

3592Δ Mitchell Jasper N ©  
3597 Johnson Bessie Mrs ©

**BAGLEY AV (Buckhead) — From**

195 Pharr rd south 1 block

2 Chapman Lois (c)  
4 Wall Jos (c)  
6 Patton David (c)  
8 Butts Pete (c)  
15 Sherman Kath Mrs (c)  
17 Baker Boyce (c)  
18 Bagley Cooney (c)  
19 Reese Jane Mrs (c)  
19½ Bonaparte J D (c)  
21Δ Bagley Ida J (c) ©  
22 Young Hattie (c)  
23 German Mamie (c) gro  
23a Whitehead Myrtis Mrs (c)  
24 Carter Young (c)  
27Δ German Mamie (c)  
28 Davis Jos (c)  
29Δ Brown John H (c)  
30 Wheeler Mary (c)  
32 Usher John (c) ©  
33 Drain Walter (c) ©  
37Δ Thomas Jas (c)  
40 Thomas Aline (c)  
42 Morton Alton (c)  
45 Ridgeway Henry (c)  
46b Austin Minnie (c)  
50 Peek Geo (c)  
51 Willis Oscar (c)  
52 Virden Corrie (c)  
53 Julian Azalie E (c)  
54 Barber Mary A (c) ©  
55 McClarity Walter  
60 Guest John (c)  
61 Baugh Regal (c)  
64 Vincent Wm (c)  
65 King Missouri B (c)  
66 Cox Jerry (c)  
68Δ Smith Cody (c)  
69 Virden Roscoe (c)  
70 Ezzard Oscar (c)  
71 McClarity John (c) ©  
72 Drain Leonard (c)  
76 Moore Frank (c)

BAGLEY SW From 510 Street

**BAKER NE—Contd**

104 Apartments  
1 Tamm Margt M  
2 Holder Rosa M  
3 Barlowe W N

**Street continued**

110Δ Lagen Marjorie  
114Δ Hendrix Clifford  
120Δ Swafford Jos  
123 Atlantic Co (br)  
126 Rosene Neal C  
127Δ Nichols Eliz M  
142 Coppeak Clyde  
148Δ Abbott Eliz M

Δ Maile Dora Mr  
Piedmon

176 Byrd Angie Mrs  
182 Edwards John (c)  
185 Scott Emma Mr  
rear Williams Cora M  
186 Stewart Isaiah  
187 Gifford Richd (c)  
189 Anderson Berth  
190 Willingham Jas  
191 Martin Julia M  
195 Favors Rosa Mr  
196 Strickland Will  
197 Burston Julia M

Mit

202 Stroud Annie M  
203 Bonds Clifford  
205 Winfrey Fannie  
206 Finch Lucinda  
209 Craft Mattie M  
210Δ Davis Addie L  
210½ Campbell Tab  
212 Stevens Obie M  
213 Varner Mary M  
214 Smith Mary Mrs  
215 Battle Lela Mrs  
217 Daniel John W  
219 Daniel Edgar (c)

Bt

231 Jackson Edw J  
235 Currington Milt  
239 Currington Milt  
242 Webb Willie (c)  
243 Humphrey Mac  
rear Kelley Mary Mrs

# RESEARCH UPDATE #3: BAGLEY PARK WRAP UP

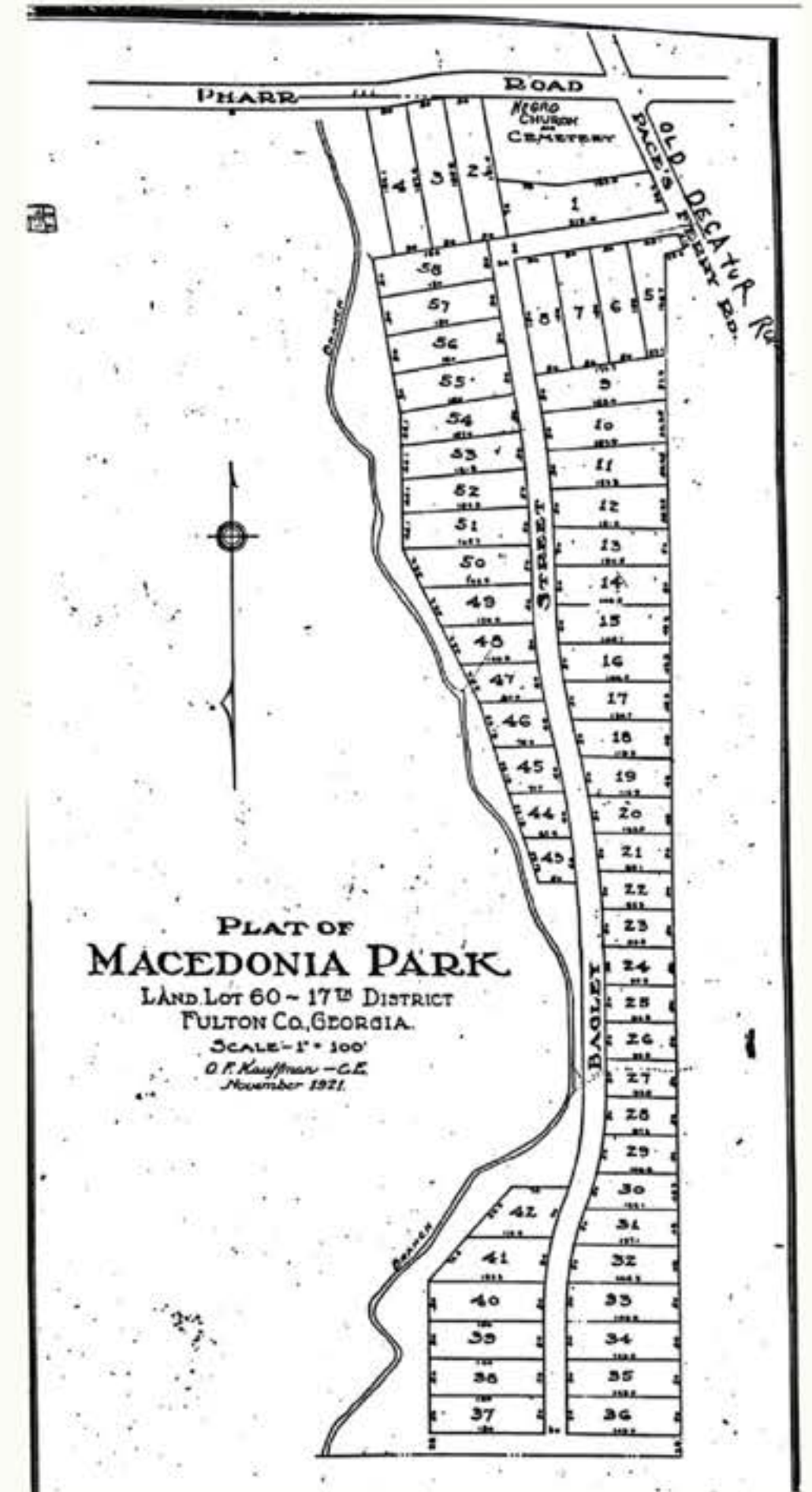
Prepared for the Fulton County  
Reparations Task Force by Olivia Reneau

October 6, 2022



# THE STORY OF BAGLEY PARK

From Beginning to End  
Research Questions Examined  
Ignored and Neglected  
Moving On



# Bagley/Macedonia Park Timeline

Joshua B. Crawford sold John S. Owens what would be known as Macedonia Park in **1906**

The attempted racial cleansing of Forsyth County allegedly prompted the migration of William Bagley from Forsyth to Fulton in **1912**

The community developed as the housing crisis continued, with small businesses, local industry, and a religious community

Garden Hills Women's Club appears at BoC meeting for the first time, requesting Bagley Park's condemnation in **1937**



## Bagley/Macedonia Park Timeline (Cont.)

Garden Hills Women's Club appears for the 2nd time in **1938**, requesting Bagley Park be condemned for its health hazard

Bagley Park sustained between 600 residents at its height in **1940**. As much as 30% of these individuals, all Black, were property owners

Board of Health meeting minutes indicate that Bagley Park wells appear to be contaminated, and will be brought up to standards in **1940**

150 Garden Hills residents disavow attempts to put a park and swimming pool in their community at a BoC meeting in **Feb 1942**, but renege in May

## Bagley/Macedonia Park Timeline (Cont.)

The Garden Hills Women's Club appears for the 3rd time in **Aug 1942** to request the condemnation of Bagley Park

BoC passes a resolution earmarking \$50,000 for Bagley Park property acquisition/condemnation in **1944**

BoC passes a subsequent resolutions infusing additional \$95,000 to the acquisition project by **1954**

Residents of Bagley Park were expelled/displaced, and Bagley Park was a green spaces by the early **1960s**



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS EXAMINED

- Were surrounding white neighborhoods, like Garden Hills, on county water? **It appears so, as plat maps from as early as the 1920s and as late as the 1940s make references to proposed and completed sewers.**
- Were concerns over water and sewage legitimate? Is there repeat documentation from various entities in Fulton County? **Yes\***, **but the county appears to have 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? **There is no demonstrable reason, save for the significant socio-political power the GHWC commanded and their aid from individuals of stature.**



# RESEARCH QUESTIONS (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.**
- How did the Fulton County Commissioners make the jump from sewage in Bagley Park to condemning the neighborhood? **The county appears to have done so in direct response to the desire of the local women's club to see the neighborhood removed.**
- 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? **The county acquired 47 properties by the end of the Bagley Park process (BoC Mtg Min, April 6, 1955)**
- What was the fate of Black residents after they were displaced from Bagley Park? **We know, based on local news coverage, that dozens of families reported homelessness after the acquisition of Bagley Park. More research is needed to make more specific characterizations.**



# THE UNKNOWABLE

- *Did the county use eminent domain to acquire portions of Bagley Park?*

Because there is no specific documentation related to eminent domain (inclusive even of those properties acquired by condemnation), we cannot resolutely conclude that this is eminent domain abuse on the basis that we cannot resolutely conclude that this was eminent domain. This does mean, however, that there is no evidence that the community was blighted, and therefore a sanitary/health danger to surrounding communities.

- *What was the difference between the valuations and the costs of acquisition for the Bagley Park properties? While some transaction differentials are evident between 1940 County Tax Maps and individual property acquisition, many of the smaller properties include the phrase "and other valuable considerations". Because negotiation appears to have been conducted unilaterally between a representative from Public Works and the owners, we have no record of the stated considerations.*



PETITIONERS PRAY:

1. That the Commissioners of Roads and Revenues of Fulton County, be and are hereby requested to sell to the Negro veterans' organization the 43.2 acre tract of land located at the northwest corner of West Lake and Simpson Streets, for the purpose of aiding the development thereon of 146 single family dwellings and the subsequent relief of the pressure for housing by Negro citizens; and
2. That the Commissioners set as a sale price as reasonable a figure as possible in order to contribute assistance in the development of homes within the financial reach of that group of citizens most in need whom this organization hopes to serve; and
3. That the Commissioners grant the petitioners such other and additional consideration as seems justified.

URBAN VILLA, INC  
239 Auburn Ave.,

(Signed) S. S. Robinson, President  
(Signed) Marvin Jones, Secretary  
(Signed) Willie Menefee, Treasurer

THE ATLANTA URBAN LEAGUE

(Signed) A. T. Walden, President

ATLANTA BUSINESS & TRADE ASSN.

(Signed) A. Chester Christal, Pres.

(Signed) STROUD MC KENZIE, President  
Dixie Hills Political & Civic Club.

(Signed) HERBERT A. RINGEL, Chairman  
Veterans Housing Committee  
American Legion Post No. 1

(Signed) B. JOSEPH JOHNSON, President  
Atlanta Baptist Ministers' Union

(Signed) CHARLES C. MATHIAS, President  
Atlanta Industrial Union Council, C.I.O.

(Signed) C.A. SCOTT, President  
Citizens Democratic Club of Fulton Co.

(Signed) PORRESTER B. WASHINGTON, Pres.  
The Twenty-Seven Club "

Commissioner Hailey called the Board's attention to the fact that Fulton County purchased the property on W. Lake Ave. & Simpson Rd. from the Grove Park Improvement Association several years ago and it was the understanding at that time the County would hold this property and not sell same to Negroes.

Commissioner Hailey suggested that



Commissioner Doyal stated he would like to submit an idea to the Board for their consideration, namely, that plans had been contemplated for several years covering the construction of an indoor swimming pool which would be useable throughout the year, whereas with all the money spent on the existing pools they were not useable but about three months out of the year. Commissioner Doyal stated Mr. Harry Glancy and Mr. Muggay Smith were strong proponents for the construction of such a pool and it was his opinion that the City and County should work jointly toward the possible construction of a facility that would mean so much to the children and citizens of Fulton County and the City of Atlanta. He further stated the balance of funds left in the above recreation projects would mean a substantial start toward the cost of such a project. Therefore, Commissioner Doyal stated he felt the Board should defer any action on the above matter and request the Manager to confer with the Manager of the Parks Department and get an idea as to their opinion.

After considerable discussion, Commissioner Lindsey seconded the motion made by Commissioner Hailey.

The Manager stated that the amount of money left in the above projects could be prorated among all the municipalities on a population basis.

At this point, Commissioner Doyal made a substitute motion that action be deferred until a further study could be made by the Manager; however, he did not receive a second and said substitute motion was lost.

After further discussion, the above motion was adopted by the Board. Commissioner Doyal requested the Clerk to record him as voting against the motion.

Mr. Fuller, County Manager, presented the following letter to the Board, said letter being dated February 3, 1954:

"To the Board of Commissioners of  
Roads and Revenues, Fulton County

Bids received by the Purchasing Agent for custodial service at the Central Avenue  
Health Center at 11:00 A. M. today are as follows:



# IGNORED AND NEGLECTED BY FULTON COUNTY

*Findings suggest that the Fulton County Board of Commissioners demonstrated neglect for the well-being of Bagley Park residents and prioritized the desires of the all-white, wealthy surrounding constituency.*



10           **WHEREAS**, reparations are also defined as the making of amends for a  
11 wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have  
12 been wronged; and

13           **WHEREAS**, reparations can take numerous forms, including: individual  
14 monetary payments, settlements, scholarships, waiving of fees, systemic  
15 initiatives to offset injustices, land-based compensation related to independence,  
16 apologies and acknowledgements of the injustices, token measures such as  
17 naming a building after someone, or the removal of monuments and renaming of  
18 streets that honor slave owners and defenders of slavery; and

19           **WHEREAS**, the Fulton County Board of Commissioners seeks to explore  
20 the feasibility of reparations to Black/African-American residents of Fulton County  
21 residents by creating a taskforce to research the feasibility of slavery reparations  
22 for Black/African-American who live in Fulton County; and







# WHAT OF BAGLEY PARK?

## Mount Olive Cemetery

- Buckhead Heritage Foundation rededication and wreath laying ceremony for Mt. Olive Cemetery
- The cemetery is in a state of incredible disrepair and has been the subject of some ire for developers
  - *Could the county provide support to efforts to honor the deceased and restore the cemetery?*

## Frankie Allen Turner (Bagley) Park

- Frankie Allen Turner Park bears no signage that indicates it used to be a Black residential area
  - *Could the county commission an art installation or commemorative piece to indicate to park users that they stand on history?*
  - *Can they pull from communities subject to slavery-related disparity?*



# WHAT OF BAGLEY PARK? (CONT.)

## Bagley Park in Collective Memory

- There have been no efforts to document the outcome of populations displaced by the county for public works projects
  - *Can the county host a town hall for displaced residents/ancestors of displaced residents specifically due to the placement of public parks?*

## Bagley Park Property

- Property owners in Bagley Park were forced to liquidate their real estate, a vital link in the chain of generating generational wealth
  - *Can the county explore how that loss affected the financial situations of displaced property owners? Can the county begin to answer the question of how its policies (or lack thereof) impacted the livelihood of county residents today?*



# MOVING ON

Potential to move on to other communities or other topics



Letter read from Mr. C. G. Milling, dated November 30, 1948, which is set

out as follows:

"Mr. R. L. Doyal, Chairman  
Fulton County Commissioners  
843 Peachtree Street, N.E.,  
Atlanta, Georgia

Dear Mr. Doyal:

It has been brought to our attention that the colored people moving out of the Bagley Park area are moving in and crowding the community known as Johnson Town, a settlement along the Southern Railway Company's right-of-way north of Lenox Road.

Oak Hills, Inc., of which I am vice-president, was formed by the citizens of that neighborhood and has been active in stopping the growth or spreading of that colored section. To do this we have bought several pieces of property adjoining. Only houses for colored persons would have been built on this property.

We want to cooperate with you in every way to help in what you are doing, but we do not think other communities should be burdened with the same problem that was created by Bagley Park.

Yours very truly,

OAK HILLS, INC.  
(Signed) C. G. MILLING, Vice-President "

Commissioner Doyal, Chairman, stated if there were no objections the above and foregoing letter would be spread upon the minutes and answered by the Clerk. Hearing no objections, it was so ordered by the Board.

Letter read from Mrs. Alan Pattison, Executive Director of the Camp Fire Girls, said letter being dated November 23, 1948, and is set out as follows:



# Possible Research Leads

- **"LAND-BASED COMPENSATION RELATED TO INDEPENDENCE"**

Continuing down our existing path to communities like Piney Grove, Johnsontown, Peoplestown

- **"SCHOLARSHIPS"**

Examining scholarship programs from other areas and their efficacy, conduct a feasibility study on Fulton County

- **"WAIVING OF FEES"**

Consider ways that Black residents of Fulton County are uniquely cost-burdened as a result of derivative conditions of slavery (ex. health outcomes)

- **"SYSTEMIC INITIATIVES TO OFFSET INJUSTICES"**

Examin programs from other areas and their efficacy, present a "state of the county" on the topic



