Savannah Area Geographic Information System (SAGIS)

Addressing Standard

V 2.0

Compiled by the GIS & Mapping Subcommittee of the E911 Advisory Board
Chatham County
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Contents

Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to establish, in writing, guidance for addressing in Chatham County and all municipalities within the county boundary. This document is to assist in the overall decision support system for addressing both point data and road centerlines.

This document does not cover the collection or processing of GIS data, this document's purpose is to establish those guidelines for assigning addresses. This document provides those individuals assigning addresses with a solid background and consistent methodology.

Attempts have been made to ensure that the processes set forth in this document follow best practices and guidelines set forth by the United States Postal Service (USPS), National Emergency Number Association (NENA), and the State of Georgia GIS Clearinghouse Committee (GISCC).

Background

The current state of addressing in Savannah is based on a best fit scenario and although this method has worked for basic purposes, there is no standardization of addresses, and this lack of standardization has led to unforeseen problems. Key among these problems is the increased difficulty in navigating the county to locate addresses. This becomes particularly evident when using a GIS to locate addresses, such as those emergency services rely on to quickly obtain accurately directions to locations..

Parts of the county are based on the block method, which are ranges are 100 – 199 between two designated streets. This method works on a grid pattern and when the streets no longer follow a grid this becomes very subjective when addressing and a lot of personal judgment is required.

Another method used is assigning addresses numerically increasing from a point of origin and keeping odd and even addresses on designated sides of the street. This too is subjective as one could start at 1 or 100 or even 1000. If numbers are not skipped and a lot is subdivided this can lead to odd addresses for example, 52 ½ or even cause readdressing of all addresses.

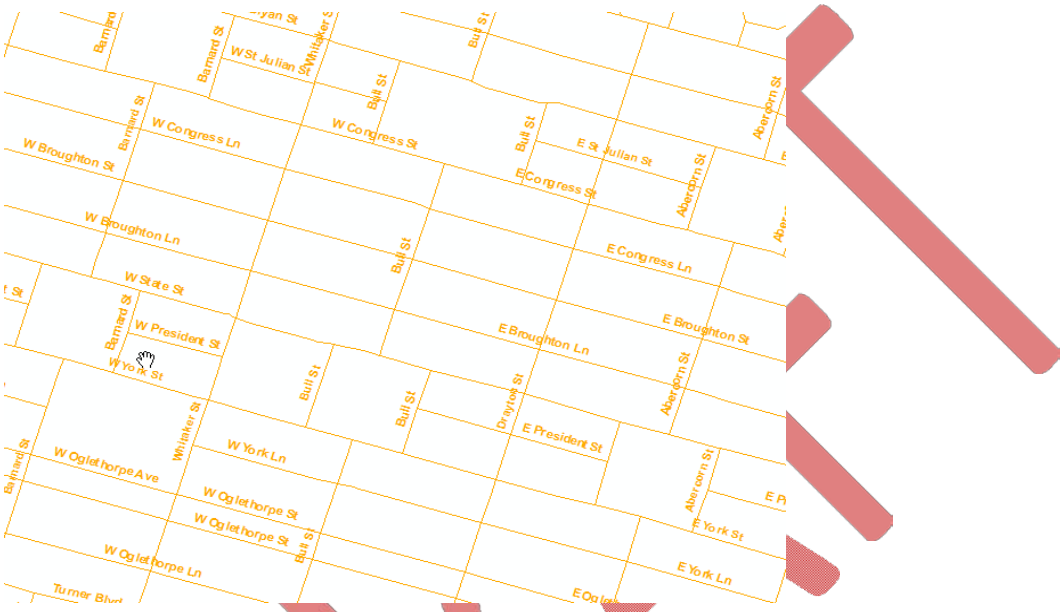
None of the above methods are wrong and have served the county in the past. Moving forward the goal is to take all the judgment out of the process and base the addressing on a mathematical system that is friendlier to a GIS format. The system below will be used for new street addressing. The process to correct existing addresses will be address in a future set of standards.

The process described below is also in accordance with the *Georgia Spatial Data Infrastructure GIS Coordinating Committee Framework Transportation Technical Working Group August 2000 Addressing Guidelines.*

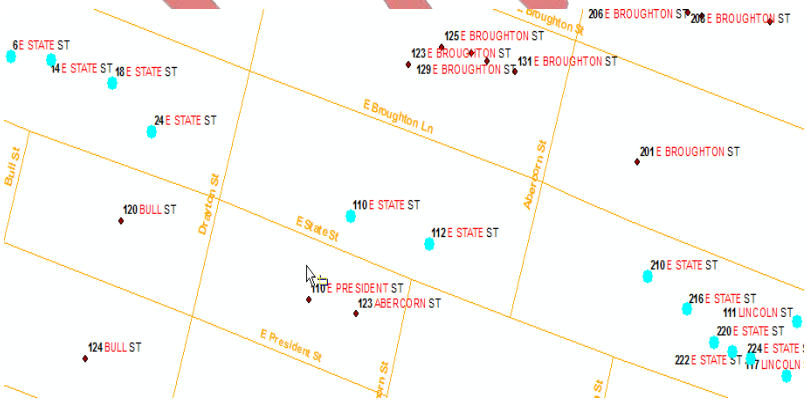
System Types

Grid System

The grid system is also known as the Municipal Style System (e.g. 110 E State St). This system is setup using block ranges that does not interpret to actual distance. This system is used primarily within municipal boundaries where the areas are older. This system is also prevalent along major roadways where E, W, S or N is used to differentiate the different geographical location of the roadway inside a boundary. In the example below ***Bull St.*** is the divider street for E & W road designators.



Below one can see how the addresses are divided into "*blocks*" and these blocks contain the ranges 1-99, 100-199 and 200-299. This is part of the grid system and has no measurable distance allotted to them. This is very common in cities that are setup in a grid pattern.



There is no reason to try to alter the existing GRID system within exiting communities. Only areas where the numbering falls outside of the appropriate block range will have issues with the system. Most GIS systems can handle the grid system as long as the pattern is followed, anomalies to this system can create issues with geocoding. Parts of the City of Savannah are setup on this system and will continue to be supported.

Rural Route System

Rural route system is not an addressing system that can be utilized by a GIS system. It is a system used by the United States Postal Service (USPS) to deliver mail where no system existed. **RR 6 Box 123** has no spatial value for a GIS, as these are not based on distance or any groupings. Elimination of Rural Route addressing should be a priority.

Distance (Mileage) System

The distance system is based upon a measureable distance between addresses. This system is based totally on mathematical logic. This allows for the addressing to be automated and applied to a large area.

Street Naming

Street naming is vital to the success of any addressing system. Duplication should be avoided at all cost and County wide cooperation is the key to success. On the surface street naming looks like a simple process but in all actuality, it is very detailed and complex and requires one to understand the placement of names within the county.

Street names are made up of three fields[1] **STDIR, STNAME, STSUFFIX** that is the Street Prefix, Street Name and the Street Suffix. All three fields are to be capitalized; no lower case should be utilized.

STDIR	STNAME	STSUFFIX
E	**STATE**	**ST**
	BULL	**ST**

STDIR Street Prefix direction is the primary compass direction from the divider street. (**E, W, N, S**)

STNAME Street Name is the identifying component of the full name these should be unique, but in older areas where a county –wide system was not established there may be duplicates. Duplicates should be avoided at all costs. (**BULL, STATE**)

STSUFFIX Street Suffix is the type usually identifies its length, use or shape of the street. (**AVE, ST**)

[1] Chatham County does not use the quadrant system so there will not be a fourth quadrant identifier in the street name which is utilized in other parts of the nation.

FULL NAME: **E STATE ST** or B**ULL ST** Every street has three components just some components may be NULL.

Addressing can also contain a UNIT identifier for those multi-tenant structures. This subject is discussed later in the document.

Duplication

Duplication should be avoided and a street name should only be used once in a county, regardless of jurisdiction. A street name should be unique. The practice of utilizing the Street Suffix to make the name unique should be avoided (example Bull Street and Bull Court). This can lead to confusion and incorrect addressing. Duplication of a name within the neighboring county that shares the same zip code should also be avoided.

Simplicity

This is often overlooked but road names should be kept simple, easy to read, spell, and pronounce even for children in emergency situations.

Homonyms, words that are pronounced similar but spelled differently, should not be used (disk, disc).

Words that are commonly mispronounced or spelled should not be used.

Multi-word names should be avoided. This can cause confusion as some times words can be combined to create a single word name (Clear Lake or Clearlake).

Directional words should not be used; this can make a street hard to differentiate between the name and the Street Pre-direction. (EAST WEIGH ST)

Punctuation or special characters should not be used. These create issues for databases but also for signing. Punctuation should be left off when naming streets; no commas, quotation marks or asterisks will be used.

Streets will not be named using proper names (JOHN DOE BLVD), unless the name is of historical significance. No street will be named after any existing resident currently residing on the street. First and last names can create unusually long names and create confusion if a street is later divided or blocked.

Continuity of street names is encouraged. A street should carry the same name for its total length even if it changes direction. If the street is permanently blocked by a void that can be easily bridged then the continuation of the street name is acceptable, but the overall street network will need to be examined to ensure the accessibility for emergency services routing.

Names should be kept with fifteen characters to avoid long names and to take advantage of limited space on a street sign.

The use of themes is encouraged, but naming should be confined to a single theme. If themes are used, the themes must be presented in an alphabetical format to aid the traveler in finding the correct street location. For example, entering a subdivision Lincoln St would be closer to the entrance than Washington Blvd.

All streets will be assigned a street type. The use of the types will carry expectation as to the length and use of the street. Street types will not be used as a street name (Polk Terrace Way and N Polk Ter).

Street Numbering

Street numbering will be assigned with the starting measurements originating at the intersection of the parent street and the child street. There will 1056 addresses per mile, which is an address every 5 feet. This allows for simple math to be employed to address a street. If a street is 2560 ft in length then there will be a total of 512 addresses on the street. For example, will have a lot 250 feet from the point of origin that lot address will be 150.

(Distance in feet /5)+ 100 = Address

All numbering will start with 100 rather than 0.

Even numbers will be on the North or East side of the street with odd numbers being on the South or West side of the street as determined from the point of origin. Close examination of streets must be made to ensure proper assigning of the point of origin. The Parent – Child relationship is critical to the addressing of streets.

A road cannot be the parent of a road that is higher in order than it. A County Route cannot be the Parent of a State Route.

- US
- State
- County
- Municipal
    a. Expressway or Parkway
    b. Highway
    c. Road
    d. Street or Extension
    e. Drive
    f. Avenue
    g. Boulevard, Crossroads, Way, Plaza, or Crossing
    h. Lane, Place, Court, Circle, Loop, Trail, Bend, Walk, Retreat, Point, Cove, Run, Grove, Manor or View
    i. Alley, Square, Station, Causeway, Terrace, Row or Crescent

- Private

With roads that connect to more than one road, the point of origin should be determined by the proximity to the center of the originating grid in Savannah or if a street is within the limits of an existing municipality, the center addressing point for the municipality, if the street originates and terminates on the same order roadway. If a street connects to both a state route and county route the point of origin will be the intersection of the road with the state route.

Corner lots will have their addresses assigned to the center of the building and to the street where the driveway intersects the street.

A stacked address is where houses or trailers reside behind one another and share a common driveway. The front most structure shall be addresses first following with the next structure directly behind it. The minimum lot size is 18' therefore there should be at least three addresses (one every five feet) per lot. The front would be given the first number. The goal is to avoid hyphenated address or fractional numbering.

Apartments or other multi-tenant structure should be numbered by the main building or main entrance to the structure. Each unit will be given a secondary location identifier that will be consistent throughout the complex.

All structures should consist of the building identifier and unit number (110 E STATE ST #A). This secondary identifier will be populated in the **UNIT** field of the addressing database.

Approved Abbreviations

Below are the approved Street Suffix abbreviations for use in Chatham County.

ABBREVIATION	NAME
ST	STREET
TER	TERRACE
LN	LANE
RD	ROAD
PL	PLACE
AVE	AVENUE
CT	COURT
DR	DRIVE
BLVD	BOULEVARD
CIR	CIRCLE
PKWY	PARKWAY
LOOP	LOOP
TR	TRAIL
XRDS	CROSSROADS
WAY	WAY
ALY	ALLEY
BEND	BEND
WK	WALK
RETREAT	RETREAT
PT	POINT
HWY	HIGHWAY
COVE	COVE
PLZ	PLAZA
EXT	EXTENSION
EXPY	EXPRESSWAY
RUN	RUN
SQ	SQUARE
CRES	CRESCENT
CSWY	CAUSEWAY
GRV	GROVE
MNR	MANOR
ROW	ROW
STA	STATION
VW	VIEW
XING	CROSSING

Approved Directions

Below are the approved street Prefix directions for use in Chatham County.

ABBREVIATION	DIRECTION
NE	NORTHEAST
NW	NORTHWEST
SE	SOUTHEAST
SW	SOUTHWEST
N	NORTH
S	SOUTH
E	EAST
W	WEST

New development in Chatham County or areas previously addresses that need to be completely readdressed should be addressed using the Distance System, with the exception of those portions of Savannah or any other existing municipality setup on the GRID. When replacing Rural Route addressing the Distance System should be utilized.

When readdressing an area a very detailed look at the existing situation should be done to ensure to minimize any confusion with the new addresses.

Address Notification

When a new address is created or new address added, the following organizations need to be notified of the change, in writing:

- All municipal police departments
- All municipal fire departments and Chatham Emergency Services
- Utility Companies, including Georgia Power, Gas and Water companies
- Superintendent of Schools
- United States Post Office, Jacksonville Branch
- Chatham County Health Department
- Board of Assessors

*This list will be adjusted as needed.

Master Address Database Field Definitions

Field Name	Type	Precision	Scale	Length	Data Description
ADD_ID	Double	38	8	8	Unique Identifier (MPC generated)
VACANT	String	0	0	6	vacancy of lot
X	Double	38	8	8	Georgia State Plane Northing
Y	Double	38	8	8	Georgia State Plane Easting
LATITUDE	Double	38	8	8	Latitude
LONGITUDE	Double	38	8	8	Longitude
STPRE_TYPE	String	0	0	4	Street Prefix Type
STPRE_Q	String	0	0	4	Street Prefix Qualifier
STNUM	Double	38	8	8	Address Number
STDIR	String	0	0	2	Street Direction
STNAME	String	0	0	29	Street Name
STSUFFIX	String	0	0	8	Street Suffix
STRENUMB	Double	38	8	8	Address Number (should be removed)
STSUF_DIR	String	0	0	2	Street Suffix Direction
STSUF_Q	String	0	0	4	Street Suffix Qualifier
UNIT	String	0	0	15	Unit Number
RURALRTE	String	0	0	200	Identifier if address is a Rural Route Address
RR_ZIP	String	0	0	5	Zip Code of Rural Route Address
PD_BEAT	String	0	0	15	Police Department Beat identifier
PD_NHOOD	String	0	0	75	Police Department Neighborhood Identifier
PD_PRE	String	0	0	10	Police Department Precinct Identifier
PD_AGNC	String	0	0	10	Police Department Agency Identifier
FD_RD	String	0	0	10	Fire Department Road Identifier
FD_AREA	String	0	0	10	Fire Department Area Identifier
FD_AGNC	String	0	0	10	Fire Department Agency Identifier
EMS_RD	String	0	0	10	Emergency Medical Service Road Identifier
EMS_AGNC	String	0	0	10	Emergency Medical Service Agency Identifier
PD_RD	String	0	0	16	Police Department Road Identifier
NEI_NUM	Double	38	8	8	Neighborhood Number Identifier
NEI_NAME	String	0	0	65	Neighborhood Name Identifier

MUNICPLT	String	0	0	25	Municipality
ALDER	Double	38	8	8	Alderman District Identifier
CENSUS_TRACK	String	0	0	7	Census Track
CENSUS_BLOCK	String	0	0	5	Census Block
ZIP	String	0	0	5	Zip Code
CITY_ADDRESS	String	0	0	3	City Style Address Identifier
SOURCE	String	0	0	20	Source of data
VERIFIED	String	0	0	3	Verification of Address Identifier
O_DATE	Date	0	0	36	Date last overlay was run against the point

The Master Address Database is the master list of addresses in Chatham County, to be utilized by 911 Dispatch for emergency services.