

PH0023175

5th Congressional District
S. Fletcher Thompson

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia	
COUNTY: Fulton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	JAN 20 1972

1. NAME

COMMON:
Edward C. Peters House

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
179 Ponce de Leon Avenue

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE Georgia	CODE 13	COUNTY: Fulton	CODE 121
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural	<input type="checkbox"/> Government	<input type="checkbox"/> Park	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> Comments
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Unoccupied	
<input type="checkbox"/> Educational	<input type="checkbox"/> Military	<input type="checkbox"/> Religious		
<input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Scientific		

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Trust Department, First National Bank of Atlanta

STREET AND NUMBER:
2 Peachtree Street, N.W.

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fulton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:
150 Pryor Street

CITY OR TOWN:
Atlanta

STATE:
Georgia

CODE:
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Historic American Buildings Survey forms being prepared

DATE OF SURVEY:
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

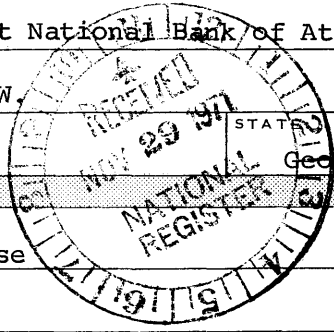
STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Fulton

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

(Check One)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
(Check One)		(Check One)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Edward C. Peters House is an exceptionally well-preserved 2 and 1/2 story red brick mansion occupying a knoll on the northern end of a 3 and 1/2 acre wooded city block. Approximately one mile from the central business district and two blocks east of Peachtree Street, the property fronts 345 feet on Piedmont Avenue - from which vehicular and pedestrian traffic enters the grounds - 405 feet on Ponce de Leon Avenue, 389 feet on Myrtle Street and 403 feet on North Avenue.

Stylistically this 1883 design by Gottfrid L. ^{Norrman} is High Victorian Queen Anne but more about that should be added. Obviously the work of a trained designer, it bears up well in comparison with the domestic architecture of Norrman's contemporaries in the east. It is not just a provincial version of more sophisticated conceptions and probably should be called an Atlanta example of Professor Vincent J. Scully's "Shingle Style." However, an important footnote about Norrman's "shingles" should be given here. The band of shingles which serves as a wide-stringcourse delineating the two floors is of terra cotta tile. Easterners almost invariably used wood and clothed the "skin" of their houses with shingles.

An important reason for calling the Peters House Shingle Style is its plan. One enters from a porte cochere into an open interior space - a "great hall" - into which the major rooms, of varied shapes, open and down into which flows, by landings, a cascade of steps. (This subtly ornamented staircase is an important architectural feature of the house; especially note the low relief carving of vines on newell posts, the tooled leather wall covering and the oak wainscoting.) Another typical feature of a Shingle Style great hall was an ornamental fireplace; the Peters House does not disappoint with its angled one of panelled oak and pink granite bearing the homey touch of this carved inscription: "The ornaments of a home are the friends who frequent it." Varied interior spaces are quite natural for a house of this type, and these extend out onto verandas or piazzas on the west or main facade and on the north or Ponce de Leon side.

Throughout one finds the influence of Norman Shaw's Queen Anne, of McKim, Mead and White's Japanese (see the dining room especially), the Colonial Revival and other revivalisms. Yet everywhere the disciplined hand of a trained designer is apparent, creatively combining the eclectic menage of styles, materials and spaces into what was then a new mode.

The exterior, with the exception of the unusually minor ornamental use of shingles, is Shingle Style especially in the organization of the design. As indicated on the facing page, Norrman has taken the picturesque aesthetic in hand. He has disciplined the Victorian's beloved variety of details, the irregular masses, silhouettes and surfaces; has shown "skill in handling the assymmetrically balanced forms, exuberant roof lines, and variations in color and texture common to the Queen Anne mode."

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) C. 1883-85

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Dominating an entire wooded block near the center of downtown, the Edward C. Peters House is the best and earliest surviving example of domestic architecture from Atlanta's post-Civil War era. During that period Atlanta became capital of the "New South"; that character and vitality has continued and this house is an excellent reminder of those robust years when Atlanta first became a city of national importance. Edward C. Peters, son of a pioneer Atlanta, built the house circa 1883. The Peters family was associated with Atlanta history almost since the city's establishment in 1837 and continued to play an important role in her development through the war years, Reconstruction and the late-19th century rebuilding boom. The Peters House has fourfold significance: first, the home of a founding family of Atlanta; second, a fine example of High Victorian architecture; third, a landmark, little changed from its original appearance, from one of the most dynamic periods in Atlanta history; and lastly, a tree-clothed, 3.5-acre open space two blocks from Peachtree Street near the heart of Atlanta.

The first of the Peters family to be associated with Atlanta was Richard, son of a well-known Philadelphia family. (His grandfather Judge Richard Peters was secretary and member of the board of war during the Revolution; tiles around the dining room fireplace depict the Fishing Company of the State in Schuylkill of which Judge Peters was a member.) After serving an apprenticeship with the noted architect William Strickland, Peters moved to Georgia in 1835 as an assistant engineer with the newly organized Georgia Railroad. He first visited Atlanta (then called Marthasville) in 1844 and in 1846 moved there permanently. In Atlanta Peters was involved in railroad construction and management, the primary business concern of the young city, and real estate investment. During the significance the city would have as a transportation center, he suggested changing the provincial name; a business associate coined the name Atlanta and Peters backed its usage. In 1871 Peters and George W. Adams organized the Atlanta Street Railway Company, the city's first. Upon his death in 1869 his son Edward C. Peters became trustee of the Peters estate. Edward developed much of the family property, including a 400-acre Peachtree Street tract. It was on a portion of this property that he built his home at the corner of Piedmont and Ponce de Leon. Edward like his father was prominent in Atlanta civic affairs serving as a city councilman and alderman. He died in 1937. Edward's son Wimberly inherited the estate and lived in the house until his death in 1948. His wife Lucille Kurht Peters continued to live there until she died in October 1970. Because of this long occupation by the Peters family, the house has escaped destruction by advancing commercialism and remains little changed from its original appearance.

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Black, Nellie Peters, Richard Peters: His Ancestors and Descendants, 1810-1889, (Atlanta: Foote and Davis Company, 1904).
 Garrett, Franklin M., Atlanta and Environs, (N.Y.:Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1954).
 Lyon, Dr. Elizabeth A., "Business Buildings in Atlanta," Doctoral Dissertation, Emory University, 1971.
 Malone, Dumas, Dictionary of American Biography, (N.Y. Charles Scribners Sons, 1934).
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Personal Inspection, November 1971.
 Perkerson, Medora Field, "43 Years in One House," Atlanta Journal Magazine, December 9, 1928.
 Scully, V.J., The Shingle Style, (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1955).

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

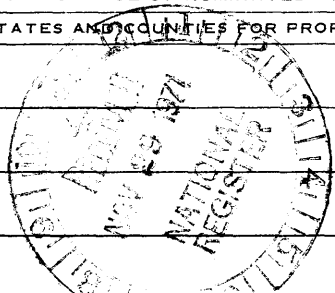
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES					
CORNER	LATITUDE			LATITUDE			LONGITUDE		
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"	°	'	"
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"	33	46	21
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"	84	22	52

UTM
16/742550
3740740
CD

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.5 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: William R. Mitchell, Jr., Director, Georgia Historic Sites Survey
Carole A. Summers, Assistant

ORGANIZATION: Georgia Historical Commission DATE: November 23, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER: 116 Mitchell St., S.W.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mary Gregory Jewett
 Title State Liaison Officer
 Date November 24, 1971

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ewart A. Connelly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 JAN 20 1972

Date _____
 ATTEST:
William Mitchell
 Keeper of The National Register
 JAN 17 1972
 Date _____

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Georgia
COUNTY	Fulton
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(Number all entries)

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The architect of the Peters House was Gottfrid L. Norrman (1846-1909), a Swede, who practiced in Atlanta from about 1880 until his death. Recent studies of Norrman's career reveals that he was not only an important local architect but that his work is of some significance in relation to the general American development of this period. His late work indicates his knowledge of progressive forms and ideas stemming from Chicago School architects such as John Root and Louis Sullivan. In addition, his work of the eighties and nineties in the High Victorian picturesque eclectic styles, demonstrates an unusual ability in organizing the irregular masses and surfaces and variety of details common to these styles. The Peters House is an unusually fine example of a High Victorian residence which shows skill in handling the asym- metrically balanced forms, exuberant roof lines and variations in color and texture common to the Queen Anne mode. The interiors, too, illustrate Norrman's ability to integrate a variety of details, from wooden paneling and tooled leather to leaded glass and tiles.

That the Peters House is a landmark of one of the most dynamic periods in Atlanta history is evident when one realizes that Atlanta is more closely tied to the "New South" rather than the "Old." Established as a railroad terminus only 24 years before the outbreak of the Civil War, Atlanta developed into a prosperous transportation and economic center within the "King Cotton" economy. Sherman's burning of the city in November 1864 necessitated the complete reconstruction of the business district in the years following the Civil War. This was accomplished by returning former citizens, like the Peters family. Their house stands as a landmark of this vigorous era.

A final point deals more directly with the Peters House's present significance and potential especially with reference to problems of urban life. The house is unique in that it stands on a tree-shaded, full city block near the heart of downtown. Atlantans in both private and public sectors, realizing the importance of this fact and of the other qualities discussed above, are making efforts to assure the preservation of both the house and its site.

