



Decatur Historic Resources Survey Neighborhood Summary

Date: September 1, 2009

Name: Westchester Hills

Property Type: District

Boundaries: The proposed Westchester Hills historic district is bounded roughly by Maediris Drive to the north, Harold Byrd Drive to the east, Westchester Drive to the south, and the CSX railroad to the west.

Primary Dates of Development: 1940s (Maediris Drive, Harold Byrd Drive, and Dogwood Way) and 1950s (Westchester Drive).

Physical Description: Westchester Hills is a residential neighborhood consisting primarily of two distinctive types of houses which were built mainly in two time periods. The section of the neighborhood which was developed first, in the late 1930s and 1940s, includes Maediris Drive, Harold Byrd Drive, and Dogwood Way. Houses on these three streets are mainly American Small houses which follow no academic style. The houses along Westchester Drive were built mainly in the 1950s and nearly all are ranch houses. The neighborhood is bounded by two busy thoroughfares, Scott Boulevard to the southeast and Clairemont Avenue to the northeast. The terrain is slightly hilly and the longest street, Westchester Drive, bisects the neighborhood, starting at Scott Boulevard and ending at Hidden Cove Park. The neighborhood has moderately sized houses with uniform setbacks, granite curbs, and no sidewalks. On Westchester Drive, the houses are set on the uniform rectangular lots with deep setbacks, and the deep lawns, front plantings, and mature trees result in a unified appearance.

Shared with the Chelsea Heights neighborhood to the south, Westchester Elementary School (currently an administration building) and Hidden Cove Park are important landmarks that are integral to the strong sense of community and identity in the neighborhood.

Westchester Hills contains 96 parcels (30.5 acres), of which 75 (78.1%) are currently contributing historic properties, 15 (15.6%) are non-contributing, and six (6.3%) are vacant. The oldest house in the neighborhood, which was built in 1939, is located at 124 Harold Byrd Drive. It is an American Small house type with no academic house style. The neighborhood has mainly retained its historic character, but currently infill development is beginning to threaten the historic integrity of the neighborhood.

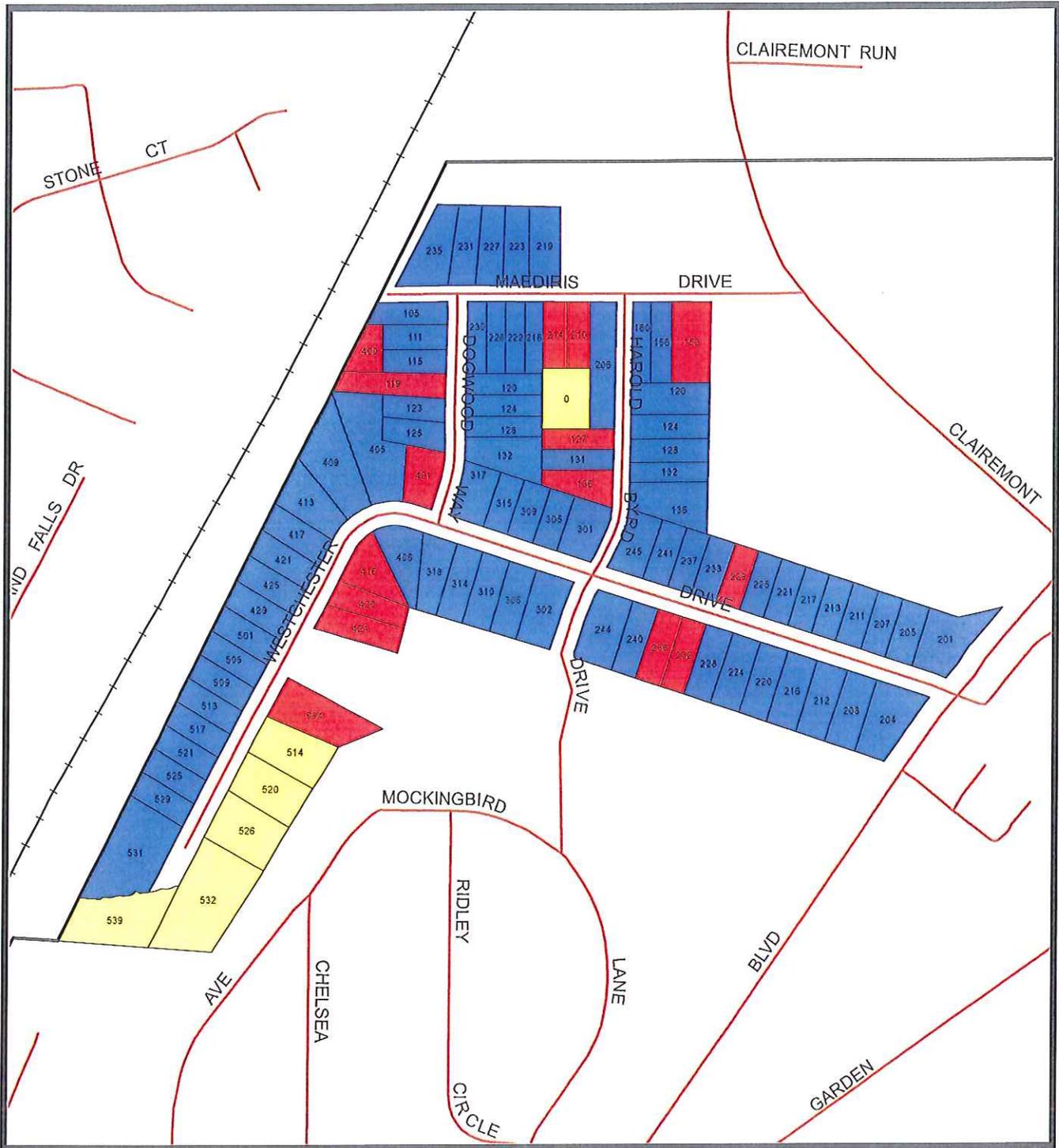


Decatur Historic Resources Survey Neighborhood Summary

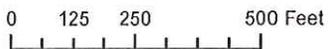
Reason for Significance (National Register of Historic Places Areas of Significance):
Architecture, Community Planning and Development

Description of Significance: Westchester Hills is significant in the area of Architecture because of the numerous examples of early American Small houses and ranches. The buildings are generally of a high quality and the houses along Westchester Drive are excellent examples of the classic ranch house type. Westchester Hills is also significant in the area of Community Planning and Development as a good example of a mid-twentieth century planned suburban community.

Recommended Historic District Designation: Local Historic District; National Historic District



Westchester Hills



STATUS	
	Park/Greenspace
	Contributing
	Non-contributing
	Vacant

City of Decatur
 Community & Economic Development
 509 N. McDonough Street -- P.O. Box 220, Decatur, GA 30031
 (404) 371-8386 Fax: (404) 371-1593 info@decaturga.com
 September 1, 2009

