

PH0023183

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE:	Georgia
COUNTY:	Fulton
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY DATE	MAY 2 1974

1. NAME

COMMON:
Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District

AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: Upper Auburn Avenue Area, properties in the rectangle between and bounding on Irwin to Randolph to Edgewood to Jackson Streets and to beginning point on Irwin Street.

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5th - Andrew Young

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

COUNTY: Fulton

CODE: 121

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ _____

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

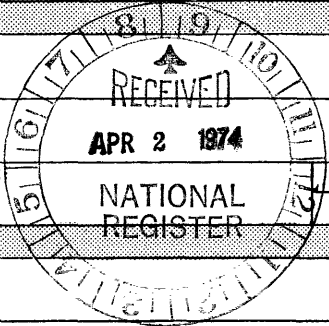
OWNER'S NAME:
See continuation sheet

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE: Georgia

CODE:



5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:
Fulton County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta

STATE: Georgia

CODE: 13

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
None

DATE OF SURVEY: Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:

STATE:

CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Historical District is bounded as follows: beginning at the intersection of Edgewood Avenue and Jackson Street, continue on Edgewood to Randolph Street, on Randolph to Irwin Street, on Irwin to Boulevard on Boulevard to Auburn Avenue, on Auburn to Jackson Street, and on Jackson Street to beginning point. These boundaries given above are intended to include properties on both sides of the streets as shown on the map enclosed.

Auburn Avenue, the main street running east-west through the district was originally called Wheat Street. It acquired its name prior to the Civil War and was so called in honor of Augustus W. Wheat, one of Atlanta's early merchants. The name was changed to Auburn Avenue by the City Council on April 17, 1893. The area is composed of commercial and residential structures, many of which retain most of their original appearances. Together they comprise an identifiable and definable historic district, one that deserves to be protected in such a fast growing city as Atlanta. Major landmarks and sites within the District are:

Ebenezer Baptist Church: At the corner of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street is the Ebenezer Baptist Church. It was begun in 1914 and completed in 1922, during the pastorship of Rev. Adam D. Williams. It is a three-story, red brick structure detailed in stone and has several groupings of stained-glass windows. There has been an addition of a two-story educational building attached to the east corner designed to match the original architectural style by Paul Muldawer, AIA, a well-known figure in modern additions to historic districts.

Grave Site: Adjoining the church grounds is the grave site of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is presently a large, marble crypt encircled by a tall white picket fence. It bears the inscription: Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., 1929-1968, "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last." The crypt will be slightly relocated and landscaped under a development program for the area.

Birthplace: Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthplace, located at 501 Auburn Avenue, is a two-story frame Queen Anne style house built in 1895. There is a one-story partial front and side porch with scroll cut woodwork trim, two "porthole" windows, a shingled gabled end, and a side facade bay - all details of the Queen Anne style. Plans for the restoration of the birthplace are in progress. The birthplace is flanked by two houses of the same architectural style and of the same period.

Shotgun-Row Houses: On the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard are houses typical of rental property for Blacks in 1920. The double-shotgun houses are two-family dwellings with two separate hip roofs. They have frame porches with turned posts. Each section of the duplexes has one simple frame door and two windows. The houses are raised slightly on blocks and built of weatherboard sidings.

Victorian Houses: The houses across the street and adjoining the King Birthplace were originally built as two-story single family dwellings in the 1880's in a simple Victorian style. Interesting features of these houses include

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4. Owner of property (continued)

Archdiocese of Atlanta
The Most Reverend Thomas A. Donnellan
756 West Peachtree Street
Atlanta, Georgia 30313

City of Atlanta
Mayor Maynard Jackson
City Hall
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

Ebenezer Baptist Church
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
413 Auburn Avenue
Atlanta, Georgia 30312

Martin Luther King, Jr. Center
for Social Change
Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., President
P. O. Box 92326
Atlanta, Georgia 30314

Multiple Private Owners

9. Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Trevor Arnett Library, Atlanta University, Files and Research.
Waymer, Robert, Prepared original draft of National Register form and
Hamilton House research; on file at Historic Preservation Section.
Georgia Review Board, Personal Inspection, Spring 1973.



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7. Description

bay windows, shingled gables, round and diamond shaped windows near the entrances, as well as one-story porches with turned posts and well designed wood brackets. The exterior character of these houses has been well preserved even though they have been converted into multi-family residences. Bradley, Howell and Hogue Streets present a densely grouped mixture of Victorian and Neo-Classical types, some single story, some rambling, two-story structures.

Alexander Hamilton House: At 102 Howell Street is a house originally owned and built by Alexander Hamilton, II, a prominent Black builder of this area and Atlanta as well. This two-story structure, built in the 1880's, is of a simple Neo-Classical style.

Atlanta Baptist Preparatory Institute Site: The Institute was located at 535 Auburn Avenue and consisted of four wooden buildings. It was founded in 1913. Apartments now occupy the site.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Mission: Built in 1912, this building is a three-story brick structure, 52 x 82 feet, originally with a one-story temple form entrance. The front facade also featured two groups of windows on the second and third floors and two windows on either side of the first floor entrance. The side facades are five bay with groupings of three windows each. A simple brick cornice completes the building's original description. Although still used as a church, the temple form entrance has been removed. Otherwise, this building's exterior remains much the same as when built.

Fire Station Number 6: The two-story brick structure is Romanesque Revival in design. The front facade can be described in three sections: the lower section features doorways and an arched fire truck entrance; the second story has a series of five Italianate arched windows framed in a square of brick detailing; raised above this area is a delicate, diamond design in brick with another row of smaller brick arches above. The year of the building's construction, 1894, is inscribed on the building's facade.



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)
<u>History</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Within the space of several blocks around Atlanta's Auburn Avenue may be seen the birthplace, church and grave site of one of the century's most influential ministers and leaders of men, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. In this neighborhood, Dr. King was born, grew to the age of 12, served as minister, and after his assassination was memorialized and buried. Taken together with other physical survivors of the days associated with Dr. King and with Atlanta's Black history, these sites comprise an identifiable and definable district which is presently the object of much preservation interest throughout the city.

Martin Luther King, Jr., born on Auburn Avenue in 1929, was a national leader in the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 1960's. Receiving his bachelor degree at Morehouse College in Atlanta and higher degrees in the Northeast, King returned to the South to lead the movement for civil rights and social justice. He was founder and first president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for his endeavors in the civil right movement. He was the youngest person to receive the prize and the second American Black so honored. In April 1968 while conducting one of his crusades in Memphis, Tennessee, he was assassinated.

The Upper Auburn Avenue area is one of the oldest neighborhoods in Atlanta. Originally called Wheat Street, in honor of one of Atlanta's pre-Civil War merchants, the name was changed by the City Council on April 17, 1893. It was thought that the name Auburn Avenue was more stylish. As early as the 1880's, residences along Wheat Street were Black occupied. At the turn of the century, this street and certain other blocks in the community could be classified as predominately black or white, but no precise pattern of segregation existed. Following the Race Riot of 1906 and by about 1910, this pattern changed and Auburn Avenue became the center of Atlanta's Black business and professional community. The residential stretch, part of which is included within the Historical District, began to be settled by unskilled laborers and middle class Blacks; it was not a ghetto.

Between 1895 and 1930 several contractors were active in building construction in the area. Alexander Hamilton, a Black with his own construction company, built more structures in the area than any other contractor. Some of his buildings along Howell Street are still standing. In fact, the Hamilton Homeplace on Howell Street is still occupied by Hamilton's sister. Hamilton was the father-in-law of Grace Towns Hamilton, one of Atlanta's

(continued)

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atlanta Fire Department, Interview with Firemen's Historian, January 1973.
 Atlanta Historical Society, Files and Research.
 City of Atlanta, Planning Department, Planning Files and Research
 Garrett, Franklin, Director, Atlanta Historical Society, Interview, January 1973, Atlanta and Environs, Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1954.
 Lyon, Elizabeth A., Consultant, and Student Research, Emory University.
 Macgregor, Elizabeth, Personal Inspections, Spring 1973 and Spring 1974.
 "Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Atlanta," Silver Jubilee Edition, 1937.
 Summers, Carole A., Personal Inspection, Spring 1973
 (Continued)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

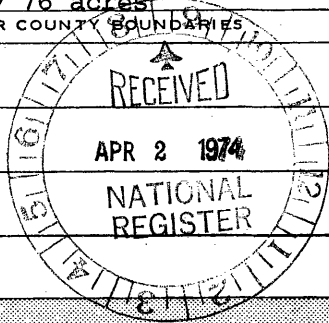
LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	33° 45' 27"	84° 22' 28"				
NE	33° 45' 27"	84° 22' 05"				
SE	33° 45' 15"	84° 22' 05"				
SW	33° 45' 15"	84° 22' 28"				

NO UTM
 CX

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: approximately 76 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian
 Carole A. Summers, Coordinator, Historic Sites Survey

ORGANIZATION: Historic Preservation Section, Dept. Natural Resources DATE: March 25, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER:
270 Washington Street, S.W. Room 703C

CITY OR TOWN: Atlanta STATE: Georgia CODE: 13

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name Mary G. Jewett

Title State Historic Preservation Officer

Date March 27, 1974

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

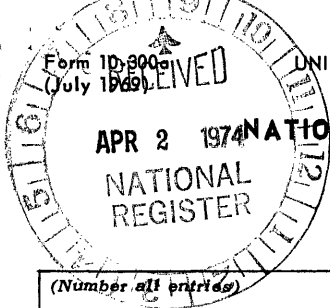
ARW...
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date 5/2/74

ATTEST:

Ken...
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 5.1.74



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leaders in the Black community and a member of the State Legislature.

In 1917 a disastrous fire north of Auburn Avenue contributed to the growing migration of Blacks to West Atlanta, where land was more available and where a Black college community had been established. The Auburn Avenue business and residential area continued as one center of Black life in Atlanta. Today it is a mixed residential, institutional and commercial area immediately east of Atlanta's central business district. The Martin Luther King, Jr., Historical District, as a part of this area, could be affected by business expansion but with adequate city planning and awareness could make a significant contribution to city community life.

In 1909, Rev. Adam D. Williams, the grandfather of Dr. King, Jr., was probably the first Black to purchase a house along that section of Auburn Avenue. Dr. King, living with his mother, Alberta Williams King, and his father, Martin Luther King, Sr., undoubtedly was influenced by the activities within this area. The surrounding historical sites represent some of those influences of his early development

Ebenezer Baptist Church was founded in 1886 by Rev. John Parker who served as pastor until his death in 1894. Rev. Adam D. Williams succeeded and it was under his pastorship that the present structure was completed in 1922. Dr. Martin Luther King, Sr., Williams' son-in-law, assumed the duties of pastor in 1932 and still serves. In 1960 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. became co-pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church and served in that capacity until his death in 1968.

The grave site of Dr. King, Jr., is located on property adjacent to the Church. Its simplicity, with its now familiar inscription, "Free at last, free at last, thank God Almighty, I'm free at last" is a popular site for city visitors and followers of the Civil Rights movement.

The birthplace of Dr. King was built in 1895 in the Queen Anne style. The original occupant and probable owner was a white family named Holbrook. The first Black owner and occupant was the Rev. Adam D. Williams, pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. Williams acquired the property by purchase in 1909. Dr. King was born in an upstairs middle room January 15, 1929, and lived there until 1941. The birthplace will be restored by the Martin Luther King Center and opened as a house museum.

Row houses-two family dwellings built in 1920 are typical of property rented by Blacks during this period. They are located across the street from the birthplace.

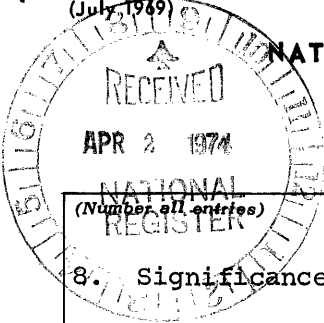
A group of houses across the street from the birthplace was originally built as two-story single family dwellings in the 1880's in a simple Victorian

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style the same as King's birthplace. Numerous other structures along Hogue, Howell and Bradley Streets are simple one and two story frame structures with characteristics of the Victorian and Neo-Classical styles. At 102 Howell Street, N.E., is the house of the prominent Black contractor, Alexander D. Hamilton, II. The building company of Alexander Hamilton and Son started by Hamilton, II's father, was a well known building contractor, building houses mostly for affluent Whites during the early 1900's. Hamilton, II built his own house at 102 Howell Street, originally as a single story structure in the 1880's; in 1901 the second story and front was re-built with its present neo-classical details. Among the other buildings built by Hamilton, II, were office buildings, Butler Street YMCA, and Auburn Avenue Masonic Temple - the building which was later used as the National Headquarters for SCLC and the office of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Bryant Preparatory Institute was founded in 1913 by Mrs. Sylvia C. Jenkins Bryant under the sponsorship of the Atlanta Missionary Baptist Association. It provided educational opportunities for Blacks at kindergarten, elementary and high school levels. In 1916 Charles M. Clayton assumed leadership of the Institute and organized the first night school for Blacks in the city. It was also popular with local Black ministers who enrolled in specialized courses. The Institute operated until 1934 when its functions were replaced by the Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta's first public high school for Blacks. The site of the wooden classroom buildings and living quarters has been utilized by apartment buildings.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Colored Mission was constructed in 1912 as a three-story combination church, school and Catholic Hall. It was named the Archbishop Ryan Memorial and was the second such mission for Black Catholics in Georgia and the first Black mission in Atlanta. The founder and first pastor was Reverend Father I. Lissner. The backyard of the Mission is adjacent to the King birthplace.

Fire Station Number 6 was constructed May 31, 1894. It was one of the original eight fire houses in Atlanta and was situated to protect the eastern section of the city. It is located on the corner, two doors from where Martin Luther King, Jr., grew up as a child. The Fire Station still operates as such.

Soon after his death, the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Social Change was created as a tribute to Dr. King's work and more importantly as a living, permanent program to continue the causes of civil rights and social justice. The location of the Center was purposely selected within the neighborhood where King lived, worked and is now buried in order to provide an impetus for the preservation of those places associated with his life and work and to provide an appropriate environment for the ongoing implementation of King's philosophies. The Center, founded and directed by Dr. King's family and

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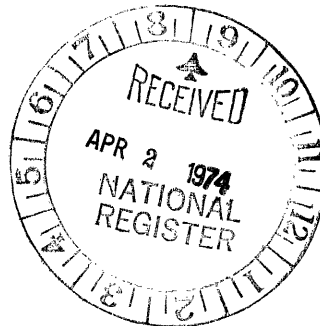
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close advisors, and the City of Atlanta are cooperating in the revitalization of the neighborhood. Offices for the Center will be built adjacent to King's burial site and will be designed in keeping with the surrounding architecture and environment. Plans for restoration of the birthplace are currently underway; it will be restored and furnished as a house museum typical of the period when King, as a child, lived here. Across from the Church and Burial Site, property which is included within this nomination will be developed as a memorial park and community center, again in keeping with environment and complementing existing facilities.

The Atlanta Civic Design Commission recommended the Martin Luther King Historical District as well as many other Atlanta sites to the Board of Aldermen as outstanding landmarks which must be preserved. The Aldermen have recently approved this proposal, which in itself is a major milestone in Georgia's preservation movement. Inclusion of the District on the National Register will give nationwide recognition to this area and honor one of Georgia's and the nation's important historical figures.



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Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District

Map References

1. Ebenezer Baptist Church
2. Martin Luther King Grave Site
3. Marting Luther King Birthplace
4. Shotgun-Row Houses
5. Victorian Houses
6. Alexander Hamilton House
7. Atlanta Baptist Preparatory Institute Site
8. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Colored Mission
9. Fire Station #6
10. Triangle Building

