



Ardsley Park  
Chatham Crescent  
Garden Club

Historic Site and Monument Commission  
Application for Monument

Kavanaugh Park Fountain  
June 1, 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

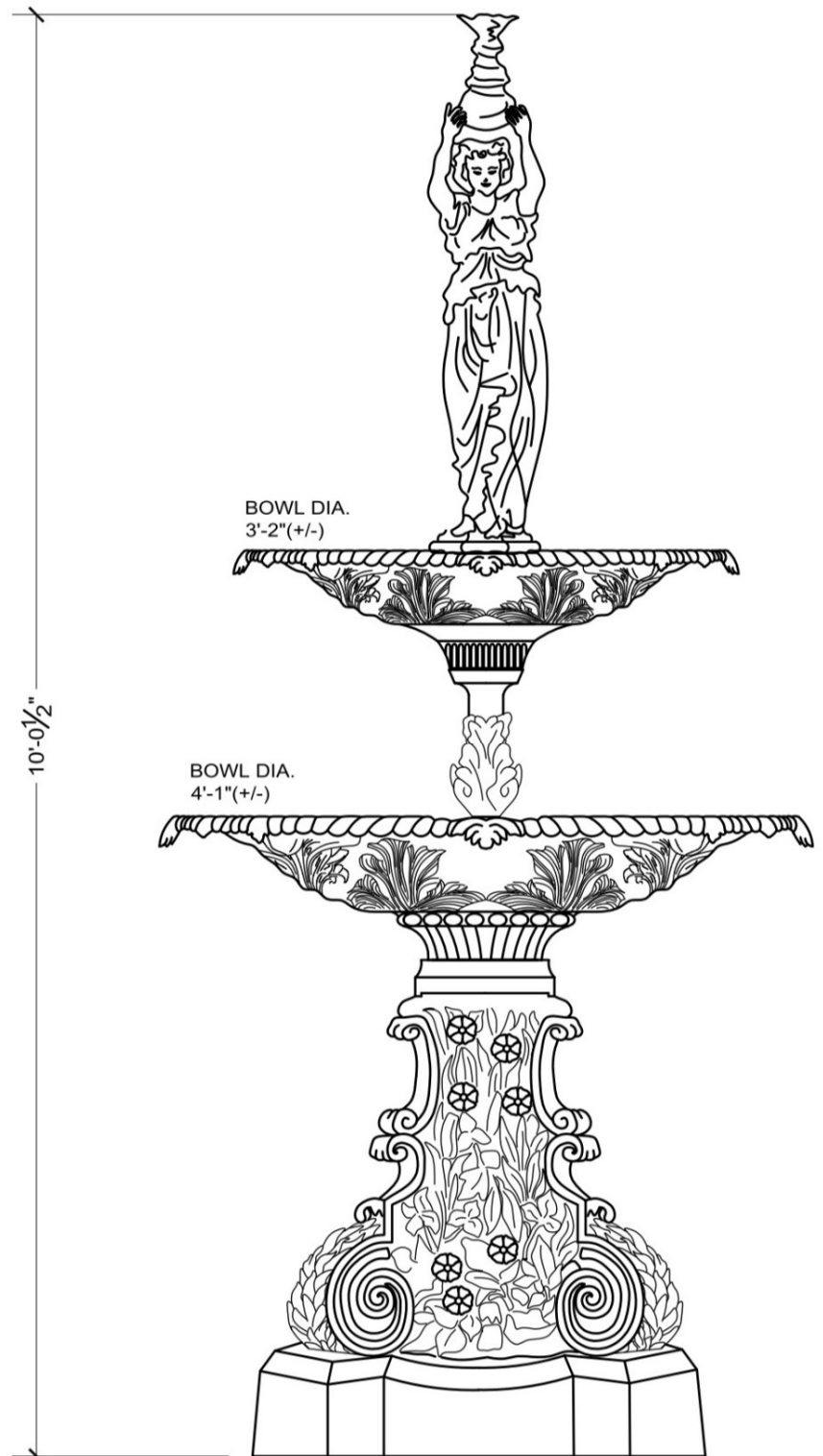


The Garden Keeper

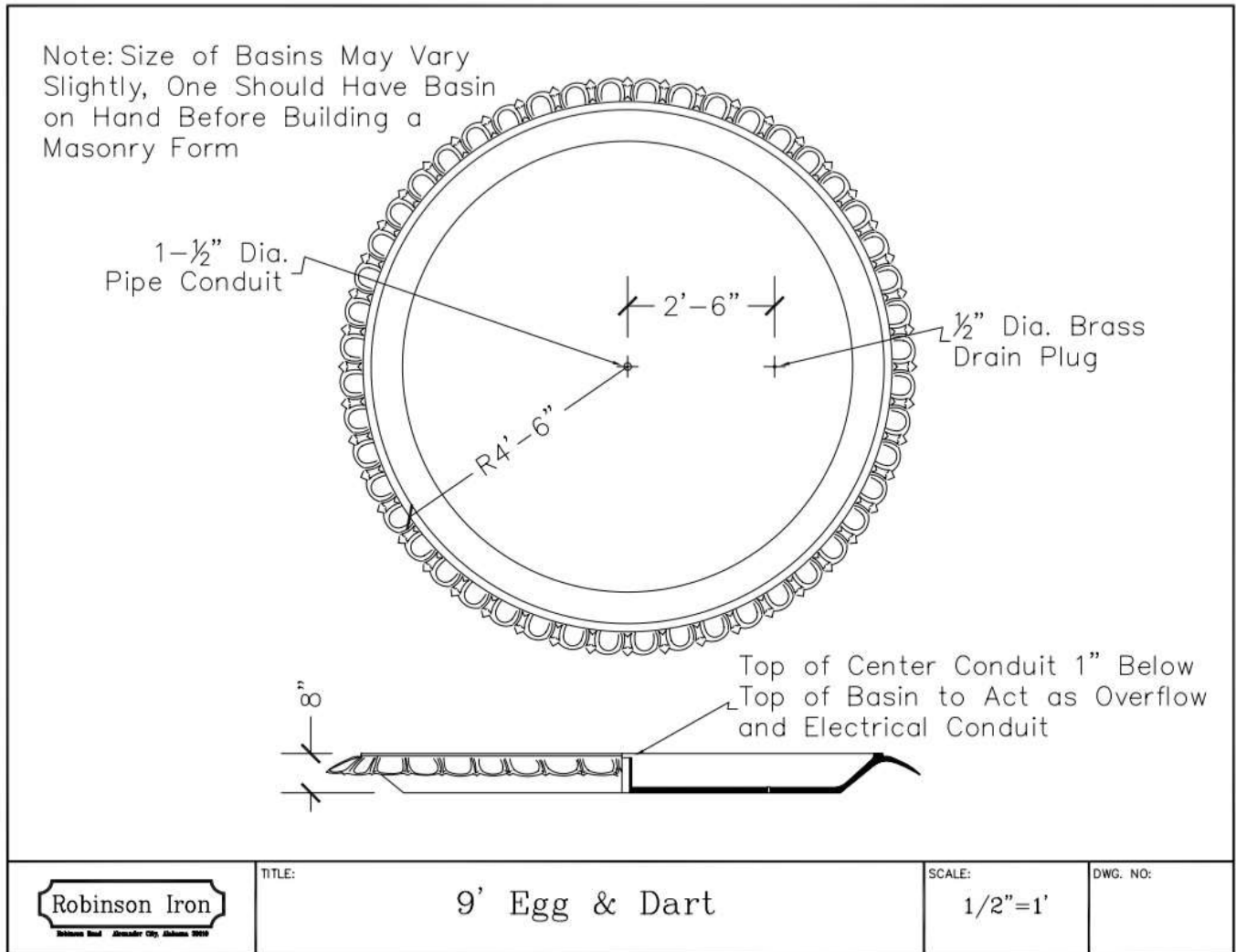
# Description of Proposed Monument

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.

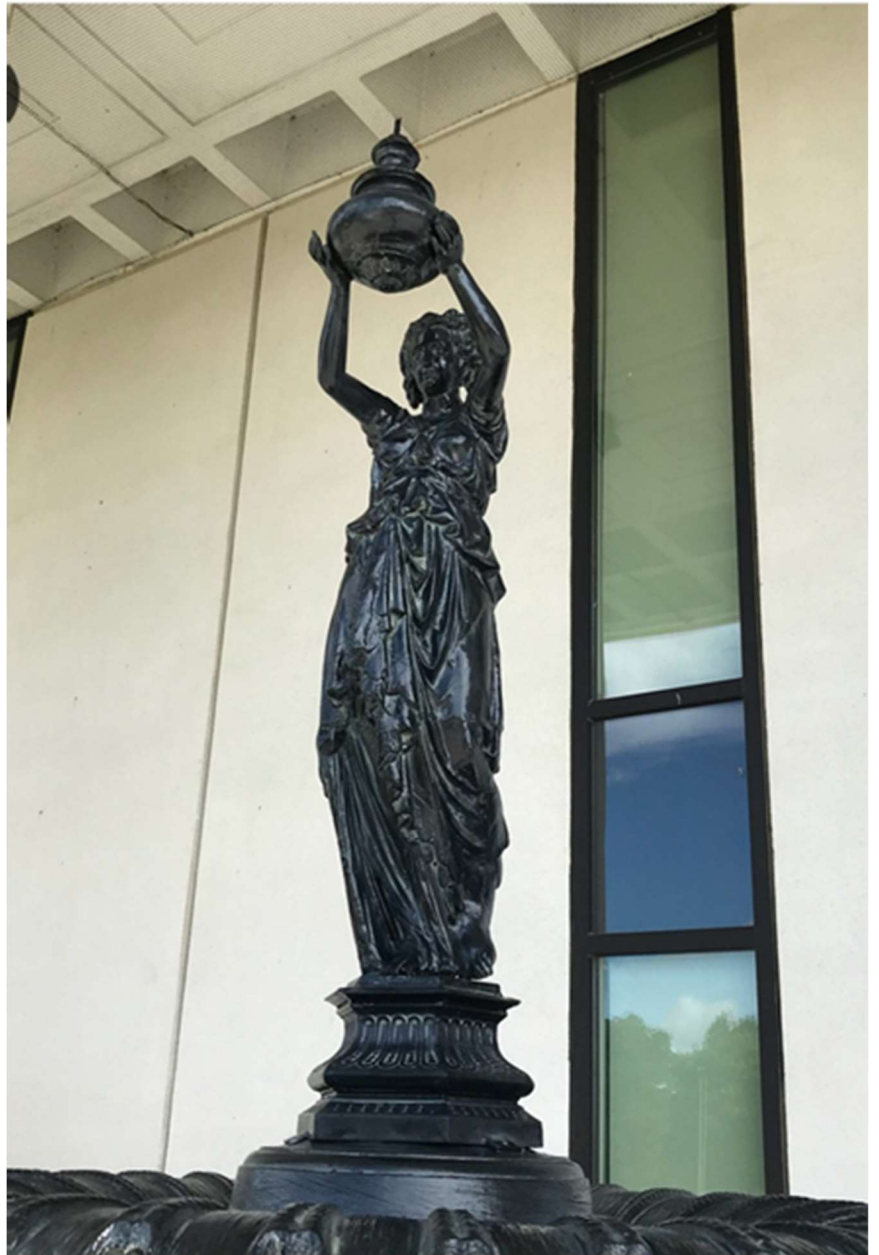


# Description of Proposed Monument (continued)

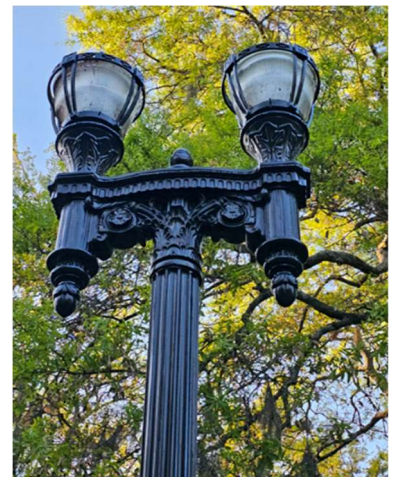


## Design Elements

- 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 boxwoods around the basin would be a nod to Mary R. Myrick's formal garden at Wild Heron.



# Color Photographs of Proposed Location

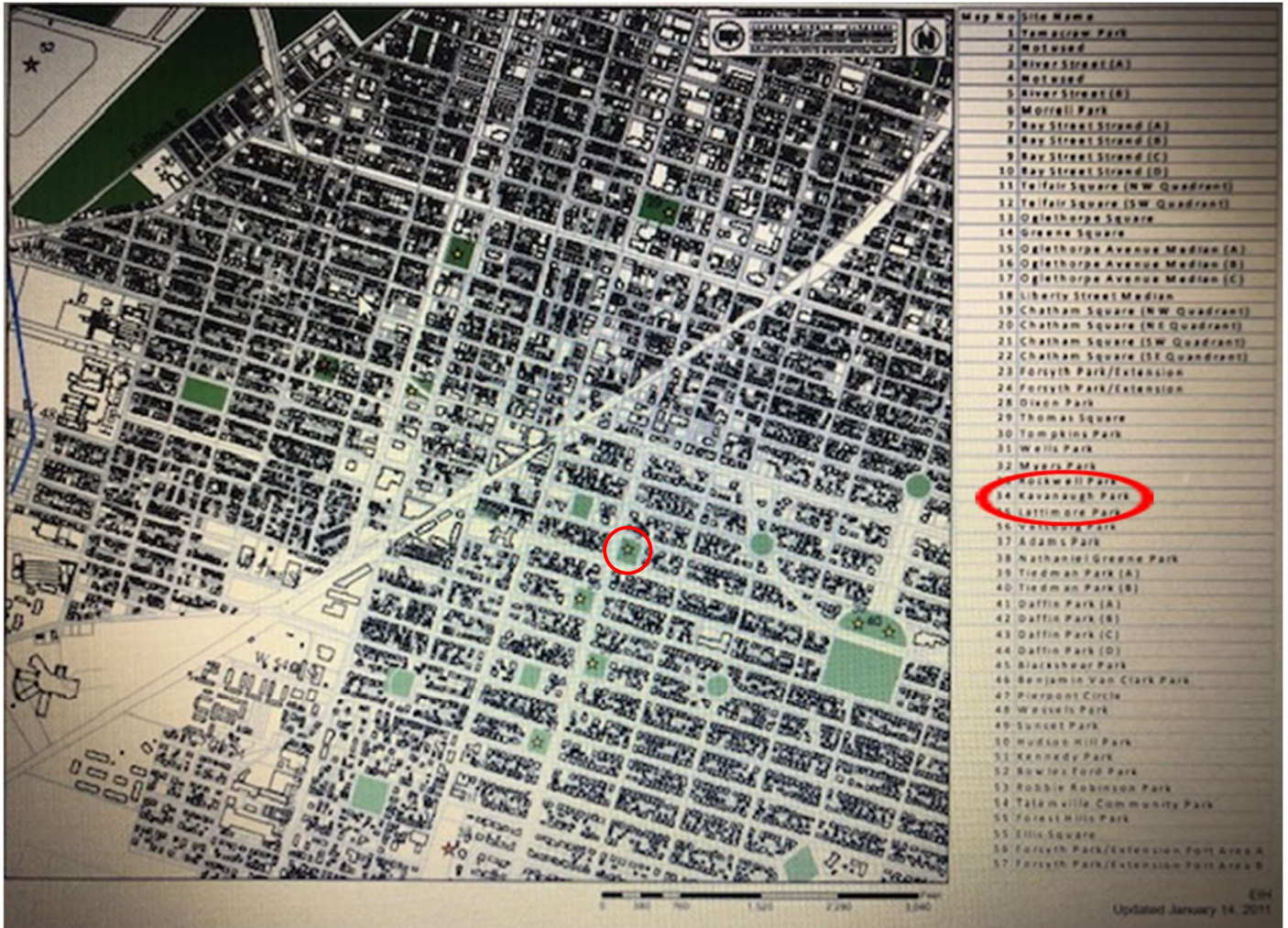
## Kavanaugh Park



-  Fountain
-  Plaque 1
-  Plaque 2

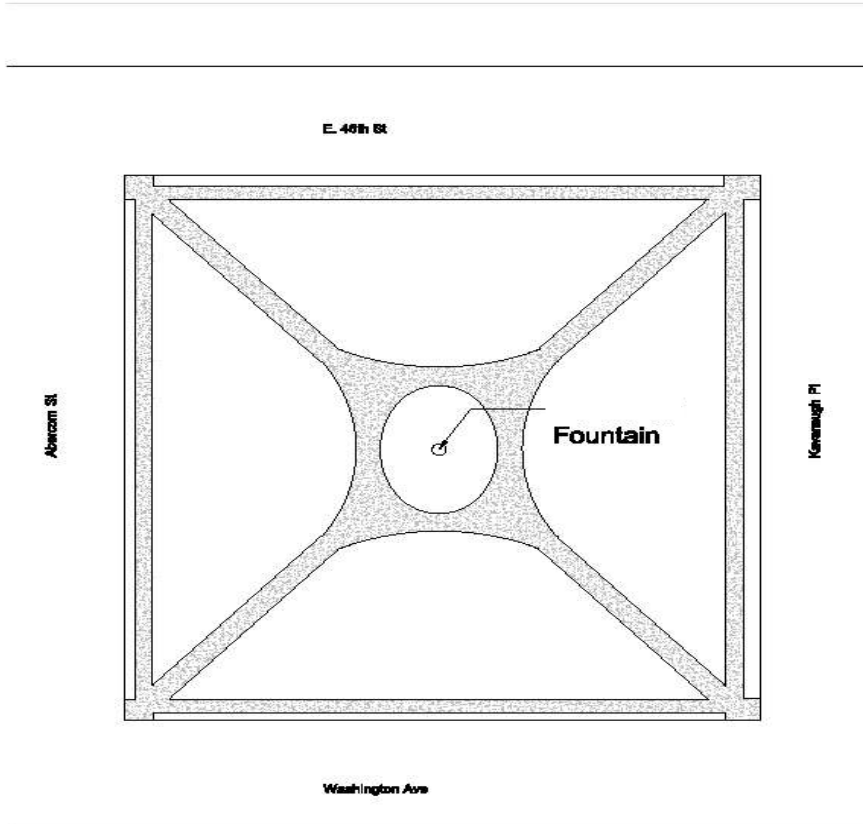
**Kavanaugh Park**

# Map of Monument



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

# Scaled, Dimensioned Site Plan



Kavanaugh Park  
Tall Crane Fountain Relocation

3/28/23

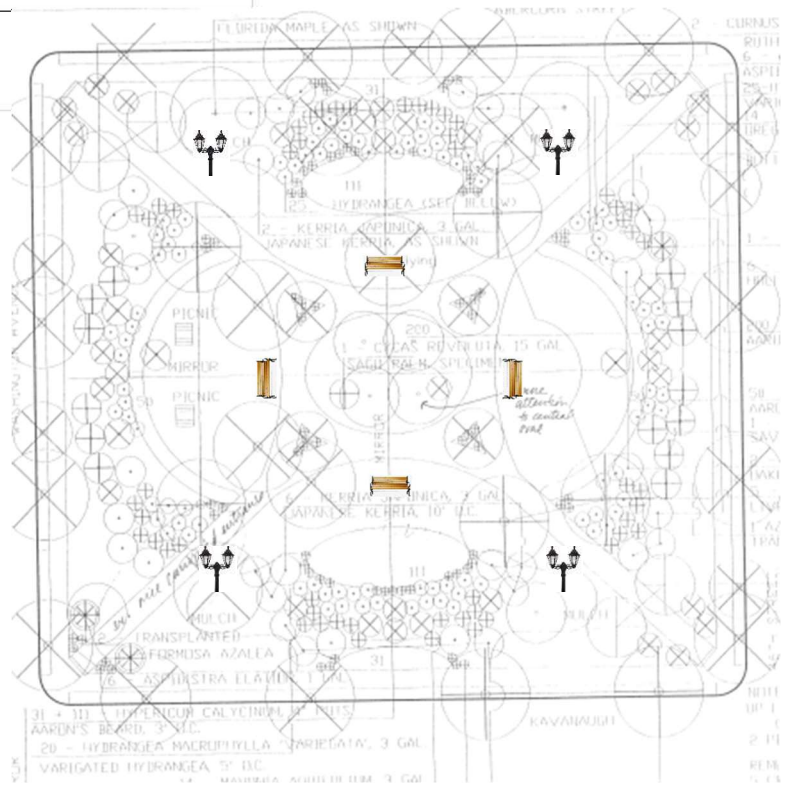
Scale:  $\frac{1}{4}'' = 1'-0''$



Lamp Post



Bench



# 3D Color Rendering



The Garden Keeper

# Text for the Monument

## Plaque 1

This fountain is dedicated to  
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 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 lending her organizational talents to the women’s division of Civilian Defense in Georgia from 1941 - 1943. She also served as the State president of both the Garden Club of Georgia and the National Society of Colonial Dames of America.

Mary Myrick Day was June 12, 1978.

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

1973 - 2023

## 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 symbolizes love, beauty and abundance.

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.

Water is considered a symbol of vitality, renewal and purification.

## 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.

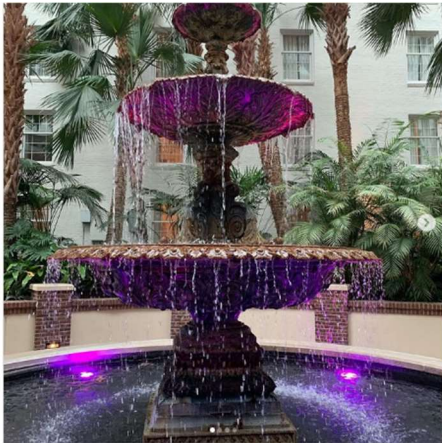
*\*Savannah.com includes Yamacraw Square.*

## 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

- APCCGC Application Submission - June 2023
- HSMC Approval - unknown
- City of Savannah Approval - unknown
- Fabrication 6-8 weeks after design approval
- Site Prep - unknown
- Installation - unknown
- Dedication - Spring 2024

## Detailed Budget

○ Cast Structure	\$19,300
○ Basin	\$17,900
○ Pump kit	\$ 700
○ Delivery	\$ 1,600
○ Site Prep	unknown
○ Installation	unknown
○ Landscaping	unknown

# Funds Secured

## **Funds on Hand**

The Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent Garden Club has sufficient funds in their operating account to cover the cost of the fountain. At this time, membership has approved \$15,000 towards the Fountain Project. The Club does anticipate releasing additional funds. However, the amount will be determined by funds received from grants and donations.

## **Grants**

The APCCGC Fountain Project Committee is exploring grant opportunities at local and state level.

## **Donations**

We anticipate receiving donations from the Neighborhood Association, residents of Ardsley Park / Chatham Crescent, area Garden Clubs and local businesses. The Myrick family has also indicated they are willing to donate to the project.

## **Fundraising**

In addition to our annual fundraiser which generates between \$15,000 to \$25,000, we intend to establish a “Buy a Brick” program.

## Maintenance Schedule

The City of Savannah, Park and Tree department is responsible for the maintenance of vegetation within City-owned parcels, the public rights of way, lanes, neighborhood parks, and the City's Riverfront and historic Squares. It also manages all trees located on public property, often termed the urban forest, the Landscape and Tree Protection Ordinance, and provides conservation of public monuments.