

Preservation Times

The Atlanta Preservation Center Newspaper

Vol. 30, Number 2 Summer 2011

2011 Endangered List

In this issue, the Atlanta Preservation Center (APC) unveils its list of the most endangered sites for 2011. The 19 entries cover not only individual sites, but entire neighborhoods and districts that are in peril of losing their connection to the historic fabric of the city.

Among the individual sites listed are the Brookwood Amtrak station in Buckhead; The Atlanta Constitution building downtown; the Craigie House in Midtown; and the Grace Towns Hamilton house on the west side. They are joined by such sprawling areas as the Sherwood Forest and Peachtree Heights West neighborhoods in Buckhead; the campus of Morris Brown College; and the city's historic downtown grid, which has been the subject of recent street-naming attempts (see article below).

"The list represents the larger issues of preservation in Atlanta, as well as specific examples of buildings which require attention," said APC Executive Director Boyd Coons. "For instance, Peachtree Heights West is especially important in its own right. But it also stands

as an emblem to other historic neighborhoods that are not protected throughout the city."

Individual structures such as the Rufus M. Rose House on Peachtree Street, the Judge William Wilson House on Fairburn Road and the former Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters, the Craigie House, all contribute to the city's historic past and deserve to be preserved for future generations.

"These buildings themselves are highly important, and it would be an unconscionable loss if we find one day they are gone," said Coons.

One of the first steps to preserving these landmarks is to garner support from the community. That can be done through several channels, including becoming a member of the APC and supporting its efforts as a volunteer; voicing concern for preservation issues with city council representatives and the mayor; and donating to the APC's legal efforts to salvage specific projects. For details, please contact the APC at 404-688-3353, or visit www.PreserveAtlanta.com.

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In an Atlanta Journal-Constitution article, APC attorney Wright Mitchell said, "It is time to send a message that they cannot violate their own laws and waste taxpayer money in doing so. It is time to put an end to the arrogance of the City Council."

The APC encourages members to demonstrate support for this struggle by writing to City Council representatives and attending meetings of the Utilities Commission, Urban Design Commission and the City Council.

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First time listing

The city's historic downtown street grid is all that remains of antebellum Atlanta. Persistent efforts by the city council to rename streets threaten to erode this historic evidence, despite neighborhood opposition. Disregarding a 2003 ordinance intending to make street renaming more restrictive, the council is known to have waived the law's requirements. The proposal to rename Cone Street was altered to include memorial street sign toppers rather than renaming. While the APC's lawsuit has temporarily stalled renaming efforts, City Council plans to reintroduce the legislation.



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The city's public monuments are narrative components of Atlanta's historic landscapes, yet they are in jeopardy from ongoing disregard. An example of this inattention is the Sidney Lanier Monument in Piedmont Park. The bust has been neglected for decades and is currently being replicated by the APC based on the original design of Carrère & Hastings. Demolition, removal, vandalism, theft and lack of maintenance are also evident in Atlanta's oldest public green space, Grant Park. Here alone the list of missing artifacts includes two cannons, sculptures of an angel and a stag, a marble sundial and a monument to Colonel L. P. Grant.

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One of the city's oldest neighborhoods, the Auburn/Edgewood area's historic significance is enhanced by the fact that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, lived and preached here. In 1976, Sweet Auburn was designated a National Historic Landmark; it is also a city designated Landmark District. It has suffered from several issues in recent years, including redevelopment, neglect, the expansion of Georgia State University and the 2008 tornado. The proposed Atlanta Streetcar is designed to travel on these



streets and could have a tremendous impact on the neighborhood. In 1992, the National Trust for Historic Preservation recognized the area as one of America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places. The APC placed the area on its 2005 endangered list, and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation included it on the state's 2006 list of Places in Peril. The Historic District Development Corporation was formed to turn the trend around, starting with houses surrounding the King birth home and working outward.

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15. Morris Brown College campus, 643 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive

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Founded in 1881 by the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Morris Brown is the oldest individual campus in the Atlanta University Center (AUC) complex. The property has belonged to the college since 1932. Fountain Hall, dating to 1892, is one of the few remaining buildings designed by Atlanta architect Gottfried Norrman. The Romanesque Revival structure was designated a National Historic Landmark and an Atlanta Landmark building and now serves as the administration



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16. Peachtree Heights West neighborhood, Buckhead

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The illustrious New York firm of Carrère & Hastings did the landscape design and laid out this neighborhood west of Peachtree Road. Peachtree Battle Avenue and Habersham Road were the main streets in an area once covered with hardwood trees. The project became a landscaped, residential park. The neighborhood consists of about 400 houses that reflect classical and traditional styles. Prominent residences on large lots with sprawling, lush grounds showcase the work of several great Atlanta architects, including Neel Reid, Philip Shutze and Buck Crook. But the neighborhood is currently threatened with tear-downs, infill construction and the loss of homes along Peachtree Road that have been demolished to make way for highrises and commercial development.

17. Pickrick Cafeteria / Ajax Building, 877 Hemphill St.

First time listing

In 1947, former Georgia Governor Lester Maddox and his wife opened the Pickrick Cafeteria on the Georgia Tech campus. It is remembered as one of the significant sites in Atlanta's Civil Rights history. The building became central to the desegregation fight and helped launch the political career of the owner. Maddox refused to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and filed a lawsuit to continue his segregationist policies, stating he would rather close the restaurant than serve black customers. The single-story structure, purchased by Tech in 1965, is currently used as overflow space for the campus police department, but the school has imminent plans to demolish it for an urban greenspace.



18. Rufus M. Rose House, 537 Peachtree St.

Previously listed 2007



This structure is the oldest remaining house on Peachtree Street. Designed by Atlanta architect Emil Charles Seitz Sr., the Queen Anne house was built for Rufus Rose, who operated the R.M. Rose distillery as well as several shops that sold his liquor, cigars and cigarette products. The business was forced to move to Tennessee in 1907 when Georgia became a "dry" state. From 1945 to 1998, it was home to the Atlanta Museum, an eclectic collection owned by James Elliott, Sr. that included furniture once belonging to Margaret Mitchell and a Japanese Zero war plane. From 1999 through 2001, it was the APC headquarters. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as an Atlanta Landmark building. On July 21, an undisclosed buyer bought the house at auction. Details on the future of the house will be updated in the next newsletter.

19. Sherwood Forest neighborhood, Midtown

First time listing

This mid-century development was built on the Collier family estate, sometimes called "Collier Woods." Meredith Collier and his family were among the earliest settlers in the area, living on approximately 2,000 acres of land alongside an old Creek Indian trail (Peachtree Street). By 1906, Collier's sons started selling parcels of their land. The first tract became Ansley Park and Ansley Golf Club; the last was Collier Woods, purchased by developer Haas & Dodd. The new neighborhood was promoted as Sherwood Forest, Atlanta's posh, post-World War II subdivision, boasting many high-style ranch houses. The street layout was designed around the automobile, a popular trend in this period. The Collier home was saved and is still part of the development. But the neighborhood is threatened by multiple demolitions and rapid infill construction.



Calendar at a Glance & Upcoming Events

- **September 6, 13 and 20**
APC Walking Tour guide training
404-688-3353
- **September 11**
Herndon Home Centennial Celebration
404-505-8188; sonjjay@bellsouth.net
- **September 22-25**
APC's Sacred Spaces tour
404-688-3353 x11
- **September 24-25**
Grant Park Neighborhood Tour of Homes
<http://grantpart.org/tour>
- **2nd Tuesday, March-December**
CIRCA auxiliary meetings
www.PreserveAtlanta.com/circa
- **Ongoing through October**
APC neighborhood walking tours
www.PreserveAtlanta.com/walkingtours

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Rodolfo Castro
Brandy Morrison
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17. Pickrick Cafeteria / Ajax Building, 877 Hemphill St.

First time listing

In 1947, former Georgia Governor Lester Maddox and his wife opened the Pickrick Cafeteria on the Georgia Tech campus. It is remembered as one of the significant sites in Atlanta's Civil Rights history. The building became central to the desegregation fight and helped launch the political career of the owner. Maddox refused to comply with the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and filed a lawsuit to continue his segregationist policies, stating he would rather close the restaurant than serve black customers. The single-story structure, purchased by Tech in 1965, is currently used as overflow space for the campus police department, but the school has imminent plans to demolish it for an urban greenspace.



18. Rufus M. Rose House, 537 Peachtree St.

Previously listed 2007



This structure is the oldest remaining house on Peachtree Street. Designed by Atlanta architect Emil Charles Seitz Sr., the Queen Anne house was built for Rufus Rose, who operated the R.M. Rose distillery as well as several shops that sold his liquor, cigars and cigarette products. The business was forced to move to Tennessee in 1907 when Georgia became a "dry" state. From 1945 to 1998, it was home to the Atlanta Museum, an eclectic collection owned by James Elliott, Sr. that included furniture once belonging to Margaret Mitchell and a Japanese Zero war plane. From 1999 through 2001, it was the APC headquarters. It is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is designated as an Atlanta Landmark building. On July 21, an undisclosed buyer bought the house at auction. Details on the future of the house will be updated in the next newsletter.

19. Sherwood Forest neighborhood, Midtown

First time listing

This mid-century development was built on the Collier family estate, sometimes called "Collier Woods." Meredith Collier and his family were among the earliest settlers in the area, living on approximately 2,000 acres of land alongside an old Creek Indian trail (Peachtree Street). By 1906, Collier's sons started selling parcels of their land. The first tract became Ansley Park and Ansley Golf Club; the last was Collier Woods, purchased by developer Haas & Dodd. The new neighborhood was promoted as Sherwood Forest, Atlanta's posh, post-World War II subdivision, boasting many high-style ranch houses. The street layout was designed around the automobile, a popular trend in this period. The Collier home was saved and is still part of the development. But the neighborhood is threatened by multiple demolitions and rapid infill construction.



Calendar at a Glance & Upcoming Events

- **September 6, 13 and 20**
APC Walking Tour guide training
404-688-3353
- **September 11**
Herndon Home Centennial Celebration
404-505-8188; sonjiay@bellsouth.net
- **September 22-25**
APC's Sacred Spaces tour
404-688-3353 x11
- **September 24-25**
Grant Park Neighborhood Tour of Homes
<http://grantpart.org/tour>
- **2nd Tuesday, March-December**
CIRCA auxiliary meetings
www.PreserveAtlanta.com/circa
- **Ongoing through October**
APC neighborhood walking tours
www.PreserveAtlanta.com/walkingtours

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

- Street Renaming Update
- 2011 Endangered List

inside

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