
Historic Bagley Park (Frankie Allen)

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Research conducted for Professor Greta deMayo

History 8890: Cultural Landscape Preservation

Note: This academic report concerns the preservation of an important cultural landscape in Atlanta, Georgia. By way of additional background, the following information is excerpted from The Cultural Landscape Foundation's website www.tclf.org

Cultural landscapes give us a sense of place.

They reveal our relationship with the land over time.
They are part of our national heritage,
and part of each of our lives.

A cultural landscape is a geographic area that includes cultural and natural resources associated with an historic event, activity, person, or group of people. Cultural landscapes can range from thousands of acres of rural land to homesteads with small front yards. They can be man-made expressions of visual and spatial relationships that include grand estates, farmlands, public gardens and parks, college campuses, cemeteries, scenic highways, and industrial sites. Cultural landscapes are works of art, texts and narratives of cultures, and expressions of regional identity. They also exist in relationship to their ecological contexts.

Why are cultural landscapes important?

Cultural landscapes are a legacy for everyone. Benefits from the preservation of cultural landscapes are enormous. As with historic buildings, these special places reveal aspects of a country's origins and development. Through their form, features, and the ways they are used, cultural landscapes reveal much about our evolving relationships with the natural world. They provide scenic, economic, ecological, social, recreational, and educational opportunities which help individuals, communities and nations understand themselves.

Why is it important to protect cultural landscapes?

Unfortunately, neglect and inappropriate development put our irreplaceable landscape legacy alarmingly at risk. Too often the long-term environmental and cultural ramifications of short-term decisions are not understood and as a result we lose a unique portion of our cultural patrimony. The constant effort it takes to protect our nation's cultural landscapes is everyone's responsibility. Their ongoing preservation and interpretation can yield an improved quality of life and a sense of place and identity for future generations.

HISTORIC AMERICAN LANDSCAPE SURVEY

Bagley Park-Frankie Allen

HALS NO. MD-xx

Location: Bagley Park-Frankie Allen comprises approximately 21 acres in the Gardens Hills neighborhood of Buckhead between the Peachtree and Piedmont Road corridors at 425 Pharr Road, NE, Atlanta, on Land Lot 60 of 17th District, Fulton County, Latitude 33:50:11.677N, Longitude 84:23:6.601W. The study area also includes the 0.22 acre historic Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Cemetery at the front entrance (431 Pharr Road NE, PCN #17 0060000 30057).

Historian: Susan M. Conger, Masters Candidate, Heritage Preservation Program, Georgia State University, Research conducted for Professor Greta deMayo, Cultural Landscape Preservation (History 8890)



Present Owner: Public park is owned by City of Atlanta. The private cemetery (technically outside of the park boundaries) title to property is held by the Saint Mark Missionary Baptist Church, now attended by many of the descendants of the original Bagley Park community.

Statement of Significance: The study area represents the mid-twentieth century parks expansion movement in Fulton County coinciding with the gradual elimination of African-American neighborhoods in the affluent residential areas of Atlanta. Like many other cities, post-Civil War Atlanta furthered the segregation movement by initiatives that separated areas along racial lines.¹ Bagley Park-Frankie Allen is also locally significant as the home to the youth sports organization, Buckhead Baseball, established in 1952.² The area was originally known as Macedonia Park, an African American subdivision created by developer John Owens in 1921.³ Modest homes were constructed on small, narrow lots bordering a creek.⁴ These housed workers who tilled the nearby farms and performed domestic service in the white-owned houses scattered throughout Irbyville later known as Buckhead.⁵ As Atlanta expanded, the community was quickly surrounded by the new white Garden Hills subdivision to the south and west. These residents, often representing social and civic groups, vigorously complained to the Fulton County Commission about the “loud and boisterous noises made by the negroes living in the Bagley Park section”.⁶ At the same time, the County was aggressively working on bringing a “world-class recreation system” to Atlanta. Ultimately Fulton County passed an ordinance authorizing the public condemnation of the neighborhood.⁷ Between 1945 and 1953, Fulton County purchased all of the homes in Macedonia Park, by either negotiation, the threat of forced purchase, or when necessary, the power of eminent domain.⁸ This cleared the way for the creation of the second largest park in Fulton County, to be known as “Bagley Park”, named for William Bagley, a well-respected black resident, for approximately thirty years.⁹ The church cemetery is all that remains of the original neighborhood. In 1952 Cal Thomas, a recreational employee of the City of Atlanta, capitalized on the availability of the new park facilities for

¹ Larry Keating, *Atlanta: Race, Class, and Urban Expansion* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001), 44-51.

² Scott Hanson, “Buckhead Baseball: A Brief History 1952-2002”, <http://www.buckheadbaseball.com/index.php/info/history> (accessed December 9, 2008).

³ Susan Kessler Barnard, *Buckhead: A Place for All Time* (Athens, GA: Hill Street Press, 1996), 114-115.

⁴ Keating, *Atlanta: Race, Class, and Urban Expansion*, 48.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated August 5, 1942. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

⁷ *Ibid.*, September 7, 1944.

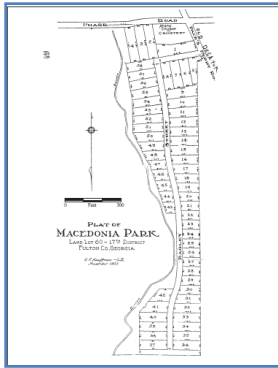
⁸ Keating, *Atlanta: Race, Class, and Urban Expansion*, 49.

⁹ Elon Butts Osby, interview by author, Atlanta, GA, December 3, 2008, audio tape included on CD.

organizing a baseball league for young boys.¹⁰ This was the foundation for Buckhead Baseball at Bagley Park, which became an integral part of growing up in Buckhead for generations to come. The park was renamed for Frankie Allen, a beloved Buckhead Baseball umpire, in 1980.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Original Site



In the late 1870s the study area consisted of farm fields in Land Lot 60 of District 17 near the town of Irbyville, later named Buckhead. The land was inhabited by African Americans who are thought to have been slaves of the early settlers of the area. Working as tenant farmers and domestics for wealthy white families, the residents created a sense of community by establishing the Mount Olive Methodist-Episcopal Church as a place of worship.¹¹

In the 1920s John Owens developed the property into a new African-American subdivision called Macedonia Park. Macedonia Park was a self-contained community in many respects. In addition to Mount Olive, there were two additional churches, two grocery stores, restaurants and a blacksmith in the vicinity.¹²

B. Fulton County Parks and Recreation Expansion and Condemnation Proceedings

In the mid-1940s Fulton County was in the midst of a major parks and recreation expansion plan. The Parks & Recreation publication “Years of Progress 1938-1950” reports that the County was “sadly lacking in facilities necessary to the health and happiness of the masses”. New subdivisions were being built beyond the city limits of Atlanta, and the Macedonia Park community was quickly surrounded by affluent white suburbs including Garden Hills, Peachtree View and Peachtree Heights.

The following summary of the historical development of Bagley Park-Frankie Allen was compiled from records held by Fulton County Government, 141 Pryor Street, Atlanta, and will not be cited unless specifically quoted or another work is used.

In May 1942, a large delegation of citizens from the Garden Hills Community appeared before the Board of Fulton County Commissioners and protested vigorously against recent Grand Jury criticism of the park building program. The local residents noted that “the majority of the people of Fulton County were for more parks” and encouraged the Commissioners to not “let-up” in their development.¹³

Two months later, Garden Hills residents appeared again before the Commission with a petition requesting that the County take steps to “condemn and remove” the Bagley Park neighborhood, noting:

“This negro section is located on the headwaters of a stream that flows southwardly through Fulton County and having no sewerage it constitutes a health menace to the welfare to the entire county; also that its proximity to the North Fulton Grammar School makes it a menace to the welfare of the children attending that school; and furthermore

¹⁰ Scott Hanson, “Buckhead Baseball: A Brief History 1952-2002”.

¹¹ Bill Bell, “What Remains: Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Church and Cemetery”, *Atlanta InTown Buckhead*, July 2005.

¹² Susan Kessler Barnard, *Buckhead: A Place for All Time*, 115.

¹³ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated May 6, 1942. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Pryor Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

for the wellbeing of the negroes themselves they should be moved to some section where they could have proper sanitation.”¹⁴

The Commission approved, and appointed a committee consisting of the legal and health departments to investigate the report. This resulted in a Resolution, as detailed in the minutes of September 7, 1944, stated:

“The Legal Department of Fulton Countyis hereby authorized and directed to negotiate with the owners of property in the affected area and to purchase same by contract with said owners and obtain deeds and conveyances from said owners, when the owners of said property are willing to sell for sums deemed by the Legal Department and this County Commission to be reasonable and just; ...BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legal Department....is hereby authorized and directed to acquire by condemnation all land in said subdivisions and in the affected area when same cannot be acquired by contract after negotiation with the property owners.”

By early 1945, the County had completed title examinations on eighty separate Bagley Park properties. A \$50,000 Bagley Park Fund was established for the acquisition process.

The acquisition took much longer than anticipated, however, prompting criticism and demands for the expedient completion of the project. Local news editorials criticized the Commissioners for not acquiring all of the property in Bagley Park. Garden Hills property owners complained about “being unable to sleep at night on account of the loud and boisterous noises made by the negroes living in the Bagley Park section”.¹⁵ The North Fulton Civic Council formally requested to go on record stating that:

“...all property in the Bagley Park site that has not already been procured by the County, be immediately condemned, the buildings torn down and removed. [...that] the entire site to be cleaned up and such improvements made as are possible at this time. That the new buildings and developments proceed as fast as building conditions and funds will allow.”¹⁶

By 1950 Fulton County had assembled twelve acres and reported that Bagley Park was still under development as a “long-term initiative”.¹⁷ Several additional funding appropriations were required for fulfillment of the mission. The selling prices ranged from four hundred and fifty to one thousand dollars, and in some instances property owners appealed the appraised values. Records indicate that properties were often leased back to the residents with the stipulation that they may be required to vacate upon thirty days notice. To assemble the desired acreage for the new park, additional purchases were made, eliminating the “danger and undesirability of the open air toilet facilities” in the “sub-standard” houses on Pharr Road.¹⁸

The Atlanta City Directories clearly show the progression of the Bagley Park neighborhood’s demise. In the 1936 publication there were fifty “colored” families listed as living on Bagley Avenue.¹⁹ In 1951 there were two residents remaining.²⁰ When the 1952 publication was issued, Bagley Avenue was in the Street Directory with *no residents*.²¹

¹⁴ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated August 5, 1942. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

¹⁵ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated March 7, 1946. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

¹⁶ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated April 7, 1948. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

¹⁷ “*Fulton County Parks & Recreation, Years of Progress 1938-1950*”, Fulton County Board of Alderman, Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center Archives.

¹⁸ Fulton County Board of County Commissioners, Minutes dated April 7, 1948. Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street. Atlanta. Microfilm.

¹⁹ *Atlanta City Directory Co., Greater Atlanta (Fulton Co., GA) City Directory*, Atlanta: Atlanta City Directory Co., 1936

²⁰ *Ibid*, 1951.

²¹ *Ibid*, 1952.

With the elimination of all the African-American residents, preparations were begun to clear and grade the land for the new park. The church property, exclusive of the cemetery, was sold to the Garden Hills Woman Club (later renamed Northside Women's Club) for a new community center.²² In the mid-1990s this property was purchased for a private business.²³

C. Name

There is some controversy about the origin of the name "Bagley Park". According to an oral interview conducted by Susan Kessler Barnard in her book *Buckhead: A Place for All Time*, the name of the community is attributed to Charley Bagley, a well-respected African American resident originally from Cummings, Georgia. Other sources simply refer to "Charlie" (different



spelling) Bagley as a "prominent Buckhead businessman". An oral interview conducted for this report with Elon Butts Osby revealed that her grandfather, William Bagley, migrated to Macedonia Park after being "run out" of Forsyth County in approximately 1912. A security note dated 1928 indicates that he purchased six lots in the subdivision for a total sum of \$2,100. According to Ms. Osby her grandfather was considered a "mayor" of sorts and well-known in the community for his enterprising business endeavors. She further stated that the City named the community after her grandfather as a "consolation" for taking the land for a public park. The 1938 City Directory lists William

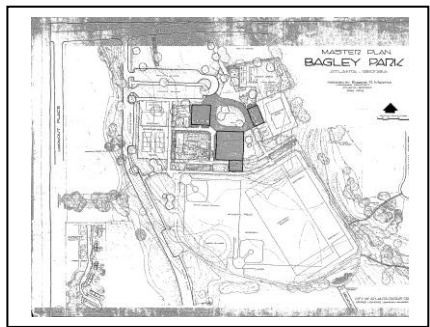
Bagley and his wife, Ida, residing at 21 Bagley Avenue. The conclusive origin of the Bagley name will require further verification but is conceivable that Charley (or Charlie) Bagley and William Bagley are the same individual—or at least related—in that both came to the area from the Forsyth County. The specific dedication date is not known but Bagley Park appeared in the Atlanta City Directories in the mid-fifties as a public recreational facility.

In the early 1980s the park was renamed "Frankie Allen" after a popular baseball umpire in the Buckhead Baseball program. Frankie Allen lived in Augusta and each spring he rented a small apartment next to the ball fields. An oral interview with a local resident indicated he always had a twinkle in his eyes and could make a youngster feel good about his performance.

D. Design and Development Summary

1. Original Plans and Designers

While initial plans for Bagley Park were drafted as early as 1950, the first comprehensive plan was commissioned several years later. General Parks and Recreation Manager George Simon engaged landscape architect Eugene R. Martini to create a master plan for the park around



1954. Gene Martini obtained his landscape architecture degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Originally from Chicago, Martini spent the early part of his career working on federal initiatives that addressed the military family housing shortage following World War II.²⁴ After settling in Atlanta, Martini went on to conceptualize the landscape setting for the modernistic Darlington Apartment building on Peachtree Road—also addressing public housing needs. His commission for the Bagley Park master plan was juxtaposed in the midst of public housing landscape projects

²² Warranty Deed dated March 26, 1965 referencing previous purchase on November 26, 1952.

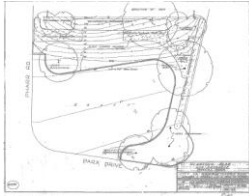
²³ Denise N. Maloof, "Half of Atlanta Knows His Place: Women's Club Building Stirs Memories", *The Atlanta Journal and The Atlanta Constitution*, October 5, 1995.

²⁴ Edward Daugherty, interview by author, Atlanta, GA, November 24, 2008.

throughout the South.

In addition to the ball fields and multi-purpose sports areas, the original plan included a clubhouse, pool and gymnasium—shaded on the plan perhaps to denote a phased approach. While the primary parking area was at the front of the park, Martini creatively placed adjunct areas hidden from the elevation of the primary recreational facilities.

Martini’s design incorporated the original Bagley Avenue as the primary corridor running north-south. An oral interview captured a resident’s recollection of the street as it existed in the 1930s: “It was just a pig trail...you could count on getting stuck in the potholes”. The street was paved in a two-phase process during the park’s construction period.



The original planting plan, dated October 1, 1954, for the main entrance was drafted by senior Landscape Architect and Parks Engineer George R. Rice. Anchored by existing oak and pine trees, the plan called for turf area

surrounded by traditional southern ornamental understory trees, azaleas, hollies, camellias and ground cover. No additional planting plans were identified.

One of the primary features of Martini’s design for the passive area was the inclusion of granite grilling and picnic areas. Five were included in the original plans, although only four were actually constructed.



2. Buckhead Baseball Influence²⁵

The full realization of Martini’s master plan was never realized. The newly formed Buckhead Baseball league made the dirt fields of Bagley Park their home beginning in 1952. There was a heavy demand for softball and baseball fields of regulation size and competition quality in Atlanta’s public park system, particularly in the northside area. Buckhead Baseball has grown exponentially for over five decades providing sports opportunities for thousands of children.



The following information focuses primarily on the physical history of the playing fields and facilities and was compiled from “Buckhead Baseball: A Brief History 1952-2002” by Scott Hanson.

Buckhead Baseball Timeline (dates are approximate)

| | |
|------|--|
| 1952 | 4 teams / all dirt field |
| 1956 | First night game with lights |
| 1959 | Upper field added / Frankie Allen started as umpire |
| 1962 | Hosted State Tournament – sod transported from Chastain to meet inspection |
| 1973 | First pitching machine |
| 1979 | Death of Frankie Allen / park name changed in his honor |
| 1981 | Underground dugouts raised to ground level |
| 1983 | 44 teams—675 children / waiting list |

²⁵ Scott Hanson, “Buckhead Baseball: A Brief History 1952-2002”.

| | |
|------|---|
| 1985 | First fixed batting cages installed |
| 1989 | T-ball field added / large field divided into two fields / 66 teams—825 children |
| 1990 | Registration switched to a lottery system / fences surrounding dugouts |
| 1991 | Steps connecting upper field and lower fields |
| 1992 | Drainage improvements near batting cages and T-ball field |
| 1993 | First capital campaign – \$100,000 / new lighting system (split cost with City), wiring, painting, fencing, removal of original two-story press box on upper field, new walls between dugouts |
| 1996 | Installed irrigation; replaced underground dugouts and fencing; Rookie/Minor League field built |
| 1998 | Capital Campaign #2—Pavilion and Coaches Hall of Fame; trees, sidewalks, reconfiguration of sheds/storage areas/bleachers, flags |
| 2000 | Dedication of Coaches Hall of Fame—average tenure of 20 years |
| 2001 | Upper field named for Terry Jerden on his 30 th anniversary as umpire |
| 2003 | New concession stand, restrooms and bleachers behind Major League field |
| 2007 | New stadium seating |

3. Parks & Recreation Department Adaptations

Simultaneously with the growth of Buckhead Baseball, the Parks and Recreation Department continued to integrate components of Martini’s master plan, albeit scaled down versions due to the scale and placement of the league’s playing fields.

The following timeline developed from City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation files, addresses the physical history of the park. The summary is abbreviated as it often parallels Buckhead Baseball initiatives, but it does speak to increasing demands from other stakeholders.

City of Atlanta Timeline (dates are approximate)

| | |
|------|--|
| 1950 | Grading, construction, multi-use courts, picnic shelters, entrance planting plan installation |
| 1978 | As-built plans drafted |
| 1983 | Federal Land and Water Conservation grant awarded from U.S. National Park Service (funded original playground and other park improvements) |
| 1995 | Proposed Police precinct and additional parking deemed violation of federal funding stipulations requiring park only be used for recreational purposes; allowed 400 foot radio tower to be built next to upper field |
| 1998 | Resolution authorizing improvements valued at \$500,000 donated from Buckhead Coalition, the Woodruff Foundation and Bank South including installation of Jim Clover sculpture removed from Buckhead Park |

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 2000-present | New stakeholders: Proposed David Forehand Memorial Dog Park, Community Housing Resource Center Mt. Olive Cemetery Workshop & Archaeological Delineation & Preservation Plan |
|--------------|---|

PART II. PHYSICAL INFORMATION / LANDSCAPE EXISTING CONDITION SUMMARY

A. Park Entrances

The main park entrance off Pharr Road is the only vehicular access point onto Bagley Avenue, the primary corridor. Today the mature landscape exhibits only a few remnants of the original planting plan designed by George Rice. The space has been adapted to include the sculpture (discussed in further detail below), as well as a raised bed with drought-tolerant perennials.

Abstract artist James Clover created the untitled white metal sculpture now located at the park entrance around 1970. Four triangular columns fifteen feet in height sit on a concrete base



ringed with shrubbery—originally a fountain/circular pool approximately 23 feet in diameter. The fountain component was removed when the sculpture was relocated from the triangular park at the intersection of Peachtree Street, Roswell Road and Sardis Street in Buckhead according to an Atlanta Magazine 1984 article by Laura C. Lieberman. Clover did a similar minimalist-influenced piece entitled “The Wave” in approximately the same time period which was placed on the Emory University campus.²⁶ The sculpture was recently restored based on an

assessment by the City’s Bureau of Cultural Affairs Department.



The Martini master plan included two additional pedestrian entrances as well as woodland paths from the adjacent neighborhoods. Today, the Look Out Drive entrance is well-defined with signage and a large stepping stone path leading into the park. The Old Decatur and Hardman Court are well-traveled, but unmarked pedestrian access points on the east and south sides of the ball fields.

B. Character Areas

Outside of the park entrances, the study area consists of three distinct character areas. The organized recreational facilities comprise approximately half of the public park area. Buckhead Baseball commands this entire area with the exception of four tennis courts. Approximately twelve acres remain “undeveloped” for passive pursuits. The late 19th century Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Cemetery (.22 acres) is sandwiched between the front entrance and a private business, obscured from view.

1. Organized Recreational Facilities: Buckhead Baseball and Tennis Courts

Martini leveraged the natural topography for the placement of the organized recreational areas. The land rises sharply from Bagley Drive to the “built” recreational environment comprising approximately one-half of the park space. Four tennis courts are located adjacent to the front parking lot. The east and south ends of the tennis courts are bordered by the extensive Buckhead Baseball complex.

²⁶ City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation files, 675 Ponce de Leon Avenue, Atlanta, GA

The placement of the ball fields gives the impression of rural expansiveness. Circulation patterns are defined by paved walkways connecting and showcasing the 50-year history of the youth sports program. Spectator viewing areas and a commemorative brick plaza and pavilion link the ball fields. Extensive tree plantings and landscaping soften the hardscape.



Outside of the ball fields pitching practice areas and batting cages dominate the landscape. The organization has several maintenance buildings and storage structures.

2. Passive Recreation Area

The character of the landscape abruptly changes to a pastoral and scenic vista that extends southward to the end of the park. The original Bagley



Avenue runs through the passive space although vehicular traffic is typically confined to the north end of the park near the organized sport facilities. The creek forms the western boundary of the park with vegetation consisting of box elders, ferns and suckering shrubs. The slope of the land leads to erosion in several areas, and drainage improvements have been made over the years.

The grill areas do not appear to be used, and could benefit from stabilization and upkeep. The original design incorporated covers which were removed by the City after neighbors complained about vagrants inhabiting the area in the mid-80s.²⁷

The passive area is primarily used for strollers and as a “non-official” dog park. As the leash requirement is typically not adhered to, the natural areas are littered from dog activity.

3. Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Cemetery

The Mount Olive Methodist Episcopal Cemetery is all that remains of the original Macedonia



Park community settled by freed slaves after the Civil War. The cemetery is located on a slight elevation just east of the main entrance at the north end of the park partially obscured by an overgrown hedge of privet, ligustrum and other evergreen shrubs. The canopy vegetation consists of several large oak trees with an understory of dogwoods. There is no signage or fence to prevent intrusion or deter vandalism. Entry can easily be gained via the pedestrian dirt footpath on Pharr Road (at the cemetery there is a break in the sidewalk approximately thirty

feet in length). Approximately 45 graves were flagged in a recent archaeological survey. Most of the headstones and gravestones are in disrepair although a few are legible.²⁸

²⁷ Ken Gillett, Director of Atlanta Parks and Recreation, interview by author, October 27, 2008, Atlanta, GA.

²⁸ Brian W. Thomas, Ph.D., TRC Garrow Associates, Inc., Archaeological Delineation and Preservation of the Mount Olive Cemetery, Buckhead, Fulton County, Georgia, submitted to Community Housing Resource Center, Atlanta, GA, May 2005.

PART II. TREATMENT SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATIONS

The following treatment recommendations are an attempt to address the unique requirements of the various character areas of Bagley Park-Frankie Allen. As the site has been the focus of several improvement initiatives (referenced below), these provided baseline information and should be considered the starting point for the treatment plan.

Buckhead Baseball assumes primary responsibility for the ball fields and has made continual improvements over its 56 year history. While the league's sport history has been well-documented, an effort should be made to record more detailed physical history, i.e. changes to the site. This may include architectural drawings, plans and historical photos, e.g. the original press box, concession stand and memorabilia such as the plaque honoring the original umpire Hoyle Dye. This will serve to commemorate the league's rich history as it continues to serve future generations.

The City of Atlanta maintains the entrance area and the public spaces outside of the Buckhead Baseball facilities. Future renovations for the entrance area should consider the cemetery and signage, further described below.

As for the passive area, the research indicates that the City of Atlanta has been tasked with addressing and balancing several competing uses over the years. This is a delicate balance of stakeholders including the Neighborhood Planning Units, civic associations and the Buckhead Coalition business community. This was vividly demonstrated in the contentious proposed dog park initiative that did not materialize. This and other citizen input in the City of Atlanta records speaks to the need to address the "unexplored and underdeveloped" areas reaching beyond the playing fields. ParkPride addressed many of these concerns in a "vision study" conducted in 2007, subject to prioritization and funding.

The Mount Olive Cemetery is the area of most concern in terms of preservation and rehabilitation. Several attempts have been made but the site is still in need of attention. Pastor Lee McClendon (now deceased) of Mount Olive Church asked Reverend Leroy Barnes of Saint Mark Missionary Baptist to assist in caring for the cemetery as many of the original descendants attend his church. As the time has passed, this preservation option seems to be less viable and is in need of another solution.

The not-for-profit Community Housing Resource Center (CHRC) initiated a two-phase study to document, preserve and commemorate the cemetery in 2005. Unfortunately this organization is not longer in operation, so only Phase I was completed including a workshop for descendants and an archeological survey. The survey, conducted by TRC Garrow & Associates, recommended the treatment methodology for the deteriorating headstones that remain.

The CHRC intended to conduct a second phase, raising funds for an artistic memorial and interpretive historical markers. The previously mentioned oral interview with one of the few remaining descendants, Elon Osby, points to a desire to commemorate the cemetery albeit not in the grand scale as recommended by the CHRC. The installation of headstones and a visible plaque describing the original neighborhood and its history is the preference of Ms. Osby. This seems to be a practical method of dignifying and honoring the original descendants of the area.

Access to the cemetery is another key concern. Efforts have previously been made, to no avail, to extend the sidewalk along Pharr road to reduce the likelihood of passerby traffic intruding into the grave site area. Some physical barriers including fencing and/or gating the property are needed.

The cemetery's ongoing maintenance is the final concern. Assuming the legal and financial issues are not insurmountable, there may be value in having the City assume ownership of the .22 acre property.

In conclusion, Bagley Park-Frankie Allen deserves recognition in the City of Atlanta park system for its historical significance. In addition to the rehabilitation and preservation recommendations for the cemetery, the signage at the entrance could be adapted to recognize Frankie Allen, Buckhead Baseball and "Historic Bagley Park". This would specifically link the public park to its origins in the African-American community.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Barnard, Susan Kessler, *Buckhead: A Place for All Time*. Athens, GA: Hill Street Press, 1996.

Fulton County Board of Commissioners Minutes, Fulton County Government Center, 141 Prior Street, Atlanta.

Garden Hills Woman's Club-North Side Woman's Club Scrapbooks, 1935-1990. MSS 879, Kenan Research Center, Atlanta History Center Archives.

Hanson, Scott, "Buckhead Baseball: A Brief History 1952-2002",
<http://www.buckheadbaseball.com/index.php/info/history>

Keating, Larry, *Atlanta: Race, Class, and Urban Expansion*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2001.

Appendix

Electronic Files on CD:

Historic American Landscape (HALS) Report

Historic Bagley Park-COVER

Narrative Report

PowerPoint Report

Bagley Family (courtesy of Elon Osby)

BagleyPark-FAllen EOsby Interview 12-3-08 (conducted by author)

Bagley Lineage

BagleyFamilyPhotos

UncleJohnnyBagley

WmBagleyJr-ribshack

City of Atlanta Parks and Recreation: Maps & Plans

Park Pride: ParkPrideVision Report

Community Housing Resource Center Project - 2005

CommHousingCtrGRANT

TRC-Mt Olive Arch Rpt FINAL 5-10-05

CommHousingCtr-OrallInterview2-MacedoniaPark

CommHousingCtr-OrallInterview3-MacedoniaPark

CommHousingCtr-OrallInterview4-MacedoniaPark

CommHousingCtr-OrallInterview5-MacedoniaPark

CommHousingCtr-OrallInterview-MacedoniaPark

CommHousingCtrQUES-FORMER RESIDENTS AND DESCENDENTS OF
MACEDONIA PARK

Miscellaneous

AJC-NsideWomClubPurchase

MtOlive-NsideWomClub-WarrantyDeed

Photos of Study Area

Paper Files Only (no electronic copy):

Fulton County Commissioner Meeting Minutes

City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation Files

Research on Original Deeds by Joseph Strobert

Proposed police precinct

Proposed dog park

Note: As the research ensued, it became apparent that the primary goal should be to properly rehabilitate, commemorate and preserve the cemetery and contributions of the Bagley Park community. A huge thank you goes out to the following partial list of individuals that contributed to the effort to-date...perhaps these and other stakeholders can take the project to the next level.....:

Susan Kessler Barnard, Reverend Leroy Barnes, Derrick Boazman, Staci Catron, Tom Cullens Ed Daugherty, Reverend Leon Epps, Libba Grace, Brenda Harris, Pat Katz, Ken Gillett, Etienne Jackson, John O'Callaghan, Professor LeAnn Lands (Kennesaw State University), Michelle Moore, Elon Butts Osby, Ham Stockton, Walker Sullivan, Sr., Robert Witherspoon, Phillip Leopold, Walt Ray, Greg Rhodes, Ray Mock, Laura Shipman, Hank Small
Larissa Thomas

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