



Ardsley Park  
Chatham Crescent  
Garden Club

Historic Site and Monument Commission  
Application for Monument  
Phase II

Kavanaugh Park Fountain  
November 2, 2023

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# Introduction

The Ardsley Park Land Corporation was born from the mind of Harry Hays Lattimore and William Lattimore in 1910 to serve as Savannah's first automobile suburb. Inspired by the Oglethorpe Plan, the neighborhood is laid out in a series of grids and squares, with lanes providing access for city services. The northern and western portions of the neighborhood were marked with an impressive wall of Belgian block. At key intersections, Spanish styled pillars marked entrances into the neighborhood.

Mary Robinson Myrick (1888 - 1983) was one of the most prominent and beloved members of Savannah. Mrs. Myrick lived in a large stately home on Abercorn Street in the Ardsley Park neighborhood.

According to an article found at the Georgia Historical Society, Mrs. Myrick didn't join the Savannah Garden Club at its inception; she joined the ranks at the persistence of a friend. She was given a chairmanship and over the next 50 years she was known for getting things done. In 1973 she and a handful of others formed the Ardsley Park Garden Club.

To commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent Garden Club, we would like to erect a fountain in Kavanaugh Park to honor Mrs. Myrick's commitment to our green spaces and her contributions to the city of Savannah.

# APCCGC Fountain Committee

Project Development.....	Trish Lawrence
Copywriter .....	Nora Missroon
Copywriter .....	Veronica Carr-Soto
Design.....	Rose Marie Woulfe
Finance .....	Laura Stafford
Research .....	Jan Bradley

Title

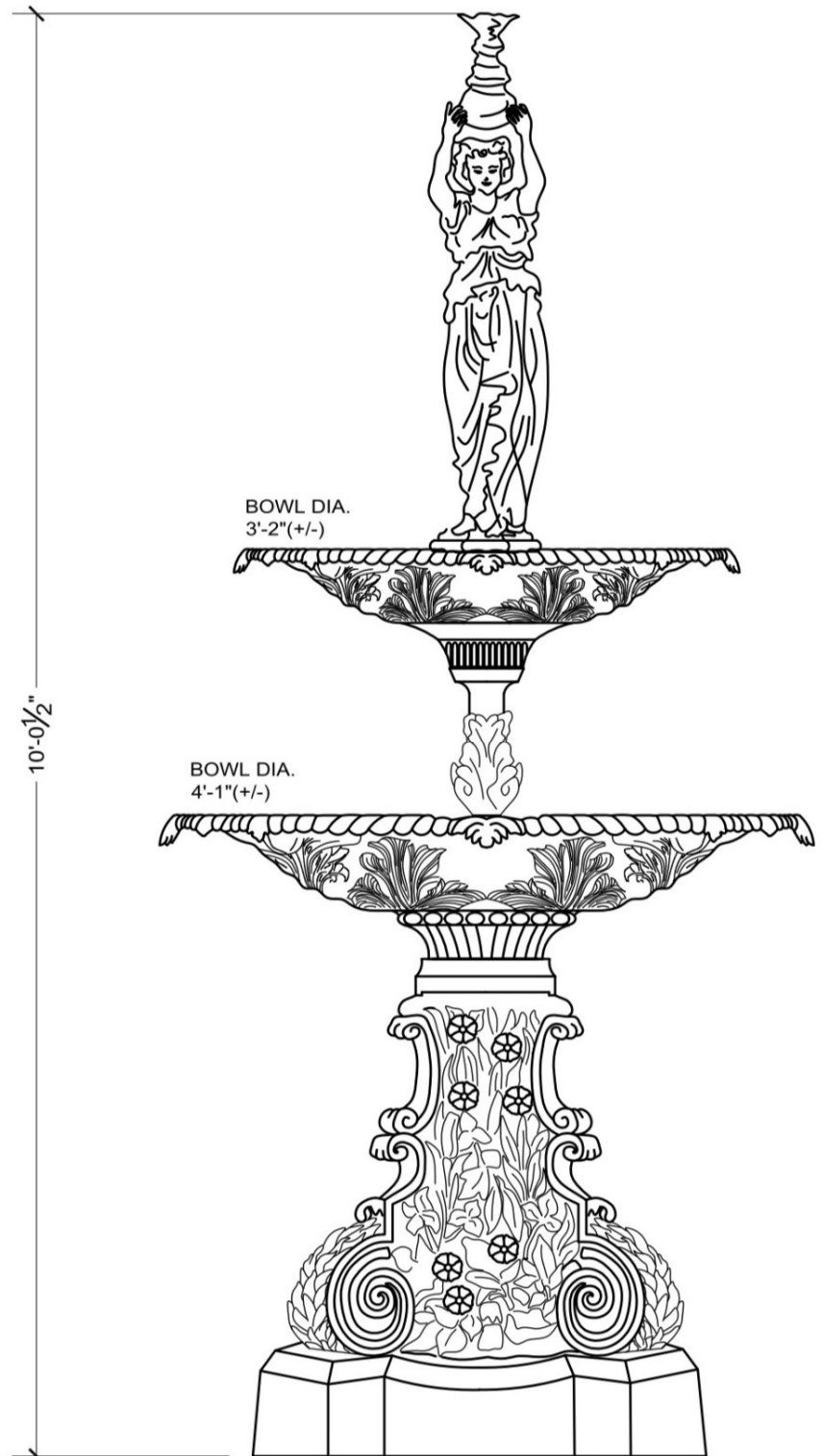


The Garden Keeper

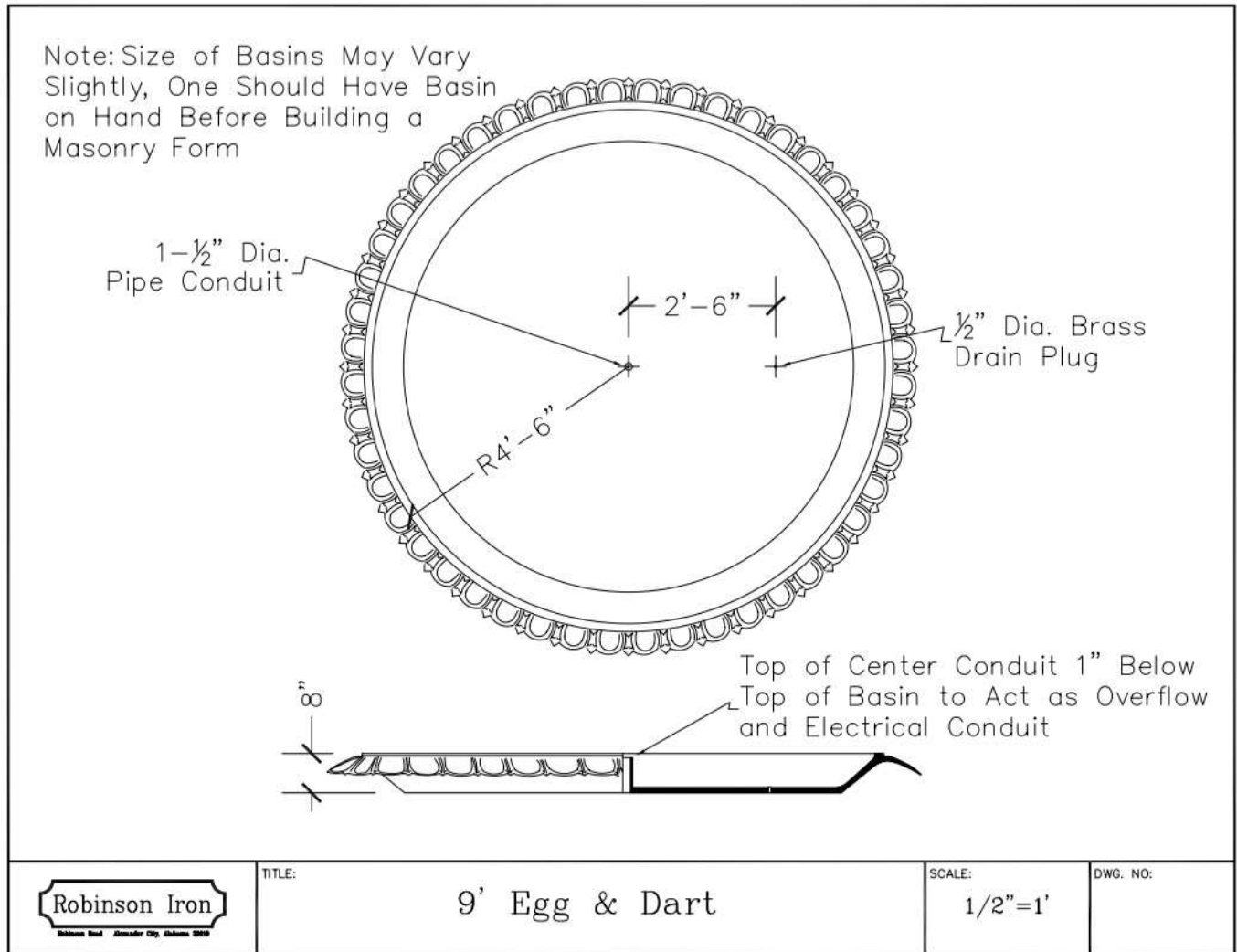
# Description of Proposed Monument

The proposed monument is a minor monument (500 cubic feet or less) in celebration of the Ardsley Park/ Chatham Crescent Garden Club's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The fountain would be dedicated to its founder, Mary R. Myrick. It will be a lasting tribute that would stand the test of time and add elegance to the natural beauty of Ardsley Park.

- Total height is approximately 10 ft.
- Top Tier is 3ft 2inches in diameter.
- The Second Tier is 4ft in diameter
- The width of the basin will be 9'.
- The fountain is made of cast iron.
- The color of the fountain will be the same as the lamp posts (dark green).
- The fountain base will be cast iron.



# Description of Proposed Monument (continued)

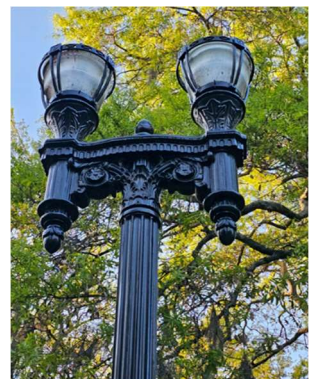


## Design Elements

- The fountain will face Abercorn Street angled slightly toward the Myrick home.
- A female figure will be used representing a strong woman such as Mary R. Myrick.
- The female figure is based on Flora, the goddess of flowers and flowering plants. She symbolizes love, beauty and abundance. She is associated with the season of Spring, a symbol of hope and perseverance. A woman holding a water bowl represents giving life. Water is considered a symbol of vitality, renewal and purification.

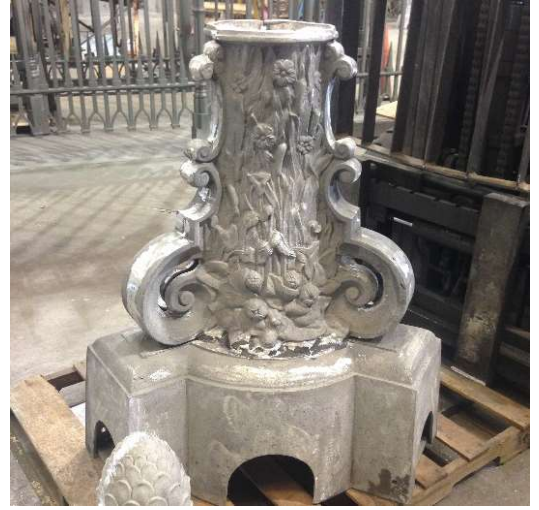


- The fountain style will follow the Art Nouveau design detail as the original lamp posts in the park to keep the continuity of the esthetic.





- The bottom of fountain is filled with flowering blooms. A reminder of the beauty, pride and joy that all generations of gardeners feel.
- The flowers on the statue provide a direct correlation between Mary, Flora and the Ardsley Park Garden Club.
- Incorporating a formal garden around the base of the fountain and in the oval space designated for the project. The use of native, low maintenance plants will be used when applicable.
- The Garden Club intends to add seasonal flower beds in the space as well. Purple blooms are preferred as that was Mrs. Myrick's favorite color.




8/25/23 – per suggestions from the MPC, the basin will be surrounded by Yaupon Holly Dwarf. It's a native broadleaf evergreen plant. Its drought tolerate and the berry like fruit attracts birds through the fall and winter.

# Color Photographs of Proposed Location

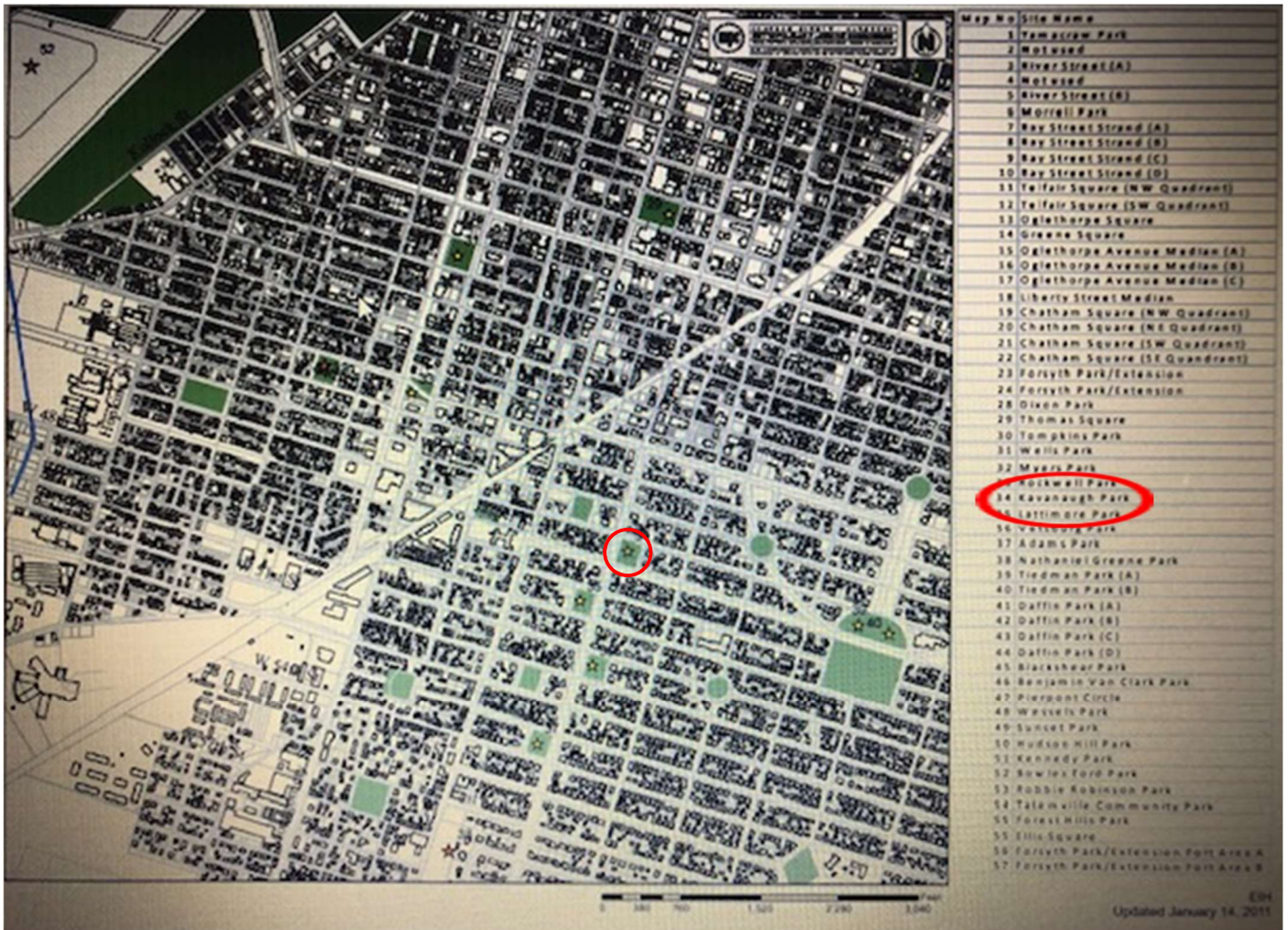
## Kavanaugh Park



-  Fountain
-  Plaque 1
-  Plaque 2

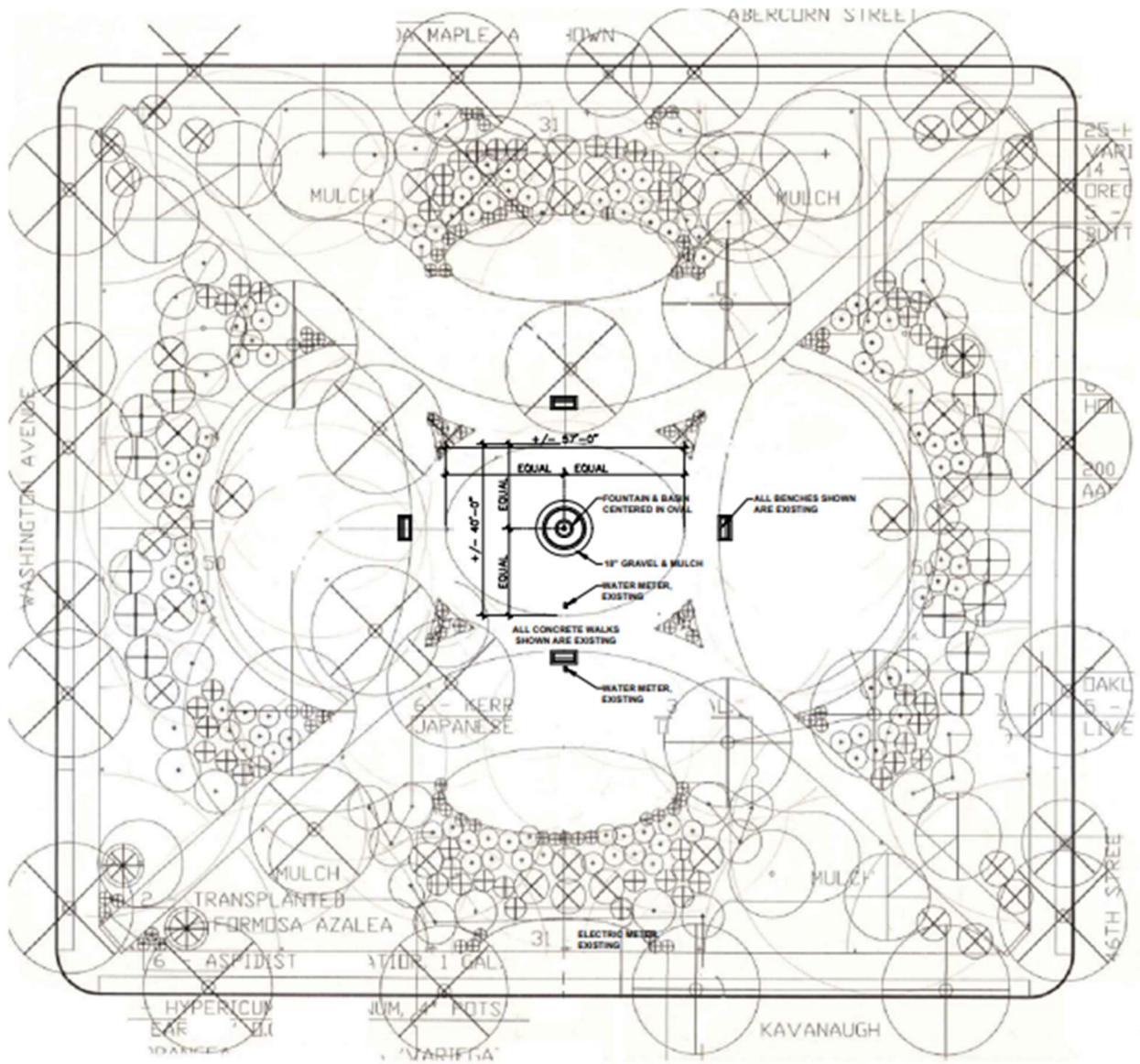
**Kavanaugh Park**

# Map of Monument

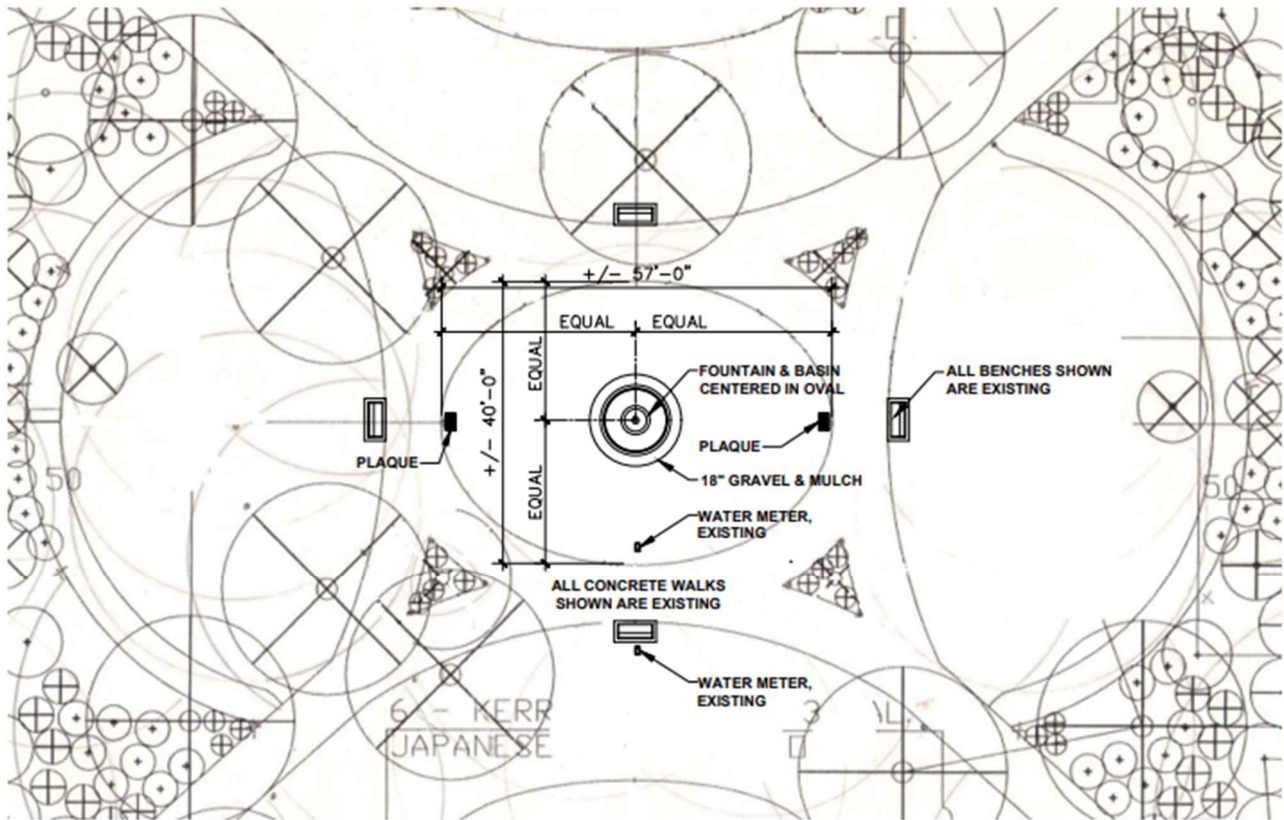


MPC Markers, Monuments and Public Art Master Plan and Guidelines  
 #34 Kavanaugh Park, Abercorn Street / Washington Avenue

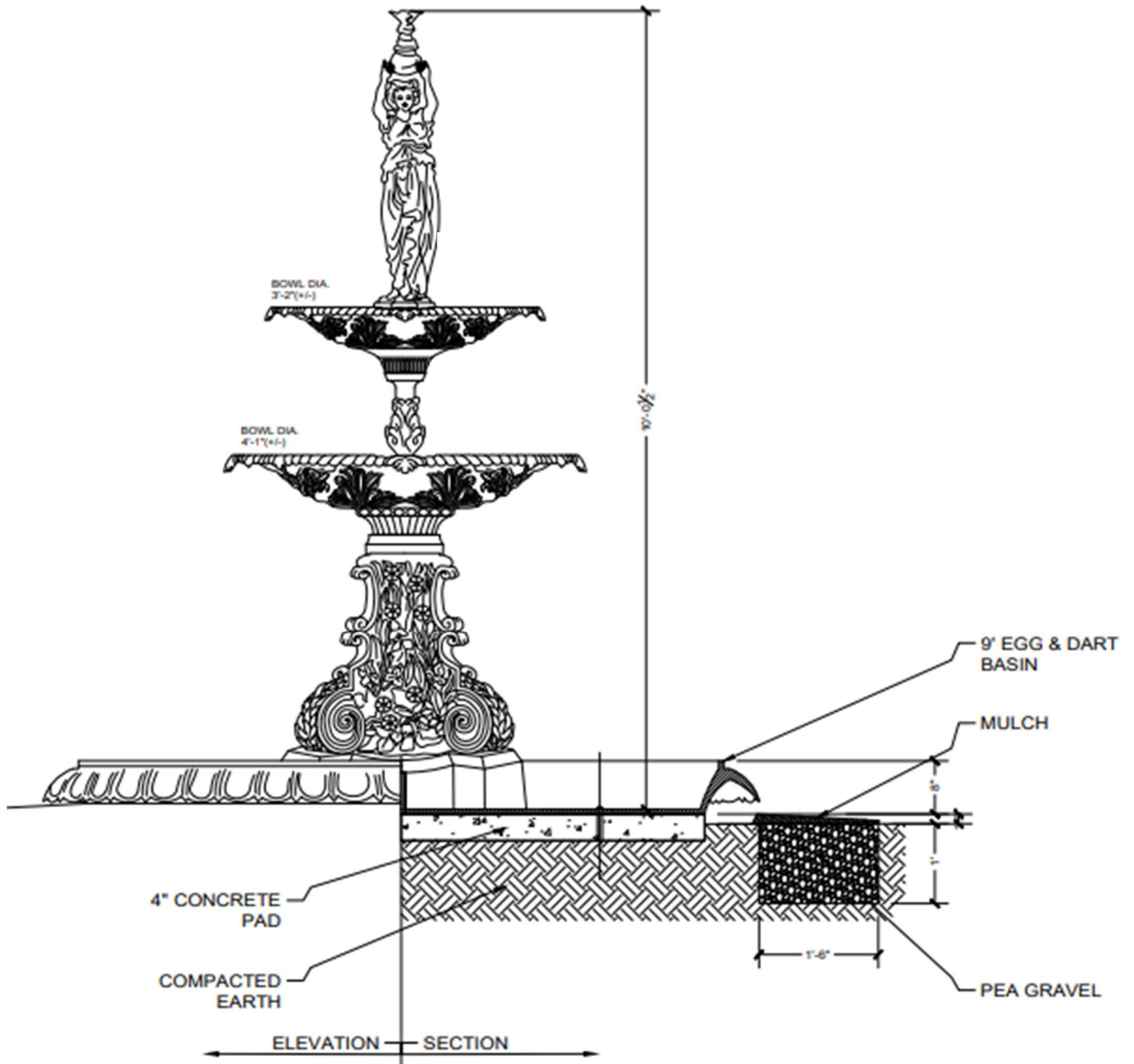
# Scaled, Dimensioned Site Plan



# Scaled, Dimensioned Site Plan, vignette



# Scaled, Dimensioned Elevation & Installation Drawing



## 3D Color Rendering



The Garden Keeper

# Text for the Monument

8/25/23 – Kim Holcolmbe (GHS) confirmed data is correct. See page 17.

10/13/23 – Tish Hamilton, Professor of Writing, SCAD made grammar edits. See page 18.

## Plaque 1

Presented to the City of Savannah  
by the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Garden Club  
to honor  
Mrs. Shelby Myrick  
(Mary Robinson Myrick)  
1888-1983  
Known as “The City’s Official Hostess”

Mrs. Myrick was the founder of the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Garden Club. With others, she established the Fragrance Garden for the Blind in Forsyth Park and was a driving force in Keep Georgia Beautiful. Her column “The Garden Corner” ran for decades in the *Savannah News-Press*. Mrs. Myrick was a civic leader lending her organizational talents to the women’s division of Civilian Defense in Georgia during WWII. She also served as the state president of both the Garden Club of Georgia and The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America.

## Plaque 2

### The Garden Keeper

Mrs. Shelby Myrick was known to say “Savannah’s Beauty is our Duty.” This fountain commemorates one remarkable lady’s commitment to beautifying Savannah. The female figure is based upon Flora, the goddess of flowers and flowering plants. She is associated with the season of spring, a symbol of hope and perseverance. A woman holding a vase or water bowl represents giving life. The bottom of the fountain is filled with flowering blooms - a reminder that preserving our beautiful city is indeed our duty.

Donated on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Garden Club  
1973-2023



# Text for Monument continued

Kim Holcombe <kholcombe@georgiahistory.com>

to Nora, me, Laura, Gracie, Nate

Fri, Aug 25, 9:40AM (5 days ago)



Greetings,

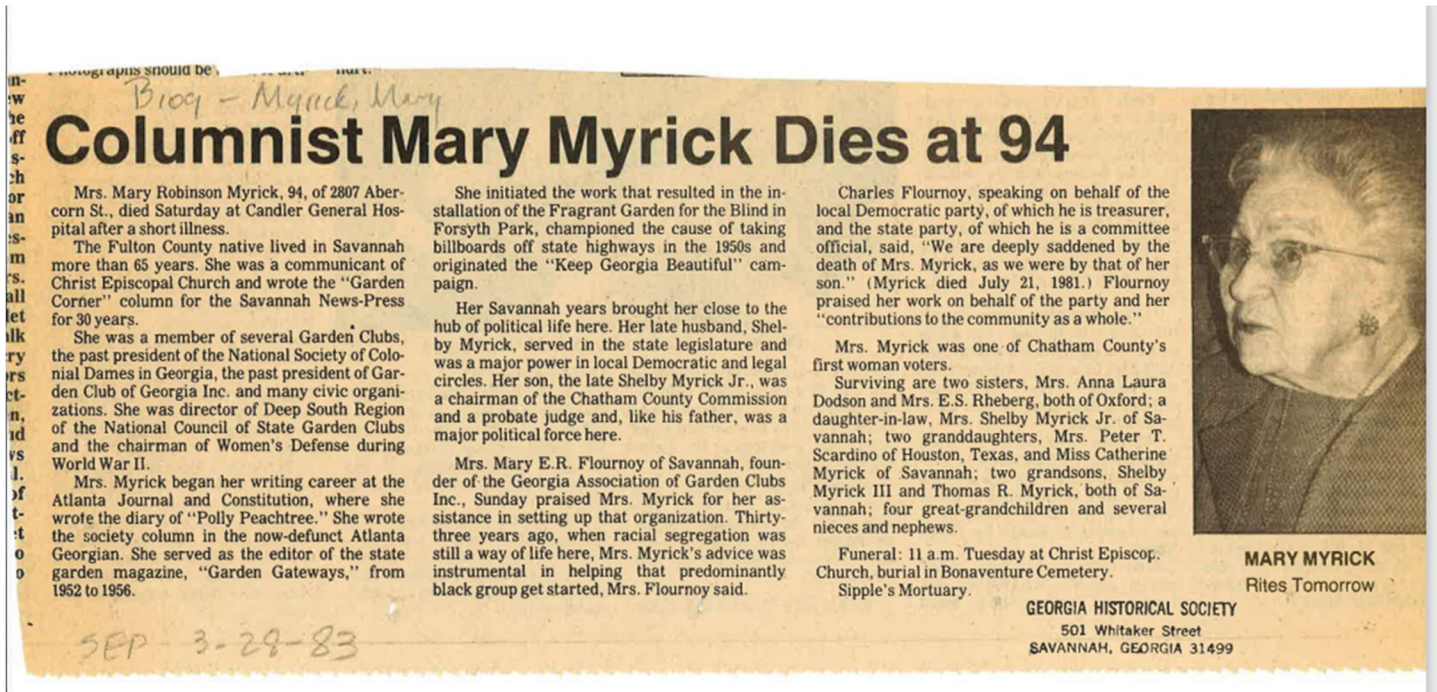
Thank you for the opportunity to investigate Mrs. Shelby Myrick's (Mary Robinson Myrick) life and contributions. She was a remarkable woman. I was able to locate a copy of Mrs. Myrick's obituary in our vertical files and have attached a copy. It appears that your intended statements for Plaque 1 & 2 are accurate as recorded. I wish you success in this endeavor. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Regards,

Kim



One attachment • Scanned by Gmail



# Text for Monument continued



Tish Hamilton  
to me ▾

Oct 13, 2023, 10:34 AM (3 days ago) ☆ ↶ ⋮

Hello Trish,

Here is the document back, with tracked changes.

Tish Hamilton  
Professor of Writing  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
[ehamilton@scad.edu](mailto:ehamilton@scad.edu)

Let me know if you have any questions!

Tish

## Page 1

Presented to the  
City of Savannah  
by the  
Ardley Park Charlton Crescent Garden  
to honor  
Mrs. Shelby Myrick  
(Mary Robinson Myrick)  
1888--1983  
Known as "The City's official hostess"

Mrs. Myrick was the founder of the Ardley Park Charlton Crescent Garden Club and the Downtown Garden Club of Savannah. With others, she established the Fragrance Garden for the Blind in Forsyth Park and was a driving force in Keep Georgia Beautiful. Her column "The Garden Corner" ran for decades in the Savannah News-Press. Mrs. Myrick was a civic leader leading her organizational talents to the women's division of Civilian Defense in Georgia from 1941 - 1943. She also served as the past president of both the Garden Club of Georgia and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America in the state of Georgia. Mary Myrick Day was June 12, 1978.

Donated on the occasion of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary  
of the Ardley Park Charlton Crescent Garden Club  
1973--2023

Commented [741]: "The City's Official Hostess" or "The city's official hostess"

Commented [742]: Newspaper would be in italics OR in double quotes if that font is not available. "Savannah News-Press"  
Formatted: First Initial

## Page 3

### The Garden Keeper

Mrs. Shelby Myrick was known to say, "Savannah's beauty is our duty." This fountain commemorates one remarkable lady's commitment to beautifying Savannah. The female figure is based upon Flora, the goddess of flowers and flowering plants. She is associated with the season of Springtime, a symbol of hope and perseverance. A woman holding a vase or water bowl represents giving life. Water is considered a symbol of vitality, renewal and purification. The bottom of the fountain is filled with flowering blooms.

A reminder of the beauty, pride and joy that all generations of gardeners feel.

# Text for Monument continued

## Plaque Size

**Signs of the South**  
DESIGN • FABRICATE • INSTALL


Signs of the South, LLC  
5507 Export Blvd  
Savannah, GA 31408  
Phone: 912-921-5115  
www.signssouth.co

Estimate  
Price Good for 45 Days  
5/22/2023 6239

Customer	Contact	Project Location	
Chatham Crescent Garden Club Nora Misroon Trish Lawrence 132 East 48th Street Savannah, GA 31405	Phone: 912-661-0991 Cell: Email: inshmisroon@aol.com	Chatham Crescent Garden Club Nora Misroon Trish Lawrence 132 East 48th Street Savannah, GA 31405	
Description	Qty	Rate	Amount
Monument Marker Cast Bronze Plaque Dimensions: 24"W x 12"H  To Read: TBD	2	1,900.00	3,800.00
Granite Marker Star Blue Bevel, PBT BRP, 4" Front Nosing (Standard 2" Drop from Height of Back to Height of Front) Dimensions: 28" x 16" x 8"	2	1,280.00	2,560.00
Option 2: Star Blue Slant, PSF, Sawn Back, BRP, 4" Front Nosing (Upright Slant Shape) Dimensions: 28" x 10" x 16"  Price: \$1,400			
When you approve this quote, you are agreeing to pay 100% of the quoted price. We require a 50% DEPOSIT to begin work. Once deposit is received your project will be scheduled for a completion date. The remaining balance is due upon order completion. ELECTRICAL MUST BE WITHIN 5 FT OF SIGN our Sign Business is Appreciated Minority & Women-Owned Business		Subtotal	\$6,360.00
		Sales Tax	\$445.20
		Total	\$6,805.20


From: info@signssouth.co  
To: inshmisroon@aol.com  
Subject: Chatham Crescent Garden Club - Quote  
Date: Mon, May 22, 2023 1:50 pm  
Attachments: Crescent Garden Club - Quote.pdf (259K)

Hi Nora,  
Attached is the price quote for (2) monument garden markers.  
Below are photos showing the two options in the price quote for the granite section only.  
Custom bronze plaques are very expensive. We can always adjust the size to try to stay within your budget.  
Please let us know if you have any questions.



**BEVEL (HICKEY, PILLOW MARKER)**

- Standard 2" drop from height of back to height of front.
- May be used for single individual or family memorials.



**SLANT**

- Upright slant shape
- Standard 4" front nosing
- Straight, serpentine, or oval top
- Available thickness: 0'-10" or 1'-0"

Suzanne Collins  
Signs of the South  
info@signssouth.co  
912-921-5115  
5507 Export Blvd  
Savannah, GA 31408  
www.signssouth.co

## Enhancing Space and Surroundings

In addition to people enjoying Kavanaugh Park on a daily basis with their children and/or pets, it's the primary location for neighborhood events.



The Garden Club utilizes Kavanaugh as

their headquarters for their annual Tour of Homes fundraiser. This event draws over 1,000 visitors.



The Neighborhood Association hosts an annual Holiday Tree Lighting ceremony, and numerous social gatherings. It's not unusual to drive by and see a wedding being officiated in the park too.

Although the park is/was beautifully landscaped, it lacks a major focal point. As with many of the parks this past winter, the prolonged freezing temperatures damaged the plantings. An addition of a hardscape such as a fountain, would enhance the beauty year-round.

The calming sound of water cascading down a fountain would be a welcome distraction from the traffic noise on Abercorn. The circular bed at the center connects walkways from the four corners of the park. At present, the four benches facing the circular garden appear to be placed there in anticipation of "*The Garden Keeper.*"



# Theme

## **Civic & Institutional**

Mrs. Shelby Myrick was a true friend of the City of Savannah. She worked to beautify many spaces in the City including creating a garden on the grounds of the Savannah Widows' Society, adding a garden to the American Red Cross building downtown, and establishing the Fragrant Garden for the Blind in Forsyth Park in 1963.

Mrs. Myrick frequently offered her home at Wild Heron to the Chamber of Commerce and other civic organizations for visitors and smaller conventions. She was known in the city as “the city’s official hostess.”

During World War II, Mrs. Myrick held a Georgia state office; she was appointed by the Governor to chair the Women’s Division of Civilian Defense from 1941-1943. In honor of her civic work, Savannah Mayor John Rousakis declared June 12, 1978 as Mary Myrick Day.

## **Social & Humanitarian**

Mrs. Shelby Myrick had a great love of gardening. She was a member of the Garden Club of Savannah, but Mrs. Myrick went on to form many clubs in Savannah including the Downtown Garden Club of Savannah in 1969, and the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Garden Club in 1973 in order to share this passion. Before long Mrs. Myrick became known as “The Garden Club Lady.” She became the president of the Garden Club of Georgia and was the director of the Deep South Region of Garden Clubs. During her term as the president of the Garden Club of Georgia, 538,702 trees were planted by the organization.

On a grander scale, Mrs. Myrick helped to form a national organization of Landscape Design. Working in conjunction with an instructor at the University of Iowa, Mrs. Myrick created a partnership between landscape schools and garden clubs throughout the United States.

## Theme (continued)

Also, during her term as president of Garden Club of Georgia, Mrs. Myrick spearheaded the Keep Georgia Beautiful anti-litter campaign. Keep Georgia Beautiful still thrives today. It is no wonder that Mrs. Myrick's slogan was "Savannah's Beauty is our Duty!" It was her lifelong commitment to beautify public spaces and areas that would lift the spirit of the less fortunate.

### Local History

Atlanta born Mrs. Myrick spent her time, talent and finances improving her adopted town of Savannah. She opened the doors of her home to assist local leaders host conferences. She organized other women and assisted them in starting additional garden clubs in Savannah; these clubs continue today based upon her solid foundation. In addition, her touch was felt on many historic preservation sites throughout the Savannah area.

For over 30 years Mrs. Myrick wrote a column for the Savannah News Press. Native Savannahians recall her gardening and landscaping wisdom in her column called "The Garden Corner."

In honor of her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Savannah Mayor John Rousakis declared June 12, 1978 "Mary Myrick Day." Mayor Rousakis read a proclamation and presented Mrs. Myrick with a key to the city.

Now, upon the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Ardsley Park Chatham Crescent Garden Club, the members of the garden club - a club Mrs. Myrick founded - feel it is quite fitting to add a fountain dedicated to the woman who lived the motto "Savannah's Beauty is our Duty."

Her impact on the City of Savannah endures today.

*\*\*Information available from newspaper clippings. Bull Street Library, Research Department, Georgia Historical Society and Garden Club Achieves.*

## Theme Relevant to the Community

Savannah is one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The downtown historic district, with its 23\* parklike squares largely retains the founder James Oglethorpe's original town plan. The squares and parks of Savannah are the community's most beloved icons and are referred to as the Crown Jewels of Savannah. Each of the 23 squares honors individuals who made tremendous contributions to our great city.

The Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent neighborhood is just as beautiful. This 400-acre neighborhood was inspired by the Oglethorpe Plan. It's laid out in a series of grids and squares, has 11 beautifully landscaped parks and a tree lined great mall.

The parks are named for the Mayor, Aldermen and a handful of key leaders of Savannah when the neighborhood was developed in 1909. The Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent neighborhood was listed on the National Historic Registry in 1985.

The Ardsley Park Garden Club would like to honor a local resident who devoted herself to preserving green spaces in Savannah.

*\*Savannah.com includes Yamacraw Square.*

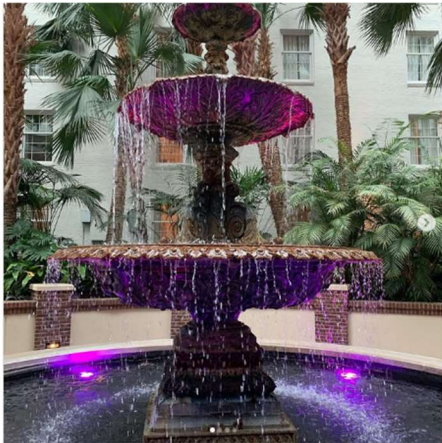
## Theme - Thematic Group

By honoring Mrs. Myrick in this way, it will assist in rectifying the underrepresentation of women in Savannah's historical monuments. The Garden Club is also seeking to work with women owned businesses when possible.



# Recent Monuments Completed by the Designer/Artist

Robinson Iron has the experience, discipline and personnel required for the project. Restoration, replication, custom casting and preservation of historic Cast metal has been an art and architectural form for centuries, beautiful building facades and garden.



This 35-year-old- is still going strong at Opryland!



Robinson Iron Caesar Fountain with 12'6" Basin.



Robinson Iron fountain install, Louisville, KY.



Repaired Forsyth Fountain, Savannah, GA.



Fabricated and Installed Lafayette Fountain, Savannah, GA.

# Estimated Timeframe

Kavanaugh Park Fountain Schedule							
Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June
Monuments Committee Application submittal							
	Fundraising and Administration						
		Final approval					
			Site prep				
				Concrete base pour			
				*need 2-3 weeks cure time before install	Fountain installation		
					*2 days-1 Wk	Landscaping	
							Fountain Dedication

## Detailed Budget

• Cast Structure	\$19,300
• Basin	\$17,900
• Pump kit	\$ 700
• Delivery	\$ 1,600
• Installation	\$13,000
• Plaques	\$ 6,800
• Escrow	\$16,000
• Landscape Architect	n/c *
• Landscaping	\$ 5,000
• Architect	\$ 2,500
• Construction Management	n/c *
• Plumbing	n/c *
• Electricidal	n/c *
• Landscape Architect	n/c *
• Total	\$82,800

*n/c\* - donated services*

# Funds Secured

## Funds on Hand

The APCCGC has allocated \$50,000 from their operating account to be used in support of the Kavanaugh Park fountain project. The balance of the funds will be obtained through grants and donations.

## Pledges

To date, the club has received a total of \$15,000 in pledges.

t.....r	\$ 1,000
t.....e	\$ 1,000
l.....d	\$ 1,000
n.....n	\$ 1,000
a.....s	\$ 1,000
c.....r	\$10,000

## Donated Services

Landscape Architect Savannah Green Dirt Design Tim Gay, Owner/Landscape Architect	Plumbing to be negotiated
Construction Management Rhove Design + Build Courtney Grunninger Bonney, PhD, AICP	Electricidal to be negotiated

## Grants

The APCCGC is applying for a \$5,000 grant from the City of Savannah, Park & Tree Departments Neighborhood Beautification grant. Grants over \$3,000 and up to a maximum of \$5,000 require a sponsor match in cash, donations or volunteer labor.

The APCCGC submitted a \$5,000 grant application to the Trustees Garden Club, 2023 Community Grant program. The fountain project aligns with their mission of civic improvements on public lands.

## Fundraising

In addition to our annual fundraiser which generates between \$15,000 to \$25,000, the club intends to run a “Friends of the Fountain” campaign. This campaign will utilize grassroots fundraising methods. Canvassing the neighborhood, using social media and peer networks.

## Maintenance Schedule

The amount of the escrow is determined by the City of Savannah. This will provide the following maintenance schedule as prescribed by the City, and is based on the fountain's lifespan of 100 years:

- Crack repairs by Robinson Iron                      every 35 years
- Replace fountain pump                                      every 7 years
- Replace pump filter    every 3 years
- Touch up paint    annually