

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Ardmore-Chatham Terrace Historic District

2. Location: The district is located within the city limits of Savannah in Chatham County and is bounded by 51<sup>st</sup> Lane on the north, Waters Avenue on the east, halfway between Habersham and Battey Streets on the west, and 55<sup>th</sup> Lane on the south.

3a. Description: The Ardmore-Chatham Terrace Historic District is a residential neighborhood located approximately one mile south of downtown Savannah. Ardmore and Chatham Terrace, two adjacent planned subdivisions that were laid out in a grid pattern in 1925 and 1939, respectively, display similar architectural and landscape characteristics as well as a common developmental history. Each subdivision was intended to be moderately exclusive, restricted suburban development catering to Savannah's White middle and upper-middle classes. The scale and size of the buildings reflect an early-20<sup>th</sup> century trend toward period revival styles such as English Vernacular Revival, Colonial Revival, and Craftsman. Other styles found in the district include Neoclassical Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival. House types in the district include single-family houses, Bungalow, English Cottage, American Small House, Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century two-story house, and the ranch house. The Ardmore-Chatham Terrace ranch houses vary in from linear and rambling subtypes to smaller compact and courtyard subtypes. Other residential types in the district include the duplex and the quadruplex. Most of the residences are wood framed with brick veneer exteriors and asphalt or metal shingles roofs. Generally, the houses are situated on narrow double lots with uniform setbacks, informal yards, sidewalks, and street trees. The backyards of many houses are enclosed with brick walls or chain link fencing. As the houses are sited close to one another, a heavy density of housing is consistent throughout the district. Driveways tend to be narrow and lead to detached single-car garages. In addition to the residences, the district contains an orphanage, which now functions as an elementary school, and the diagonal four-acre public Hull Park which is located roughly in the center of the district. The district retains a high level of overall integrity through its intact original layout.

3b. Period of Significance: 1925-1972

3c. Acreage: approximately 47 acres

3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary includes all the historic residential properties, tree lawns, and a community park associated with the Ardmore and Chatham Terrace neighborhoods.

4a. National Register Criteria: A and C

4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Community Planning & Development and Architecture

4c. Statement of Significance: The Ardmore-Chatham Terrace Historic District is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture for its excellent intact collection of mid-20<sup>th</sup> century residences in Savannah. It includes ranch houses, Bungalows, English Cottages, and American Small Houses, with ranch houses being the most prevalent house type in the district. Many of the houses were designed by well-known local architects whose major stylistic influences include the Colonial Revival and English Vernacular Revival styles as defined in the statewide context *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. The district is also significant under Criterion A in the area of community planning & development as a good example of an early-to mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Savannah suburb marketed toward White middle and upper-middle class families. Developed as two adjacent planned subdivisions over two decades, Ardmore-Chatham Terrace features a continuation of Savannah's traditional grid street pattern begun by the 1733 Oglethorpe Plan. The two neighborhoods share a common developmental history and were in many ways built as a continuation of the types of housing that was being offered in the outskirts of neighboring subdivisions. Later development emphasized more affordable housing options in the district and was influenced by the mid-1930s policies of the Federal Housing Administration such as the construction of multi-family homes.

4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Ardmore-Chatham Terrace Historic District is being nominated at the local level as an excellent example of an intact mid-20<sup>th</sup> century neighborhood in Savannah with representative house types and styles of the historic period.

5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the Ardsley Park/Chatham Crescent Neighborhood Association, and nomination materials were prepared by Quatrefoil Preservation Consulting.