

Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Joe D. Tanner, Commissioner

205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462, Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Parks, Recreation, and Historic Sites Division

Office of Historic Preservation

Elizabeth A. Lyon, State Historic Preservation Officer

(404) 656-2840

November 30, 1993

ANNOUNCEMENT OF LISTING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, State Historic Preservation Officer, is pleased to announce that the property identified below was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on the date indicated:

TIFT PARK DOUGHERTY COUNTY, NOVEMBER 15, 1993

We hope that the recognition of the architectural and historical significance of this property, combined with the benefits of National Register listing, will assist in the preservation of the property. Additional information on preservation programs is available from our office.

Thank you for your interest in historic preservation.

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Office of Historic Preservation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 28, 1993

Tift Park Listed in the National Register

Tift Park, located in the City of Albany, Dougherty County, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on November 15, 1993.

Tift Park is an approximately 35-acre area of parkland located about one mile north of downtown Albany. The park is significant in community planning and development and entertainment/recreation as an example of the city's efforts in the early 20th century to promote city beautification projects and to develop recreational areas for their citizens. Tift Park was Albany's first city park and was created with the purpose of honoring Nelson Tift, Albany's founder. In 1912, a landscape design was developed by Atlanta landscape architect Otto Katzenstein. His plan called for curved streets and walks, ornamental trees and shrubs, a children's wading pool, a playground and a baseball field; by 1914, the park also contained a bandstand. One of the most striking features remaining from this early plan and which are noted for their landscape significance are the carriage trails lined with 70- to 80-year-old Live Oaks. While many of the original plantings no longer remain, the park retains an overall park-like environment containing plants indigenous to the south. The park also contains a jogging track, game areas, and three nonhistoric buildings.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic buildings, structures, sites, objects, and districts worthy of preservation. According to Richard Cloues, deputy state historic preservation officer, listing in the National Register recognizes a property's significance and ensures that the property will be taken into account in the planning of federally funded or licensed projects. In addition, owners of income-producing National Register properties may be eligible for rehabilitation tax incentives.

The nomination of Tift Park to the National Register of Historic Places was sponsored by the the Federated Garden Clubs Committee on Beautification of Tift Park.

For more information on the National Register and other preservation programs, contact the State Historic Preservation Office of the Department of Natural Resources at 404-656-2840.

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Tift Park
2. Location: In Albany, Dougherty County, an area bounded on the east by Jefferson St., on the south by 5th Avenue, on the north by 7th Avenue, and on the west by Palmyra Road.
- 3a. Description: Tift Park is a roughly rectangular 35 acre area of park land located approximately one mile north of downtown Albany. The purchase of park land was part of Albany's city-wide beautification efforts. The city held a contest for the naming of the park and Tift Park was chosen in honor of the city's founder Nelson Tift. In 1912, a landscape design was developed by Atlanta landscape architect, Otto Katzenstein. His plan called for curved streets and walks, ornamental trees and shrubs, a children's wading pool, a playground and a baseball field. By 1914, the park also contained a band stand. One of the most striking landscape features remaining from this early plan is the Live Oak-lined carriage trail. These 70 - 80 year old trees are located in the southwest section of the park. During the 1930s, a small zoo was established, but was later moved in 1977. In 1963, the swimming pool and tennis courts were considered surplus, and sold to the Boys Club. Tift Park continues to maintain a park-like environment with 31 different species of trees and shrubs such as Sago Palm, Cabbage Palm, Longleaf Pine, Magnolia, Crape Myrtle, Dogwood, and a variety of azaleas. The park also contains a jogging track, game areas, and three nonhistoric buildings.
- 3b. Dates of Development: 1906 - 1942.
- 3c. Acreage: 35 acres.
- 3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary includes the remaining 35 acres historically associated with Tift Park.
- 4a. National Register Criteria: A and C.
- 4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Landscape Architecture, Community Planning and Development.
- 4c. Statement of Significance: Tift Park is significant in Community Planning and Development and entertainment/recreation as an example of the city's efforts during the early 20th century to promote city beautification projects, and to develop recreational areas for their citizens. Tift Park was Albany's first city park. The park land was purchased from a neighboring residential development with the purpose of creating a grand public park in honor of Nelson Tift, Albany's founder. The park is significant in landscape architecture for the remaining carriage trails lined with 70 - 80 year old Live Oaks. The trails were part of a larger park plan designed by landscape architect, Otto Katzenstein in 1912. While many of the original plantings no longer remain, the park retains an overall park-like environment containing plants indigenous to the south.
- 4d. Suggested Level of Significance: local.
5. Sponsor: The Tift Park nomination is sponsored by the Federated Garden Clubs Committee on Beautification of Tift Park.



ALBANY WEST QUADRANGLE
GEORGIA

7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

CHEHAW 7.5 MI. 84° 07' 30"
172 STOCKS 3 MI.

768 10' 769 25 MI. TO U.S. 19 770 771 510 000 FEET 31° 3'

