

### **City Council Agenda Item – September 16, 2014**

Heritage Sandy Springs' Presentation on Heritage Trail concept – Heritage Sandy Springs is seeking Council approval of the concept of incorporating a trail (“Heritage Trail”) on the City Center property, to educate Sandy Springs residents and visitors on the history, heritage, and historical personalities associated with the property. The Heritage Trail is envisioned to be marked by a series of 2' x 3' sidewalk bronze plaques (with the possibility of illustrative art in the future), providing the history of the City Center site. The plaques will provide a brief history of significant sites, personalities, events, and stories, and provide sources for additional information, including the Heritage Sandy Springs Museum and archives.

Heritage Sandy Springs will provide the inscription for the plaques. The Heritage Trail will encourage pedestrian traffic on the site and promote connectivity with the Heritage Sandy Springs Park (where the City's namesake spring is located) and Museum, by making walking in the City an interesting and educational experience; and will link the community's past to the present, showing that the City Center property has historically been a place where Sandy Springs residents worked, stayed, and played.

# SANDY SPRINGS HERITAGE TRAIL

A VISION FOR CAPTURING COMMUNITY  
HERITAGE AND HISTORY IN THE NEW CITY  
CENTER

# Today's Meeting

- ▣ Why Heritage Sandy Springs
- ▣ The Heritage Trail concept
- ▣ Southern City Examples
- ▣ A Heritage trail in Sandy Springs
- ▣ Potential sources of History and Funding
- ▣ Next Steps

# Why Heritage Sandy Springs?



*To Build Community By Preserving  
and Promoting The Historic and  
Cultural Identity of Sandy Springs*

## Why a Historic Trail?

- ▣ Location - The Sandy Springs Heritage Trail will focus specifically on the new City Center, which is in the planning stage. The land on which the City Center will be located has historically been the business center of Sandy Springs.

Bring in New Visitors –  
Become a Point of Engagement in the City Center

archives.

- ▣ Tradition - The concept of an urban historical trail is not unique to Sandy Springs. Among the cities that have an urban trail are Asheville, North Carolina; Richmond, Virginia; and Macon, Georgia. The slides presented are taken from these three southern cities, each of which has some of their historical buildings in tact.

# ASHEVILLE'S URBAN TRAIL



Asheville's urban trail consists primarily of sidewalk plaques, generally coupled with a piece of art, reflecting the history, cultural, noted people, and eccentricities of Asheville..



## MARKETPLACE

Just on the square which was the commercial center, Water Street catered to farmers bringing their produce into Asheville for market. When its natural springs began disappearing in the late 1800s, Water Street was renamed Lexington Avenue. Buildings once housed livery stables, produce markets, warehouses, hardware stores, and a drug store.

Historic Marker No. 100  
1981

# Use of historic relic from torn down City Hall to show civic pride



# Commemorative Plaques



Each of these plaques honor people at a significant location associated with him or her. The plaque on the left is placed near a building where Dr. Blackwell attended school. Note the small tools of the trade depicted around the plaque of O'Henry. All plaques in Asheville are 2 ft. by 3 ft. bronze markers that withstand heavy foot traffic.

# Thomas Wolfe Art and Plaque



## Asheville Urban Trail Development and Maintenance

- Began in 1989 with a vision
- Completed in 2002
- Had an Urban Trail Committee
- Public Arts and Cultural Committee was very instrumental, as were citizens who were knowledgeable about the City's history
- Developed a theme - to follow periods of time
- Obtained grants from North Carolina and National Endowment of Arts (Our Town Grant program) but also from private donations
- Maintenance is minimal - twice a year is recommended but once a year is typical
- Maintained by Parks, Recreation & Cultural Arts Department
- Audio tour available by:
  - ❖ Computer at [www.ashevillenc.gov/urbantrail](http://www.ashevillenc.gov/urbantrail)
  - ❖ Download to iPod or MP3 player
  - ❖ By phone at 878-259-5827

# MACON, GEORGIA

[www.maconwalkingtours.com](http://www.maconwalkingtours.com)



Macon has preserved many of its early downtown commercial buildings, making building plaques a viable means to show history at eye level.

# A HERITAGE TRAIL IN SANDY SPRINGS

# SANDY SPRINGS GEORGIA

## Where History Runs



JULY 1864 ....there was a load of them [Federal soldiers]. They were camped all around there at the time. They just killed the dogs. They put them on their horses and carried them to the camp. The sheep were in the woods. I did not see the soldiers kill the sheep but they were gone after the army left. I saw the bee hives taken. There were seventeen of them. They took them all. They took jars and buckets and anything else they could get to put the honey in and carried it off to their camp. The honey and syrup were in the closet of the house.

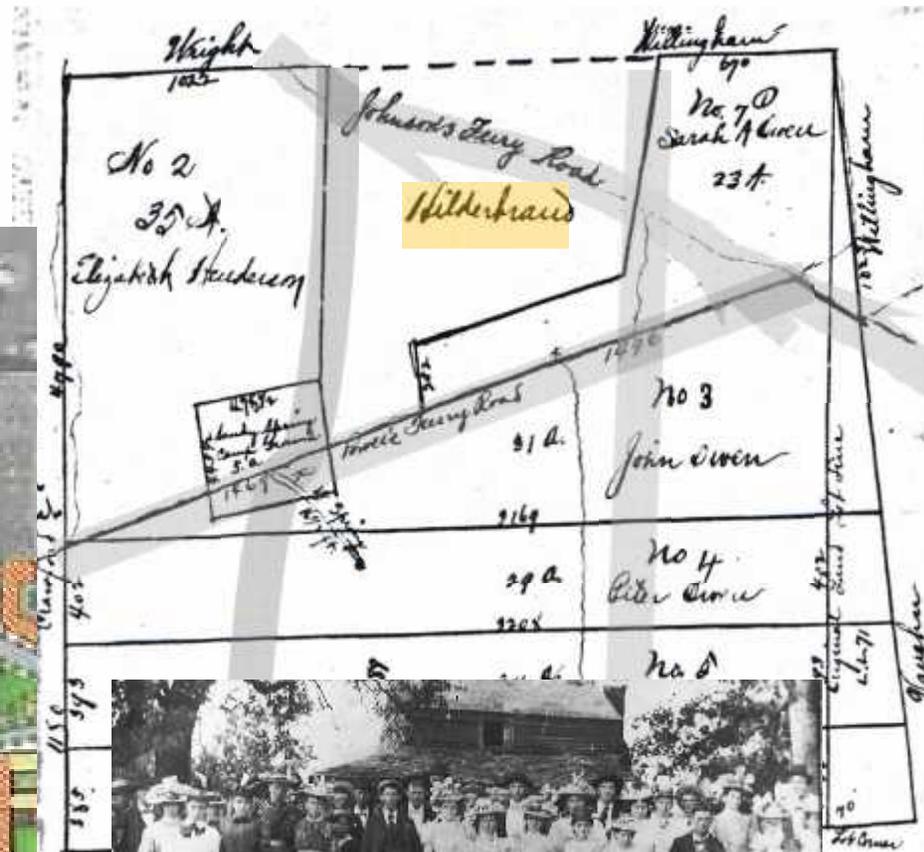
...I saw the bacon taken. it was taken out of the smoker house. The soldiers took sacks and pillowcases from the house to put the flour in.

**ELIZABETH BALL SPRUILL**  
Sandy Springs Resident

Gift of Elizabeth Ball Spruill to the City of Sandy Springs



# Sandy Springs City Center



Julia Blanche (Owen) Hildebrand  
12/28/1858 – June 27, 1930



Owen Family

40 Lots

40 Lots

# ABSOLUTE AUCTION

## SANDY SPRINGS

**Tuesday, July 15th, 10 a. m.**

Located between Buckhead and Roswell, fronting the famous Roswell Road. Buckhead Property is now way up in price.

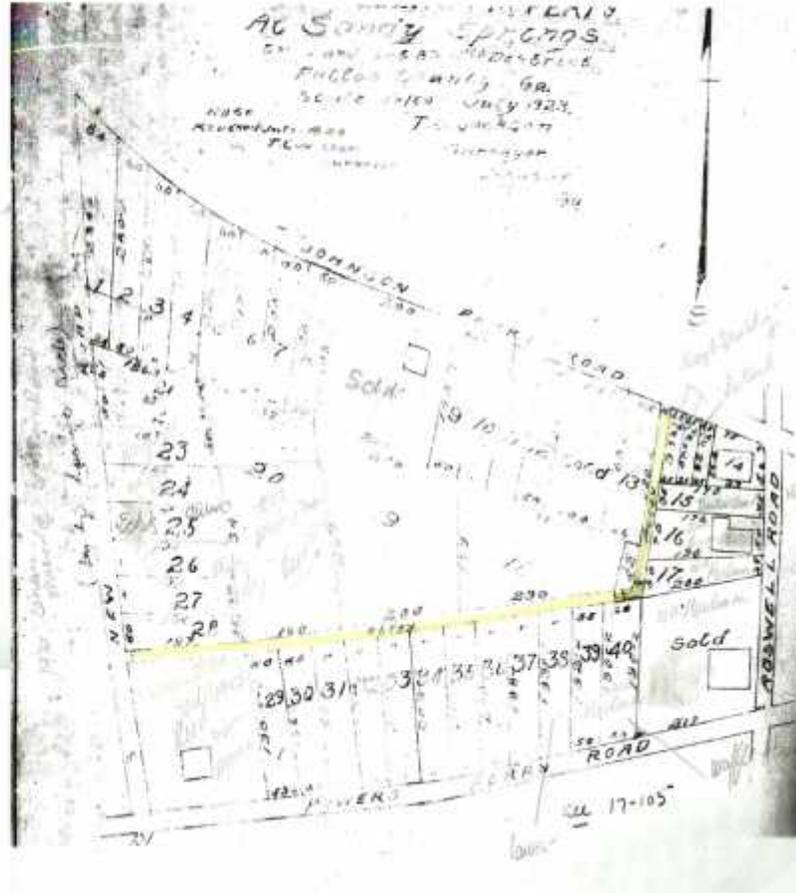
Five years from now this property will be just as valuable.

The entire tract surrounded by concrete roads, and is considered the busiest section between Buckhead and Roswell.

Enhancement here is as certain as Time.

THIS IS YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO

**BUY AT YOUR OWN PRICE**



Everybody Invited to Attend  
The Famous

## J. P. KING AUCTION

Free Barbecue Dinner Will Be  
Served You.

Cash Prizes Given Away

Free Band Concerts

LADIES BE SURE TO ATTEND

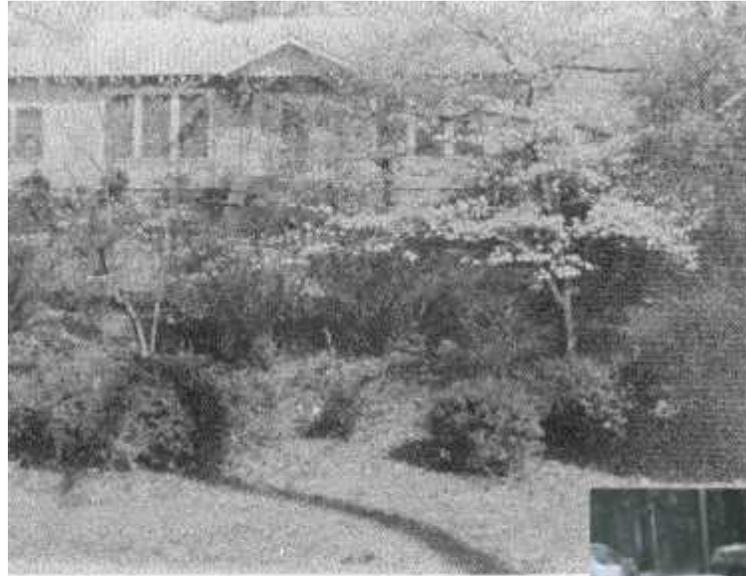
Terms: One-third cash, balance easy.

## J. P. King Auction Co.

J. P. KING, President  
1224 Healey Bldg

H. H. PIERCE, Gen. Mgr.  
Phone Walnut 1100

**City Center** has long been the locus of Sandy Springs civic activity with its prominent cross-roads location and numerous founding businesses and citizenry having close ties to the property.



Sadie Baker Home  
... an organic gardener whose flowers and produce were legendary. She sold her produce to Burdett's Grocery, formerly located across Roswell Road.



The Char-House Restaurant  
... a former Sandy Springs institution and local hangout ... once famous for their strawberry pie

Sadie Baker "The Flower Lady"





# POTENTIAL SOURCES OF HISTORY AND FUNDING

# Sources for Sandy Springs History

- Kimberly M. Brigance & Morris Moore, *Images of America Sandy Springs*, Arcadia Press (2010)
- Lois Coogle, *Sandy Springs Past Tense*, Décor Master Co. (1971)
- Lois Coogle, *More of Sandy Springs Past Tense*, Décor Master Co. (1981)
- Garnett Cobb, *The History of the Sandy Springs* (1999)
- Facebook page, "Remembering Sandy Springs"
- Oral Histories
- Newspapers
- Garden Clubs
- Any other source

# Sources of funding

- Our Town grants (National Endowment of Arts)- [www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town](http://www.arts.gov/grants-organizations/our-town) - Organizations may apply for creative placemaking projects that contribute to the livability of communities and place the arts at their core; grant amounts from \$25,000 to \$200,000.
- Arts Sandy Springs
- Private Donors

# Resources

- Project for Public Space – [www.pps.org](http://www.pps.org) – a nonprofit planning, design and educational organization dedicated to helping people create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities. Its pioneering Placemaking approach helps citizens transform their public spaces into vital places that highlight local assets, spur rejuvenation and serve common needs.
- Planetizen – [www.planetizen.org](http://www.planetizen.org)

**NEXT STEPS?**