

Gwinnett Historical Restoration & Preservation Board
Monday, October 21, 2024 – 6:00 PM

One Justice Square, 446 West Crogan Street, Lawrenceville, Georgia

Present: Ann Bender, Sara Howe-Silvers, Matt Butti, Amelia Lewis

Absent: Justin Walsh, Demetrios Lambros

1. Call to Order
2. Welcome/Opening Remarks
3. Approval of Agenda
{Action: Approved; Motion: Howe-Silvers; Second: Butti; Vote: (3-0) Bender-Yes, Howe-Silvers-Yes, Butti-Yes}
4. Approval of Minutes: August 19, 2024
{Action: Approved; Motion: Butti; Second: Howe-Silvers; Vote: (3-0) Bender-Yes, Howe-Silvers-Yes, Butti-Yes}
5. Announcements (Board Members)
 - a. County Historian Lewis shared information on the following upcoming events:
 - i. Gwinnett Historical Society meeting on Nov 18 at 6:30pm at RJP CRC
 - ii. Gwinnett Historical Society holiday celebration Dec 9 at 6:30pm at RJP CRC
 - iii. Lighting of the Tree at historic courthouse Nov 28 from 5:30-8
 - iv. Spooky Tours with GC Historian 10/25 at 6pm
 - b. Chair Bender shared information on the Heritage Museum Gala, 6:00pm on October 26, 2024, at Salem Missionary Baptist Church in Lilburn
6. Old Business
 - a. 2024 Preservation Awards
 - i. County Historian Lewis presented on the 2024 Preservation Award Nominees and the final recommendations from the Awardee Selection Group. (document attached)
 - ii. The Board made a motion to accept the five nominations suggested by the Awardee Selection Group and award the following individuals and/or organizations with the 2024 Preservation Award: Suwanee Creek NSDAR, Brandon Hembree, Elliott Brack, Betty and Charles Warbington, Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.
{Action: Approved; Motion: Butti; Second: Howe-Silvers; Vote: (3-0) Bender-Yes, Howe-Silvers-Yes, Butti-Yes}

7. New Business
 - a. Guest speakers from New South and Associates presented on the Livsey Family Big House Community Involvement Project. (document attached)
8. Project Updates
 - a. Staff member Cammie Mansfield presented on the following:
 - i. Hooper-Renwick Library.
 - b. Staff member Glenn Boorman presented on the following:
 - i. Recently installed ADA accessible sidewalk at Chesser-Williams House site.
9. Program Updates
 - a. Staff member Mansfield presented on the following
 - i. The Blue Planet Theater 2023 updated movie received the Gold Award in Media Production from the Southeastern Museum Conference
 - ii. During fall semester, multiple K-12 field trips booked at Yellow River Post Office, Freeman's Mill, and Lawrenceville Female Seminary
10. Exhibit/Artifact Updates
 - a. Staff member Mansfield presented on the following:
 - i. Beginning work on the annual Black History Month Poster Exhibit that will be on display at multiple Department of Community Services facilities during the month of February. In celebration of the Hooper-Renwick Library opening in 2025, the exhibit will focus on the history of early segregated schools in Gwinnett.
 - ii. New acquisition accepted – 1850s doll donated by estate of Dr. Marcia Grady
 - iii. Multiple pending acquisitions related to Hooper-Renwick School
11. Comments from Audience
12. Adjournment at 7:53pm
{Action: Approved; Motion: Butti; Second: Howe-Silvers; Vote: (3-0) Bender-Yes, Howe-Silvers-Yes, Butti-Yes}

2024 Preservation Award Nominees




Awardee Selection Group

- Eli Stancel
- Jennifer Williams
- Joshua Beasley
- Kathryn Baskin
- Rubye Neal

Thank you!!!



Scoring and Submission Slides

- Conflict of Interests
 - Categories
 - Relatability
 - Sustainability
 - Perseverance
 - Communicative
 - Utilizing what was submitted
 - 2022 vs 2024 submissions
- 



2022 Submissions

Betty and Charles Warbington

Elliott Brack

James W. Cofer

Nesbit Family

Thomas Ewing

Wynne-Russell House

Betty and Charles Warbington

- **Summary:** Betty and Charles have spent years preserving two of Gwinnett's earliest historic sites, the Elisha Winn House and Fort Daniel. Betty and Charles are members of the Fort Daniel Foundation and the Gwinnett Historical Society. They have worked tirelessly with these groups to preserve and share these historical sites whose existence would not be possible without the Warbington's.
- **Score:** 87/100



Elliott Brack

- **Summary:** Elliott has served Gwinnett as a journalist since 1974 writing approximately 8,600 columns for the Gwinnett Daily News, Atlanta Journal Constitution, and the Gwinnett Forum which he also publishes twice weekly. In 2008 he wrote “Gwinnett: A Little Above Atlanta”, 850 pages on the history of modern Gwinnett. In 2018 for the Bicentennial, he wrote “366 Facts About Gwinnett”.
- **Score:** 89/100



James W. Cofer

-
- **Summary:** Jim has worked hard to preserve the history of Snellville where he was born and raised. He was the former president of the Snellville Historical Society and in 2018 published “200 Years of Snellville History”, a 529-page book on more than just 200 years. He has also extensively researched and compiled a book on the Cofer family.
 - **Score:** 74.6/100

Nesbit Family

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- **Summary:** The first school named after an African American was Clara Nesbit Elementary School, honoring the legacy of Clara as an educator and her family’s historic connection to Gwinnett County. Beginning as enslaved people, the Nesbit Family strength and determination established them as one of the most prominent African American families in the area.
 - **Score:** 77.2/100

Thomas Ewing

- **Summary:** Tom “Pap” Ewing was one of the founding members of the Snellville Historical Society. Pap held leadership positions with the Snellville and Gwinnett Historical Societies focusing on preservation efforts across the County. Pap wrote a detailed book on the Snellville Consolidated School to preserve the memories and history of education between 1922 and 1958.
- **Score:** 71.6/100

Wynne-Russell House Preservation Board

- **Summary:** Founded in 2015, the WRHB under the appointment of the Lilburn Community Partnership, is charged with the preservation, restoration, management, and upkeep of the oldest home in the City of Lilburn which is on the National Register of Historic Places. The WRHB cleans, decorates, prepares the house for private rentals, and maintains the surrounding property including the lawn, walkways, parking lot, and cemetery.
- **Score:** 77/100



2024 Submissions

Brandon Hembree

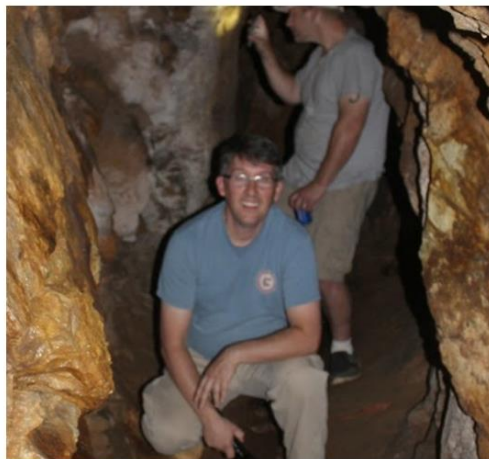
Jamey and Meghan Toney

Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

Suwanee Creek Chapter Daughters
of the American Revolution

Brandon Hembree

- **Summary:** Brandon has been instrumental in archiving the history of Sugar Hill and the surrounding area, establishing the Sugar Hill Preservation Society and the Sugar Hill History Museum so that history is not forgotten and is preserved.
- **Score:** 92.5/100



Jamey and Meghan Toney

- **Summary:** Jamey and Meghan Toney's restoration of the Mason-Todd House demonstrates their commitment to preserving Snellville's cultural heritage as well as reviving a significant landmark in the community. They have created a space that honors the past while serving present needs.
- **Score:** 75/100



Pleasant Hill Baptist Church

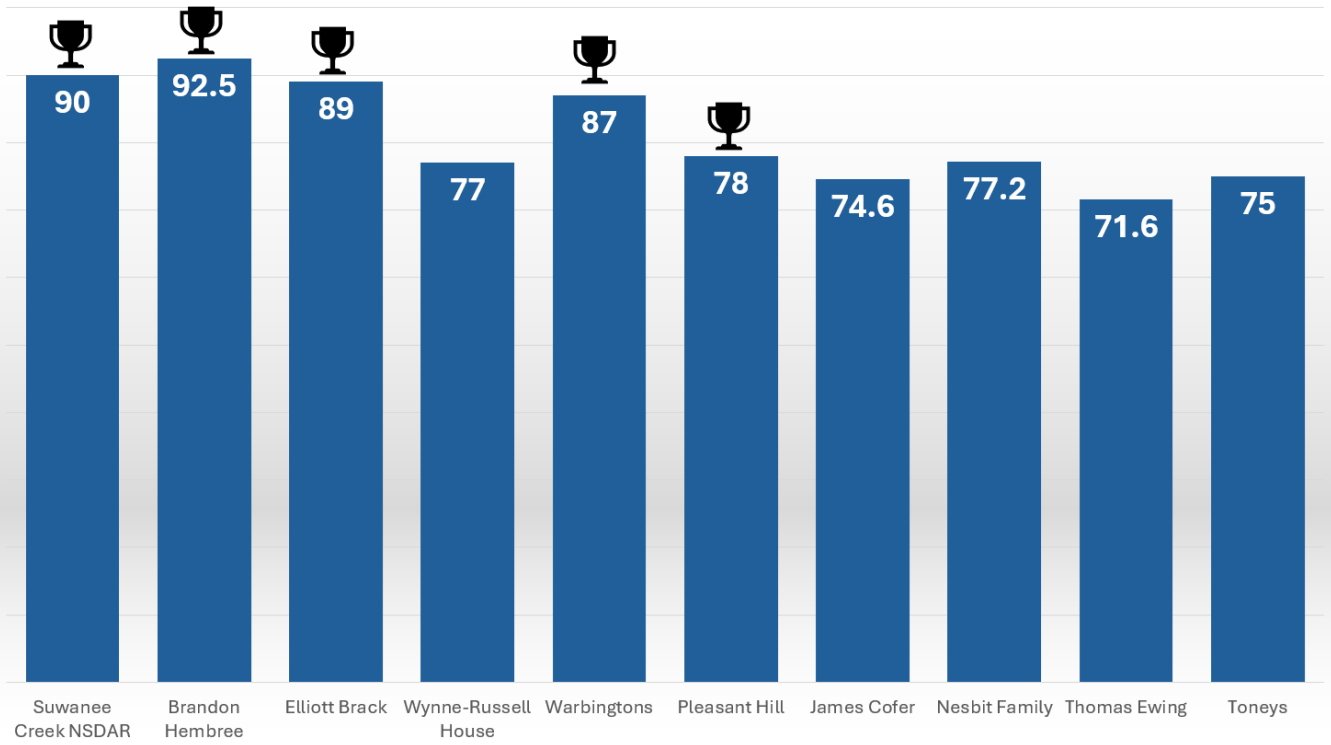
- **Summary:** Pleasant Hill Baptist Church continues to educate and support the citizens of Gwinnett County. The ministries continue to teach spiritual growth, as well as educate young and old citizens.
- **Score:** 78/100



Suwanee Creek Chapter NSDAR

- **Summary:** Through the Island Ford Baptist Church Cemetery project, the Suwanee Creek Chapter NSDAR, preserved a historic cemetery and memorialized forgotten enslaved persons that are an important part of our community's past.
- **Score:** 90/100





Questions?

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Livsey Family Big House, Gwinnett County



VISION

BRINGING A DIVERSITY OF VOICES INTO THE RESTORATION OF THIS HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT BUILDING

OPENING A NEW CONVERSATION WITH THE COMMUNITY

GETTING THE PUBLIC EXCITED ABOUT WHAT IS AHEAD

Plan Structure

Nine-Month Schedule

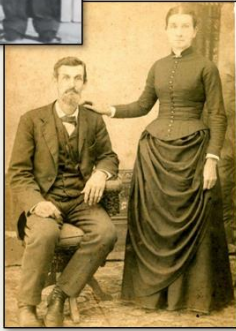
- ❑ *Phase One – Preparation, Identifying Potential Stakeholders, and Laying the Groundwork*
(current phase being facilitated by New South Associates)
 - Outlining the plan, including creating a template and timeline for how community engagement will happen.
 - Compiling supplementary materials to support the plan, such as the history of the site, project history, and other data needed for the public to understand the project and its complexities.
 - Finalizing a structure for how the community can get involved and provide feedback to the County.
- ❑ *Phase Two – Community Engagement*
- ❑ *Phase Three – Compiling a Summary Report/Presentation to Share with Stakeholders Showing What Was Learned and the Path Forward*

Phase One – Developing the Community Involvement Plan

- ❑ Identify Stakeholders
- ❑ “Creating the Table” – collaborate with stakeholders to finalize engagement activities. Ask the question, “What would the practice of inclusion in our community involvement plan process look like to you?”
- ❑ Develop a communication plan for project staff and provide a well-thought-out project narrative. Ways to communicate with the public could include social media, a web page, radio, newspapers, an oral history day, and listening sessions.
- ❑ Creating a timeline and template of how best to reach the community.
- ❑ Develop a menu of engagement tools. Pending the finalized plan, these could include:
 - A newsletter template
 - Attractive but substantive fact sheets on preservation methods
 - Compiling a Story Map showing historic resources in this area



Identifying Stakeholders – We Need Your Input



- Site Descendants
- Neighbors and Businesses Adjacent to the Livsey Family Big House
- Institutions such as New Bethel AME Church
- Centerville Library
- Anderson-Livsey Elementary School Leadership
- Preservation Organizations:
 - Atlanta History Center and others
 - Atlanta Preservation Center
 - Georgia Historical Society
 - Georgia Trust
 - Gwinnett County Historical Society
 - Historic Restoration and Preservation Board
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs
 - Mary Joseph, African American Program Coordinator
 - Stephanie Cherry-Farmer, National Register Coordinator

Other Ideas?



Robert H. and Margaret Haney, 12 children, 1908. Renters then owners.

Compile Plan and Present It

- Introduce the Community Involvement Plan to the Public
- Receive Comments and Address Them
- Work the Plan
- Finalize it!
- Phase One Complete

Develop a Menu of Engagement Tools



We want everybody at the table!

Provide the public with an information source for the project and how public engagement will unfold.

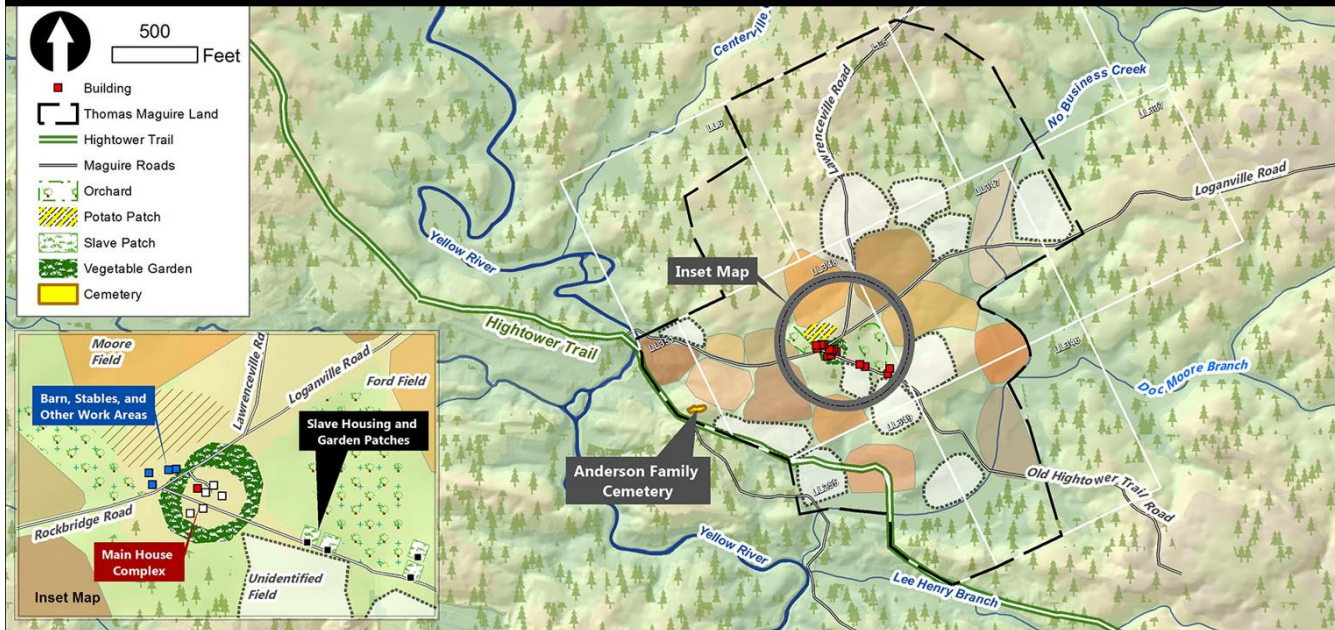
- Create fact sheets for distribution.
- Describe the options for restoration.
- To those new to the conversation, share recaps of what has been done by Gwinnett County to date.
- Develop venues for listening and reading. It's a complex project. Let's talk about it.
- Provide presentation pieces as needed.
- Provide an online Story Map of the property and surrounding communities.
- Give the community a first-hand look at the site.

Other Ideas?

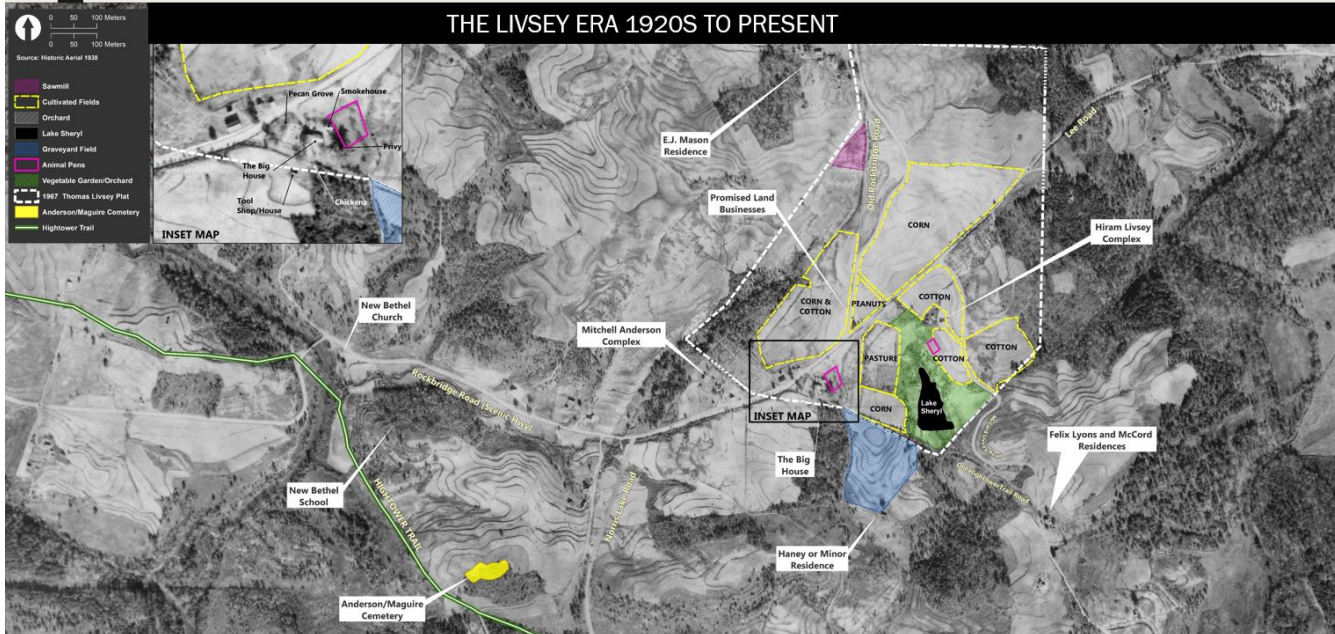
Ingredients for a Story Map

**Building the menu of
engagement tools...**

THE PROMISED LAND PLANTATION IN 1863 - 1873



THE LIVSEY ERA 1920S TO PRESENT



Family Members Who Shared Their History in Interviews



Thomas Livsey



Pecola Livsey Scott



Hiram David Gaither



Willie Robert Livsey

Lillie Livsey Johnson




Dorethia Austin Livsey



Historic Structure Survey

HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

**PROMISED LAND PLANTATION
MAGUIRE-LIVSEY HOUSE**
Gwinnett County, Georgia



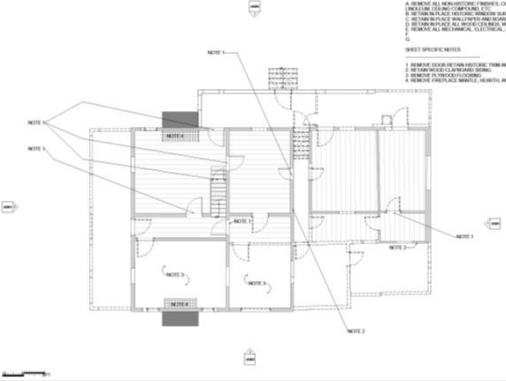
LORD AECK SARGENT
A KATERRA COMPANY

GENERAL NOTES

1. REMOVE ALL NON-HISTORIC ITEMS: ROOFING, CASSETS, BRICK VENEER WALLS, DRYWALL, SHEETS, TILE, PARTIAL CEILING, AND PARTIAL FLOOR.
2. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES AT ALL INTERIORS.
3. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES AT ALL EXTERIORS.
4. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES AT ALL INTERIORS AND EXTERIORS.
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6. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES AT ALL INTERIORS AND EXTERIORS.

SHEET SPECIFIC NOTES

1. REMOVE EXISTING INTERIORS FROM THIS FLOOR.
2. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES.
3. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES.
4. REPAIR ALL EXISTING HISTORIC MATERIALS AND FINISHES.



FIRST FLOOR EXISTING
Maguire-Livsey House

**LORD
AECK
SARGENT**

Project Timeline to Date:

2017-2018

- Acquisition of 1.44-acre land parcel including historic house February 2017
- Site inventory and survey work between October 2017-June 2018
- Additional 0.589-acre land parcel purchased March 2018
- Initial history report completed May 2018
- Additional 0.62-acre land parcel purchased July 2018
- Historic Structures Assessment completed October 2018
- Concept design for site amenities was initiated August 2018-January 2019

2019

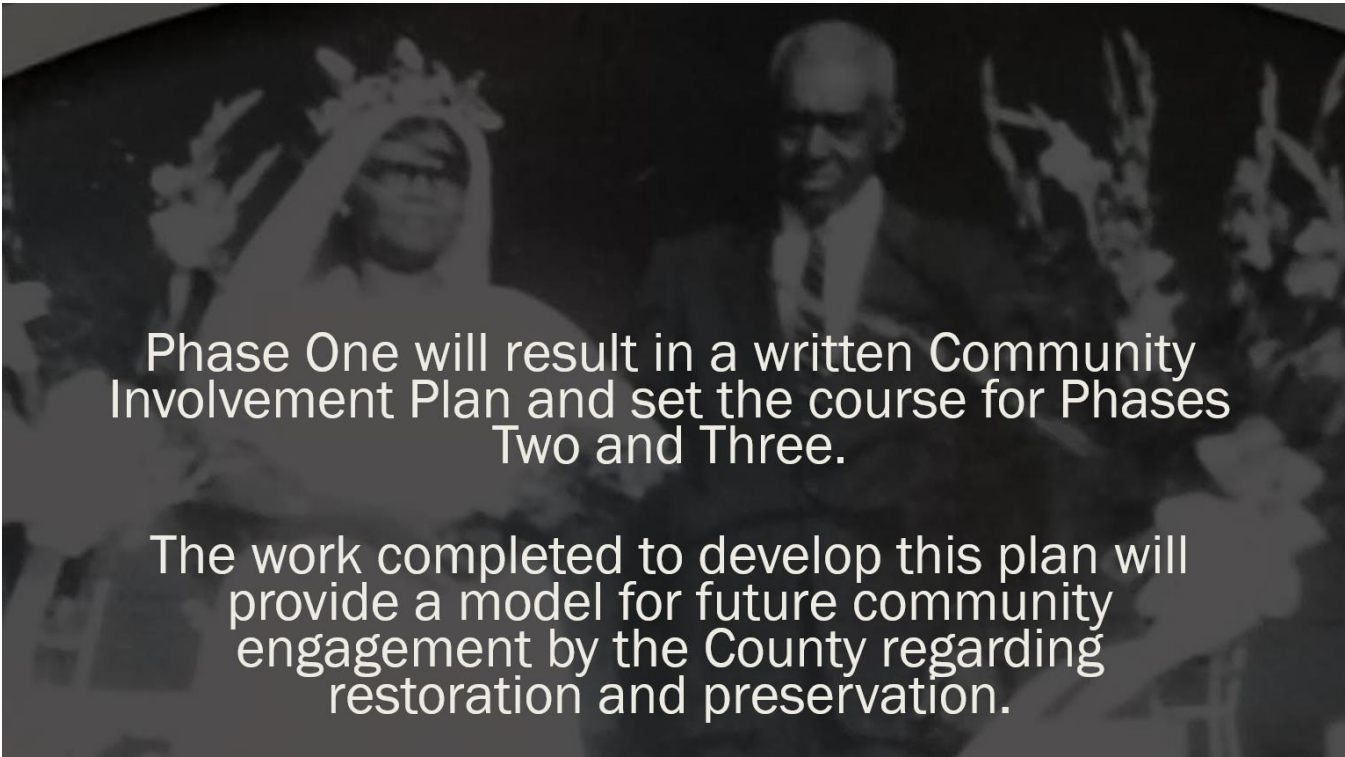
- An additional 1.8-acre land parcel was purchased March 2019
- Research and development for the interpretation plan began October 2019 - 2022
- Demolition of non-historic structures completed January 2020-April 2020
- Partnership with Atlanta History Center for oral histories established August 2021-October 2022

2022

- Funding available for house restoration planning/development within 2017 SPLOST Funding January 2022
- Development of a Request for Proposal (RFP) for Construction Manager at Risk for house restoration February 2022-June 2022
- Draft scope with fees received from Lord Aeck Sargent (LAS), July 2022
- Draft contract format sent to Purchasing for review, July 2022
- Meetings held with LAS to discuss and revise contract language, July 2022
- Contract recommended for BOC agenda, November 2022
- BOC approved contract award with LAS December 2022

2023- 2024

- Contract executed with LAS February 2023
- Meetings with LAS to discuss and plan the project process March 2023-July 2024
- Condemnation process was initiated and immediately halted April 2023
- Base drawings were completed April-May 2023
- Meeting held with CHA and New South Associates (NSA) to request scope for Community Input Planning June 2024
- PO executed with CHA for Community Input Planning August 2024
- Meetings held with NSA and LAS for planning purposes August 2024-Present



Phase One will result in a written Community Involvement Plan and set the course for Phases Two and Three.

The work completed to develop this plan will provide a model for future community engagement by the County regarding restoration and preservation.