

United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form

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86004457

Continuation sheet PEACHTREE HEIGHTS PARK

Item number

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PEACHTREE HEIGHTS PARK

Name: Peachtree Heights Park Historic District, Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia

Location:

In Land Lots 111, 112 and 113, bounded on the east by Peachtree Road; south by Peachtree Creek; west and north by the land-lot lines and including parts of Andrews Drive, Habersham Road, Peachtree Battle Avenue; and Wesley Road.

Owner: Multiple ownership; see attached property-owners list.

Description:

Peachtree Heights Park is characterized by curvilinear streets set into the natural topography of Land Lots 111, 112 and 113. The designers were careful to respect natural drainage patterns and vegetation in the area. The result is a subdivision which follows the tenets of Frederick Law Olmsted perfectly. A wide, divided roadway, Peachtree Battle Avenue, was created with a landscaped park in the median. Emanating from this roadway are four curvilinear streets, Habersham Road, Rivers Road, Nacoochee Drive and Woodward Way. Woodward Way and Habersham Road both curve up gentle hills towards the north; Nacoochee and Rivers roads stay primarily in the bottom lands beside streams and brooks. Intersecting Habersham and Rivers roads is West Wesley Road (originally Wesley Avenue). West Wesley is the one of two streets in the multiple-resources area that does not follow the curvilinear precedent. West Wesley Road runs west along the land-lot lines. At the intersection of Habersham and West Wesley roads, the natural streambeds have been preserved in the form of parks. The parks are surrounded by a low stone wall. Within the parks, no vegetation has been removed and appears as if no one has touched it since the streets were laid.

The houses in the Peachtree Heights Park Historic District are similar stylistically to those in other parts of the multiple-resources area. Styles such as English Tudor, Jacobean, Georgian, Federal, Norman, Italian, Spanish Mediterranean and Regency are well represented. The landscaping of these houses is consistent throughout the district. An English or naturalistic attitude has been employed, leaving large stands of trees untouched with broad sweeping lawns and informal massing of native shrubs and shade trees. The streetscape, therefore, is very regular. Imposing residence after imposing residence rise from the forest. The natural treatment of the landscaping between the houses must be credited with the successful blending of such a variety of styles of architecture.

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Significance:

The significance of Peachtree Heights Park is based on the exceptional quality of the residential architecture set within the landscape design of the notable architectural firm of Carrere and Hastings (who designed, among other buildings, the New York Public Library in New York City).

Following the death of Wesley Gray Collier in 1906, the executors of his estate formed the Peachtree Heights Park Company with Eretus Rivers and W.P. Andrews as principals. The firm of Carrere and Hastings was hired to plan a residential subdivision to connect the then-extant Battle Avenue to (West) Paces Ferry Road. The resulting subdivision is one of the best-planned residential subdivisions in the Atlanta area and is certainly the best-preserved. An article in the Atlanta Journal of April 16, 1911, reports: "Connecting Peachtree with Pace's [sic] Ferry Road through Battle Avenue, Habersham Avenue, now under construction ... will traverse the property of the Peachtree Heights Park Company to Pace's Ferry Road just to the east of the magnificent home of former Mayor Robert F. Maddox." The first sale of lots took place May 2, 1911.

The firm of Hentz, Reid and Adler (later Hentz, Reid, Adler and Shutze) designed at least fifteen houses in this district. Pringle and Smith, Tucker and Howell, and Cooper and Cooper also have designs in this impressive district. The Henry B. Tompkins House at 125 West Wesley Road, was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on December 12, 1976.

Landscape architecture is equally impressive in this district. Many of the houses were landscaped by the architects; others by the owners; and with some, a landscape architect worked in conjunction with the architect to achieve the end result. William C. Pauley, a noted Atlanta landscape architect, worked with Hentz, Reid and Adler on a number of their commissions. The results have only improved with maturation.

The especially noteworthy landscape composition of the home at 2624 Habersham Road has been mentioned above. Most of the houses designed by Hentz, Reid, Adler or Hentz, Reid, Adler and Shutze had parterre boxwood gardens. In a few cases, these gardens have been let go because of the high cost of maintenance, but several fine examples still remain: 125 West Wesley Road (the Henry Tompkins House), and 7 Cherokee Road (the McDuffie House).

The residents of the Peachtree Heights Park Historic District have been and continue to be influential in the Atlanta area. The founder of the Haverty Furniture Company lived at 15 Cherokee Road. The noted Atlanta attorney, Cam Dorsey, built the masterpiece at Vernon Road called Lane's End. Several other old

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Atlanta families have lived in Peachtree Heights Park since it was built. The Montague Boyds, the Sibleys, the Henry Gradys (descendants of the Henry Grady of the Atlanta Constitution fame) among them.

Some Representative Properties:

1. Residence, Mayfair, 10 Habersham Way. Present home of Bert Lance, former budget director for President Jimmy Carter. Mayfair is a brick Georgian mansion designed about 1925 by the architectural firm of Cooper and Cooper. The original landscape included a small golf course and bridle paths. This house was designed as a duplex.
2. Residence, Stuart Witham House, 2922 Andrews Drive. A brick Georgian mansion designed by Hentz, Reid and Adler, it is already listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
3. School, 2906 Andrews Drive, originally a private residence called "Rossdhu," which was built for Dr. and Mrs. Phinizy Calhoun. Dr. Calhoun and Mrs. Stuart Witham were sister and brother, as well as next-door neighbors. The house is a Tudor-style mansion occupying a commanding site. This is one of the best of this style in Atlanta.
4. Residence, 1 Cherokee Road, 1921, architects Hentz, Reid and Adler. A large frame house of adapted Federal design.
5. Residence, 2655 Habersham Road. An expansive Norman house designed by the firm of Cooper and Cooper.
6. Residence, 2624 Habersham Road. Built for C.C. Case in 1918 by Hentz, Reid and Adler, this house's street facade is a close copy of Tintinhull House in Somerset County, England.
7. Residence, 7 Cherokee Road, 1922, architects Hentz, Reid and Adler. A massive brick house designed in the Adams style.
8. Residence, 2494 Peachtree Road. A stately Georgian home with steeply pitched slate roof, arched dormers and molded cornice. One of few homes still extant on Peachtree Road.
9. Residence, 15 Cherokee Road. A Spanish Villa with low-pitched, red-tile roof; stone, corner quoins, stucco-relief emblems.

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10. Residence, 25 Cherokee Road. A two-story, white-frame Georgian house with two-story porch and beautifully landscaped setting.

11. Residence, 2 Vernon Road, Lane's End, 1925, architects Hentz, Reid and Adler. This house appears as a one-and-a-half-story Colonial cottage with two large wings added. The garden facade is one of the most picturesque in all of Atlanta; a temple set in the natural landscape designed by Atlanta landscape architect William C. Pauley.

12. Residence, 2740 Habersham Road, ca. 1925. A stucco house with brick corner quoins and steeply pitched, bell-cast slate roof.

13. Residence, 2 West Muscogee Avenue, ca. 1929, architects Hentz, Adler and Shutze. A seemingly small Greek Revival house with exquisite boxwood parterre.

14. Residence, 125 West Wesley Road, the Tompkins House, 1922, architects Hentz, Reid and Adler. Georgian manor house listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

15. Residence, 2825 Andrews Drive, ca. 1925, architects Tucker and Howell. This small residence is given distinction by its Renaissance details: segmental pedimented windows, brackets, panels and scrolls. The house is built of stucco with a red-tile roof.

16. Residence, 165 West Wesley Road, ca. 1923, architects Hentz, Reid and Adler. A fairly simple shingle house with a more elaborate treatment about the front door.

Acreage: Approximately 440 acres

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification:

The boundaries are based on the 1915 Plat of the Peachtree Heights Park Subdivision, recorded in the Fulton County Courthouse. The boundaries are identified and described by a heavy black line on the attached map of the West Paces Ferry Road Area Multiple Resources nomination.

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Intrusions: as marked on Cadastral maps

UTM Reference: A Zone 16 E741780 N3746940
B Zone 16 E741660 N3744810
C Zone 16 E740900 N3744590
D Zone 16 E740870 N3746450