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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

78000986

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Witham-Clark House

AND/OR COMMON

Witham-Clark House

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

2922 Andrews Drive, N. W.

__ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

5th - Fowler

STATE

Georgia

__ VICINITY OF

CODE

13

COUNTY

Fulton

CODE

121

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input 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

Dr. and Mrs. James Clark

STREET & NUMBER

2922 Andrews Drive, N. W.

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

__ VICINITY OF

STATE

Georgia 30305

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Fulton County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

Georgia

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

__ FEDERAL __ STATE __ COUNTY __ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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

Located in the Peachtree Heights area of northwest Atlanta, the Witham-Clark House is a tour-de-force in the Neo-Georgian style, designed by Neel Reid in 1923 and completed by local contractor J. S. Collins by 1926.

Situated on a gently rising knoll and surrounded by almost two acres of oaks, poplar, boxwood, and expansive lawns, this red brick, hip roof mansion is composed of a massive two and one-half story central block with recessed side wings that give the house its basically "U" shaped plan. To the rear is an A. J. Downing-inspired brick guest house and garage that is visually connected by a boxwood and stone walled garden.

The front facade of the Witham-Clark House is composed of a two and one-half story, five bay, central pavilion which is emphasized by stone quoins and three pyramidal roof dormers. Two story, one bay, recessed wings complete the length of the facade. The centrally located entrance features a heavy, broken pedimented doorway with side fluted pilasters that support the simple frieze and massive scroll and pineapple design. The double doors are panelled and unlighted. The double hung six-over-six windows on the second floor and the corresponding long French doors on the first floor all have slightly curved jack arches and louvered shutters. Completing the front facade design is the stone string course between the first and second floors and the cast concrete bannister that defines a garden-porch area.

In plan, the U-shaped Witham-Clark House has over sixteen main rooms plus assorted porches, bath and dressing rooms, and closets and pantries that are indicative of a twentieth century design. Through the house the ceiling height is ten feet, all flooring is oak, and walls are plaster lath.

The entry and stair hall is composed of two levels with stairs winding from the right over the depressed doorway and final ascent on the left. Under the stairs on either side of the door are two closets: one large coat closet and one tin-lined rain closet with its original 1920's light fixture and bulb. Two curved steps separate this lower area from the remainder of the entry hall which gives access to the large living room and porch to the left, two doors to the dining room and another to the hall on the right. Adding to the spacious quality of this relatively compact area are panels with mirror insets. (The mirrors came from the Abner Calhoun House once located at Peachtree Street and Fifth Street.) Above the entrance is a six-over-six window with panel and scroll beneath that lights the stairs and open bannistered hallway of the second floor. All door trim in the hall to living room and dining room has a roll frieze with heavy splayed molding on top.

The living room is a long rectangular room with panelled wainscot and chairrail. French doors open onto the front facade and, on the opposing end, there is an inset of bookcases on either side of a French door. Door and window trim is composed of broken segmental arches above center panelled friezes with dog-eared trim. The mantel,

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

faced in marble with a large mirror overhead, is centered between two doors to the porch. This porch, forming the south recessed wing, has large screened arches that give visual access to the grounds.

The dining room, like the living room, is another formal room with many architectural details of trim and design. The door trim features a roll freize with dog-eared trim; and, also like the living room, there is a deep cornice. There is no wainscot, but a chairrail does occur. Venetian glass light fixtures are used and French doors open to the terrace garden. Two segmental arched niches, one leading to the kitchen area, are on either side of the black marble-faced fireplace. The mantel has a "landskip" panel over the mantel shelf underneath which are designs of egg and dart molding and reed and acanthus leaf motifs on the freize. Opposing the terrace wall is the opening into the entry hall with two symmetrical doors.

From the entry hall through a keystone arch doorway there is a hallway that leads to a reception room, the rear service stair, bathroom, and luncheon and butler's pantry-kitchen area. Here the doors and windows diminish in elaboration and have no pedimented treatments.

The reception room, like the living room, has French doors that open onto the front bannistered terrace. On the north wall is a double sash window with panel beneath and a bookcase that both repeat the French door dimensions. Here the light fixtures are brass sconces.

The back hall with service stair leads to the side driveway. This exterior door has a delicate iron and glass fanlight. Outside the ironwork is repeated by the porch supports that also act as lamps. Off this back hall is also the luncheon room-with tiled floor, triple sash bay windows, and a panelled wood ceiling. From the luncheon room there is access to the kitchen and the latticed, screened service porch through the butler's pantry. This pantry has its original large curved porcelain sink and floor-to-ceiling glazed cabinets and counters. The formality of the door treatments has been reduced to a utilitarian six inch simple board frame in these service areas. A servants' call system, located in the butler's pantry, is still in working condition.

The rear service stair leads to the second floor, the basement, and the attic area. On the second floor there are five bedrooms - three with a wood burning fireplace - four bathrooms, a linen closet, a playroom, and a sundeck. All of the door treatment is the same as the first floor kitchen area with a six inch simple frame. All of the baths have the original fixtures including pedestal lavatories, inset medicine cabinets, marble, and herringbone patterned small-piece tile work.

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

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CONTINUATION SHEET Description ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 3

The master bedroom has access to two baths, a dressing room, and a playroom. The playroom, originally a screened sleeping porch with stretched canvas floor covering, was enclosed with windows only a year after the house was built. Two of the other bedrooms overlook the rear gardens, while another has access to a sun deck. The fifth bedroom now serves as an upstairs study.

The third floor, or attic, has a skylighted central servants' bedroom area with bath and adjoining rooms used for storage. The basement houses the boiler room, coal bin, and laundry. The original furnace, still intact but now replaced by a gas system, has a patent date of 1897 and was made by Hart and Crouse, Inc. of Utica, New York.

In the rear yard is the gabled brick guest cottage that serves below as the garage. Built like the main house in all stretcher bond, the cottage appears from the garden level as a one story guest house. However, because of the terrain, the three room guest quarters are actually the second floor with the first floor serving as a three car garage and tool shed. The guest house view from the main house appears as that of a small house, inspired by mid-nineteenth century cottage architecture, with a window covered by a pointed metal roof supported by intricate lattice work that appears as a porch. (Reid used the term "pergola" to describe the lattice work "porch.")

Originally there was a child's brick playhouse on a crest of a hill behind the garage; but, when the original 3.147 acres was divided in 1972, several new building lots were created to the rear and the playhouse was torn down.

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 type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input 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)	
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

History

SPECIFIC DATES 1923-1926

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Neel Reid, Architect

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Witham-Clark House, a Neo-Georgian style house built in 1926, represents one of the latter works of Neel Reid, the principal designer for the early twentieth century firm of Hentz, Reid and Adler. It was the work of this Atlanta firm that gave impetus to the characterization of Atlanta's early twentieth century elite neighborhoods and made them among the most architecturally prominent of urban residential areas in America.

Joseph Neel Reid was born in Jacksonville, Alabama, on October 15, 1885. He moved with his family to Macon in 1903 where he met Curran R. Ellis, a Macon architect, when his parents' home was being remodeled. By 1904 he had moved to Atlanta, was working with architect Willis F. Denny, and had met Hal F. Hentz, with whom he would later go to Columbia University (1905-6), the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Paris (1906), and form a partnership (1909 until Reid's death in 1926). Upon Reid's return from Paris and the atelier Laloux, he worked in New York for the firm of Murphy and Dana. By 1909 Reid had returned to Atlanta, rejoined Hentz (who had remained in Paris), and formed a partnership. In the same year, they received their first substantial commission, the Georgia Life Insurance Building in Macon. By 1910 the Macon office had been closed, an Atlanta firm opened, and they had made the elderly Norwegian architect, G. L. Norrman, a partner. Norrman died soon after and by 1913 Rudolph Adler had joined the firm. It was these three men who worked as a collaborative group, with Neel Reid as the principal designer, that made major contributions to Atlanta and Georgia's architectural heritage during the early twentieth century.

The work of Hentz, Reid and Adler, although mainly residential, did include apartments, department stores, and libraries. A basic ingredient of their design was a profound sense of scale and proportion and the sensitive use of classical details in inventive and creative re-compositions - whether the project was a small-town library or one of Atlanta's largest mansions.

Architecturally, the Witham-Clark House is a twentieth century version of a Georgian "Westover" - a massive hip roof mansion with all the grandeur and appointments of the age in which it was built. The outbuildings and numerous servants have been replaced by twentieth century technology built into the house. The architectural details are not pattern book designs but inventive compositions of the architect. The house's setting is important; not only is the correlation of the exterior facade's position with the landscape a concern, but the relationship of the house with the grounds and gardens is taken into consideration.

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CONTINUATION SHEET Significance ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

The original owner, Stuart Witham (1889-1962), was a native Atlantan. He was educated at Marist College, the University of Georgia, and Emory University. He held positions in the banking community, was the president of Atlantic Realty, and also served as trustee of LaGrange College and Young Harris College. He believed in philanthropy, caring for widows, orphans, and released prisoners. He and his wife, Harriet Calhoun (d. 1978), and family occupied the house until his death in 1962. His wife then remained there alone until 1972 when she moved and sold the home.

Since January of 1972, the house has been owned and occupied by Dr. James Clark and his family who have sensitively maintained and refurbished this Atlanta landmark and who have recently discovered the original plans and drawings. The Witham-Clark House reflects the inventive composition of Neel Reid, who brought to Atlanta in this fine Neo-Georgian home the results of his study in Europe. It remains a residence, as it was originally constructed, fulfilling the intent of the architect and owner and serving as a stabilizing factor in the changing urban patterns of Atlanta.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

- Grady, James. Architecture of Neel Reid in Georgia, (University of Georgia Press, 1973.)
 Kapetanakos, Stephanie A. The Architecture of Neel Reid - A Study of the Residential Architecture of Neel Reid in Atlanta, (University of Georgia thesis, 1971.)
 Paul, Lewis. "Neel Reid, 1885-1926", The Atlanta Historical Bulletin, Spring 1971.
 Macgregor, Elizabeth. Personal inspection, Fall 1977.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.9 acres

QUADRANGLE NAME Northwest Atlanta

QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24000

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 6 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 3 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 E | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 G | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 F | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 H | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attached

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Historic Preservation Section

DATE

November 1977

STREET & NUMBER

270 Washington Street, S. W.

TELEPHONE

404/656-2840

CITY OR TOWN

Atlanta

STATE

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

Elizabeth A. Lyon
Acting State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE

10/13/78

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

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

ATTEST:

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET Geographical Data ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 2

Verbal Boundary Description

All that land shown on the Tax Map as Unit 27, Square 2, Land Lot 113, 17th District, with the following dimensions:

Beginning at a point on Habersham Way and running 485.15 feet eastwardly; thence 203.13 feet southwardly along Andrews Drive to a point; thence westwardly 475.02 feet to a point; and thence northwardly 86.41 feet to an iron stake; and thence 69.95 feet northwardly to the beginning point on Habersham Way.

These dimensions are identical to those in the deed found in Fulton County Superior Court Deed Book 5513, on page 395, which was recorded January 6, 1972. This deed transferred the property to the current owners. The plat for this transfer was made September 11, 1971.