

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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JAN 27 1976  
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Atlanta University Center District

AND/OR COMMON

Atlanta University Center District

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

*roughly bounded by ... North ... Dr. ...  
... W. End Dr. ...*

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5 - Andrew Young

STATE

Georgia

CODE

13

COUNTY

Fulton

CODE

121

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

(Atlanta University Center) Multiple Owners

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fulton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

160 Pryor Street, SW

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

City of Atlanta, Urban Design Commission, Survey of  
Historic Structures, Sites and Districts

DATE

November 1973

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Atlanta City Hall

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Atlanta University District is an area to the west of Atlanta's central business district occupied by the campuses of the colleges of the Atlanta University Center and related historic structures. Included in the district are the institutions which make up the Atlanta University Center, Morris Brown College, Clark College, Morehouse College, Spelman College, Interdenominational Theological Center, and Atlanta University. Also located within the district are E. A. Ware School, Friendship Church, West Hunter Street Baptist Church building, University Homes residential development, and residential areas that have been associated with the development of the educational complex.

At the northernmost end of the district on an elevated site is the oldest campus, which is now occupied by Morris Brown College. This is the original Atlanta University campus and contains a number of interesting buildings. Gaines (Old North) Hall, built in 1869 as the first structure on the new campus, is a three-story, red-brick Italianate building with semi-circular and segmentally arched window headings, brick pilasters, stone string courses and eave brackets. Fountain (Stone) Hall, 1882 is a three-story, hipped roof, red-brick Queen Anne style building with Romanesque revival elements. The central bay, projected from the facade, is entered through a large round arched opening and topped by a two-staged pyramidal roof clock tower. Stone sills and window caps contrast with the brick facade surfaces. Brick detailing enlivens the surface in the third story and on the central bay. Because of its elevated site and tall clock tower, this building is visible throughout the central district of the City. Adjacent to this notable building in this section of the campus that is south of Hunter Street, are also located the Administration Building of Morris Brown (Carnegie Library), 1905, a one-story, red-brick Georgian Revival building and the Oglethorpe Building, 1905, a three-story darker red-brick Georgian Revival building with low hipped roof, projecting central bay under a triangular gable and brick quoin patterns at the corners. The Administration Building facade is also articulated by raised brick patterns, here functioning as pilasters. Planter tubs and interior renovations date from the recent remodeling of the structure for administration offices.

The two sections of the original campus, which were separated by the westward extension of Hunter Street are connected by an iron foot bridge over the lowered street grade. In the northernmost section, in addition to Gaines Hall, is the Furber Cottage, a two-story, red-brick Georgian Revival building with gambrel roof, dormer windows, brick quoins, dentil molding under the eaves and a one-story Tuscan columned entrance porch.

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One block east and north of the Morris Brown campus is a residential street which was a part of the original land holdings of Atlanta University on which faculty homes were located. Still extant is the George Towns House, a formal late Victorian residence with hipped roof and dormer windows. The two-story red-brick home is bounded along the front and partially along one side by a porch on fluted Tuscan columns. Across the street to the north is one of the largest and most monumental residences in the area. The Herndon Mansion is a two-story, formally composed building of vari-colored brick with a two-story, Corinthian columned portico. One-story porches to either side of the building echo this theme in brick piers and wooden capitals. An elliptical fanlight over the main entrance and the balustrade above the full entablature of the building's cornice add a distinctly Georgian Revival flavor to this imposing structure.

One block to the south on Maple Street at the corner of Hunter Street is the E. A. Ware School, a two-story, red-brick building of 1922 with brick corbelling along the cornice edge. A one-story entrance block located diagonally across the corner of the building connects the two wings of the L-shaped plan.

On the southernmost edge of the old campus on Beckwith Street is another of the original Atlanta University buildings, Knowles Industrial Building of 1884. This interesting structure is a three-story, red-brick building with facade and chimneys decorated by intricate brick detailing. The window pattern of rectangular windows outlined by wood lintels and sills is varied in the projecting central bay by an elliptically-headed pair of openings. In a manner that was apparently common to the builders of the district during the eighties and nineties, brick window headings and intricate brick patterns have been emphasized by an applied black pigmentation. Several homes were built by faculty members in the vicinity of the Knowles Building during the 1940's. Extant from an earlier period of residential development on the street to the north of the Knowles Building is the Yancey House. This late Victorian, red-brick residence is faced by a porch with some Queen Anne style elements such as the shingled central gable and wicker woodwork. Between Beckwith Street and the old campus are the recent (1950's) buildings of the Interdominational Theological Center.

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South of Beckwith Street and west of Chestnut Street, which forms the western boundary of Morris Brown College and the Interdenominational Center, are residential streets containing many typical Victorian frame cottages with occasionally fine examples of scroll-saw and Eastlake spool ornament. One especially fine example is the Ragland House on the corner of Raymond and Hunter Streets. Also in the area between the old campus and the later Atlanta University campus are the buildings of the University Homes housing development. These are two-story, red-brick buildings with wrought iron balconies above projecting entranceways designed in a modified International Style. The buildings are arranged around the edges of the block to face terraced interior courtyards.

The southern section of the district is occupied by the quadrangle of Atlanta University's present campus surrounded by Morehouse, Spelman and Clark Colleges. Forming the spacious landscaped quadrangle of Atlanta University are several buildings dating from the early thirties. Harkness Hall, the Administration Building, and the Trevor Arnett Library are the most notable and dominate the generous green space. Both are two-story, red-brick buildings trimmed in limestone and designed in the Georgian Revival style common to the period. The library is entered through a one-story, semi-circular portico and topped by a slender tower with a cupola. The Administration Building entrance is framed by a two-story, temple front portico of more monumental scale. Its tall clock tower is elaborated by pediments and pilasters on four faces and capped by a gold surfaced cupola that is visible throughout the area.

The School of Social Work Building, originally Quarles Hall, 1898, of Morehouse College, was moved to its present site to make way for Harkness Hall. It is a three-story Late Victorian rectangular block with elliptically arched windows, a modillion cornice and central bay triangular gable. Above the one-story Ionic-columned entrance portico is a large semi-circular arched window.

To the west at right angles to the Atlanta University quadrangle is the campus of Morehouse College, dominated at its western end by the tower of Graves Hall, 1889. This four-story, red-brick building is faced with a striking entrance doorway under

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a semi-circular fanlight framed by truncated Romanesque columns supporting a heavy, rusticated stone arch. The typical High Victorian mixture of facade materials and ornamental details, including terra cotta panels, pigmented brick patterns, recessed brick panels and eaves brackets, complements the entrance. A wooden porch with spool-work extends across on one side of the facade and an open tower under a pyramidal roof with eaves brackets accents the central bay of the five-part plan. Later buildings on the Morehouse campus include Sale Hall, 1910, Robert Hall, 1916, and John Hope Hall, 1920. All are red-brick, Georgian Revival buildings with hipped roofs, regularly spaced windows accented by stone sills, and horizontal string courses. Entrance doorways of these buildings vary from a simple segmental arched and molded opening in Sale Hall to more typically Georgian half-columns with a triangular pediment in Robert Hall and half-columns with iron balcony in John Hope Hall.

To the east of the Atlanta University quadrangle across Chestnut Street are the buildings of Clark College, all dating after 1941 when the school moved to the area from south Atlanta.

Spelman College occupies a large landscaped area to the south of these schools and is set apart, not only by a wall, but by spacious grounds and old trees. Several nineteenth century buildings, renovated and in full use produce a rich setting for the central quadrangle space. The oldest, Rockefeller Hall, is a three-story red-brick building, with a cavernous Syrian arched entranceway common to the Romanesque Revival style of the 1880's. Cut-brick patterns run along under the eaves. The original wooden interior blinds in the strongly recessed windows are visible on the exterior. Packard Hall, 1888, a three-story red-brick building with projecting bay topped by a one-story pyramidal roofed tower, was originally entered by a flight of stairs over the high daylight basement. This entrance has been altered by remodeling. The remainder of the facades with tall elliptically arched windows, brick corbelling under the eaves and terra cotta identification panel above the round arched original entrance, remain. Leaded glass lights over the entrance door are visible through the arched entrance. Giles Hall, 1893, is five stories and

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built on a five part plan which is emphasized in the facade by triangular gables over the end and central pavillions. Triple dormer windows enliven the roof line in intermediate bays. Recessed panels contain the elliptically arched windows of these bays. Morehouse (James) Hall, 1900, is three stories high, but also built on a five part plan. Here large and small triangular gables accent each bay. The Flemish bond brick pattern with its pigmented headers and rough stone lintels and sills, add interest to the facade, as do the two- and three-story window groupings. One-story porches are inserted in the intermediate bays.

Across the campus Reynolds Cottage, 1901, is a sizeable red-brick Late Victorian residence which now serves as the President's home. The one-story, shed roof porch on Tuscan columns encloses the entrance of the two-story brick structure and extends to one side of the facade. A bay window balances this feature on the other. Rough stone lintels cap rectangular windows in the body of the building and stone also accents a small arched window in the gable of the entrance bay. The interior of the home contained much original furniture recently restored and returned from storage into the rooms.

A later, but notable campus building is the Sisters Chapel, the most interesting of two Spelman buildings designed by noted Atlanta architect Neel Reid. The chapel is a Neo-Classical structure of 1922 with a severely monumental Tuscan temple front.

Two church buildings in the Atlanta University area are of historical significance. One, at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Hunter Streets in the northern section of the district, is the structure occupied until 1972 by the West Hunter Street Baptist Church. This is a late Romanesque Revival building of rough textured stone with a stained glass window above the central doorway framed by piers.

The other, Friendship Church, 1871, in the extreme eastern portion of the district is separated from the colleges by a major traffic artery, Northside Drive, but is strongly linked by tradition and history with the district. This assymetrically

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composed Romanesque Revival structure has a belfry rising above the roof line on the eastern side of the facade. The round arched central doorway, originally approached by a divided stone stairway at ground level, is now enclosed by monumental Tuscan pilasters framing a broken segmental arch. A string course separates the first two stories from the top level. Brick detailing, such as corbelling under the eaves of low-triangular gables in the central and western bays and dentil molding, has unfortunately been obliterated by later remodeling. The brick walls of the church were first stuccoed over in 1944, after a fire in 1943 destroyed the interior, and have recently been re-stuccoed.

# 8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 1869-1930

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Atlanta University District is significant as the location of a group of the country's major institutions of higher learning for Afro-Americans. These colleges have not only pioneered in offering educational opportunities to blacks, but have been a progressive force in the development of a viable and progressive black community in the City of Atlanta which has had considerable impact upon the nation as a whole. In addition, some of Atlanta's most interesting architectural landmarks are located within this area.

The Atlanta University Center includes Atlanta University, Clark, Morehouse, Morris Brown and Spelman Colleges, and the Interdenominational Theological Center. These schools have rich and varied traditions which form the general history of the Center and the particular story of each. Atlanta University was founded in 1865 as an institution offering a liberal education for all citizens. In 1929, Atlanta University became the graduate school nucleus for an affiliated group of colleges which now make up the Atlanta University Center and moved to a new site a few blocks south of the original campus.

The venerable history of these institutions begins with the endorsement by the American Missionary Association of Edmund Asa Ware's idea for the establishment of a centrally located southeastern university to train talented black youth, educate teachers and disseminate information among the masses. On October 16, 1867, a corporation known as the Trustees of Atlanta University was created. Between 1869 and 1893 seventy acres of land representing nine purchases at a cost of about \$23,335 were acquired. Fifty acres of this land between Hunter, Parsons, Walnut and Chestnut Streets, purchased from Edward Parsons at a cost of \$12,000, were used for the initial development. This section, known as Diamond Hill, is one of the highest elevation points in the Atlanta area. The cornerstone for the first building, North (Gaines) Hall was laid on June 1, 1869. The construction of the other major extant structures followed during the next three decades.

Morehouse College's history begins in 1867 when the school was established as Augusta Institute. Upon moving to Atlanta in 1879, the institution's name was changed to Atlanta Baptist



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Clarence A. Bacote, The Story of Atlanta University, A Century of Service, 1865-1965, Atlanta: Atlanta University, 1969.  
 Edward R. Carter, The Black Side of Atlanta, Atlanta, Georgia  
 Edward A. Jones, A Candle in the Dark, A History of Morehouse College, Valley Forge: The Judson Press, 1967.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 200 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	16	740620	3737980	B	16	740620	3736550
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	16	739360	3736550	D	16	739360	3737980
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

# 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, Consultant and Dan Durett, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION Atlanta Urban Design Commission DATE September 1975

STREET & NUMBER City Hall - Mitchell Street TELEPHONE (404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN Atlanta STATE Georgia

# 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X STATE      LOCAL     

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE *David M. Sherman* DATE 1-21-76

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section DATE  

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
Acting <u><i>Lesley</i></u>	DATE <u>7/12/76</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>5.12.76</u>
WITNESSED <u><i>Charles</i></u>	
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
RBR for WJM 7/8/76	

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Seminary, and by 1913 the present name, Morehouse College, was adopted. The principal founders of Morehouse included Richard C. Coulter, a former slave, Edmund Turney, organizer of the National Theological Institute for the Education of Freedmen in Washington, D. C., and William Jefferson White, an Augusta Baptist minister. Upon the College's move to Atlanta, it was temporarily located in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church, whose pastor, Frank Quarles was a prominent supporter of this move. A campus site at the junction of Elliott and West Hunter Streets consisting of a four acre lot was purchased from pioneer Atlantan Richard Peters at a cost of \$2,500. In July, 1879 Morehouse's Board of Trustees was formally organized. In April, 1888, the institution acquired its third and present campus site at the intersection of Fair and Ashby Streets, thus becoming the second of the Center schools to locate on the west side. The original tract, costing \$7,500 comprised fourteen acres of what had proved to be a most historic spot in the Civil War. Here, the Confederate soldiers had staged some of their most stubborn resistance to Union forces during the siege of Atlanta.

Spelman College, opened April, 1881, and like Morehouse College was initially located in the basement of Friendship Baptist Church. Spelman College, an all female institution, was sponsored by the Women's American Baptist Home Missionary Society. Two members of this Society responsible for the school's establishment in Atlanta were Sophia B. Packard and Harriet E. Giles, both natives of Massachusetts. Ms. Packard served as President from 1883 until June 7, 1891. Nine acres of the present campus site in the southernmost portion of the district was purchased in 1883 for \$17,500 and included four barracks of the Federal occupation troops as well as the camp hospital. Beginning in the 1880's John D. Rockefeller began his prolific contributions to Spelman. These have been continued through five generations of Rockefellers. In April, 1884 the institution's name was changed from Atlanta Baptist Female Seminary to Spelman College in honor of John D. Rockefeller's wife Laura E. Spelman Rockefeller.

Plans for Morris Brown College had been proposed as early as January 5, 1881 by Stewart Wiley at the North Georgia Conference of the African Episcopal Methodist Church, but it was not until 1885 that the first building was constructed at the intersection of Houston Street and Boulevard in northeast Atlanta. The new institution, granted its charter in 1885, was named for Morris Brown (1770-1849), the second consecrated Bishop of the A.M.E. Church. Morris Brown College moved to the old Atlanta University campus in 1932 and joined in the Center affiliation in 1939.

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Clark College opened in 1869 under the sponsorship of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Its first location was in a room in the Clark Chapel Methodist Episcopal Church in the Summerhill section of south Atlanta. The school was named after Bishop Davis W. Clark, the first President of the Freedman's Aid Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church. Eight years later, in 1877, Clark acquired a campus site of 450 acres in south Atlanta and remained there until 1941 when the college became affiliated with the Atlanta University Center and moved to its present site.

The most recent of the Atlanta University Center institutions to settle in the district is the Interdenominational Theological Center. Under a plan worked out in 1956, the Morehouse School of Religion, Gammon Theological Seminary, Turner Theological Seminary, and Philips School of Theology joined together to form the Interdenominational Center. In 1957, the Center was established on its present ten-acre site, deeded to the new institution by Atlanta University. Later the four original schools were joined by Absalom Jones Theological Institute, Johnson C. Smith Seminary, and Charles H. Mason Theological Seminary.

The presidents of the member institutions have played a highly significant role in establishing and maintaining the viability of their schools. Edmund Asa Ware, first President of Atlanta University (1869-1885), believed that blacks did have the right and ability to pursue a liberal education at a time when the notion of the inherent inferiority of America's Negro citizens was widely accepted. Under Horace Bumstead (1888-1907), described by W. E. B. Dubois as "the apostle of higher education among Negroes," the University gained national acclaim and recognition. John Hope had the distinction of serving as President of both Morehouse (1906-31) and Atlanta University (1929-36). Among Hope's many contributions and accomplishments was his position as the first black to serve as Chairman on the World Council of the Young Men's Christian Association. Additionally, Hope, in cooperation with the F. D. R. Administration, helped plan University Homes adjacent to the Atlanta University Center, which along with Techwood Homes in Atlanta, were the first federal public housing projects. Rufus Clement, who followed Dr. Hope in 1937, also had considerable impact on the wider community and later became the first black member of the Atlanta Board of Education.

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The affiliated colleges have also been served by outstanding presidents. Benjamin Mays, who presently (1975) serves as the Chairman of the Atlanta Board of Education and is an internationally renowned figure, was President of Morehouse College from 1940-1967. Florence Read, who came from the Rockefeller Foundation in 1927 to serve as President of Spelman College until 1953, was responsible for the development of this institution as a strong liberal arts college. Morris Brown College, under the leadership of two members of the Fountain family, Bishop William Alfred Fountain, Sr., president and chancellor, 1911-1920, and his son, William A. Fountain, Jr., President, 1929-1950, joined the Atlanta University Center group of colleges and moved to the west side campus. William Henry Croghan, Clark College's first black President (1903-1910) had taught classics there since 1876. Later presidents included Dr. Matthew Simpson Davage (1924-1941) who was widely known for his work in race relations and Dr. James Brawley (1941-1965) who presided over the relocation of the college and its affiliation with the Atlanta University Center. Dr. Harry Richardson, chaplain at Tuskegee Institute from 1932 to 1948 and President of Gammon Theological Seminary between 1948 and 1959, became the founding President of the Interdenominational Center in 1959 serving until his retirement in 1968. In addition to outstanding presidents, the Atlanta University Center has been served by such nationally known faculty members as W. E. B. Dubois, Whitney Young, E. Franklin Frazier and Horace Mann Bond.

The Center's schools have produced a long list of alumni whose contributions to American life have extended the impact of this district in the City of Atlanta throughout the country. Among the most outstanding are: George Towns and Adrienne McNeil Herndon, both Atlanta University graduates who became outstanding early faculty members, James Weldon Johnson, poet and writer, Walter White, N. A. A. C. P. crusader for minority rights, Grace Towns Hamilton, the first black woman to serve in the Georgia Legislature, Atlanta University; Mordecai Johnson, who was President of Howard University, Martin Luther King, Jr., 1964 Nobel Prize winner and civil rights leader, Maynard H. Jackson, Jr., first black Mayor of Atlanta, Morehouse College; Selina Sloan Butler, founder and first national President of the National Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, Matwilda Dobbs, opera singer, Spelman College; Dr. Charles L. Harper, first principal

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of Atlanta's first black high school, Dr. Cornelius D. Troup, president meritus of Fort Valley State College, Bishop Harold I. Beardon, a pioneer Georgia leader in civil rights and community affairs, Morris Brown College; and Annie E. Hall, first black missionary to Africa from the Methodist Episcopal Church, Dr. Alphonso A. McPheeters, Clark College Dean (1941-1962), educational writer and scholar, Bishop Marquis Lafayette Harris, athlete, author and educator, Clark College. In its relatively brief existence, the Interdenominational Theological Center, in addition to the notable historical figures of its separate schools, has produced the first female chaplain in the United States Army, Alice Henderson and noted civil rights leader, Otis Moss, now pastor of the Olivet Institutional Baptist Church in Cleveland, Ohio.

In addition to the educational institutions which make up the Atlanta University Center, the district includes two other sites of great historic significance. Both are closely tied to the history of the Center. ✓Friendship Baptist Church, one of the oldest and most respected black churches in Atlanta, was organized in 1862 with Reverend Frank Quarles as pastor. Services were originally held in the freight car box which also housed the early school that became Atlanta University. The present structure, remodeled in 1944 and again in 1975, was begun in 1871. The congregation occupied the basement of the building in 1872 and worshipped there while the main auditorium was being completed. Friendship Baptist Church also provided the first home for Spelman and Morehouse Colleges. A close bond has developed over the years between these schools, Atlanta University and the Church.

A second site in the district which is associated with Atlanta University is the University Homes development. Part of the first federally funded slum clearance and low-cost housing program in the United States, University Homes owes much to the initiative of Atlanta University's first black President, John Hope. Both University Homes, and its counterpart Techwood Homes (1935) were well-designed with generous grounds and remain today among the most successful public housing projects in the City. The architects of University Homes, Edwards and Sayward, and the landscape architect, William C. Pauley, were notable figures in Atlanta's building activity at the time.

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Also an important site in the district is the building which until recently housed the West Hunter Street Baptist Church. The Reverend Ralph David Abernathy, who followed Martin Luther King, Jr. as the head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, is the pastor of this congregation. The old church building has served the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Social Change and presently houses the Atlanta Chapter of SCLC.

Another significant site, especially to the residential community which surrounds the University Center, is the Edmund Asa Ware School. Atlanta University in 1922 sold the land at the corner of Hunter and Walnut Streets to the City of Atlanta for this elementary school building.

The rich and significant history of the Atlanta University educational institutions and the surrounding sites is visible not only in the numerous contributions which the colleges and other institutions and their alumni have made to the City and the nation, but also in the physical environment of the area.

Within the Atlanta University Center District can be found the most extensive concentration of nineteenth century public and institutional buildings extant in Atlanta. The district also contains some interesting late Victorian residential architecture. Although the architects of many of these interesting buildings are unknown, the designers of the oldest buildings on the original Atlanta University campus were recorded in an early university history. The names of two of the City's most important early architects are among them. William H. Parkins, the first architect to practice in Atlanta after the Civil War, designed North (Gaines) Hall. Only one other building, identified as Parkins' work, is still standing in the City. Gottfried L. Norrman, who designed Stone (Fountain Hall) in 1882, was a prominent late nineteenth century Atlanta designer of business and residential buildings whose work has largely disappeared. Stone Hall is an exceptionally valuable example of Norrman's work, which, because of its siting on the crest of the hill, has served as an impressive and identifying landmark for the university area. One of the most interesting buildings of the original

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campus, Knowles Hall, with its intricate dark surface patterns, is now being considered for restoration as the home of Atlanta University's important art collection.

On the Morehouse and Spelman campuses, too, notable and interesting structures of the 1880's and 1890's stand relatively little changed from their original appearance. In many of these buildings, original interior details and furnishings have been preserved.

The typical Victorian richness of detail and picturesque forms of the Center's buildings is enhanced by their luxuriant landscaped setting. Large old trees have been preserved and the generous green spaces of quadrangle plans provide an unusually pleasant academic environment.

On the streets surrounding the various campuses are extant examples of the residential architecture that was contemporary with that of the colleges. Several late nineteenth and early twentieth century Victorian frame cottages with the woodwork typical of the time are located here. One of the more notable examples is the Yancey House on Beckwith Street which is typical of others, now demolished, that once housed faculty members and others along this street. Another is the Towns House on University Place, a more formal late Victorian structure built by George Towns. The most impressive residential building in the area is the Herndon Mansion, a monumental Beaux-arts classical home on University Place that was built by Alonzo Herndon, pioneer black businessman and founder of the Atlanta Life Insurance Company.

Recently, Professor Clarence A. Bacote, the first graduate professor at Atlanta University and the historian of the institution, referred to the Center as an "oasis in the desert". The physical environment of these venerable institutions does indeed create and define an area set apart from the faster paced urban area that surrounds them. During the long years of educational and social segregation, opportunities for training and liberal education, unavailable elsewhere to Black Americans, were provided

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in these buildings and spaces. The achievements of the faculty and graduates of the Center's member institutions is highly significant, not only to the particular academic institutions, but to the City of Atlanta and the nation. It is important that the historic structures that have served so well the needs of the schools be preserved as a visible representation of past achievements and life. The surrounding residential streets, the churches and the housing developments that have been so closely associated with the institutions and individuals constitute an important and effective part of this environment. With the designation of Stone (Fountain) Hall as a National Landmark (January 1975), this historic district is beginning to be recognized as a highly significant historic place.



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Major Bibliographical

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All that tract or parcel or land lying and being in Land Lots 83, 84, 108, 109, and 110 of the 14th District of Fulton County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point located on the easterly side of Chestnut Street, 300 feet south of the southeast corner of the intersection of Chestnut Street and Carter Street; run thence due east 300 feet, more or less, to the easterly side of Griffin Street; run thence southerly, along the easterly side of Griffin Street, 100 feet, more or less, to a point due west of the southeast corner of the intersection of Vine Street and University Place; run thence due east, 1200 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of the intersection of Vine Street and University Place; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Vine Street, to the southerly side of Carter Street (now closed), as the same as formerly located; run thence easterly, along said southerly side of Carter Street, 1150 feet, more or less, to the westerly side of Maple Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Maple Street, to the southerly side of Hunter Street; run thence easterly, along the southerly side of Hunter Street, to the easterly side of Hayne Street; run thence southerly, along the easterly side of Hayne Street, to the northerly side of Mitchell Street; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of Mitchell Street, to the westerly side of Walnut Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Walnut Street, to the northerly side of Fair Street; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of Fair Street, to the westerly side of Roach Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Roach Street and along the westerly side of Spellman Drive, to the northerly side of West View Drive; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of West View Drive, to a point due south of the Fair Street entrance gate of Morehouse College at Euralee Street; run thence due north to the southerly side of Fair Street; run thence easterly, along the southerly side of Fair Street, to the easterly side of Chestnut Street; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Chestnut Street, to the northerly side of Mitchell Street; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of Mitchell Street, to the easterly side of Raymond Street; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Raymond Street, to the northerly side of Hunter Street; run thence easterly, along the northerly side of Hunter Street, to the west boundary line of the Old West Hunter Street Baptist Church property; run thence northerly and easterly, along the westerly and northerly boundaries of said Old West Hunter Street Baptist Church property and continuing across the right-of-way of Chestnut Street to the easterly side of Chestnut Street; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Chestnut Street to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

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ATLANTA UNIVERSITY CENTER DISTRICT, ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY

AMENDMENT

Revised Boundary Description

All that tract or parcel of land lying and being in Land Lots 83, 84, 108, 109, and 110 of the 14th District of Fulton County, Georgia, and being more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point located on the easterly side of Chestnut Street, 300 feet south of the southeast corner of the intersection of Chestnut Street and Carter Street; run thence due east 300 feet, more or less, to the easterly side of Griffin Street; run thence southerly, along the easterly side of Griffin Street, 100 feet, more or less, to a point due west of the southeast corner of the intersection of Vine Street and University Place; run thence due east, 1200 feet, more or less, to the southeast corner of the intersection of Vine Street and University Place; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Vine Street to a point 60.00 feet from the intersection of the easterly side of Vine Street and the southerly side of Carter Street (now closed); run thence easterly along a line 60 feet from and parallel to the southerly side of Carter Street (now closed) 245.20 feet to the westerly property line of the property now or formerly owned by Norris B. Herndon; run thence northerly along said westerly property line, 60 feet to its intersection with the southerly side of Carter Street (now closed); run thence easterly along said southerly side of Carter Street (now closed) 120.60 feet to its intersection with the westerly side of Walnut Street; run thence southerly along said westerly side of Walnut Street, 22 feet to a point; run thence easterly along a line 22 feet from and parallel to the southerly side of Carter Street (now closed) 324.35 feet to the westerly side of Maple Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Maple Street, to the southerly side of Hunter Street; run thence easterly, along the southerly side of Hunter Street, to the easterly side of Haynes Street; run thence southerly, along the easterly side of Haynes Street, to the northerly side of Mitchell Street; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of Mitchell Street, to the westerly side of Walnut Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Walnut Street, to the northerly side of Fair Street; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of Fair Street, to the westerly side of Roach Street; run thence southerly, along the westerly side of Roach Street and along the westerly side of Spelman Drive, to the northerly side of Peters Chapel Road; run thence southwesterly along the northerly boundary of Peters Chapel Road to its intersection with West View Drive; run thence westerly, along the northerly side of West View Drive, to a point due south of the Fair Street entrance gate of Morehouse College at Euralee Street; run thence due north to the southerly side of Fair Street; run thence easterly, along the southerly side of Fair Street, to the easterly side of Chestnut Street; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Chestnut Street, to the northerly side of Mitchell Street; run thence westerly,

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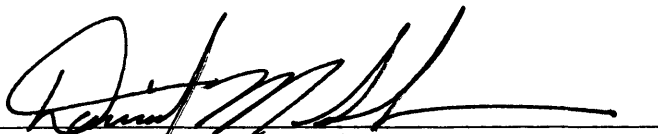
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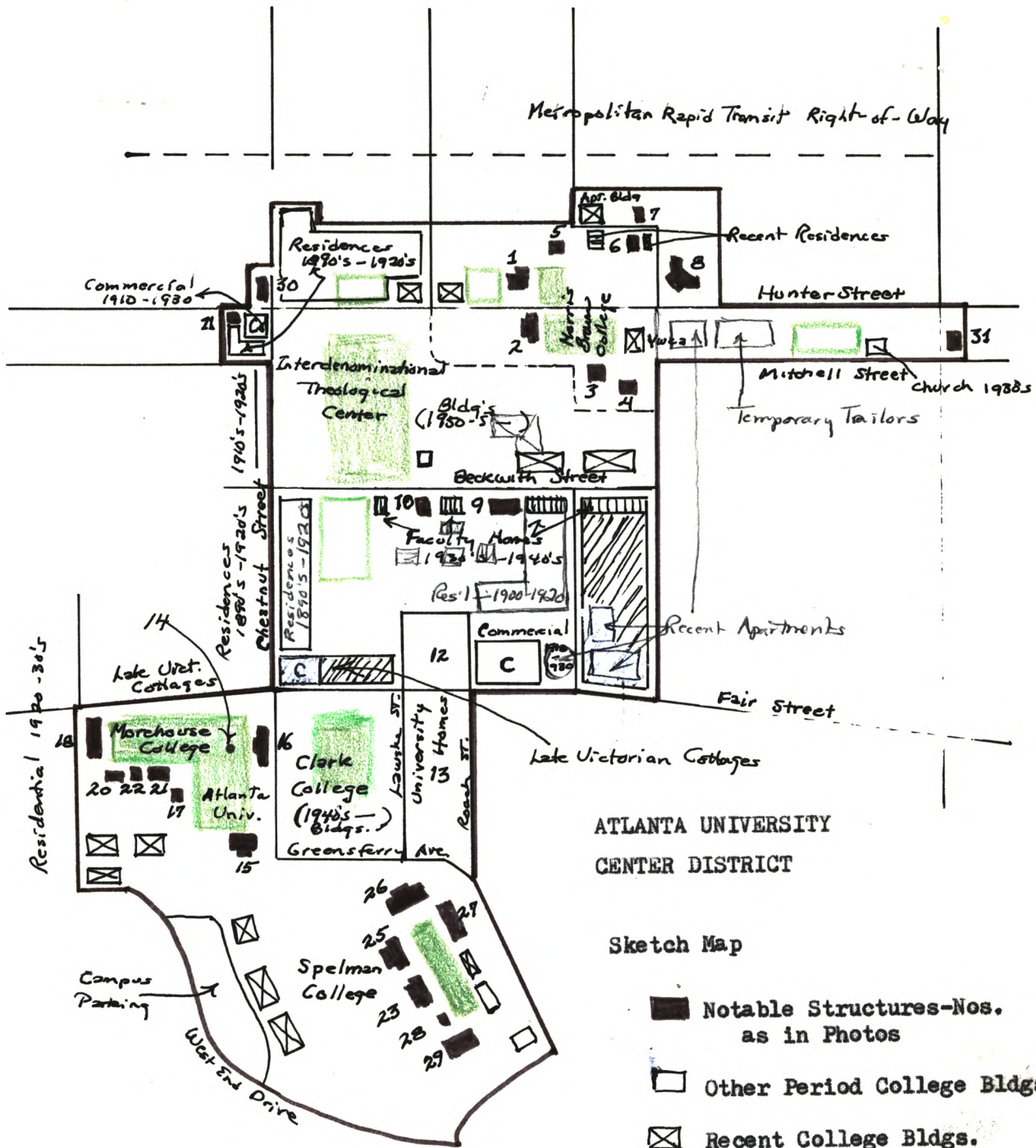
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along the northerly side of Mitchell Street, to the easterly side of Raymond Street; run thence northerly, along the easterly side of Raymond Street, to the northerly side of Hunter Street; run thence easterly, along the northerly side of Hunter Street, to the west boundary line of the Old West Hunter Street Baptist Church property; run thence northerly and easterly, along the westerly and northerly boundaries of side Old West Hunter Street Baptist Church property and continuing across the right-of-way of Chestnut Street to the easterly side of Chestnut Street; run thence northerly along the easterly side of Chestnut Street to the POINT OF BEGINNING.

Historic Preservation Section  
Department of Natural Resources  
270 Washington Street, S.W.  
Room 703-C  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

April 27, 1976

  
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David M. Sherman  
State Historic Preservation Officer



**ATLANTA UNIVERSITY  
CENTER DISTRICT**

Sketch Map

- Notable Structures-Nos. as in Photos
- Other Period College Bldgs.
- ⊠ Recent College Bldgs.
- Campus Quadrangles
- Vacant Space



Elizabeth A. Lyon  
October, 1975

JUL 12 1976