DATA SHEET

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Atlanta

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

FOR NPS USE ONLY JAN 1 2 1976

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6 REPRESENTATION IN EXIST	ING SURVEYS	5	
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X_ORIGINAL SITE

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE
Covering eleven blocks in area, Techwood Homes is located along Techwood Drive, a main
thoroughfare leading from Atlanta's business district to the campus of the Georgia Institute
of Technology. Designed as a self-contained neighborhood, with buildings grouped around
grassy courtyards and play areas, the structures of this first all-Federal housing project
cover only about one-quarter of the total twenty-five acre site leaving plenty of remaining
space for stores, social units and central laundries and generous open expanses.

Situated just south of the campus of Georgia Tech, the site of Techwood Homes has a length of six blocks running south from North Avenue and a width, west from Williams Street, of two blocks. The total area is 24.8 acres. The north end of the plot, that area adjacent to the Tech campus, was originally devoted to playgrounds and tennis courts. Today, this area is occupied by a campus parking lot, to the east of Techwood Drive at North Avenue, and a high-rise for the elderly (Roosevelt House, 1972, H.A. Millkey & Associates, architect to the west. The first building to the south along Techwood and within the historic district is a three-story dormitory containing 159 rooms for students at Georgia Tech; Techwood Dormitory was planned as such from the start of the project. In each of the remaining blocks of the housing development two or three buildings are placed within each block. These are either three-story apartment buildings or two-story row-houses, as indicated on the sketch map. Many of these buildings front on Techwood Drive which is a street developed in 1935 along the approximate longitudinal center-line of the housing project. Garage buildings, providing shelter for 186 cars and now in a state of near ruin, were originally placed at the rear of the housing blocks along perimeter streets; since that time, however, the housing project has been expanded with the result being that these garages are now practically in the center of the housing area. There are, in addition, four enclosed play-yards located in the apartment courts and many acres of open, tree-shaded spaces.

Incorporated into the original eleven blocks of buildings that comprise Techwood are seven groups of two-story row-houses, the three-story Techwood Dormitory, one one-story store and administration building, eleven one-story garage groups, and thirteen three-story apartment buildings. All total there are 604 family living units divided into 397 three-room apartments, 128 four-room, 53 five-room and 26 six room units.

The architecture of the Techwood Homes development is characterized as modified Georgian. The type of construction selected for this project was based upon careful analysis and estimates of comparative designs of floor systems. The structural layout for the threestory apartments and the two-story row houses is similar and all of the buildings have a narrow transverse dimension: 27 feet for the three-story apartments and 28 feet 2 inches for the row-houses. This width is divided into two bays by a row of concrete columns and longitudinal concrete beams. The 12 inch exterior walls consist of 8 inch load-bearing tile blocks, faced with 4 inches of selected common brick, bonded every fifth course and trimmed with terra cotta and limestone. The floors and roofs are of solid concrete slab construction, supported by the exterior bearing walls and the interior row of columns and longitudinal beams. The exposed concrete ceiling slabs, soffits of stairs, beams in habitable areas, and all exposed interior and exterior surfaces are unplastered; exposed concrete surfaces are covered with cement paint. In general, all footings for these buildings are of the spread type and the basement walls are of poured concrete 12 inches thick to the ground level and 8 inches thick, faced with four inches of common brick, to the first floor line.

Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE

Whereas the Dormitory in the Techwood Homes development is similar in style to the remainder of the complex, it differs in some respects from the other buildings. It is a concrete skeleton-frame structure with wall columns spaced from 18 to 22 feet and with two lines of interior columns spaced 10 feet apart on either wall of a longitudinal corridor. The outside bays are 12 feet 4 inches wide and, as in the other buildings, there are no transverse beams; the ceilings are smooth in all living quarters.

The one-story garage groups are relatively narrow in the transverse dimension of 18 feet 4 inches and have 8 feet 4 inch wide stalls. The roofs are solid-slab construction, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick reinforced with welded wire mesh and are supported on 10-inch steel channels. The side and rear walls of the garages are of 8-inch red brick and in the front, between the garage doors, are 4-inch H-columns supporting the roof channels.

The store building is mainly a one-story structure, except that one end of the building contains an additional floor that houses the complex's administrative offices. The type of construction used here is similar to that used in the three-story apartments except that there are two lines of interior columns instead of one, spaced 18 feet 2 inches, connected by longitudinal concrete beams with a roof slab $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick.

PERIOD	AF	REAS OF SIGNIFICANCE CH	IECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW	
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_1600-1699	XARCHITECTURE	EDUCATION	MILITARY	X SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
_1700-1799	ART	XENGINEERING	MUSIC	THEATER
_1800-1899	COMMERCE	EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	PHILOSOPHY	TRANSPORTATION
X 1900-	COMMUNICATIONS	INDUSTRY	POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	OTHER (SPECIFY)
		INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1935-1936 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Burge and Stevens, Architects
J. A. Jones & Co., Builder

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Techwood Home District is historically significant in that it was the first federally funded public housing in the United States to reach the actual construction stage and represents the federal and local government's first attempts, in a social/humanitarian way, to erradicate slum housing on a grand scale. In addition, this district is significant in terms of its planning which is readily seen in the architectural design of its individual low-income housing units; in its unusually high-quality engineering which has provided tenants with sound, fire-proof buildings for over forty years; and in its community planning and landscape architecture which provides what is easily definable as a unique community with a well-designed "linear village" layout whose chief characteristic is found in its sense of space created by select siting and landscaping.

Designed under a program that aimed to improve building standards for "the common types of residence in which the bulk of the urban population is housed and to make mortgage money available on terms devised to eliminate the speculative waste heretofore customary in finance, real estate development and construction," Techwood Homes was the first major slum-clearance and public housing program of the federal government.

Replacing about thirteen blocks of one of the worst slum areas of Atlanta, this twenty-five acre federal housing project was built between the years 1934 and 1935. Erected by the J. A. Jones Construction Company of Charlotte, North Carolina at a cost of \$2,108,337, of which the land alone cost 49 cents a square foot, the project was designed by the Atlanta architectural firm of Burge and Stevens to accommodate some 604 families.

Burge and Stevens were not the only local group to be involved in the conception and planning of Techwood Homes, however. Others like Clark Howell, Sr., Herbert Porter, Major John S. Cohen, Dr. M. L. Brittain, Herbert Choate, Mayor James L. Key, and Sidney Tiller were assembled by Charles Palmer, a radical housing reformer and leading Atlanta businessman, to serve as the board of trustees for Techwood, Incorporated. The purpose of this body, besides raising additional funds for the project's construction, was largely motivated by the then head of the Public Works Administration who felt that if "local people had some economic stake and the major legal responsibility for the project, they might act more judiciously. Moreover, Ickes was philosophically opposed to people making fortunes from the poverty of others."

Complying with the stipulations embodied in the George-Healy Act, the Housing Division's tenant selection was restricted to families of limited income who at the time were occupying substandard housing. No applicant was accepted whose income exceeded five times the rental charged per dwelling unit. As reported in 1935, the average incomes of tenants ranged from \$1,080 to \$1,920 a year and of 80 occupations represented by tenants the most numerous were clerks, followed by service men, office helpers, salesmen, small business operators, and others; as was the custom until 1968, blacks did not reside in Techwood, but instead, were furnished with housing in University Homes (Edwards and Sayward, Architects; William C. Pauley, Landscape Architect), a few blocks southeast of Techwood in what is now the

Architectural Forum, Vol. 65, October, 1936, pp. 300-30	Vol. 80, September 1936, p. 170;
October, 1936, p. 58; Engineering News-Record, July 4,	
The Adventures of a Slum Fighter (New York, 1955); Ma	
a Much Needed Innovation", unpublished paper, Emory Univ	
F. Palmer, Architectural Library, School of Architecture	
Dr. Elizabeth A. Lyons, Chairperson, Atlanta Urban Desi	gn Commission Advisory Committee on
10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA Historic Structures, Sinacreage of Nominated Property 24.8	tes & Districts, October 1975.
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Williams Street proceed south along the center line of	
of Hunnicutt Street proceed along the same straight lin	e until the line intersects with
the center line of Mills Street from which point procee	
centerline of Techwood Drive; proceed along the center1	ine of Techwood Drive north to the
intersection with the centerline of Parker Street from	which point proceed west to the
centerline of Lovejoy Street; proceed from centerline o	f Lovejoy Street to close at the
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Form No. 10-300a (Rev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE

Atlanta University Center Historic District. This second housing complex, at the urgings of Charles Palmer and John Hope, then President of Atlanta University, was planned as a part of the first federally-funded public housing project. University Homes, as originally conceived, was to replace another notorious Atlanta slum known as Beaver's Slide.

In constructing the housing development, some 30 percent of the initial expenditure for labor and materials was a subsidy and the rents obtained from leasing the various dwelling units within the complex were used to liquidate the total cost of the project. The rents for the various units ranged from \$16.40 for a well-planned three-room apartment to \$27.85 for a six-room row-house. The land on which the project was developed was originally acquired by a limited dividend corporation, which later transferred the title to the property to the federal government.

As the first project to go into construction under the direction of the Housing Division of the Public Works Administration (PWA), Techwood served as an experiment and proving ground in both planning and in the writing of specifications. Living standards for tenants as set up by the Housing Division required that ample light and air be supplied to each living unit and this was achieved in Techwood by providing adequate crossventilation in each apartment and by the actual arrangement of the structures on the site which provided ample lawn space between buildings. This is one of the developments key qualities and the landscape design of Techwood has often been cited as one of the reasons that this project probably still remains the "best" public housing project in the United States.

Verbal Boundary Description (cont'd)

southern edge of North Avenue which constitutes the northern boundary of the district.

Form No. 10-300a (Hev. 10-74)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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1

AMENDMENT

TECHWOOD HOMES HISTORIC DISTRICT, ATLANTA, FULTON COUNTY, GEORGIA

Professional error in preparing the National Register form for the Techwood Homes Historic District resulted in inconsistencies among the verbal boundary description, the sketch map, and the UTM reference points. This amendment, consisting of a new verbal boundary description, a new sketch map, and new UTM reference points, rectifies those inconsistencies and sets the record straight as to exactly which properties and buildings are to be included in the district and which are to be excluded. This amendment also carries out the original mandate for establishing this historic district. The materials contained in this amendment should replace their correspondents in the original National Register nomination form for the district.

Acreage: Approximately 28 acres

Quadrangle Name: Northwest Atlanta, Georgia

Quadrangle Scale: 1:24000

UTM References: A 16/741460/3739610

B 16/741660/3739610 C 16/741720/3739000 D 16/741460/3738990

Verbal Boundary Description:

Starting at the northeast corner of the intersection of Parker and Lovejoy Streets, proceed north along the east side of Lovejoy Street to a point approximately 300 feet south of the southern side of North Avenue; thence due east approximately 300 feet to the east side of Techwood Drive (this line is currently marked by a chain link fence immediately south of the Roosevelt House parking lot);

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description (Continued)

thence north along the east side of Techwood Drive to a point 150 feet south of the southern side of North Avenue; thence east along an unnamed alley to a point 100 feet west of the western side of Williams Street; thence south 290 feet and east 100 feet to the west side of Williams Street; thence south along the west side of Williams Street to the northwest corner of the intersection of Williams and Parker Streets; thence west along the north side of Parker Street for approximately 100 feet; thence due south, along the property line separating Techwood Homes property from lots directly east, to the north side of Mills Street; thence west along the north side of Mills Street to the northeast corner of Mills Street and Techwood Drive; thence north along the east side of Techwood Drive to the northeast corner of Techwood Drive and Parker; thence west along the north side of Parker Street to the starting point.

Prepared By:

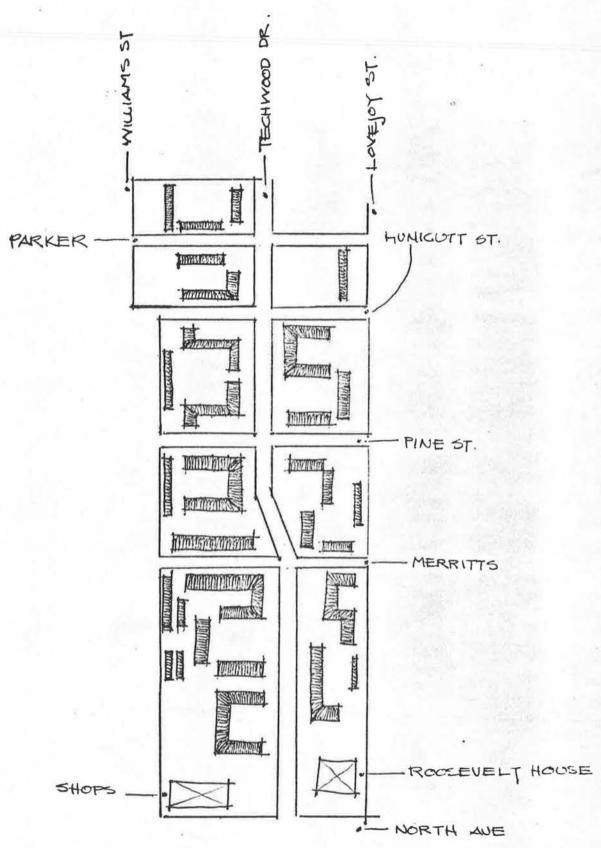
Richard R. Cloues, Architectural Historian Historic Preservation Section Georgia Department of Natural Resources 270 Washington Street, S. W. Atlanta, Georgia 30334 (404) 656-2840

August 15, 1978

Elizabeth A. Lyon, Ph.D., Chief

Historic Preservation Section

State Historic Preservation Officer



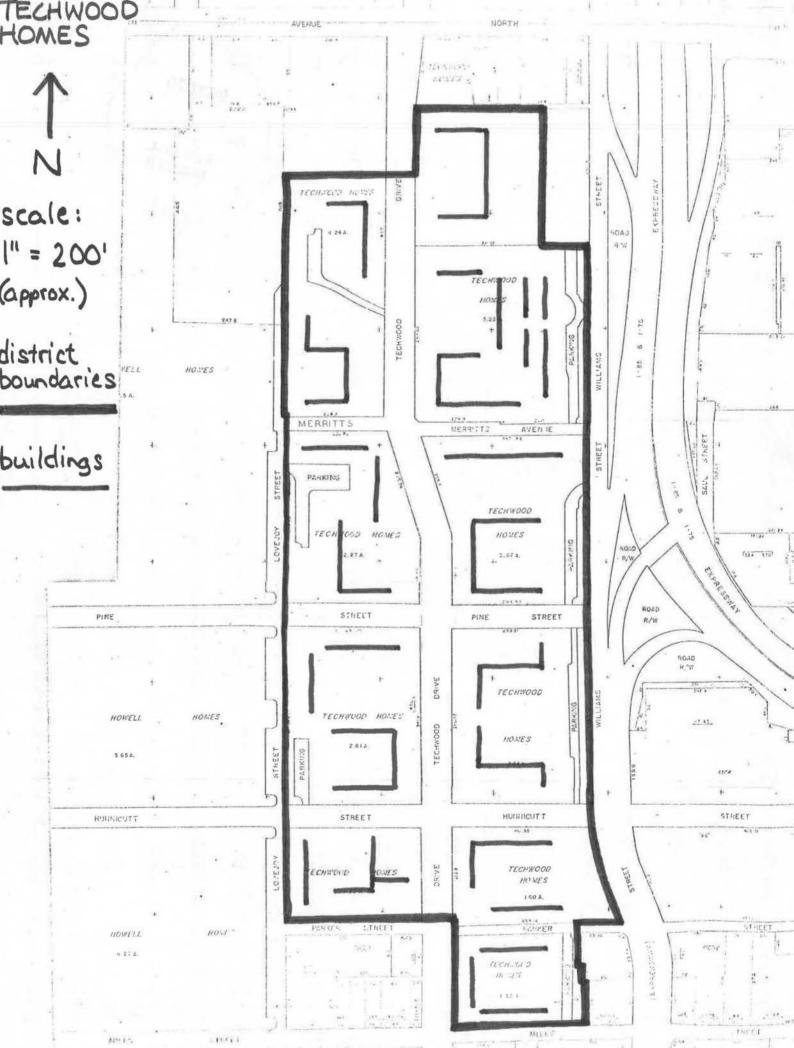
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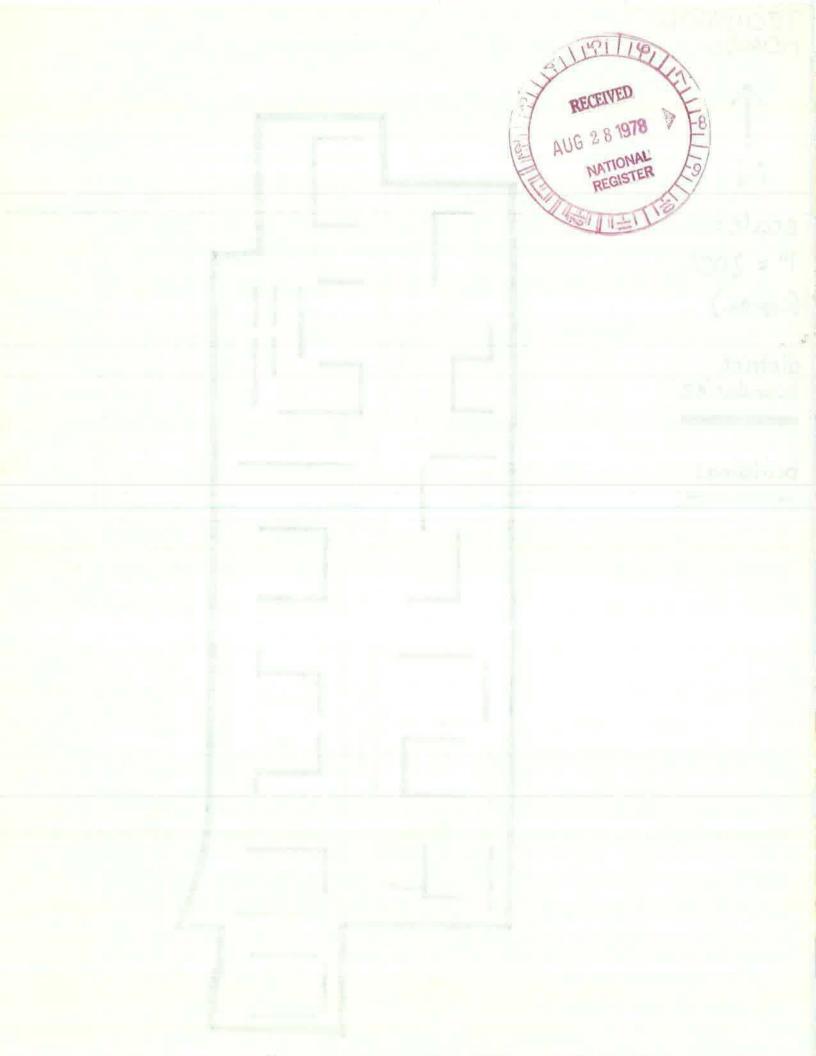
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INTRUSIONS







UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JAN 1 2 1976

JUN 2 9 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC Techwood Homes Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY TOWN Atlanta

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Fulton

STATE Georgia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

DATE OF PHOTO Nov. 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW. DIRECTION. ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Photographer's view to the Southeast; Apartment Building
Techwood Drive

PHOTO NO.

146



Form No. 10-301a (Rev. 10-7)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

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1 NAME

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AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY TOWN Atlanta

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Fulton

STATE Georgia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4 IDENTIFICATION

Photographer's View to Northwest; Apartment Block on Techwood Drive near Roosevelt House

PHOTO NO. 2 07 6



Form No. 10-301a

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AND/OR COMMON

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COUNTY Fulton

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3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4 IDENTIFICATION

Photographer's View to Northwest; Rowhouse Block off Pine Street

РНОТО NO.

30/6



Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7-)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

RECEIVED JAN 1 2 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Techwood Homes Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY. TOWN Atlanta

___VICINITY OF

COUNTY Fulton

stateGeorgia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4 IDENTIFICATION

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

Photographer's view to north; detail of doorway; Building at 191 Merritts Avenue

PHOTO NO.

4 96 6





Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JAN 1 2 1976

JUN 2 9 1976

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COUNTY Fulton

STATE Georgia

PHOTO NO

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

DATE OF PHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural Resources

4 IDENTIFICATION

Photographer's view to northeast; Apartment Block on Techwood Drive

5 ax 6



Form No. 10-301a (Pev. 10-7'a)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

F) USE ONLY FD JAN 1 2 1976 PTERED JUN 2 9 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIOEGISTER FORMS

TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITTOGRAPH

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AND/OR COMMON

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___VICINITY OF

Fulton

STATE Georgia

3 PHOTO REFERENCE

PHOTO CREDIT Lee Dunagan

FPHOTO November 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT Georgia Department of Natural

4 IDENTIFICATION

Photographer's view to Southeast; Two-story ouses on Merritts Avenue

PHOTO NO.

6016

Property Jechwood 2	tomes Historic De	istuit Juli	on
State Sa. Work	ing Number 1.12.76.2	323 Ref 7	6000632
TECHNICAL UTM	appear incorne		CONTROL
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National Register Write-up	Send-back Re-submit	Ente	red JUN 2 9 1976

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE CHORGIA

Date Entered

JAN 2 9 1275

Name

Location

Techwood Homes Historic District

Atlenta Fulton County

Waycross Historic District

Waycross Wara County

Also Notified

Hon. Herman E. Talmadge

Hon. Sam Nunn

Hon. Andrew Young

Hon. W. S. (Bill) Stuckey, Jr.

cc: Regional Director, Southeast Region State Historic Preservation Officer Mr. David M. Sherman Acting Chief, Eistoric Preservation Section Department of Natural Resources 270 Washington Street SW., Rm. 703-C Atlanta, Georgia 30334

BUNATIONA			DATA	
NAME as it appears on federal register Techwood Homes Historic District		Techwood		3 date of entry: (4 county code: 6-29-76 r. 121
5 LOCATION street & number reverse side	Atlanta V	vicinity of	GA fult	ton SE
OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY OM				ADMINISTRATOR:
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WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: Public housing CURRENTLY: Public housing		major alterations: bistoric events:	1935,36	ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION
modified benzion	garchitect:	Jan.) - ,		engineer:
nlandscape architect/garden designer:	minterior decorator:	artist:	∰artisan:	J. A. Jones Construction Co.
NAMES give role & date PERSONAL: EVENTS: INSTITUTIONAL: PWA - project Works administration - administered building				
Multiple housing complex of garages, a dormitory, a strick walls, concrete flood only 49 Public Works Admin stage, 19351936; replace healthful housing for low-	of 2-story row houses, 3- **** store, and an admini ors and walls, and enclos nistration housing projec ed slum area; early Feder	story apartment bui stration building: sed play-yards. Fir	ildings, features rst of uction de	a storgand administration concrete solid lab fullic lunks Administration ly 49 housing projects built early Federal effort to

reviewers initials WO date 1 24 78

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

December 10, 1980

Mr. William A. Hartman Area Manager Department of Housing and Urban Development 75 Spring Street SW. Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On November 17, 1980, we received your letter in which you determined that a proposed modernization program would have no adverse effect on Techwood Homes, Atlanta, Georgia, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director objects to your determination because final plans and specifications are not available for review.

1,5+td 6/29/26 Fulton Co.

Pursuant to Section 800.6(a)(2) of the Council's regulations (36 CFR Part 800), the Executive Director will withdraw this objection if the following condition is met.

Final plans and specifications to include landscaping, will be provided to the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer for review and comment. Should the Georgia SHPO fail to comment within 30 calender days after receipt of the plans and specifications, the Georgia SHPO will be assumed to have approved the documents. Should the Georgia SHPO disapprove the documents, then HUD will request the Council's comments in accordance with 36 CFR Section 800.4(d).

If you agree to this condition, please sign on the concurrence line below and return this letter to us. This will then be incorporated into your determination and the Executive Director will withdraw his objection to your determination of no adverse effect.

In accordance with Section 800.9 of the Council's regulations, a copy of your determination of no adverse effect, along with supporting documentation and this concurrence, should be included in any assessment or statement prepared for this undertaking in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and should be included in your records as evidence of your compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Council's regulations.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum Chief, Eastern Division of Project Review

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(date)



Department of Natural Resources

OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH 270 WASHINGTON ST., S.W. ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30334 (404) 656-5160

Charles A. Barrish, III

March 31, 1976

Mr. Bill Lebrovich National Register of Historic Places National Park Service Department of Interior Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Bill:

Per our telephone conversation earlier today concerning the boundary of Techwood Homes, please delete the two of the southernmost intrusions consisting of shops and the Roosevelt House as noted on the sketch map previously submitted.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor Architectural Historian



Advisory Council On Historic Preservation

1522 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

January 6, 1981

Mr. William A. Hartman Area Manager Department of Housing and Urban Development 75 Spring Street SW. Atlanta, GA 30303

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On December 24, 1980, we received the concurrence to the condition for your determination that the proposed modernization program would not adversely affect Techwood Homes, Atlanta, Georgia, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. A copy of the letter is enclosed. As you agree to this condition, the Executive Director does not object to your determination of no adverse effect.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Colon E. Tonnenbourn

Sincerely,

Jordan E. Tannenbaum Chief, Eastern Division of Project Review

Enclosure

1.° sted 6/39/26 Fulton Co. GA

Advisory Council On Historic Preservation



1522 K Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

December 10, 1980

Mr. William A. Hartman Area Manager Department of Housing and Urban Development 75 Spring Street SW. Atlanta; GA 30303

Dear Mr. Hartman:

On November 17, 1980, we received your letter in which you determined that a proposed modernization program would have no adverse effect on Techwood Homes, Atlanta, Georgia, a property included in the National Register of Historic Places. The Executive Director objects to your determination because final plans and specifications are not available for review.

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Sincerely,

Tordan E. Tannanhaum

Jordan E. Tannenbaum Chief, Eastern Division of Project Review

Concur:

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