



CHEROKEE GARDEN LIBRARY

Surveys Conducted through the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative (GHLI) Compare 1933 to Present

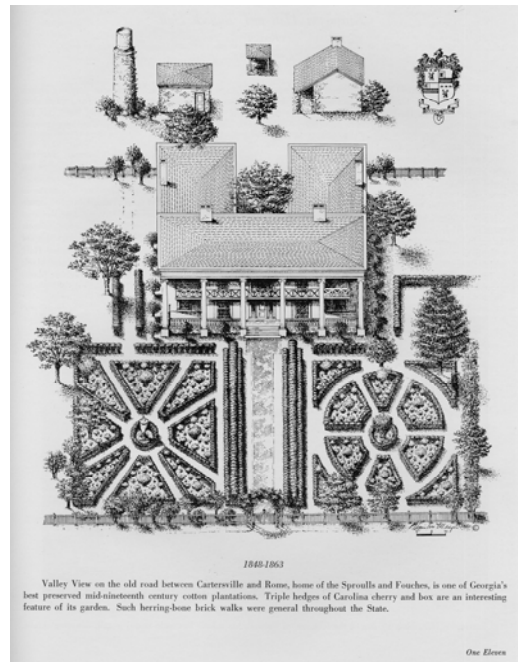
GHLI is conducted by the Garden Club of Georgia in partnership with the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center, the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office. It's an excellent example of the Garden Library's involvement in collaborative programs.

In 2005, when the Atlanta Preservation Center (APC) recognized the Upchurch-Kelley House and Gardens as one of Atlanta's most endangered historic places, it was the first time a garden was included their *Most Endangered Public Places* list. According to Boyd Coons, Executive Director of the Atlanta Preservation Center, "It is important to think beyond the usual historic buildings and include all kinds of structures and places that make up the fabric of our cities and state." This idea represents a growing awareness of what Georgia gardeners have believed for a long time: that the great historic gardens and landscapes of Georgia are irreplaceable and worthy of our most energetic preservation efforts.

Georgia Landscape Survey Builds on National Models

In 2002, the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative (GHLI) was launched under the direction of Jim Cothran, Fellow in the American Society of Landscape Architects (FASLA), to identify and catalog Georgia's landscape heritage. This project is a collaborative effort of The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc, the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center, the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, and the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources.

The impetus for GHLI was the creation of the Historic American Landscape Survey (HALS) in 2000 by the American Society of Landscape Architects, the National Park Service, and the Library of Congress. This survey of historic American landscapes, gardens, and cultural sites was modeled on the Historic American Building Survey (HABS) and Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) programs.



Valley View antebellum parterre garden, Bartow County, GA, from The Garden History of Georgia 1733–1933. Documented through GHLI.

1933 Garden Publication Serves as Survey Reference

Georgia's landscape survey initiative is based on *The Garden History of Georgia 1733–1933* published by the Peachtree Garden Club in 1933. This rich historic resource includes detailed and carefully documented descriptions, photographs, and drawings of over 160 gardens and landscapes, many of which by now are no longer extant.

GHLI's goal is to revisit every garden featured in this book and compare its present-day state to that of 1933. The changes and existing conditions are recorded, and the completed surveys are housed in the archives of the Cherokee Garden Library of the Atlanta History Center, providing a resource for researchers, scholars, writers, landscape architects, gardeners, and anyone interested in Georgia's garden heritage.

Every summer since 2003, The Garden Club of Georgia, Inc. has recruited volunteers for GHLI and sponsored a graduate student to work on the project under the direction of Staci Catron, Director of the Cherokee Garden Library, and with the advisement of Susan Hitchcock, Landscape Historian for the National Park Service and Jim Cothran, FASLA.

Examples of Public and Private Preservation

Two of the properties surveyed, Callanwolde Fine Arts Center and Fernbank Forest, are excellent examples of public-private-governmental partnerships that preserve and protect historic places while making them available for public use and enjoyment.

Callanwolde, located on Briarcliff Road in the historic Druid Hills neighborhood of Atlanta, is a grand Gothic-Tudor style home located in a park-like setting surrounded by formal and informal gardens. Built in 1920 by Charles Howard Candler, the restored manor house and 12 acres of grounds are owned and operated by DeKalb County as a public arts facility by the Callanwolde Foundation. The early 20th century gardens on the property were renovated in 2006.

Fernbank Forest, a 65-acre wooded site, also located in the Druid Hills area, is owned and operated by the non-profit Fernbank, Inc. Purchased in 1889 by Z. D. Harrison, the property was left largely untouched. Fernbank Inc. purchased the estate in 1939 to protect it from development, and today, surrounded by dense urbanization, Fernbank Forest is said to be the largest assemblage of undisturbed urban forested



Garden of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Stephenson, Atlanta, Georgia, documented in 2008 through the Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative.

land in the United States. In addition to the forest, which serves as a living laboratory for natural sciences, the complex includes the Fernbank Science Center and the Fernbank Museum of Natural History.

Throughout Georgia, many private individuals have assumed responsibility for the preservation and maintenance of the historic landscapes surrounding their homes. An excellent example of private stewardship of Atlanta's landscape heritage is Mayfair, the private home of Dr. and Mrs. H. Dale Richardson, located in the Buckhead area of the city. It was built in 1929 by the architectural firm of Cooper and Cooper and was one of only three landscapes in Atlanta designed by Ellen Biddle Shipman, one of the most important landscape architects in the early 20th century in the United States. The Richardsons have taken great care to maintain the historic fabric of the grounds, and even with decades of change, the landscape retains much of its original design, function, beauty and character.

Working toward our goal

Approximately 40 of the 160 properties included in *The Garden History of Georgia 1733–1933* remain to be visited.

2011 adaptation for the Cherokee Garden Library handbook from an article written by Janet Barrickman, Cherokee Garden Library Summer Fellow in 2005.