

GORDONSTON

Gazette



CALLING ALL CITIZEN RESEARCHERS

What do you know about your house?
When was it built? Who lived there?
Who designed and built it? Do you
have historical photos?

The newsletter is
collecting stories about the homes in
Gordonston for the centennial.

Not sure where to start? Try these links:

arts-crafts.com/archive/kithome

antiquehome.org

Sent one in but haven't seen it printed
yet? Don't worry! We are going to
include them in newsletters going
forward until we run out!

100 years

Gordonston was founded in 1917, one-hundred years ago.
Our amazing neighborhood has been home to generations
of wonderful, interesting people across the decades and we
want to share your memories. Send in your photos and
stories as we celebrate the past 100 years.

Guidelines

So that we can share as many stories as possible,
please follow these guidelines for submission:

- Include information such as year built, architectural style, first owner, and home idiosyncrasies.
- Limit to a length of 250 words.
- Include photos, particularly old ones when possible.

Send to:

Meaghan Gerard at info@mwgerard.com or
Kate Marsters at marsters001@gannon.edu.

100 years of Gordonston



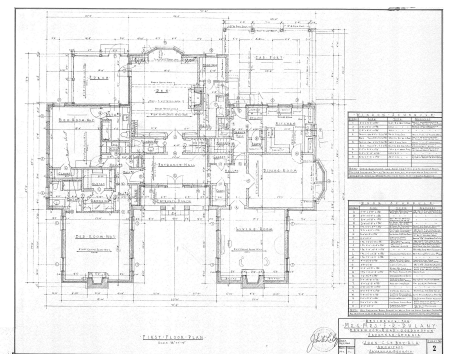
The brick Colonial Revival house at **4 Edgewood Road** was built in 1965-1966 for Mr. & Mrs. Franklin Reed Dulaney, grandparents of the present Savannah philanthropist/businessman Reed Dulaney.

The architect was John Courtney LeBay, beloved Savannah architect who is widely noted for his 60 or more restorations of properties in the downtown Historic District (the Davenport House, at the time of its rescue in 1955, being one of his earlier commissions).

The landscape architect was Clermont Huger Lee, the first woman accredited in Georgia by the ASLA, and a pioneer garden designer in Savannah (the garden at Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace being one of her designs, and a number of the squares).

It is said that in the planning process for 4 Edgewood, John LeBay accompanied Mr. & Mrs. Dulaney to Virginia, to see their favorite particulars of Williamsburg architecture -- many of which are now evident in LeBay's 4 Edgewood plans & construction: arched brick colonnade, and wooden gates (the Capitol); blank chimney-end walls in façade, and forecourt wall (the Governor's Palace); extensive use of dentils on the friezes of the house; bay windows reminiscent of the fine shops on Duke of Gloucester Street; "Williamsburg dormers;" and inside the structure, graceful arches, repeatedly, and LeBay's finely-detailed wainscoting throughout the first floor.

- Mark Dennen &
Kelly Scott Reed



The home at **207 Pierpont Avenue** was built in 1940 by Joseph and Ethel Copps. The Copps purchased the lot from neighbors Corinne and Frank McGee, with whom they then shared a party line telephone for many years. Mrs. Copps (1923-1970) was an English teacher and director of music in Savannah Public Schools, Mr. Copps (1901-1958) owned Copps' Cartage.

Mrs. Copps saw a picture of the house she wanted in a magazine and tore it out. The front door is framed by ballast stones from the Savannah River, a 1939 gift from their friend Capt. Spencer, captain of the tug boat fleet. The original slate roof had to be removed and replaced after workmen trying to attach a television antenna broke too many tiles in 1950s. Like many families back in the day, the Copps had a live-in maid until 1950s who lived in a little house in back, which was used as storage after they no longer had a maid.

The picture of the dog in the street is taken outside 207, looking towards Pierpont Circle, c. 1941-42. It has these notes: The dog is Pal, belonging to McGees. The car is the Copps'. The street is composed of dirt and compacted oyster shell. Further in the left, W. B. Gordon house. On the right, Dr. Harold Smith's house was built in the 1950s. Across the street Julius Miller built a house in 1950s.

- Peggy Jolley, compiled from Copps family information

100 years of Gordonston



12 Gordonston Avenue was built in 1918. The original screen door and front door remain. All the stucco walls and pine floors in our home are original. We have renovated and removed some walls and have repurposed the old heart of pine wood from those walls, throughout the house. To our surprise, originally, there was a picket fence placed almost exactly in the same location in our side yard, as our current picket fence ~ confirmed by the Seawright sisters.

There was no laundry room in the house until 1996, when Patrica (Seawright) and her husband (Joseph) George Watkins moved in. Before that, Mrs. Seawright always had her laundry carried out. On the beams in the attic there are original notes, like room locations, written in chalk.

In the 1930s the upstairs attic was converted into a bedroom when Mr. Seawright traded his electrical expertise for his friend's carpentry skills, and a bedroom was made for the three Seawright sisters, Eunice, Patrica and Carolyn to share.

We bought the home on April 1, 1998 from Patricia (Seawright) and George Watkins. Before that the home was owned, since 1926, by her mother and father, Lt. General Patrick Elihu and Carolyn Murphy Seawright. Mr. Seawright, a graduate of Georgia Tech, was an superintendent at Savannah Electric ~ there are at least 4 outlets in each room in 12 Gordonston ~ and was the head of the original Savannah Volunteers and then the National Guard Southeast.

-Colleen Reynolds

Here's what I know about our house at **514 Virginia Avenue**. I got some of this information from Mrs. Lucia Strickland, granddaughter of the original owners.

We believe the house was built on land purchased by the father of Elise Cummings in 1926 as a wedding gift. Elise Cummings married William John Cleary (1895-1971) and they moved into 514 Virginia after their marriage. Elise Cummings Cleary died in 2001.

They had one daughter, Elise, born in 1927. Elise married Charles A. Rawson, Jr. and they had 4 children. Mrs. Rawson died in April 2016.

Mrs. Strickland told me it was her grandfather, William John Cleary, who grew the camellias in our back yard. He started in the 1930s and enjoyed growing them through the 1960s.

The house was purchased in 2001 by Cima Star; in 2004 by Laurie Jean Stellberg; in 2007 by Hilarie Manion and in 2009 by me.

Two old photos from about 1933 attached. One of our house and one of Virginia Avenue looking towards Durant and Henry. Gotta love that dog!

- Charlotte Landon



2018 GNA MEMBERSHIP HONOR ROLL

Pam & Barrett Benton
Karen & Jim Davis
Jerry Fath
Soo & Mark Frischer
Jenny Gentry
Cooper & Deborah Glenn
Laura & Adam Gross
Robert & Betty Haldeman
Nancy Hayward

John & Linda Herdina
Joa & Jessica Kelly
Charlotte Landon & Robert Trihart
Kate Marsters
Kathy & Joel Matulys
Connie & Mick McCay
Bobby & Sheila Phillips
Brandon & Amanda Sebastian
Steven R. Smith

Hilda & Julie Sukman
Dianne & Daniel Talcott
Jack Taylor

**GNA dues are collected at the
beginning of each calendar year.**

Don't see your name?

Download the membership form at www.gordonston.com and
return with payment to **Kate Marsters, membership coordinator.**



MARCH 24: EASTER EGG HUNT & OYSTER ROAST

Oysters will be provided. Please bring a covered dish and your favorite oyster accompaniments. Sign up for side dishes via the e-invitation or check with Melissa at 412-0057. Event begins at 5 p.m. Dinner will begin around 6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 15 LUAU
OCTOBER 27 HALLOWEEN HIKE
DECEMBER 8 HOLIDAY PARTY



Gordonston Neighborhood Association Officers & Contacts

President

Krista Futch kristafutch@gmail.com C: 247-7064

Treasurer

Hilda Kessler hrks1931@outlook.com C:429-5654

Recording Secretary

Nancy Hayward nhayward@auxmail.iup.edu C: 412-309-0471

GNA Standing Committee Chairs

Membership

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Park Committee

Matt Toole matttoole@hotmail.com C: 713-5934

Daniel Weiner danieldubya@gmail.com C: 904-0640

Neighborhood Watch

Debbie Adams deborah.adams@sap.com C:678-427-1434

Cottage Rentals

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Social Committee

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Youth Activities

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Meaghan Walsh Gerard info@mwgerard.com C: 655-8104

Affiliated Organizations

Book Club Peggy Jolley peggy.jolley@yahoo.com P: 429-2000

Garden Club Nancy Henrick nancyhenrick@gmail.com P: 777-5590

Park Trustee Harald von Fischer-Benzon hvfb@comcast.net P: 234-0818

SPD* APO Sherif Lockett slockett@savannah.gov 547-5451 or 525-3100 x3008

* With the separation of Savannah City policing from Chatham County, the East Side now has its own precinct, at 2250 Victory Drive. For the time being, Sherif Lockett will continue as our local contact.

Notes from the City

Willie Mae Knight is the community outreach contact for Gordonston with the City of Savannah. Knight can be reached at:

912-651-6520 x 8772
or 912-659-5288.

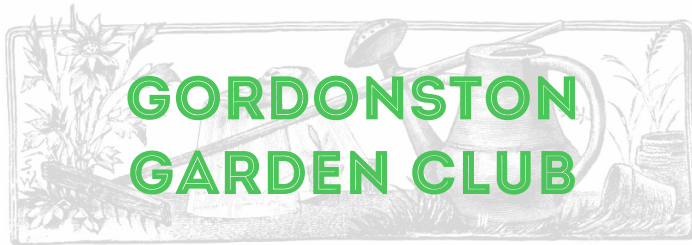
Crisis Cleanup Hotline
800-451-1954

Medical Needs Registry
(neighbors who are elderly or
need assistance)
912-691-7443.

Call **Matthew Rice** in the City's new Co-Compliance department at 912-658-2378 for property maintenance issues such as wildly overgrown grass, accumulations of trash, problems with unoccupied houses, and other urban blight.

The city is currently working on plans to make house numbers easily visible from the street to help emergency vehicles.

Updates will follow.



From Garden Club President, Nancy Henrick:

Thanks to all who bought handmade candleholders and ornaments made from hurricane wood. And thank you to Robert Trithart for sharing his amazing talents. It was a great fundraiser that was true Gordonston.

GCC will be out in full force on **Tuesday, March 27, 4-6 p.m.**, in order to work on the planter beds next to the park gates. The project will be followed by a pot luck dinner in the park cottage. All are welcome to assist – many hands make light work!

Garden Club meets once every two months, September through May -- (usually) on second Tuesdays. Beginning gardeners and long-term green thumbs are always welcome. Annual dues are only \$15 and meetings often including free plants! Questions? Call Nancy Henrick, 912-777-5590.

Watch
www.gordonston.com for
updates and
announcements.



Gordonston Book Club

April 16: *Driftless*
by David Rhodes

May 14: *The Handmaid's Tale*
by Margaret Atwood

June 6: Planning meeting

Book club is open to all Gordonston women. Call Peggy Jolley at 429-2000 or peggy.jolley@yahoo.com for further information.

Thanks to Tommy Daniels and members of the Traffic Calming Committee for their work with the city and neighborhood over the past several years. Tommy is continuing to coordinate the fine tuning of signs and reports that the city will be planting the new traffic circle at the Kinzie and Atkinson intersection. Committee members included: Jeff Baker, Kris Rice, Joel Matulys, Buck Elliott, Kelly Sullivan, Gene Maria, Olivier Raffray, Mick McCay.

Apologies for any omissions.