

Mrs. Elinor Adler Dillard:

One of the Founders of Historic Savannah Foundation

Obituary – SEP, August 6, 1992

Historic Preservationist Elinor Adler Dillard Dies

Mrs. Elinor Adler Dillard, a founding member of Historic Savannah Foundation, died Wednesday [August 5] at St. Joseph Hospital after a short illness.

Mrs. Dillard was one of the original seven women who dedicated themselves to preservation of the Historic District in 1954.

The women raised money to restore the Isaiah Davenport House at Habersham and State Streets on Columbia Square – the foundation's first project after the circa-1872 City Market and other historic buildings were demolished.

Many preservationists have praised the foundation for achieving a reputation throughout the country for innovative restoration.

Mrs. Dillard was a member of the Women's Board of Bethesda, the Family Services of Savannah, the Record Club and the League of Women Voters.

Born in 1903, Mrs. Dillard was the widow of Sam G. Adler and William E. Dillard. She was a native of New York.

She married Adler, a native Savannahian, in 1921.

After Adler's death, she married William E. Dillard in

1980.

Surviving are two sons, Leopold Adler II and Sam G. Adler, Jr.; three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Fox and Weeks Funeral Directors, Drayton Chapel.

Remembrances: Historic Savannah Foundation.



DH Bio Sheet

*Completed by Emma Morel
Adler, January 6, 2003*

Name: Elinor Louise Grunsfeld Adler

Born: March 4, 1903.

Birth location: 172 W. 79th Street, New York, NY

Death: 1992. Burial Site: Bonaventure Cemetery, Savannah, GA

Wedding date: April 18, 1921.

Wedding Location: New York, NY. The Ritz-Carlton

Children: Leopold Adler II, April 18, 1923, Sam G. Adler, Jr. August 2, 1925

Location of Home: 814 E. Victory Drive

Education: Elementary School in New York City – The Shipley School in Bryn Mawr, PA

Religious Affiliation: Mickve Israel Synagogue

Parents: Teresa Nussbaum –

Ernest A. Grunsfeld

Profession: Volunteer

Civic Activities: Women's Board of Bethesda, Family Service Board, a founder of HSF, The Little Theater, Savannah.

Comments on her personality: Elinor Adler was a beautiful and graceful and fashionable woman. She was kind, generous and friendly to all.

Describe her appearance: Elegant – always.

Describe her bearing: Graceful and dignified.

Hobbies: tennis, golf, dancing

Stories to share: Loved her family and her Scottie, Mops – and later miniature poodles – loved to travel and loved people and society.

What do you recall about this person's involvement in the preservation of the Davenport House? Only that she was one of the seven who saved it. The Family Service staff had its office on the ground floor originally. Perhaps she was influential in this since she was on that board.

