

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Fairway Oaks-Greenview Historic District Listed in National Register

ATLANTA (May 6, 2009) –The Fairway Oaks-Greenview Historic District, bounded by DeRenne Avenue, Waters Street, the Casey Canal, and the Bacon Park Golf Course in Savannah, Chatham County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on March 31, 2009. The Fairway Oaks Association sponsored the nomination and a consultant prepared the nomination materials. The Fairway Oaks-Greenview Historic District is the first mid-20th-century suburban residential district to be listed in the National Register in Georgia and one of just a few in the nation.

The Fairway Oaks-Greenview Historic District consists of two contiguous and historically related suburban residential subdivisions and is significant as a precedent-setting mid-20th-century suburban residential development in Savannah. In the area of community planning and development, it is significant as the first mid-20th-century suburban residential development targeted at middle- to upper-middle-class white homeowners featuring the new-to-Savannah curvilinear street layout with cul-de-sacs. The development also is significant as the first “upscale” suburban development in the Savannah area to successfully capitalize on new ideas about “country” living in the suburbs and a “country-club” lifestyle fostered by proximity to a county park and golf course. In doing so, it broke with Savannah’s 200-year tradition of gridiron-plan development based on the 1733 Oglethorpe plan. The development’s high visibility and success set precedents for subsequent suburban developments including Groveland (1950), Kensington Park (1951), and Magnolia Park (1953), all in the same vicinity south of Savannah. The district also is significant at the state level for the Fairway Oaks Association, one of the earliest such homeowner associations in Savannah and Georgia.

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In the area of architecture, the district is significant for containing what is believed to be one of the best collections of mid-20th-century houses in Savannah, including excellent and representative examples of American Small Houses, Ranch Houses, Split Levels, and two-story traditionals. The most prevalent architectural style is Colonial Revival; Modern and Contemporary styles are also present. Following national trends, Ranch Houses predominate, comprising nearly two-thirds of the housing stock. The district also contains important house designs by noted local and regional architects.

The earlier and larger subdivision is **Fairway Oaks**. Max Hostetter and James Richmond developed it between 1950 and 1957. It features curvilinear streets, three cul-de-sacs, two perimeter roadways, and it opens onto an adjacent park and golf course. Development took place from the south, nearest the park and golf course, with the oldest and largest houses, to the north, with later and smaller houses. The subdivision contains approximately 175 houses; 60 percent are Ranch Houses, 20 percent are American Small Houses, and the remainder are Split Levels and two-story traditionals. The Colonial Revival style predominates, although other architectural styles including the Contemporary and Modern are present. Most of the houses are wood-framed with brick veneer; a distinct feature is the use of salvaged Savannah grey brick.

Development of the adjacent **Greenview** subdivision was begun by Max Hostetter in 1956, as his Fairway Oaks development was nearing completion, and continued into the early 1960s. Access to the newer subdivision, which also bordered the park and golf course, was through Fairway Oaks. Greenview features an H-shaped street layout containing 39 building lots. House types and styles are similar to those in Fairway Oaks, but the houses are larger and more architecturally elaborate. Several houses were designed by noted Savannah architects including Juan Bertoto, Carl Helfrich, Jr., and John LeBey, and at least one house was designed by a Florida architect, Mark Garrison Hampton, associated with the “Sarasota School” of contemporary design. Landscaping is informal throughout the district with open lawns and large pine and oak trees.

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources serves as Georgia’s state historic preservation office. Their mission is to promote the preservation and use of historic places for a better Georgia. HPD’s programs include archaeology protection and education, environmental review, grants, historic resource surveys, tax incentives, the National Register of Historic Places, community planning and technical assistance. For more information, call 404-656-2840 or visit their Web site at www.gashpo.org.