

**CITY OF SAVANNAH
PARK AND TREE DEPARTMENT
HEADQUARTERS**



**Waring Park, Bull Street at Victory Drive
Savannah, Georgia**

City of Savannah
Research Library & Municipal Archives
May 2006



Cover Image:

City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department Headquarters, Bull Street at Victory Drive
Photograph by Luciana Spracher, 9 May 2006
(Original image altered for cover with watercolor technique)
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

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INTRODUCTION

The City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department currently maintains their headquarters in two one-story, stone block buildings located on the northeast corner of Bull Street and Victory Drive. The buildings are located on Lots B, 2, 4, and a very small portion of Lot 6, of Southville Ward, south of Savannah's Historic and Victorian districts. The property, as well as each of the two buildings, has a unique history that can be traced through three major events: the City's designation of the property as a community park (1908); construction of the first building as a sub-station of the Savannah Police Department (1923-1924); and construction of the second building as headquarters for the Park and Tree Commission (1950-1951). The history of this property reflects: the growth of the city southwards around the turn of the 19th century to the 20th century as streetcars and automobiles encouraged the development of new neighborhoods; the importance of public parks and recreation spaces to the community; and the role of the Park and Tree Commission and the Park and Tree Department.

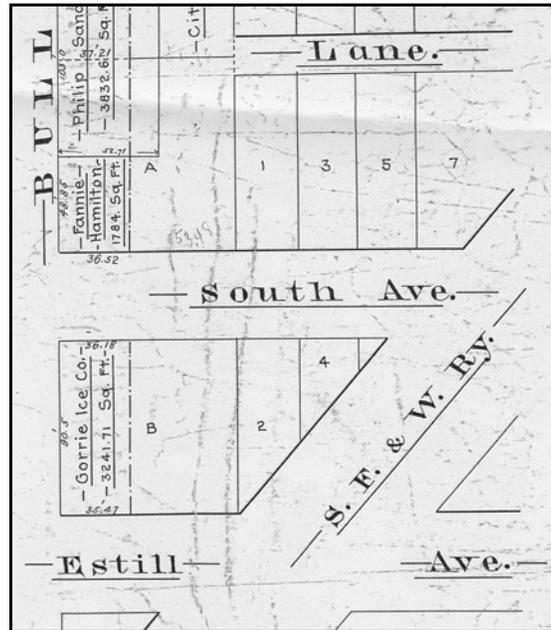


City of Savannah, Park & Tree Department Headquarters
2600-2602 Bull Street, northeast corner of Victory Drive
PIN# 2-0074-13-001
Lots B, 2, and 4, Southville Ward
Savannah, Chatham County, Georgia

Photograph by Luciana Spracher, 9 May 2006.
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia.

CITY OF SAVANNAH PURCHASE

On July 28, 1897, the Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company purchased the tract of land designated as Lots B, 2, 4, and 6, Southville Ward on the City's official map from the Savannah Investment Company.¹ According to the Savannah City Directories for 1896 and 1897, the Savannah Investment Company was located at 22 West Congress Street and C. H. Dorsett served as the Treasurer (at this time, no further information has been found on the activities of the Savannah Investment Company, nor has significant energy been expended in seeking this information). The Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company was located at 12 Provident Building and then at 42 East Bay Street. The officers of the ice company included: L. P. Hart, president; S. J. Whiteside, vice-president; S. Lapham, treasurer; and A. S. Lyons, secretary.²



“Plan for Opening Bull Street through lots in Southville Ward,”
drawn by J. W. Howard, 6 August 1897.³

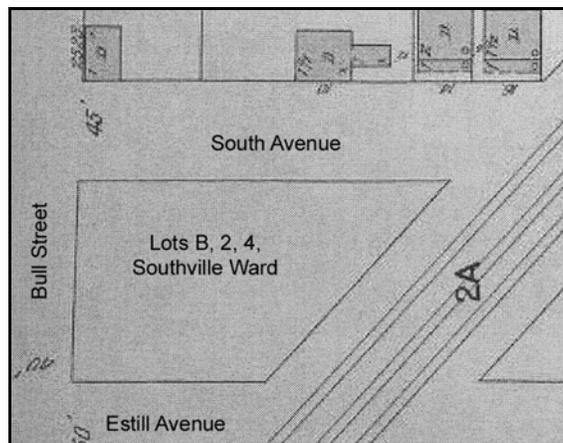
¹ The deed to this transaction can be found in Deed Book 7U-Folio 6, Chatham County, Clerk of Superior Court, Savannah, Georgia (hereafter CSC).

² Deed #322, The Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah (27 May 1899), City of Savannah, City Council Meeting Papers-Deeds, Box 0115-003-4, Folder 27, City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives (hereafter RLMA); *City Directory of Savannah, Georgia, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899*, Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, Georgia (hereafter GHS).

³ “Plan for Opening Bull Street through lots in Southville Ward,” drawn by J. W. Howard under the direction of W. J. Winn, City Engineer for Alderman Charlton, Chairman of the Committee on Opening Streets (6 August 1897), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Maps and Drawings Collection, #EW/E-305, RLMA.

Less than two weeks after the Gorrie purchase, the City of Savannah, Engineer's Office prepared a plan for extending, or opening, Bull Street through Southville Ward. The plan, dated August 6, 1897, indicates the Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company on the western end of the property against Bull Street. However, there is no indication that the ice company ever erected any buildings or improvements on the land. At the time, the lots were bounded by Bull Street on the west, South Avenue on the north, the right-of-way and tracks of the Savannah, Florida & Western Railway (S. F. & W.) on the east, and Estill Avenue on the south.⁴

Between 1884 and the mid-20th century, the Sanborn Insurance Company of New York produced insurance maps for large cities to aid adjusters in setting insurance rates. Maps available for Savannah start in 1884. However, due to its extreme southern location outside of the City's bounds, the Southville property was not included until the 1898 map. This map shows the corner lot without any improvements, though lots on the north side of South Avenue display several dwellings.⁵



Sanborn Insurance Map, Lots B, 2, 4, and 6, Southville Ward, 1898.⁶

On May 27, 1899, the Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company sold the property to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah for \$2,205.22. The City's copy of the deed, preserved in the archival collections of the Research Library & Municipal Archives, states that the property contained 11,880 square feet, more or less.⁷ However, measurements on a c.1899 plat indicate that number was closer to 8,544.1

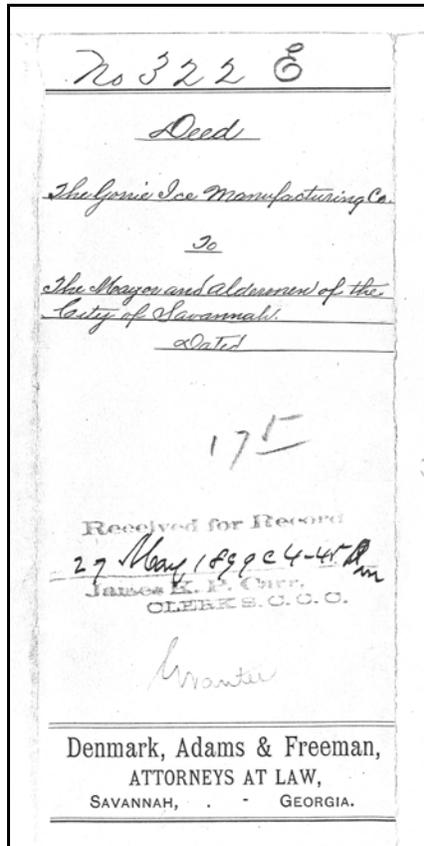
⁴ "Plan for Opening Bull Street through lots in Southville Ward."

⁵ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1898, Sheet #75 (Sanborn-Perris Map Company Limited, 1898), University of Georgia Libraries Map Collection, Athens, Georgia, presented in the Digital Library of Georgia, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanb/id:savannah_ga-1898-s-75.

⁶ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1898.

⁷ The deed to this transaction can also be found in Deed Book 8A-Folio 189, CSC.

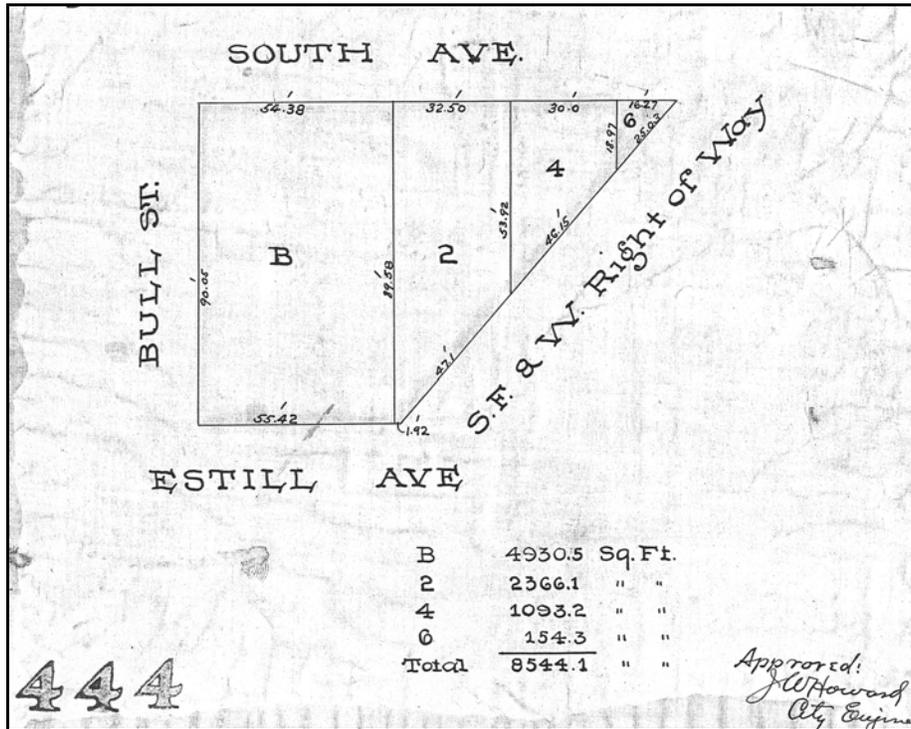
square feet (see next page). The deed conveying the property to the City was signed by Louis P. Hart, president of the Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company.⁸



Deed #322, The Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah, 27 May 1899.⁹

⁸ Deed #322, The Gorrie Ice Manufacturing Company to the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah (27 May 1899), City of Savannah, City Council Meeting Papers-Deeds, Box 0115-003-4, Folder 27, RLMA.

⁹ Deed #322.



Lots B, 2, 4 and 6, Southville Ward, prepared by the City of Savannah, Engineer's Office, approved by J. W. Howard, City Engineer, c.1899.¹⁰

¹⁰ Lots B, 2, 4, and 6, Southville Ward, approved by J. W. Howard, City Engineer (c.1899), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Maps and Drawings Collection, #EW/E-444, RLMA.

SOUTHVILLE WARD PARK

On May 6, 1908, nine years after purchasing the Southville lots, City Council passed an ordinance establishing a park on the property. This move indicated the continued growth of the city in the southern direction, making recreational space in this area now necessary. The text of the ordinance shows several changes in the vicinity of the property. The right-of-way of the S. F. & W. Railway is now that of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway (A. C. L. Railway) and South Avenue has been renamed 42nd Street. The renaming of the street is a reflection of the extension of City boundaries, taking in land formerly developed by private parties and bearing a variety of street names and layouts. Eventually, reference to the portion of Lot 6 on the property would no longer be mentioned, probably because it is almost of insignificant size. The current legal description of the property is Lots B, 2 and 4, Southville Ward.¹¹

By Alderman Entelman –

An ordinance to make a park out of the plat of ground herein described.

Section 1. Be it ordained by the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Savannah, in Council assembled, That the plat or parcel of ground in the city of Savannah known as lots B, 2, 4 and 6, Southville ward, bounded on the north by Forty-second street, on the east by the right-of-way of the Atlantic Coast Line Railway, formerly the Savannah, Florida and Western Railway, on the south by Estill avenue and on the west by Bull street, be and it is hereby set aside and designated as a public park, a plan of said public park being hereunto annexed and made a part of this ordinance.

Section 2. Be it further ordained, That all ordinances and parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed.

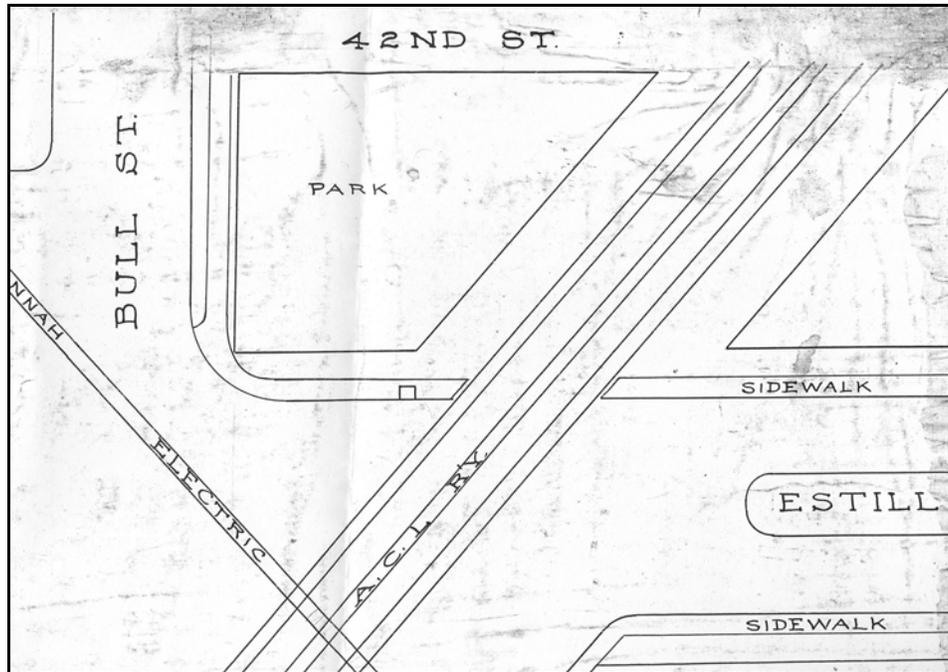
Ordinance passed May 6, 1908.¹²

Shortly after the adoption of the park ordinance, which failed to name the new park, the City Engineer's Office prepared a map of the intersection of Bull Street and Estill Avenue showing the bounds of the park as described in the ordinance. A sidewalk curved around the park from Bull Street to Estill Avenue. The tracks of the A. C. L. Railway were intersected by those of the Savannah Electric Railway,

¹¹ *Second Annual Report of Hon. Geo. W. Tiedeman, Mayor, Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia for the Year Ending December 31, 1908* (Savannah: M. S. & D. A. Byck, 1909) 383-384.

¹² *Second Annual Report of Hon. Geo. W. Tiedeman...*, 383-384.

demonstrating the development and expansion of Savannah's streetcar system and hinting at the future importance of this intersection.¹³



Southville Ward park on the northeast corner of Bull Street and Estill Avenue, c.1908.¹⁴

Once the property was designated a City park, it fell under the supervision of the Savannah Park and Tree Commission. The Park and Tree Commission preceded the City's Park and Tree Department and was established in December 1895 under Mayor Herman Myers' administration to oversee the maintenance and beautification of the City's public green spaces. The Commission became operational on January 1, 1896 with Dr. George H. Stone serving as the first chairman.¹⁵

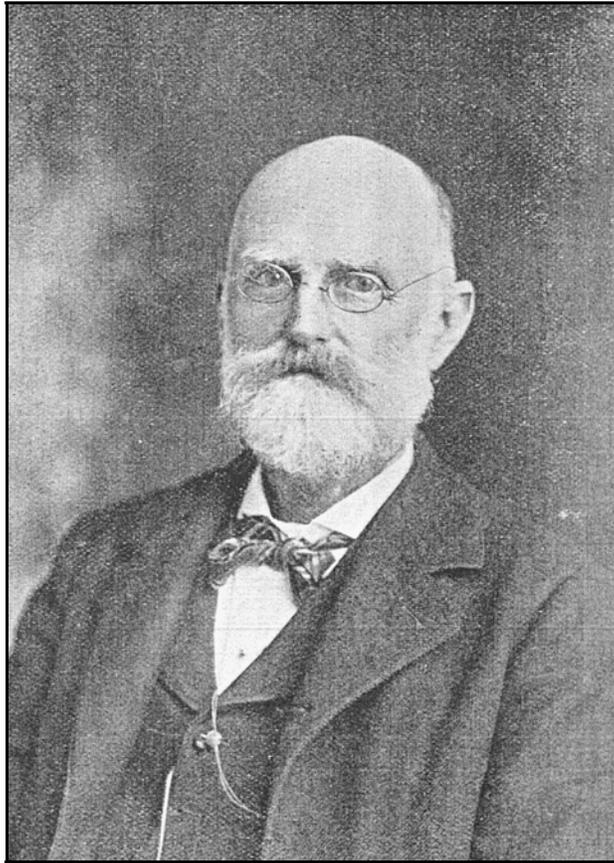
The man most associated historically with the Commission is Philip Dickinson Daffin, for whom Daffin Park is named. Daffin served as chairman of the Commission from 1898 until his death in 1929. Under his leadership, Colonial Park Cemetery was restored, the mall on Oglethorpe Avenue was established, and the historic squares were re-landscaped.¹⁶

¹³ Park at Bull Street and Estill Avenue (c.1908), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Map Collection, #EW/E-461, RLMA.

¹⁴ Park at Bull Street and Estill Avenue.

¹⁵ Dr. A. J. Waring, "Waring Tells History of Park and Tree Commission; Points Out Needs," *Savannah Morning News* (15 January 1950) J11:1.

¹⁶ "Park and Tree Commission History" (n.d.), City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department website (accessed 10 May 2006), available at <http://www.ci.savannah.ga.us/cityweb/p&twweb.nsf/950e01f292e02b9c852568ab00686f30/3bf9187a77c5d96985256c5a004a73c2?OpenDocument>.



Philip D. Daffin, Park and Tree Commission Chairman 1898-1929, 1900.¹⁷

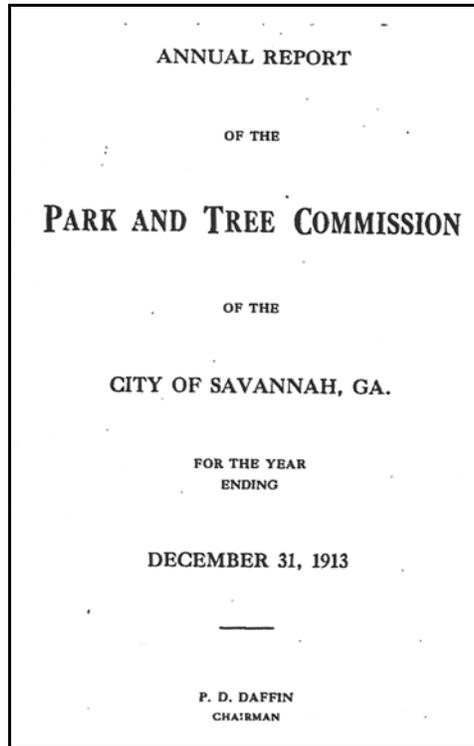
While Daffin led the commissioners, Captain William Henry “Billy” Robertson served as the superintendent overseeing the daily operations of the Park and Tree laborers from his office in City Hall. Robertson became superintendent for the Commission in 1899 after working for the Central of Georgia Railway in the auditor’s office. He remained in the superintendent position for over fifty years. It was from his suggestion and design that the lake in Daffin Park was created from a depression.¹⁸

Development, and sometimes lack of development, of the small park in Southville Ward, measuring only .17 acre, can be traced through the Commission’s annual reports, published with the Mayor’s annual report each year. Though the ordinance was passed in 1908, there was no mention of the park in the Commission’s reports until 1913. During this year, the park was listed under the Commission’s

¹⁷ *Report of Hon. Herman Myers, Mayor...of the City of Savannah, Ga., for the Year Ending December 31, 1900* (Savannah: 1901) 145.

¹⁸ “Waring Tells History of Park and Tree Commission; Points Out Needs”; Billy Parr, “Robertson Marks 50 Years in Park Board Post Today,” *Savannah Morning News* (13 May 1949), Local Reference Files: City of Savannah-Bureaus & Departments-Park & Tree, RLMA.

inventory of public grounds. The park was still unnamed. There was no further mention of landscaping or improvements completed during the 1913 year.¹⁹



Title page of Annual Report of the Park and Tree Commission, 31 December 1913.²⁰

In 1914, the Commission filled in and graded the park. In addition, the Chief Engineer curbed the north side of the park, along 42nd Street. The following year, the Commission reported a marked improvement on the property:²¹

Park at Estill Avenue and Bull Street

This park was transformed from an unsightly dumping ground into a most attractive little park.

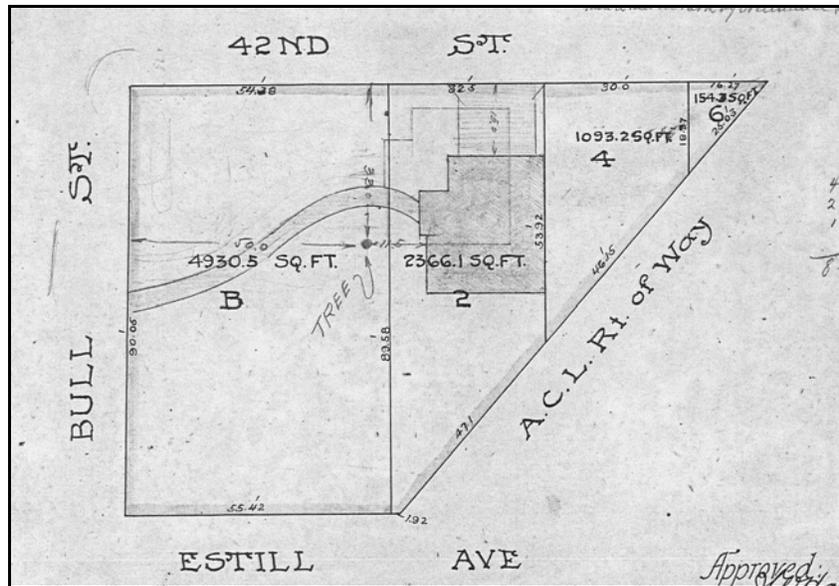
¹⁹ *Sixth Annual Report of Hon. Geo. W. Tiedeman, Mayor, Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia for the Year Ending December 31st, 1912* (Savannah: 1913) 317-318; *Messages to City Council of Hon. Richard J. Davant, Mayor Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia for the Year Ending December 31st, 1913* (Savannah: The Morning News Printers & Bookbinders, 1914) 478.

²⁰ *Messages to City Council of Hon. Richard J. Davant...1913.*

²¹ *Second Annual Message to City Council of Hon. Richard J. Davant, Mayor Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia for the Year Ending December 31, 1914* (Savannah: Commercial Lithograph & Printing Company, 1915) 305, 317; *Annual Message to City Council of Hon. Wallace J. Pierpont, Mayor Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia, Year Ending December 31, 1915* (Savannah: 1916) 310.

We have made a permanent planting of many different kinds of shrubbery so that the park will present an attractive appearance at all seasons of the year. Also planted a large specimen Live Oak tree in the center with Dogwood and Red Bud trees on the front and side.

We also planted in Italian Rye grass so that it would be pretty and green all winter.²²



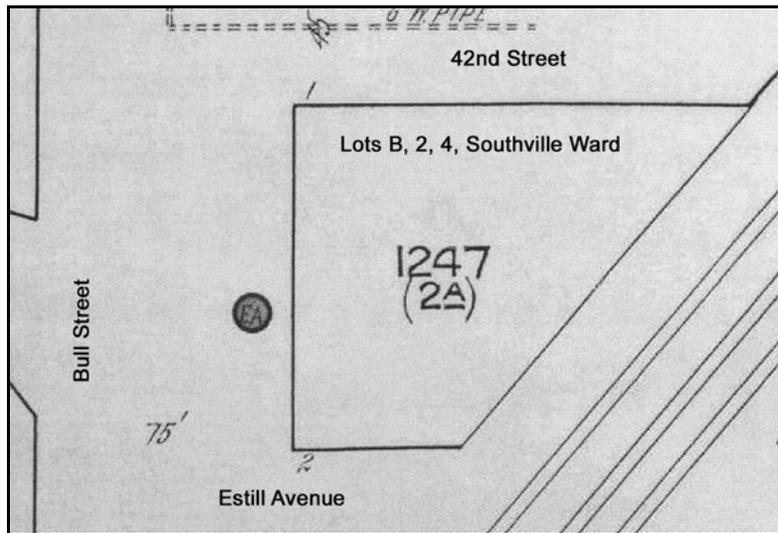
“Plan showing B, 2, 4 and 6, Southville Wd. owned by the City of Savannah,” base plan dated November 1910, pencil notations noting location of Live Oak tree undated.²³

An undated sketch of the property (c.1915-1923) indicates the placement of the Live Oak tree in the center of the park. When planning began for the new Police sub-station in the early 1920s (discussed later), the position of the tree was noted and the new building and walkway situated around it.²⁴

²² *Annual Message to City Council of Hon. Wallace J. Pierpont... 1915, 321.*

²³ “Plan Showing B, 2, 4 and 6 Southville Wd. owned by the City of Savannah” (base plan November 1910, pencil additions n.d.), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Maps and Drawings Collection, #10-08, RLMA.

²⁴ “Plan Showing B, 2, 4 and 6 Southville Wd. owned by the City of Savannah.”



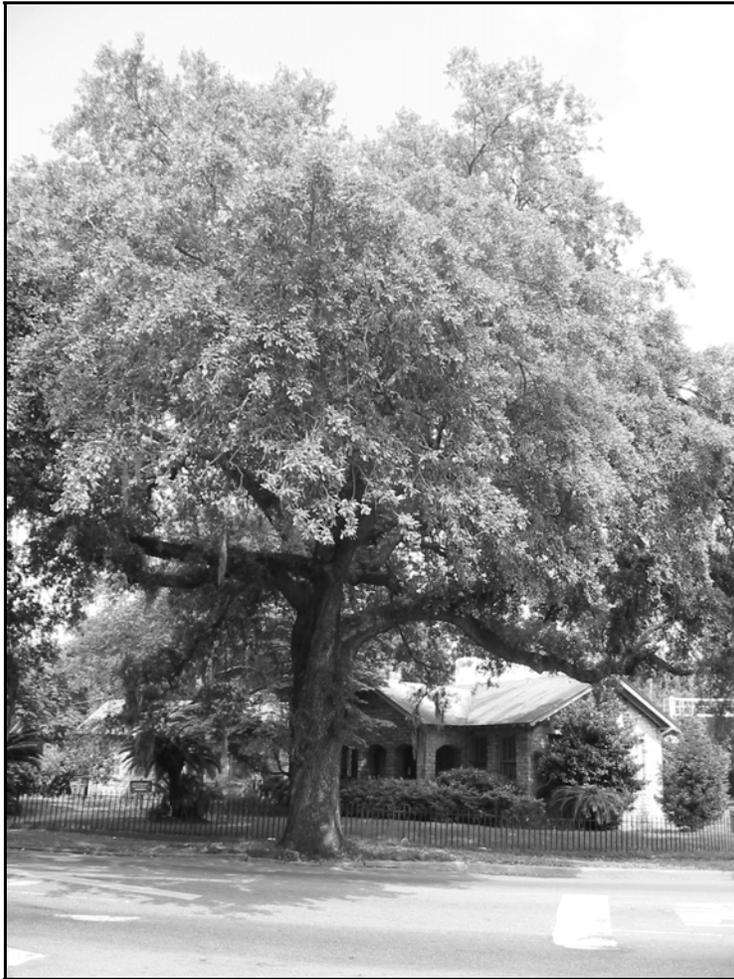
Sanborn Insurance Map, Lots B, 2, 4, and 6, Southville Ward, 1916.²⁵

During 1916, a new Sanborn Insurance Map of Savannah was published. However it does not depict landscaping or park features on any City parks or squares. The Park and Tree Commission's annual report for the year reported "the shrubbery which we planted in this park has made a splendid growth and the transformation has simply been wonderful." The 1917 report updated the progress of the plantings; "This park has been kept in good condition and the shrubbery is growing nicely, so that in a very short time it will have reached a finished state."²⁶

Unfortunately, between 1917 and 1923, there are no known annual reports for the City still in existence. In the 1923 report of the Park and Tree Commission, the Southville Ward park is no longer listed in the inventory of public grounds, probably due to the planning and construction of a new Police sub-station on this property during that year. For those without a landscaping and horticultural background, it is hard to determine what of the current plantings on the property are left over from the Park and Tree Commission's original development of this property as a community park. However, there are several large trees that may be relics of this period.

²⁵ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1916, Volume 2, Sheet #149 (Sanborn Map Company, 1916), University of Georgia Libraries Map Collection, Athens, Georgia, presented in the Digital Library of Georgia, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanb/id:savannah_ga-1976-2-s-149.

²⁶ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1916; *Annual Message...of Hon. Wallace J. Pierpont, Mayor...Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia, Year Ending December 31, 1916* (Savannah: Braid & Hutton, Printers., 1917) 360, 366; *Annual Message...of Hon. Wallace J. Pierpont, Mayor...Together with the Reports of the City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia, Year Ending December 31, 1917* (Savannah: Commercial Lithograph & Printing Co., 1918) 305, 310.



Large tree shading Park and Tree Department headquarters,
looking west across Bull Street, 9 May 2006.²⁷

²⁷ City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, photograph by Luciana Spracher (9 May 2006), RLMA.

SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENT SUB-STATION



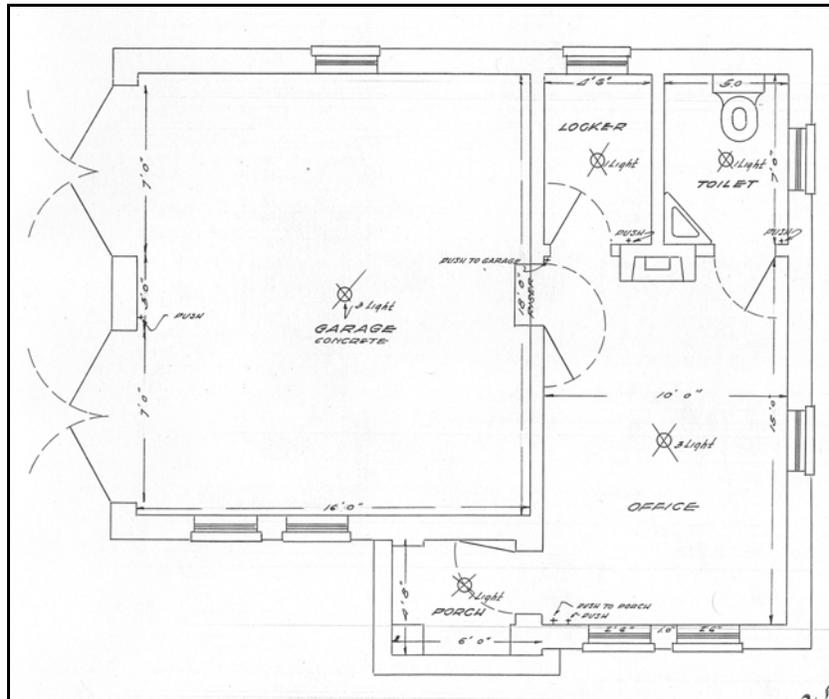
“Sub Station Savannah Police Department,” architectural rendering of proposed building, drawn by the City Engineer’s Office, September 1923.²⁸

During the year 1923, the Police Committee of City Council, composed of Aldermen Stephen N. Harris, Frank Sloat, J. P. Wheless, and Herman W. Hesse, began planning for a new Police sub-station to be located in the Southville Ward park. At the time, the Police Department had two sub-stations, one in Thomas Park and one in Grayson Park, in addition to their headquarters and jail on Habersham Street. The City Engineer’s Office prepared architectural plans for the proposed sub-station based on the use of old granite paving blocks. In the 1923 annual report of the Engineer, the cost of constructing the building was estimated at \$2,500.00. During the year, the Police Department reported an outlay of \$196.19 towards the new sub-station, probably for plans and estimates.²⁹

²⁸ “Sub Station, Savannah Police Department,” Office of City Engineer (September 1923), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Maps and Drawings Collection, #29.33b, RLMA.

²⁹ *Annual Message to City Council of Hon. Paul E. Seabrook, Mayor... Together with the Reports of City Officers of the City of Savannah, Georgia, Year Ending December 31, 1923* (Savannah: Commercial Lithograph & Printing Company, 1924) 17, 207, 214, 303.

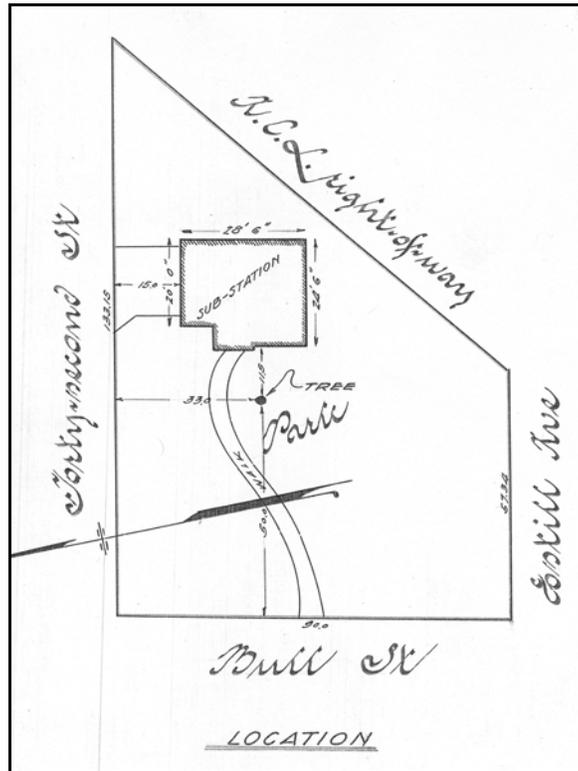
The Engineer's plans propose a small, block building with front and side gables and a slate roof (sketches on the original drawing adjust the pitch of the roof), entered through a small covered, entry porch. The building contains only four spaces: an office with a central fireplace; a locker or closet; a toilet or restroom; and a double garage accessed from a drive on 42nd Street. The final site plan seems to draw from the pencil drawings and notations on the November 1910 plan, and works around the Live Oak tree in the center of the park (see page 11).³⁰



“Sub Station Savannah Police Department,” floor plan of proposed building, drawn by the City Engineer’s Office, September 1923.³¹

³⁰ “Sub Station, Savannah Police Department.”

³¹ “Sub Station, Savannah Police Department.”



“Sub Station Savannah Police Department,” site plan of proposed building, drawn by the City Engineer’s Office, September 1923.³²

At the City Council meeting of January 9, 1924, the resolution of the Committee on Police calling for the construction of the new Police sub-station was approved and Park and Tree Commission Superintendent Robertson was authorized to oversee the building’s erection. The resolution approved an expenditure not to exceed \$2,500.00. The sub-station was completed by the end of 1924 and in use by the Police Department by 1925. Referred to as Sub Station No. 1, it replaced an earlier sub-station and joined Sub Station No. 2, located at 915 Ott Street. By 1930, the Police Department had added a third sub-station on the Westside.³³

³² “Sub Station, Savannah Police Department.”

³³ Official Proceedings of Council (9 January 1924) 231, City of Savannah, Clerk of Council’s Office, Savannah, Georgia (hereafter COC); *City Directories of Savannah, Georgia, 1924, 1925, 1930*, GHS.



Police sub-station building, 9 May 2006.³⁴

At the time the new sub-station was opened, the Police Department, organized in its current form in 1865, consisted of:

One Commissioner of Police, Five Lieutenants, Six sergeants, one Quartermaster Sergeant, patrolmen mounted on horses 16, patrolmen mounted on motors 12, patrolmen mounted on bicycles 2, foot patrolmen 81, 2 clerks.

The Detective Force consists of one Chief of Detectives, One Serveant [Sergeant], One Clerk and 9 privates.

The Woman's division consists of one police woman, 2 matrons (white) one matron (colored).

The equipment of the Department (not including arms and miscellaneous supplies) consists of the following: one patrol wagon, one ambulance (white) one ambulance (colored) 9 motor cycles, 13 service automobiles: of the total value of \$7,850, 18 horses of the value of \$2700, and 2 bicycles.³⁵

Around the same time planning began for the sub-station, Estill Avenue was renamed Victory Drive. The new State highway from Thunderbolt to Tybee Island was named Victory Drive as a memorial to the soldiers of World War I. Estill Avenue,

³⁴ City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, photograph by Luciana Spracher (9 May 2006), RLMA.

³⁵ "Report of the Committee of Council on the Police Department" (28 April 1925), City of Savannah, City Council Meeting Papers-Police, Box 0115-001-A197, POL5, Folder 38, RLMA.

a City road, and then Dale Avenue, a County road, connected with the State highway as one traveled east towards the islands. After a petition from local property owners was submitted to Council, City Council passed an ordinance on April 5, 1922 renaming Estill Avenue to Victory Drive. The name Estill Avenue persisted for a while, as evidenced in the September 1923 site plan for the sub-station, but by 1924, Estill Avenue was commonly known and referred to as Victory Drive.³⁶



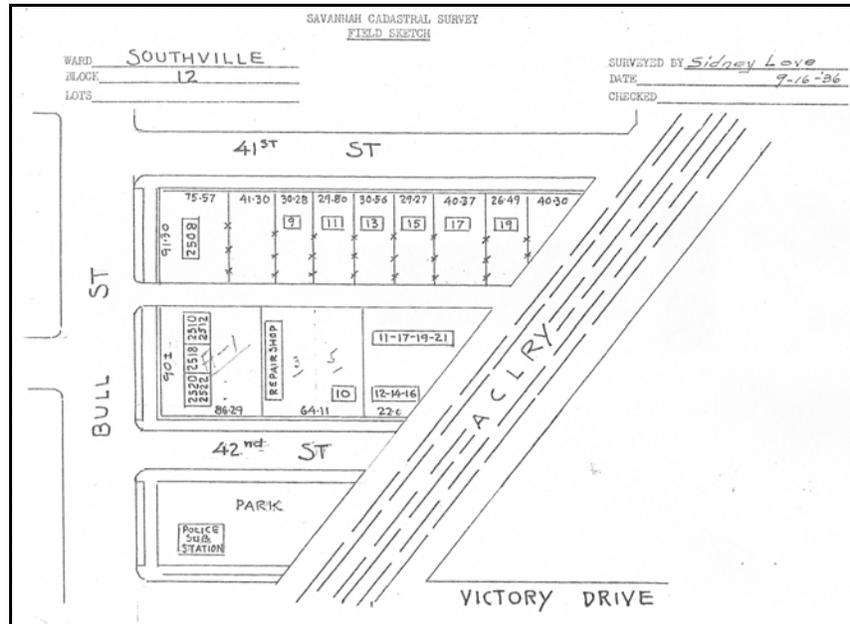
Police sub-station in Southville Ward park (in background below large tree), looking northeast from the intersection of Victory Drive and Bull Street, n.d.³⁷

The Southville Ward sub-station was only used by the Police Department for approximately ten years. By the mid-1930s, with a force 128 men strong, the Police headquarters building was considered too small and inadequate. The Police Committee inspected the headquarters building after criticism of the Rotary Club and began to plan renovations to improve the property. The City improved and expanded the headquarters under a Federal Works Progress Administration program, more than doubling the square footage and adding a new City jail. The \$100,000 improvement was completed in the fall of 1937. It has not been confirmed if the closing of the sub-

³⁶ Dorothy H. Stewart, "The Monuments and Fountains of Savannah," a Report on the Internship for the Savannah Park & Tree Department and the Department of History, Armstrong State College (Savannah: June 1993) 464-465, 471.

³⁷ Victory Street at Bull Street (n.d.), VM 1360 Cordray-Foltz Photograph Collection, Box 11, Folder 5, Item 3, GHS.

station in Southville Ward was directly related to the expansion of the headquarters or not.³⁸



Savannah Cadastral Survey, Southville Ward, Block 12, surveyed by Sidney Love, 16 September 1936.³⁹

By the time the Savannah Cadastral Survey, a project of the Chatham County Works Progress Administration, surveyed the lots in Southville Ward in 1936, the Police sub-station had been abandoned. Sidney Love’s survey of the lots indicates the location of the building in the park, though the physical location of the building is placed too far south on the property. W. P. A. worker O. C. Powell returned on November 4, 1936 and surveyed the building, referring to it as “Old Police Sub Station.” Powell describes the building in good condition.⁴⁰

³⁸ “Police Forces as Law Assets,” *Savannah Morning News* (23 April 1933) from Vertical File: Police Department, GHS; “City to Improve Police Property,” *Savannah Morning News* (20 November 1934) 12:1 from *Savannah Morning News Index, June 1929-February 1936*, GHS; David LaGrange, *Celebrating 200 Years of Service* (Paducah, KY: Turner Publishing Company, 2000) 30; “Police Started Patrolling 1793,” *Savannah Morning News* (13 October 1937) 2:1 from Vertical Files: Savannah-Police Department (1930-1939), Bull Street Branch, Live Oak Public Libraries, Savannah, Georgia.

³⁹ Savannah Cadastral Survey, W.P.A. of GA. Chatham County: Southville Ward, Lots B-2-4 (16 September 1936, 4 November 1936), CSC.

⁴⁰ Savannah Cadastral Survey.

WARD **SOUTHVILLE** SAVANNAH CADASTRAL SURVEY SURVEYED BY **O. C. POWELL**
 LOT No. **B-2-4** HOUSE No. _____ W.P.A. OF GA. DATE **11-4-1936**
 ADDRESS **42nd & BULL ST** BLOCK **12** CHATHAM COUNTY CHECKED BY _____
OLD POLICE SUB STATION

TYPE **POLICE STATION** STORIES **1** CONDITION **GOOD** USE Base 1st **X** 2nd _____
 OCCUPANTS: W _____ C _____ O _____

FOUNDATION	Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unpainted		ATTIC WINDOWS	Wd. Frame	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Conc.		Painted			Met. Frame	
	Conc. Blk.		Plain			Ord. Glass	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Brick		Ornamental			Plate Glass	
BASE	Wood		Wood		INTERIOR	Casement	
	Piers		Brick			Yes	
	Walls	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	None	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gable			Plumbing	
EXT. WALLS	Part.		Hip		ROOF	Lighting	
	Full		Mansard			Segment	
	Conc. Floor		Flat			Rooms	
	Frame		Gambrel				
ROOF MATERIALS	Com. Brick		Shed		REMARKS		
	Com. Br. Ven.		Segment				
	Face Br. Ven.						
	Stucco Wd.						
	Stucco Met.						
	Kellastone						
	Cut Stone	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>					
	Field Stone						
	Iron Sheet						
	Cor. Iron						
Sheathing							

FIELD SKETCH Improvements
 141.20
 12.50
 6.0
 18.5
 26.5
 64.25
 BULL ST
 VICTORY DRIVE
 HOUSE = 10.0
 FOUND. = 2.0
 NOTE: North end of lot to top.

Description of Out Buildings: _____
 Remarks: _____

Savannah Cadastral Survey, Southville Ward, Block 12, Lots B-2-4, surveyed by O. C. Powell, 4 November 1936.⁴¹



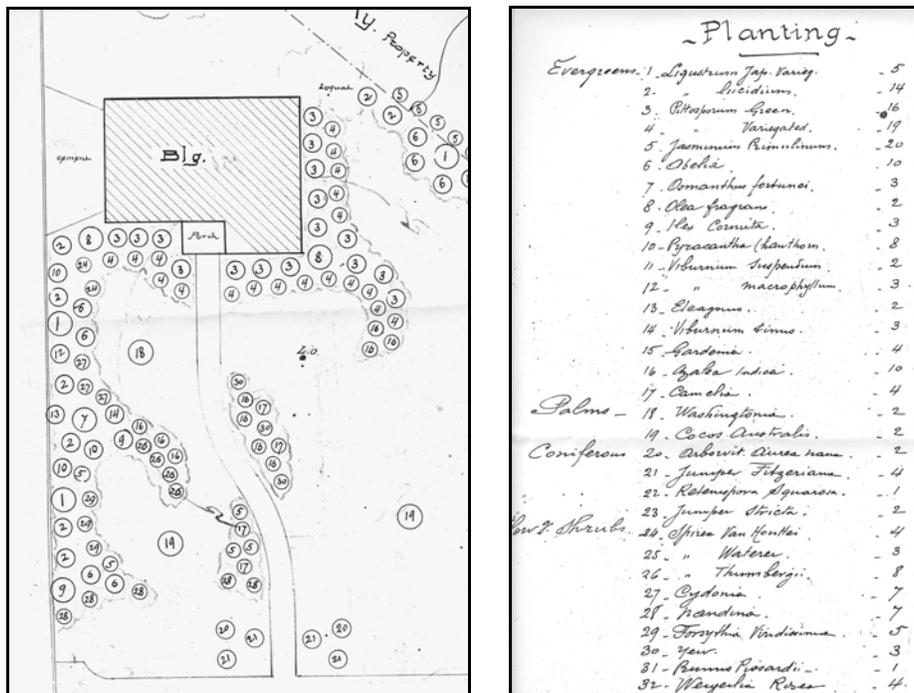
Police sub-station building showing decorative wood rafters and slate roof, 9 May 2006.⁴²

⁴¹ Savannah Cadastral Survey.

⁴² City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, photograph by Luciana Spracher (9 May 2006), RLMA.

PARK & TREE COMMISSION SUBURBAN OFFICE

While the available Savannah City Directories list the old Police sub-station building vacant for much of the late 1930s and 1940s, a 1936 landscape plan for the park drawn for the Park and Tree Commission indicates that the Commission was either maintaining a “suburban office” in the old Police sub-station, or was proposing to do so. The plan, drawn by George Bignault, Jr., an employee of the Commission and landscape architect, shows various species of plants with their location and total number, including evergreens, palms, flowers and shrubs. The live oak tree in the center of the park continues to be a focal point.⁴³



“Suburban Office of the Park & Tree Commission, Bull & Victory Drive, near Chatham Crescent & Ardsley Park,” plan and plantings, prepared by George Bignault, Jr., landscape architect, for the Park & Tree Commission, 1936.⁴⁴

⁴³ “Suburban Office of the Park & Tree Commission, Bull & Victory Drive, near Chatham Crescent & Ardsley Park,” drawn by Bignault, landscape architect for the Park & Tree Commission (1936), City of Savannah, Engineering Department, Retrospective Maps and Drawings Collection, #XJ-27, RLMA; *City Directory of Savannah, Georgia, 1937*, GHS.

⁴⁴ “Suburban Office of the Park & Tree Commission...”

William H. Robertson, Park and Tree Commission superintendent continued to maintain offices in City Hall. However, it seems likely that the Southville Ward park building was used by the Commission for miscellaneous purposes, including making it available to the community. During the years 1937 and 1938, local Boy Scout Troop No. 11 met in the building. The next occupant of the building documented through the City directories was Marvin Hulst Mead who maintained an entomological laboratory there in 1950.⁴⁵

PARK AND TREE COMMISSION SAVANNAH, GEORGIA			
INSECT RECORD			
No.			No.
Order	Family		
Genus	Sex		
Number of Imago, Nymph, Larvae, Pupa, Cocoon, Ovo Taken:	Species		
Date	Time:		
Collectors Name:			No.
Collectors Assistants:			
Locality:			Map No. Route No.
Method of Capture: On the Wing, At Light, At Sugar, On Flowers.			
Resting Head Up, or Head Down, on Upperside, or Underside, Name of Object on which it was taken:			
Weather:			
Injurious:	Beneficial:		
Pollenizers:	Soil Builders:		
Source of Identification:			
Collection: Specimen No.		Other Citations of back of this Record	
Imago: Feeding Habit Sucks	Chews	Exhibit No.	Case No.
Deposited	Diurnally, Nocturnally	No. of Ovo Deposited by Female	Diurnal Nocturnal
Ovo: Hatch	No. of Ovo Taken		
Larva: Feeds by Sucking on Upperside of Leaf,	By Day or Night		
Nymph: Feeds by Chewing on Underside of Leaf	Sucking on Upperside of Leaf		
Ovo: Hatched Day	Night	Days to First Molt	
Days to Second Molt		Days to Third Molt	
Days to Fourth Molt		Days to Full Grown	
Days to Pupa, Cocoon,		Days to Imago	
Days to Death		First Second Third Brood	
Number of Legs on Larva—or Nymph—True Legs Pro Legs Anal Foot			
Bores in Tree, Shrub, Plants, Grass, Under Bark, Sprouts, Stalks, Roots, Leaves, Buds, Fruit, Nuts, Seed Pods, Seed, Grain.			
Mines, Galleries Between Upper and Under Surface of Leaf Tissue			
Linear, Serpentine, Trumpet Mines, Blotch Mines, Tentiform Mines, Leaf Rollers.			
Name of Animal Host:			
Insect Host:			
Botanical Host:			
Fungi Lichens Host:			
No. of Insecticide:			
Prepared by Marvin H. Mead.			

Park and Tree Commission Insect Record, prepared by Marvin H. Mead, c.1943-1947.⁴⁶

Entomology is the department of zoology that studies insects. Mead came to Savannah from New Jersey with Henry Ford, who was interested in raising silk worms on his Richmond Hill plantation. Mead became an employee of the Park and Tree Commission in 1943 and was in charge of the City's entomological lab. He resigned his position with the City in 1947. It is likely that he had maintained a laboratory in the park building while working for the Commission and was allowed to remain there after

⁴⁵ *Savannah City Directories, 1937, 1938, 1950, 1951*, GHS.

⁴⁶ Park and Tree Commission, Savannah, Georgia, Insect Record, Prepared by Marvin H. Mead (c.1943-1947), MS 5600PC-13 City of Savannah, Park and Tree Commission Records, Box 1, Folder 13, GHS.

his employment ended. Mead, crippled from infantile paralysis, died on March 1, 1950 from injuries sustained from a fall from a specially built tricycle which he used to get around town. The *Savannah Morning News*' obituary spoke highly of his character and interest in entomology:

*A familiar and well-known figure locally, Mr. Mead had a collection of more than 20,000 insects, which he had collected during the years since 1898. He was a deeply religious man, and considered all living things, including the insects which he studied, creatures of God, created as part of His plan for the universe.*⁴⁷



Park and Tree Commission.

Park and Tree Commission letterhead displaying City seal, c.1950.⁴⁸

Shortly thereafter, the Park and Tree Commission moved out of City Hall and established permanent offices in the old Police sub-station building. On May 5, 1950, Mayor Olin F. Fulmer announced at a City Council meeting that the Civil Service Board would take over their old quarters in City Hall. The following month, City Council approved a resolution allowing for an appropriation of \$2,500.00 to be used for the renovation of the old sub-station and the construction of a second building for use as an office and meeting room of the Park and Tree Commission.⁴⁹

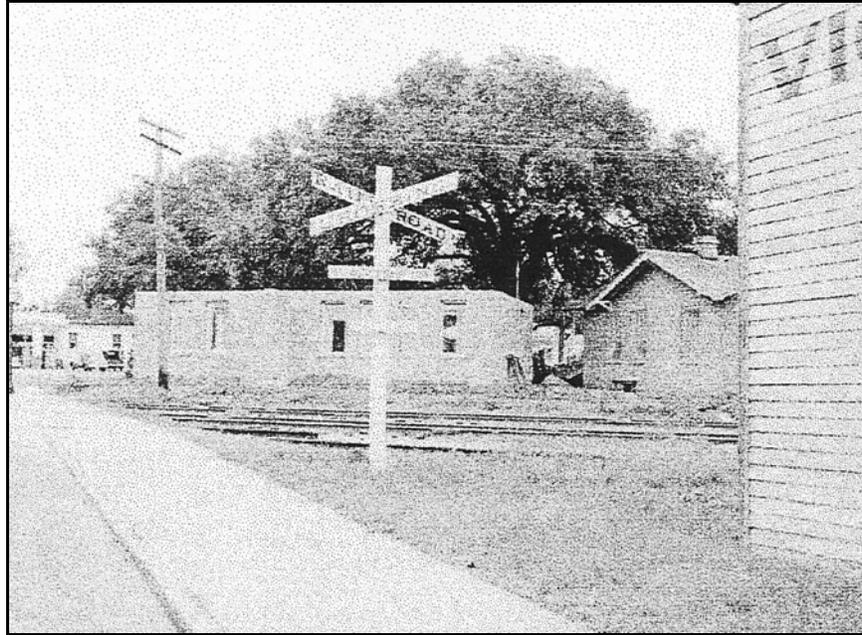
At the time, the Commission was over fifty years old and was “one of the oldest park boards in the South.” Dr. A. J. Waring, Sr. was now the chairman, with Joseph H. Harrison vice-chair. Captain Robertson was still faithfully serving as superintendent. Since establishment of the Southville Ward park, Victory Drive was lined with about 600 palmettos and 1,500 azaleas through the work of the Commission. A special article in the local paper on the Commission’s history as of

⁴⁷ “Fall Proves Fatal to Marvin H. Mead, Local Entomologist,” *Savannah Morning News* (2 March 1950) 8:1.

⁴⁸ Park and Tree Commission, Savannah, Georgia, blank envelope (n.d.), MS 5600PC-13 City of Savannah, Park and Tree Commission Records, Box 1, Folder 13, GHS.

⁴⁹ Official Proceedings of Council (5 May 1950) 12, (2 June 1950) 24D, COC; “Frieda A. Struck, Clerk, Park & Tree Commission, to Mrs. A. R. Daniel, Ocean Motors, Inc.” (6 November 1950), MS 5600PC-12 City of Savannah, Park and Tree Commission Records, Box 22, Folder 15, GHS; “Retirement of Robertson is Announced,” *Savannah Morning News* (30 December 1955), Local Reference Files: City of Savannah-Bureaus & Departments-Park & Tree, RLMA.

1950 declared, “There is a continuity about the work of the Park and Tree Commission that makes for steady progress only interrupted by lack of funds.”⁵⁰



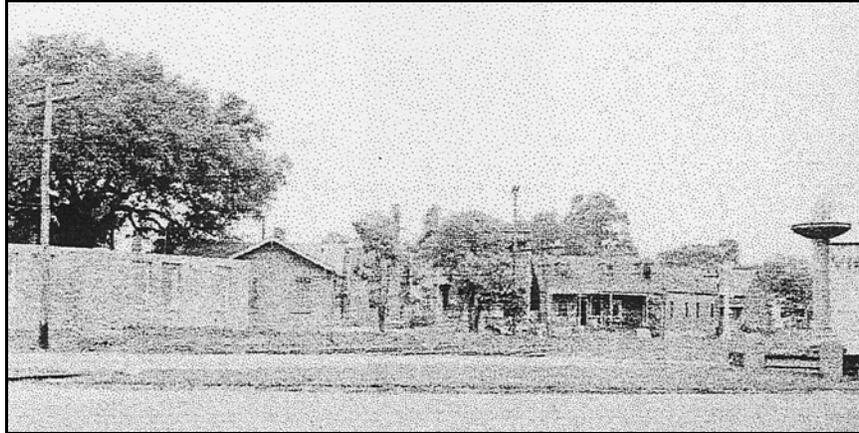
Park and Tree Commission building under construction,
looking west from Victory Drive towards Bull Street, c.1950-1951⁵¹

Work on the second building began in 1950 and was completed in 1951, spanning about fifteen months. Dr. Waring is credited with much of the work in seeing the construction project through completion. The new building was situated south of the old sub-station and was placed along an angle following the edge of the property along the railway tracks. It was built of Belgian block and closely matches the 1923-1924 building, with similar decorative eaves and arched porch openings. The new building was intended to serve as a meeting place for the Commission, as well for local garden groups. Plans to maintain a library with specimens of fauna and flora were also proposed at the time the building was occupied in the fall of 1951.⁵²

⁵⁰ “Waring Tells History of Park and Tree Commission; Points Out Needs”; Billy Parr.

⁵¹ Park & Tree Commission building under construction (n.d.), VM 1360 Cordray-Foltz Photograph Collection, Box 11, Folder 5, Item 5, GHS.

⁵² Frank Rossiter, “City Beat,” *Savannah Morning News* (28 October 1951) 24:3.



Park and Tree Commission building under construction (far left), looking northeast from Victory Drive, just east of Bull Street, c.1950-1951.⁵³



Park and Tree Commission building showing decorative wood rafters, 9 May 2006.⁵⁴

On October 8, 1951, Dr. Waring died at the age of 70, after suffering a long illness. Vice-chairman Joseph Harrison assumed leadership of the Commission and on October 11th called a meeting during which it was suggested by Superintendent Robertson, and approved by the Commission members, that the new building be dedicated as a memorial to the late chairman. Funds for beautifying the landscape of

⁵³ Victory Street at Bull Street (n.d.), VM 1360 Cordray-Foltz Photograph Collection, Box 11, Folder 5, Item 7, GHS.

⁵⁴ City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, photograph by Luciana Spracher (9 May 2006), RLMA.

the park were obtained through donations to the Park and Tree Commission in memory of Dr. Waring after the family requested no flowers be sent to his funeral.⁵⁵



Dr. Antonio J. Waring, Sr., n.d.⁵⁶

City Council approved the following resolution, finally naming the Southville Ward park in honor of Dr. A. J. Waring, on November 2, 1951:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Savannah in Council Assembled, and it is resolved by authority thereof;

That Whereas Dr. Antonio J. Waring, while in life, was one of Savannah's leading citizens, who was intensely interested in the affairs of his community, and

Whereas, the late DR. ANTONIO J. WARING contributed greatly to the beautification of the parks and streets of the City of Savannah in his official capacity as Chairman of the Park and Tree Commission, and spared neither time nor effort in that direction, and continued this great work even while ill, and up to the time of his death, and

Whereas, the City of Savannah will forever be grateful to his memory,

Now, Therefore, in order that the works and deeds of this beloved citizen will be immortalized, the triangular plot of land at the entrance of Victory Drive and Bull

⁵⁵ "Dr. A. J. Waring, Prominent Civic Leader, Succumbs," *Savannah Morning News* (9 October 1951) from Biography Files: Waring, GHS; Minutes of the Park & Tree Commission (11 October 1951), MS 5600PC-10 City of Savannah, Park and Tree Commission Records, Box 2, Folder 5, GHS; Frank Rossiter.

⁵⁶ "Dr. A. J. Waring, Prominent Civic Leader, Succumbs."

Street is hereby dedicated and designated as the "WARING PARK," and that a suitable plaque be placed in said park....⁵⁷

In December, Dr. Waring's widow, Sue Winburn Waring, expressed her thanks for naming the park at Victory Drive and Bull Street in her husband's honor through a note to City Council. Dr. Waring's obituary published in the *Savannah Morning News* highlighted his work with the Park and Tree Commission and dedication to Savannah's parks and historic squares:⁵⁸

Dr. Waring had achieved a prominent place in medical circles, having first practiced here as a general practitioner and later became a specialist in the field of pediatrics. He graduated from Yale University and later from the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia, and after serving his internship, returned to Savannah, his native home, where he practiced until recent months....

Dr. Waring was chairman of the Park and Tree Commission and devoted years, not only in this capacity, but as a private citizen, crusading for preservation of historic landmarks and for the beautification of Savannah. He was an ardent supporter of preservation of Savannah's unique squares, frequently made protests against destruction of old buildings of historic interest and urged restoration of downtown areas where commercial inroads were changing their character.

He took an active part in the Society for Preservation of Landmarks when it was in existence, and in recent months was an active member of the group who protested carrying traffic through the squares. He spoke frequently before organizations devoted to civic improvement and future planning and maintained the city should expand rather than sacrifice its unique city plan and its recreation areas.

It was in 1937 Dr. Waring was appointed to the Park and Tree Commission by the late Mayor R. M. Hitch, and he was reappointed in 1940 for a term of six years by the late Mayor Thomas Gamble. In 1938 he was named vice chairman of the commission and was elected chairman in 1945 after the death of Edmund H. Abrahams....⁵⁹

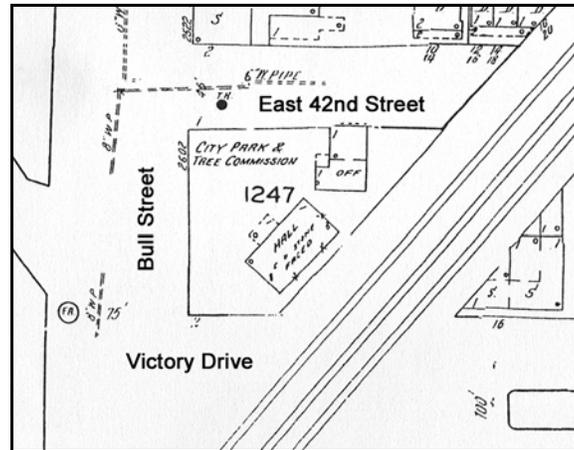
The work of the Park and Tree Commission continued from the Waring Park headquarters under Chairman Harrison and Superintendent Robertson. The 1954 Sanborn Insurance Map showed the new building's location on the park property

⁵⁷ Official Proceedings of Council (2 November 1951) 287, COC.

⁵⁸ "Dr. A. J. Waring, Prominent Civic Leader, Succumbs"; Official Proceedings of Council (14 December 1951) 305, COC.

⁵⁹ "Dr. A. J. Waring, Prominent Civic Leader, Succumbs."

labeled “City Park & Tree Commission.” The new building was marked as a “Hall,” in a one story, stone faced structure.⁶⁰



Sanborn Insurance Map, Lots B, 2, 4, and 6, Southville Ward, 1954.⁶¹

Following the transition of the City of Savannah from a weak-mayor to a council-manager form of government in 1954, the Park and Tree Commission became an advisory commission to the City Manager and City Council, and the day-to-day operations of maintaining the public spaces of the City was assumed by the Park and Tree Department. Since that time, the two stone block buildings in Waring Park have been maintained as the headquarters of the Park and Tree Department, and from here the department work towards its mission “to ensure that historic and passive parks are maintained in an aesthetically pleasing and structurally perfect condition. Also, to ensure the municipal forest is free of structural failure and disease and provides 50% shade coverage over city property.”⁶²

⁶⁰ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1954, Volume 2, Sheet #149 (Sanborn Map Company, 1954), GHS.

⁶¹ Sanborn Map Company, Insurance Maps of Savannah, Georgia, 1954.

⁶² “Park and Tree Commission History”; “Park and Tree Department” (n.d.), City of Savannah, Services website (accessed 10 May 2006), available at <http://www.ci.savannah.ga.us/cityweb/services.nsf/c513672410d492e785256ae1004fe9c7/a958870c6a6659fe85256ae1005362d4?OpenDocument>.



City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, 9 May 2006.⁶³

⁶³ City of Savannah, Park and Tree Department headquarters, photograph by Luciana Spracher (9 May 2006), RLMA.

APPENDIX: CITY DIRECTORY LISTINGS

The following list of occupants was compiled by sampling the Savannah City Directories (housed at the Georgia Historical Society and the Bull Street Branch Library, Live Oak Public Libraries) around key dates and then approximately every five years (as available) from the time the Police sub-station was constructed in Southville Ward park.

<i>year</i>	<i>street # on Bull Street</i>	<i>occupant</i>
1923	--	No listing at address
1924	--	No listing at address
1925	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 13 [Police Sub Station No. 2, 915 Ott Street; Police Headquarters, Oglethorpe Street at Habersham Street]
1926	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 13
1927	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 13
1928	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 13
1929	--	Directory not available
1930	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 5641
1931	--	Directory not available
1932	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 5641
1933	--	Directory not available
1934	2602	Police Sub Station No. 1, telephone 5641
1935	--	Directory not available
1936	2602	Listed "vacant"
1937	2602	Boy Scouts, Troop 11
1938	2602	Boy Scout Headquarters
1939	--	No listing at address
1940	--	No listing at address
1941	--	No listing at address
1942	--	No listing at address
1943	--	Directory not available
1944	--	Directory not available
1945	--	Directory not available
1946	--	Directory not available

APPENDIX: CITY DIRECTORY LISTINGS

<i>1947-1948</i>	--	No listing at address
<i>1949</i>	--	Directory not available
<i>1950</i>	2602	Entomological Laboratory (Marvin H. Mead)
<i>1951</i>	2600-2602	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1952</i>	2600-2602	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1953</i>	--	Directory not available
<i>1954</i>	2600-2602	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1955</i>	2600-2602	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1960</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1965</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1970</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1975</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1980</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1985</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1990</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>1995</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>2000</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission
<i>2005</i>	2600	City Park & Tree Commission

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**CHATHAM COUNTY, CLERK OF SUPERIOR COURT,
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Hunnicut Property Record Card: PIN #2-0074-13-001.

W.P.A. of Georgia, Chatham County. Savannah Cadastral Survey:
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CHATHAM COUNTY, TAX ASSESSOR'S OFFICE, SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Property Record Card: PIN #2-0074-13-001.

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Vertical Files: Police Department.