



**Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship 2021:
Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative
02/2021**

Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center

Founded by the Cherokee Garden Club of Atlanta in 1975, the Cherokee Garden Library is named for the state floral emblem of Georgia, the Cherokee rose (*Rosa laevigata*), and is one of the special collection libraries of the Kenan Research Center. The Cherokee Garden Library collects and preserves works in gardening, landscape design, garden history, horticulture, floral design, botanical art, plant ecology, natural landscapes, and cultural landscapes (including historic sites, designed landscapes, vernacular landscapes, and ethnographic landscapes). Ranging in date from 1586 to the present, the Cherokee Garden Library books, periodicals, manuscript collections, and visual arts collections tell the stories of horticulture and botanical history in the Southeastern United States and areas of influence throughout the world.

Through the support of garden clubs, horticulturists, historians, historic preservationists, gardeners, and landscape architects, today it is the premier garden library in the Southeast United States and part of the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.

The Library is a resource for researchers from around the world, assisted by the director who fields questions and provides information on request. The Library offers curatorial tours (currently virtually only), supports instruction in its extensive scholarly resources, and dedicates a space for concentrated study and interdisciplinary academic collaboration.

The Cherokee Garden Library serves the Atlanta History Center garden curators, students, gardeners, horticulturists, historians, and landscape designers as well as other private individuals, nonprofit institutions, and commercial firms by promoting the study of gardening and garden history through lectures, workshops, exhibitions, and collaborative projects with community partners.

The Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center is open to the public and free of charge, 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30305, The Kenan Research Center, including the Cherokee Garden Library, is currently open by appointment only: Tuesday-Saturday, 10 am-1 pm and 2 pm-5 pm. To schedule a time to visit, please contact us at 404.814.4040 or reference@atlantahistorycenter.com at least two business days in advance. You

may also contact Staci L. Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director, at 404.814.4046 or scatron@atlantahistorycenter.com.

Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship

The purpose of the Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship is to support and enhance the mission of the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, and to create future professionals with an interest in cultural landscapes and their preservation. A student from an established graduate history program, a historic preservation program, or a landscape architecture program in the State of Georgia will be awarded the research fellowship. The selection process involves the submission of qualifications by potential candidates to the Atlanta History Center for review by the director and a Selection Committee established by the library. The selected candidate is required to devote **200 hours of service** to fulfill the research fellowship requirements.

Cari L. Goetcheus, Associate Professor and Cultural Landscape Laboratory Director for the University of Georgia's College of Environment & Design; Susan L. Hitchcock, historical landscape architect for the National Park Service; Staci L. Catron, Cherokee Garden Library Director of the Atlanta History Center; Elaine H. Bolton, Garden Club of Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative Chairman, will monitor the student's progress on the assigned project; and Allison Asbrock, Historic Preservation Division Outreach Program Manager, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, will advise on the project.

The research fellowship will not only provide specific benefits to the Cherokee Garden Library and its mission but will also serve as a valuable learning experience for the graduate student. A variety of research projects, as determined by the above-listed advisors and the Cherokee Garden Library Committee Chair, will be identified and serve to benefit the Cherokee Garden Library and its patrons.

The fellowship has several important benefits:

- Enhance the ongoing efforts of the Cherokee Garden Library as a unique resource for cultural landscapes research and study.
- Encourage and support scholarly efforts by preservation students in the fulfillment of academic requirements and professional related experience.
- Assist the Cherokee Garden Library in gaining greater recognition as a center for academic and scholarly opportunities in cultural landscape preservation.

The application deadline for the Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship is **Friday, March 19, 2021**. The specific dates of the summer research fellowship will be determined by the Cherokee Garden Library Director and the graduate student who is granted the research fellowship.

Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship Funding

The Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship 2021 is funded by the Cherokee Garden Library, a Library of the Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center. The graduate student selected for the Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship 2021 will be given a stipend of \$3,000 upon completion of the work assigned and approval by the Cherokee Garden Library Director and the Committee. Any travel expenses will be reimbursed, as well.

The Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative (GHLI)

Overview

History: Initiated in 2002 under the direction of Landscape Architect James R. Cothran, FASLA and Susan Hitchcock, National Park Service, a collaboration was forged among the Historic Preservation Division, the Garden Club of Georgia, the National Park Service, and the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center, for the purpose of conducting a statewide inventory of Georgia's historic gardens—the Historic Landscape Initiative. Using the volume *Garden History of Georgia, 1733- 1933* (Atlanta, GA: Peachtree Garden Club, 1933) as a framework, garden club members and Cherokee Garden Library fellows determined which of the book's significant gardens remained, which had been destroyed, and what changes had occurred to those still in existence. This effort was completed in 2018 and resulted in the University of Georgia Press book, *Seeking Eden: A Collection of Georgia Historic Gardens* (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2018) by Staci L. Catron and Mary Ann Eaddy with photographs by James R. Lockhart. The documentation collected through the GHLI is preserved and made available to the public at the Cherokee Garden Library, Kenan Research Center.

Current: Upon completion of revisiting all of the designed gardens documented in the 1930s throughout Georgia, in 2018 the GHLI began Phase Two of its landscape documentation program focusing on vernacular landscapes. The same year, the University of Georgia, College of Environment + Design, Historic Preservation Program joined the collaboration. Although vernacular landscapes and gardens have been recognized as historic resources since the late-1980s because designed landscapes are in many ways easier to research and understand, they were logically the focus of many landscape documentation programs for several decades. Yet, rural communities, industrial complexes, American Indian sites, and a variety of agricultural, forestry, mining and other extractive land uses assist in telling the rich story of how our country developed.

Definitions from the National Park Service:

Ethnographic landscape – a landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, sacred religious sites, and massive geological structures. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence, and ceremonial grounds are often components.

Historic Designed Landscape—a landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. The landscape may be associated with a significant person(s), trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes. Examples include parks, campuses, and estates.

Historic Vernacular Landscape—a landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped that landscape. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, family, or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of those everyday lives. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes. They can be a single property such as a farm or a collection of properties such as a district of historic farms along a river valley. Examples include rural villages, industrial complexes, and agricultural landscapes.

Types of Historic Gardens and Landscapes:

- Formally designed parks, like Central Park in New York City or Olmsted Linear Parks in Atlanta
- Cemeteries
- Private gardens ranging in size from a 1/8-acre lot in a city or a small garden adjacent to a residence to a several hundred-acre estate overlooking a river corridor,
- Farmsteads and their associated landscape features such as barns, outbuildings, kitchen gardens, fields, pastures, orchards, etc.
- Residential neighborhoods and subdivisions
- Industrial or commercial parks and developments, such as mill villages, commerce parks, etc.
- Education or military campuses
- Gullah-Geechee communities
- Indigenous American mound sites
- Botanical gardens
- and many more

Cherokee Garden Library Research Fellowship Requirements

The summer project requires the creation of cultural landscape documentation for two to three vernacular landscapes in Georgia, in the form of a Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative survey form. Through fieldwork, the research fellow will capture measurements (GPS points, hand measurements, etc.) and photographs to create an existing condition drawing(s) for each of the two historic sites that highlight any historic features.

The summer project requires the research fellow to conduct historic research, define historic developmental periods (if possible, with maps/photographs) and a corresponding narrative, understand and document the site's existing conditions, define its historic significance, and evaluate the integrity of the overall landscape and its individual features.

Details

The research fellow's work should include the following for each of the sites:

- A. A comprehensive overview of the landscape's history, including archival information so that developmental periods of the landscape can be articulated, as possible;
- B. A list of all past and current owners of the property, as possible;
- C. Documentation of the site's existing conditions;
- D. Identification of historic landscape features that are extant, with maps/photographs showing their location;
- E. An understanding of the management of the property over time;
- F. A statement of the historic significance of the property based on your historic research and National Register criteria and evaluation. Cite sources that justify your position.
- G. Identification, brief descriptions, and evaluation of historic significance and integrity of landscape characteristics. This does not have to be a comprehensive, feature-by-feature inventory of the entire landscape. However, you should identify the most important categories of landscape characteristics and identify the main features within each category. You should describe the features in terms of their historic integrity, significance, and aesthetic qualities. (Remember that some critical landscape features may be non-material or intangible resources.) You should also distinguish between historic, "contributing" features, and non-historic or "non-contributing features."
- H. One or more maps showing the boundaries of the landscape, and map(s) showing its surrounding context.
- J. Maps, photographs, diagrams, or any other graphics that are necessary to illustrate your ideas.
- K. A bibliography, and properly cite sources of information, ideas, and graphics according to the "humanities style" specifications of *The Chicago Manual of Style*.

Deliverables

- Completed Georgia Historic Landscape Initiative Survey Form: A written document that addresses the above-listed components. Your narrative should be concisely written, yet thorough. It should succinctly summarize your research, conclusions, and findings.
- Site drawing(s) to scale (preferably electronically crafted in a CADD software program), and photographs, emphasizing the historic character and features

- Research Materials: Copies of key research materials and sources (field measurements, photos, historic research, etc.), in paper and/or electronic form, which can be shared electronically with members of the committee via Google Drive.
- Article: A 750-word article on the historic landscapes documented during the summer project for publication in the Cherokee Garden Library's newsletter, *Garden Citings*.