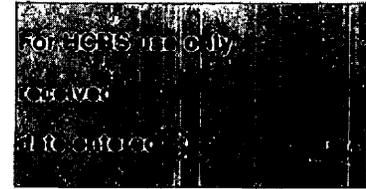


**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Paradise Park Historic District

and/or common Same

2. Location

Roughly bounded by Metcalf Ave., Colton, Broad, and Loomis Sts.

street & number See Continuation Sheet.

N/A not for publication

city, town Thomasville

N/A vicinity of

congressional district

state Georgia

code 013

county Thomas

code 275

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N/A in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Multiple owners

street & number

city, town

_____ vicinity of

state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Thomas County Courthouse

city, town Thomasville

state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic Structures Field Survey:
Thomas County

has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1976

federal state county local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

7. Description

Condition

excellent
 good
 fair

deteriorated
 ruins
 unexposed

Check one

unaltered
 altered

Check one

original site
 moved date _____

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Paradise Park Historic District consists of Paradise Park and historic residential properties that border it. Paradise Park is a triangular-shaped park located southeast of the Thomasville central business district, and just south of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad tracks.

The district is situated on high, level land with sandy soil. The park is landscaped with a thick stand of pine trees, oaks with Spanish moss, palm trees, and magnolias. It is decorated with park furniture, playground equipment, and a gazebo with bell-shaped roof. The streets are laid out in a radiating pattern, curving to the east and west around the triangular-shaped park. The lots are large and are situated in such a way to allow the houses to have a pattern in their placement around the park. Most of the streets in the district have sidewalks and are informally landscaped with oak, dogwood, crepe myrtle, cherry laurels, tall pine, shrubbery, and palm trees. South Broad Street is lined on both sides with large oaks draped with Spanish moss. The non-historic property located at 701 South Broad is bordered by an old wrought-iron fence. The Keefer House, a large Victorian Eclectic residence located at 817 East Hansell Street is bordered by a white picket fence.

Historic houses within the district include large wood-framed structures in the Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman/Bungalow styles. Several fine two-story Neoclassical and Victorian Eclectic style houses are located on South Broad Street and East Hansell Street. Neoclassical details include front porches with Ionic columns, central triangular pediments, denticulated cornices, balustrades, and Palladian windows. Most residences along East Loomis and Park Avenue are single-story structures with central porticos on front porches with tapered columns, screened-in side porches and dormer gable windows. One property along East Hansell Street includes a historic carriage house to the rear.

The boundaries of the district include the park and East Hansell Street and Colton Avenue to the east, a small portion of East Loomis Street to the east, the rear of properties along East Hansell Street, the south of South Broad Street, and a portion of both sides of West Hansell Street and the intersection of South Broad Street. The district boundary has been drawn to circumscribe Paradise Park and the historic residential development directly associated with it. The Paradise Park Historic District is bordered by railroad tracks to the north, non-historic development to the west, and historic residential development with a different character and appearance to the southeast.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) local history
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates mid-1880s/early 1900s **Builder/Architect** several

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Paradise Park Historic District is significant in the areas of architecture, community planning and development, landscape architecture, and local history. In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its collection of impressive late-nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century houses which reflect Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman/Bungalow styling. In the area of community planning and development, the district is significant for illustrating how a turn-of-the-century suburban community developed on the land of a late-nineteenth-century estate. In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for Paradise Park, Thomasville's largest historic park. In the area of local history, the district is significant for containing the historic homes of some of Thomasville's important winter residents, many of whom held local business interests. Paradise Park Historic District meets National Register criteria A, B, and C.

Architecturally, the Paradise Park Historic District is important for its fine turn-of-the-century residential structures, all of which are wood-framed and designed in the Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman/Bungalow styles. Most of the large two-story structures located on South Broad Street and East Hansell Street have front porches or central porticoes with Classical or Victorian detailing. These houses are good examples of residential architecture at the turn of the century in south Georgia and throughout the state. Some of the outstanding examples of Victorian Eclectic and Neoclassical styles include the Keefer House, 817 East Hansell; the Hebard House, 711 East Hansell; and the Strawbridge House, 704 South Broad. Other architecturally significant structures are 701 East Hansell, 110 East Hansell, and 900 South Broad.

In terms of community planning and development, Paradise Park is important as a planned suburban community that was developed in the late-nineteenth century as a result of the division of the estate of S. Alexander Smith. In the early 1890s, prominent winter residents bought large lots on Hansell and Broad streets, most of which faced the park. The park and street pattern are all a part of the radiating street pattern which contrasts with Thomasville's original grid-iron pattern. Builders and contractors associated with the development of the district include James Gribben (who built the Strawbridge House in 1899) and William Miller (who built the Hebard House in 1899-1900).

In the area of landscape architecture, the district is important for Paradise Park, Thomasville's largest historic park, that was deeded to the city in

[continued]

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 37 acres approximately

Quadrangle name Thomasville, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UMT References

A	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>7</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>4</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>3</u> <u>3</u> <u>0</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>2</u> <u>1</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>4</u> <u>8</u> <u>2</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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F	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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G	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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H	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
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Verbal boundary description and justification

See description in Section 7 and the maps which outline the boundary.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code

state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Andrea Niles, Survey and Research Specialist

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 13, 1984

street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840

city or town Atlanta state Georgia 30334

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

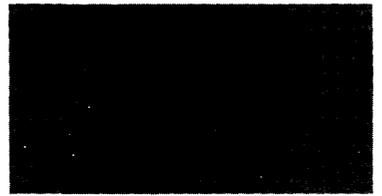
State Historic Preservation Officer signature Elizabeth A. Lyon
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/19/84

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Elizabeth A. Lyon</u>	date <u>9-7-84</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**



Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

1889. It is characteristic of south Georgia landscaping with its level terrain and numerous tall pine trees. The residential district is also significant for its informally landscaped front yards and street trees, which include large oaks with Spanish moss, dogwoods, cherry laurels, crepe myrtles, and small palm trees.

In terms of local history, Paradise Park is significant for containing the historic homes of some of Thomasville's important winter residents, many of whom also held local business interests. Some of the district's earliest residents include George Forbes, owner of Forbes Furniture and Hardware; W.S. Keefer, president of the Thomasville Cigar Company and founder of the Thomasville Ice Plant; Charles Hebard, a Philadelphia lumber magnate, and Judge Strawbridge, a distributor of quality clothing. Because of these associations, the Paradise Park area was known locally as "Yankee Paradise" at the turn of the century. This was the period in Thomasville's history when the hotel era began to decline and Northern visitors leased or built winter homes and cottages on the subdivided land from the S. Alexander Smith estate.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

Continuation sheet Location & Bibliography Item number 2 & 9

Page 2

2. Location

The Paradise Park Historic District is located southeast of the central business district and includes parts of South Broad Street, West and East Hansell Streets, Metcalf Avenue, Grady Street, and Park Avenue.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Balfour, Robert C., Jr. This Land I Have Loved. Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1975.

Feiss, Carl, and Russell Wright. "Historic Thomasville: An Inventory of Historic Buildings and Sites; Program Recommendations to Thomasville Landmarks, Inc." Washington: Carl Feiss, 1969.

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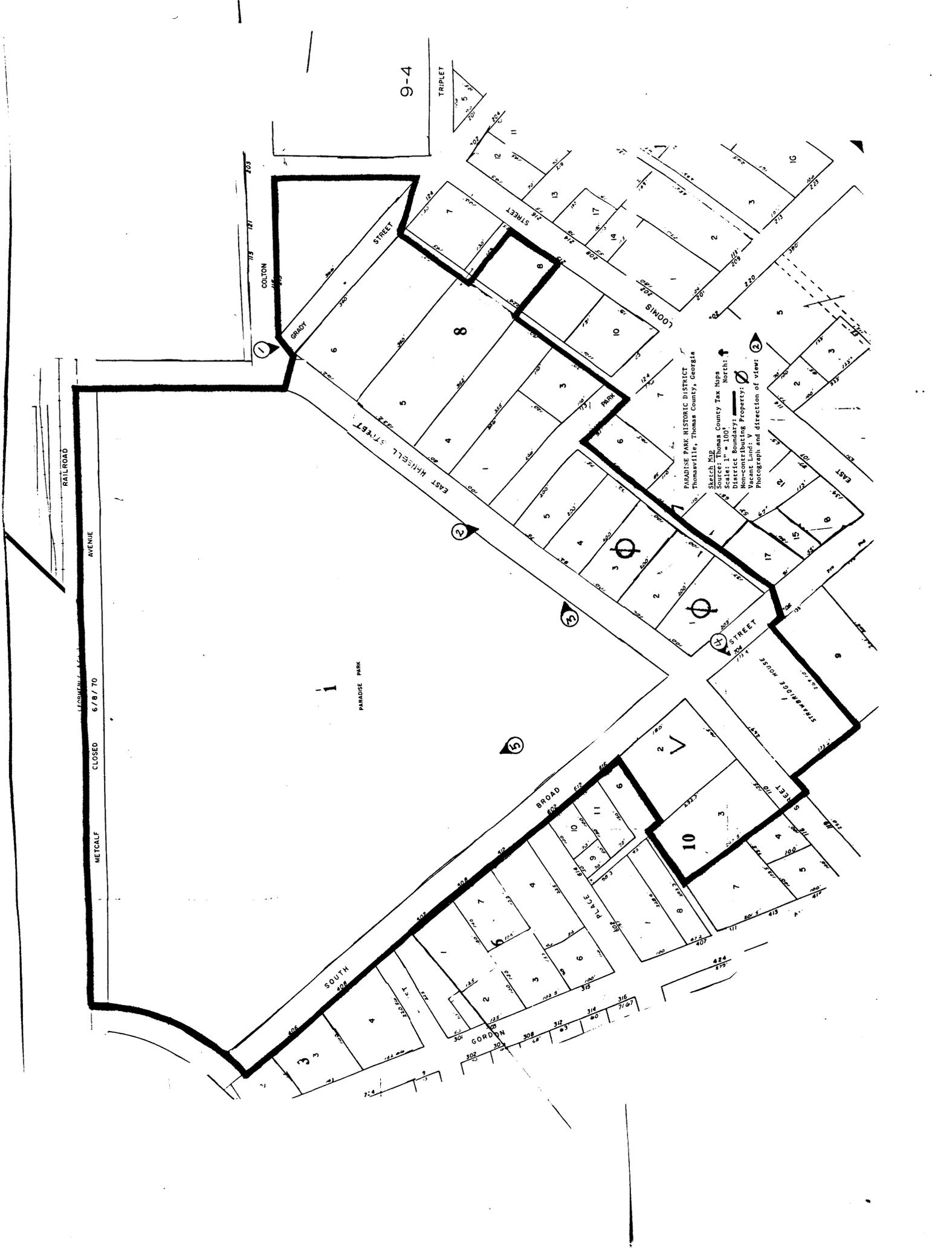
Mitchell, William R. Landmarks: The Architecture of Thomasville and Thomas County, Georgia, 1820-1980. Tallahassee: Rose Printing Company, 1980.

"Paradise Park Historic District Information Form," prepared by Sandra Dixon, consultant, 1983. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

Rogers, William Warren. Thomas County, 1865-1900. Tallahassee: Florida State University, 1973.

Trefftzs, Roy W., and Lillian Britt Heinsohn. "Heritage of Thomas County, Georgia." Thomasville: Thomas County Bicentennial-Sesquicentennial Commission, 1976.

Triplett, John. Thomasville (Among the Pines) and Thomas County, Georgia. Thomasville: Times-Enterprise, 1891.



PARADISE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT
 Thomas County, Georgia

Sketch Map
 Source: Thomas County Tax Map
 Parcel Boundary
 Non-contributing Property
 Vacant Land
 Photograph and direction of view

RAILROAD
 LECHEMILL AVENUE
 AVENUE
 CLOSED 6/8/70
 METCALF

1
 PARADISE PARK

9-4

TRIPLET

COLTON
 173 181 203

GRADY

EAST MANSSELL STREET

LOOMIS

PARK

BROAD

PLACE

SOUTH

GORDON

STREET

SPRINGRIDGE HOUSE

EAST

STREET

PLACE

SOUTH

GORDON

STREET