

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received OCT 20 1986

date entered DEC 15 1986

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

1. Name

historic William G. Raoul House

and/or common same

2. Location

street & number 848 Peachtree Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia

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: Being restored

4. Owner of Property

name Raoul Estate Joint Venture composed of O'Kon and Company, Inc., H. Anthony Smith, R. E. Hart

street & number 1412 West Peachtree Street

city, town Atlanta

N/A vicinity of

state Georgia 30309

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta

state Georgia

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

## 7. Description

<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		

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

Within Atlanta, the most fashionable residential district had shifted in the 1880's from Capitol Square to West End, areas south of Atlanta's current Central Business District. Atlanta society of the 1890's was to see a new development with the construction of many elaborate homes to the north along Peachtree Street. One of these fine new residences was designed and built specifically for W.G. Raoul, his wife and ten children in 1891. At that time, the house was outside Atlanta's city limits, and it was a two mile walk to town to the post office.

The W.G. Raoul House nomination includes the main house, servants quarters and carriage house, all developed at the same time in the Queen Anne style. The walls are of solid rose colored brick with wood trim and there are slate fascia on the main house. The original roof was slate with built-in gutters. Heart pine shingles were used on the second stories and as the original roofing for the other two buildings. Windows are of many forms and sizes, often found in a variety of gables.

The main house of three stories and a basement contains numerous intact stained glass windows and retains most of its highly detailed millwork, doors, mantles, wainscoting, and hardwood and heart pine floors. The sloping site provides a daylight basement where laundry and ironing were performed. Here also there was a large fireplace for warmth and the heating of irons, as well as a carpenter shop, the furnace, and a wine cellar. The entry to this area has a slate floor and originally an exterior stair that connected it to the kitchen porch above.

On the main floor, the large dutch front door with thick amber rondelle panes leads through a vestibule to the hall. The main stair rises a few steps to the study and then continues to the second floor, with an intermediate landing above the inglenook below. Photographs and fragments show a basketweave plaster finish on the walls above the oak wainscoting in the hall, and small areas of sgraffito are visible in the study. The parlor, library and dining room are entered from the hall and a separate, smaller hallway leads to the servants stair, butlers pantry, kitchen, lavatory and storage areas. A dumbwaiter served all four floors.

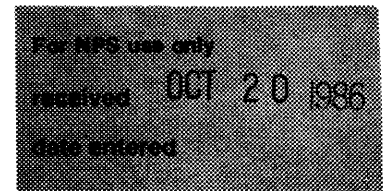
There are five large rooms on the second floor, each with a fireplace, as well as smaller dressing, bathing and closet spaces. A sleeping porch is located above the kitchen porch. The third floor consisted of four large rooms, the "trunk room" (a storage room with only a skylight), a large bathroom once equipped with a six foot tub, and the billiard room. Many of the rooms on this floor have ceilings that conform to the various roof shapes, which is especially dramatic in the billiard room with its vaulted, peaked ceiling. This room contains an enormous fireplace with a glazed tile face. The mantle shelf is supported by brackets, each carved with the image of a monkey face.

The nominated property includes the main house, two outbuildings and a historic wall that defined the south property line. This boundry wall curves and dies into the rear wall of the servants quarters, a two story cottage of brick and heart pine shingles. The main entrance to this cottage is from its covered porch, and leads immediately to two small rooms on either side. A steep central stair leads to two more rooms above, each with smaller adjacent areas formed by the gables. Though much smaller and simpler, both outbuildings show the same attention to detail, style and quality of construction as in the main house.

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Continuation sheet      Representation in Existing Surveys      Item number 6      Page 2

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6.      Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey: Fulton County, Georgia  
Date: 1975      State

Depository: Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department  
of Natural Resources

Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook  
Date: 1981      Local (city)

Depository: Atlanta Urban Design Commission, City of Atlanta  
Atlanta, Georgia



## 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation		
<input 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** 1891

**Builder/Architect** Bradford Gilbert, architect

### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The William G. Raoul House is one of the few remaining residences on Peachtree Street in Atlanta, a street once lined with grand late 19th and early 20th century houses. Most of these houses have been demolished as Atlanta's commercial center has grown north along the topographic ridge followed by Peachtree Street. These houses were among the finest works of residential architecture in the city at the time; most also were associated with Atlanta's most prominent families. The Raoul house is among a half-dozen surviving examples of these fashionable turn-of-the-century houses in Atlanta.

In terms of National Register areas of significance, the Raoul property is significant in the area of architecture for the following two reasons:

1. Residential Estate. The Raoul property is a very rare surviving example of a late 19th-century residential estate along Peachtree Street in Atlanta. The property contains, in addition to the main house, a servants' quarters and carriage house, both located in the rear yard, and both contemporary with the house itself. Documentary evidence shows that these types of auxiliary buildings, in this relationship to the main house, characterized the fashionable residential development along Peachtree Street at the turn of the century. The survival of any historic residential structures along Peachtree Street is rare today, given the intense commercial development pressures of the area. The survival of an entire complex of domestic buildings is even more unusual, indeed virtually unique.

2. Architectural Style. The three historic buildings on the Raoul property are excellent examples in Atlanta and Georgia of the late 19th-century Queen Anne style of architecture. The main house especially, with its irregular massing, its open, informal floor plan and interior arrangement, its use of both classical and medieval details, its multiple, picturesque gables, its variety of window treatments, and its use of contrasting natural materials including brick, slate, stone, and shingles epitomizes the distinguishing architectural qualities of the Queen Anne style. Correspondingly fashionable interior features including plaster wall and ceiling finishes, plaster and wood moldings, brick and tile fireplaces with wood mantels, stairway railings, and wood paneling add to the distinctive 1890s period character of the house.

The Raoul estate buildings are the work of the noted architect Bradford Gilbert (1853–1911), who designed not only the building overall but also the interior decorative elements. At the time, Gilbert was one of the best-known architects of New York; he designed a number of early high-rise or skyscraper buildings, of which the "Flatiron" building is one. He served as architectural consultant to several railroad companies, and he worked on an early remodeling of Grand Central Station. Gilbert also was the supervising architect for the Cotton States Exposition of 1895 in Atlanta.

This area of significance supports the property's eligibility under National Register Criteria C. The property meets National Register Criteria C because it is an exceptional, rare, and fine example

(Continued)

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property Less than one acre

Quadrangle name Northwest Atlanta, GA

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A 

1	6	7	4	2	1	6	0	3	7	4	0	4	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

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D 

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E 

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F 

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G 

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H 

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**Verbal boundary description and justification** The nominated property consists of the historic residential lot which is all of the land associated with the historic property minus the front yard on which the office building sits. This boundary is marked on the enclosed 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 Robert E. Hart, owner

organization Raoul Estate Joint Venture date December 10, 1986

street & number 1412 West Peachtree Street telephone 404-872-2217

city or town Atlanta state Georgia

## 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 12/10/1986

### For NPS use only

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

Danny Schlager date 12/15/86  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration

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of Queen Anne architecture in Atlanta and because it represents a very rare surviving domestic complex which consists of the main house, servants quarters and carriage house.

(NOTE: The property may also be eligible for the National Register under Criteria B because of its associations with members of the Raoul family. William Raoul served as president of several railroad companies, including the Central of Georgia (Georgia's largest) and the Mexican National Railroad. Mrs. Mary Raoul initiated and promoted the idea of kindergarten in Atlanta, with one of the first bearing her name. Her daughter, Agnes Raoul Glenn, was actively involved in establishing the Atlanta PTA. Eleonore Raoul was an organizer of the women's Suffrage Movement, helped organize the Atlanta League of Woman Voters, and served as the League's first president from 1922 to 1930. William Raoul also established the W. G. Raoul Foundation to combat tuberculosis, and both he and his wife served on the board of the International and Cotton States Exposition in Atlanta. However, these areas of significance have not yet been documented to National Register standards).

Contributing/Non-Contributing Buildings: Three Contributing Buildings.

(Continued)

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8. Significance

Historical Narrative

Work began on the W.G. Raoul House in the spring of 1891 while the family still lived in a rented house on Staten Island, New York. Sometime in 1890, Mr. Raoul had resolved to return to Georgia, and consulted with his friend, architect Bradford Gilbert, on the design of the house, spending evenings with the plans and even arranging scale furniture in the rooms. Family papers log the cost of construction at \$33,000.00. When the family moved into the house in the spring of 1892, the residence had made its place among the fine houses that made Peachtree Street famous, and the family began its role as social and civic leaders of this progressive city of the "New South". At the time the family arrived, the house was north of the city limits, and there was no "rural delivery" of mail. Today, it is in the heart of the Midtown business district.

The family had moved to New York from Savannah, Georgia in 1888 after Mr. Raoul became President of the Mexican National Railroad in 1887, a position he held until he retired in 1904. The family first lived in the home of W.G. Raoul's father in Independence, Louisiana, where W.G. was associated with the Southern Car Works, a family railcar-building enterprise. When the car works failed in 1870, W.G. went to Georgia to work for his father-in-law, William Wadley, on the Central of Georgia Railroad, and succeeded him as its President in 1882. For the ten years between 1870 and 1881, the family made its home in various places in middle Georgia, settling in Macon in 1874. In 1881, the Raouls moved to Savannah, where they lived in a house on the corner of Abercorn and Charlton Streets. During their seven year residency in Savannah, the family made yearly pilgrimages to the cooler climates of north Georgia, the North Carolina mountains and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. After a summer spent in Asheville, North Carolina in 1886, the family chose that city as a permanent summer home and site of their hotel complex, Albemarle Park, also designed by Bradford Gilbert.

William Greene Raoul (1843-1913) and Mary Wadley (1848-1936) were married in 1868 in Savannah. W.G. Raoul was from Livingston Parish, Louisiana, and had fought in the Battle of Gettysburg, attaining the rank of Captain in the Confederate Army. Between 1870 and 1890, their ten surviving children were born. Both sons and daughters made their debuts into Atlanta society and family members involved themselves in a variety of social and charitable organizations. The family papers at Emory University number 29,500 pieces and were processed by a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities in 1982. Those papers, including The Family of Raoul, the 1943 memoir by the eldest daughter, Mary Raoul Millis, detail a fascinating story of family life in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Georgia.

After her husband's death in 1913, Mary Wadley Raoul built a new house on Lullwater Road in the then new Atlanta subdivision of Druid Hills. When she moved in 1914, she was unwilling to sell the Peachtree Street house for any price then attainable. A succession of boarding and residential uses followed until 1941, when the children sold it to the Atlanta Chapter of the American Red Cross. According to the newspaper account, the sales price was \$20,000.00. The main house would now be a blood bank and offices, its basement a janitor's apartment, the servants quarters the surgical dress unit, and other production work would be centered in the newly remodeled "garage".

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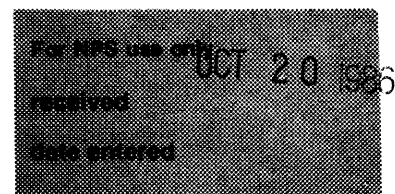
8. Significance

Historical Narrative

The Red Cross built a three story office building in the front yard in 1951. In 1972 the property was sold to Atlanta developer Thomas Cousins when the Red Cross moved to their new facility on Monroe Drive. North Avenue Presbyterian Church leased the space for the creation of social programs, such as a home for runaway girls. Georgia Income Properties owned the property from 1980 until 1985, during which time the property was generally vacant.

In 1985, the Raoul Estate Joint Venture, composed of engineers and architects, bought the property. It is now vacant except for a caretaker who lives in the carriage house. The group is planning the complete renovation of the 1891 buildings for upscale commercial use, such as a small hotel, and the demolition of the 1951 office building.

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Major Bibliographical  
References

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9. Major Bibliographical References

"Captain Raoul's Peachtree Mansion." The Atlanta (GA) Journal and Constitution Magazine, May 5, 1974, p. 11.

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Humphreys, Mary Bogle. "Never a 'Spider-Web' Party." The Atlanta (GA) Journal, November 9, 1941.

Matthews, Linda M. Head of Special Collections, Robert W. Woodruff Library, Emory University. Letter to Robert E. Hart with summary description of Raoul family papers. February 6, 1985.

Millis, Mary Raoul. The Family of Raoul. Asheville, North Carolina: The Miller Printing Company, 1943.

Raoul Family Papers, 1865-1982. Accession No. 548. Robert W. Woodruff Library, Special Collections, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia.

"Raoul, William Greene." Who's Who In America. 1906-07 Edition, p. 1462.

"Red Cross To Move Into 19 Room House." The Atlanta (GA) Constitution, September 2, 1941.

Saporta, Maria. "Old Raoul Mansion gets new tenants." The Atlanta (GA) Journal and Constitution, March 4, 1985, p. 13C.

"Society. 'The Misses Raoul Entertain'." The Atlanta (GA) Constitution, January 21, 1903, p. 8.

FLOOR PLAN

William G. Raoul House  
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

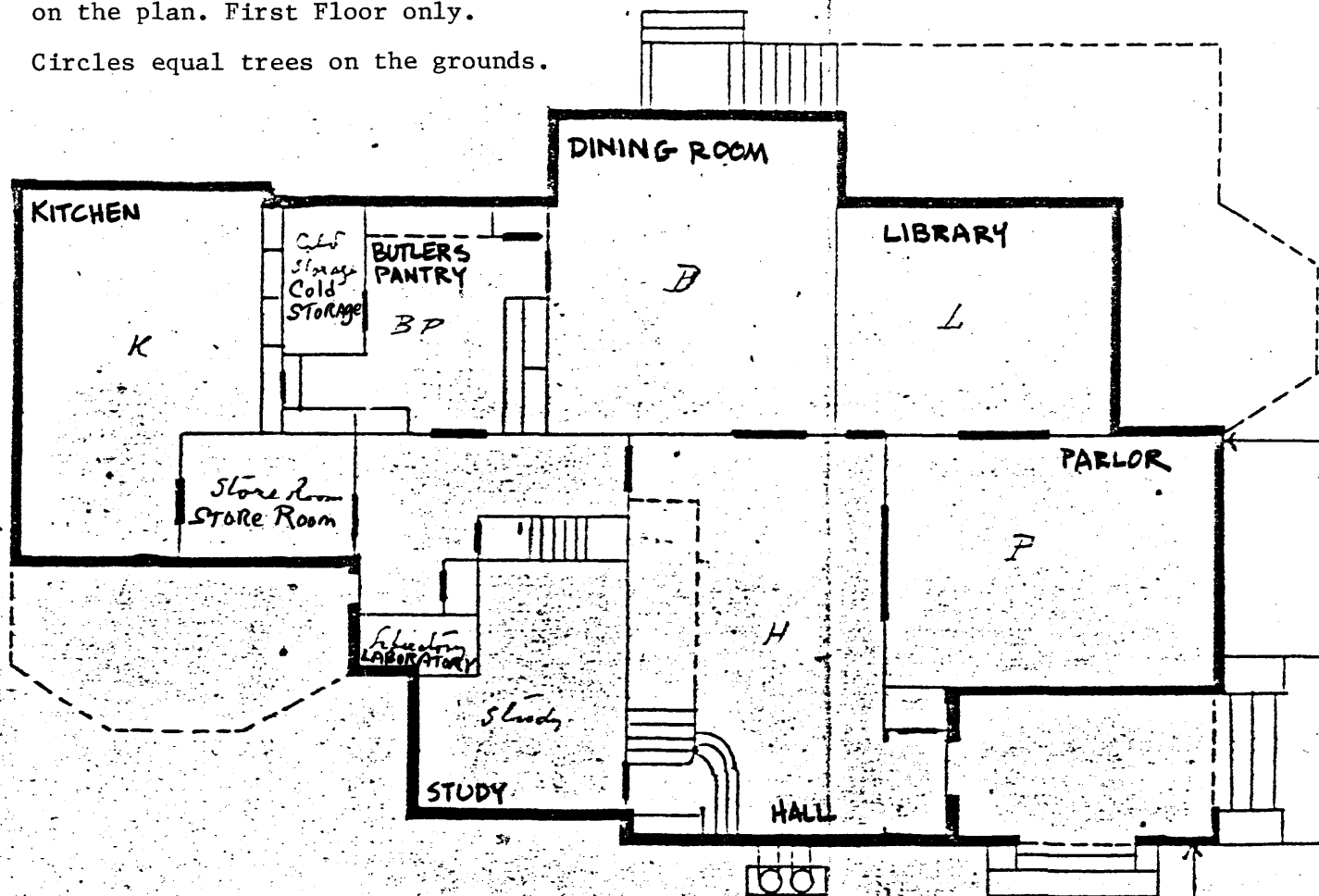
Scale: not to scale

Source: Site plan by Bradford Gilbert

Date: 1891

Key: The use of the rooms is marked directly on the plan. First Floor only.

Circles equal trees on the grounds.



W  
12

OCT 20

221 ft

B  
9

B  
6

B  
6

B  
6

R  
8

R  
12

R  
15

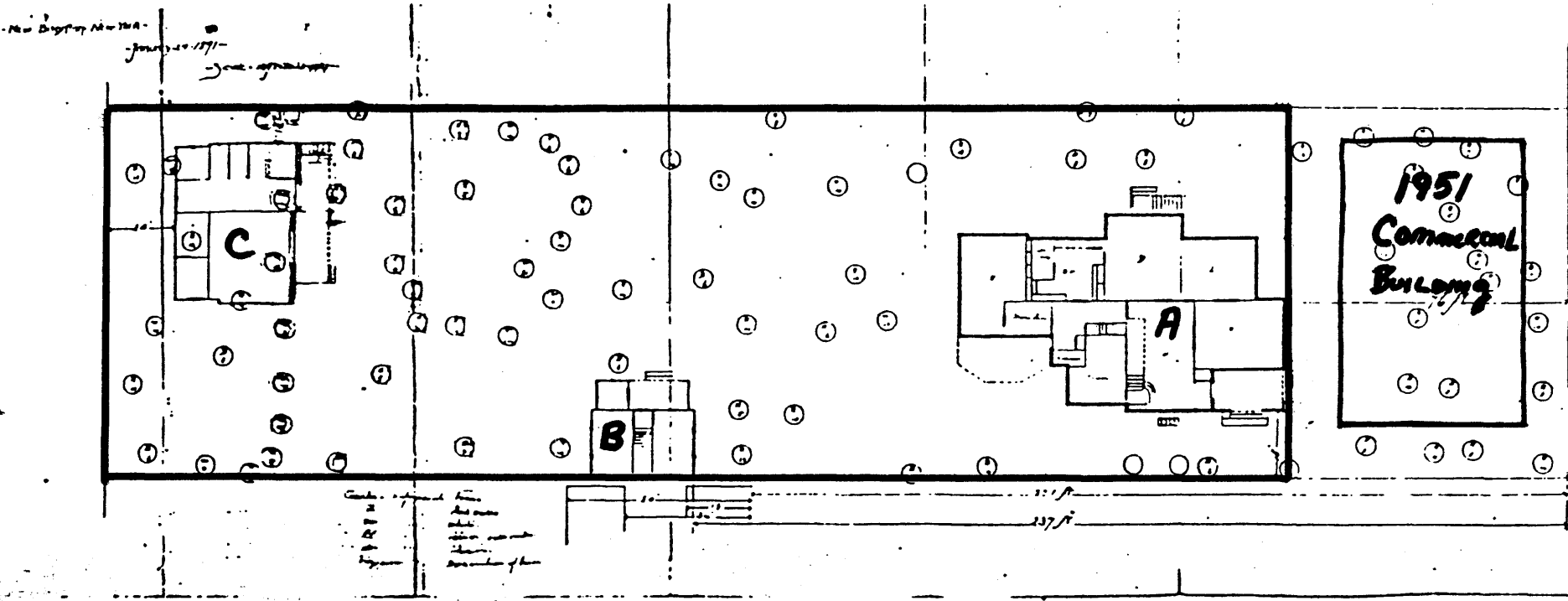
R  
12

R  
12

R  
12

NT

Project Name: William G. Raoul House  
 Location: Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia  
 Date: 1891  
 Architect: Bradford Gilbert  
 Scale: 1" = 45'



SITE PLAN

KEY:

- A = Main House
- B = Servants Quarters
- C = Carriage House

William G. Raoul House  
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia  
 Scale: 1" = 45'  
 Source : Drawn by Bradford Gilbert, architect  
 Date: 1891

Key: The nominated property is that part of the original lot marked by a heavy black line. The three historic properties are marked directly on the plan.

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PLAT MAP

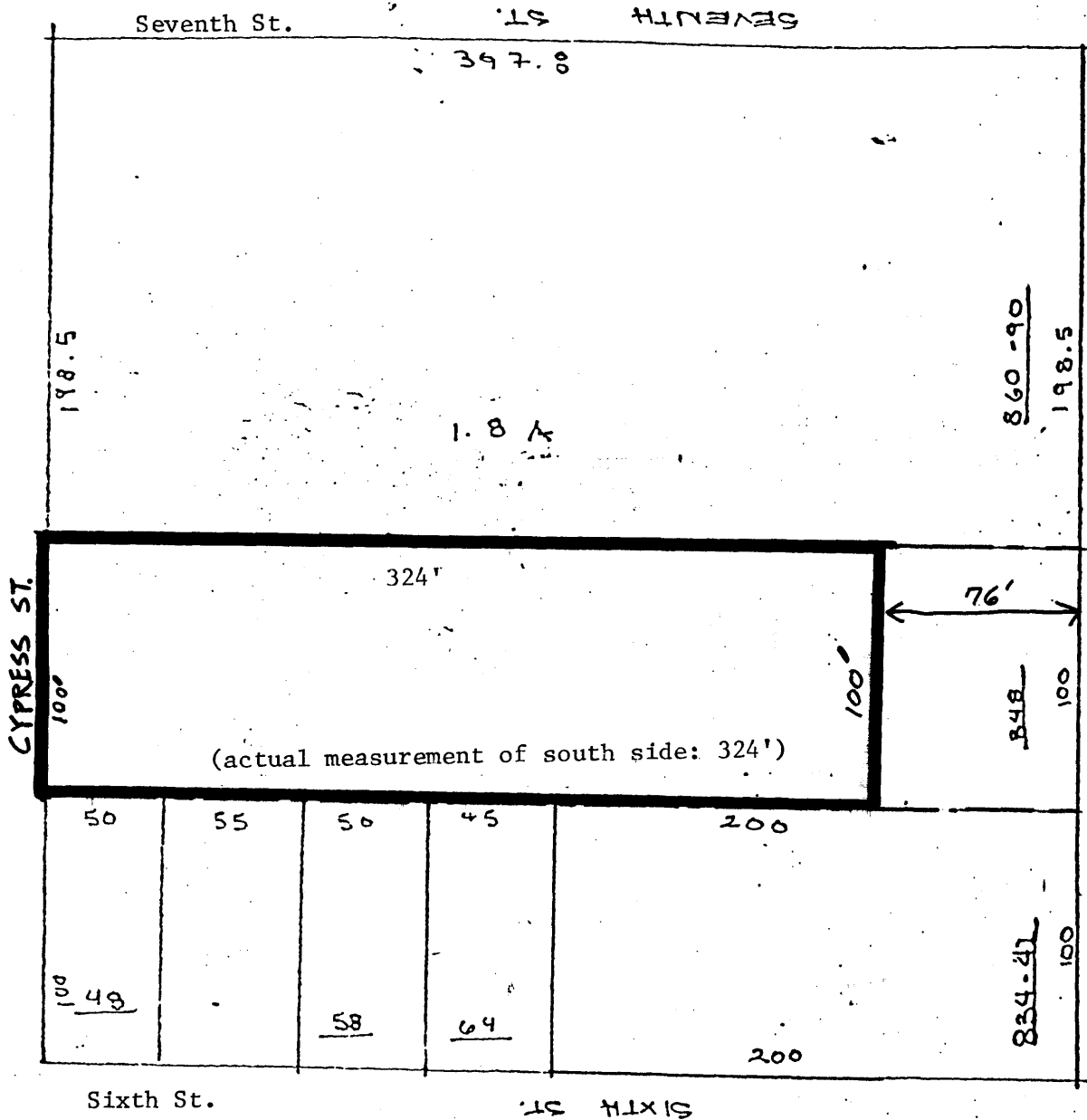
William G. Raoul House  
 Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Scale: 0 ----- 66'

Source: Based on City Tax Maps

Date: 1986

Key: The nominated property is marked by a heavy black line.



PEACHTREE ST.