

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received MAY 14 1987

date entered JUN 25 1987

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Atlanta Stockade

and or common same

2. Location

street & number 760 Glenwood Avenue

N/A not for publication

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state

GA

code

013

county

Fulton

code 121

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" 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 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	N/A 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: work

4. Owner of Property

in progress

name Bruce Gallman and Jay Kessler

street & number 161 Mangum St., Suite 200

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state

GA

30313

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town

Atlanta

state

GA

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title see continuation sheet

has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records

city, town

state

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## 7. Description

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<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<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		

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### **Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance**

The Atlanta Stockade complex includes a prison, blacksmith shop, stables, and the remains of a third auxiliary building. The prison is a large, castle-like Neoclassical/Gothic structure built in four phases. The 1896 portion was a two-story concrete structure whose walls were two-foot-thick steel-reinforced concrete. In 1905 this was enlarged on three sides including the Classical portico with five columns and the four, four-story Medieval towers, with turrets and wings, paired on each end. A third floor room also was added atop the original prison; this addition included a concrete roof with crenellations. The 1905 additions were made of cast concrete blocks made on the premises and poured concrete. The top floors of the towers served as guard stations. In 1910, a three-story addition built of steel-reinforced concrete was added on the northeast side. From 1913-1916, another three-story dormitory wing was added to the rear or southeast side of the structure, with a base of rough stone and an upper portion of concrete. Exterior details include alternating textures on the towers and concrete made to look like stone. The interior of the prison is sound, due to its mostly concrete construction. Some window and iron bars remain, although no window glass does. The original concrete stair also exists. Interior details include concrete wainscoting and molding in the warden's office. The interior consisted mostly of living space (dormitories) for the prisoners. The original portion included a work area, and in one of the towers, the warden's office and kitchen. Auxiliary buildings include the blacksmith shop, the stables, and the shell of the meathouse. The blacksmith shop, built c. 1910, has a two-story portion of poured concrete and a rear section with a central clerestory. Changes to it resulted from its being converted to a garage during the school board's ownership. Some of the original windows and sash survive as do many original chimneys. The stable was built c. 1905 and was designed by an architectural firm, Butt and Morris. It is a large, square, one-story building out of stone and concrete. It has a flat roof, and the stonework shows evidence of patchwork and infill. The poured-concrete two-story shell of the original meathouse sits on the north side of the property and has no roof. Due to its solid construction, it has survived, with its shell intact.

Changes to the buildings resulted from deactivation as a prison in 1924 and reuse for other purposes. These changes include new doors/entrances being cut into the structure and those that resulted from neglect and vandalism. The front portico entrances have been closed with cement blocks and the original ground level in front of the front portico was lowered six feet. The nominated property does not include the adjacent Grant Park Elementary School.

The Stockade is located adjacent to Interstate Highway 20 on the edge of the Grant Park residential area. The lot slopes down along a wooded bank toward the Interstate and at the rear of the prison slopes toward the blacksmith shop and Glenwood Road. The Grant Park Elementary School now sits immediately in front of the original front entrance to the prison, off of the nominated property.

Also contained in the Atlanta Stockade complex, at the north edge of the property, is a non-historic one-story concrete block storage building.

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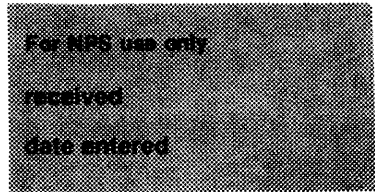
**National Register of Historic Places  
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Representation in Existing

Continuation sheet Surveys:

Item number 6

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Historic Structures Field Survey: Fulton County, Georgia.

Date: 1975

X - State

Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Department of Natural Resources  
Atlanta, GA

Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook

1981

X - City

Atlanta Urban Design Commission, City of Atlanta,

Atlanta, GA

The Atlanta Stockade received a preliminary certification of significance from the National Park Service Southeast Regional Office on November 25, 1985.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) Penal

**Specific dates** c. 1897, 1905, 1907, **Builder/Architect** Henry L. Collier, Commissioner  
1916 of Public Works for 1905 additions

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Atlanta Stockade is significant in architecture because it was functionally designed to be a city jail or prison. At the time it was built, it was the largest and most prestigious city-built penal facility in the state. The 1905 addition or enlargement employed both the Neoclassical style from the 1890s and often used for governmental buildings with the Gothic-influenced Medieval styled towers and wings often used for other penal institutions. Despite these exterior elements, the interior remained totally functional. It is also significant architecturally as an early and extraordinary use of concrete, including both poured-in-place reinforced concrete and cast concrete block. It is significant in politics/government and in penal history because it was built to be a city-owned jail or prison and it reflects the thinking of the times, beginning as a coeducational, racially mixed facility, and then changing to a more segregated one. The various activities that took place on the grounds reflected the way a city made use of its prisoners.

These areas of significance support the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria A and C. This property satisfies Criteria A--"associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history"--because it was built for, and served as, a prison for a large city, and reflected the latest penal philosophy through its design and use of prisoners in various activities. The property satisfies Criteria C--"embodies distinctive characteristics"--because it reflects the use of the Neoclassical style in its portico, and the Gothic Revival style for the towers and turrets. Both of these styles reflect major trends in architectural styles, and fine workmanship for a functional building without many frills on the interior. Other fine details include the use of concrete for wainscoting and crown molding in the warden's office. The building also is a very early example of the use of poured concrete as a structural system in Atlanta and Georgia.

**Contributing/Non-Contributing:**

Three contributing buildings, two noncontributing buildings (one is ruinous)

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE (SEE CONTINUATION SHEET).

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

see continuation sheet.

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property approx. 4 acres

Quadrangle name Southeast Atlanta, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	6	7	4	4	3	6	0	3	7	3	6	4	6	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property is a portion of the property that the current owner owns at this location. It includes the historic stockade, the blacksmith shop, the stables, and the hilltop setting. The adjacent school is not included. The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code county code

state code county code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian

organization Historic Preservation Section  
Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources date 3/30/1987

street & number 205 Butler St., SE, Room 1462 telephone 404-656-2840

city or town Atlanta state GA 30334

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  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 Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Elizabeth A. Lyon

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date 4/24/87

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

Ang Schlagel

date 6/25/87

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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**Historical Narrative**

The Atlanta Stockade, or the Atlanta city jail or prison, has evolved into its current configuration from a building begun on this site in 1896. A 147 acre site was purchased originally from the estate of Joshua B. Badger on May 15, 1863, by the City of Atlanta for roughly 100 dollars an acre. It was purchased to be a city cemetery, but those plans changed. The site was used for a pest house, or hospital, for a number of years before it was designated as the site for the new city prison, which was then moved here. It is not to be confused with county jail facilities which were always at a different location.

The original complex on this site was primarily of wood, and included a prison, a stable and a blacksmith shop. The entire tract included a prison farm and rock quarry. Water was first run to the site in 1895 and at the same time the first modern sanitary and plumbing facilities were installed to replace the outhouses and wells. Electricity was run to the site in 1896.

Most prisoners were incarcerated for petty crimes and misdemeanors, with the average stockade sentence being 15 to 20 days. The original prison housed both sexes and races, as well as children. The prisoners were used for physical labor within the city. The women and children were used for cooking and cleaning in the prison and to work the stockade's farm, and rock quarry, both on the premises. When the men worked, they were forced to wear chains while on the street repair team (or chain gangs) or at the rock quarry. Stone in the quarry was broken up by the prisoners to be used for "macadam" or the material from which streets were then made. Religious services were held in the prison on Sundays with ministers from the various city churches alternating.

When first established as a prison site, the stockade was on the edge of the city limits, although the Grant Park neighborhood was growing up nearby in the late 1890s. The stockade was overseen by two city council committees, that of Public Works and Prisons. The Prison Committee was concerned with maintenance and administration of the prison, and the health and welfare of the prisoners. The Public Works Committee maintained the city stable and blacksmith shop on the site, and planned and administered the prisoners' work on the city streets.

After a \$3500 appropriation was secured in 1895, the oldest part of the present building was built to house a daily population of 90. The promised new prison was completed in 1897 and cost \$3053. This oldest remaining stockade structure was two-story, measuring 26 by 73 feet. It was described in the Committee of Prisons Annual Report as "two stories high, and built of stone; the walls being two feet thick. With steel beams, concrete roof, and cement floors, the building is fire-proof." The upper level was used for dormitory space, with the lower level being offices, kitchen, and storerooms. It was made of

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cast concrete block. It included flush toilets and showers. The prisoner capacity of this new structure was 225. The prisoners' daily diet consisted of corn bread, bacon and molasses, supplemented by vegetables grown on the adjacent prison farm.

The number of prisoners rose steadily, so that by 1900 there were, on the average, 190 prisoners a day. During that year the first segregation of prisoners began, in keeping with other Southern efforts that began to separate the races. Women were then confined downtown at the Atlanta Police Station. The prison stables contained 64 mules and two horses. The stockade blacksmith shop built new wagons and rebuilt other city transportation equipment. The stockade farm produced onions, potatoes, corn, peas, turnips, cabbage, pork, and fodder. In 1901, a reassessment of the management of the stockade resulted in some changes, including a new heating system, and doubling the sleeping capacity by installing bunk beds. The Prison Committee also realized the need for more prisoner space due to the desire to segregate the prisoners.

The impetus to expand and improve the city's prison facility came due to a meeting in Atlanta in May, 1903 of the National Conference of Charities and Correction. They called the 1896 stockade a "disgrace to the city". Thus, within a year, it was announced in March, 1904 that a major "addition", practically an entire new prison, would be built. This "addition" included the large, four-story Gothic towers and wings and the front entrance colonnade. This new addition enclosed the original building on three sides and added a third story to it. It cost only \$9000 because it was built with prison labor -- in other words "they built their own home". The guard towers gave the prison its distinctive silhouette and the front columns were the official entrance.

Announcements of the building of the new prison or addition included the statement that "the new stockade prison will be the finest prison building in the south, with the exception of the new Federal prison [also being built] near Atlanta." The prison committee incorporated the latest ideas in prison construction and management, and visited the Federal penitentiary in Atlanta before the final plans were drawn, modeling the Atlanta stockade after it in many ways.

One major feature of which the prison authorities were most proud was that, given the climate of the times, they were able to include separate facilities in the new prison for white and black men and for white and black juvenile offenders, including separate dining rooms for each of the four groups and separate hospital or infirmary rooms for each. The prison chief was quite proud to state that the two races "will not even see each other while they are in the prison". No one dared comment on the added expense. Expectations of the race of future prisoners is shown by the fact that they built 96 two-men cells for blacks and only 30 two-men cells for whites.

The plans for the new prison "addition" were drawn by Henry L.

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Collier, the city's Public Works Commissioner. He described the new building to be roughly 130 feet by 120 feet, three stories over a basement, that would be "one-piece" or "seamless", so that no prisoner could ever dig his way out of the facility's 22-inch thick walls. Most important, it was to be concrete, said to be the first building in Atlanta to be built solely out of concrete. Even the columns and the roof were to be out of concrete. Collier, in selecting concrete for the prison, was following a growing trend in American buildings. The prison was thus built on the forefront of a new building trend, and is probably the oldest concrete building still standing in Atlanta. Collier had two good examples of nationally-significant concrete works right at his doorstep, the Terminal Station and the L & N Railroad Warehouses, both now demolished, but which were under construction in 1904 in Atlanta and whose progress was being observed in national magazines.

During 1903 there were more changes, including the construction of a new, modern, stable for about \$5000, completed in 1905, and designed by the Atlanta architectural firm of Butt and Morris. From 1905-1907 a three story dormitory addition was under construction on the prison's northeast side that cost \$9500. With a purely functional design, it was built of unadorned steel reinforced concrete. During the end of that decade, 1907-1910, efforts continued to upgrade the prison dormitory area. The cost of maintaining a prisoner had leveled off at 11 cents a day over the past decade. In 1909 a county Grand Jury was called to investigate charges of poor sanitary conditions and cruel prisoner treatment, and the City Council immediately appropriated money to alleviate the situation.

Since 1904, the prisoners had been receiving uniforms, with requirements that each inmate shower and change clothes once a week.

In 1911, the Mayor first recommended the sale of this structure and the relocation of the city prison to another site. A committee of City Council proposed in 1912 a site on Fort Street in Atlanta, but that was opposed by neighbors. Another committee in 1917 was formed to decide on a new use for the old stockade/prison, and it was going to be sold, when, once again, they were put on hold. By 1920, the city council was pretty certain they needed to move the prisoners, and again proposed a sale. A feasibility study ensued, pointing out that the city had other needs for which a vast tract of land, such as the prison tract, could possibly be used: parks, tennis and golf. Thus in 1920 did the majority of the stockade land become the James L. Key Golf Course. Plans for the golf course even suggested that the prison become the clubhouse and the blacksmith shop the locker room.

While the Mayor began his campaign to move the prison and sell the stockade site, the increase in prisoners had forced further expansion of the stockade prison. Thus in 1913 the last expansion of the stockade was begun. It was not finished until 1916. This wing, on the southeast side, was built of stone quarried from the city rock quarry



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and erected by the inmates.

An agreement in October, 1922 divided the management of the stockade tract between the Parks and Prison Boards giving the golf course to Parks. Then in November, 1922, it was decided that the property would be transferred to the Board of Education. A large outburst arose when it was decided by City Council that Girl's High School, which had been downtown on the future site of city hall, would be located in a new school to be built on Rosalia Street, on the then-stockade property. Residents of the nearby expanding Grant Park neighborhood welcomed the school, for it meant that the stockade and its prisoners would certainly be relocated. It also meant an end to the quarry noise, which had long been an ear-sore for them.

In 1924, the stockade or city jail was formally closed by the city and the prisoners eventually moved to the new facility on Key Road, in nearby DeKalb County, which consolidated all city prisoners at one location. Girl's High School was completed in December, 1924.

From 1924-1925 the stockade remained vacant until the Board of Education decided on the best use of the facility. A school system funded study in 1925 indicated that it was not feasible to try and turn it into a school, although some had proposed that Tech High School be placed within the building. Therefore, a new school facility was built in front of the stockade and opened in 1928 as the Grant Park Elementary School. (It is not on the nominated property.) Then the Board studied the feasibility of demolishing the Stockade, but even that cost too much.

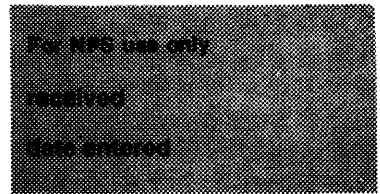
In 1927 the Atlanta Public Schools moved their service center into the stockade. This served as the maintenance and repair facility for the system until 1938. From 1938 until 1962, the stockade was used as a furniture warehouse by the school system, until it too was moved to a new location. After 1962, the stockade was barely utilized. Part of it was used to store school records. The stables was remodeled in 1962 as a warehouse for the school system, and the blacksmith shop was used as a garage for the service center until 1938, after which time it has not been used.

The nominated property does not include the original prison farm, which became first a golf course, and later much of it was taken by Interstate Highway 20. The original rock quarry, also not on the nominated property, was filled in during the 1930s by a special WPA sponsored project. Most recently it has become the site of a new high school.

The Atlanta Stockade was sold in 1983 by the Board of Education to new owners who are in the process of finding an appropriate adaptive reuse for it.

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"New City Stockade Prison..." The Atlanta (GA) Constitution, March 12, 1904.

"New City Prison Will be Ready..." The Atlanta (GA) Journal, November 29, 1904.

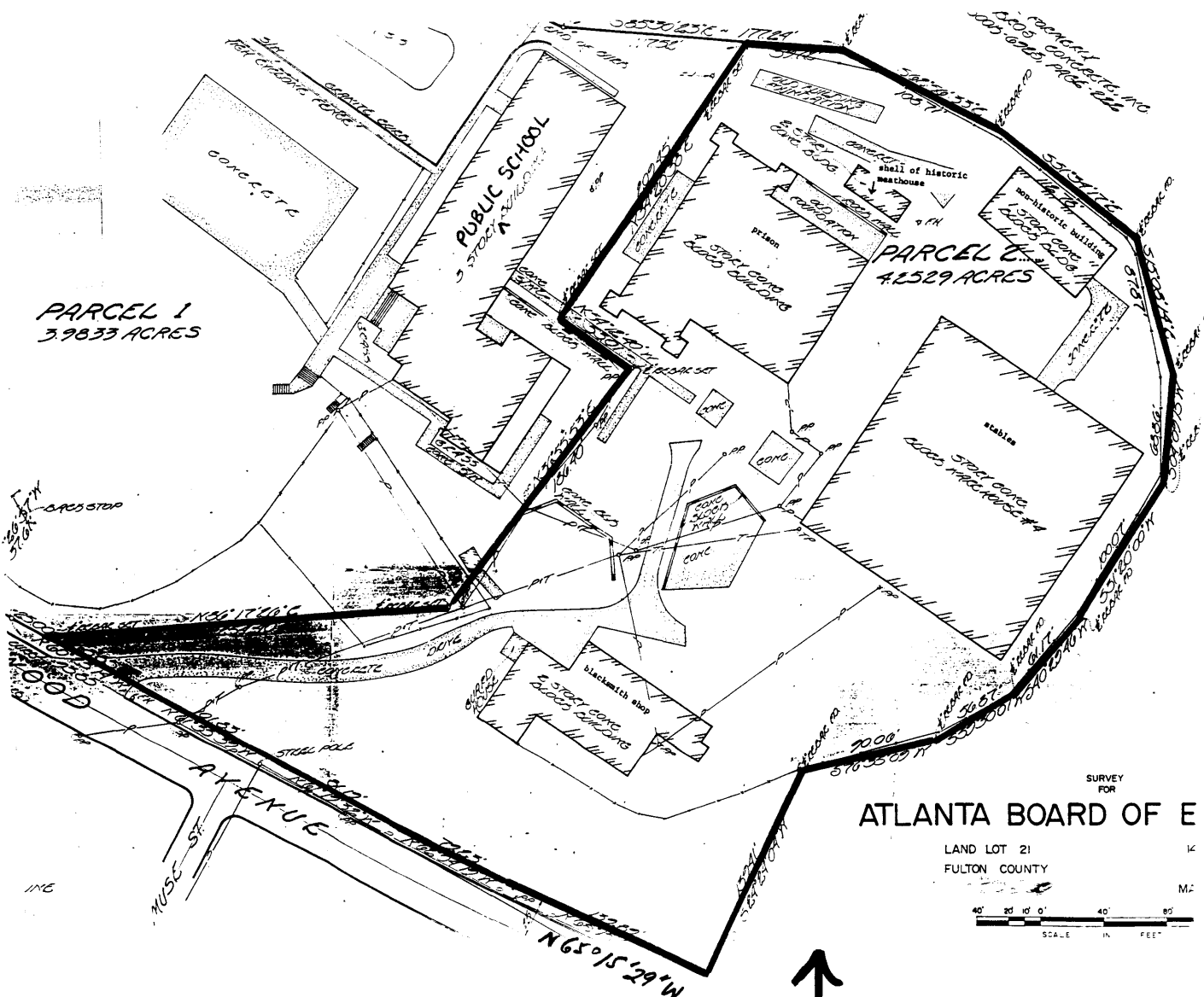
Various articles about division of stockade property, The Atlanta (GA) Journal.  
October 5, November 17, November 20, and November 21, 1922.

"Map of City Stockade Property, May 13, 1920, with annotations for division in September, 1922; located in Atlanta City Council minutes for October 2, 1922, Volume 27, page 710, line 30, (in packets accompanying the minutes), The Atlanta Historical Society.

Zion, David L. and Chris Brinkley. "Atlanta Stockade Preservation and Conservation Plan." Student Project, Georgia Tech Preservation Studio, June 6, 1981. Copy located at the Historic Preservation Section.

Zion, David L. "The Atlanta Stockade." Historic Property Information Form, March 15, 1982. On file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia.

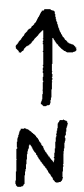
"Started for Hollywood..." The Atlanta Journal [Magazine] October 19, 1924. (Includes photograph of front facade.)



PARCEL 1  
3.9833 ACRES

PARCEL 2  
4.2529 ACRES

SURVEY FOR  
ATLANTA BOARD OF E  
LAND LOT 21  
FULTON COUNTY  
SCALE IN FEET



Plat Map

The Atlanta Stockade  
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia  
Scale: marked on the map  
Source: Survey for the Atlanta Board of  
Education May 31, 1983  
Date: Revised, June 13, 1983  
Key: The nominated property is designated  
"Parcel 2" and is marked by a heavy  
black line. The Buildings are marked  
directly on the plat.

