925 (photo 18, right).

The historic district also includes the Colonial Revival-style Moore Avenue Elementary School, which was designed in 1942 by the Savannah firm of Levy and Clarke (photo 7). "The new school," according to a newspaper article, "is being built by the government as part of the defense program to take care of the added burden on the Chatham County school system occasioned by the influx of families of military and defense project workers." The two-story brick building included sixteen

Section 7--Description

classrooms, administrative offices, assembly room, library, kitchen, and cafeteria. The school was built with a concrete foundation and structural clay tile wall that were later veneered with brick. The main façade features a five-part plan with a classical entrance. In 1953, three small additions were built to the rear of the main classroom building and, in 1979, a media building was constructed behind the school. In 1958, the Chatham County Board of Education changed the name of the school in honor of the chemist and teacher Dr. Charles Herty. The school closed in 1990.

The Spanish Colonial style was less popular in Gordonston. The house at 514 Virginia Avenue is the only example of the Spanish Colonial Revival style in the neighborhood. It is a U-shaped house organized around a front courtyard. The house and low wall that enclosed the courtyard are covered with stucco. There are a few examples of the Monterey Style, including 3 Pierpont Circle (photos 3-4). Designed in 1947-48 by architect John C. Lebey, the two-story brick house is unusual because of its projecting second-story gallery.

The English Vernacular Revival style was also popular in Gordonston. These houses are characterized by their asymmetrical massing and steeply pitched roofs. The house at 207 Georgia Avenue is an excellent example of the Tudor Revival style in which the eaves of the front-facing cornice nearly extend to the ground (photo 11). Another example is the Tudor Revival-style house at 1840 Skidaway Road (photo 6).

Between 1945 and 1950, over fifty houses were constructed in the district, most in the form of early ranch houses with carports or garages to accommodate automobiles (photos 10, 25, 28, 29, and 31). These houses have square plans with one or more projecting wings. These early ranch houses are characterized by their horizontal proportions and low hip roofs with broad, overhanging eaves. These houses have small windows in front and open up to the rear with larger areas of glass where there is greater privacy. The houses feature steel-framed casement windows and are usually clad in brick veneer but some have scallop-edged asbestos shingles. These houses, which represent the last major period of construction in the historic district, were built on empty lots scattered throughout the district that had never been developed.

Historic Landscape Features of Gordonston

Historic landscape features define the character of the Gordonston Historic District. In 1920, a newspaper article noted that "Gordonston is a new subdivision on the east side located on higher ground than any residential section of Savannah, gets all the breezes that blow, and has the added attraction of many fine old shade trees scattered throughout the tract." Kinzie and Anderson avenues have planted medians. Kinzie is planted with oak trees; Anderson is planted with Crepe Myrtle. Live oaks planted at the sides of the roads throughout the district form a canopy over the streets (photos 8 and 17).

E. Lynn Drummond wrote that the landscape associated with a house and a properly planned garden is as important as the house itself. He advocated the use of trellises for climbing vines and roses.

Section 7--Description

Popular plants found throughout the district include camellias, pittisporum, Cleria, Oleander, palmetto, Savannah Holly, Wax Myrtle, Azalea, Pecan trees, hydranga, Magnolia Grandiflora, Euoynomous, and Elaeagnus. The Gordonston Garden Club, founded in 1928, maintains and promotes gardens in the neighborhood.

Juliette Gordon Low Park, located at the north end of the district, is a landscaped park that was dedicated to the "children of Gordonston" by Juliette Low in 1926 (photos 13 and 15). The park, which was also called Brownie Park and Gordon Memorial Park, was rededicated in the name of Juliette Gordon Low in 1940. Enclosed by an iron fence, the park contains a city well and a cabin built in the late 1940s for Girl Scout troop meetings. Oak and magnolia trees are found throughout the naturally landscaped park, with an understory of dogwoods, camellias, and azaleas. The Gordonston Neighborhood Association uses the park for oyster roasts and garden club meetings. A trust established by the Low family provides funds for the maintenance of the park.

8. Statement of Significance	
Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to othe properties:	>r
() nationally () statewide (x) locally	
Applicable National Register Criteria:	
(x) A () B (x) C () D	
Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): (x) N/A	
()A()B()C()D()E()F()G	
Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):	
Architecture Landscape Architecture Community Planning and Development	
Period of Significance:	
1917-1950	
Significant Dates:	
1917 – W. W. Gordon laid out a subdivision called Gordonston. 1926 – Juliette Gordon Low Park established in Gordsonston. 1942 – Moore Avenue Elementary School completed.	
Significant Person(s):	
N/A	
Cultural Affiliation:	
N/A	

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Berry, Gerry (builder)
Bright, J. A.; (architect)
Drummond, E. Lynn (architect)
Dutton, George (contractor)
J. V. Duffin House Building Co. (contractor)
Langdon, J. G. (landscape architect)
LeBey, John C. (architect)
Levy and Clarke (architectural firm)
McConnell, C. S. (contractor)
McRae, Faquar; (contractor)
Otto, Olaf (builder)
Spaulding Construction Company (contractor)
Wallin, Henrik (architect)
Wallwork, J. Julius; Architect

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

Gordonston is an excellent example of an early 20th century, planned residential suburb in Savannah. The Gordonston Historic District is significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> because its houses represent styles of architecture popular in Georgia from the 1910s through 1950. The earliest houses in Gordonston are Craftsman-style houses and bungalows. Influenced by the English Arts and Crafts movement and the wooden architecture of Japan, the Craftsman style represents a break from popular revivals of historical styles. The Craftsman style produced carefully designed houses which emphasized materials, especially woodwork, and the way materials were put together. Craftsman houses were located across the state in rural, small towns, and urban settings from the 1910s through the 1930s. Entire neighborhoods of craftsman-style houses were commonly built. Gordonston features excellent examples of the Craftsman-style bungalows and larger, two-story Craftsman houses.

Colonial Revival-style house are located throughout Gordonston. The Colonial Revival style, which expressed renewed interest in the architecture of America's colonial past, derived from the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia. Since then, Colonial Revival-style houses were built as close copies of colonial buildings and also in a freer more eclectic manner. Sometimes, colonial details are simply grafted onto other buildings in other styles. The Colonial Revival was very popular in Georgia and persisted from the 1890s through the 1940s and beyond. Colonial Revival-style houses in Gordsonston are mostly derived from New England sources and include examples modeled after large, framed houses of Massachusetts Bay and the smaller counterpart, the Cape Cod house. Excellent examples of the less-common Monterey style and the Dutch and Spanish colonial styles are also located in the district.

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Gordonston also contains excellent examples of English Vernacular-style houses. Drawn from the domestic architecture of medieval England, this style was based on English country and vernacular houses, ranging from small cottages to larger manor houses. English Vernacular houses were built across the state in neighborhoods of both large cities and small towns during the 1920s and 1930s. Houses in this style often have asymmetrical massing and a steeply pitched roof with dominant front-facing gable. The walls are usually masonry with decorative half-timbering. A massive chimney

sometimes dominates the main façade. In Gordonston, several examples of the English Vernacular style have asymmetrical front gables that slope nearly to the ground and incorporate arched gateways to the rear yard.

More than one-quarter of the houses in Gordonston are early ranch houses that were built between 1945 and 1950. The ranch house first developed in California at the beginning of the 20th century based on the sprawling Spanish house type that is closed to the street and opens to an interior courtyard. In Georgia, ranch houses were built in large numbers after World War II. Early examples, like those in Gordonston, are not as long and linear as later examples but have square plans. The houses are further characterized by their low, horizontal proportions and low hip roofs. Carports and garages have been integrated into the design.

The historic district is also significant in the area of <u>landscape architecture</u> as a rare example in Georgia of a Beaux-Arts-influenced, "City Beautiful" type plan. Like the earlier Savannah developments of Ardsley Park and Chatham Crescent, Gordonston features broad avenues, landscaped medians, radial traffic nodes, and landscaped parks. These elements of the plan create a park-like setting that distinguishes these neighborhoods from those built on the more common gridiron plan of streets. City Beautiful-type plans, and radial plans in particular, are rare in Georgia with the only documented examples in Savannah.

The historic district is significant in the area of <u>community planning and development</u> because as an early automobile suburb it represents a move in the United States away from the noise and congestion of downtowns and the rise of suburban developments. In 1917, W. W. Gordon advertised his Beaux-Arts-inspired subdivision as "high and dry, very healthy, strictly suburban . . . no smoke or turmoil, an 80-acre residential park." Like many cities at the beginning of the 20th century, Savannah was crowded with residents living in close proximity to commercial and industrial districts. Those that could afford automobiles moved to the less-developed fringes of the city. Gordonston represents the trend in which private developers laid out entire neighborhoods for residents looking to escape the city for healthier surroundings. It is among the few examples of such suburban developments in Savannah.

National Register Criteria

A and C.

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

N/A

Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance begins in 1917 when W. W. Gordon laid out the Gordonston subdivision and ends in 1950 when the post-war construction boom in Gordonston subsides and houses had been built on most of the remaining lots.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

Contributing resources in the historic district are those constructed between 1917 and 1950 that are significant for the themes of architecture, landscape architecture, and community planning and development and which retain historic integrity. This includes houses in Gordonston that date from 1917 to 1950 and the Moore Avenue Elementary School. This also includes landscape features in Juliette Gordon Low Park and those associated with the plan of Gordonston, such as Pierpont Circle and the medians on Anderson and Kinzie avenues. Juliette Gordon Low Park and the plan of Gordonston are identified as contributing structures.

Noncontributing resources are those constructed after 1950 and those that have lost their historic integrity. Most of the noncontributing properties are houses that were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Many of these are post-1950 ranch houses that were built evenly across the historic district (photos 10, 12, 29, and 31). A much smaller number of historic houses have been significantly altered so that they no longer convey their historical significance. These alterations include additions that obscure the form of the building as well as modern materials, such as aluminum siding, that replaced historic building materials. Houses like these are also border the historic district (photo 32). The Moore Avenue Elementary School features four small (noncontributing) annex buildings that were built after 1950.

Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)

In 1917, William Washington Gordon III, along with his three sisters and one brother, inherited an approximately 80-acre tract of land east of downtown Savannah on what is now called Skidaway Road. W. W. Gordon purchased his siblings interest in the property and laid out a subdivision named Gordonston. In May 1917, Gordon advertised his Beaux-Arts-inspired plan as "high and dry, very healthy, strictly suburban . . . no smoke or turmoil, an 80-acre residential park." Early residents of the neighborhood represented Savannah's middle class. These included lumber dealers, employees of the Savannah Sugar Refinery, the Continental Can Company, the Central of Georgia Railroad, the Alexander Grocery Company, and the Acme Freight Line. Nurserymen and realtors also purchased homes in Gordonston.

Section 8--Statement of Significance

A landscaped park for residents was established in 1926 and renamed after Juliette Gordon Low in 1940. One of the early uses of the park was for Girl Scout functions. Union Camp donated the existing cabin to the Girl Scout Council for Girl Scout meetings. The cabin continues to be used for Girl Scout troop meetings as well as other neighborhood functions.

Gordonston, however, developed slowly and by 1930 only about forty lots had been sold. More lots were sold during the 1930s although more than one-quarter of the lots were developed during the post-World War II building boom from 1945 to 1950.

9. Major Bibliographic References

() Other, Specify Repository:

Bachant, Danielle, et al. National Register Registration Form. Gordonston Historic District. On file at the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division, Atlanta, Georgia.

Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources. *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in their Landscaped Settings*. Atlanta: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, 1991.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (x) N/A preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested () () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been issued date issued: previously listed in the National Register: Two Pierpont Circle (listed April 4, 1990). (x) previously determined eligible by the National Register () designated a National Historic Landmark () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # () Primary location of additional data: (x) State historic preservation office () Other State Agency () Federal agency () Local government () University

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

Approximately 80 acres

UTM References

A)	Zone 17	Easting 493480	Northing 3546900
B)	Zone 17	Easting 494150	Northing 3546690
C)	Zone 17	Easting 495000	Northing 3545960
D)	Zone 17	Easting 493530	Northing 3545990

Verbal Boundary Description

The property boundary is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached map, drawn to scale.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the intact historic planned suburb of Gordonston and the Moore Avenue Elementary School across Skidaway Road that was historically associated with Gordonston neighborhood.

11. Form Prepared By

State Historic Preservation Office

name/title Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources street & number 156 Trinity Avenue, S.W. city or town Atlanta state Georgia zip code 30303 telephone (404) 656-2840 date April 15, 2001

Consulting Services/Technical Assistance (if applicable) () not applicable

name/title Students in the Historic Preservation Department organization Savannah College of Art and Design street & number P.O. Box 3146 city or town Savannah state Georgia zip code 31402

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property:

Gordonston Historic District

City or Vicinity:

Savannah Chatham

County: State:

Georgia

Photographer:

James R. Lockhart

Negative Filed:

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Date Photographed:

May 2000

Description of Photograph(s):

1. Two Pierpont Circle, photographer facing north.

- 2. Anderson Avenue, photographer facing northeast.
- 3. Pierpont Circle, photographer facing southwest.
- 4. Pierpont Circle, photographer facing south.
- 5. Virginia Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 6. Skidaway Road, photographer facing northeast.
- 7. Moore Avenue Elementary School, Skidaway Road, photographer facing west.
- 8. Anderson Avenue, photographer facing northeast.
- 9. Henry Avenue, photographer facing northeast.
- 10. Henry Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 11. Georgia Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 12. Skidaway Road, photographer facing east.
- 13. Juliette Gordon Low park, Goergia Avenue, photographer facing east.
- 14. Kentucky Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 15. Juliette Gordon Low Park, Edgewood Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 16. Edgewood Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 17. Anderson Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 18. Anderson Avenue, photographer facing south.
- 19. Gordonston Avenue, photographer facing northeast.

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United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Photographs

- 20. Kinzie Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 21. Kinzie Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 22. Kinzie Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 23. Anderson Avenue, photographer facing north.
- 24. Gwinnett Street, photographer facing west.
- 25. Kinzie Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 26. Kinzie Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 27. Gordonston Avenue, photographer facing west.
- 28. Henry Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 29. Henry Avenue, photographer facing northwest.
- 30. Henry Avenue, photographer facing southeast.
- 31. Henry Avenue, photographer facing southwest.
- 32. Durant Avenue/new York Avenue, photographer facing northwest.

