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# 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 Property

historic name Cuyler-Brownville Historic District  
other names/site number Cuyler-Brownville Historic District

## 2. Location

street & number Bounded by a half block north of Anderson Lane (Cuyler Street School) and W. 31st Street on the north, Montgomery Street on the east, Victory Drive on the south, and Ogeechee Road and Hopkins Street on the west.  
city, town Savannah (n/a) vicinity of  
county Chatham code GA 051  
state Georgia code GA zip code 31401

(n/a) not for publication

## 3. Classification

### Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

### Category of Property:

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

| Number of Resources within Property: | <u>Contributing</u> | <u>Noncontributing</u> |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| buildings                            | 977                 | 117                    |
| sites                                | 2                   | 0                      |
| structures                           | 1                   | 0                      |
| objects                              | 0                   | 0                      |
| <b>total</b>                         | <b>980</b>          | <b>117</b>             |

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 1

Name of previous listing: Charity Hospital, listed 5/1/85.

Name of related multiple property listing: n/a



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## 6. Function or Use

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### Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
COMMERCE/department store  
COMMERCE/speciality store  
EDUCATION/school  
RELIGION/religious facility  
RELIGION/church school  
RELIGION/church-related residence  
HEALTH CARE/hospital

### Current Functions:

DOMESTIC/single dwelling  
DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling  
COMMERCE/department store  
COMMERCE/speciality store  
RELIGION/religious facility

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## 7. Description

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### Architectural Classification:

LATE VICTORIAN/Queen Anne  
LATE VICTORIAN/Italianate  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Neo-Classical Revival  
LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS/Colonial Revival  
LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Bungalow/Craftsman  
OTHER/Folk Victorian  
OTHER/Side Hallway  
OTHER/Central Hallway  
OTHER/Queen Anne  
OTHER/Bungalow  
OTHER/Shotgun  
OTHER/Hall Parlor  
OTHER/Georgian

### Materials:

**foundation** brick and concrete block  
**walls** brick, concrete, wood, asbestos, and asphalt  
**roof** standing seam metal and asphalt  
**other** n/a

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### Section 7--Description

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#### **Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Cuyler-Brownville Historic District is a collection of historic intact residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings located in one of Savannah's oldest African-American neighborhoods just west of the National Register-listed Thomas Streetcar Historic District and east of the National Register-listed Laurel Grove Cemetery. The area that was to become the district was originally identified on General Oglethorpe's 1733 plan for Savannah as "farm lots." According to the 1812 Stoup map of Savannah, no major farms were located within the area of the district. The Southern Road (now Ogeechee Road) is identified on the map and runs along the western boundary line of the district. The Springfield Plantation, a rice plantation, was located west of Ogeechee Road in the location of the existing Laurel Grove Cemetery. The name is derived from the Brownville Community in the southern section of the district and from the Cuyler School District in the northern section.

The development of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood is directly related to the migration of former slaves from rural areas to Savannah following the Civil War. While some former slaves settled by the rivers, others settled in peripheral neighborhoods where they could live relatively undisturbed. Two African-American neighborhoods developed during this period within the southern half of the district. Dilliontown was a one-hundred acre tract purchased by David R. Dillion and laid out in a grid pattern with squares following the Civil War. Brownville, located between Dilliontown and Laurel Grove Cemetery was purchased by Dr. Louis A. Falligent and laid out in a grid pattern (without squares). Unlike Dilliontown and most of Savannah, the lots in Brownville were divided so they were oriented towards the north-south streets instead of the east-west streets. A 1868 Waring Map of Savannah shows the layout of the two communities (see Map 1) and the 1875 Platen Map of Savannah shows continued development of both the Dilliontown and Brownville communities. In 1883, the city of Savannah extended its city limits south from Anderson Street to W. 42nd Street and Estill Avenue (now Victory Drive). By 1886, new wards were created and Dilliontown was absorbed, its squares subdivided, and streets renamed. Brownville was annexed intact and retains the same mid-19th-century plan. Unfortunately, most of the residences built in the Brownville and Dilliontown communities during this early period of development (mid-19th century) have been lost and later houses built within the area.

The historic housing stock of the neighborhood consists of a variety of types and styles built from the 1880s to late 1930s. Unlike the bordering neighborhoods, this district features historic one- and two-story rowhouses built for African-American laborers. These residences were built from the 1880s into the 1910s and are primarily located in the most northern section of the neighborhood. This area is approximately bounded by Anderson Street on the north, Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. on the west, Kline Street on the south, and Ogeechee Road on the west. The earliest residential development in this area took place on W. 33rd and W. 34th streets within the Meldrim Ward (created in 1886). The one-story rowhouses, known as Meldrim Row, were constructed by Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-

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1943) to provide adequate housing for African-American labors in Savannah. The development consists of narrow lots oriented towards the east-west streets with wood-framed one-story rowhouses constructed near the edge of the street. The period of development for Meldrim Row begins c.1884 and ends c.1910. Several of the residences represent the Folk Victorian style with stylistic detailing located along the cornices and porches (see photo 4). The one-story rowhouses in Meldrim Row influenced the other residences constructed within the northern section of the district. Two-story rowhouses were built during the early 1910s and are similar in type to the one-story rowhouses. The types of residences include Hall-Parlor, Central Hallway, Double Pen, and Side-Hallway. An excellent example of a two-story rowhouse is located at 912-934 W. 35th Street. The Side Hallway-type rowhouses were constructed in 1910 and feature Folk Victorian-style details on the porches and along the cornices (see photo 7). Other architectural features include a front double porticos, weatherboard cladding, two-over-two double hung windows, and off-centered chimneys.

Located south of Kline Street, the residential housing stock changes from the rowhouse type to single detached residences (see photos 10 and 11). A few apartment buildings are located within the neighborhood, such as the c.1911 apartment building located at 501-503 W. 37th Street (see photo 16). The residences located in this section of the neighborhood represent the peak period of development from 1910 to 1920 within the neighborhood. The historic residences are one- and two-story buildings representing various types including Side Hallway, Hall Parlor, Bungalow, Georgian House, Queen Anne cottage, and Shotgun. The styles include Colonial Revival, Craftsman, Neoclassical Revival, and Folk Victorian. The various types and styles represent the presence of both working- and middle-class African-Americans living within the same neighborhood. The three residences located at 1901 (built 1913), 1905 (built 1913), and 1907 Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd (built 1915) are excellent examples of two-story Side Hallway-type houses built in the Colonial Revival style (see photo 10). Another excellent example of a Side Hallway-type house built in the Colonial Revival style is the Thomas C. Farr House, built in 1916, located at 607 W. 37th Street. The two-story house features a hipped roof with a dormer, paired and single 12-over-1 double hung windows, full-width wrap-around porch with paired columns on brick piers, a balustrade, and trabeated front door (see photo 15). Excellent examples of Folk Victorian-style houses are located at 603 and 605 W. 38th Street. 603 W. 38th Street is a one-and-a-half-story Queen Anne-type house built in the Folk Victorian style. The house, built in 1915, features decorative shingles in the front eaves, dentils, overhanging eaves with brackets, full-width front porch with unfluted columns with Doric capitals, balustrade, and trabeated front door (see photo 22). An excellent example of a c.1915 Craftsman Bungalow is located at 639 W. 38th Street. The one-story house features a shed dormer, full-width porch with an elliptical arch supported by outer brick piers, paired wooden porch supports on brick piers, and exposed rafter tails (see photo 21).

A survey conducted by the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission identified 19 historic commercial buildings within the district. The majority of the historic commercial buildings

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### Section 7--Description

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are corner stores. The corner stores are located at the intersections of major streets within the neighborhood. The corner stores located at 2202 Ogeechee Road (intersecting with W. 38th Street) and 651 W. 41st Street (intersection with Florence Street) are representative of the late 19th- to early 20th-century corners stores in the neighborhood. 2202 Ogeechee Road corner store is a two-story masonry building constructed c.1900 and features one-over-one double-hung windows, flat roof with exposed rafter tails, wide overhanging eaves, and large store-front windows. The main entrance to the store is oriented towards the center of the intersection (see photo 17). 651 W. 41st Street corner store is a two-story wood-framed building featuring one-over-one double-hung windows, flat roof with exposed rafter tails, wide overhanging eaves, and large store-front windows with transoms. The main entrance to the store is oriented towards the center of the intersection (see photo 40). The first floor of both buildings served as a general store and the second floor functioned as a residence. A c.1937 gas station is located at 2222 Ogeechee Road and features masonry construction, large canopy supported by brick piers, flat parapet roof, and one-room office (see photo 25).

The Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood has retained many of its community landmark buildings. The importance of education to the African-American community in Savannah is conveyed through the remaining schools within the district. The Cuyler Street School, built 1914, is a two-story masonry building constructed in the Colonial Revival style. The building features a flat roof with a parapet, a stone string course near the cornice and base, pilasters, six-over-six double-hung ribbon windows, and keystones in the windows lintels (see photo 1). The School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, built in 1909, is a two-story masonry building constructed in the Colonial Revival style (see photo 14). The Florence Street School, built c.1929, is a three-story masonry building featuring castellations and a pedimented parapet, a three-bay front facade with large bands of windows (see photo 6).

Two historic churches are located within the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. Palen Memorial Church (now United Methodist Church), built c.1920, is located on the corner of W. 35th Street and Burroughs Street (see photo 8). The masonry building constructed in the Italianate style features a wood-framed tower with wide overhanging eaves with brackets and tall, narrow, framed windows with arched brick crowns. Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church, built c.1909, is located at 902 W. 36th Street near Meldrim Row. The church is a one-story wood-framed building that was brick veneered in the late 1970s.

Charity Hospital, located on the corner of Florence Street and 36th Street, was built in 1931 in the Colonial Revival style by Cletus W. Bergen (1895-1971). The hospital was listed on the National Register of Historic Places on May 5, 1985. The building has suffered damage from a past fire and neglect (see photo 13). Currently, the building is being rehabilitated for future use as a community center.

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The landscaping in the neighborhood consists of mature oak trees lining the streets, informally landscaped yards, remaining brick-laid streets, and Wells Park. Wells Park was not included in the original design of the neighborhood but appears in its current location on a 1888 map of the City of Savannah. The park consists of mature oak trees, azalea plants, and palmetto trees. A nonhistoric basketball court and parking lot are located within the park (see photo 24). A section of W. 36th Street features large mature oak trees and azalea bushes lining the brick-laid street (see photo 11).

During the late 1930s, construction slowly declined as the neighborhood became full. A few concrete-block bungalows constructed in 1937 are located along Victory Drive, the southern boundary line.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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**Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:**

nationally       statewide       locally

**Applicable National Register Criteria:**

A       B       C       D

**Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):**  N/A

A    B    C    D    E    F    G

**Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):**

ETHNIC HISTORY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN  
COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
ARCHITECTURE  
HEALTH  
EDUCATION  
COMMERCE

**Period of Significance:**

1867-1937

**Significant Dates:**

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| 1867      | Development of the Brownville tract.  |
| 1868      | Development of the Dilliontown tract.                                       |
| 1883      | Extension of the Savannah's city limits.                                    |
| 1884-1910 | Period of development for Meldrim Row.                                      |
| 1886      | Creation of new city wards, including Meldrim Ward.                         |
| 1910-1920 | Greatest period of development within the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood.   |
| 1931      | Construction of Charity Hospital, a historically African-American hospital. |

**Significant Person(s):**

Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-1943).

**Cultural Affiliation:**

n/a



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**Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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**Architect(s)/Builder(s):**

Cletus W. Bergen                  Charity Hospital, 1931.

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Cuyler-Brownville Historic District is located in the southwestern section of the city of Savannah, Chatham County. The neighborhood is laid out in a gridiron pattern and encompasses historic residential buildings, commercial buildings, community landmark buildings, a recreational park/square, tree-lined streets, and bricked streets. The district is characterized as a historically African-American neighborhood that developed during the late 19th century. The district has a statewide significance in the areas of ethnic history: African-American, community planning and development, social history, architecture, health, education, and commerce.

The Cuyler-Brownville Historic District is significant in the area of ethnic history: African-American since the neighborhood historically developed as an African-American neighborhood. Following the end of the Civil War (1861-1865), some former slaves settled in peripheral neighborhoods of Savannah where they could live relatively undisturbed. To provide for the needs of those living within the African-American neighborhood residences, churches, commercial stores, schools, and a hospital were constructed. The neighborhood has all the characteristic physical features of a historic African-American neighborhood in Georgia as identified through a statewide historic context, Historic Black Resources (Carole Merrit, 1984): a wide variety of house types, styles, and sizes, and a variety of commercial and institutional buildings, all in a relatively small and densely developed area.

The district is significant in the area of community planning and development and social history as a historically African-American neighborhood laid out in a standard gridiron pattern for development. The mid-19th-century development of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood encompassed Dilliontown, laid out and developed by David R. Dillon, and Brownville, laid out and developed by Dr. Louis A. Falligant. Dilliontown, located south of W. 37th Street, consisted of a one-hundred acre tract laid out in a gridiron pattern with three squares. Brownville, located between Dillontown and Laurel Grove Cemetery, consisted of approximately twenty acres and was laid out in a grid pattern with no squares. Unlike Dillontown and most of Savannah, the lots in Brownville were divided so they were oriented towards the north-south streets instead of the east-west streets. Former slaves settled into these two communities and worked as labors.

The development of the northern section of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood is significant for its association to Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-1943), a native of Savannah. Meldrim developed a small community in the early 1880s located between W. 33rd and W. 34th streets, known as Meldrim Row, to provide adequate housing for African-American labors in Savannah. Meldrim was a philanthropist with a particular interest in the development of the African-American community in Savannah and creating a positive living environment. At the age of 16, Meldrim enlisted as a corporal in the Home Guard to defend Savannah from the advancing Union troops during the Civil War. Following the Civil War, he entered the University of Georgia to study law. After finishing

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college, he returned to Savannah and opened the law firm Garrard and Meldrim. Meldrim entered public service by serving as a member of both the Senate (1881-1891) and House of Representatives (1891-1896) of the General Assembly. He also served as the Mayor of Savannah in 1897. In 1917, Meldrim was appointed as a Superior Court Judge for Chatham County. The development started by Meldrim spurred similar development around Meldrim Row which resulted in the northern section of the neighborhood being fully developed with one- and two-story rowhouses housing blue-collar African-American workers by the early 1910s. Meldrim's development of Meldrim Row is significant as one of the earliest attempts to provide adequate housing for minorities in Georgia.

The district is significant in the area of architecture for its excellent intact collection of historic residential, commercial, and community landmark buildings. The historic residential buildings were constructed from the late 19th century, Meldrim Row, into the late 1930s. The height of the period of construction of the residential buildings in the district was from 1910 to 1920. The neighborhood consists of mostly detached single-family residences; however, one- and two-story rowhouses are pervasive within the northern section of the neighborhood. The types and styles represented in the district are identified as significant in Georgia in the Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings context. The types of residential buildings in the district include Hall-Parlor, Georgian cottage, Central Hallway, Double Pen, Side-Hallway, Bungalow, Queen Anne, and Shotgun. Statewide, these types were popular in the suburbs of Georgia's cities from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. In the northern section of the district, one- and two-story rowhouses are the predominate house type. The rowhouse type is rare in Georgia and mostly found in Savannah. According to the Georgia Historic Resources Survey, there are approximately 35 one-story rowhouses and 27 two-story rowhouses in Savannah. The highest concentration of rowhouses is located in the Cuyler-Brownville Historic District. Excellent examples of the one-story rowhouses (Meldrim Row) are located on W. 33rd and W. 34th streets. The rowhouses feature a Hall-Parlor floor plan and located near the edge of the street. The rowhouses feature Folk Victorian-style elements in the cornices and symmetrical front facades (see photo 4). Excellent examples of two-story rowhouses are located along W. 35th Street. Located along side one-story rowhouses, the two-story rowhouses conform to a Side Hallway floor plan and feature double porticos (the second-story portico is supported by iron porch supports) and Folk Victorian-style elements along the porches (see photo 7). The variety of types throughout the entire neighborhood illustrates the mixture of the working class, associated with the rowhouse, shotgun, Central Hallway, Georgian cottage, Double-Pen, and Hall Parlor types, and the middle-class, associated with the Side Hallway, Queen Anne, and Bungalow types.

The styles identified with the district include Queen Anne, Folk Victorian, Italianate, Neoclassical Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. As identified in the Georgia's Living Places context, these were styles popular in Georgia from the late 19th into the early 20th century. These styles are

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interspersed throughout the district, such as along W.37th Street (see photo 23), or situated uniformly, such as the Craftsman-style houses located along W. 38th Street (see photo 18). The variety of styles, popular from the late 19th century into the early 20th century, represented in the district, conveys the influx of middle-class African-Americans moving into the neighborhood.

A survey conducted by the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission identified 19 historic commercial buildings within the district. Unlike surrounding National Register districts, the Cuyler-Brownville Historic District has maintained a high concentration of historic commercial buildings. These commercial buildings are excellent examples of corner stores, attached masonry stores, and gas stations. The most common type of commercial building within in the district is the corner store. The corner stores were built within the neighborhood from 1900 to 1920. The store located at the corner of Burroughs Street and W. 36th Street is an excellent example and representative of the stores within the district. The two-story wood-framed building, built in 1912, features a recessed front entrance with decorative brackets oriented towards the intersection, large shop windows with transoms, a cantilevered second-story porch with machine-turned posts and balustrade, and modillions (see photo 12). An excellent example of a brick, two-story, corner store within the district is located at the intersection of Ogeechee Road and W. 38th Street. The store, built in 1900, features a flatiron-plan shape, a flat roof with exposed rafter tails, and decorative brickwork in the cornice. The front door is oriented towards the intersection (see photo 17). Three corner stores remain at the intersection of Burroughs Street and W. 39th Street (see photo 31).

Along Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. and Montgomery Street, two north-south main arteries through the district, are a few examples of masonry, attached, one-story commercial buildings built during the late 1920s and early 1930s. Good examples of these commercial buildings are located on Montgomery Street near its intersection with W. 41st Street. The stores consists of three store fronts (each divided into three bays) with parapets and feature Folk Victorian elements along the cornice, arched windows, and door surrounds (see photo 48). The third type of commercial building represented within the neighborhood is the gas station. The gas station located at the corner of Ogeechee Road and W. 39th Street is an excellent example of the type of gas station found within the district. The gas station, built in 1937, features a canopy with a parapet roof and an office located within the center block of the building (see photo 25).

The community landmark buildings located within the district are excellent examples of the types of buildings constructed in historically African-American neighborhoods. The community landmark buildings include churches, schools, and a hospital. Two historic churches are located within the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. Palen Memorial Church (now United Methodist Church), built c.1920, is located on the corner of W. 35th Street and Burroughs Street. The masonry building, built in the Italianate style, features a tower with wide overhanging eaves with brackets and tall, narrow, framed windows with arched brick crowns (see photo 8). Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic Church,

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built c.1909, is located at 902 W. 36th Street near Meldrim Row. The church is a one-story wood-framed building that was brick veneered in the late 1970s. The neighborhood includes several historically African-American schools including Cuyler Street School, built in 1914 (see photo 1), School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, built in 1909 (see photo 14), and Florence Street School, built in 1929 (see photo 6). The hospital located within the district is the National Register-listed Charity Hospital which was built in 1931 and designed by Cletus W. Bergen. These community landmark buildings convey the need for the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood to build institutional, religious, and medical facilities to provide basic needs to those living within the neighborhood.

The district is significant in the areas of health, education, and commerce for its excellent collection of schools, a hospital, and commercial buildings. According to the Historic Black Resources context: "Among the richest resources of the black built environment are the buildings of religious, educational, and social institutions." The significance of Charity Hospital (1931) began in 1893. Prior to 1893, the only hospital for African-Americans in Savannah was the Georgia Infirmary (1837), located within the Thomas Square Streetcar Historic District. The Georgia Infirmary was founded by whites to treat African-Americans and only employed white doctors and nurses. In 1893, Cornelius and Alice McKane, West Indian physicians, established the McKane School for Nurses in their Savannah home. Land on the corner of W. 36th Street and Florence Street was donated to the couple and an old house moved to the property in 1896. The McKanes started the McKane Hospital for Women and Children the same year. In 1907, the hospital was rechartered and renamed Charity Hospital and Training School for Nurses. The old house served as the hospital building until 1931. The hospital staff consisted of African-American doctors and nurses, the only such hospital in Savannah. The board of trustees from the 1890s to the 1920s included six African-American ministers, newspaper editors, and Savannah State professors. With the help of generous Savannahians and the Rosenwald Foundation, enough money was raised to construct a masonry hospital in 1931. Charity Hospital continued to employ African-American doctors and nurses and was run by an African-American superintendent. The hospital closed in 1964 and the building functioned as a nursing home until the 1970s. The building has suffered from fire and neglect over the past years, but is now being rehabilitated to function as a community center.

The Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood encompasses several schools. According to the Historic African-American Residential Neighborhoods in Atlanta, Georgia Multiple Property Listing context: African-Americans "possess[ed] a deep faith in the power of education to improve their status and living conditions." This was true for the African-American neighborhoods in Savannah, as well. Under pressures from African-American citizens of Savannah, the Chatham County Board of Education redesignated two existing schools in 1872 from white to black. The first school building constructed by the City of Savannah for African-American children was the Cuyler Street School in 1914. At that time, it was the only school that employed African-American teachers. Cuyler Street School was the only African-American high school in Savannah from the late 1920s to 1950 when

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Alfred E. Beach High School was opened. The school closed in 1975 and is now the headquarters of the Economic Opportunity Authority.

Other significant schools within the district include the School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, founded in 1909 by Father Ignatius Lissner of the Most Pure Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church, for neighborhood children. Florence Street School was an elementary school founded in 1930. Through the efforts of starting the school, the Parent-Teachers Association for Cuyler-Brownville was founded in 1930 and was an active organization in promoting education within the neighborhood.

According to the Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission, 19 historic commercial buildings remain within the district. Unlike other National Register-listed districts near the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood, this national register district has the highest concentration of commercial buildings, specifically corner stores. According to the Historic Black Resources context: "As Jim Crow policies became institutionalized around the turn of the century, and as segregated residential patterns developed in cities throughout Georgia, black businesses and professions were increasingly restricted to the black market." This trend applied to the development and continued preservation of the corner stores in Cuyler-Brownville. Unable to shop at white-owned stores outside of the neighborhood, those living within Cuyler-Brownville relied on neighborhood corner stores. Many of the stores along the major streets through the neighborhood have remained general or speciality stores. Many of the stores located deep within the neighborhood and not on major streets have changed from their original use as a general store to social/meeting places. The Richardson Grocery Store located at the intersection of Burroughs and W. 39th Street is an excellent example. Originally built as a grocery store in 1916, the building now functions as the meeting place for the Savannah Checker Club (see photo 31).

The district is significant in the area of landscape architecture for its excellent examples of tree-lined streets, remaining sections of brick-laid streets, historic landscaped park/square, informally landscaped front yards, and landscaped median. Many of the streets are lined with mature oak trees along the street's right of way (see photo 18). A section of W. 37th Street has retained its brick roadbed and features large mature oak trees and azalea bushes in the median (see photos 11 and 15). There is little landscaping featured in the northern section of the district (see photo 4 and 7); however, yards with mature oak trees, azalea bushes, palmetto trees, and grass are located throughout the rest of the district (see photo 18). The district also contains a historic square/park, Wells Park, located at W. 38th Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The park features historic plantings, a nonhistoric basketball court, and parking lot (see photo 24).

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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#### **National Register Criteria**

The Cuyler-Brownville Historic District is eligible under National Register Criteria A and C for its significance in the residential, institutional, and commercial history of a historically African-American neighborhood and for its variety of architectural styles and types, gridiron street plan, planted features, and landscaping from the mid-19th century into the mid-20th century. The district is eligible under Criteria B for its association to Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-1943), a noted local philanthropist who developed the late 19th-century development Meldrim Row to provide housing for African-American labors in Savannah.

#### **Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

n/a

#### **Period of significance (justification)**

The period of significance begins in 1867 with the development of the gridiron plan and lots of Brownville and Dillontown. Although the plan for Dillontown was altered in 1883, Brownville retained its original design and is still discernible today within the neighborhood. The period of significance ends in 1937 with the construction of the concrete-block bungalows along Victory Drive, the southern boundary line of the district.

#### **Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)**

The 977 contributing buildings were built before 1937 and have retained their historic integrity. Each rowhouse and intact carriage house was counted as an individual building. The one contributing structure consists of the intact historic gridiron street plan which formed the framework for the development of the area and the two sites consist of the historically landscaped median of W. 37th Street and Wells Park. Landscaping throughout the district (including street trees, brick streets, granite cubs, and sidewalks) is a significant aspect of the historic environment but was not "counted" because of its uniform and pervasive character. The 117 noncontributing resources either were built after 1937 or have undergone extensive alterations causing them to lost integrity.

#### **Developmental history/historic context (if appropriate)**

The Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood is one of Savannah's oldest African-American neighborhoods. The name is derived from the Brownville Community in the southern part of the district and from the Cuyler School District in the northern section. The area now known as Cuyler-Brownville developed on original "farm lots" lands known as Holland Tything, Percival Ward, lots 6 and 9, and a lot

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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reserved by the Trustees. Montgomery Street, the eastern boundary, follows one of the original farm lot divisions. The 1812 Stoup map of Savannah does not indicate any major farms on these lands. To the west of the Ogeechee Road was Springfield Plantation, much of which was swamp and rice fields. This later became Laurel Grove Cemetery. Brownville existed long before the City of Savannah's limits were extended to include this area. The boundaries of Brownville originally were W. 36th Street, W. 42nd Street, Bulloch Street, and Florance Street. The Cuyler section centered around several prominent African-American institutions including the Cuyler Street School, Florance Street School, and Charity Hospital.

After the Civil War, freed slaves from rural areas and the islands migrated into the City of Savannah. The black population of Savannah increased from 8,417 in 1860 to 15,654 in 1880. While some settled by the rivers, which offered sources of food, others settled in peripheral neighborhoods where they could live relatively undisturbed. Brownville and Dillontown were examples of these developing African-American peripheral neighborhoods. Brownville, consisting of approximately twenty acres, was laid out in 1867 between Dillontown and Laurel Grove Cemetery by Dr. Louis A. Falligant. Brownville is readily distinguishable on historic plans by the shape of its lots which are oriented to the north-south streets of Bulloch, Harden, and Florance. This was a departure from the usual orientation of the lots to front the east-west streets. Center Street (now W. 38th Street) and Church Alley (now Moray Street) were the only two east-west streets (Church Street is actually on the diagonal) that did not line up with streets to the east. They also intersected the Ogeechee Road through undeveloped lands at an angle. Dillontown was an one-hundred acre tract purchased and laid out in 1868 by David R. Dillon. It is also readily distinguishable on maps prior to the 1880s by a series of squares. Its street pattern was a conventional grid pattern. The 1875 Platen Map shows both the Dillontown and Brownville developments. In 1883, the city limits were extended from Anderson to Estill Avenue (Victory Drive). By 1886 new wards were created and Dillontown was absorbed, its squares subdivided, and streets renamed. Brownville was annexed intact and has retained its original gridiron pattern.

The northern section of the district was developed by Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-1943). Meldrim developed a small community in the early 1880s located between W. 33rd and W. 34th streets, known as Meldrim Row, to provide adequate housing for African-Americans in Savannah. Meldrim was a philanthropist with a particular interest in the development of the African-American community in Savannah and creating a positive living environment. At the age of 16, Meldrim enlisted as a corporal in the Home Guard to defend Savannah from the advancing Union troops during the Civil War. Following the Civil War, he entered the University of Georgia to study law. After finishing college, he returned to Savannah and opened the law firm Garrard and Meldrim. Meldrim furthered his career by serving as a member of both the Senate (1881-1891) and House of Representatives (1891-1896) of the General Assembly. He also served as the Mayor of Savannah in 1897. Meldrim ended his public service in 1917 as a Superior Court Judge in Chatham County. The



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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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development started by Meldrim spurred similar rowhouse development. The northern section of the neighborhood was fully developed with one- and two-story rowhouses housing African-American workers by the early 1910s. Meldrim's development of Meldrim Row is significant as one of the earliest attempts to provide adequate housing for minorities in Georgia.

The 1891 Koch View of Savannah indicates that the numbered streets did not yet extend though Brownville. Aside from a few scattered houses, the primary development is located in Brownville, along the Ogeechee Road, and along the northern streets of the neighborhood. From these old views of the district, one would expect to find a great number of buildings dating perhaps as early as 1867. The 1867 Plat of Brownville lists lot owners as Owens Chipp, Noble and Emmeline Thomasson, James Rogers, Charles Butler, J. F. Cordell and Prince Johnson. However, there are few mid-19th century buildings in the neighborhood today. The majority of the extant buildings were built between the early 1880s and late 1930s with a peak decade between 1910 and 1920. According to Mr. W. W. Law, a local historian who knew the neighborhood in the 1930's, the lack of extant buildings from the mid-19th century is due to demolition of the buildings over several years. This demolition regrettably is still occurring, aggravated by abandonment and neglect.

After a brief period of political participation and representation following the Civil War, prevailing attitudes of racism and written and unwritten rules of segregation excluded African-Americans from equal participation in the wider society. Necessity and initiative prompted self-help. By 1880, Savannah's African-American community had established more than 193 clubs and mutual aid societies, as well as financial, educational, and religious institutions. The block clubs in the community today reflect this identification with a smaller neighborhood unit.

The African-Americans living in Cuyler-Brownville were middle-class home owners and working-class renters. Many black professionals and community leaders lived in the neighborhood. Mrs. Lessie Urquhart, who lived at 816 W. 37th Street in the 1930s, commented, "You had teachers, preachers, and principals in this area. It was a nice place to live, you were living among very polished people." The African-American men in Cuyler-Brownville worked in occupations ranging from porters, railroad workers, tradesmen, and postal workers to teachers, doctors, lawyers, and ministers. Women's occupations included seamstresses, laundresses, teachers, nurses, and homemakers. The architecture in the neighborhood reflects this class diversity. Large and elegant single-family dwellings are common from W. 36th Street south to Victory Drive and wooden tenement rowhouses are common north of W. 36th Street.

Churches, schools, and a hospital are also located in Cuyler-Brownville. While serving the wider African-American community of Savannah, these institutions also connected Cuyler-Brownville residents to that larger community. Many residents felt, and still feel, a sense of possession and pride in these social monuments. In 1893, Dr. Alice McKane, with her husband, Dr. Cornelius

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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McKane, established the McKane Hospital for Women and Children and the Training School for Nurses in there home. In 1896, the hospital was relocated to a larger building at the corner of Florance and W. 36th streets, in the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. The new hospital helped to meet the crucial medical needs of the black community. Prior to this hospital, the Georgia Infirmary, founded in 1832 by whites Savannahians, was the only hospital that provided hospital care to African-Americans living in Savannah. In 1901, the name Charity Hospital and Training School for Nurses was adopted and male patients were admitted for the first time. It was a facility founded, administered, and staffed by African-Americans. The training school for nurses was the first of its kind in the state, and the hospital was the only one in Savannah open to African-American physicians. Free care was given to the needy while more affluent patients paid for services. By 1931, the doors of a new two-story brick building were opened on W. 36th Street. A major fund raising drive supported by the African-American and white communities of Savannah raised money for construction of the new hospital. Although the Training School for Nurses closed in 1937, Charity continued to serve Savannah's African-American community until 1964. The building was reopened as a private nursing home in 1967, but closed in 1976. When the vacant building was earmaked for demolition, the Cuyler Community Improvement Association organized a fund-raising drive and bought the property in 1983. The Association succeeded in listing the building on the National Register of Historic Places in 1985.

Soon after the end of the Civil War, freedmen's associations and northern religious societies established several schools in Savannah to educate African-American children. Under pressure for African-American citizens, the Chatham County Board of Education first opened two schools for African-American children in 1872; however, these were set up in existing buildings. The Board did not construct a school building specifically for African-American children until 1914. This was the Cuyler Street School located at the corner of Cuyler and Anderson streets. Cuyler Street School served elementary, junior high, and senior high school students at various periods through its 62 years of service as a public school. It was the only African-American high school in Savannah from the late 1920s to 1950. Cuyler Street School was closed in 1975 and today functions as the Economic Opportunity Authority. The School of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, located at 902 W. 36th Street, is another well-remembered center for African-American education. Father Ignatius Lissner founded the Most Pure Heart of Mary Roman Catholic Church at this location in 1907. In 1909, a school and hall were built next to the church. Many neighborhood children, both Catholics and Protestants, attended the school until it closed in 1977. Today, the building serves as a center for neighborhood activity as a community center. The Florance Street School was an elementary school located in the heart of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood. The school opened in 1930 and the first Parent-Teachers Association began the same year. The Florance Street School closed in the mid 1980s and, in 1992, the Savannah Muslim Community purchased the building and have opened it as an elementary school and community center.

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**Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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The remaining residential, institutional, and religious buildings are important symbols of the African-American accomplishments within the neighborhood. Although recent decades have brought some decline to the neighborhood, members of local organizations work to stimulate renewed interest in, and commitment to, the survival and welfare of their neighborhood.

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Anderson, Gregori et al. Cuyler-Brownville Historic Survey, Savannah, Georgia, unpublished manuscript in files of MPC, 1986.

Brown, Sarah. Historical Research 33rd and 34th Streets between Montgomery and Burroughs Streets in Meldrim Ward, southwest Savannah. Unpublished paper by Heritage Works in MPC files. No date.

Falligant, Dr. L. A. Original Map of Brownville South of the City of Savannah, Ga. August 17, 1867, City Hall Library J-58 Drawer 14.

Hendry, Barbara A. Cuyler-Brownville: Retrospect of a Savannah Neighborhood, Coastal Current Insight, a publication of the Coastal Heritage Society, no date.

Hogg, John B. Map of Brownville (Subdivision of Garden Lots 7,8,9,10,11, & 12 of Farm Lot No. 9 Holland Tything, Percival Ward, Near Savannah, Georgia 1870. Savannah City Hall Library J-46 Drawer 14.

Koch. 1891 View of Savannah

Map of the City Extension South of Anderson Street showing building lines as defined in the act of the Legislature September 21, 1883; also streets, lanes, and wards as laid out by Ordinance May 31, 1884 and annexed June 18, 1884. Savannah City Hall Library

Plan of the Dillon Purchase, 1887 Savannah City Hall Library EW/W-345 (Drawer 4)

Stoup. 1812 Plan of the City of Savannah in the State of Georgia.

**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**
- previously determined eligible by the National Register**
- designated a National Historic Landmark**
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #**
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #**

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**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Section 9--Major Bibliographic References**

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**Primary location of additional data:**

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

**Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): CH-S-3006 to CH-S-3650**

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## 10. Geographical Data

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**Acreage of Property**                      Approximately 160 acres.

### UTM References

|    |         |                |                  |
|----|---------|----------------|------------------|
| A) | Zone 17 | Easting 490320 | Northing 3547290 |
| B) | Zone 17 | Easting 489940 | Northing 3546060 |
| C) | Zone 17 | Easting 489160 | Northing 3546420 |
| D) | Zone 17 | Easting 489990 | Northing 3547380 |

### Verbal Boundary Description

The Cuyler-Brownville Historic District National Register boundary is indicated on the attached USGS Topographical map and tax map with a heavy black line.

### Boundary Justification

The National Register boundary for the Cuyler-Brownville Historic District encompasses the contiguous historic resources located within the neighborhood approximately bounded on the north by Anderson Street, Victory Drive on the south, Ogeechee Road and Hopkins Street on the west, and Montgomery Street on the east. The neighborhood south of Victory Drive, Cann Park, and the neighborhood just west of Ogeechee Road, Battery Park, were separate developments.

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## 11. Form Prepared By

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### State Historic Preservation Office

**name/title** Amy Pallante/National Register Specialist  
**organization** Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**street & number** 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street  
**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303  
**telephone** (404) 656-2840 **date** December 1997

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

**name/title** Beth Reiter/Preservation Officer  
**organization** Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission  
**street and number** 110 East State Street, P.O. Box 8246  
**city or town** Savannah **state** Georgia **zip code** 31412-8246  
**telephone** (912) 651-1480

( ) **consultant**  
( ) **regional development center preservation planner**  
(x) **other:** Preservation Officer

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

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Photographs

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**Name of Property:** Cuyler-Brownville Historic District  
**City or Vicinity:** Savannah  
**County:** Chatham  
**State:** Georgia  
**Photographer:** James R. Lockhart  
**Negative Filed:** Georgia Department of Natural Resources  
**Date Photographed:** March 1997

**Description of Photograph(s):**

- 1 of 45 View of Cuyler Street School, photographer facing west.
- 2 of 45 View of streetscape of W. 32nd Street; photographer facing west.
- 3 of 45 View of attached commercial buildings along MLK, Jr. Blvd.; photographer facing south.
- 4 of 45 View of Meldrim Row; photographer facing west.
- 5 of 45 View of Craftsman house on W. 34th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 6 of 45 View of Florence Street School; photographer facing northwest.
- 7 of 45 View of one- and two-story rowhouses; photographer facing west.
- 8 of 45 View of Palen Memorial Church (now United Methodist Church); photographer facing southwest.
- 9 of 45 View of mature oak trees lining the MLK, Jr. Blvd.; photographer facing north.
- 10 of 45 View of historic residences along MLK, Jr. Blvd.; photographer facing north.
- 11 of 45 View of streetscape of W. 36th Street; photographer facing west.
- 12 of 45 View of corner store at the intersection of Burroughs Street and W. 36th Street; photographer facing west.

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### Photographs

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- 13 of 45 View Charity Hospital; photographer facing northwest.
- 14 of 45 View of the Immaculate Heart of Mary school, photographer facing northwest.
- 15 of 45 View of Colonial Revival-style residences along W.37th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 16 of 45 View of streetscape of W. 37th Street; photographer facing west.
- 17 of 45 View of corner store located at the intersection of Ogeechee Road and W. 38th Street; photographer facing south.
- 18 of 45 View of bungalows along W. 38th Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 19 of 45 View of the corner Bullock Street and W. 38th Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 20 of 45 View of the corner of W. 38th Street and Florance Street; photographer facing north.
- 21 of 45 View of a Craftsman Bungalow on W. 38th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 22 of 45 View of two Folk Victorian-style residences on W. 38th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 23 of 45 View of Neo-Classical-style duplex on W. 38th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 24 of 45 View of Wells Park; photographer facing southwest.
- 25 of 45 View of a gas station on Ogeechee Road; photographer facing north.
- 26 of 45 View of Craftsman Bungalows along W. 39th Street; photographer facing north.
- 27 of 45 View of the corner of Bullock Street and W. 39th Street; photographer facing west.
- 28 of 45 View of the corner of Florance Street and W. 39th Street; photographer facing west.
- 29 of 45 View of one- and two-story rowhouses along W. 39th Street; photographer facing west.



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### Photographs

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- 30 of 45 View of various types and styles along W. 39th Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 31 of 45 View of the corner of Burroughs Street and W. 39th Street; photographer facing southwest.
- 32 of 45 View of Bungalows along W. 40th Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 33 of 45 View of Bungalows along Moray Street; photographer facing west.
- 34 of 45 View of various types located along Harden Street; photographer facing north.
- 35 of 45 View of the corner of W. 40th Street and Florence Street; photographer facing north.
- 36 of 45 View of streetscape of W. 40th Street; photographer facing east.
- 37 of 45 View of Craftsman Bungalows along W. 40th Street; photographer facing west.
- 38 of 45 View of Neo-Classical-style building on W. 40th Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 39 of 45 View of streetscape of W. 41st Street; photographer facing northeast.
- 40 of 45 View of corner store located at the intersection of Florence Street and W. 41st Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 41 of 45 View of one-story rowhouses along W. 41st Street; photographer facing east.
- 42 of 45 View of historic residences along W. 41st Street; photographer facing southeast.
- 43 of 45 View of the corner of Montgomery Street and W. 41st Street; photographer facing northwest.
- 44 of 45 View a corner store located at the intersection of W. 42nd Street and MLK, Jr. Blvd.; Photographer facing northwest.
- 45 of 45 View of attached commercial building along Montgomery Street; photographer facing northwest.

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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The district is significant in the area of community planning and development and social history as a historically African-American neighborhood laid out in a standard gridiron pattern for development. The mid-19th century development of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood encompassed Dilliontown, laid out and developed by David R. Dillon, and Brownville, laid out and developed by Dr. Louis A. Falligant. Dilliontown, located south of W. 37th Street, consisted of a one-hundred acre tract laid out in a gridiron pattern with three squares. Brownville, located between Dillontown and Laurel Grove Cemetery, consisted of approximately twenty acres and was laid out in a grid pattern with no squares. Unlike Dillontown and most of Savannah, the lots in Brownville were divided so they were oriented towards the north-south streets instead of the east-west streets. Former slaves settled into these two communities and worked as labors.

The development of the northern section of the Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood is significant for its association with Peter Wiltberger Meldrim (1848-1943), a native of Savannah. Meldrim developed a small community in the early 1880s located between W. 33rd and W. 34th streets, known as Meldrim Row, to provide adequate housing for African-American labors in Savannah. Meldrim was a philanthropist with a particular interest in the development of the African-American community in Savannah and creating a positive living environment. The housing constructed by Meldrim was a significant improvement over the previous working-class housing provided for African-Americans. Also, the efforts of Meldrim to provide adequate and affordable working-class housing in the northern section of the district resulted in others building similiar housing within the same area.

At the age of 16, Meldrim enlisted as a corporal in the Home Guard to defend Savannah form the advancing Union troops during the Civil War. Following the Civil War, he entered the University of Georgia to study law. After finishing college, he returned to Savannah and opened the law firm Garrard and Meldrim. Meldrim entered public service by serving as a member of both the Senate (1881-1891) and House of Representatives (1891-1896) of the General Assembly. He also served as the Mayor of Savannah in 1897. In 1917, Meldrim was appointed as a Superior Court Judge for Chatham County.

In addition to his political and law careers, Meldrim combined an interest in education, agriculture, and development. For 11 years he was president of the Georgia Agricultural Society. He established the small town of Meldrim in Effingham County for experimental farming practices. As a state senator, he tried to obtain free tuition for those attending state universities. Meldrim was particularly interested in the education of African-Americans. He was appointed chairman of the Commission on the Georgia State Industrial School for Colored Persons in 1891, the year it was established. That same year, he was elected president of the board of trustees for the Georgia State Industrial College at Thunderbolt, a few miles west of the Cuyler-Brownville Historic District. He served on the board for over 25 years.

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### Section 8--Statement of Significance

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At the time of Meldrim's death, President Hubert of the Georgia State Industrial College wrote: "He [Meldrim] maintained a deep and abiding interest, not only in the College itself, but in the colored people as a whole. He believed in justice and fair-play, and his was a powerful influence that made itself felt in local, State and National circles." Meldrim believed that if African-Americans were not provided adequate housing, they would not excel in education. A 1933 editorial states that: "As a young man, wishing to do something toward supplying comfortable living quarters for working people of moderate incomes, he bought a tract of land in the southwestern section of the city and erected nearly 100 homes which he rented to those of the industrial class. This immediate settlement has been known since its creation as "Meldrim Row." The development started by Meldrim spurred similar development around Meldrim Row which resulted in the northern section of the neighborhood being fully developed with one- and two-story rowhouses housing blue-collar African-American workers by the early 1910s. Meldrim's development of Meldrim Row is significant as one of the earliest attempts to provide adequate housing for minorities in Georgia. Also, Meldrim Row is a physical reminder of Meldrim's humanitarianism. He was more concerned with providing adequate housing as a means for African-Americans to advance in society than using the housing to generate income from the collection of rent.

The district is significant in the areas of community planning and development and landscape architecture for its overall landscape development associated with historically African-American urban neighborhoods. The district is significant for its excellent examples of tree-lined streets, remaining sections of brick-laid streets, historic landscaped park/square, informally landscaped front yards, and landscaped medians. Also, the pattern of the landscape follows the three sections of development within the district: working-class housing, middle-class housing, and the grand houses along W. 37th Street.

The landscaping north of Kline Street consists of small narrow lots with residences sharing equal setbacks and situated close to the edge of the street. This area developed from the 1880s into the 1910s and is representative of early working-class African-American housing in Savannah. Since the development of the land in this area was focused on building as many African-American working-class houses as possible, the narrow lots do not provide much room for landscaped yards and there are few trees lining the streets (see photo 2 and 4). This pattern is representative of other African-American working-class housing in urban settings, such as the Ashby Street Shotgun Row in Americus, Sumter County, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 1, 1997.

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### **Section 8--Statement of Significance**

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Located south of Kline Street, the landscaping changes along with the change in the residential housing stock. The housing stock changes from the rowhouse type to single detached residences representative of the African-American middle class. These residences are located on wider lots which provide more space for landscaped yards. The yards are informally landscaped with azalea bushes, palmetto trees, mature oak trees, and foundation plants (see photos 10, 15, 18, 19, 21, and 26). This pattern of the African-American middle-class informally landscaping their yards with local plants and trees is representative of other African-American middle-class housing in urban settings, such as the Bethlehem Historic District in Augusta, Richmond County, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on December 1, 1997.

Unlike other historically African-American urban neighborhoods, Cuyler-Brownville features tree-lined streets and a boulevard with a landscaped median. The boulevard, W. 37th Street, features large, grand, two-story houses with high-style elements, and has retained its brick roadbed with large mature oak trees and azalea bushes lining the road and in the median (see photos 11 and 15). W. 37th Street is a major artery through Savannah and features the same landscaping pattern throughout its alignment (see photo 15 and 16). Other streets, such as W. 36th Street (see photo 11), W. 38th Street (see photo 23), W. 39th Street (see photo 28), and other streets continuing south (see National Register Map) have retained many of the trees lining the streets. Generally, historically African-American urban neighborhoods, such as Bethlehem Historic District; Ashby Street Shotgun Row Historic District; Sand Hill Historic District in Augusta, Richmond County, listed on the National Register of Historic Places on July 9, 1997; and Washington Park Historic District, passed Georgia National Register Review Board in October 1997, do not feature continuously tree-lined streets and landscaped medians.

The district also contains a historic square/park, Wells Park, located at W. 38th Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. The park features historic plantings, a nonhistoric basketball court, and parking lot (see photo 24).

Map 1  
Cuyler-Brownville Historic District  
Savannah, Chatham County, GA.  
City of Savannah Map 1868  
Scale 1" = 300'  
Brownville = dotted line  
Dilliontown = solid line

