

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in "Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms" (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Crescent Apartments
other names/site number "The Dump," Windsor House Apartments, The Margaret Mitchell House

2. Location

street & number 979 Crescent Avenue, N.W.
city, town Atlanta (n.a.) **vicinity of**
county Fulton **code** GA 121
state Georgia **code** GA **zip code** 30309

(n.a.) not for publication

3. Classification

Ownership of Property:

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-federal

Category of Property

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property:

	<u>Contributing</u>	<u>Noncontributing</u>
buildings	1	0
sites	0	0
structures	0	0
objects	0	0
total	1	0

Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: n.a.

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Mark R. Edwards

Signature of certifying official

Date May 7, 1996

Mark R. Edwards
State Historic Preservation Officer
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property () meets () does not meet the National Register criteria. () See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency or bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register _____
- determined eligible for the National Register _____
- determined not eligible for the National Register _____
- removed from the National Register _____
- other, explain: _____
- see continuation sheet

Coral D. Shull 6-21-96
Signature, Keeper of the National Register Date

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions:

DOMESTIC: single dwelling
DOMESTIC: multiple dwelling

Current Functions:

WORK IN PROGRESS (RECREATION AND CULTURE: museum)

7. Description

Architectural Classification:

Tudor Revival

Materials:

foundation brick
walls brick
roof asphalt shingle
other

Description of present and historic physical appearance:

DESCRIPTION OF PRESENT APPEARANCE

Summary Description

The Crescent Apartments is a three-story, Tudor Revival-style, brick-veneered building located on an otherwise vacant block at the corner of Peachtree and Tenth Streets in the Midtown area of Atlanta. It was built in 1898-99 as a stylish two-story single-family house in what was then a fashionable residential section of Peachtree Street. In 1913-14, in response to increasing commercial development along Peachtree Street, the house was moved back to the rear of its lot, placed on a raised foundation, and given a Crescent Avenue address. Between 1919 and 1920 it was converted into the three-story, ten-unit Crescent Apartments. During the mid-20th century, the building underwent several remodelings. It was left vacant after 1977 while the surrounding blocks were razed for office-tower redevelopment. In September 1994 a fire destroyed much of the second and third interior floors, the attic and the roof, and portions of the south wall. Surviving the fire but suffering water and smoke damage was the ground-floor apartment once occupied by the famous American author Margaret Mitchell. Since the fire, the building has been stabilized and now is undergoing an Olympics-related restoration of the exterior and the Margaret Mitchell apartment for use as an interpretive center and "house" museum.

Current Description

The Crescent Apartments building is a three-story brick-veneered building on an otherwise open tract of land. It is situated

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relatively close to Crescent Avenue on the west, separated from it by only a narrow strip of land and the sidewalk; to the north (Tenth Street), east (Peachtree Street), and south, it is bordered by open grounds which are being landscaped as part of the preservation and interpretation of the property. The Peachtree Street facade, originally the "front" of the building when it was a single-family house, is two storied high and arranged asymmetrically with a projecting, off-centered, gabled entry bay rising a full three floors and flanked by two-story bay windows. The entry-bay gable features restored diagonal half-timbering. A reconstructed, partial-width, one-story front porch and a full-width front terrace complete this facade. The Crescent Avenue facade, which originally was the back of the house but which has served as the front of the apartment house since it was moved in the second decade of the 20th century, is a full three stories in height and features a reconstructed, three-story, gallery-type porch extending across three-quarters of the facade. A variety of windows and doorways are located on this facade, including an original rectangular bay window on the ground floor. The rebuilt south wall of the building is plain brick veneer with windows at the second and third floor levels and a new small addition on the ground-floor level. The original north wall features a single "dogleg" but is otherwise plain brick veneer. The reconstructed roof is a compound hipped roof with a projecting gable dormer on the east (Peachtree Street) side.

Within the Crescent Apartments building is the intact apartment unit occupied by Margaret Mitchell between 1925 and 1932 where she wrote Gone With The Wind. This apartment is located in the northwest corner of the ground floor and runs back along most of the north wall to the "dogleg." It consists of two principal rooms, a living room (102 on the attached floor plan) and a bedroom (109), along with a kitchen (110), closets and bath (103-105), and a small vestibule (101). The apartment is entered through the vestibule from the main hallway of the apartment house. The vestibule opens into the living room, a nearly square front-corner room. The living room features a rectangular-shaped bay window overlooking Crescent Avenue, a fireplace along the north wall, and two sash windows, one on the west wall and one on the north wall. (It was in this room, at a small table in front of the bay window, that Margaret Mitchell wrote Gone With The Wind.) The bedroom, along the north wall, is separated from the living room by a passageway, a closet, and a bathroom. The bedroom, also square in plan, features a fireplace on the interior wall and two sash windows on the exterior wall. Beyond the bedroom is a small kitchen. Throughout the apartment, wall and ceiling finishes are smooth, and molding around doorways and windows are simple. The apartment currently is undergoing an authentic restoration, based on documentation and architectural analysis, to repair fire-related

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damage and to bring the apartment back to its appearance when Margaret Mitchell lived there.

The remainder of the interior of the Crescent Apartments building consists of spaces and features which currently are undergoing restoration and reconstruction. These correspond generally to the layout and detailing of the apartment house in the early 20th century. The rooms along the north (Tenth Street) and east (Peachtree Street) walls, which were the least damaged by the 1994 fire, are being restored to their appearance during the first two decades of the 20th century. The southwest and northwest quadrants of the second and third floors, which were severely damaged or destroyed in the 1994 fire, are being reconstructed for contemporary uses. The remainder of the ground floor beyond the Margaret Mitchell apartment, which was destroyed during the 1994 fire, is being rebuilt for interpretive purposes. A new stairway has been built in the same general location as the one in the middle of the building destroyed by the 1994 fire.

HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION

Sheehan House

The Crescent Apartments building was built in 1898-99 as a single-family house for Cornelius J. Sheehan, Jr., and his family. The house faced Peachtree Street and had an 806 Peachtree Street address (pre-1926 numbering system). Its relatively small lot extended through to Crescent Avenue at the rear (west). The house was built at a time when this portion of Peachtree Street just north of the Atlanta city limits was developing as a premier residential neighborhood. Nearby were the Gentleman's Driving Club (later the Piedmont Driving Club), fast becoming the social center of north Atlanta, and Piedmont Park, site of the 1895 Cotton States and International Exposition. Recently extended streetcar lines serviced the area and provided convenient transportation to downtown Atlanta.

Cornelius J. Sheehan, Jr., was the son of Cornelius and Elizabeth McCarthy Sheehan, a pioneering Atlanta family and one of the most prominent and influential Irish-Catholic families in the South. The Sheehans amassed a small fortune, principally through real estate sales and development. Cornelius Sheehan, Jr., was a successful businessman in Atlanta as well as the owner and publisher of Grier's Almanac. The Sheehans typified the socio-economic status of the people who were making Peachtree Street their home at the turn of the century.

Sheehan's Peachtree Street house was large and stylish, if not ostentatious. Two stories high and built of brick veneer, it was patterned after the popular Tudor Revival style. It featured the

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mildly asymmetrical massing, the prominent off-centered gabled entry bay with half-timbering, and the compound hipped roof, front porch, and front terrace still evident today. The interior was organized around a centrally located stairhall which formed the core of the house, around which the rooms of the house were arranged, a pattern also still evident today. The house may have been designed by an otherwise unknown Atlanta architect, "Mr. Dunning."

Moving the House

Shortly after the turn of the century, changes began taking place in the Peachtree-and-Tenth Street neighborhood. Commercial development along Peachtree Street intensified, accompanied by the construction of apartment buildings. Perhaps out of aversion to these changes, Sheehan sold his relatively new house in 1906. A subsequent succession of real estate transactions culminated in 1913-14 when the Sheehan's original lot was subdivided and the house was moved back to the rear half of its original lot, away from Peachtree Street; with the former back of the house now "fronting" on Crescent Avenue, the house was given a new address: 17 Crescent Avenue (pre-1926 street number system).

It is not clear whether the new owner of the house, John B. Thompson, planned to convert the house into apartments at this time. It is clear, however, that the relocated house was placed on a new raised basement, bringing its overall height to three stories. It also is clear that the house's original two-story rear service wing was demolished for the move. Less clear is what happened to the original front porch; although at least the wrap-around portion along the south wall apparently survived, it is uncertain whether the main portion was moved or demolished at this time. Also not clear is what alterations may have been made to the former rear of the house, now its front facing Crescent Avenue, although the gallery porches appear to have been a later addition. Apparently few alterations were made to the interior at this time.

The Crescent Apartments

In 1919 the relocated former Sheehan house was sold to Mrs. Pearl Langston who converted it into an apartment house known as the "Crescent Apartments." By 1920 the building contained the ten apartments that it retained until recently. This configuration represented the condition of the building when Margaret Mitchell lived there from 1925 to 1932.

Conversion of what had been a single-family residence into the ten-unit Crescent Apartments in 1919-20 necessitated many changes to the old Sheehan house. The old first and second floors (now the second

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and third floors) each were subdivided into four apartments, and two more were created in the new daylight basement. Each required a bathroom and a kitchen, the installation of which necessitated many of the most significant changes to the building.

Although the 1994 fire destroyed all evidence of this, it appears likely that it was at this time that the original main staircase was removed, as well as the old service stair. In their place, a new stairway was built in the north end of the original stair hall, more centrally located than the original main stair, and a secondary staircase was built from the northwest side of the main (Crescent Avenue) entrance. The newel posts, including the lion post at the foot of the original main stairway, and the balustrades of both staircases were reused in the new stairs. At the south end of the original stair hall, the large window that had lighted the landing of the original stair was bricked in and new windows were created on each floor.

Kitchens, bathrooms, and closets were installed for each apartment on all three levels of the apartment house. For the apartments in the southeast corner, the original wrap-around portions of the former front porch were enclosed for kitchens on the second and third floor levels. In the southwest quadrant, kitchens were installed in the partially enclosed former stair hall. In the northeast corner, a small wood-framed addition, created by removing a small portion of original brick-veneered wall, accommodated kitchens. Elsewhere, former dressing rooms, bathrooms, a pantry, and the old service stair space were reused for new bathrooms and kitchens. Some large windows were replaced with smaller windows to meet the changed uses of interior spaces.

To accommodate the new floor plan, the several pocket doors on the second (original first) floor were closed, as were some of the smaller transomed doors. Several new doorways were created as well. The original doors in the house were 7' 4" high with two vertical panels; some survived, although not necessarily in their original locations, until the recent fire. The doors added in 1919-20 were apparently 7' high with four vertical panels; many of these survived until the recent fire. Window and door casings for the new openings on the second (originally the first) and third (originally the second) floors, and probably for the new basement floor as well, matched the profile of the original 1989-99 woodwork. It is unclear whether other elements of the 1919-20 renovation matched the original woodwork, although differences in the baseboards on the second floor suggest that less visible features may not have been as accurately replicated.

Because wood lath was largely superseded by metal lath or plaster board by the 1930s in Atlanta, it can be assumed that all plaster-on-

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wood-lath walls and ceilings date to the 1919-20 renovation or are original to the building. The bathrooms in the apartments were tiled with white, hexagonal, porcelain tiles. The floors in the entrance hall and the vestibule to Margaret Mitchell's ground-floor apartment were tiled with square white porcelain tiles with a border of red tiles.

On the new west front (Crescent Avenue facade) of the building, a new "front" porch was built; it consisted of a gallery-type porch for the second and third floors above a terrace-type porch for the ground floor.

The main entrance to the new Crescent Apartments was created in the center of the west (Crescent Avenue) side of the ground floor of the building. What originally may have been a window opening was enlarged to accommodate double entry doors opening into an entrance hall. These doors later were replaced, probably in a 1964 renovation, although the original doorframe remains, complete with a ghost of the new post-1926 street number, "979."

"The Dump"

It was in this converted apartment house building--the Crescent Apartments--where Margaret Mitchell lived and wrote Gone With The Wind. From 1925 to 1932, Margaret Mitchell and her husband rented what was essentially a two-room ground-floor apartment known only as "Apt. 1." This apartment remained relatively intact throughout subsequent renovations and largely survived the 1994 fire. Today it is being restored to its 1925-1932 condition.

Margaret Mitchell characterized her apartment and the building it was located in as "the dump." She also complained about the lack of heat (probably the result of a poorly designed or adapted hot-water heating system) and the lack of light (due to the apartment's location on the north or shady wall of the building). Yet the Crescent Apartments were but five years old, and the building itself barely 25 years old, with new and good quality plaster walls and interior woodwork, when Mitchell lived there. In perspective, it seems clear that only in contrast to the Mitchell family's elegant Peachtree Street mansion (since destroyed) could the apartment be so characterized.

In addition to being convenient and reasonably comfortable, the apartment also seems to have been in a perfect location in Atlanta for a young couple without an automobile during the 1920s. At that time, there was no other place in the city that provided the quantity and quality of shops, businesses, offices, and services in the Peachtree-and-Tenth vicinity. Within just a block or so of this intersection could be found a post office, a dentist, lawyers, a dance studio,

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Woolworth's, Coledge Paints, and Citizens and Southern bank, two automobile garages, two plumbers, two electrical companies, two barbers, two hairdressers, two hardware stores, three bakeries, Franco's delicatessen, at least a dozen grocery stores, four drug stores, two fish markets, a meat market, and a dairy. In 1926 construction of the Tenth Street Theater around the corner from the Crescent Apartments more or less completed the scene.

Creation of the Crescent Apartments also came at a time when there was a tremendous increase in the number of apartment buildings going up or being otherwise created in Atlanta. This was partly a result of the disastrous fire of 1917 that destroyed Margaret Mitchell's birthplace on Jackson Hill along with hundreds of other homes along Jackson Street and Boulevard, and partly a result of new businesses and offices, many of them national in scope, forming or locating in Atlanta. To meet the need for middle-class housing in the city, numerous apartment buildings were built along these streets as well as along Peachtree Street and Ponce de Leon Avenue. Many of them were large and well-designed, typically "garden" apartments; others were more modest in scale or, like the Crescent Apartments, converted from existing single-family structures. Relocated on its lot and reoriented with its three-story gallery porches, the Crescent Apartments was virtually undistinguishable from dozens of other small apartment buildings in the city.

Later Renovations--Windsor House Apartments

Although newly remodeled in 1919-20 and probably still in relatively good condition while Margaret Mitchell lived there, the Crescent Apartments may have suffered from a lack of maintenance as early as the 1920s and certainly during the 1930s. It also changed hands a number of times, and its vacancy rate varied wildly. However, no major changes were made to the building until after World War II.

In 1946-47, a new owner made cosmetic alterations and repairs throughout the building. The Crescent Avenue gallery porches, in poor condition, were pulled down and not replaced, apparently due to a post-war shortage of building materials. As the surrounding area became increasingly commercialized, demand for residential apartments decreased, to the point where, between 1950 and 1954, only the owner lived in the building, in Apt. 1. During the late 1950s, several apartments were leased to commercial enterprises.

In the early 1960s, with the installation of a new fire detection system, the building began to attract students from nearby Georgia Tech, artists, and others, many of whom paid their rent by maintaining and improving the building.

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The final renovation of the Crescent Apartments prior to its current restoration occurred in 1965. Among the changes made to the building were the application of stucco on wire lath to the west or Crescent Avenue facade (since removed), the replacement of some of the windows, the hanging of sheetrock in some interior areas, and the remodeling of kitchens and bathrooms. By 1970 the building had been renamed "Windsor House Apartments."

In 1974 the building was sold to a real estate developer. By 1977, the remaining tenants had been evicted and the building was left to deteriorate. All the other buildings on the block, as well as others in the area, were razed in anticipation of a massive high-rise office-tower complex, only a portion of which has been built.

It was during this time that the current movement to preserve and interpret the building as a memorial to Margaret Mitchell began. These early efforts culminated in the formation of The Margaret Mitchell House, Inc., the development of restoration plans and interpretive programs, the acquisition of the property, the stabilization of the building, and fundraising. Only the building's well-known associations with Margaret Mitchell and Gone With The Wind prevented its demolition during these years.

The 1994 Fire

On September 17, 1994, an arsonist set fire to the vacant but boarded-up building. The fire, which was started in the southwest corner of the ground floor, destroyed the roof and led to the partial collapse of the south exterior wall; on the interior, rooms in the southwest quadrant of the building on each floor level were destroyed (123, 212, 213, 309, 310). Only fragments of adjoining ground-level rooms survived (106, 107, 111, 122, 124). Some rooms on the north and east walls of the building were heavily damaged but not destroyed (119-121, 201-204, 206-207, 209, 301-312 excepting 310). Other rooms on the first and second floors were largely undamaged by the fire but suffered extensive water damage (112-117, 208, 210, 211). Also not burned but suffering from water damage was the ground-floor suite of rooms comprising "Apt. 1"--the Margaret Mitchell apartment (101-105, 109-110).

Restoration, Reconstruction, and Reuse

Recently, extensive preservation work on the former Crescent Apartments building has been undertaken. The overall approach to preserving the building is being guided by three major considerations: the historical significance of the building, namely its associations with Margaret Mitchell and the writing of Gone With The Wind; the program for adaptive use as the headquarters for The Margaret Mitchell

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House, Inc., and as a "house" museum for Margaret Mitchell's ground-floor apartment; and extent of fire damage and other structural problems.

With this in mind, the following work is being done on the building, with the goal of being completed in time for the 1996 Atlanta Centennial Olympics: The ground-floor apartment associated with Margaret Mitchell is being authentically restored, retaining and reusing as much historic building material as possible, and duplicating missing or fire-damaged materials as closely as possible, based on architectural analysis and historical documentation. The remaining ground-floor space is being built out as a modern interpretive facility. The fire-damaged rooms on the second and third floors, primarily along the north (Tenth Street) and east (Peachtree Street) walls, are being restored to their early 20th-century appearance. Other interior spaces destroyed by the fire are being built out for office space, meeting rooms, restrooms, and other facilities. A new stairway along with an elevator occupies the center of the building, in the approximate location of the original apartment-house stair. Exterior walls are being repaired except for the south wall which had to be largely reconstructed. The original Peachtree Street porch and terrace have been reconstructed from photographic evidence, as has been the three-story gallery porch facing Crescent Avenue. The roof, which was completely destroyed in the 1994 fire, also has been rebuilt following the compound-hipped lines of the original.

As it will stand when restoration and reconstruction are completed, the building with its "front" and "rear" porches will represent the transition between its original use as a single-family house facing Peachtree Street and its subsequent use as an apartment house facing Crescent Avenue. The restored "Apt. 1" will represent the typical apartment unit and will be interpreted as the home of Margaret Mitchell from 1925 to 1932 when she wrote Gone With The Wind.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A

A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

Literature

Period of Significance:

1925-1932

Significant Dates:

1930 (completion of draft novel)

Significant Person(s):

Mitchell, Margaret

Cultural Affiliation:

n.a.

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Mr. Denning (attribution)

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Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:

Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)

The Crescent Apartments is nationally significant in the area of literature for its direct historical association with the productive life of Margaret Mitchell (1900-1949), author of the world-famous novel of life in the Deep South, Gone With The Wind. From 1925 to 1932, Mitchell lived with her husband, John Marsh, in the building's surviving ground-floor apartment, known as "Apt. 1" but which she nicknamed "the dump." It was in this apartment, working at a manual typewriter on a small table in the living-room alcove overlooking Crescent Avenue, that the former Atlanta Journal reporter wrote the bulk of her epic novel between 1926 and 1930. In 1932, Mitchell and her husband moved from the declining Crescent Apartments to a nearby apartment on 17th Street at Pershing Point where she finished editing the manuscript for publication. In 1936 the book was published; an instant success, it sold more than 180,000 copies in the first month. Film rights were quickly purchased by Selznick International Pictures for a record-breaking price of \$50,000. Within six months, more than one million copies of the novel had been sold, and Margaret Mitchell was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for 1936. Since that time, the book has been translated into 26 foreign languages with worldwide sales nearing 30,000,000 copies. The movie, which opened in 1939 at Atlanta's since-destroyed Loew's Grand Theater, has been seen by countless millions of people worldwide. Revered by many, reviled by some, Gone With The Wind is arguably the most popular and influential book ever written about the American South. The Crescent Apartments is the only extant historic building directly associated with its author, Margaret Mitchell, during the time when she wrote the novel.

National Register Criteria

The Crescent Apartments meets National Register criterion "B" for its direct historical association with the productive life of Margaret Mitchell, the world-famous author of Gone With The Wind. It was in the extant ground-floor apartment of this building where Mitchell wrote her epic novel between 1925 and 1930.

The Crescent Apartments is the only extant historic building associated with the productive life of Margaret Mitchell and her novel Gone With The Wind. Her large childhood home on Jackson Hill was destroyed in Atlanta's disastrous 1917 fire; her family's later luxurious home on Peachtree Street has been demolished; and the Russell Apartments on 17th Street at Pershing Point, where she and her husband moved in 1932 and where she finished editing her manuscript,

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also has been destroyed. The Della Manta apartment building at Piedmont Avenue and South Prado in Ansely Park, where she lived from 1939 until her death in 1949, still exists but is not directly associated with her writing of Gone With The Wind. The buildings and other places in the novel are by Mitchell's own admission fictional; none ever existed, although many people have sought and continue to seek them. The Atlanta movie theater where the film version of Gone With The Wind premiered in 1939 was destroyed by fire in the 1970s.

The Crescent Apartments also is one of just a very few isolated historic buildings remaining from the early 20th-century Peachtree-and-Tenth neighborhood which Margaret Mitchell loved and which fostered her literary interests. Mid- to late 20th-century commercial redevelopment along the Peachtree Street corridor very nearly has obliterated all traces of this neighborhood. Indeed, the Crescent Apartments itself was almost a casualty of that same commercial redevelopment; after 1977, virtually every other building on the block was razed for a proposed high-rise office tower. Only the Crescent Apartments' direct and well-known historical association with Margaret Mitchell and the writing of Gone With The Wind saved it from demolition at that time. It now stands as the solitary reminder of the former dense, low-rise, diverse neighborhood from which came a world-renown novel.

In its current condition, undergoing restoration and reconstruction after the severe 1994 fire, the Crescent Apartments building provides the immediate architectural context for Margaret Mitchell's largely extant ground-floor apartment within the building, known only as "Apt. 1," but which she affectionately called "the dump." Even though the building has been altered over the years since Mitchell lived there and recently suffered severe fire damage, it still retains its historic location fronting on Crescent Avenue, its overall form, its domestic scale, its exterior materials, and the architectural features that clearly identify it as an "apartment house"--a small apartment building converted from a former single-family house--and that clearly differentiate it from the more prevalent "courtyard" or "garden" apartments in Atlanta. Margaret Mitchell and her husband, while not wealthy at the time, nevertheless had the means and connections to live in any number of places in the city. The fact that they chose the Crescent Apartments in the Peachtree-and-Tenth neighborhood is a clear expression of the lifestyle they adopted, a lifestyle still evidenced by the Crescent Apartments building.

Within this apartment-house context, the most important interior space--Apt. 1, the Margaret Mitchell apartment--survives relatively intact. Even after the 1994 fire, this ground-floor apartment retained a relatively high degree of physical and spatial integrity; indeed, its floor plan survived virtually unchanged from the time when

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Mitchell lived there. This apartment currently is being restored to its 1925-1932 appearance, based on historical documentation and architectural analysis. When the restoration is complete, the apartment will be furnished and interpreted as the place where Gone With The Wind was written.

Criteria Considerations (if applicable)

n.a.

Period of significance (justification)

The period 1925-1932 represents the time that Margaret Mitchell lived in the Crescent Apartments and wrote Gone With The Wind. The bulk of the novel was written between 1926 and 1930.

Contributing/Noncontributing Resources (explanation, if necessary)

The apartment house is the single contributing building.

9. Major Bibliographic References

This nomination is based largely on a lengthy and highly detailed historic structures report prepared by Tommy Jones, historic preservation consultant working for the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation, for The Margaret Mitchell House, Inc., June-July 1995. Much of the information in this nomination form is taken or summarized from this report. The report contains an extensive bibliography of local sources about the Crescent Apartments:

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Historical Maps (in chronological order)

- 1872 Vincent's Map of Fulton County. Atlanta History Center.
- 1892 Saunder's Bird's-Eye View of Atlanta. Atlanta History Center.
- 1895 Baylor's Atlas of Atlanta. Atlanta History Center.
- 1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Atlanta. Atlanta History Center.
- 1917 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Atlanta. Atlanta History Center.
- 1927 City of Atlanta Topographic Survey Maps. Atlanta History Center.
- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map of Atlanta. Atlanta History Center.

Historical Photographs (in chronological order)

- 1905 View of the Sheehan House in the background of a photograph of the Martin R. Emmons House, in architect Willis F. Denny's professional portfolio. Atlanta History Center, Atlanta.
- 1908 View of Peachtree Street and Peachtree Place showing Sheehan House, Emmons House, and Elysee Palace Apartments. Photograph no. 3149. Atlanta History Center, Atlanta.
- 1953 View of Crescent Avenue, by Georgia Power Company, showing construction of new office building with Crescent Apartments in background. Special Collections, Pullen Library, Georgia State University, Atlanta.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): () N/A

- () preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- () previously listed in the National Register
- () previously determined eligible by the National Register
- () designated a National Historic Landmark
- () recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
- () recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section 9

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office**
- Other State Agency**
- Federal agency**
- Local government**
- University**
- Other, Specify Repository:**

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

none currently assigned

NOTE: In 1989 the Crescent Apartments was locally designated as a "landmark building" (cited as "Windsor House Apartments, 979 Crescent Avenue) upon recommendation by the Atlanta Urban Design Commission and approved by the City of Atlanta pursuant to Section 16-20.004 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property

less than one acre

UTM References

A) Zone 16 Easting 742190 Northing 3740760

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property closely approximates the relatively small city lot originally numbered 17 Crescent Avenue and later known as 979 Crescent Avenue in the city of Atlanta. The nominated property is drawn to scale on the attached property/boundary sketch map. It will be highlighted on the site by the proposed landscape plan.

Boundary Justification

The nominated property coincides with the relatively small city lot on which this apartment house has stood since being relocated to the rear of its original lot in 1913-14 and converted into apartments in 1919-20. The apartment house stood on this small lot when Margaret Mitchell lived here from 1925 to 1932.

The nominated property is much less than what is now owned by the current property owner, The Margaret Mitchell House, Inc. Indeed, this organization now owns the entire block bounded by Peachtree Street, Tenth Street, Crescent Avenue, and Peachtree Place (Park). Historically, this block was filled with a dense and diverse assortment of low-rise buildings including single-family houses, apartment buildings, and commercial structures, all of which except for the Crescent Apartments were razed after 1977. Since this surrounding block was not directly associated with Margaret Mitchell, except as forming her immediate neighborhood, and since has lost its integrity, it has not been included in this nomination. Currently it is being redeveloped as part of the interpretive program for the Crescent Apartments. The north half of the block, containing the apartment building, is being landscaped in a contemporary manner with wide walks for visitors and pedestrians; the south half of the lot will feature a new interpretive center and a small parking lot.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Richard Cloues, Survey and Register Unit Manager
organization Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources
street & number 500 The Healey Building, 57 Forsyth Street, N.W.
city or town Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30303
telephone (404) 656-2840 **date** May 7, 1996

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Photographs

Name of Property: Crescent Apartments
City or Vicinity: Atlanta
County: Fulton
State: Georgia
Photographer: James R. Lockhart
Negative Filed: Georgia Department of Natural Resources
Date Photographed: April 1996 (some photographs December 1995)

Description of Photograph(s):

1 of 15. East (Peachtree Street) facade (to left) and north (Tenth Street) side wall (to right), showing repaired brick walls, restored bay windows, and reconstructed porch and terrace. Photographer facing southwest.

2 of 15. East (Peachtree Street) facade (to right) and south side wall (to left), showing partially reconstructed side wall, repaired front wall, restored bay windows, and reconstructed porch and terrace. Photographer facing northwest.

3 of 15. West (Crescent Avenue) facade (to left) and south side wall (to right), showing Crescent Avenue front of apartment house with reconstructed gallery-type porches. Photographer facing northeast.

4 of 15. West (Crescent Avenue) facade (to right) and north side wall (to left), showing corner basement apartment with front bay window ("Apt. 1") where Margaret Mitchell lived from 1925 to 1932 and wrote Gone With The Wind.

5 of 15. Interior of "Apt. 1," showing living room with restored plaster walls and bay window and alcove where Margaret Mitchell wrote Gone With The Wind (Room 102 on attached floor plan). Photographer facing northwest.

6 of 15. Interior of "Apt. 1," looking from living room (Room 102 on attached floor plan) through connecting passageway to bedroom (Room 109 on attached floor plan). Photographer facing east.

7 of 15. Interior of "Apt. 1," looking from living room (Room 102) to bedroom (Room 109), during initial restoration work after fire, showing surviving plaster walls and rebuilt floor. Photographer facing east.

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National Park Service

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Photographs

8 of 15. Interior of "Apt. 1," looking from bedroom (Room 109 on attached floor plan) toward living room (Room 102 on attached floor plan), showing repaired plaster walls and formerly closed fireplace. Photographer facing west.

9 of 15. Interior of "Apt. 1," bedroom (Room 109), during initial restoration work after fire, showing surviving plaster walls and rebuilt floor. Photographer facing southwest.

10 of 15. Interior portion of ground floor, adjacent to but outside "Apt. 1," formerly rooms 106, 107, 122, 123, and 124 on attached floor plan, currently being rebuilt after destruction by fire for public entry and interpretation. Photographer facing southwest.

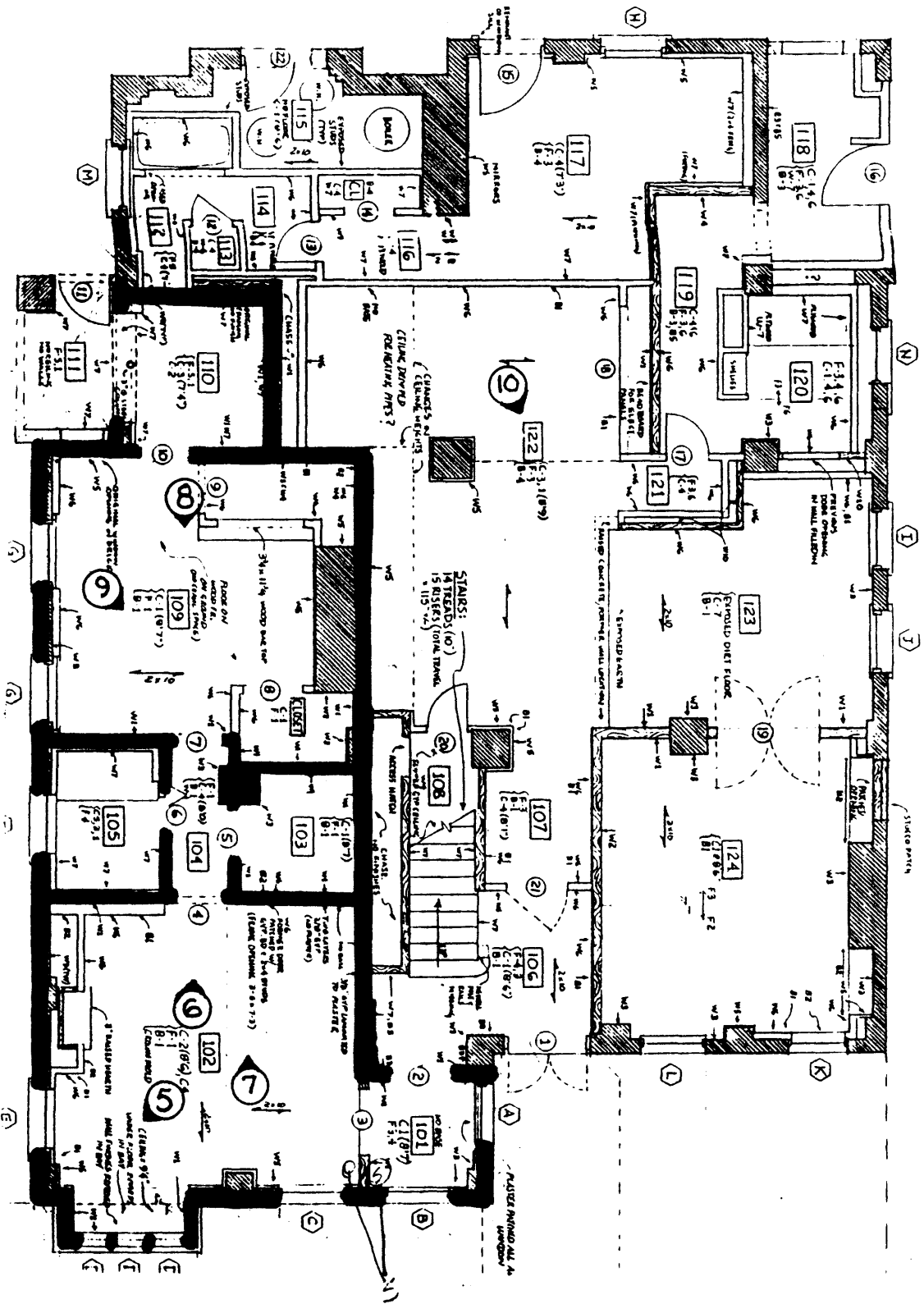
11 of 15. Interior, second floor, showing rehabilitation work in rooms 202 (foreground) and 204 (background). Photographer facing northeast.

12 of 15. Interior, second floor, showing initial stabilization work in fire-damaged rooms 202 (foreground) and 204 (background). Photographer facing northwest.

13 of 15. Interior, third floor, showing reconstruction of fire-damaged rooms 311 (foreground). Photographer facing southeast.

14 of 15. Interior, third floor, showing initial stabilization and reconstruction work after fire, looking from room 311. Photographer facing southeast.

15 of 15. Interior, third floor, showing rehabilitation work in rooms 301 (to right) and 304 (to left). Photographer facing east.




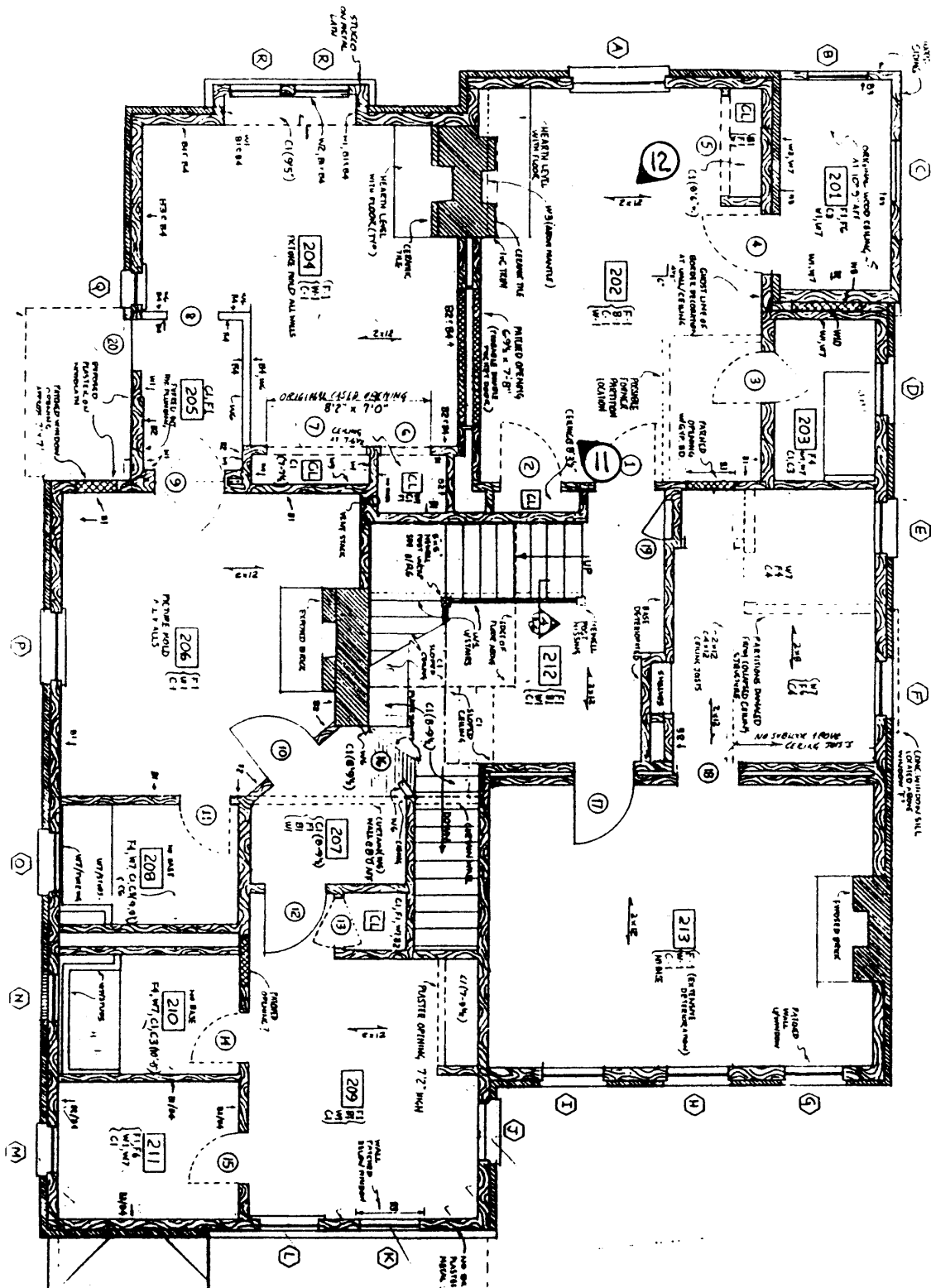
**Crescent Apartments
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia**

Floor Plan Sketch--Ground Floor--Prior to 1994 Fire

This floor plan shows the interior layout of the ground-floor apartments as they existed from 1919-20 to 1994. Margaret Mitchell's apartment, "Apt. 1," Rooms 101-105 and 109-110, is highlighted.

Scale: approximately 1" = 7.5'

North: 

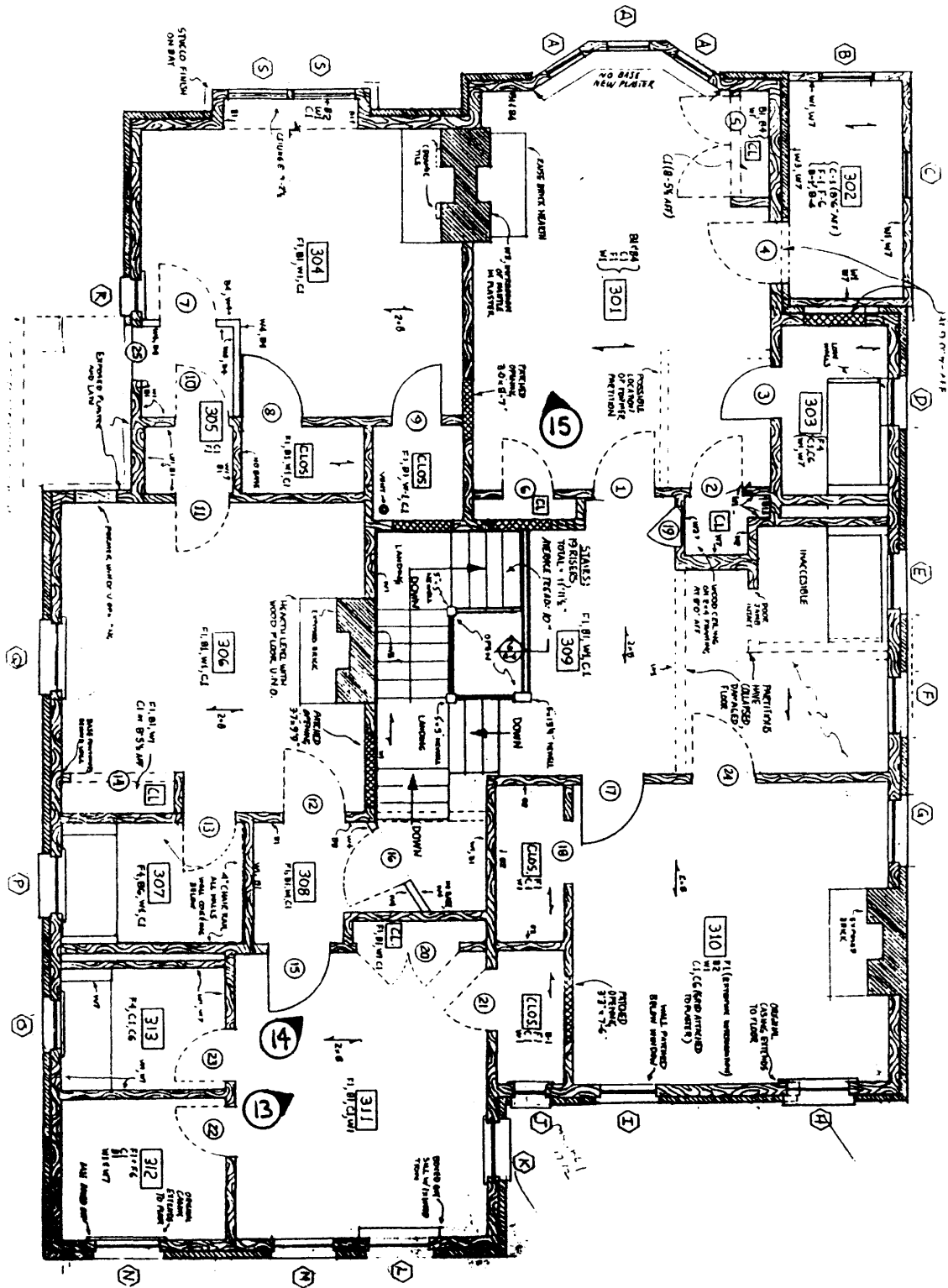


**Crescent Apartments
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia**

Floor Plan Sketch--Second Floor--Prior to 1994 Fire

This floor plan shows the interior layout of the second-floor apartments as they existed from 1919-20 to 1994.

Scale: approximately 1" = 7.5' North: ←




**Crescent Apartments
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia**

Floor Plan Sketch--Third Floor--Prior to 1994 Fire

This floor plan shows the interior layout of the third-floor apartments as they existed from 1919-20 to 1994.

Scale: approximately 1" = 7.5'

North: 

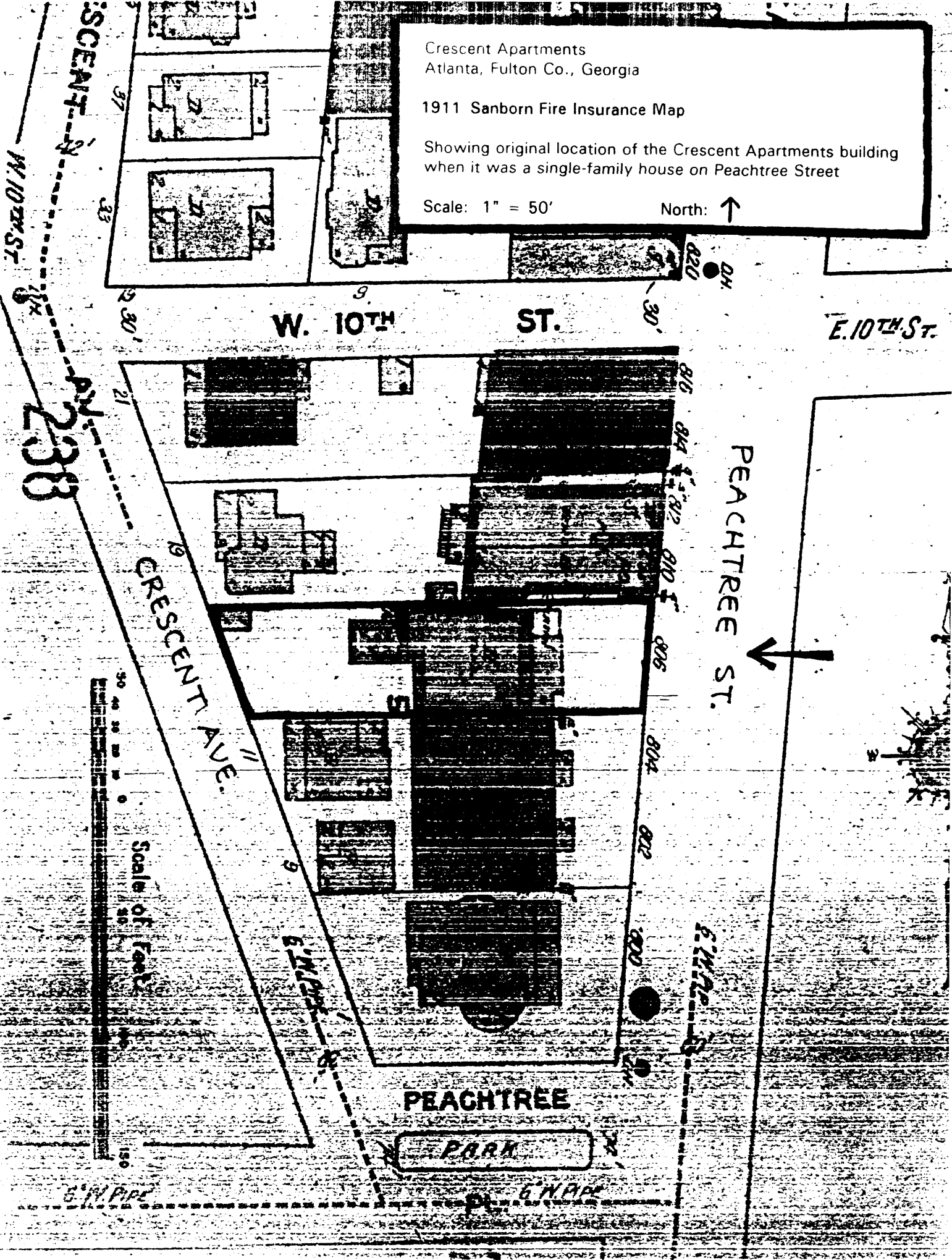
Crescent Apartments
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia

1911 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map

Showing original location of the Crescent Apartments building
when it was a single-family house on Peachtree Street

Scale: 1" = 50'

North: ↑



SCENT

W. 10th ST.

W. 10TH ST.

E. 10TH ST.

238

CRESCENT AVE.

PEACHTREE ST.

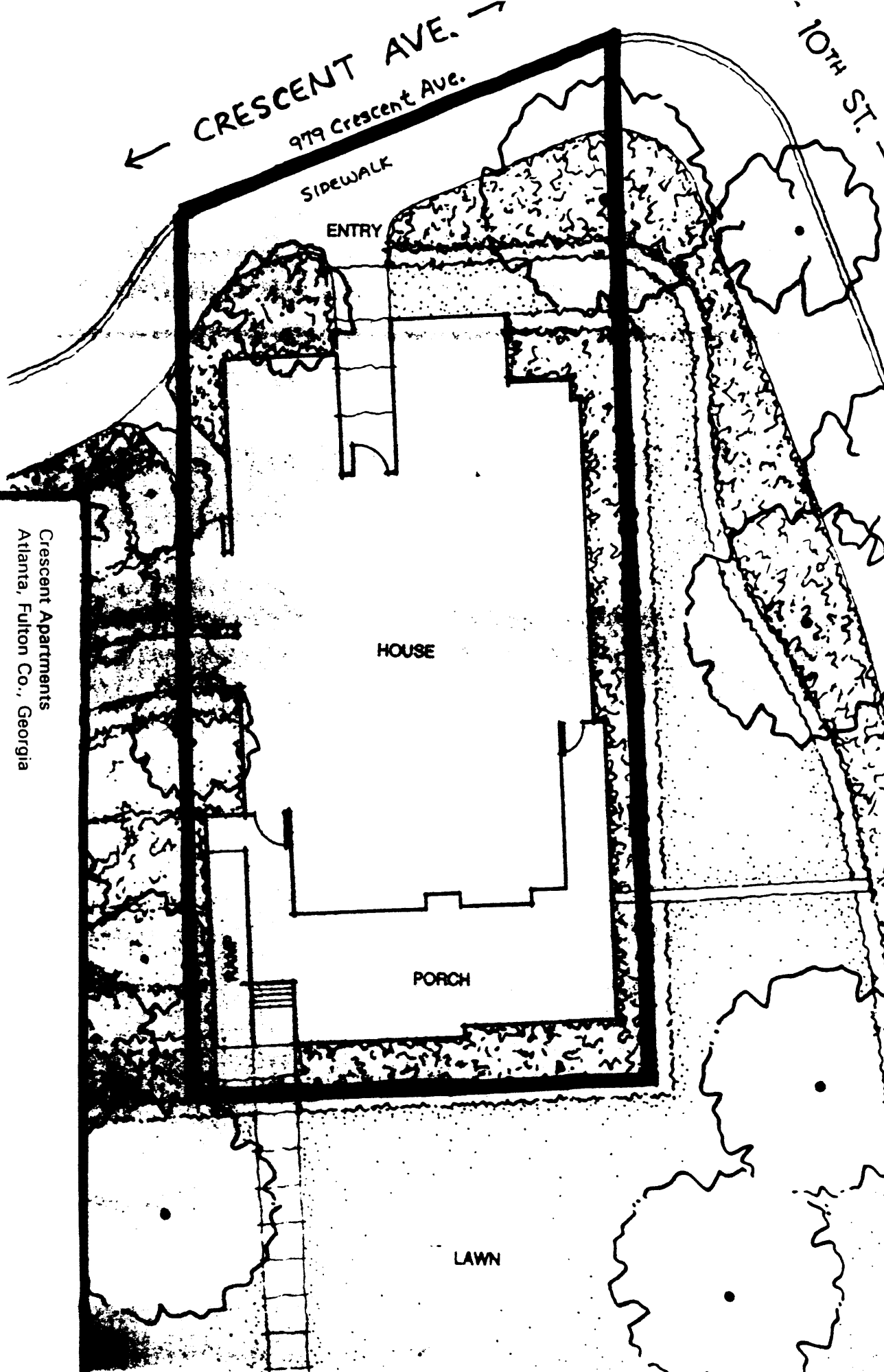
PEACHTREE

PARK

Scale of Feet

6" W. PIPE

6" W. PIPE



Crescent Apartments
Atlanta, Fulton Co., Georgia

Property/Boundary Sketch Map

Scale: 1" = 15'

North: ↑

Boundary of nominated property: ———

Boundary coincides approximately with historic lot of apartment house at 979 Crescent Avenue.