

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED OCT 22 1979

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

The Morton Building

AND/OR COMMON

The Morton Building or The Morton Theater

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

199 West Washington Street

__NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Athens

__ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Tenth - Doug Barnard

STATE

Georgia

CODE

013

COUNTY

Clarke

CODE

059

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

__DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

__STRUCTURE

__SITE

__OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

__PUBLIC

X PRIVATE

__BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

__IN PROCESS

__BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

__UNOCCUPIED

__WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

__YES: UNRESTRICTED

__NO

PRESENT USE

__AGRICULTURE

X COMMERCIAL

__EDUCATIONAL

__ENTERTAINMENT

__GOVERNMENT

__INDUSTRIAL

__MILITARY

__MUSEUM

__PARK

__PRIVATE RESIDENCE

__RELIGIOUS

__SCIENTIFIC

__TRANSPORTATION

__OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John T. Bond

STREET & NUMBER

150 Cloverhurst Terrace

CITY, TOWN

Athens

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30605

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Superior Court

STREET & NUMBER

Clarke County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Athens

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Structures Field Survey: Clarke County, Georgia

DATE

1975

__FEDERAL X STATE __COUNTY __LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Setting

The Morton Building is located on the southeast corner of the intersection of North Hull and West Washington streets in Athens, Georgia, an intersection known locally as "Hot Corner." This location is one block west of Lumpkin Street, which forms the western boundary of the Downtown Athens Historic District, listed in the National Register. Between the time of first settlement in Athens in 1801 and the early 1820s, the area west of Lumpkin Street remained undeveloped. After the 1820s, it was primarily a residential neighborhood. The Sanborn fire-insurance map of 1888 shows a small frame stable on the site of the present Morton building, which served as a dependency to a two-story residence that faced Clayton Street. In the center of Washington Street (then called Market Street), about 100 feet east of the stable, stood the old Market House, which had earlier housed both a market and the Athens City Hall. On the north side of Washington Street, across from the stable, stood a row of houses occupied by black residents.

By 1893, a two-story frame building, then vacant, occupied the former site of the stable. Two one-story blacksmith shops occupied the space immediately to the east. In 1903, the two-story frame building was used as a furniture-repair shop. This use also appeared on the 1908 Sanborn map.

The 1913 Sanborn map shows the Morton Building (there labeled Morton's Theatre) as it stands today. Immediately to the east was a one-story frame mortuary establishment, and across the street on the northeast corner of the intersection stood the building which was known as Union Hall, a three-story brick building. Behind the Morton Building was a large, brick livery stable facing Clayton Street, immediately east of which was the residence of which the stable on the site of the Morton Building was a dependency in 1888. With the construction of the Morton Building and Union Hall, this area became an important center for black business and professional offices in Athens. By 1918, a two-story brick building had been erected to house the mortuary establishment east of the Morton Building. To the east of this structure stood the three-story brick Samaritan Building, which also housed black business and professional offices.

The Morton Building: Exterior

The Morton Building itself is a four-story brick building. The Washington Street facade is faced in yellow brick laid in stretcher bond, while the other three sides are of red brick laid in common bond, with the exception of

[continued]

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

the northwest corner on the Hull Street side, where the yellow-brick facing wraps around the corner and extends through one bay.

The Washington Street facade is divided visually both vertically and horizontally. The first floor is set off from those above it by an entablature elaborated with dentils. In the center of the ground floor is an arched opening which leads to recessed double doors that give access to a stair hall. Flanking this arched opening are two store fronts. The one to the left is entered by double doors between large display windows. The one to the right is entered from the corner of the building, which is cut away on the first floor and supported by a cast-iron column. There are display windows which balance those of the store on the left. These two store fronts have been used as commercial establishments since the building was constructed. There are eight windows on each of the three upper stories of the Washington Street facade. This facade is divided vertically into three sections. The central section, containing the middle two windows on each of the upper floors and the arched entrance of the first floor, extends forward one brick course. The two sections on either side, on the upper stories, are each three bays wide. All upper windows are rectangular, double-hung, with mullions dividing each sash vertically into two panes. In some cases, the original panes and mullions have been replaced with one large piece of glass. Above each window is a segmental arch comprised of three rows of yellow-brick headers with a stone (probably marble) keystone. A heavy cornice runs across the facade above the fourth floor with a parapet above which contains a central false pediment with the name "Morton Building" on it. There are also brick pilasters at the corners of the building; those at the first-floor level have recessed courses, giving a rusticated effect.

The west or Hull Street side of the building has four store fronts in addition to the store which is entered at the corner of the building. These fronts have been somewhat changed, apparently, over the years. The store front at the southwest corner of the building has been divided into two business spaces. Both have doors with semi-circular transoms above them and flanking round-headed windows. The other two store fronts have double doors with rectangular transoms and rectangular windows. The windows in the upper stories descend in two courses, corresponding with the sloping floor of the theater and the balcony inside the structure.

[continued]

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The east side of the building has no entrance. It is joined for almost half its length, extending back from Washington Street, by a two-story brick building housing a funeral home. There is one row of windows in the rear half of the wall which, like those on the west side, descends toward the rear of the building with the line of the floor inside.

The south wall of the building has no openings of any kind. There is a rather large brick chimney extending above the parapet at the southeast corner of the building.

The Morton Building: Interior

The interiors of the two stores facing Washington Street have been altered over the years, but no major structural change has taken place. The store on the left is currently used as a bookstore, and the one on the right as a restaurant. These were originally used as a pool hall and a drugstore respectively. The drugstore was converted to restaurant space in the late 1920s, but the change from pool hall to bookstore is quite recent. Of the stores that face Hull Street, only the one nearest Washington Street is occupied; the others are vacant and in need of repair. Here, too, interiors have been altered, but no real major structural damage has been done.

The theater is reached by a stair that rises from the double doors behind the central arch of the Washington Street facade. The stairhall is plastered and has narrow, beaded tongue-and-groove wainscoting, a wall treatment found throughout the interior. The wooden stair dog-legs twice to the right, opening into a small lobby or hall area with a curved convex wall. Two small windows in the wall open into the theater. On either side of this pair of windows are double doors which open into the rear of the theater's first floor. On each side of the stairhall are two offices which are entered through doors with translucent patterned glass. There are transoms above the doors. At each end of the hall are restrooms.

The interior of the theater has a wooden floor, which slopes toward the stage, which is at the rear of the building (but the front of the theater). Round cast-iron and chamfered wooden columns support the horseshoe-shaped balcony. There are four windows in the right wall and five in the left, all

[continued]

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY

RECEIVED 11 SEP 1979

DATE ENTERED

OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 4

now closed with tin. A small room between the right-hand entrance and the wall intrudes into the theater space. Access is from the "lobby." In front of the stage is a tiny orchestra pit. On either side of the stage, at angles to it, are two theater boxes, one above the other, each divided on the interior into two sections, and each with an access door opening from a narrow passage between the box and the theater wall. The lower boxes are entered from the main floor, the upper ones from the balcony. Between the boxes and the proscenium wall are narrow stairs for access to the stage. The boxes have a mansard-like roof made of canvas and are elaborated with brackets, cornices, dentils, and egg-and-dart mouldings. The stage floor slopes from the rear wall toward the footlights. The rear wall of the stage is the brick wall which forms the south end of the building. Above the stage is a frame superstructure supporting a metal roof which extends above the roofline of the building. This space was designed to accommodate curtains and scenery. Small dressing rooms are constructed on two levels on either side of the stage, six on the left (three above three) and two on the right (one over one). These are reached by steep, narrow stairs along the rear wall. Some faded scenery and backdrops are still on the stage.

The ceiling of the theater is pressed tin in a coffered pattern, in the center of which is a large, round, metal medallion with a Greek key pattern and a series of circles and rectangles. There are several small, single light fixtures with glass shades hanging from the ceiling.

The balcony is entered by stairs from the lobby. At the landing, a narrow stair dog-legs to give access to the balcony, while another narrow stair continues straight from the landing to the third floor. On the third floor there are two offices and a door, which opens to a narrow, enclosed stair leading to the fourth floor.

At the head of the stair to the balcony are low double doors, behind which is a narrow, unroofed passage with stairs on either end leading up to the balcony floor. The balcony is basically horseshoe-shaped, with rows of seats on five levels. Some of the original wood-and-metal theater seats are still in the balcony. There are four windows in the right wall along the balcony and two more above the right-hand box.

[continued]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 5

Above the balcony there was, originally, a fourth-floor gallery reached by the narrow stairs from the third-floor office area. When the theater was remodeled for showing films, this area was converted into the projection booth, eliminating the seating in the upper gallery. A curved wall was added behind the balcony and the metal cornice moved forward from the rear of the gallery to cap this new wall. A false floor was introduced to eliminate the slope in the gallery floor and provide a flat surface for the projection equipment. This part of the building has been damaged by a fire that occurred many years ago in the projection booth. The ceiling and some of the structural members are charred, and the added curved wall has been removed, leaving only the studs. There are, in addition to the projection booth, two small rooms on the fourth floor. A ladder near the head of the stairs leads to a low attic and a scuttle-hole to the roof.

The building, as a whole, appears to be structurally sound, but it has been allowed to fall into disrepair for many years. It is in need of rehabilitation or restoration, but could be returned to use as a charming and very useful theater for the community.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Local History
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT M.B. Morton

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Morton Building -- significant in architecture, local history, commerce and theater -- occupies an important place in the history of Athens' black community, forming, along with the now-destroyed Union Hall and Samaritan Building, the core of the downtown black business district. Over the years, the building has housed the offices of many prominent black professionals, a number of black-owned businesses, and the Morton Theater, the major entertainment facility for the black population of the city for many years. The Morton Theater is also the only theater in the city dating from the nineteenth- and early-twentieth-century periods which survives intact. Its four-story height, corner location, and architectural detailing make it a major architectural landmark in this part of Athens.

The lot upon which the building is located was purchased in January of 1909 by Monroe Bowers ("Pink") Morton, who erected the structure in 1909-10. In 1914, the Athens Daily Herald described the Morton Building as the "largest building of its kind owned exclusively by a colored man in the world." In addition to the Morton Building, Morton (1853-1919) owned between twenty-five and thirty other buildings in Athens, including a \$10,000 marble-stone building, which still exists as a commercial establishment, on Clayton Street; was contractor for the Wilkes County Courthouse in Washington, Georgia; and participated in the construction of the government building in Anniston, Alabama. He lived in a large residence on Prince Avenue, a street lined with many Greek Revival and Victorian-era mansions, the homes of many prominent residents of Athens. Although Morton had little formal education, he became a successful businessman and a prominent figure in Athens' history. In 1896, he was chosen as a delegate to the Republican National Convention and was appointed to the committee which officially informed William McKinley of his nomination as the party's candidate for President. In the following year, he was appointed U.S. postmaster in Athens, a position which he held for five years. By 1914, Morton was publisher and editor of the Progressive Era, a local black newspaper. No copies are known to have survived from the period of his ownership.

[continued]

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Athens Daily Herald, special editions, 1914.
 Interviews by Jill Read, James K. Reap, with Ms. Maud Morton, 1978, 1979.
 Memorabilia found in the building (e.g., ticket stubs, playbills, etc.)

[continued]

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

UTM NOT VERIFIED

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME Athens West, Georgia

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A 17 280195 3759910

B

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

E

F

G

H

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

All that property marked on Clarke County, Georgia, Tax Map, 17-1-A-5, as parcel A-6, fronting 50' on Washington Street, and running 110' S.E., thence 50' S.W. to Hull Street, and thence 110' N.W. to Washington Street.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE James K. Reap, preservation planner, Northeast Georgia APDC
Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., historian

ORGANIZATION _____ DATE _____

Historic Preservation Section, Ga. Dept. of Natural Resources June 20, 1979

STREET & NUMBER _____

TELEPHONE _____

270 Washington Street, S.W.

(404) 656-2840

CITY OR TOWN _____

STATE _____

Atlanta

Georgia 30334

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE _____

Elizabeth A. Lyon

TITLE Acting

Elizabeth A. Lyon

DATE

9/4/79

State Historic Preservation Officer

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Forrestal Steel

DATE

10-22-79

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

ATTEST:

James A. [unclear]

DATE

10/19/79

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

Morton's building has been a major architectural landmark in this part of Athens since its completion in 1910. Its corner location and four-story height render it prominent, and its design and detailing endow it with a sense of quality. Most impressive is its essentially symmetric front (Washington Street) facade with its simplified Beaux-Arts composition. Of special note is the truncated corner entrance with its exposed cast-iron column, a once-common urban feature of which few survive today. The west (Hull Street) facade is also of interest for its variety of stores and store fronts and its irregular pattern of fenestration above. At first glance, these store fronts and the windows above appear random and unrelated, but they are actually arranged in a careful rhythmic composition drawn in response to the necessities of accommodating a theater within the upper floors. The theater itself is representative of such early-twentieth-century facilities and, although currently in a state of disrepair, is of special significance because it is the only surviving, intact theater of the period in Athens.

Although the Morton Building is architecturally significant, the architect is not known. When the structure was acquired by the present owner, a set of plans for a theater, prepared by architect Frank Cox of Chicago, was found in the building. It was believed that these were early plans for the Morton Theater, which had been simplified in construction. Subsequent research has shown that these were plans for the renovation of the New Opera House in Athens, which was renamed the Colonial Theater after renovation. The renovations were made on that structure in 1906, four years before the Morton Building was constructed. The Morton and Colonial theaters were similar in style, both having balconies, three-level galleries, and boxes flanking the proscenium, but the Morton was smaller and simpler. Since the Colonial plans were found in the Morton Building, it is possible that M.B. Morton, a contractor, modified Cox's plans for the construction of the Morton Building.

Many of Athens' black doctors, dentists, and pharmacists practiced in the Morton Building. Among these was Dr. William H. Harris, perhaps the most prominent of the city's early black physicians. He was one of the founders of the Georgia State Medical Association of Colored Physicians, Dentists, and Druggists, and was elected third-vice-president of the association and chairman of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws at the organization's first meeting held in Augusta, Georgia, on December 19, 1893. He was later elected

[continued]

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	OCT 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3

president of the medical section in 1911. Dr. Harris was a member of the Republican Party and a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1932. He was also a founder, in 1897, of the Improved Order of Samaritans, a fraternal insurance organization which provided indigent blacks with assistance in meeting funeral expenses. In recognition of his years of service to the community as "citizen and physician," Dr. Harris was awarded a silver cup by prominent black citizens of Athens in 1913.

In 1913, the Georgia State Medical Association held its eighteenth annual meeting at the Morton Theater, giving an indication of the leadership role of black Athenians in the statewide organization. Among the reception committee for this meeting was Dr. E.D. Harris, proprietor of the first black-owned drugstore in the city, which was at the time located in the Morton Building. Another member of the committee was Dr. Ida Mae Johnson Hiram (1885-1975), who received her early education at Knox Institute of Athens. After her marriage to Dr. Lace Hiram, an Athens dentist, and the birth of her daughter, she attended dental school at Meharry Medical College, graduating in 1910. On June 17th of that year, she was admitted to the practice of dentistry in Georgia, the first black woman to be licensed in the state. Dr. Hiram practiced dentistry in Athens for fifty-five years, until her retirement in 1965, many of those years having her office in the Morton Building. Her son-in-law, Dr. Vernon Wimberly, also maintained an office in the building. Among other black dentists who occupied offices in the Morton Building was Dr. Isadore Horace Burney, who, in addition to his practice in Athens, maintained dental offices in Madison, Elberton, and Union Point, Georgia. Three of the Jackson brothers also had offices in the building: Dr. Burnett L. Jackson, a dentist, and Drs. Farris and Albon Jackson, both physicians. Of this remarkable family, three brothers were physicians and two were dentists. Athens' only remaining black physician, Dr. Donarell Green, opened his office in the Morton Building in 1946, after receiving his medical degree from Meharry, maintaining his office in that location for many years.

A great many other black businesses have been located in the Morton Building over the years, including barbers and beauticians, insurance companies, pool halls, restaurants, undertaking establishments, a newsstand, radio-repair service, jewelry store, and cleaners.

The most visible enterprise located in the Morton Building was the Morton Theater, which opened on the evening of May 18, 1910, with a classical

[continued]

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
HERITAGE CONSERVATION AND RECREATION SERVICE

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	BCI 22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 4

concert by Alice Carter Simmons of Oberlin, Ohio, attended by both black and white patrons. Morton continued to reserve a separate section for his white patrons in the balcony of the theater. Among the performers who appeared at the Morton Theater were Louis Armstrong, the Hall Johnson Chorale, Black Patti, Cab Calloway, Jimmy Lunceford, Butterbeans & Susie, and Duke Ellington, along with many other traveling companies who entertained Athenians with music, comedy, dance, and dramatic performances. During the 1930s, the theater was renovated for showing motion pictures, a projection booth replacing the upper-level gallery. The theater also became the center for important gatherings for the black community, a function which it served for many years.

The building remained in the Morton family until 1973, when it was sold to Bond Properties, Inc., the remaining partner being the current owner, John T. Bond. Although it has deteriorated, the Morton Building continues to house a beauty salon, a bookstore, and a restaurant. The theater has been opened to the public on several occasions in recent years, in an attempt to stimulate interest in the restoration and reuse of the building, which is important, both historically and architecturally, to the community.

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

FOR HCRS USE ONLY	
RECEIVED	11 SEP 1979
DATE ENTERED	22 1979

CONTINUATION SHEET Bibliography ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Interviews by Jill Read, James K. Reap, with Mrs. Alice Wimberly, 1978, 1979.
Thurmond, Michael L. A Story Untold, Black Men and Women in Athens History
(1978).
Clarke County, Georgia, Superior Court Deeds.
Athens, Georgia, City Directories (various dates)
Draft nomination, June 26, 1978, by Jill Read, director, Athens-Clarke County
office of cultural affairs.
Personal inspection, James K. Reap, Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., 1978, 1979.
Athens-Banner Herald, article on the Morton Theater.