United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



1167

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Proper	ty						
historic name Ch	arles R. Adams Pa	ark.					
other names/site nu	mber						
2. Location							
street & number 16	90 Delowe Drive						not for publication
city or town Atlant	2						vicinity
state Georgia	code	GA county	Fulton	code	121	A	30311
3. State/Federal Ag			1 ditori	5000	-121_	Lip oods	
As the designated	authority under the	National Histor	ic Preservation	Act, as amen	ded,		
I hereby certify that for registering prop requirements set for	erties in the Nation	al Register of H					mentation standards professional
In my opinion, the post be considered sign				onal Register	Criteria	. I recom	mend that this property
Signature of certifying of Historic Preservation State or Federal agency	Division, Georgia D	ept. of Natural Re			SHPO	Date	
In my opinion, the propo	erty meets doc	es not meet the Nat	ional Register crite	ria.			
Signature of commenting	ng official			Date			
Title			State or Federal	agency/bureau o	r Tribal G	overnment	
4. National Park S	Service Certificati	on					
I hereby certify that this entered in the	National Register			termined eligible		al all of	ister
determined no	t eligible for the National	Beal	re	moved from the	National F	egister (3	
Signature of the Keep	er	Section 1		Date of	Action		

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Charles R. Adams Park Name of Property	Fulton County, Georgia County and State				
5. Classification					
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply.)  Category of Property (Check only one box.)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)				
private x public - Local public - State public - Federal  building(s) x district site structure object	Contributing         Noncontributing           3         2         buildings           1         0         sites           1         3         structures           0         0         objects           5         5         Total				
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)	Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register				
N/A	0				
6. Function or Use					
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)	Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions.)				
LANDSCAPE: park	LANDSCAPE: park				
RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation	RECREATION AND CULTURE: outdoor recreation				
RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility	RECREATION AND CULTURE: sports facility				
EDUCATION: library					
7. Description Architectural Classification	Materials				
(Enter categories from instructions.)  LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:	(Enter categories from instructions.)				
Colonial Revival	foundation: BRICK				
LATE 19 <sup>TH</sup> AND 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY REVIVALS:					
Tudor Revival	walls: BRICK				
	STONE: granite				
	roof: ASPHALT				

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#### Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a summary paragraph that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

#### Summary Paragraph

Charles R. Adams Park is located in southwest Atlanta, approximately six miles from downtown. It is a public city park surrounded by the residential neighborhood of Cascade Heights, which has houses dating mostly from the 1920s to the 1960s. The general topography is hilly with mature hardwood trees and pines. Construction of the park, also known as Adams Park, was begun in the mid-1930s, but the dedication ceremony took place in 1940. The nominated property consists of a 32-acre designed landscape including passive greenspace, a lake and stream, and active recreational and community facilities. The naturalistic landscape design makes use of curvilinear paths, dramatic vistas, and rustic materials to evoke the rural aesthetic common to other public parks from the period. Hardscape features include stone walls, stairs, paths, bridges, culverts, and urns constructed of granite from local guarries. The centerpiece is a shaded canyon-like area with picnic shelters (some constructed of large logs), stone grills, and a stream with large boulders. A flatter adjacent area features a two-acre lake with an embankment and a small island reached by a stone bridge. Near the lake are baseball and softball fields, a playground, tennis courts, a 1978 recreation center, and a 1991 pool house with an outdoor swimming pool. The park also includes a 1942 Colonial-Revival-style brick building that was constructed as a library. The National Register boundary includes a discontiguous parcel of land historically associated with the park. The 1936 former Cascade Community Clubhouse and 1950s gymnasium (now a park maintenance facility) are located on the dis-contiguous parcel. Due to changes over time and the possible loss of historic integrity, the adjacent Adams Park Golf Course is not included in the National Register boundary.

#### Narrative Description

NOTE: Most of the following description was written by members of the Adams Park Foundation (Steven Montgomery, Yolanda Johnson, Corliss Claire, Larry Schulz, and Penny Blackford) as part of the "Charles R. Adams Park" Historic Property Information Form, March 10, 2010, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Minimal editing for clarification was made by Denise Messick, National Register Historian, Historic Preservation Division.

Charles R. Adams Park is a 32-acre city park located in the Cascade Heights neighborhood of southwest Atlanta. It was built in the late 1930s based on the designs of William L. Monroe, Sr. The park initially served the white residents of Fulton County during a time when the population was growing rapidly. The grounds include both active and passive recreational features such as paths, stone walls and bridges, picnic areas, community buildings, and sports facilities.

#### Landscape and Structures

The landscape design of Charles R. Adams Park (including culverts, grills, picnic shelters, walkways, stairs, and small bridges, etc.) is counted as one contributing site. Because of its relatively large size, the man-made lake is individually counted as a contributing structure. The three noncontributing structures are the swimming pool, the ball field/playground area, and the tennis courts. Five buildings (three contributing and two noncontributing) are discussed in more detail in the final section of this description. The park consists of two dis-contiguous tracts, surrounded by residential streets. The Adams Park Golf Course (now known as the

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Alfred "Tup" Holmes Golf Course) is located adjacent to the two tracts. The golf course and its clubhouse are not included in this nomination due to alterations to the course that may affect its historic integrity.

The larger main tract is shown on the National Register maps as Tract 2 (not an official designation). At the north side is an entrance to the park off of Venetian Road, one of the surrounding streets. A walking path/service road leads to the first of three historic picnic shelters with rustic log designs (photograph 13). As the land begins a gentle slope downward into the picnic area, there are two additional log picnic shelters (photographs 14, 15, and 16). Next to each picnic shelter is a freestanding stone grill (photograph 18). These shelters and grills all date to the 1930s construction of the park.

To the east of the log shelters is tree-covered land next to the stream and hillside. An unnamed intermittent stream (a tributary of Utoy Creek) feeds into the park at Venetian Drive through the park's first stone culvert. The trickling stream cascades down around large exposed rocks and a massive tilted boulder. The effect was created as part of the landscape design by William L. Monroe, Sr. When the stream reaches the bottom of the hillside, it winds around the east side of the picnic area through a second stone culvert and under a vehicular bridge connected to an unpaved road. The stream continues under an arched, stone footbridge connected to stone stairs and walls leading to the pool area (photographs 20 and 21), and then flows through a third stone culvert under the park's main road and into the fishing lake. Much of the boulder and rock-strewn edges next to the stream are now covered with invasive groundcover and years of composted leaves. The hillside along the stream, some of which is exposed granite, is dotted with outcrops of trees.

At the center of the crushed-rock-covered picnic area, there is a large picnic pavilion with a massive stone fireplace and several picnic tables (photograph 17). This shelter is set on a concrete slab, and is covered with a gabled roof topped with a monitor. Next to the shelter are picnic tables (photograph 19) arranged in front of a raised stone-and-concrete platform with a three-sided bench (photograph 22). The area is heavily shaded by mature beech, oak, hickory, and pine trees. This low point of the park is known as the "canyon." Two footbridges span the stream in this section. The concrete-slab bridge in photograph 24 appears to be a replacement.

The hillside on the west side of the picnic area is divided into two tiers by a network of pathways. Nestled into this hillside above the stream and third stone culvert is a stone walkway that spans 330 feet across the length of the hill (photographs 7 and 19). This rustic walkway also has stone walls on each side that act as retaining walls for the hillside. There are two complete sets of stone stairs off this walkway. The one at the south end of the walkway leads down 25 feet to the interior park road (photograph 6). The upper section of these stairs is no longer extant, nor is the former "comfort station" (restrooms) in this area.

Another set of stone stairs, located about midway along the walkway, is intact and rises 84 feet above the hillside walkway (photograph 8). It leads to a 250-foot circular stone path on the upper street level near Delowe Drive. The circular path, with its three stone urns (photograph 9), was once the main pedestrian entrance into the park. It is across the street from the golf course.

From the top of the stairs at the upper level, there is a panoramic view of the picnic area about 100 feet below and of the lake to the southeast. The introduction of highly invasive shrubs has permitted *Elaeagnus*, Southern magnolia, privet, English ivy, porcelain berry, and Japanese honeysuckle to dominate the area. There is no clear remaining evidence of the original plantings.

The park's interior roadway, known as Lagoon Drive, encompasses the lake and recreation fields at the southern end of the park. The drive follows the natural topography in a semi-circle for two-tenths of a mile, dividing the park into two sections, and providing the only vehicular access for visitors. Beginning at Delowe Drive to the west, the roadway provides views of the lake and the upper tier greenspace. As Lagoon Drive reaches level ground, it continues past the "canyon" area, outdoor pool and pool house, tennis courts and

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picnic pavilion, playground, ball fields, and recreation center. Lagoon Drive exits onto Boulevard Lorraine by the recreation center.

Stone steps from Lagoon Drive lead down to the 1.7-acre man-made fishing lake (a contributing structure), which has an average depth of about 11 feet. The open bowl-shaped topography with its trees and understory growth provides seclusion from the surrounding residential area (photograph 1). The slopes around the lake rise about 15 feet above the lake at the highest point. The roadway and upper level greenspace form the 'lip" of the bowl-like configuration and at this vantage point there is a view of the lake below. The west bank is built up with granite and some sandstone. The island on the east side of the lake is the remains of the earthen embankment that separated the stream from the lake (photograph 2). The embankment served as the walking path along the east bank. Since its removal, there is no path directly along the east bank of the lake. There is a stone footbridge that connects the island to a stone walkway and stairs up to ball fields, playground, and recreation center.

At the mouth of the fourth stone culvert that feeds the stream into the lake on the north side is a concrete-andstone storm-water diversionary system. It was originally designed to prevent rain-swollen stream waters from emptying directly into the lake and to divert waters from streams into a separate channel, which was contained by an earthen embankment that ran along the east side of the lake. What was once a full-fledged stream when the park was built in the 1930s is now only a thin trickle during heavy rainfall.

Along the southern bank of the lake is another stone bridge (photograph 5) and stairs to the recreation facilities. There is an inscription on the bridge that says, "WPA 1938." Overflow from the lake now flows over a concrete spillway (built in 1999 or 2000) and under the bridge into a rock-covered channel. The channel dips below the level of the lake and meanders through a picturesque area containing the fifth stone culvert. An aeration fountain was added near the center of the lake in 2007, replacing an earlier fountain. There is a small non-historic (1970s) pump house built to pump lake water across the street for the golf course's irrigation system.

Since the 1990s, a new baseball field was built on the flat greenspace near the lake's northeast bank, adjacent to two existing ball fields. North of the lake is the non-historic (1991) outdoor pool and bathhouse (photograph 23). (This replaced an older swimming pool at another location that had been demolished.) Next to the pool are four tennis courts and a small 1970s picnic pavilion and grill nestled on a slight rise under the trees. Across from the picnic shelter to the southeast is the playground, the 1978 recreation center (photograph 30), and two older ball fields (photograph 3). At one time, the park also had riding stables and a "youth hut" in this area. These were demolished several decades ago. Despite these changes, Adams Park retains a high degree of integrity due to the many historic features that remain.

Between Venetian Drive and Wilson Drive, northwest of the main part of the park, is the smaller discontiguous parcel (identified as Tract 1 on National Register maps). In 1928 Fulton County built a school along Venetian Drive. Only a small portion of the land was needed for the Cascade Elementary School, and the remaining land was used for an athletic field for Adams Park, two small picnic shelters, a community clubhouse, and a gymnasium. (The school buildings are not included in the National Register boundary.) In 2006 the city of Atlanta transferred the remainder of this tract to the Atlanta Board of Education.

The former gymnasium (photograph 28), a c.1950 building with a metal roof, has been used as a park maintenance facility since the 1978 recreation center was built on Tract 2. (The city also discontinued the use of the park athletic fields on Tract 1.) The 1936 Cascade Community Clubhouse, built by the Works Progress Administration, fronts Wilson Drive and sits back from the street on a gentle hill (photograph 25). The building has been unused for a number of years. A stone sign for the park is still visible on Wilson Drive in front of the former clubhouse.

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#### Buildings

In addition to the contributing landscape (site) and lake (structure), Charles R. Adams Park also includes three contributing buildings and two noncontributing buildings. The oldest of the contributing buildings is the former Cascade Community Clubhouse, dating from 1936 (photographs 25, 26 and 27). It faces Wilson Drive on Tract 1. Designed to look like a residence, the small building has a rustic stone-and-brick exterior, a crossgabled roof, a prominent brick chimney, and a corner porch. The interior consists of a main meeting room with a stage and smaller side rooms. Walls and ceilings are plaster, which is beginning to deteriorate. The large fireplace is rustic stone. Wood trim is used throughout. Floors are also wood, and the windows are wood sash, mostly in a six-over-six configuration. This building had some changes in 1990, including removal of porch columns, painting of the red brick, and the addition of a concrete handicap ramp and metal railings.

The second contributing building is the 1942 Adams Park Library (photographs 10, 11, and 12). It faces Delowe Drive on Tract 2. The brick exterior has a symmetrical façade with elements of the Colonial Revival style. It is covered by a side-gabled roof. The one-story building has a raised basement in the rear. A central front-gabled entry portico leads to the front door. At the time of the National Register photographs, alterations were being made. However, the new porch extension shown in photograph 10 has subsequently been removed, and the building retains its historic front façade with just the central portico. The interior retains plaster walls, recessed book shelves, and extensive wood trim. Large arched openings divide the open space visually into four different areas. A plaque outside the front door names the "designer" as F. W. Roebuck.

The third contributing building is the c.1950 gymnasium, now used as a maintenance building (photographs 28 and 29). It is reached by a long driveway from Wilson Drive on Tract 1. The large rectangular building is utilitarian in appearance. It has corrugated sheet-metal cladding on most of the building, with a brick veneer on the lower front office area. It has a front-gabled roof with three metal vent boxes on the ridgeline. The interior has a large central open space surrounded by offices, storage areas, and restrooms. The floor is concrete. A mezzanine balcony provides a partial second floor. Most of the original metal-framed doors and windows are intact.

The two noncontributing buildings are on Tract 2. These are the 1978 recreation center (photograph 30) and the 1991 pool house (photograph 23). The recreation center is a large stone-veneer building facing Delowe Drive. The pool house is a concrete-block building on the interior of the park adjacent to the swimming pool and tennis courts.

#### Summary of Contributing and Noncontributing Resources

The following summarizes the contributing and noncontributing resources:

- Three contributing buildings: Adams Park Library (1942), Cascade Community Clubhouse (1936), and the former gymnasium (c.1950).
- Two noncontributing buildings: pool house (1991) and recreation center (1978).
- One contributing site: Adams Park landscape design (late 1930s).
- One contributing structure: man-made lake (late 1930s).
- Three noncontributing structures: tennis courts, ball field/playground area, and outdoor swimming pool (all c. 1990s).

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8. Statement of Significance			
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions.)		
of National Negister Island.)	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE		
A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our	ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION		
history.  B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT		
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	Period of Significance 1936-1962		
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	Significant Dates  1936 – Cascade Community Clubhouse built.		
	1940 – Park is dedicated.		
Sulfania Canadanatiana	1942 - Library constructed.		
Criteria Considerations  Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)  Property is:	Significant Person (Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)		
A Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	N/A		
B removed from its original location.	Cultural Affiliation		
C a birthplace or grave.	N/A		
D a cemetery.			
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	Architect/Builder		
F a commemorative property.	Monroe, William L., Sr. – landscape architect Roebuck, F. W.		
G less than 50 years old or achieving significance	300 TO 10 TO		

# Period of Significance (justification)

within the past 50 years.

The period of significance begins in 1936 with the construction of the first building, the Cascade Community Clubhouse. It ends in 1962, which is the end of the historical period. During this time, the property was in continuous use as a public park.

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Criteria Considerations (explanation, if necessary

N/A

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria.)

Charles R. Adams Park is nominated under Criteria A and C at the local level of significance as a good example of an urban park designed by William L. Monroe, Sr., who played a role in several Atlanta parks and gardens between the 1920s and 1960s. The park is significant in the area of landscape architecture (Criterion C) for utilizing the principles of naturalistic landscape design that relied on local materials and skilled laborintensive craftsmanship, as was common in many larger state and national parks during this period. The design works with the park's rugged topography and flowing stream to create an urban oasis with rustic stonework, picturesque views, native and exotic plant species, and recreational amenities. William L. Monroe, Sr. (1892-1965), a noted Atlanta landscaper, founded Monroe Landscape and Nursery Company in 1925, one of the first such companies in Atlanta. His major landscaping projects in Georgia included the grounds of the Berry schools (now Berry College) in Rome and the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School in Rabun County. He also designed Atlanta's Chastain Park and Carroll Gardens, as well as numerous residential landscapes. Adams Park is also significant in the areas of community planning and development and entertainment/recreation (Criterion A) for its role in the establishment of a system of urban parks for Fulton County and the city of Atlanta. Developed as a county park in the late 1930s and named for county commissioner Charles R. Adams, the park was initially part of a planned multi-million dollar program to improve parks and golf courses in order to attract a population with the economic means to enjoy leisure activities. This use of county funds was controversial, and Adams was criticized for extending his influence to further the project. The park is also significant for its use of federal relief money during the Great Depression to construct many of the facilities and landscape features with Works Progress Administration labor. Adams Park became an Atlanta city park under the 1952 "Plan of Improvement" when the city annexed large portions of unincorporated Fulton County.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance.)

Charles R. Adams Park is significant in the area of <u>landscape architecture</u> for its overall historic landscape following the designs of William L. Monroe, Sr. and the landscape features constructed by workers using federal Works Progress Administration (WPA) funds. Remaining historic features include a lake and channelized stream, stone steps and walkways, rustic picnic shelters, stone urns, native plant materials, and stonework from local sources. Adams Park was designed and built in the mid-1930s using the principles of naturalistic landscape design similar to those used by the National Park Service and many New Deal-era public works projects. The preservation of existing natural features, employment of curvilinear forms, the framing of natural dramatic vistas, the use of local natural materials, and the skilled labor-intensive craftsmanship of the extensive stonework are evident throughout the landscape. The landscape design was intended to be nonintrusive and subordinate to the existing natural environment. Adams Park is intentionally secluded from its residential surroundings.

William L. Monroe, Sr. (1892-1965) was an early Atlanta landscape designer who played an important role in the design and construction of Atlanta's gardens and parks between 1925 and 1963. Monroe's reputation as a significant influence on landscaping in the city is generally recognized in Atlanta's community of landscape architects and gardeners, although much of his work is lost or undocumented. His fascinating gardens, with their well-crafted stonework, soothing water features, and ambitious scale, are good examples of recreational retreats created during the Great Depression era and later. The myriad paths, stone furniture, and picnic areas

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found in both his public and private gardens were conceived to encourage exploration and activity rather than to present a formalized architectural statement. Monroe's gardens expertly reflected an emphasis on inviting natural spaces where the structural elements are woven into the environment, suggesting the close connection between man and nature. Adams Park is a good intact example of Monroe's work, and one of the few of his landscapes that remains easily accessible to the public. A biographical sketch of Monroe and further discussion of his work is included in the history section below.

Adams Park is also significant in the areas of entertainment/recreation and community planning and development as a public recreation space influenced by the recreation movement and other social improvement movements of the time period. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century was a period of economic growth and development for Fulton County and Atlanta. From about 1936 through 1950, Fulton County made significant investments in parks to help promote population growth. Chastain Park to the north of Atlanta (now part of the city) was designed by William L. Monroe, Sr. almost simultaneously with Adams Park in the city's southwest sector using the same rustic-style influences. Both parks used federal relief agency funds to construct stonework and landscape features. These projects were direct results of the county's strategy to use parks to attract a middle-class population with the economic means to have leisure time to enjoy nature and recreational amenities.

In the mid-1920s plans were underway by Fulton County to increase residential development in the unincorporated county to the south and north of the city of Atlanta. Land was purchased for the development of parks as a tool to encourage growth in the new suburban neighborhoods that were being developed. A key component of the funding came from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Works Progress Administration (WPA), created in 1935 by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act to provide useful work for needy unemployed individuals. According to the Atlanta Constitution on July 28, 1935:

On completion of construction work in the new Charles R. Adams Park adjoining Cascade Heights, that section will have the largest recreational center in Fulton County. The park property was purchased by the county and the work done by the government with FERA [Federal Emergency Relief Agency] labor. Golf courses, lake, swimming pool, tennis courts, and baseball diamonds are included in the program of development.

By 1935 Adams Park was under construction at a cost of roughly \$331,095, of which \$262,689 came from federal funds. The final cost was closer to \$376,000. The park was dedicated on May 29, 1940 with a group of almost 1,000 people in attendance. Newspaper reports also indicate that the park was an impetus for further residential development in the surrounding neighborhood of Cascade Heights.

The construction of the park was not without controversy. Adams Park was named after Dr. Charles R. Adams, who was a Fulton County commissioner from 1935 to 1942. News articles from 1939 discussed a grand jury probe of commissioners Adams and Troy Chastain for using their positions to further their interests in property near the park. Adams lived a mile or so from the subdivision and park. His campaign manager was the exclusive sales agent for the Cascade Heights subdivision (where the park is located). Chastain and Adams were not indicted, but there were many questions over the amount of money going towards parks, particularly parks with expensive golf courses, which were not considered affordable for the average person. (The Adams Park Golf Course was originally part of the park, but is not included in this nomination due to subsequent changes to the course.)

Under the 1952 "Plan of Improvement," the city of Atlanta expanded its borders to the south and to the north by annexing large portions of unincorporated Fulton County. As a result of the annexation, Adam Park and Chastain Park both became incorporated into Atlanta's city boundaries.

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#### Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

NOTE: Major portions of the following history was written by members of the Adams Park Foundation (Steven Montgomery, Yolanda Johnson, Corliss Claire, Larry Schulz, and Penny Blackford) as part of the "Charles R. Adams Park" Historic Property Information Form, March 10, 2010, on file at the Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, Georgia. Editing and additional paragraphs were contributed by Denise Messick, National Register Historian, Historic Preservation Division.

#### History of the Cascade Heights Neighborhood

Adams Park was built on land that was purchased around 1924 by Weyman & Conley Company (also known as Wey-Con, Inc.). The surrounding area was developed as the broader Cascade Heights subdivision (also known as Cascade). Cascade often refers to a larger area in southwest Atlanta that consists of several smaller neighborhoods including Adams Park, Beecher Hills, Peyton Forest, Mangum Manor, West Manor, and others. Until the early 1960s, the overall population consisted mostly of white families. A practice by realtors called "block-busting" exacerbated racial tensions by convincing white residents that African Americans would lower property values if they moved in nearby. In 1962 Atlanta Mayor Ivan Allen ordered a barricade erected at Peyton Road to ensure continued separation of white and black neighborhoods in southwest Atlanta. The barricade was dismantled after protests and court orders. As African Americans purchased houses, many of the original residents moved away. By the late 1960s, a demographic reversal had occurred and the area transitioned into a predominantly African-American upper-middle-class neighborhood. It became known as the home of several notable or prominent Atlantans such as Hank Aaron, Ambassador Andrew Young, and Mayor Shirley Franklin.

#### History of Adams Park

Adams Park (the park, not the neighborhood) was built on three non-contiguous parcels of land. (Two of the parcels are included in this nomination. The golf course is excluded.) The first parcel would contain the community clubhouse (1936), gym (c.1950), ball fields, and picnic shelters. This tract was initially sold to the Fulton County Board of Education by Wey-Con, Inc. for one dollar in March of 1928 to build a school for the burgeoning community. The parcel was large enough to accommodate the school that was eventually built on the north side of the tract, along with the park features on the south side. The park was dedicated in 1940 after several years of construction. A 1967 plat shows separate parcels for the school and park. (The school transferred from Fulton Board of Education to Atlanta Board of Education in the 1952 Plan of Improvement annexation.) Current Fulton County tax records show the entire tract as belonging to the Atlanta Board of Education. However, this nomination only includes the portion of this parcel (called Tract 1 on National Register maps) that historically belonged to the park, as shown on the 1967 plat. The other two park parcels – separated by Toccoa Road (now Delowe Drive) - were used for the main park and the 1942 library (Tract 2 on National Register maps), as well as the golf course (outside the National Register boundary).

The original plans for Adams Park called for a 60-by-120-foot swimming pool, bathhouses, tennis courts, an 18-hole golf course, and landscaping. By 1950 a Fulton County Parks and Recreation Department publication listed the park's features as an 18-hole, 6,200-yard golf course, golf clubhouse, swimming and wading pools, eight picnic grills, a master grill area, 10 picnic tables, a lake for fishing, equestrian area, community building, youth hut, library, gymnasium, "equipped" area, baseball diamond, lighted softball diamond, athletic field,

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lighted asphalt tennis courts, and multi-play area, and year-round supervised recreation program. It cost 50 cents on the weekdays and one dollar on weekends and holidays to play golf.

The community center (Cascade Community Clubhouse), located on Wilson Drive, was once a center of community activity. It housed a Carnegie Library until the Adams Park Library was built in 1942. The clubhouse was built in 1936 and is listed among Georgia's WPA (Work Progress Administration) projects. It was the meeting place for the Cascade Garden Club and several other community organizations. A 1937 topography and elevation plat shows a garden located in the rear of the clubhouse. As the community surrounding the park grew, the elementary school became so crowded in the early 1950s that the park's Cascade Community Clubhouse and the Youth Hut (no longer extant) were used for some of the second and third grade classes. The clubhouse and library were each eventually closed, and are now awaiting other uses. The former gymnasium is used for a maintenance building.

#### Segregation in Atlanta Parks

In 1917 the city of Atlanta had 492 acres of park land. Adams Park, created in the late 1930s, was initially part of the Fulton County parks system until 1952, when the city of Atlanta annexed the neighborhood and its parks into the city limits. By 1956, after annexation, the city had 938 acres of park land. The state of Georgia had passed a law in 1905 that segregated all parks. In 1915 Atlanta had two parks for African Americans and 11 parks for white residents. In 1926 blacks could use only three of the city's 24 parks. By 1940 Atlanta had passed an ordinance officially segregating the city parks.

The U. S. Supreme Court ordered desegregation of the city's golf courses in 1955. The Adams Park Golf Course was renamed for Alfred "Tup" Holmes in 1983. Holmes was part of a group of black golfers who filed a lawsuit in 1953 to desegregate Atlanta's public parks and golf courses. The case worked its way to the U.S. Supreme Court and on November 7, 1955, the court ruled against Atlanta's "separate but equal" precept in public golf courses. The case was handled by a young NAACP attorney, future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall.

In 1961 student leaders of the Committee on Appeal for Human Rights (COAHR) filed a federal lawsuit seeking to end discrimination in all of Atlanta's public city-owned facilities such as parks, municipal buildings, and swimming pools. A federal court ruled in the students' favor in 1962 and the city integrated its swimming pools in 1963. Adams Park was presumably desegregated at this time.

#### William L. Monroe, Sr. Biographical Sketch

William L. Monroe, Sr. was born in 1892 in Biscoe, North Carolina, a crossroads community in the central part of the state. He graduated from Elon College in North Carolina and later studied at Duke and Cornell universities. He first came to Atlanta in 1917, when his military service brought him to Camp Gordon in Chamblee. He was working for the C.A. Dahl Company, a florist and nursery on Peachtree Street in Atlanta by 1920, the year he is first recorded in the Atlanta city directories. One of the earliest projects that can be attributed to Monroe is Dorough Garden on Lullwater Road, reportedly laid out in 1920. The garden incorporates formal and informal elements to create a lush setting for the Mediterranean-style house on the property. Not much is known of Monroe's work in the early 1920s through the early 1930s.

According to his obituary in the Atlanta Journal, Monroe founded his own company, Monroe Landscaping & Nursery Company in 1925, although it does not appear in the city directories until 1932. The company was

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Charles R. Adams Park

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located on what is now his namesake road, Monroe Drive, near the Ansley Park neighborhood of Atlanta. Monroe owned a great deal of land in this area where there is now a large American Red Cross office. He lived in a house on the site. There he had a garden that was used for parties, weddings, and other social activities. The garden featured extensive stone work. Until 1938 Monroe Drive was known as Boulevard Drive. The portion of Boulevard from Piedmont Road north was changed to Monroe Drive in honor of Monroe and his business. Later, the name Monroe Drive was extended south to Ponce de Leon Avenue as it is today.

Monroe's business was apparently well established by the mid-1930s, and he was soon involved in a number of large-scale projects. In 1937 Monroe began work on the landscaping for the home of Fulton County Commissioner Troy Chastain on Habersham Road in the Peachtree Heights subdivision in Buckhead. The steeply sloping rear yard of the house presented challenges in terms of controlling water run-off, but was perfectly suited to Monroe's penchant for waterfalls and cascades. He constructed a meandering stream that travels through rock-lined channels, dropping into three pools as it descends. A rock walkway with short sections of steps ascends the hill, at one point crossing the stream with a large flat stone. To control run-off from the hill, Monroe constructed concrete channels that flow toward the side yard and around a hillside to a catch basin that carried the water to the street. There is another stream in the front yard that may have been fed by a spring. Monroe also constructed a large rock retaining wall with a stairwell cut into it to separate the driveway from the rear yard. Another interesting feature of the Chastain property is the two millstones that were used as paving stones at the front and rear entrances. Cut pieces of slate were arranged around the stones to create a sunburst effect.

Monroe also served as a special consultant for Fulton County and assisted in development of several parks in Atlanta. Most notably, he designed Adams Park and Chastain Park, which were championed by Commissioners Tony Chastain and Charles Adams. At Chastain, Monroe oversaw the construction of a number of stone features using WPA labor, including an amphitheater, retaining walls, grills, shelters, steps, and bridges. In November 1938, the *Atlanta Journal* reported that Chastain and a number of guests inspected the site of the park then under construction. Among the guests were William Monroe and Robert L. MacDougall and C.M. Johnson of the WPA.

In the late 1930s Monroe was hired to design and oversee construction of Carroll Gardens in DeKalb County, an extensive rock garden with pools and waterfalls overlooking a lake that was part of the Carroll family's private recreational park. There are no known existing plans. The work was abandoned after being only partially completed. The garden was rediscovered under years of litter and overgrowth by a new property owner around 2000. The garden was restored and completed in the style and design typical of Monroe's work. A curved stone bridge original to the garden is similar to the one in Adams Park. The rock garden, located in east Atlanta, is now part of the DeKalb County park system and known as the Glen Emerald Rock Garden.

Monroe is associated with other landscape projects in the Atlanta area, although not all of them are still in existence. The 1933 *Garden History of Georgia* notes two gardens planned by Monroe. The Selman garden is a mostly formal plan, but the garden known as Llwyn near the Brookhaven Country Club has more in common with his rock garden designs. Llwyn featured rising terraces that provided different perspectives from different parts of the house and grounds. A tea garden was furnished with tables and benches, as well as a stream that flowed down the hillside "over rocks and into pools". Rock walls and weathered boulders were also placed around the garden. The plantings included ferns, perennials, and broad-leaved evergreens, as well as crocus, narcissi, pansies, tulips, and columbines. Also mentioned were azaleas, rhododendron, and mountain laurel, all of which were prominent in Monroe's designs.

Very few plans of Monroe have survived to the present to give an overall perspective on his work. Unfortunately, most of his plans were destroyed about the time that William Monroe, Jr. took over his father's business in the early 1950s. However, Monroe, Sr. continued to work at the firm until the early 1960s, and a

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Charles R. Adams Park

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few plans of the son's collection at the Atlanta History Center were the work of the senior Monroe. These plans do provide some clues to Monroe's style and influences. The earliest plan is dated 1940 and is for a Fulton County park in Alpharetta called Chastain Woods. No records exist to show the park was ever built. The design is interesting in that it features curvilinear paths reminiscent of Frederick Law Olmstead and his disciples. The topography is not shown, but presumably the paths follow the contours of the land. The paths are punctuated with small sets of stone steps to help navigate the slopes, and as found at his other parks and gardens, the trails lead to pavilions and picnic areas with fireplaces.

A later design of Monroe's, dating to 1960, is an outdoor Sunday school classroom for the Druid Hills Methodist Church at the corner of Ponce de Leon and Briarcliff roads in Atlanta. A sketch of the site as planned shows typical elements of Monroe's naturalistic gardens. A curved stone wall with an attached bench defines the space, creating an irregular-shaped patio. The wall encircles a tree at one end of the patio and a stone table and seat are located at the other end, interrupting the flat plane of the surface. Plantings around the classroom space include a hedge of cherry laurel, beds of podocarpus, mahonia, azaleas, and blue lilyturf. Monroe also used mahonia at the Chastain house, according to current owner John Foley.

Some of the residential projects that were either designed or installed by William Monroe in the Buckhead area of Atlanta include the Hugh Nunnally estate on Blackland Road, the Robert Woodruff House, the Rufus DeWitt King estate, the Chester Martin estate on Blackland Road, and the Carlyle Fraser estate at 2 Vernon Road. He also did the landscaping plans for the Moore's Mill Reservoir and Secondary Pumping Station at the Atlanta Water Works, the Biscayne Drive Apartments in 1955, a garden for Mr. and Mrs. Baxter Jones on Tuxedo Drive in northern Atlanta, and a proposed nursing home for the McDonough Construction Company in 1961. In 1959 he also rehabilitated the Cator Woodford Gardens on Ponce de Leon Avenue in Atlanta, which were originally designed by Robert B. Cridwell of Philadelphia in 1920. These plans were generally commercial in nature, and did not feature the stone walls, water features, and naturalistic settings like those found at Adams Park.

#### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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Charles R. Adams Park
Name of Property

Fulton County, Georgia County and State

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- "WPA Allots Funds for Fulton Parks." The (Atlanta) Constitution, 11 September 1938.

Charles R. Adams Park

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Fulton County, Georgia

Name of Property							County and State		
Pr	Previous documentation on file (NPS):  preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67 has been requested) previously listed in the National Register previously determined eligible by the National Register designated a National Historic Landmark recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey #				Primary location of additional data:  X State Historic Preservation Office Other State agency Federal agency Local government University Other Name of repository:				
		esources Survey	Number (if assigned): N/A						
A	creage o	A	oproximately 32 res. esource acreage.)						
	TM Refe	* E 112 9 7	on a continuation sheet.)						
1	16	734880	3733310	3	16	735200	3732920		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		
2	16	735550	3733310	4	16	734640	3733480		
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing		

#### Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The nominated property, consisting of two noncontiguous tracts, is indicated by heavy lines, drawn to scale, on the attached National Register boundary map. These boundary lines are drawn to show Tract 1 and Tract 2 on a plat prepared for the City of Atlanta Parks Department in 1967.

#### Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the two noncontiguous tracts that comprise the historic boundaries of the Charles R. Adams Park, excluding the present Alfred "Tup" Holmes Golf Course (a.k.a. Adams Park Golf Course). The golf course was historically part of the park, but is not included in the National Register boundaries because of alterations and changes to the course over time. Documentation of the exact nature of these changes was not available, but they appear to be extensive enough to affect the historic integrity of the golf course.

(Expires 5/31/2012)

Charles R. Adams Park

Name of Property

Fulton County, Georgia County and State

11. Form Prepared By		
name/title Denise P. Messick		
organization Historic Preservation Division, GA Dept. of Natural Resources	_date_Novembe	r 2012
street & number 254 Washington Street, Ground Level	telephone (404	) 656-2840
city or town Atlanta	state GA	zip code 30334
e-mail Denise.Messick@dnr.state.ga.us		

#### **Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Maps: A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

- Continuation Sheets
- Additional items: (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

#### Photographs:

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map.

Name of Property: Adams Park

City or Vicinity: Atlanta

County: Fulton State: Georgia

Photographer: Charlie Miller, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

Date Photographed: November 2010

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

1 of 30. View of lake (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing southwest.

2 of 30. View of lake and island (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing west/northwest.

3 of 30. Overview of baseball field (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing northeast.

4 of 30. Park entry sign (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing northwest.

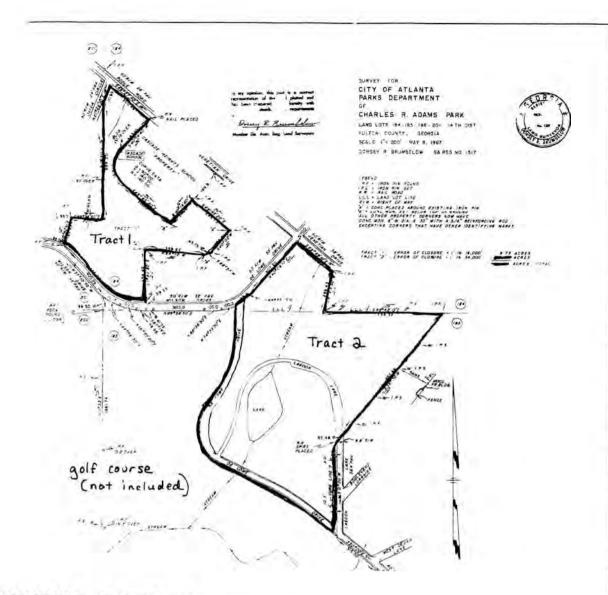
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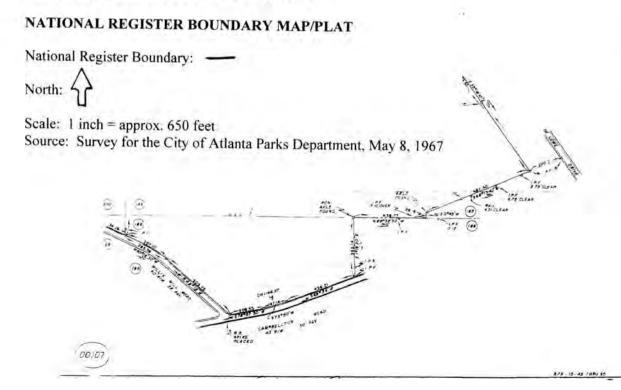
Charles R. Adams Park

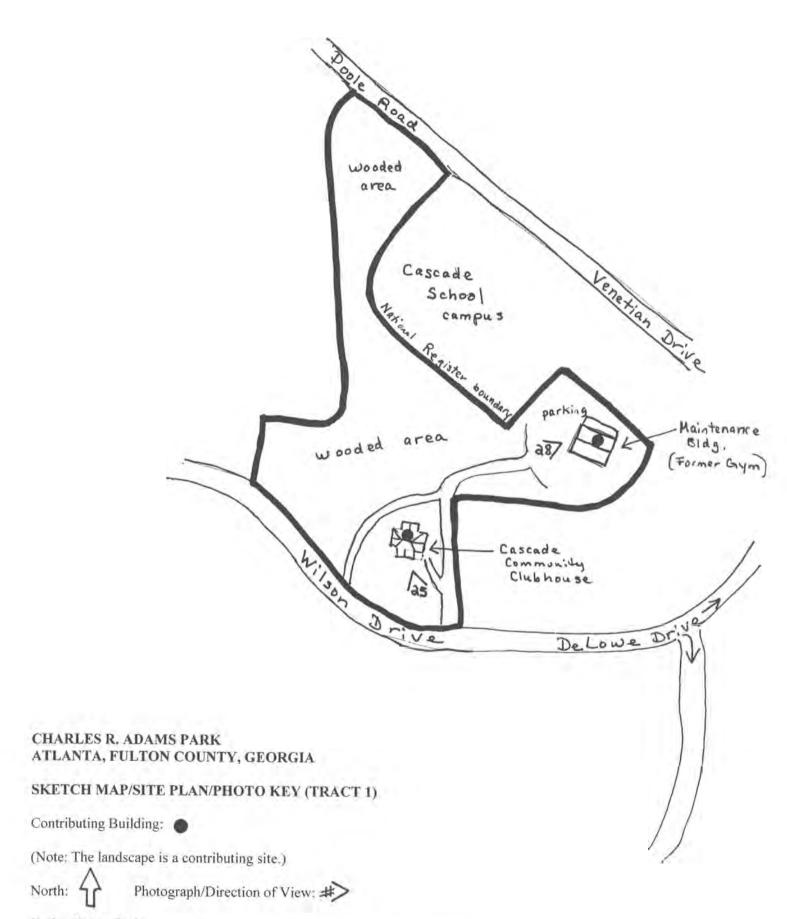
Name of Property

Fulton County, Georgia
County and State

- 5 of 30. Bridge at south end of lake (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east/northeast.
- 6 of 30. Stone staircase leading from lake to walkway (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north/northwest.
- 7 of 30. Stone walkway and retaining wall (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north.
- 8 of 30. Stairs leading from stone walkway to Delowe Drive (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing west.
- 9 of 30. Stone planting urn near Delowe Drive (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 10 of 30. Front of former library building (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing southeast.
- 11 of 30. Interior of former library building. Photographer facing northeast.
- 12 of 30. Interior of former library building. Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 13 of 30. Picnic shelter near Venetian Drive (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north.
- 14 of 30. Picnic shelter near Delowe Drive at Venetian Drive (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing west/northwest.
- 15 of 30. Picnic shelters and stone grills (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north/northeast.
- 16 of 30. Picnic shelters (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north/northeast.
- 17 of 30. Large picnic pavilion with stone chimney (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing southeast.
- 18 of 30. Stone barbecue grill (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east/southeast.
- 19 of 30. Picnic area looking toward stone wall (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing west.
- 20 of 30. Stone staircase from stream to poolhouse (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east.
- 21 of 30. Detail of stone staircase from stream to poolhouse (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east.
- 22 of 30. Stone platform with three-sided bench (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east.
- 23 of 30. Poolhouse and tennis courts (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east,
- 24 of 30. Overview of stream through the "canyon" area (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing north.
- 25 of 30. Front of Cascade Community Clubhouse (Tract 1 on map). Photographer facing north.
- 26 of 30. Interior of Cascade Community Clubhouse. Photographer facing southwest.
- 27 of 30. Interior of Cascade Community Clubhouse. Photographer facing north.
- 28 of 30. Front of maintenance building (former gymnasium) (Tract 1 on map). Photographer facing east.
- 29 of 30. Interior of maintenance building (former gymnasium), taken from mezzanine/balcony. Photographer facing northwest.
- 30 of 30. Entry to 1990s recreation center building (Tract 2 on map). Photographer facing east/northeast.

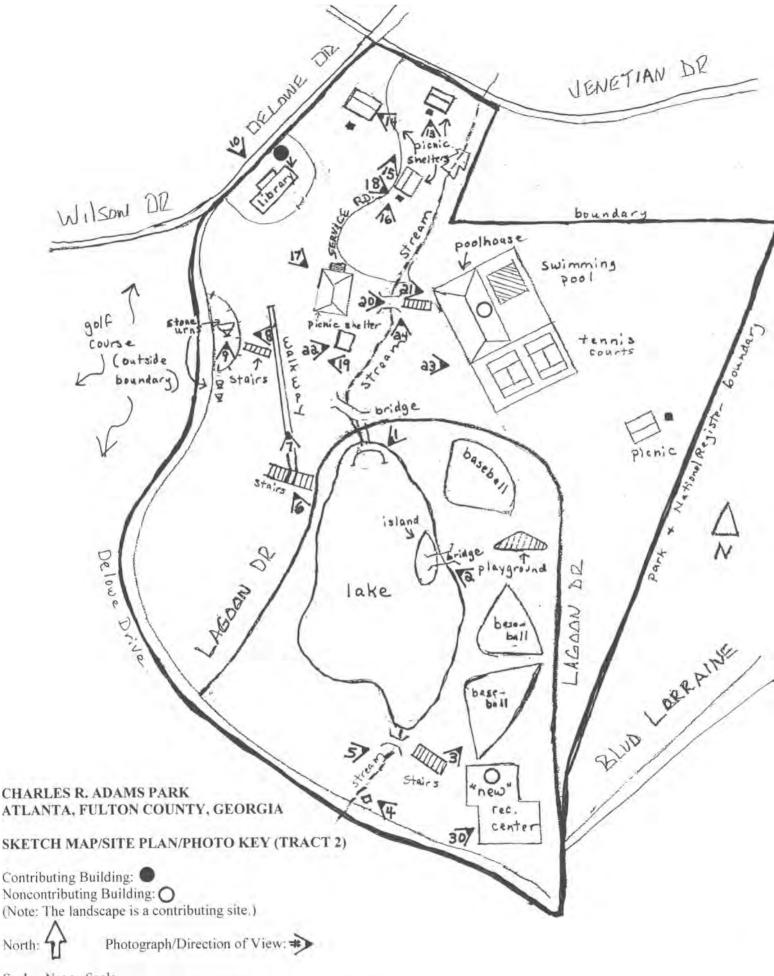






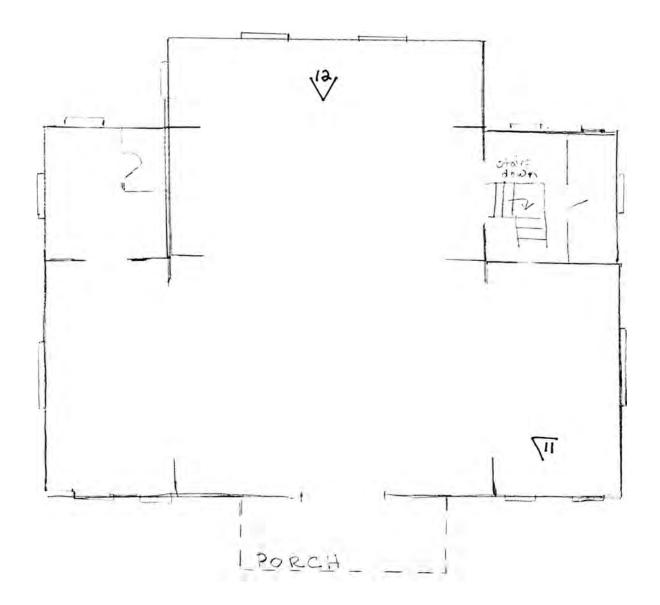
Scale: Not to Scale

Source: Drawn by Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Division



Scale: Not to Scale

Source: Based on a drawing by the Adams Park Foundation, Inc.



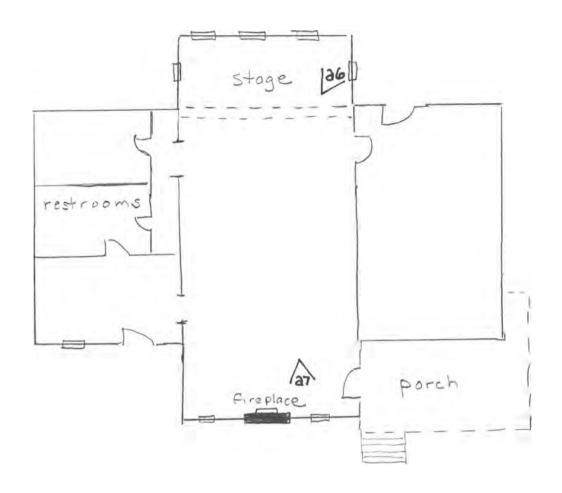
### LIBRARY BUILDING SKETCH FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY

Photograph/Direction of View: #>

North: 13

Scale: Not to Scale

Source: Drawing by Adams Park Foundation, Inc.



## COMMUNITY CLUB HOUSE SKETCH FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY

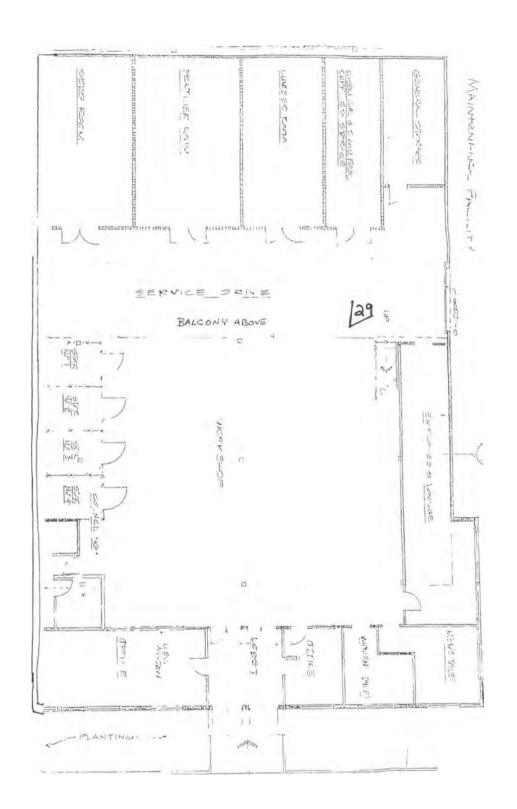
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North: I

Scale: Not to Scale

Source: Drawing by Adams Park Foundation, Inc.



MAINTENANCE FACILITY (FORMER GYMNASIUM) SKETCH FLOOR PLAN/PHOTO KEY

Photograph/Direction of View:

#

North:

Scale: Not to Scale

Source: Drawing provided by Adams Park Foundation. Inc.

# UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

#### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION
PROPERTY Adams, Charles R., Park NAME:
MULTIPLE NAME:
STATE & COUNTY: GEORGIA, Fulton
DATE RECEIVED: 11/28/12 DATE OF PENDING LIST: DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 1/14/13 DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:
REFERENCE NUMBER: 12001167
REASONS FOR REVIEW:
APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N
COMMENT WAIVER: N ACCEPT RETURN REJECT / 1/4.13 DATE
ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:
Entered in
The National Register
Historic Places
RECOM./CRITERIA
REVIEWERDISCIPLINE
TELEPHONE DATE
DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N
If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the
nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



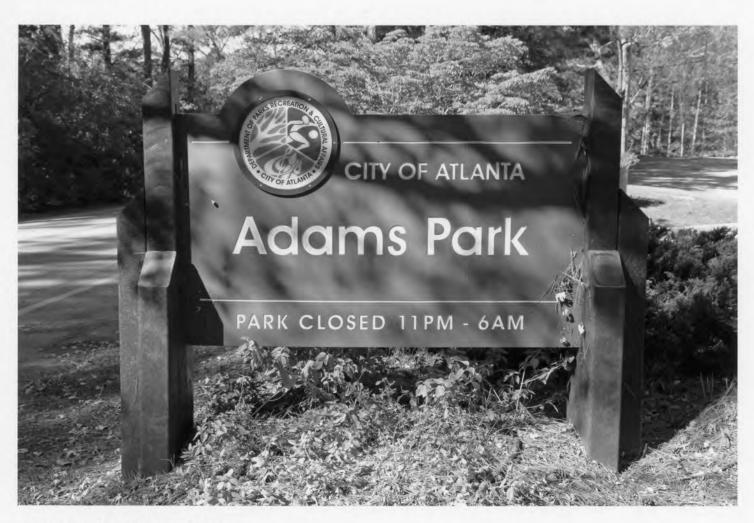
Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 1 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 2 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 3 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 4 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 5 of 30



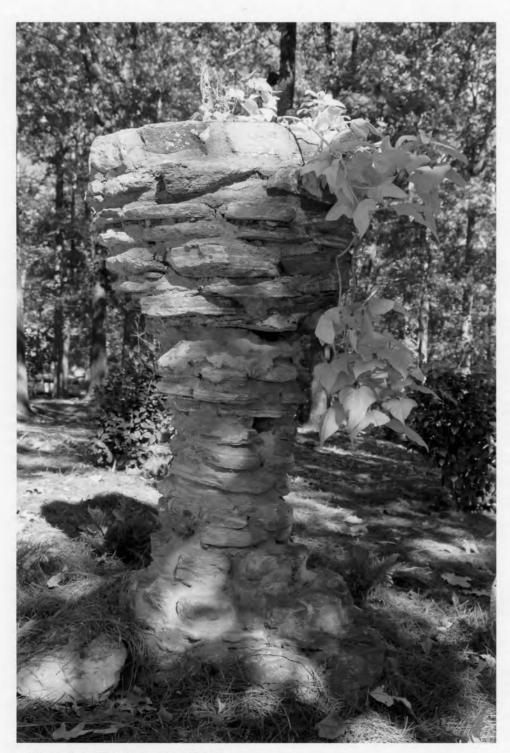
Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 6 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 7 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 8 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 9 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 10 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 11 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 12 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 13 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 14 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 15 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 16 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 17 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 18 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 19 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 20 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 21 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 22 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 23 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 24 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 25 of 30



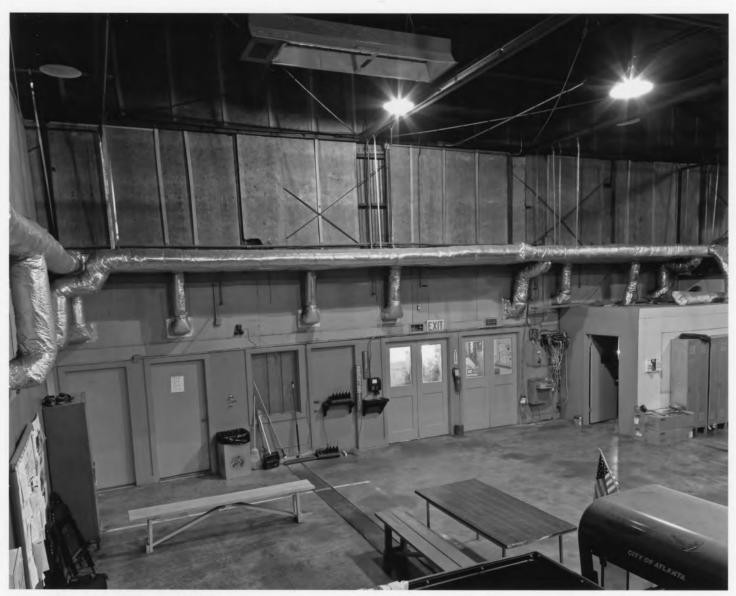
Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 26 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 27 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 28 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 29 of 30



Charles R. Adams Park Fulton County, Georgia Photograph 30 of 30



## HISTORIC PRESERVATION DIVISION

MARK WILLIAMS COMMISSIONER

Núv y

MAT (LEGIONES O

RECEIVE

DR. DAVID CRASS DIVISION DIRECTOR

November 20, 2012

J. Paul Loether National Park Service National Register of Historic Places 1201 "I" (Eye) Street, N.W. 8th floor Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Mr. Loether:

Please find end	losed the following mate	rials for your consider	ation submitted on this 20th	h day of
November 201	2, for the nomination of	the Charles R. Adams	Park, Fulton County, G	eorgia to the
	ter of Historic Places.			

X	Original National Register of Historic Places nomination form
X	DVD with electronic images
X	Photographs
X	Original USGS topographic map(s)
<u>X</u>	Sketch map(s)/attachment(s)
	Correspondence
	Other:
COMMENTS	Please insure that this nomination is reviewed
	This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
	The enclosed owner objection(s) do do not constitute a majority of property owners.
	Special considerations:
Sincerely,  Gretchen Brock National Regi	k ter & Survey Program Manager

Enclosure