

PH000 2879

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Georgia
COUNTY: Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE MAR 1 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:  
Rhodes Memorial Hall

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:  
1516 Peachtree Street

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
5th - Andrew Young

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
I3

COUNTY:  
Fulton

CODE:  
121

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	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"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	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"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Meeting place</u>

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:  
State of Georgia (Department of Archives and History)

STREET AND NUMBER:  
330 Capitol Avenue, S.E.

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
13

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

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

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

STATE:  
Georgia

CODE:  
13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
None

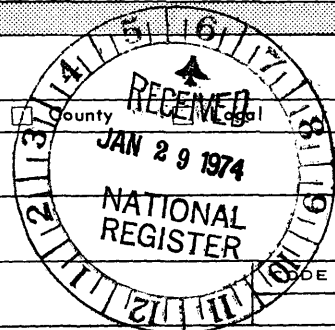
DATE OF SURVEY:  
 Federal  State  County

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:  
Atlanta

STATE:



STATE: Georgia

COUNTY: Fulton

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ENTRY NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

DATE: MAR 1 1974

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(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

Rhodes Memorial Hall, formerly the house of the furniture magnate, Amos Giles Rhodes, is presently owned by the State of Georgia and used by the Department of Archives and History. This 1905 Romanesque Revival structure, facing Peachtree Street, is now surrounded by commercial buildings and heavy traffic, yet it maintains its serenity and elegance on its manicured half city block.

Built of cut, rusticated Stone Mountain granite, the Memorial Hall's main features consist of a six story square tower, turrets, and a one-story castellated portico surrounding the building on the north and east sides and repeated in the porte cochere on the south side. Radiating vousoirs form each arch and are supported by low, simply capped columns.

The interior of the building is that of a rambling Victorianesque design. Off of the horizontal central hall, with its curved stairs on the south end, is the dining room, parlor, library, music room and back hall that also leads to the other floors. Each of these main rooms has exceptional parquet oak floors, each of a different design (originally all the ceilings in these principal rooms were gold leaf); these rooms also have painted arched panels between the ceiling and the picture molding that depict a different theme in each room. In the library the scenes are based on Indian lore; in the dining room, fruit arrangement designs; in the music room, musical instruments (now painted over); and in the main hall, pastorale scenes.

The central hall placed in a north-south axis of the house originally had as its main feature a curved stairway at the north end with a series of eight stained glass windows that presented scenes about the Confederacy. (These windows and staircase were removed in 1964 to the new archives building on Capitol Avenue, Atlanta. Translucent colored glass and a simple staircase have replaced the original.) The coffered ceiling has bare light bulbs set in the center of each square design. The mantel here has an ornate tile scroll work, telamon pilasters, and a mirrored overmantel.

The parlor on the north side is a long rectangular room with a bay window area. The mantel is composed of telamons that support a curved mantel Shelf over which is an oval mirror; decorative tile work appears around the metal grate cover. Its ceiling again reflects the oval theme with plaster rosettes and curved moldings surrounding the crystal chandelier. The transom lights over the windows are of stained glass, as is the front entrance door transom design with the initials of the original owner.

The dining room that connects with the parlor has the original furnishings of heavily carved oak, a buffet, cabinets, table and chairs. The original opalescent glass chandeliers and sconces emit a muted haze with which to view the tooled leather panels and carved ceiling. The mantel with its tiled facing and mirrored overmantel is also heavily carved with scroll that support the mantel shelf.

A series of small rooms behind the dining room lead to the kitchen.

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) **1905**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Rhodes Memorial Hall, one of the finest extant examples of Victorian Romanesque Revival in Georgia, was the home of furniture magnate, Amos Giles Rhodes from the time it was built in 1905 until it was turned over in 1929, following Mr. Rhodes' death, to the Georgia Department of Archives and History. This Hall was selected by the Atlanta Civic Design Commission as one of the most outstanding of Atlanta's buildings.

Amos Giles Rhodes, a prominent Atlanta furniture dealer, was born December 29, 1850, in Henderson, Kentucky, the son of Joseph and Louis Rhodes. He moved to Atlanta in 1875, married Miss Amanda Wilmot Dougherty of Atlanta in 1876 and established the furniture business in which he continued until death in 1928. Eventually he created a chain of furniture stores with outlets in thirty-five cities of the Southeast. As his business prospered, he invested in real estate in Georgia, Florida and Arkansas. Mr. Rhodes earned the reputation of being a retiring person by nature and interested in charitable rather than political organizations. His love for humanity is amply demonstrated in the Home for the Sick, the Home for Old Women and other institutions to which he gave freely.

During the late 1800's Mr. Rhodes traveled to Europe where he developed a lasting admiration for the Bavarian castles he saw on his tour of Germany. This admiration was so great that upon his return to Atlanta he made plans to build a mansion that represented a composite of the castles he had seen along the Rhine. Willis F. Denny was retained as architect to help him realize his plan and after two years of construction the building was completed in 1905. Today the structure stands near busy intersections of Peachtree, West Peachtree and Spring Streets; with its manicured ground and castle-like appearance, it rises above the pedestrian surroundings.

The mantel details, painted arched panels, extant furnishings, today with the exterior Romanesque architectural details make the Memorial Hall an outstanding example of Victorian Romanesque Revival architecture in Georgia. It is one of a few residential structures that was represented in Romanesque architecture, for generally this style, used in the late 19th century before and during the Richardson Romanesque, was for ecclesiastical or commercial purposes. The Memorial Hall is evidenced also as the desire of one man to have a structure not of a design in the mainstream of current building styles; for the Romanesque Revival in America that occurred in 1850-60's and the Richardson Romanesque in the 70's and 80's is not the style Denny and Rhodes worked out. Thus we have a special example of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

**9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Garrett, Franklin M. Atlanta and Environs, Volume II, p.463.  
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, Personal inspection, November, 1973.  
 Morgan, Thomas H., "Reminiscence of the Architecture and Architects of Atlanta", Atlanta Historical Bulletin, June 1937, p.12.  
 Stevens, Carole, Staff Researcher of courthouse and archives research; notes on file at the Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources.  
 Mitchell, William R., Jr., Consultant

**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

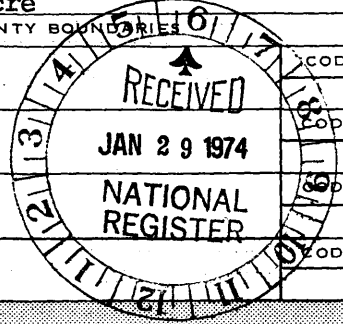
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
NW	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NE	° ' "	° ' "		33 ° 47 ' 45 "	84 ° 23 ' 18 "	
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

ATM  
 16/741800/  
 3742390

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **less than one acre**

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:  
**Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian**

ORGANIZATION: **Historic Preservation Section, Dept. of Natural Resources**      DATE: **January 23, 1973**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703-C**

CITY OR TOWN: **Atlanta**      STATE: **Georgia**      CODE: **13**

**12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION      NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION**

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 Historic Preservation Officer

Date 24 January 1974

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

A. R. Moulton  
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 3/1/74

ATTEST:

Wm. H. ...  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 3.1.74



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Fulton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
MAR 1	1974

7. Description

The library's theme is Indian lore with brightly colored geometric tile designs surrounding the fireplace opening and the painted arched panels that repeat this idea. The music room, now completely painted over, still retains its original corner mantel of a design similar to the other first floor rooms.

The second floor, now used only for meeting areas is much simpler in design and detail of its five bedrooms. The original bathrooms, generally found between the bedrooms, no longer exist in complete form. Simple mantels with mirrors and tile work are found in each room. Much unfinished area in the roof's eaves is accessible from this floor.

The third floor has three rooms two of which originally had skylights; the third room has a small set of turned stairs that leads to the fourth floor of the turret.

8. Significance

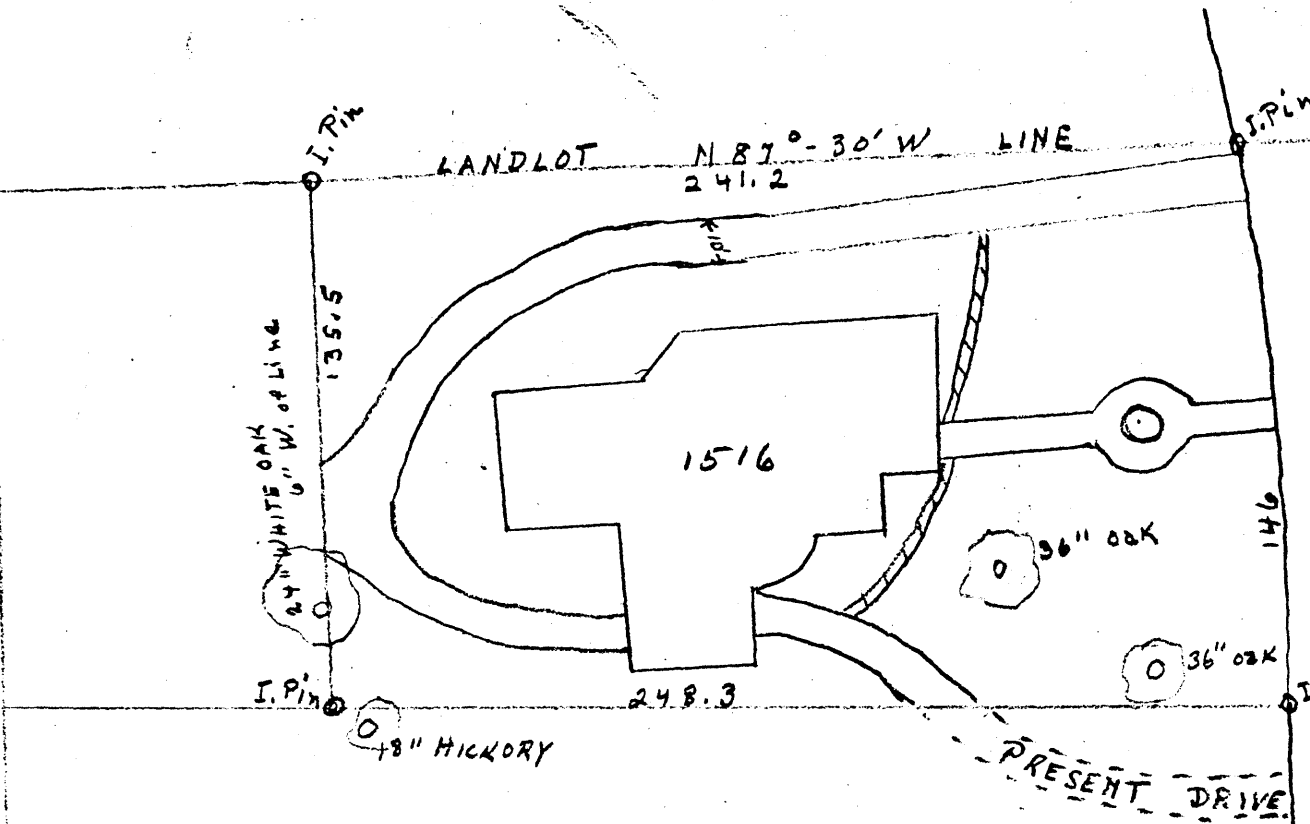
Victorian Romanesque Revival taken from original medieval Romanesque sources and adapted for use as an early 20th century house.

The architect, Willis Franklin Denny, 1872-1905, had a brief career but had established a reputation in the profession designing a number of Atlanta churches, including the First Methodist, Saint Mary's Catholic Church and the Westminister Presbyterian.

The Memorial Hall, situated on Peachtree Street, is presently owned by the State of Georgia. The Hall was used as the offices of the Department of Archives and History from 1929 until a new Archives Building was built in the 1960's. The Rhodes' will specifies that it must be used by the Department of Archives and History or its ownership will revert back to the family. It continues to serve the Department of Archives and History and also serves as a meeting place for historically oriented and patriotic organizations. Major changes contemplated in the street and traffic pattern around the Hall make registration especially important at this site.

SPRING ST.

PEACHTREE ST.



PLAT OF  
 THE A. G. RHODES, RESIDENCE,  
 LANDLOT 108 17<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT, FULTON CO.  
 ATLANTA GEORGIA  
 SCALE 1" = 50'-0" MAY 1929

E. G. NABELL, JR  
 C. E.

Form No. 10-301  
Rev. 7-72

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

*(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)*

STATE Georgia	
COUNTY Fulton	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER MAR 1 1974	DATE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

<b>1. NAME</b>			
COMMON:		Rhodes Memorial Hall	
AND/OR HISTORIC:			
<b>2. LOCATION</b>			
STREET AND NUMBER:			
1516 Peachtree Street			
CITY OR TOWN:			
Atlanta			
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
Georgia	13	Fulton	121
<b>3. MAP REFERENCE</b>			
SOURCE:			
Plat of A.G. Rhodes Residence			
SCALE:			
see map			
DATE:			
May 1929			
<b>4. REQUIREMENTS</b>			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			

