



MARK WILLIAMS
COMMISSIONER

DR. DAVID CRASS
DIVISION DIRECTOR

HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

Buckhead Forest Listed in the National Register of Historic Places

ATLANTA (February 11, 2015) – The Alberta Drive-Mathieson Drive-West Shadowlawn Avenue Historic District, located in Buckhead, Fulton County, Georgia, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 27, 2015. The district encompasses a neighborhood now commonly known as Buckhead Forest, located within the densely-developed triangle of land bounded by the busy thoroughfares of Peachtree, Piedmont, and Roswell roads.

In 1907 the Georgia Railway and Electric Company extended its trolley line from downtown Atlanta along Peachtree Road, north to Buckhead and beyond into largely undeveloped land. This accessibility spurred a building boom of which the Alberta Drive-Mathieson Drive-West Shadowlawn Avenue Historic District is an extant remnant. Developed as four separate subdivisions between 1911 and 1945, the earliest development in the district reflects the characteristics of a streetcar suburb, while the later development reflects the influence of the automobile. With its rolling topography, curvilinear streets, and development pattern of sizable lots with homes set back from the street, the neighborhood still today articulates a “park-like setting,” the predominant national trend in early 20th-century suburban development.

The district contains an intact collection of house types and styles popular with the middle-class throughout Georgia from the 1910s through the 1960s. They include bungalows, English Cottages, American Small Houses, and ranch houses. Stylistic influences in the district include English Vernacular Revival, French Vernacular Revival, Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Contemporary. Houses are generally small and overwhelmingly one-story. While a handful of high-style examples are present, the majority of the district’s houses exhibit only elements of their relevant style. The design of at least one house in the neighborhood can be credited to the plan books of Leila Ross Wilburn, a pioneer female architect well-known for her residential work in Atlanta during the early 20th century. While some houses have contemporary additions, these are typically on the rear, and the majority of the district’s houses retain their intact tightly-massed footprint. The district also includes three mid-20th-century apartment buildings, reflecting the evolution of the Buckhead community from largely undeveloped land to a high-density mixed-use area.

The National Register of Historic Places is our country's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. The National Register provides formal recognition of a property's architectural, historical, or archaeological significance. It also identifies historic properties for planning purposes and insures that these properties will be considered in the

planning of state or federally assisted projects. National Register listing encourages preservation of historic properties through public awareness, federal and state tax incentives, and grants. Listing in the National Register does not place obligations or restrictions on the use, treatment, transfer, or disposition of private property.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia's state historic preservation office. Its mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD's programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance.

The mission of the Department of Natural Resources is to sustain, enhance, protect and conserve Georgia's natural, historic and cultural resources for present and future generations, while recognizing the importance of promoting the development of commerce and industry that utilize sound environmental practices.

#

For press inquiries contact Historic Preservation Division Director David Crass - 404-656-2840 and david.crass@dnr.state.ga.us

Photos available upon request from Charlie Miller, media & communications coordinator - 404-651-5287 and charlie.miller@dnr.state.ga.us