

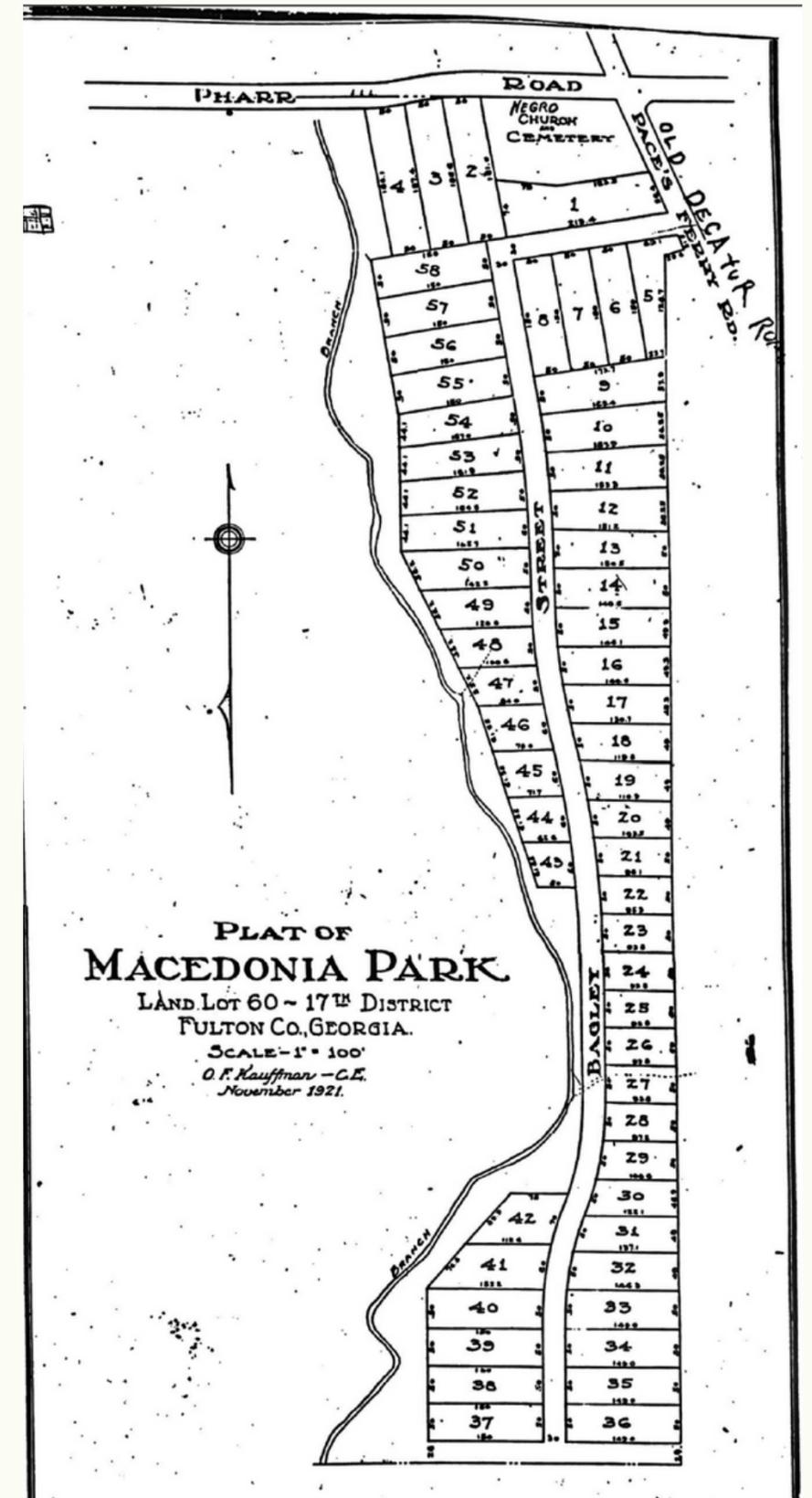
RESEARCH UPDATE #2: BAGLEY PARK (CONT.)

Prepared for the Fulton County
Reparations Task Force by Olivia Reneau

Sept. 8, 2022

THE FINAL STRETCH

- Bagley Park Revisited
- Previous Unknowns
- Findings
- New Unknowns
- Roadblocks
- Looking to Wrap



Bagley/Macedonia Park History Review

Macedonia Park was a historically Black, formerly unincorporated residential area in Buckhead

Bagley Park, renamed for William Bagley, a prominent Black refugee from Forsyth County, sustained between 300 and 400 residents at its height

Due to petitioning from Garden Hills Women's Club in the 1940s/1950s, County Commissioners voted to condemn the neighborhood to make a park

Residents of Bagley Park were expelled/displaced, and Bagley Park was a green spaces by the mid-1950s

PREVIOUS UNKNOWNNS

- Were surrounding white neighborhoods, like Garden Hills, on county water?
 - Could the county have extended water/sewage services to Bagley Park? Was this alternative offered? How much would it have cost to do so?
 - Were concerns over water and sewage legitimate? Is there repeat documentation from various entities in Fulton County?
 - Why did Fulton County prioritize the interests of the Garden Hills Women's Club? Was there a social or financial connection between the two entities?
 - Why would the city buy houses in a condemnation area only to attempt to sell them?
 - For property owners, what was the difference between the assessed and market values of their homes?
 - Can we determine the outcome of Bagley Park residents after their displacement?
-

PREVIOUS UNKNOWNNS EXAMINED

- Were surrounding white neighborhoods, like Garden Hills, on county water? **It appears so, plat maps from 1925 include proposed water and sewage lines**
 - Were concerns over water and sewage legitimate? Is there repeat documentation from various entities in Fulton County? **Yes, but the county diverged from the precedent set in adjacent neighborhoods to penalize Bagley Park residents**
 - Could the county have extended water/sewage services to Bagley Park? Was this alternative offered? How much would it have cost to do so? **It does not appear that there was any reason to not do so, save for the GHWC's vocal hatred for the community**
 - Why did Fulton County prioritize the interests of the Garden Hills Women's Club? **The Northside Women's Club commanded significant socio-political on the Northside and may have some familial ties to County Commissioners**
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UNKNOWNNS (CONT.)

- Why would the city buy houses in a condemnation area only to attempt to sell them?
The county may have declared the land as surplus, but there is no documentation of attempts to do so by county commissioners. *This may have been in violation of the law.*
 - For property owners, what was the difference between the assessed and market values of their homes? **Unclear**
 - Can we determine the outcome of Bagley Park residents after their displacement?
Unclear
-

IGNORED AND NEGLECTED BY FULTON COUNTY

Fulton County Commissioners repeatedly demonstrated favor for white subdivisions in the surrounding area of the 17th District

July 3, 1940

Regular meeting of the Fulton County Board of Health was held in the commissioners' room July 3 at 10 a.m. Dr. T. Boling Gay presided with all members of the board present.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The attached ordinance governing the sale of milk and milk products was unanimously passed.

The motion was made and passed that the superintendant of the North Fulton Park be notified that the Board of Health recommends that a sign be placed at the open spring to acquaint the public with the fact that the water is unsafe for drinking purposes since the hillside has been fertilized with sludge from the sewage plant. It was further recommended that a drinking fountain be placed on the platform at the spring and to be supplied with water from the regular main cooled by running through a coil placed in the spring.

The name of Miss Margaret Reeves was submitted and approved for addition to the public health nursing staff.

The health officer was directed to have vouchers prepared for payment of members of the County Board of Health for all meetings that have been held during the year 1940.

Motion was passed that Dr. J.T. Godwin be given \$30.00 per month for travel, his salary to be paid by the State Department of Public Health.

A delegation composed of Mr. H.C. Young, 446 Brentwood Dr., Mr. Huey of the same section and Mr. W.J. Cordes of 1115 Lulwater Rd., (representing a client who lives in the same section as Mr. Young and Mr. Huey) appeared before the board with the request that the board take some action regarding the unusual and deplorable sanitary facilities existing in the Negro territory in what is known as Bagley Park. The delegation was informed that the situation had already been investigated by one of the public health engineers. After a general discussion of the problem and possible means of solution the Board of Health requested the Health Department and County Attorney to make joint recommendation as to the most feasible manner of handling this problem.

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The name of Mr. J. W. Lemon who meets the requirements of a sanitary engineer in public work was submitted for a position as sanitary engineer in Fulton County Health Department. He was nominated for this position and began work on August 19, 1940.

A delegation of residents from the Buckhead section appeared before the Board of Health complaining of the sanitary condition of Bagley Park, a negro section in Buckhead. In this connection Mr. Newton reported that all the wells in this section showed contamination.

On motion of Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Almand, and carried that the health department make a survey of this entire section and have the unsanitary conditions corrected by having the wells meet the requirements of the regulations and also that pit privies be installed where they are needed, or if advisable to see if city water and sewerage might be available.

There being no further business, motion made and carried to adjourn.

Roy W. McNeil
Secretary

Approved: *T. Boling Gay*
T. Boling Gay, M. D., Chairman
Fulton County Board of Health

September 10, 1940

Regular meeting of Fulton County Health Department was held in the Commissioners room September 10, 1940, with Dr. T. Bolling Gay presiding. Mr. Jere Wells, Mr. Ed L. Almand, Dr. Payne, Col. Harold Sheats and George Newton being present at this meeting. Minutes of the last regular meeting were read and confirmed.

Mr. R. Q. Saunders who is building a three unit apartment on Peachtree Road, near Wieuca Road, appeared before the Board of Health for the purpose of discussing the installation of septic tanks for the apartment, or the advisability of securing a sewer line for the apartment. After discussing these propositions, the matter was referred to Mr. Newton to work out with Mr. Saunders for the best solution of the disposal of sewage to this apartment.

Dr. Payne brought to the attention of the Board of Health the question of the large number of dog bites which were being reported daily, and discussed the necessity of some regulation being adopted to cope with this situation. No definite action was taken by the board on this question.

A report was made on the garbage dump at the tallow plant, and according to the report the dump was as well located as possible under conditions. Motion made and carried to allow garbage dumping to continue at this location until such a time as the county would be in position to take care of the garbage and its collection.

Mr. Waldrup the plumbing inspector discussed before the Board of Health the advisability of having cast iron pipe connecting a house with a septic tank, rather than to have sewer pipe with cement joints as this the manner of connection at present time. No action on this proposition was taken.

A resolution was presented to the Board of Health by Col. Harold Sheats, which would be an amendment to the present regulations covering sewer lines, and set forth in the resolution. A connection to a sanitary sewer shall be deemed to be advisable when there is a outfall or trunk sewer in the same water shed, provided however no permit for a septic tank shall be issued in a new sub-division, or section under any circumstances without a special permit from the Fulton County Board of Health, and provided further no permit shall be issued for the installation of a septic tank, designed to serve more than 18 fixtures or more than two units. However, the Board of Health for sufficient cause grant exceptions to the rules where engineering difficulties and problems make sewer connections impossible or impractical. Motion made by Mr. Wells, seconded by Mr. Almand and carried that this resolution be adopted.

Motion made by Mr. Almand, seconded by Mr. Wells and carried in case of application for permit for septic tank that the location be passed on by sanitary engineer before the permit is granted.

The question of cleaning up Bogley Park and having pit toilets installed in Bogley Park was turned over to the Sanitary Department to see that this was accomplished.

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The question of the present law governing vital statistics was discussed from the standpoint of seeing if it was possible to have this work put under the direction of health departments, or if it would be logical to have an amendment to the present vital statistical laws.

On motion of Mr. Almand, seconded by Mr. Wells, ^{Dr.} Dr. Payne, Col. Sheats and Dr. McGee to contact Dr. Wolf of the Statistical Department of the state and see what might be worked out on this question.

The question of securing a tabulating machine in conjunction with the Finger Print Department was discussed by the Board of Health, and its many advantages were pointed out by Dr. Payne. Motion made and carried for Mr. Almand, Dr. Adams, and Dr. Payne to investigate this matter in conjunction with Mr. Ragsdale of the Finger Print Department in order to ascertain if it would be practicable for the Health Department and the Finger Print Department to rent a tabulating machine jointly.

There being no further business, motion made and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Roy W. McGee
Roy W. McGee, Sec.

Approved: *T. Bolling Gay*

T. Bolling Gay, M. D., Chairman
Fulton County Board of Health

Defiant House Bucks Progress On Decatur Rd.

It's the saddest sort of a little house, an empty ramshackle affair, a blur on the community. Not even the owner wants it! But it remains!

It was once a right presentable frame home on old Decatur Road, housing a respectable Negro family. The modest folk attended the small Mt. Olive Methodist Church at the corner on Pharr Road (where the North Side Woman's Club now stands). And relatives of the occupants were buried in the tiny cemetery in the church yard.

Built on a few acres of property which was once good farm land, the old house has in recent years felt the closing-in of progress upon it. The Negro family gave up its firm stand to remain in the community it had always known, and moved away to a comfortable Negro community.

Owner of the property died a few years ago and left it to his wife. She has no plans for future of the property spoken of as a likely place for a fine apartment building which the community could use. "Perhaps," she says.

The old house is called an "eyesore," but what's to be done about it? There are a few old bricks and some good "burning lumber" in the framework, but so far no one has offered to aid time in its tumble-down process for so small a compensation.

Mr. Turner McDonald, County Engineer, stated that petition had been filed with the Commissioners for the construction of a sewer in Land Lot 60 of the 17th District and that notice had already been given for a public hearing for this date, covering the following streets: Lookout Place, beginning at the intersection of Pharr Road and Lookout Place and running thence along Lookout Place to Brentwood Drive. Grandview Avenue, beginning at the intersection of Peachtree Avenue and Grandview Avenue and running thence south along Grandview Avenue to Delmont Drive. Delmont Drive, beginning at the intersection of North Fulton Drive and Delmont Drive and running thence east along Delmont Drive to the intersection of Lookout Place, same to be constructed and cost to be assessed against the abutting property owners. No objects having been filed, Mr. McDonald recommended that these sewer lines be laid.

Commissioner Ragsdale made a motion that the recommendation made by the County Engineer be made the order of the Board. Said motion was seconded by Commissioner Adams and unanimously adopted.

Dr. Neel made report of Tuberculosis Division for month of June which shows:

Number films made 1308

Negative 1238

Unsatisfactory 23

Positive Tbc. 4

Suspicious 36

Other Pathology 7

Letter submitted to Board of Health from Col. Northcutt, County Attorney, suggesting that amendment to Sanitation Regulations read as follows:

Be it resolved by the Board of Health of Fulton County that the following amendment to the Sanitation of Premises be and the same is hereby adopted.

Section 111 Urban Area.

(F) All dwellings and business buildings in the Urban area of Fulton County shall be connected to the Metropolitan sewer system within 6 months from the date the system is made available to each dwelling and business building. It shall be the duty of the owner of each building and dwelling to cause connection to be made and to cause all sewage on the premises to be disposed of through the Metropolitan sewer system.

A large delegation from Lee Haven Trailer Camp and delegations from several other Trailer Camps in the County appeared before the Board of Health to protest the regulations of Fulton County Health Department governing Trailer Camps, particularly that section of the Regulations which prohibits building additions to the trailers. Mr. Doyle of the Engineering Division explained the Regulations and the conditions found in the various Trailer Camps regarding additions to the trailers.

Mr. E. M. Holburton explained the reason of those who live in trailers of making these additions. He was spokesman for the delegation from the Camps.

Mr. J. A. Griffin and Col. Paul Hughes also spoke for the Trailer Camp residents, outlining cost the Trailer owners had made in adding these rooms to the trailers.

After discussion of this question, motion made by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. Aldredge, and carried, to allow the trailer owners a period of 6 months in which to remove these additions and comply with the Trailer Camp regulations of Fulton County Health Department. This to apply to all Trailer Camps in the County.

Mr. Aldredge made request that Dr. Giddens attend the Board of Health meetings and give report of activities during the month.

There being no further business, motion made and carried to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

P. W. McQueen
, Secretary

Approved

T. Bolling Gay
T. Bolling Gay, M.D., Chairman
Fulton County Health Department

Commissioner Almand presented to the Board a letter from Dr. Roy W. McGee, Commissioner of Health of Fulton County, said letter being dated October 22, 1940 and is set out as follows:

"At the regular meeting of Fulton County Board of Health held October 16, 1940, Mr. George Newton, Sanitary Engineer, made the following report relative to Virginia Place:

Upon investigation of complaint from Mrs. Bailey residing at No.2344 Virginia Place that her septic tank which had recently been installed was not functioning properly, we found the size of the lot and topography of the ground such that it was impossible to install tank on her lot that we felt sure would give satisfaction.

Inspection of other houses on this street, all of which had been built in the last year or so, were found to have small lots and bad local conditions for proper disposal of sewage by septic tank means.

There are two new houses now under construction that have applied for permits to install septic tanks. One of these has practically the same conditions as Mrs. Bailey

We cannot conscientiously approve septic tanks for F.H.A. Loans, which must be approved as meeting the regulations as set up by your board and the State Department in order for the loans to pass, under the local conditions found on most of this property.

By the installation of approximately 1400 linear feet of sewer line about 15 houses which are now built or under construction and some 8 or 10 additional lots will be served.

Due to the insanitary conditions existing at present and in view of the fact that other installations are of such nature that they are sure to cause trouble in the future, we earnestly request your Honorable Board to request the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues to install a sewer line serving that part of Virginia Place, NE, between the rear of the lots fronting Peachtree Hills Avenue and the rear of the lots fronting Eureka Drive.

After discussion of this report it was decided that a nuisance existed from the installation of septic tanks along this street, and that any other tanks installed on this street would also create a nuisance.

In view of this condition, motion made and passed by the Board of Health that sewage be made available on Peachtree Place, in order to abate and prevent a nuisance."

Commissioner Almand made a motion that the Sewer Department be requested to proceed in getting a sewer line installed serving that part of Virginia Place, NE, between the rear of the lots fronting Peachtree Hills Avenue and the rear of the lots fronting Eureka Drive, as recommended by Dr. Roy W. McGee. The above motion was seconded by Commissioner Hailey and unanimously adopted.

which is recorded in Book 1560, pages 218 and 219, Fulton County Records, Fulton County agreed to reconvey said property to the said Montpelier Land Company by quitclaim deed:

"NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the premises and the recitals, obligations and conditions contained in said deed recorded in Book 1560 pages 218 and 219, Fulton County Records, Fulton County, a municipal corporation of Georgia, hereby bargains, sells and quitclaims unto Montpelier Land Company, its successors and assigns, the following described real estate, to-wit:

All that tract or parcel of land situated, lying and being in Land Lot 60 of originally Henry now Fulton County, Georgia, being known as Lot No. 1 in Block "L" of "Garden Hills" Property, as per survey of said property made by O. I. Freeman, C. E., dated May 1927, and more particularly described as follows:

Commencing at the southeast corner of Land Lot 60 in Fulton County, Georgia and running northerly along the east original land lot line 387.3 feet to Alpine Road; thence in a northwesterly direction following Alpine Road a distance of 30.1 feet to the easterly corner of Lot 2 in said block; thence, in a southwesterly direction following the southeasterly line of lot 2 157.1 feet to the easterly line of lot 15 in said block; thence in a southeasterly direction with the line of lot 15 38.8 feet to the southeast corner of lot 15, the north-easterly corner of lot 16; thence southerly with the easterly lines of lots 16, 17, 18 and 19 a distance of 250 feet to the original south line of land lot 60; thence easterly with the original south line of Land lot 60 a distance of 85 feet to the point of beginning.

Grantee agrees to pay taxes for the year 1943.

Together with all rights and privileges therein belonging or in any-wise appertaining.

"IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Fulton County has caused its name and the names of its Commissioners to be affixed hereunto.

FULTON COUNTY (SEAL)

(signed) I. Gloer Hailey

(signed) Charlie Brown

(signed) Ellis B. Barrett

(signed) Ed. L. Almand

(signed) Clarence Duncan
Commissioners of Roads and Revenues."

Signed, sealed and delivered in presence of

(signed) W. S. Northcutt

(signed) Harold Sheats
Notary Public - Georgia

Letter read from Mr. Harold Sheats, County Attorney said letter and quitclaim deed

being more fully set out as follows:

"I enclose a quitclaim deed in favor of Montpelier Land Company and recommend that it be executed by Fulton County as a reconveyance of property formerly dedicated by Montpelier Land Company to public use for sewer purposes."

"GEORGIA, FULTON COUNTY

"THIS INDENTURE entered into on this 3rd day of February 1943, between FULTON COUNTY and Montpelier Land Company, W I T N E S S E T H that:

"WHEREAS, On June 5, 1935, the Montpelier Land Company conveyed the property hereinafter described to Fulton County for the sole purpose of use by Fulton County for the construction, use and maintenance of a septic tank to serve property and residents of Fulton County; and

"WHEREAS, the use of said property for septic tank purposes is no longer necessary for the reason that the construction of a metropolitan sewer system has provided better sanitary facilities; and

"WHEREAS, as a part of the consideration for the execution of the above described deed

NEXT STEPS

Evaluating property records

UNKNOWNNS

- How did the Fulton County Commissioners make the jump from sewage in Bagley Park to condemning the neighborhood?
 - How many properties were acquired by the county by the end of the project? Where is the proof that property owners participated in *documented transactions*?
 - Did the county use eminent domain to acquire portions of Bagley Park?
 - If so, where are the documents specifying they did so?
 - What was the fate of Black residents after they were displaced from Bagley Park?
-

Roadblocks

- **PUBLIC WORKS**

Public Works and the Board of Health had mized jurisdiction over sewers and contamination. Public Works no longer exists.

- **GEORGIA CLERKS' AUTHORITY**

While the state does maintain indexed property records for Fulton County, they only go back to 2004.

- **OFFICE OF LAND RECORDS**

The Office of Land Records is the next probable location of the county's deed books, but they have not responded to communication.

- **OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

County Attorney, Harold Sheats (who was a known KKK member) does not have a records collection in the Office of the County Attorney.

NEXT STEPS

- Evaluate real estate and title records for District 17, Land Lot 60
- Pay a visit to the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah for records of KKK influence in Fulton County
- Continue to attempt to secure Public Works records on the decision not to extend water works to Bagley Park
- Wrap the Bagley Park Examination around **Sept. 15th**
 - *Consider renaming Frankie Allen Turner Park to Bagley Park*
 - *Depending on the outcome of the real estate record search, contact hereditary descendants of District 17, Lot 60 property owners*
- Decide on the next topic of study

We need some help! How are property records stored in this county?

Questions?