



**4. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
Signature of certifying official

11/30/90  
Date

Elizabeth A. Lyon  
State Historic Preservation Officer,  
Georgia Department of Natural Resources

In my opinion, the property ( ) meets ( ) does not meet the National Register criteria. ( ) See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency or bureau

**5. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ( ) entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) other, explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- ( ) see continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature, Keeper of the National Register      Date

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

**Current Functions:**

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

Neo-Classical Revival

**Materials:**

foundation	concrete and brick
walls	stucco
roof	slate
other	n/a

**Description of present and historic physical appearance:**

The Mrs. George Arthur Howell House is a two story with basement, fifteen-room stuccoed home designed in the Neo-classical Revival style of the 1930s. It is located in northwest Atlanta along a major thoroughfare within a large area of historic homes. Highlights of this style include the portico which contains four square columns, the symmetrical form and the massing which are all reminiscent of the antebellum Greek Revival style. Indiana limestone and cast stone were used for decorative details. The interior includes an entrance foyer with a divided Georgian style stairway, and paneled library/den, a dining room with classical motifs and built-in corner cabinets and other rooms with fine molding, mantels, and other details of fine workmanship. Greek key motifs can be found in ceiling medallions and moldings. The grounds contain formal gardens, residential landscaping, and a circular drive. The only major change was the addition of the two story with finished basement southwest wing in 1963-1964 which includes the family room, bedrooms, and a two-room servant's apartment.

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions):     N/A

A     B     C     D     E     F     G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions):

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance:

1932

Significant Dates:

1932

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect(s)/Builder(s):

Cooper and Cooper, architects

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Beers, Gilbert, builder  
Monroe, William L. "Billy", landscaping

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**Significance of property, justification of criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above:**

**Narrative statement of significance (areas of significance)**

The Howell House is significant in architecture because it is a fine example of the Neo-Classical Revival style of the 1930s, during which many previously popular architectural styles were revived. It contains a symmetrical front facade, a centered, four-columned Greek Revival portico and a symmetrical first floor plan. It is also significant as a work of Cooper and Cooper, a firm consisting of two Atlanta-born architects, who were brothers, who designed this along with many other fine homes. Many of the original furnishings remain with the house today. The house was built by a recent widow whose husband had been a prominent co-owner of an Atlanta insurance agency. Her daughter was married to Joseph W. Cooper, Jr., one of the architects for the house.

This house, one of about two dozen individually eligible houses in this area, even though it was built twenty years after the area opened for development, reflects the high style of architecture and workmanship the entire neighborhood came to symbolize.

**National Register Criteria**

The Howell House meets National Register Criterion C because it is an excellent example of the Neo-Classical Revival style in the early 20th century. The house reflects the classical Greek facade, seen earlier in the Greek Revival movement of a century earlier, with balanced proportions. On the interior, the house reflects fine examples of the use of the Greek key motif in the plaster moldings, fluted pilasters in many rooms, recessed alcoves as if for statues, all elements of this style. The house definitely reflects the work of a master architect who was able to take this traditional design and adapt it to 20th century needs to create a grand house.

**Criteria Considerations (if applicable)**

N/A

**Period of significance (justification, if applicable)**

Since the house was built so late in the historic period and is being nominated only for its architectural significance, only the date of its construction was given.

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**Developmental history/historic context (if applicable)**

The Mrs. George Arthur Howell, Jr., House was built in 1932 in an area opened for residential development on the outskirts of Atlanta in the early 20th century. James L. Dickey bought a several hundred acre farm here in 1903 and in 1904 sold a portion to Robert F. Maddox who built his country retreat on the present site of the Georgia Governor's Mansion, 391 West Paces Ferry Road, across the street from the nominated property. The nearby subdivisions of Peachtree Heights Park (NR) and Tuxedo Park (built on land sold by Mr. Dickey) were both opened in 1911. So it was some two decades later, after the death of her husband, that Katherine Mitchell Howell purchased this property on December 29, 1931 and began construction of this house. The present lot is approximately the same size as the original lot.

Katherine Mitchell Howell was the widow of George Arthur Howell (1882-1930). Mr. Howell had been best known as an insurance agent and was a partner in the insurance and real estate firm of Haas & Howell, president of the Creomulsion Company, and secretary of the Atlantic Steel Company. He was also an officer or director of many professional and charitable associations and at his death made significant donations to various charitable and educational institutions.

Katherine and George Arthur Howell had married on October 10, 1906. They had three children: Katherine "Tattie" Howell (married Joseph W. Cooper, Jr., architect); Mary Adair Howell (married Francis Marion Bird, attorney); and George Arthur Howell, Jr., an attorney, partner in the law firm of Bird & Howell, formed with his brother-in-law.

This house was designed by the firm of Cooper and Cooper, formed in 1925, one of Atlanta's premier firms for residential architecture at the time. The choice of firm was no accident. The partners were brothers: Samuel Inman Cooper (1894-1974) and Joseph Walter Cooper, Jr. (1899-1972). It was the latter, Joseph W. Cooper, Jr., who married Mrs. Howell's oldest daughter in February, 1932 after the firm had been hired to design this house. Cooper and Cooper designed many important houses and other buildings during their long existence. Most notable is Glenridge Hall (NR) in north Fulton County and structures at Berry College (NR) in Rome, Georgia. The firm remained in business, with the addition of various new partners and name changes, until 1983. Just before this house was designed and built, several of the firm's houses were featured in the publication Southern Architecture Illustrated (1931) featuring houses from the Atlanta-based Southern Architecture and Building News which folded due to the depression in 1932.

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The contractor/builder for the house was Gilbert Beers and the landscaping was done by William L. "Billy" Monroe. Bids for the construction of this house were advertised by Mrs. Howell in the Manufacturer's Record on January 28, 1932 and the \$40,000 construction contract was announced on May 26th as having been let to Mr. Beers.

Mrs. Howell's son indicated that the house did not have a name during the years they owned it, stating, "We just called it '400 West Paces Ferry Road' because we thought that sounded pretty good." The oval rug in the entry foyer was designed for Mrs. Howell and is a hand-tufted Austrian Savonnerie carpet. Mary Adair Howell Bird has the matching rug from the living room in her Atlanta home today.

In January, 1941, with her children grown, Mrs. Howell sold the house to Mr. and Mrs. John Newton Goddard.

After moving from this house to another Peachtree Street address, Mrs. Howell remained active as an officer of the Creomulsion Company and as part owner of the Haas-Howell Building in downtown Atlanta where her husband's business had been. She was also a member of several women's patriotic lineage organizations. She died October 5, 1954 in Atlanta.

The new owner of the house, John N. Goddard was president of the Conklin Tinsplate and Metal Company and also on the Board of Directors of the Trust Company Bank and the Coca-Cola Company. After his death in 1948, Mrs. Mary Nicolson Goddard moved into the house next door (at the corner of Arden and West Paces) which she had designed and built, and sold this property.

The home was owned for a brief time in 1950-51 by Mr. and Mrs. William C. Wardlaw, Jr. Mr. Wardlaw retired as vice president of Wardlaw and Company, investment counselors. They never lived here, and sold it within the year.

In 1951, Albert S. Selig purchased the house. Mr. Selig was president of the Selig Company, a large Atlanta-based firm with many real estate holdings. Roberta Peters, the opera star, was a good friend of the family and a frequent visitor to this house during their ownership. Mr. Selig lived here until his death in 1955.

In November, 1957 it was purchased from the Selig estate by Mr. and Mrs. Martin E. Kilpatrick, Sr. Mrs. Kilpatrick was the former Mary Hurt Clayton. Mr. Kilpatrick (1905-1980) was a prominent attorney in Atlanta and a founder of the law firm of Smith, Kilpatrick, Cody, Rogers & McClatchey, at his death known simply as Kilpatrick and Cody. The southwest wing of this house, which contains the family room,

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(originally the garden room), and bedrooms was added by the Kilpatricks in 1963-1964. The late Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick frequently hosted future President and Mrs. George Bush in their home. Mr. Bush and Mr. Kilpatrick became acquainted during World War II in the South Pacific and was a personal friend of Mr. Kilpatrick.

The house was sold in January, 1983 by the Kilpatrick estate through Sotheby Parke Bernet International Realtors. The new owners, Dr. and Mrs. James H. Wheeler, moved into the house after it served as the Decorator Show House for 1983 during the Spring. Dr. Wheeler, a family practitioner, and his family have named their new residence "Nestledown."

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## 9. Major Bibliographic References

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Information supplied by the present owner, Mrs. James H. Wheeler.  
"George Arthur Howell," Encyclopedia of Georgia Biography, Lucian L. Knight, ed., I:134-136, 1931.  
"Funeral Sunday for Mr. Howell, Atlanta Insurer," The Atlanta Journal, December 14, 1930.  
Historic interior photographs, Cooper Collection, Mss. 361, Atlanta Historical Society, Atlanta.  
Southern Homes Magazine, July/August, 1990.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): (X) N/A

- ( ) 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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- (X) State historic preservation office
- ( ) Other State Agency
- ( ) Federal agency
- ( ) Local government
- ( ) University
- (X) Other, Specify Repository: Atlanta Historical Society

Georgia Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreage of Property** 1.7 acres.

**UTM References**

A) Zone 16 Easting 740680 Northing 3747790

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property is marked on the enclosed plat map dated 1985.

**Boundary Justification**

The nominated property consists of the land remaining attached to the property and is all the owner owns at this location.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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**name/title** Kenneth H. Thomas, Jr., Historian.

**organization** Historic Preservation Section, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

**street & number** 205 Butler Street, S.E., Suite 1462

**city or town** Atlanta **state** Georgia **zip code** 30334

**telephone** 404-656-2840 **date** November 14, 1990.