

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received JAN 24 1984

date entered

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

1. Name

historic 10 Pryor Street Building

and/or common <sup>2</sup> The Thornton Building

2. Location

street & number 10 Pryor Street (10 Park Place South) N/A not for publication

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of

state Georgia code 013 county Fulton code 121

3. Classification

<b>Category</b>	<b>Ownership</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Present Use</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name John M. Ford, general partner, Ten Pryor Street Building, Ltd.

street & number 10 Pryor Street, S.E., Suite 700

city, town Atlanta N/A vicinity of state Georgia 30303

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Superior Court

street & number Fulton County Courthouse

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Historic Structures Field Survey:  
 title Fulton County, Georgia has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no  
 [See Continuation Sheet.]  
 date 1975  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources

city, town Atlanta state Georgia

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

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

The 10 Pryor Street Building is a six-story, rectangular-shaped office building built in the "Ultra Modern" style (a variation of the Art Deco), reflecting geometric designs and the use of fine materials for details. There is a penthouse on the roof that contains some office space.

The building is essentially divided into three tiers: the storefront level, with its large windows for show and small utility windows above; the middle three floors topped by an intermediate cornice; and then the upper two floors. The exterior is finished in tan-colored limestone arranged in square and rectangular blocks. The storefront bases and entrance features are made of imported black and green Tinus marble, streaked with white veins. The entrance door is elaborately framed with an ornamental, Tinus marble pediment. Bronze is used on the door and window frames around the storefronts and lobby on the ground floor. The vertical pilasters have a modified "fluted column" effect. Horizontal entablatures run at several levels on all facades, their details being geometric patterns.

The interior consists of a ground floor with commercial space opening onto the streets and a main-entrance foyer and lobby leading to elevators and a marble stair. The elevators retain elaborate brass-like doors. The ceiling of the entrance foyer and lobby is made of highly decorative plaster, and the floor is also Tinus marble with lighter marble on the pilasters and walls of the lobby. Original lighting fixtures remain in the foyer and lobby. The upper floors have few details. The inner partition walls were made to be relocated to meet tenant space requirements. The structure rests on a series of 24"-x-24" reinforced-concrete columns spaced about twenty feet apart. The original heating and electrical systems have been replaced, but the original plumbing and chilled-water systems remain.

There are no grounds, no outbuildings, and no landscaping associated with the building. The building is only a block from the "Five Points" center of downtown Atlanta and is across from newly created Central City Park, the Trust Company of Georgia Bank, the Hurt Building and other commercial structures. Changes to the building include the recent modernization of the ground-level storefronts and their accompanying signage. Interior office space on the second through sixth floors has often been rearranged, according to the building's original design intent. During the early 1970s, Georgia artist Dale P. Hill painted a wall painting on the south rear portion of the building. It was part of a series done at that time to assist in the beautification of the inner city and was cosponsored by several city organizations.

# 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/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates** 1930–32      **Builder/Architect** A Ten Eyck Brown, Architect

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The 10 Pryor Street Building is significant in architecture and commerce. Architecturally, it is significant as a fine example of the "Ultra Modern" style of architecture (a variation of the Art Deco) built in Atlanta at the beginning of the Depression. The use of straightforward lines and details emphasized the sleekness of design that was stressed. The elaborate entranceway, with its classical details and use of marble and bronze, connects the "Ultra Modern" style to its design precedents in ancient times. The building is important for the introduction of the office concept of movable interior walls to accommodate changing office needs. Other important innovations were circulating ice water on each floor and high-speed, gearless elevators. Its initial advertising emphasized its location in the heart of Atlanta, ample space for tenants, and the modern elevators. The building is also architecturally significant as a work of A. Ten Eyck Brown (1878–1940), an architect who moved to Atlanta around 1905 from New York. He designed many important commercial, educational and institutional buildings in Atlanta as well as in other cities in Georgia and the Southeast. His best-known remaining works include the Fulton County Courthouse (with Morgan and Dillon); Clarke County Courthouse in Athens; Cherokee County Courthouse in Canton; Atlanta Municipal Market; Y.M.C.A., Atlanta; and many schools. In commercial history, the 10 Pryor Street Building is important as one of the last Atlanta commercial structures built before the Depression and then World War II shut down commercial building activity. Built for Albert E. Thornton (1885–1953), a member of one of Atlanta's pioneer families, it rested on land the Thornton family had owned for several generations. The Atlanta Chamber of Commerce's City Builder of March, 1932, emphasized "the unusual feature . . . is that a large amount of office space is available and may be subdivided . . . to scientifically and efficiently arrange floor space . . . ." Thus, it was a forerunner of later office buildings and interior space planning efforts.

These areas of significance support property eligibility under National Register criteria A and C.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Ray, Steven R., Georgia Tech student, "Historic Property Information Form," 1982, based on county records, original plans, The City Builder periodical, and a promotional booklet published in 1932 by the original owners entitled "10 Pryor Street Building."  
 Lyon, Elizabeth A., "Business Buildings in Atlanta: A Study in Urban Growth," Ph.D. dissertation, Emory University, 1971.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acre

Quadrangle name Northwest Atlanta, Georgia

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>6</u>	<u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>1</u> <u>9</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>7</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	B	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
C	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	D	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>
E	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	F	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>
G	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	H	<u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>	<u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u> <u>  </u>

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property is all that land directly associated with the building and directly underneath it. It is all that has been associated with the building since its construction. The boundary is shown on the enclosed plat.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
N/A			
state	code	county	code

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian  
Historic Preservation Section  
 organization Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources date December 19, 1983  
 street & number 270 Washington Street, S.W. telephone (404) 656-2840  
 city or town Atlanta state Georgia

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

*Elizabeth A. Lyon*  
 Elizabeth A. Lyon

title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 1/6/84

For NPS use only

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

Entered in the  
 National Register

date

2/23/84

*for Allures Byrum*  
 Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

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Continuation sheet Representation

Item number 6

Page 2

Representation in Existing Surveys

Title: Category One listing in Atlanta Historic Resources Workbook

Date: 1981

Depository for Records: Atlanta Urban Design Commission, Atlanta, Georgia

On February 25, 1983, the National Register Programs Division of the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, issued a preliminary certification of significance for this property.

FLOOR PLAN

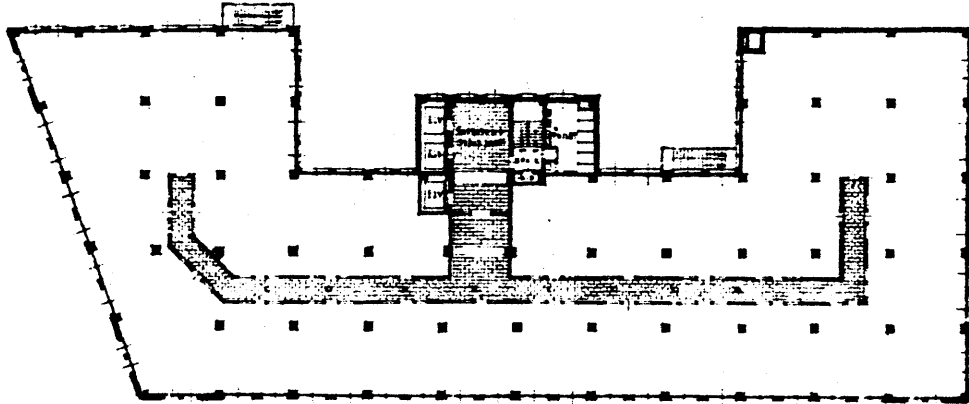
10 Pryor Street Building  
Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Scale: Unknown

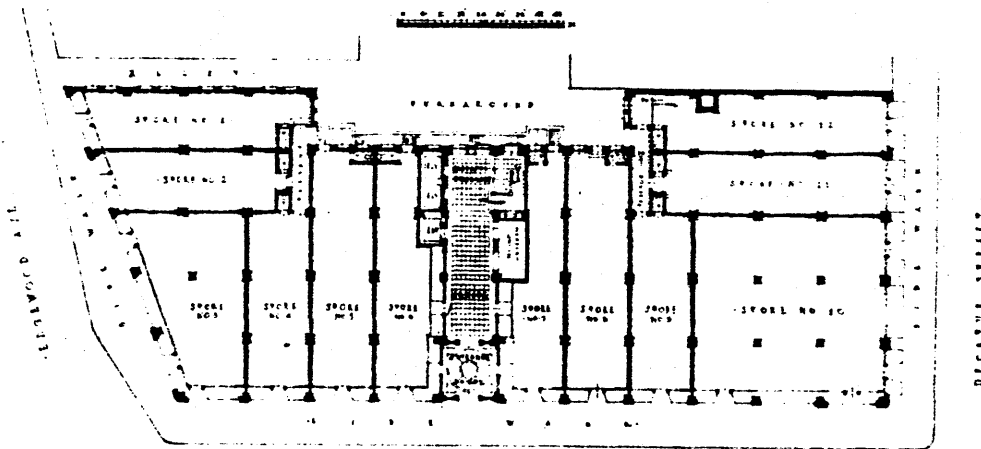
Source: "10 Pryor Street Building" promotional pamphlet

Date: 1932

Key: The upper-floor plan is the basic floor plan for all five upper stories. The lower-floor plan is just the first floor.



TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN -



FIRST FLOOR PLAN -