VI.
GUIDELINES FOR STREETSCAPE

Street improvements Anthony Road and Central Avenue ca. 1920.

The publicly owned parts of Summerville are as important as the private structures in helping define the unique character of the neighborhood. Large trees provide a canopy effect on many streets; landscaped medians in several streets such as Henry and Central add a spacious quality to the public environment; and historically-styled light fixtures, granite curbs and scored concrete or brick sidewalks add character to the district as do custom designed street signs and individual historical markers. The following streetscape guidelines encourage retaining such character-defining features for the neighborhood and expanding their use when the opportunity arises.

Tree, Plantings, and Open Space

Maintain the canopy effect of street trees on existing streets.

Maintain existing landscaping, especially indigenous species. Plantings are especially appropriate in medians and curb strips.

Canopies of trees add a dramatic effect to many of the streets in the historic district.

Replace damaged or missing street trees with appropriate species. Use indigenous and hardy species that require minimal maintenance.
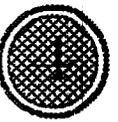
Consider installing landscaping, including trees, in areas like medians, divider strips, and traffic islands. Site plantings so that they are protected from pedestrian and vehicular traffic, do not block views of storefronts, and meet necessary traffic-safety standards.

Planted medians add a spacious and park-like quality to many streets.

Maintain the existing neighborhood park and other open spaces.
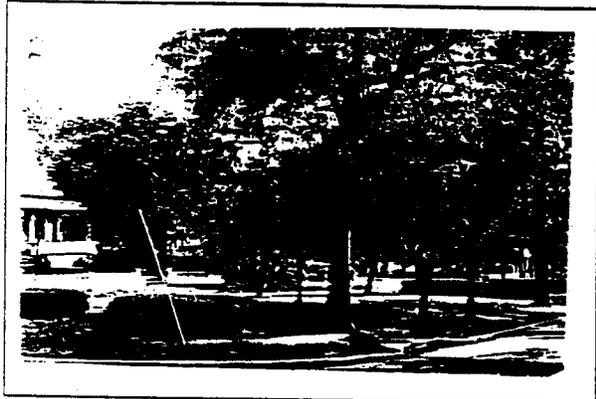
Hickman Park, established ca. 1859, contributes to Summerville by providing an open space amidst the surrounding buildings.

Follow the attached street furniture guidelines for any items placed in park or in other open spaces.

Parking and Paving

1 Attempt to provide sufficient parking on streets to prevent conversions of front yards into parking lots.

**2** Avoid demolishing buildings for any public parking areas.

3 Avoid constructing parking lots that do not reinforce the existing street wall of buildings and the grid system of rectangular blocks.

4 Screen parking lots from streets and sidewalks with trees and landscaping and include interior planting islands to provide shade and visual relief from large expanses of asphalt.

5 Provide water in parking lots for landscape maintenance.
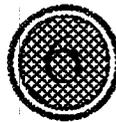
6 Install adequate lighting to provide security in evening hours.

7 Make street paving consistent throughout the district. Avoid the cosmetic patching of surfaces when more substantial repair is needed.

8 Avoid widening existing streets without providing sidewalks, street trees, and other elements that maintain the street wall and emphasize the human scale.

9 Avoid paving over areas that could be used for landscaping.

ABOVE: The majority of the public streets in the historic district are well-maintained.

ABOVE: Most parking for Summerville's neighborhood shops can be accommodated along the street.

Pedestrian Walks and Curbs

1 Retain historic paving materials such as brick sidewalks and granite curbs where they exist.

2 When sidewalks must be repaired, match adjacent materials (except for modern concrete) in design, color, texture, and tooling. Avoid extensive variation in sidewalk and curb materials.

3 When sidewalks need replacement, use a paving unit such as brick or exposed concrete aggregate that relates to the scale of the district. Curbs likewise should be a material such as stone or exposed concrete aggregate. Avoid pouring concrete in continuous strips.

4 Maintain a distinction between sidewalks and streets. Avoid paving sidewalks with asphalt and retain the curb strip.

5 Avoid excessive curb cuts for vehicular access across pedestrian ways, particularly in commercial areas; where curb cuts are necessary, mark them with a change in materials, color, texture, or grade.
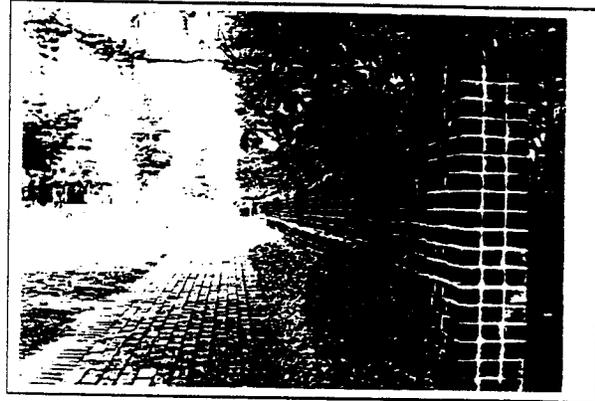
TOP: Granite curbs add character to some streets in the historic district. MIDDLE: Brick paved walkways coordinate with the historic building materials of Summerville's homes. BOTTOM: Well-maintained, exposed aggregate sidewalks reflect a human scale and the use of various materials in the historic district.

Street Furniture and Lighting

(1) Choose an appropriate traditional design for any trash containers in the district, possibly matching other street furniture. Metal is generally more appropriate than wood, concrete, or plastic.

(2) Place benches at key locations in the district. Use traditional designs constructed of wood and/or cast iron.

(3) Attempt to make any existing or future street furniture such as newspaper boxes, telephone booths, bicycle racks, drinking fountains, planters, and bollards compatible in design, color, and materials with existing elements.

(4) Avoid placing too many elements on narrow sidewalks.

(5) Expand the use of pedestrian-scaled, historically-styled light fixtures replacing any wooden poles and cobra-head light fixtures.

(6) Provide adequate lighting at critical areas of pedestrian/vehicular conflict such as parking lots, alleys, and crosswalks.

(7) Keep to a minimum the number of styles of light fixtures and light sources used in the district.

When used throughout a district, historic lighting fixtures contribute to the overall character of a neighborhood and coordinate well with the varying historic styles found in Summerville.

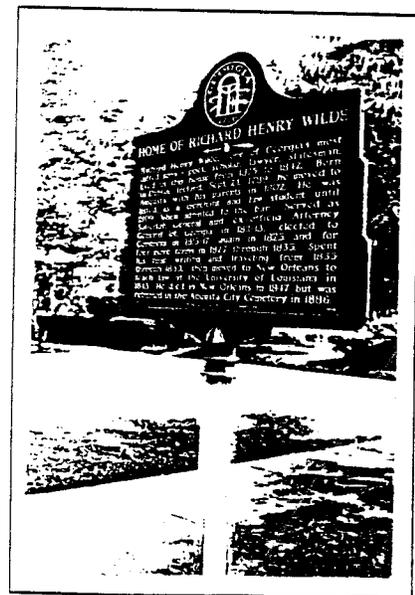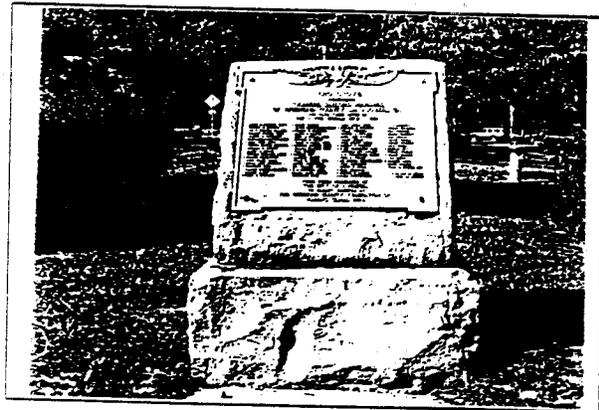# Public Signs, Signals, and Utilities

Maintain the existing neighborhood street signs with Summerville logo and expand their use if possible.

Maintain existing historical plaques commemorating significant events, buildings, and individuals in the district.

Avoid placing sign posts in locations where they can interfere with the opening of vehicle doors.

TOP: Street signs with the Summerville logo help to identify the edge of the historic district.

MIDDLE: Historic markers commemorate local historic events and contribute to the ambiance of the neighborhood.

BOTTOM: Historic plaques tell the story of local history.
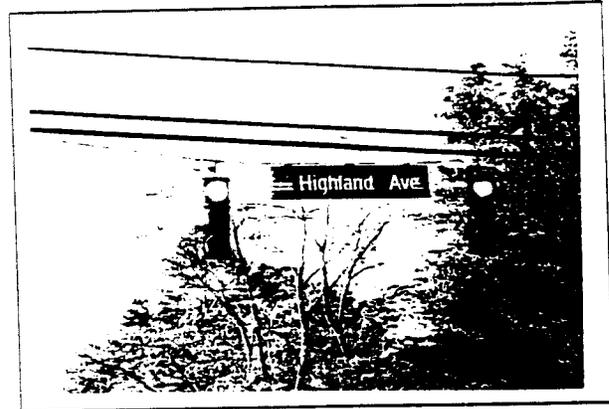
Public Signs, Signals, and Utilities

Consider installing traffic signals on poles that are placed beside the street and are compatible with the pedestrian-scaled light fixtures.

Place utilities underground if at all possible or locate behind buildings. Screen surface equipment.

Place necessary utilities such as transformers and overhead wires so that they are as visually unobtrusive as possible.

Suspended streetlight and sign within the historic district

Existing utilities are visually prominent in some areas of the historic district.

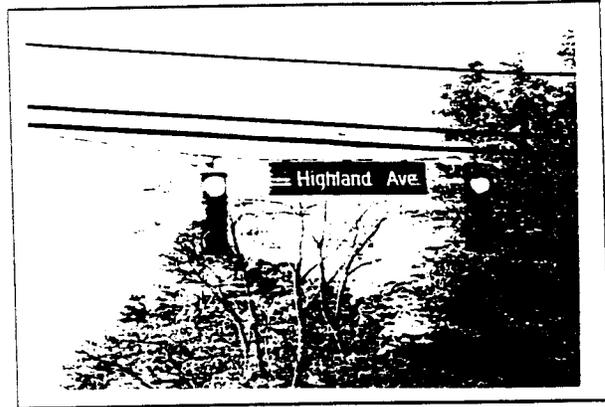# Public Signs, Signals, and Utilities

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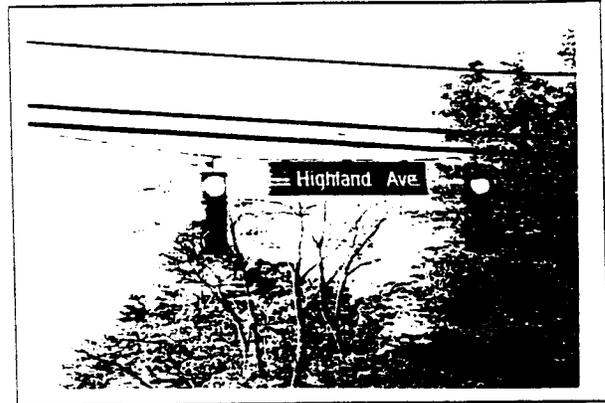# Public Signs, Signals, and Utilities

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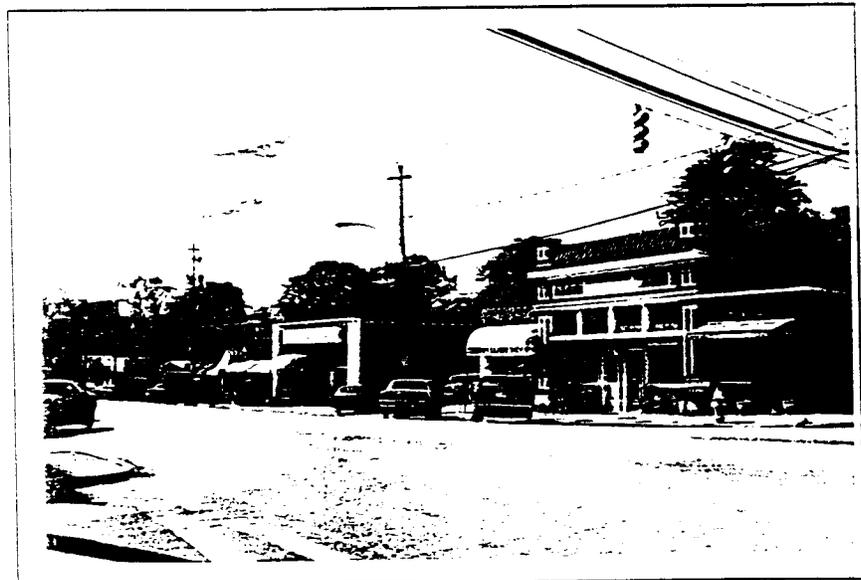
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