

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 Isle of Hope Historic District

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See Continuation Sheet. Cornus, and Noble Glen <sup>roughly bounded by Skidaway River, Parkersburg Rd. C. Brooks 8/7/84</sup> ~~not for publication~~ <sup>called</sup>

city, town Savannah  vicinity of ~~Congressional district~~ <sup>Ors.</sup>

state Georgia code 013 county Chatham code 051

3. Classification

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

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 Chatham County Courthouse

city, town Savannah state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:

title Chatham County has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1975  federal  state  county  local

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

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

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## 7. Description

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**Condition** excellent good fair deteriorated ruins unexposed**Check one** unaltered altered**Check one** original site moved date \_\_\_\_\_

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**Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Isle of Hope Historic District is a residential area dating from the early nineteenth through the early twentieth centuries. It is located on a small inland island located eight miles from downtown Savannah. The district is a roughly crescent-shaped area that curls around a horseshoe bend in the Skidaway River. The primary streets in the district are Bluff Drive, which is laid out paralleling the river bank, and Parkersburg Road, which provides access to the area from the west. Other small lanes fan out from Bluff Drive away from the river. Lots in the district, primarily rectangular in shape, vary considerably in size from very large along Bluff Drive to very small along some of the inland lanes. Houses in the district are from one to three stories in height and range in scale from small cottages to imposing mansions. The largest are situated on the large lots facing Bluff Drive and the river; the majority of the small cottages are located on the inland lots. Wood is the principal building material used both structurally and decoratively. A few houses are brick veneered, and many rest on high brick foundations. Porches are a prominent feature on nearly all the houses. They range from simple one-story shed-roofed porches on the small cottages to great wrap-around porches and massive two-story porticoes on some of the Bluff Drive houses. Architectural styles represented include Greek Revival, Victorian Eclectic, Neoclassical, and Bungalow/Craftsmen as well as examples of vernacular cottages of various dates. A few examples of antebellum houses are located along Bluff Drive including a very intact raised cottage at #1 Noble Glen Drive that may date from as early as the 1820s. The majority of the houses date from the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Two historic wood-framed churches dating from the 1870s are also located in the district. Vegetation in the area is dense. Magnificent live oaks line Bluff Drive and are scattered, along with palms and other shade trees, throughout the district. Informally planted yards around the smaller houses and more formally laid-out grounds at the houses along Bluff Drive complete the landscaping. Non-contributing structures include a marina at the foot of Rose Avenue and a few houses and community and commercial structures of recent construction.

Boundary

The district boundary circumscribes the intact historic acreage associated with the residential community of Isle of Hope. The Skidaway River to the east and non-historic development to the north, west, and south determine the boundary.

## 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/		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)		

Specific dates Early 19th - early 20th centuries Builder/Architect Multiple

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Isle of Hope Historic District is a unique coastal riverside community established as a historic summer retreat for nearby Savannah. It is historically significant in terms of community planning and development, architecture, and landscape architecture. In terms of community planning and development, the district is significant as a summer community that developed to provide a refuge from Savannah's intense heat and malaria problems. It has a unique crescent-shaped layout. In terms of architecture, the district is significant for its fine and varied collection of early-nineteenth through early-twentieth-century residences which range from small cottages to large mansions. In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its richly landscaped semi-tropical setting and for its road and building sitings which reflect an awareness of the scenic qualities of the riverfront location. These areas of significance support the district's eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

### Community Planning and Development

The Isle of Hope was settled in the early eighteenth century by three men-- Noble Jones, John Fallowfield, and Henry Parker--who received land grants from the British crown. The area of the island in the district, originally belonging to Henry Parker, was divided by his family into large five-acre riverfront lots and larger inland lots in the early nineteenth century. Very gradually, in the 1840s and 1850s, summer houses were built on the riverfront lots by wealthy Savannah residents who discovered the locale as a place to escape the summer heat and malaria problems of the city. Growth was slow until after the Civil War when, in 1871, a railroad line was laid connecting the Isle of Hope to the city and establishing it as a popular summering spot. By the early twentieth century, the Isle of Hope had become a suburb of Savannah, and many people were living there year round. A small black settlement in the district along Parkersburg Road is believed to date from the years after the Civil War when freed black slaves from neighboring Wormsloe Plantation settled there.

Isle of Hope Historic District is significant in terms of community planning and development for three reasons. First, its crescent-shaped riverfront layout, which deviates considerably from the linear or gridiron plans associated with the majority of Georgia's communities, is unique. This unusual plan derives from the early nineteenth-century subdivision of the Parker family's riverfront lands in a manner which assured maximum use of prevailing breezes and riverfront scenic vistas. Second, it is one of the few remaining intact examples in the state of

[continued]

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreege of nominated property approximately 100 acres

Quadrangle name Isle of Hope, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UMT References

A 

1	7
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4	9	15	2	10	10
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3	15	3	18	7	18	10
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Zone Easting Northing

B 

1	7
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4	9	15	4	10	10
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3	15	3	18	0	18	10
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Zone Easting Northing

C 

1	7
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4	9	4	7	2	10
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3	15	3	18	2	2	10
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D 

1	7
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4	9	4	7	9	10
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3	15	3	17	5	6	10
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E 

1	7
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4	9	3	5	7	10
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3	15	3	18	0	2	10
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F 

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G 

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H 

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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary, outlined with a heavy black line on the enclosed maps, is described and justified in Section 7.

### 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 Carolyn Brooks, National Register Researcher

Historic Preservation Section

organization Georgia Department of Natural Resources date June 30, 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 HCERS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
Entered in the  
National Register

date 9/7/84

Keeper of the National Register

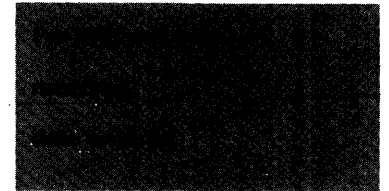
Attest

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet

Significance

Item number 8

Page 2

the summer communities that grew up away from the coastal cities to provide relief from the heat and mosquitoes. Third, it is an example of an incrementally developed community that grew to its present appearance over a hundred-year period as large lots were subdivided.

Architecture

Architecturally, the district is significant for its fine and varied collection of residences that range in date from the early nineteenth to the early twentieth centuries and range in size from small cottages to large mansions. Together, these houses document a broad spectrum of architectural types and styles. Small Victorian cottages and early twentieth-century bungalows as well as a number of two- and three-story antebellum Greek Revival, late nineteenth-century Victorian Eclectic, and turn-of-the-century Neoclassical mansions can be found in the district. These houses illustrate typical types, styles, and building technology of their periods as they were locally interpreted by carpenter-builders. Many, with prominent front porches and raised basements, illustrate how these styles were adapted over a period of time to meet the specific needs of summering in a hot climate. The houses, built primarily as summer houses in what was a rural setting, contrast interestingly with urban residences of the same period in nearby Savannah. The row of residences facing the Skidaway River along Bluff Drive is a particularly fine group that documents the full range of styles and period represented in the district.

Landscape Architecture

In terms of landscape architecture, the district is significant for its crescent-shaped layout which takes advantage of a scenic bend in the Skidaway River. The siting of Bluff Drive paralleling the river and the orientation of the Bluff Drive houses toward the river clearly document a conscious landscaping decision to take advantage of the scenic location. The magnificent live oaks that line Bluff Drive; the palms, live oaks, and other shade trees scattered throughout the district; the informally planted yards of the cottages; and the more formal grounds of the larger houses combine to provide a richly landscaped, semi-tropical setting.

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
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Continuation sheet Location and Bibliography Item number 2 and 9

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2. Location

The Isle of Hope Historic District is located about eight miles from downtown Savannah in unincorporated Chatham County. The district is a roughly crescent-shaped area fronting on the north bank of the Skidaway River at the point where it makes a great horseshoe bend and joins the Isle of Hope River.

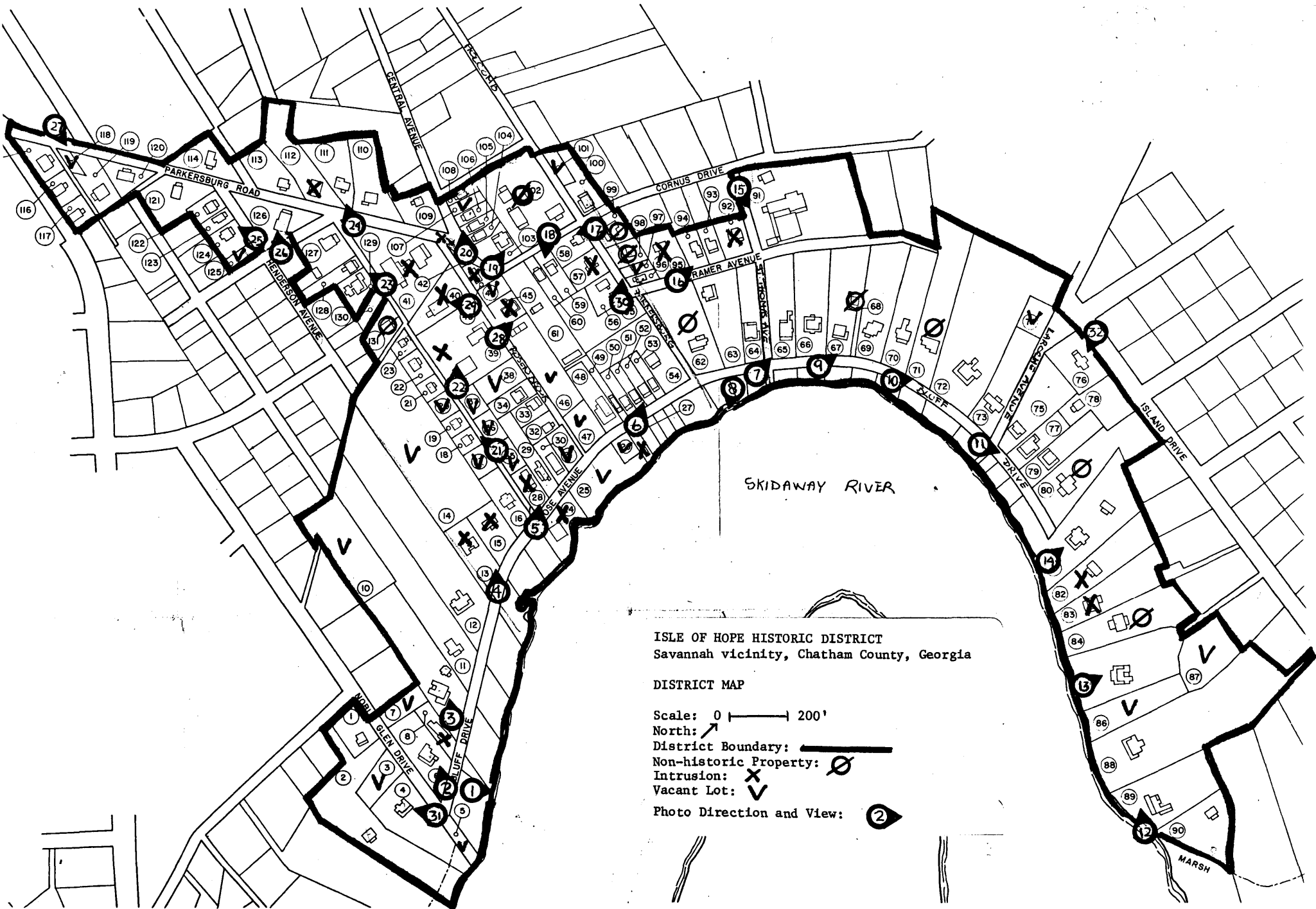
9. Major Bibliographical References

Brito, Heriberto J. "Isle of Hope Historic District: Historic District Information Form," April, 1982. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Harden, William. History of Savannah and South Georgia. Atlanta: Cherokee Publishing Company, 1969 (reprint of 1913 edition).

Potterfield, Ty. "A History of the Isle of Hope Historic District" (addendum to Historic District Information Form), July, 1983. On file at Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of the Isle of Hope, 1955.



ISLE OF HOPE HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Savannah vicinity, Chatham County, Georgia

DISTRICT MAP

Scale: 0 ——— 200'

North: ↗

District Boundary: ———

Non-historic Property: ⊗

Intrusion: X

Vacant Lot: V

Photo Direction and View: ⊙