



GEORGIA

A newly acquired 7-Acre lot is home to the notable historic Mulberry House, one of Hoschton's many hidden jewels. Charrette participants suggested to preserve the architectural elements of the house to convey an authentic interpretation of the site.

HOSCHTON, GA DESIGN CHARRETTE SMALL TOWN PRESERVATION

DATES: FALL 2021-SPRING 2022

Hoschton is a small town in Jackson County, Georgia, along the I-85 corridor. The city is experiencing unprecedented growth, as its current population of 3,000 is expected to reach 10,000 within the next five years. Many people are relocating to the area to take advantage of available jobs and appreciate the rural beauty and slower pace, yet expect bigger-city amenities. Local officials of Hoschton, GA, reached out to the Center for Community Design and Preservation (CCDP) at the UGA College of Environment and Design (CED) to develop concept plans and recommendations that will address the projected population growth while capitalizing on the historic character of Hoschton.

CCDP conducted a two-part design charrette — a multi-day brainstorming session between design experts and local stakeholders — to bring together a team of CED students in the landscape architecture, historic preservation, and urban planning programs to explore potential design solutions.



This outreach project was conducted by students and faculty of the
UGA COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN
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**PARTNERS: UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA COLLEGE OF ENVIRONMENT + DESIGN,
THE CITY OF HOSCHTON, GEORGIA, HOSCHTON DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

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College of
Environment + Design
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

The first charrette day began with a tour around Hoschton, led by Mayor Shannon Sell. Following the tour, our charrette team engaged city staff and elected officials in an interactive mapping exercise. Through this exercise, the locals identified community gathering places, eyesores, congested traffic areas, and potential areas of improvement to help the charrette team learn about life in Hoschton. Next, the charrette team divided into groups to explore the distinctive design challenges and potential solutions.

Hand sketches and digital graphics were used in each phase of the charrette to effectively communicate design solutions with other charrette participants and community members. Over the course of the design charrette, the ideas and illustrations the students produced evolved into the finalized concepts included in the mid-point presentation and final report. The initial concepts prepared by charrette participants consisted of five focus areas: Downtown, History, 7-Acre Lot, Parks, and Connectivity. CCDP staff developed these concepts into a presentation shared via YouTube in order to receive feedback from the Hoschton community. Community members were invited to give feedback via an online survey to share likes, dislikes, and additional information for students to consider during the second half of the charrette. CCDP staff and charrette participants made a second trip to Hoschton to refine their design ideas on-site and to share them with city officials.

Using case studies, feedback from community members, and site observations, the final design recommendations focus on the improvement of transportation alternatives, increase in-town amenities, preserve green space, and the suggestion of valuing history. The proposed concepts embrace the historic character of Hoschton while accommodating projected growth and development. The charrette team aimed to provide comprehensive steps in achieving development that preserves the cultural identity and landscape of a thriving small town and provides generous returns in the form of economic development, health promotion, and authenticity.



Town tour led by Mayor Shannon Sell



Charrette Day One - Mapping Exercise



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