

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

**Specific dates** 1925 **Builder/Architect** H.W. Nicholes (Nichols)

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

Cameron Court is an excellent intact example of a small, early twentieth century suburban residential subdivision. It features an array of revival and eclectic domestic architecture in an appropriately landscaped setting. Its cul-de-sac street represents the earliest documented use of this ubiquitous suburban planning feature in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Cameron Court was developed by H.W. Nicholes (Nichols), a prominent early twentieth century suburban builder in the Atlanta area. These areas of significance support National Register eligibility under criteria A and C.

In terms of community planning and development, Cameron Court is significant as a small but excellent intact example of an early twentieth century suburban residential subdivision, one of several in Atlanta that represent local and national trends in the suburban development of the period. Its characteristic features include an array of detached single-family houses and informally landscaped front yards. The meandering alignment of the street represents the prevailing taste for irregular, curvilinear street layouts. Its cul-de-sac represents the earliest documented use of this ubiquitous suburban planning feature in the Atlanta metropolitan area. Like many other suburban developments of the time, Cameron Court was laid out all at one time and developed during a relatively short time, largely under the auspices of a single developer, and judging from the uniform quality of the results, according to a master plan that must have governed land use, house size and value, setback lines, and overall design. It was developed during the hey-day of early twentieth century suburban development in Atlanta, during the years when a rapidly growing Atlanta was emerging as a major Southern metropolis. Sustained high demand for middle-class, single-family housing made possible not only large scale suburban developments such as Druid Hills, Ansley Park, Atkins Park, Peachtree Heights, Brookwood Hills (all listed in the National Register of Historic Places) but also small scale developments like Cameron Court. Cameron Court was laid out and at least half developed in the mid 1920's by H.W. Nicholes (Nichols), a prominent Atlanta-area suburban developer who was active in the adjacent Druid Hills development and in the nearby Atkins Park. In these other developments, Nicholes was responsible only for building houses; in Cameron Court, however, he was responsible for planning and developing the subdivision as a whole as well as for building at least half of the houses. It is interesting to note that Cameron Court was developed on land reserved earlier by Joel Hurt, the original developer of Druid Hills, for himself, but upon which he never built. It is also interesting to note that Nicholes used lots in Cameron Court as a staging ground for construction materials in the mid 1920's when he was working in Druid Hills and Atkins Park as well as in Cameron Court. Nicholes filed for bankruptcy in 1926, when Cameron Court was half completed - it is not known whether Cameron Court forced him into bankruptcy or was seen by him as a last resort measure to maintain solvency - and the subdivision was completed according to Nicholes' plan by several builders during the next few years.

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In terms of architecture, Cameron Court is significant for its collection of modestly-sized single-family houses. These houses represent the prevailing design principles and construction practices of early twentieth century domestic suburban architecture. Excellent example of revival styles such as Colonial, Tudor, and Spanish Mission, and of then-contemporary styles such as Craftsman/Bungalow, are present in the district. Such houses are commonly associated with early twentieth century suburban architecture in Atlanta and elsewhere. They exhibit such characteristic early twentieth century building materials as brick, stucco, tile, slate, and half timbering, and they illustrate early twentieth century construction methods, particularly the balloon frame with veneer. Individually and collectively they maintain a high degree of integrity, which makes their architectural value all the more pronounced. Because of the apparently strict design controls under which they were produced, they relate well to one another in terms of size, massing, siting, materials, and detailing. At least half of the houses were built by prominent Atlanta-area suburban developer H.W. Nicholes (Nichols) (See above). It is interesting to note that many of these modestly-sized houses are similar in design to their much longer counterparts in the adjacent Druid Hills development and in fact were built out of the very same high quality building materials that went into Nicholes' Druid Hills houses.

In terms of landscape architecture, Cameron Court is significant for its informally landscaped front yards, its sidewalks, and its street curbs, all characteristic features of early twentieth century suburban landscaping. Front yards informally landscaped with trees, lawn, and shrubbery, blending together to create a park-like impression along the street, are among the great achievements in early twentieth century American landscape gardening, and Cameron Court is a good albeit modest example of this common but characteristic landscaping feature in this type of development. The stone gateposts at the Briarcliff entrance to Cameron Court, similar to but smaller than those of the nearby and slightly earlier Atkins Park, are distinctive landscaping features.