

## SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Forest Avenue Historic District.
2. Location: The district is located within the city limits of Elberton, Elbert County, Georgia, almost immediately to the west/northwest of the county courthouse. Major streets include Forest Avenue, Lake Forest Avenue, Forest Hills Road, Lake Forest Circle, Ridgecrest Drive, and Brookwood Circle.  
*USGS Quadrangle: Elberton East, GA, and Elberton West, GA.*
- 3a. Description: The Forest Avenue Historic District is a relatively large, intact, residential area west of downtown Elberton. It was developed in planned phases between the 1910s and early 1960s. Major distinguishing features include curvilinear streets, hilly topography with mature trees, a central landscaped park focused on a meandering stream, and the widespread use of Elberton granite in a naturalistic landscape. Residential lot sizes and setbacks tend to be uniform within various pod-like sections of development. A variety of building materials were used, including local granite. The first house was built on Forest Avenue c.1900 before the street was divided into lots for a subdivision in 1911. This street contains the oldest houses, including good examples of one- and two-story house types, such as Georgian cottages and houses, American Foursquares, and bungalows. Styles include Colonial Revival, Mediterranean Revival, and Craftsman. By the 1930s, new areas were platted around a linear park and lake (later drained), and popular styles included English Vernacular Revival and Spanish Colonial Revival, among others. After 1930, most houses tended to be one-story in height and relatively modest in size. There is a distinct area of prefabricated American Small Houses known locally as "Knox boxes." Ranch houses (mostly brick) were built in the 1950s and 1960s as infill, as well as in a new section on the northwest. In addition to houses, the neighborhood also includes the International-Style Elbert Memorial Hospital (1950 with later additions), several doctors' offices, two historic churches (built 1941 and 1946), the Rock Gym (1941), the distinctive Granite Bowl stadium (1954 with 1961 additions), and two former school buildings from the 1950s.
- 3b. Period of Significance: c.1900-1963.
- 3c. Acreage: Approximately 158 acres.
- 3d. Boundary Explanation: The proposed boundary includes the intact and contiguous subdivision begun c.1911 as Forest Park, expanded in 1930 with the Forest Hills Subdivision, and further expanded to Walden Way around 1960. It also includes an adjacent property that once served as the community's school complex.
- 4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.
- 4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Community Planning and Development, and Landscape Architecture.
- 4c. Statement of Significance: The Forest Avenue Historic District is significant in the area of architecture for its good intact collection of house types and styles found in middle-class neighborhoods in Georgia from the 1910s through the early 1960s. Several known architects designed in the neighborhood, including William J. J. Chase, James M. Hunt, and Hunter J. Price. Beginning around 1932, Wyke A. Knox and Peter Knox, Jr. of Thomson built a number of small, prefabricated houses that were placed adjacent to each other in the southeast section of the district. In the area of community planning and development, the district is significant because it represents an early planned modern subdivision in Elberton that reflects some of the predominant national trends of its time. Plats were developed by William O. Jones in 1911 and John J. McLanahan in 1930 to subdivide the land for residential lots. The district still retains the same layout of parks, streets, and lots, which were a departure from the gridiron pattern that had dominated Elberton's previous development. It is also significant in landscape architecture for its design by landscape architect E. Burton Cooke who promoted curvilinear streets that wind around a natural stream and picturesque park in harmony with the hilly terrain. The use of local granite in walls, culverts, bridges, stairs, curbing, and fenceposts also brings continuity to the neighborhood.
- 4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Forest Avenue Historic District is being nominated at the local level of significance for its importance to the city of Elberton as one of its first modern subdivisions.
- 4e. National Register Status: The Rock Gym was listed in the National Register in 1998.
5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the City of Elberton, and a city employee prepared the nomination materials.

ELBERTON WEST QUADRANGLE  
GEORGIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)  
SW/4 ELBERTON 15' QUADRANGLE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

