OMB No. 1024-0018

# 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		a Vista Heigh n/a	nts Historic District	3 9 1000
2. Location				EGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES ATIONAL PARK SERVICE
street & number	running thro	ugh the distri		n Athens, and the major streets venue, Boulevard Avenue,
city, town Ather		_		(n/a) <b>vicinity of</b>
<b>county</b> Clark	e	code GA 0	59	
state Georgia	code GA	zip code		
(n/a) not for publication	cation			
Ownership of Pro	perty:		Catego	ry of Property:
<ul><li>(x) private</li><li>( ) public-local</li><li>( ) public-state</li><li>( ) public-federal</li></ul>			(x) dis ( ) site	e ucture
Number of Resou	rces within P	roperty:	Contributing	Noncontributing
build	inas		82	20
sites			1	0
struc	tures		2	0
objed			0	0
total			85	20

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register:

Name of previous listing:

Name of related multiple property listing:

Historic Places and meets the procedural and profe opinion, the property meets the National Register c		rt 60. In my
Richard Claves	7.21-99	
Signature of certifying official	Date	
W. Ray Luce Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer		
In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Regi	ister criteria. () See continuation sheet.	
Signature of commenting or other official	Date	
State or Federal agency or bureau		
5. National Park Service Certification		
I, hereby, certify that this property is:	20 ALR 10	./) /
Nentered in the National Register	Okon N. Deall	8/27/90
( ) determined eligible for the National Register		-
( ) determined not eligible for the National Register		
() removed from the National Register		
() other, explain:		
() see continuation sheet	Keeper of the National Register	Date

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

#### 6. Function or Use

#### **Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling TRANSPORTATION/rail-related/streetcar line

#### **Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

### 7. Description

#### **Architectural Classification:**

LATE 19TH AND EARLY 20TH CENTURY AMERICAN MOVEMENTS/Craftsman OTHER/Folk Victorian

#### **Materials:**

foundation brick, concrete

walls wood, brick veneer

roof metal, asphalt

other n/a

### Description of present and historic physical appearance:

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is located adjacent to the National Register-listed Boulevard Historic District (listed in the National Register of Historic Places on April 18, 1985) in northwest Athens (see Attachment 1). The topography of the district consists of rolling hills and ravines. The district area, including the area of the Boulevard Historic District, was purchased by the Athens Park and Improvement Company in 1890. Prior to the purchase of the land by the Athens Park and Improvement Company, the area was sparsely developed as an African-American settlement with small vernacular housing. The area was cleared and the Athens Park and Improvement Company laid out a "new" residential development in a gridiron plan of streets with one main thoroughfare, The Boulevard (now named Boulevard), running east-to-west through the center of the gridiron plan (see Attachment 2). A 21-acre park was planned for the land south of Boulevard between Park and Hiawassee avenues; however, the park was never fully developed and the land was sold to the adjacent property owners. The district developed as a suburb consisting of one-story, single-family dwellings and was serviced by a streetcar line running from the historic center of Athens west to the suburb.

The designed historic landscape of the district features many characteristics of a streetcar suburb, as defined by David L. Ames in the 1998 draft version of the *Context and Guidelines for Evaluating American's Historic Suburbs for the National Register of Historic Places.* The lots along Boulevard are oriented towards the main thoroughfare and are relatively long and narrow in design; the remaining lots located within the blocks created by the gridiron plan are mostly rectangular in shape. Due to the rolling hills, some of the lots feature historic stone and concrete retaining walls as well as

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 7--Description

steps leading from the street to the dwelling's main walk (see photo 4). The historic dwellings share uniform setbacks and are located towards the street-end of the lots. Grass lawns are informally planted with foundation plants, flowers, and gardens; a canopy of mature hardwood trees covers

most of the district.

The historic dwellings within the district were constructed from the late 19th century into the early 20th century. The vast majority of the dwellings within the district are one-story, wood-framed buildings featuring Folk Victorian- or Craftsman-style elements. Many of the dwellings feature stylistic elements applied to their exteriors. The dwellings represent common architectural types found in Georgia's suburbs. The types, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context, commonly found within the district include Georgian cottage, central hallway, gabled ell, pyramid cottage, New South, Queen Anne, English cottage, and bungalow. These types are found interspersed along the streets (see photo 9 and 19). This pattern is well represented by the historic dwellings located on Boulevard. Located near the corner of Boulevard and Satula Avenue, a Georgian cottage (a central hallway with two rooms on either side) is situated next to a bungalow (an irregular floor plan and integral porch) (see photo 3). This pattern of a variety of house types continues west along Boulevard (see photos 4, 8, and 9).

Some of the dwellings feature Folk Victorian- and Craftsman-style elements along eaves, gables, front porches, and windows and door surrounds. The dwelling located at 1160 Boulevard is a representative example of the application of Folk Victorian elements to a common house type (see photo 4). Decorative machine-turned wood porch supports with brackets are featured on the front porch. The dwelling located at 396 Yonah Avenue also features decorative machine-turned wooden porch supports with brackets applied to a gabled ell-type house (see photo 12). Craftsman-style ornamentation is featured on another gabled ell cottage located at 279 Yonah Avenue. The dwelling features a Craftsman-style front porch with wooden columns supported by brick piers (see photo 18). The dwelling located at 399 Buena Vista Avenue features Craftsman-style brackets in the gables and exposed rafter tails (see photo 6).

The overall setting of the district is residential with single-family houses situated on small lots with informally landscaped front yards. Modern commercial development has taken place along Prince Avenue and some modern residences have been built within the neighborhood. However, much of the district has remained intact.

The area outside of the Buena Vista Heights Historic District consists of modern residential development to the north and west, modern institutional and commercial development along Price Street, and modern development separating this district from the Boulevard Historic District.

8. Stateme	ent of Signific	ance	
Certifying of properties:		onsidered the	e significance of this property in relation to other
( ) nationa	lly () st	atewide	(x) locally
Applicable	National Reg	gister Criteria	:
(x) A	( ) <b>B</b>	(x) C	( ) D
Criteria Co	nsiderations	(Exceptions)	: (x) N/A
()A()B	()C()D	()E()F	( ) <b>G</b>
Areas of Si	gnificance (e	nter categori	es from instructions):
	TY PLANNING PE ARCHITEC TURE		OPMENT
Period of S	ignificance:		
1890-1949			
Significant	Dates:		
1890 1890-1949 1891	Construction		ed by the Athens Park and Improvement Company. sidences within the district. streetcar.
Significant	Person(s):		
n/a			
Cultural Aff	iliation:		
n/a			
Architect(s)	/Builder(s):		
unknown			

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

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

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is an good example of a streetcar suburb, a planned residential development popular nationwide during the late 19th and early 20th century. The district is significant at the local level in the areas of community planning and development, landscape architecture, and architecture.

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is locally significant in the areas of <u>community planning and development</u> and <u>landscape architecture</u> as a good representative example of a streetcar suburb within a larger historic suburban landscape of the city of Athens in Georgia. The district area was purchased in 1890 by the Athens Park and Improvement Company and then laid out in a gridiron pattern with one portion of the development, the National Register-listed Boulevard Historic District, located within the city limits of Athens and the other portion, the Buena Vista Heights Historic District, located outside of the city limits. A 21-acre park marked the city limits and the separation between the two portions of the residential developments. In 1891, electrified streetcars serviced the residential development.

The initial development of suburbs outside city centers began during the early and mid-1850s and was characterized as upper-class railroad suburban development. According to draft version of the *Context and Guidelines for Evaluating America's Historic Suburbs* written by David L. Ames: "the two most influential picturesque developments were Llewellyn Park, New Jersey designed by Alexander Jackson Davis and built in 1857 and Riverside, just west of Chicago, Illinois, designed by Fredrick Law Olmsted, SR., and Calvert Vaux in 1869." Along with these suburbs, other railroad suburbs were created outside of American cities, such as Baltimore and Boston. These railroad suburbs remained mostly upper class and exclusive.

An opportunity for middle-class citizens to settle in suburbs was created in 1888 with the introduction of the electric streetcar in Richmond, Virginia. By 1900, the technology was adopted throughout the United States causing the first large wave of suburbanization. This wave, roughly from 1888 to 1920, is characterized by the development of streetcar suburbs. The character-defining features of a streetcar suburb include its grid pattern of streets extending from the central city, streetcar lines, single-family dwellings on small lots, balloon-frame construction of dwellings, informally landscaped front yards, and tree-lined streets. The socioeconomic range included white families from both the upper-middle class and working class; however, the majority of the residents were middle class.

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is a good representative example of a designed historic landscape, a streetcar suburb. The district is located just north of Prince Avenue, which originates near the historic center of Athens. The streetcar line followed west out of central Athens on Prince Street, north along Barber Street (located within the Boulevard Historic District), west along

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

Boulevard (originally named The Boulevard), south along Boulevard Heights (also originally named The Boulevard), and then east back to central Athens along Prince Avenue (see Attachment 2). The district features a grid pattern of streets, single-family dwellings located on small lots, and informally landscaped front yards, and tree-lined streets.

The Buena Vista Heights suburb was settled by middle-class families. People living in Buena Vista Heights worked as carpenters, policemen, clerks, taxi drivers, lunch stand operators, seamstresses, students, millers, grocers, and the owner of Deep Rock Ginger Ale Company.

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is a significant component of a larger historic suburban landscape encompassing a horsecar suburb and two streetcar suburbs located on the west side of Athens (see Attachment 1). The historic suburban development of Athens extended west of the downtown since early residential settlement towards the east was restricted by the Oconee River, south by land owned by the University of Georgia and by the Oconee River, and north by industrial development and the railroad (see Attachment 3). The first suburban development on the west side was Cobbham, a horsecar suburb listed in the National Register of Historic Places as Cobbham Historic District in 1978. This district developed c.1840 to c.1890 and features large, high-style residences of prominent Athens' citizens. In 1890, the Athens Park and Improvement Company developed the area just north and west of the Cobbham Historic District encompassing the Boulevard Historic District and the Buena Vista Heights Historic District. Together, these districts represent the evolutionary trend of historic residential patterns.

The "cluster" of these suburbs on the west side of Athens represents the historical development of a larger suburban landscape. The limits of transportation played a crucial role in the development of each suburb. The earliest suburb, Cobbham, is located in close proximity to the historic core of Athens since transportation from the downtown to Cobbham was limited and only the wealthy could afford. As the technology of transportation advanced and electricity replaced animal-powered streetcars, land further away from the historic core of Athens was opened for residential development and accessible to more people. This significant trend of suburbanization is strongly conveyed through the development and spatial pattern of the Cobbham Historic District, Boulevard Historic District, and Buena Vista Heights Historic District.

The district is locally significant in the area of <u>architecture</u> for its excellent representative examples of architectural types and styles significant in Georgia during the late 19th century and early 20th century, as defined in *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings.* The architectural types commonly found within the district include Georgian cottage, central hallway, gabled ell cottage, pyramid cottage, New South, Queen Anne, English cottage, and bungalow. The variety of architectural types is a character-defining feature of a streetcar suburb. According to Ames' draft context on historic suburbs, streetcar suburbs contained a "variation in range of house

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

types and architectural design." An excellent representative example of a pyramid cottage, typically built in Georgia between 1910 and 1930, is located at 491 Satula Avenue. The character-defining features include its steeply pitched pyramidal roof with central chimney, square main mass, and no interior hallway (see photo 2). An excellent representative example of a central hallway house is located at 167 Nantahala Extension. The character-defining features include its gable roof with exterior end chimneys, central doorway, and interior central hallway with one room located on either side of the hallway (see photo 1). The type seems to be fairly evenly distributed across the state, appearing mainly on average-sized farmsteads and on principal residential streets in Georgia's towns and cities.

The architectural styles represented within the district include Craftsman and Folk Victorian. Both architectural styles are identified as significant in the *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* context. An excellent representative example of a Folk Victorian-style house is located at 398 Yonah Street. The Folk Victorian house is basically a common house type such as a gable ell, central hallway, or I-house with decorative details added to the porch, in the gables, and around the window and door openings. The gable ell cottage at 398 Yonah Street features decorative machine-turned balustrade and wooden porch supports with decorative brackets (see photo 12). The Folk Victorian-style detailing was taken from the elaborate styles, such as Queen Anne or Italianate, that were popular during the mid- to late 19th century. This provided some hint of stylistic detailing on what was otherwise an unadorned common house type. The style was commonly found in both urban and rural parts of the state from the 1870s to the 1910s.

The house located at 399 Buena Vista is an excellent representative example of a gable ell cottage with Craftsman-style details. The character-defining features include decorative braces below the overhanging eaves and exposed rafter tails (see photo 6). The house located at 279 Yonah Avenue is also an excellent representative example of a common house type with Craftsman-style details. The character-defining features include a Craftsman-style front porch with wooden columns supported by brick piers (see photo 18).

### **National Register Criteria**

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is eligible under National Register Criterion A for its association to late 19th- and early 20th-century suburbanization, and under National Register Criterion C for its excellent collection of single-family dwellings in their historic settings.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

### Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n/a

### Period of significance (justification)

The period of significance for the Buena Vista Heights Historic District begins in 1890 with the purchase and subdivision of the district area into its existing gridiron plan. The period of significance ends in 1949 when the last of the historic dwellings were built within the district.

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

The 85 contributing resources encompass 82 historic dwellings; two structures consisting of the 1890 gridiron plan of the suburb and the historic retaining walls; and one site consisting of the overall designed historic landscape of the Buena Vista Heights streetcar suburb. The 20 noncontributing resources consist of buildings that were either built after 1949 or have lost historic integrity due to additions and alterations

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

\*\*Note: The following history was prepared by Julie Morgan, "Buena Vista Heights Historic District," <u>Historic District Information Form</u>, December 18, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District is closely aligned, both in proximity and in development, to the Boulevard Historic District. In fact, the two areas were developed at the same time by the same development company. Together, they were the earliest streetcar suburbs in Athens. James Reap describes the genesis of the area as follows:

"In 1890 the Athens Park and Improvement Company was organized and purchased 300 acres of land north of Prince Avenue and west of Barber Street. They cleared the land, laid out a mile-and-a-half long Avenue through the heart of it, and began subdividing it for sale. The development of this area was made possible by an agreement reached with the street railroad to switch from mules to electricity and thus open the area to easy access from the heart of the city.

The 'streetcar suburb' was a phenomenon sweeping the country in the days before the advent of the automobile; and the Boulevard, as the area became known because of its wide central street, was Athens's own version. It was a well planned

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

development with a twenty-one acre park and land reserved along the railroad for industrial development. Those living east of the park were within the city limits and enjoyed the benefits of city schools, lights, and water. For those purchasing lots to the west of the park in Buena Vista Heights, there was the advantage of no city taxes. There was a little something for everyone in Boulevard."

It is important to recognize that, because of the access provided by the streetcar, it was no longer necessary for the residents of this area to work close to home. Streetcar suburbs allowed for the physical separation of the employee from the job site. There was a mixture of incomes and lifestyles in the development area. Those living in Buena Vista Heights worked as carpenters, policemen, clerks, taxi drivers, lunch stand operators, seamstresses, students, millers, grocers, and the owner of Deep Rock Ginger Ale Company.

As recorded in Reap's history, Athens grew steadily from 1900 to 1940. At the turn of the century, Athens population was around 10,000 residents and had more than doubled to 20,650 residents by 1940. The community's economic base of the university and the state normal school, supported this growth in spite of the economic effects of the boll weevil and the Great Depression. The continued physical expansion of the city, to accommodate this population growth, was facilitated, first by the streetcar service then, later, by the automobile.

The Athens Park and Improvement Company's development was one of the earliest streetcar suburbs in Georgia. However, the state and the country was ripe for the new technology that made such development possible. The first electric streetcar system was installed in Richmond, Virginia in 1888. The systems allowed city-dwellers to live further from the downtown shopping and employment centers than before. According to Wright, by 1890, 55 cities had installed electric streetcar lines; five years later, 850 lines were in operation. This form of affordable transportation was the first truly 'mass' transit system in urban America.

With the coming of the automobile, suburbs opened farther out of town, but, by and large, the area developed by the Athens Park and Improvement Company remained a viable in-town area. It remains so today during a time when an in-town location is again becoming desirable, and efforts have begun in recent years to restore many of the substantial older homes.

The Buena Vista Heights Historic District has lost some residential resources to developmental pressures. Starting in the 1970s, houses inside the triangle formed by Easy Street, Park Avenue, Satula Avenue and Yonah Street have been demolished. From the information found on the Sanborn Maps, it can be estimated that approximately 29 dwellings have been torn down in this area of the district. On the Prince Avenue side of Yonah Street, approximately six houses have been

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section 8--Statement of Significance

demolished. In 1973, a tornado touched ground in this area of Athens. The Boulevard Historic District and the Buena Vista Heights Historic District both suffered significant damage from the storm. The storm destroyed four houses on the corner of Boulevard and Satula. Two large houses on the corner of Park and Boulevard may have also been casualties of the tornado or may have been demolished to clear the lot for new construction. The houses that were built to replace them are non-contributing buildings in the Buena Vista Heights Historic District.

# 9. Major Bibliographic References

Athens Daily News January 7, 1890, May 2, 1891, May 17, 1891, May 22, 1891.

Clarke County Deed and Tax Records

Morgan, Julie D. "Buena Vista Heights Historic District," <u>Historic District Information Form,</u> December 18, 1996. On file at the Historic Preservation Division with supplemental information.

Reap, James K., Athens: A Pictorial History, Norfolk: Donning Co., 1985.

Wright, Gwendolyn, *Building the Dream: A Social History of Housing in America* Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1981.

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 #

### Primary location of additional data:

( <b>x</b> )	State historic preservation office
()	Other State Agency
( )	Federal agency
( )	Local government
( )	University

( ) Other, Specify Repository:

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): n/a

### 10. Geographical Data

### **Acreage of Property**

Approximately 45 acres

#### **UTM References**

A)	Zone 17	Easting 278300	Northing 3761020
B)	Zone 17	Easting 278260	Northing 3760490
C)	Zone 17	Easting 277820	Northing 3760800
D)	Zone 17	Easting 277940	Northing 3761020

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary for the Buena Vista Heights Historic District is indicated by a heavy black line on the attached USGS topographical map and the attached National Register Map 1-3.

### **Boundary Justification**

The National Register boundary for the Buena Vista Heights Historic District includes the contiguous resources associated with the development of the district as a streetcar suburb.

### 11. Form Prepared By

#### **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 July 1999

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

name/title Julie D. Morgan/Historic Preservation Planner organization Athens-Clarke County Historic Preservation Commission street and number 120 Dougherty Street city or town Athens state Georgia zip code 30601 telephone (706) 613-3515

- () consultant
- () regional development center preservation planner
- (x) other: preservation planner

(HPD form version 02-24-97)

### National Register of Historic Places

### **Continuation Sheet**

### **Photographs**

Name of Property: Buena Vista Heights Historic District

City or Vicinity: Athens
County: Clarke
State: Georgia

Photographer: James R. Lockhart

Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**Date Photographed:** September 1997

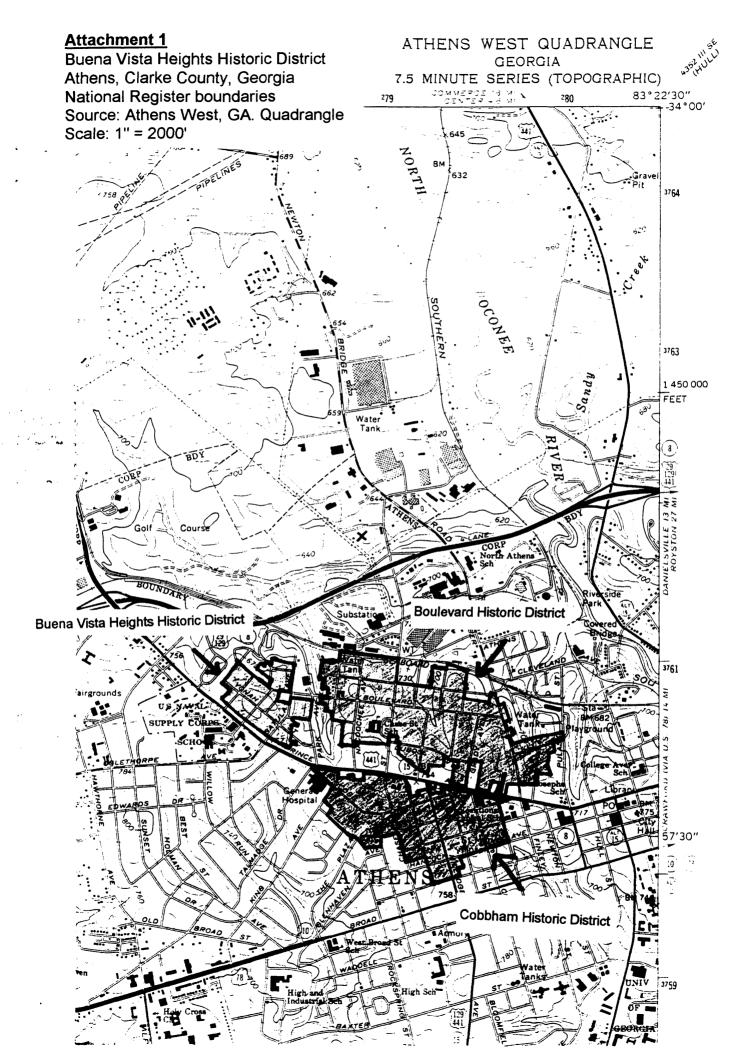
# **Description of Photograph(s):**

1 of 22	View of 167 Nantahala Extension; photographer facing west.
2 of 22	View of 491 Satula Avenue; photographer facing northwest.
3 of 22	View of Boulevard streetscape; photographer facing west.
4 of 22	View of 1160 Boulevard; photographer facing northeast.
5 of 22	View of 1120 Boulevard; photographer facing southwest.
6 of 22	View of 399 Buena Vista Avenue; photographer facing southwest.
7 of 22	Streetscape view of Boulevard between Buena Vista Avenue and Boulevard Heights; photographer facing west.
8 of 22	View of 287 Boulevard Heights; photographer facing southwest.
9 of 22	View of 1387 and 1393 Boulevard; photographer facing west.
10 of 22	Streetscape view of Yonah Street between Pound Street and Boulevard Heights; photographer facing southeast.
11 of 22	View of 153 Boulevard Heights; photographer facing west.
12 of 22	View of 396 Yonah Street; photographer facing north.
13 of 22	View of 245 Buena Vista Avenue; photographer facing southwest.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

### **Photographs**

14 of 22	View of 285 Buena Vista Avenue; photographer facing north.
15 of 22	View of 355 Yonah Street; photographer facing west.
16 of 22	View of 145 Buena Vista Avenue; photographer facing west.
17 of 22	Streetscape view of Buena Vista Avenue; photographer facing north.
18 of 22	View of 279 Yonah Street; photographer facing south.
19 of 22	Streetscape view of Satula Avenue; photographer facing south.
20 of 22	View of 270 Satula Avenue; photographer facing south.
21 of 22	View of 140 Easy Street; photographer facing northwest.
22 of 22	Streetscape view of Park Avenue; photographer facing north.

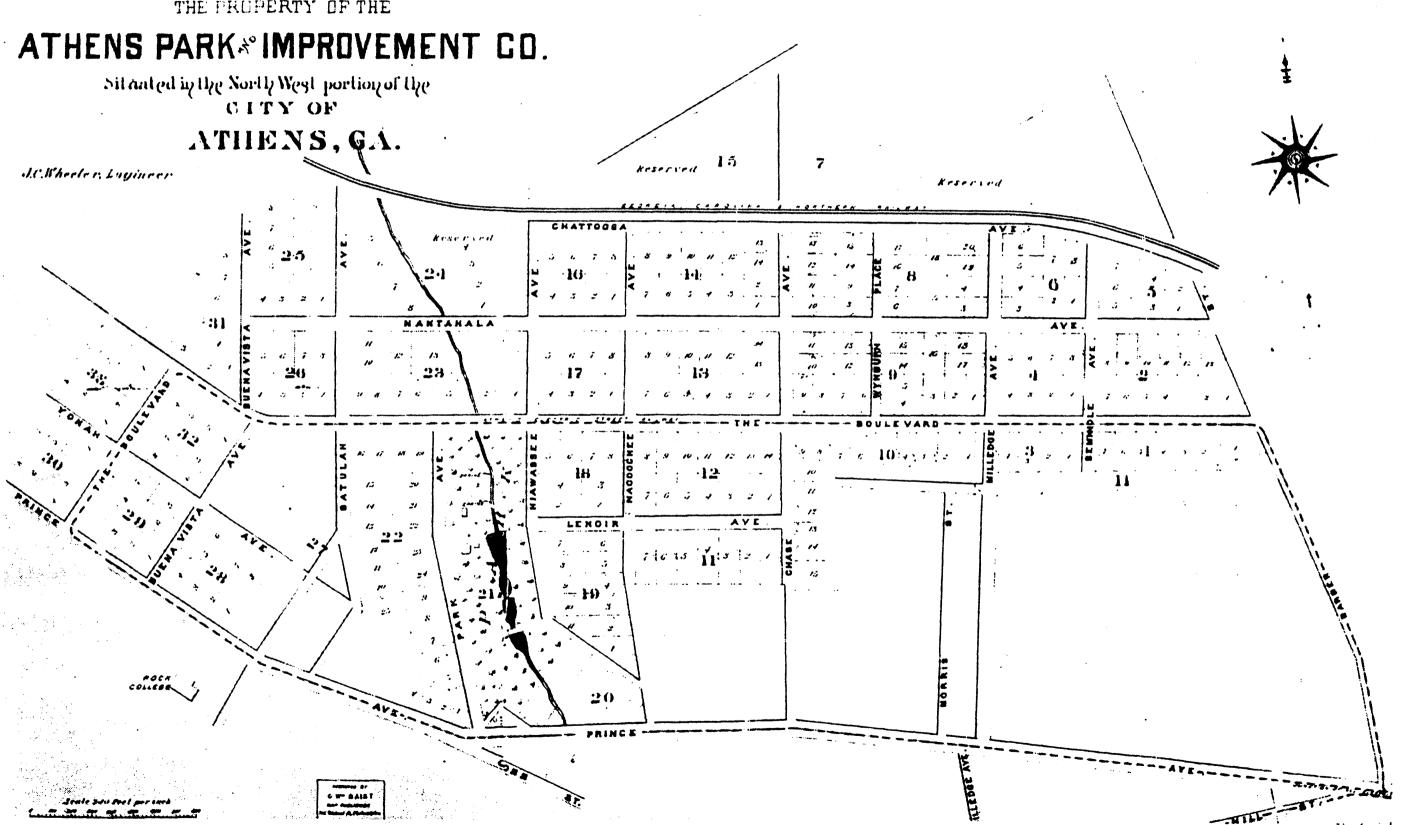


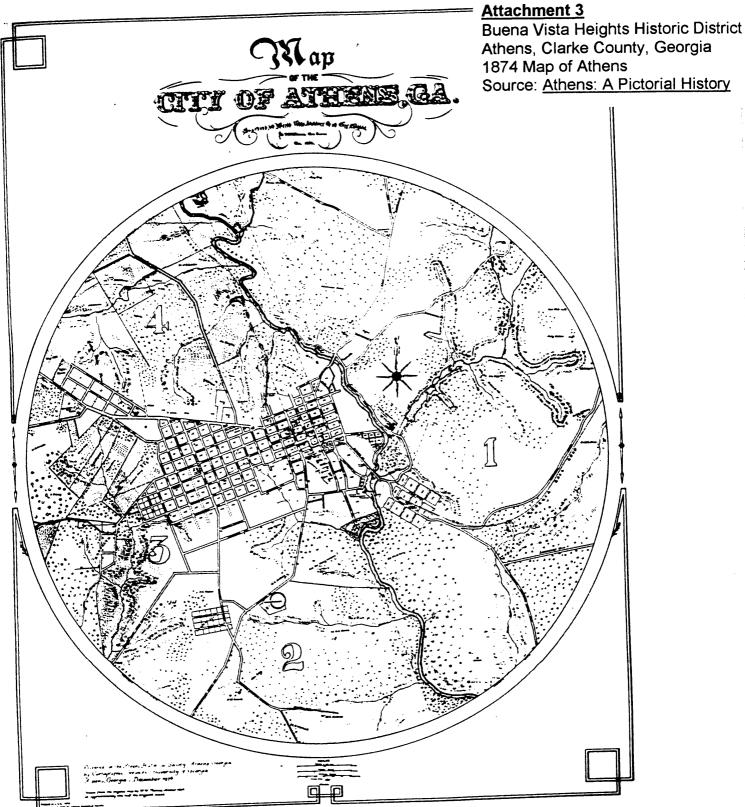
Attachment 2
Buena Vista Heights Historic District Athens, Clarke County, Georgia 1890 Plat of the district area

Source: Sponsor Scale: 1" = 240'

# MAPOF

THE PROPERTY OF THE





The original of this map of Athens was drawn by W. W. Thomas in 1874 and shows the extent of the town at that time. The grid pattern of streets extended from Foundry Street on the east in the downtown area west through Cobbham, across Milledge Avenue to about Rock Spring Street. It was bounded on the north by Prince Avenue and by Baxter Street on the south.

The only development in East Athens was that near the Athens Manufacturing Company Check Factory and on Carr's Hill at the

terminus of the Georgia Railroad. The fair grounds were located along South Lumpkin near the present university track.

The area shown on the map is now almost completely developed, with only a few wooded enclaves as reminders of the rural character of much of the community in the 1870s. This map was reproduced for the Athens Historical Society on the centennial of its first issue by the Cartographic Services of the University of Georgia. Map courtesy of the Athens Historical Society

