

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED SEP 13 1976  
DATE ENTERED APR 13 1977

**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  
\*\* Hurt Building  
AND/OR COMMON

**LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER  
45 Edgewood Avenue, N.E. ---NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT  
Atlanta VICINITY OF 5th - Andrew Young

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Georgia 13 Fulton 121

**CLASSIFICATION**

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

**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME  
Atlantic Realty Company

STREET & NUMBER  
Hurt Building

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Atlanta VICINITY OF Georgia

**LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Fulton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER  
160 Pryor Street, S.W.

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Atlanta Georgia

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE  
Survey of Historic Structures, Sites & Districts; Atlanta Urban Design Commission

DATE  
1973 ---FEDERAL ---STATE ---COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS City Hall, City of Atlanta

CITY, TOWN STATE  
Atlanta Georgia 30303

# 7 DESCRIPTION

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

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Built in 1913 on one of Atlanta's numerous small triangular properties, the Hurt Building is of the commercial style and has assumed a building form which in plan was dictated by its irregularly shaped site. Situated on a block which is bound by Edgewood Avenue on the north, Exchange Place on the south, and Ivy Street on the east, the triangular site has as its apex the intersection of Exchange Place and Edgewood Avenue. It was the triangular shape of this property which influenced the architect of the Hurt Building, J.E.R. Carpenter, to adopt a building plan very similar to that of the not-too-distant Candler Building (1906).

Possessive of straight fronts, flat roof, level skyline, subordination of ornament, a regular pattern of fenestration, and cornices of moderate projection, the Hurt Building stands some seventeen floors in height. The four lower floors which constitute the base of the building were made to cover the entire allowable building site with the exception of the apex of the building -- facing the main business section at Five Points -- which was cut back thirty feet to allow a greater window area and "a more effective view of the structure from a distance." The thirteen floors above this base follows a V-shape place arrangement: the two building wings extend from the western apex of the property along both Exchange Place and Edgewood Avenue leaving an open light court between the wings which opens toward Ivy Street. If any ornamental elements whatsoever could be singled-out in the Hurt Building they are those of classical derivation. For, in addition to the classical details found in the rotunda, pilasters are also found which separate the windows of the ground floor and a balustrade, located on top of the rotunda, is extended as an entablature down the sides of the building to mark off the base.

The rotunda consists of a moderate dome set on marble columns and, situated at the apex of the building's triangular site, acts as the entrance to the Hurt Building lobby. The public lobby at the entrance level extends from the apex, or western, end of the building through to Ivy Street on the east. Secondary entrances connect Exchange Place and Edgewood Avenue with the lobby. Stairs at the western end and at Ivy Street compensate for an appreciable fall from west to east in the site along the adjacent streets. Elevator and tenant changes have modified the original main floor plan and spaces.

The four base floors of the Hurt Building are sheathed in stone with pilasters placed between all glazed openings. Accentuation is given to these pilasters in the first three floors by the use of relatively deep metal spandrel panels below each window opening; this device subordinates the horizontal members of the system and emphasizes the vertical. The windows of the fourth floor occur in the attic of the base of the building which is further defined by a stone entablature below the fourth floor windows and a horizontal band or string course of stone above.

Above the four-story base of the Hurt Building, brick piers are used to separate paired windows within the brick-sheathed exterior walls of the structure's thirteen-story shaft. Decorative green terra cotta panels form spandrels below each pair of windows fronting a street and help to join the vertical elements of the building; like the windows of the base, these spandrels are also subordinate enough so as not to prevent the brick piers from reading as strong vertical elements. These piers

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extend the full height of the building and are undecorated except at the seventeenth floor level. This particular floor is differentiated from the others by ornamentation, placed vertically between window groups, which has been used to provide some relief in the facade just prior to the building's terminating cornice. All of the windows, including those set in the plain facades of the V-shaped light court, are of the 1/1 type.

The cornice of the Hurt Building is moderately heavy and consists of a course of classically inspired molding topped by a heavy, corbelled round-arch band which in itself is capped by several courses of relatively plain molding. The cornice does not extend into the V-shaped light court, but instead terminates shortly after rounding the edge of the building. This interior court is completely devoid of all decorative ornamentation and spandrel treatment within its interior and has as its only relief the typical and consistent rhythm of its windows.

## 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 type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input 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 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 1912-1913; 1924-1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT J.E.R. Carpenter, N.Y.C.

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Hurt Building, significant in the area of architecture, is a relatively simple and sober approach to the commercial style high-rise which gives the impression of competence and thoroughness in design rather than imagination and unusual creativity. It is a building which reflects, not unlike others built in Atlanta before it, the ideas and concepts of its builder, Joel Hurt, a man who was proud to have brought to Atlanta what was said to be in its day the seventeenth-largest office building in the world.

Joel Hurt (1850-1926) was an Atlanta engineer and builder who was a motivating force in many new developments in Georgia's capital city. Probably more than any other of his works, the Hurt Building carries the definite stamp of Hurt's design ideas. An engineer by profession, Joel Hurt was known to have been making preliminary drawings for several years before he hired J.E.R. Carpenter, a prominent New York architect, well-experienced in the design of high-rise structures, to draw up the final plans for the Hurt Building. Hurt's being an engineer had other effects on the building, too. Realizing that architecture was a structural art, he strove to keep the "frills" of design down to a minimum and seems to have preferred the more "efficient" and direct approach of simplistic design for the sake of clarity and unity. Thus, it is that we find that though this building is ornamental perhaps beyond present day practice, the unity between structure and design is maintained. It is this quality which has given -- and allowed -- the building to maintain the fine sense of design that has made it a landmark in Atlanta today as much as in its own day.

A good Atlanta example of the skyscraper form that was developed by Louis Sullivan and the Chicago School, the Hurt Building erected in 1913 (but not completed until 1924) was pronounced "about as nearly fireproof as modern building science can make it." Publicity associated with the opening of the new landmark boasted that seven hundred and eleven reinforced concrete piles in the foundation tied the building securely to the ground; elevators and staircase enclosures had been fitted with fireproof doors, while windows and skylights above the ninth floor had been set with wired plate glass to cut off any flames from upper floors.

Construction of the Hurt Building was rapid. The main shaft of the structure was erected in 1913 and the building was finished, with the exception of the decoration of the rotunda entrance, early in October of that year. The Atlanta Constitution reported on September 28, that the new Hurt Building would open its doors about October 1, 1913. World War I delayed the construction of the wings and light court of the building until 1924, with this final portion of the structure being completed during 1926.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Lyon, Elizabeth A., Business Buildings in Atlanta 1865-1930: A Study in Urban Growth and Form, Ph.D. Dissertation, (Emory University, 1971).
- Finch, J.H., "Classification and Description of Historic Atlanta Business Buildings" Seminar Paper, (Georgia State University, 1972).
- Edge, Sarah Simms, Joel Hurt and the Development of Atlanta (Atlanta, 1955)
- Consultation with Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyon, January, 1976.
- Schaefer, Fred, "Erection Data of Atlanta Office Buildings", August, 1948.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 1/2 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,6	7,421,00	3,713,719,0	B	1,6	7,420,60	3,713,714,0
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	1,6	7,420,00	3,713,719,0	D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded by Edgewood Avenue on the north, Ivy Street on the east and Exchange Place on the south.

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE Elizabeth A. Lyon, Consultant, Historic Preservation Section  
H. Lee Dunagan, Consultant, Atlanta Urban Design Commission

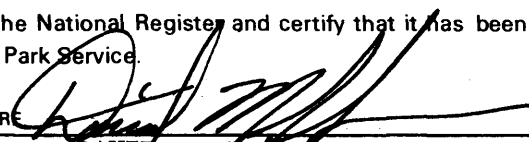
ORGANIZATION	DATE
Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section	January 5, 1976
STREET & NUMBER	TELEPHONE
270 Washington Street, S.W., Room 703-C	(404) 656-2840
CITY OR TOWN	STATE
Atlanta	Georgia

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

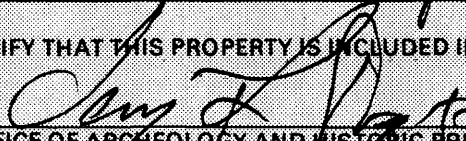
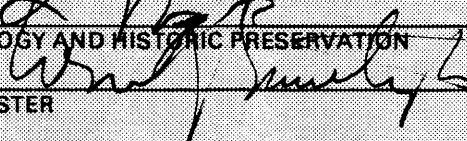
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

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  DATE 8-26-76

TITLE Chief, Historic Preservation Section DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY	
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER	
CHIEF 	DATE <u>4/13/77</u>
DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION	DATE <u>2/29/77</u>
ATTEST: 	DATE
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER	

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The earliest section of the Hurt Building, the main shaft, of 1913, surpassed in terms of rentable floor space Atlanta's hitherto largest office building, Joel Hurt's earlier and now demolished Equitable Building. Occupying some 185,172 square feet, the Hurt Building exceeded Equitable's 176,900 square feet by slightly more than 8,000 square feet, an increase in space of about four percent. When the entire building was completed in 1924, its 383,633 square feet of rentable area represented an increase in size over the Equitable Building of some 206,733 square feet (an increase of 10 percent), making the Hurt Building, according to some, the seventeenth largest office building in the world.