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Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park
Georgia

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Cultural Landscape Report



Cultural Resources, Partnerships and Science Division

Southeast Region

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Atlanta, Georgia

Cultural Landscape Report

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About the front cover: View of the Auburn Avenue, NE, looking northwest, September 2016.

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Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Atlanta, Georgia

Cultural Landscape Report

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Foreword

We are pleased to make available this cultural landscape report, part of our ongoing effort to provide comprehensive documentation for the landscapes and historic structures of National Park Service units in the Southeast Region. A number of individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. We would particularly like to thank the staff at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park for their assistance throughout the process. We hope this study will be a useful tool for park management in continuing efforts to preserve the cultural landscape and to others interested in the significance of the park's many cultural resources.

Barbara Judy, Branch Chief
Cultural Resources Planning and Stewardship
Southeast Regional Office
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Introduction

Management Summary

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a leader of the American civil rights movement, is known for his work on equal rights and for his philosophy of nonviolent social change. In 1964, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and became the second African American to receive this honor. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park commemorates King's lifetime achievements. The park preserves the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home and the immediate historic neighborhood where King spent his youth. The larger "Sweet Auburn" community served as the economic, cultural, and religious center for Atlanta's segregated black population from 1910 through the 1960s and greatly influenced King throughout his life.[1]

On October 10, 1980, the US Congress established Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (Figure 1) (prior to its redesignation) and the Martin Luther King, Jr. Preservation District in Atlanta, Georgia, "in order to protect and interpret for the benefit, inspiration, and education of present and future generations, the places where Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, where he lived, worked, worshipped, and is buried (Public Law 96-428)."[2] On January 4, 2017, Representative John Lewis (D-GA-5) sponsored a bill in the 115th Congress entitled HR – Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017. The bill went through the House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee and the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee. On January 8, 2018 the bill became Public Law 115-108, redesignating the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site as the "Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park." The bill replaced the existing boundary map with a map of a proposed boundary revision dated June 2015, that included Prince Hall Masonic Building which serves as the office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC).



FIGURE 1. One of several park identification signs is located on the Peace Plaza between the National Park Service Visitor Center and the King Center. Signs welcome visitors to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, prior to its redesignation. (All photographs by the authors unless otherwise indicated.)

Approximately 700,000 to more than one million national and international visitors come annually to Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park to learn about the life experiences and the

1. National Park Service, *Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Foundation Document* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, 2017), 3.
2. Ibid.

significance of one of the most influential men of the twentieth century.[3]

The National Historical Park includes:

- The house at 501 Auburn Avenue (the Birth Home): this building is where Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, to Reverend Martin Luther King Sr. and Mrs. Alberta Christine Williams King. Dr. King lived at this house until age twelve with his sister, Willie Christine, and brother, Alfred Daniel ("A.D."). Ownership of the Birth Home was transferred to the National Park Service (NPS) following its purchase by the National Park Foundation in November 2018 (Figure 2).

- Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Dr. King's spiritual home: this church is where he preached his first sermon at the age of 17 and where he co-pastored with his father from 1960 to 1968.

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. is commonly referred to as "The King Center." This organization is currently managed by direct descendants of Dr. King and Mrs. Coretta Scott King to promote the life and legacy of Martin Luther King Jr.

- The Birth Home block: this area includes portions of the historically African American "Sweet Auburn" residential community, which was, by law, a racially segregated community during Dr. King's childhood.

- Historic Fire Station No. 6: white firefighters operated here within the predominantly African American "Sweet Auburn" community. It was one of the first racially integrated fire stations in Atlanta.

- Prince Hall Masonic Building: this building is located at 332–334 Auburn Avenue (the Tabor Building is adjacent). Completed in 1941, it served as headquarters for the national office of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.



FIGURE 2. The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home and adjacent park bookstore are located within the "Sweet Auburn" neighborhood. Interpretive wayside exhibits provide information to visitors and the home is open for interpretive tours.

Related resources which are part of the broader context of the park include:

- The house at 234 Sunset Avenue (the Life Home): Dr. King moved his young family into this modest brick home in 1965, a year after he won the Nobel Peace Prize. The property belonged to the estate of Coretta Scott King and was purchased by the National Park Foundation on January 8, 2019. Ownership of the property was immediately transferred to the National Park Service.[4]

- The Preservation District: the district links Dr. King's career to the African American businesses and the religious, social, and political organizations that flourished along Auburn and Edgewood avenues prior to and during Dr. King's lifetime.

3. Ibid.

4. National Park Foundation. "The National Park Foundation Brings Iconic Civil Rights Site Home to National Parks," accessed February 25, 2019, https://www.nationalparks.org/about/pressroom/press-releases/national-park-foundation-brings-iconic-civil-rights-site-home.

Purpose of the Project

Over time, the cultural landscape of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park has evolved in response to growth and changes in land use within the urban context of Atlanta, expanded visitation numbers and visitor experiences, and management and maintenance practices. The National Park Service currently seeks to address several complex issues and questions about the most appropriate way to document, manage, and maintain the cultural landscape of the park. In order to support informed planning and guidance in decision making for protecting, maintaining, and interpreting the historic resources of this significant property, the NPS engaged Panamerican Consultants, Inc. (Panamerican) and its subconsultants, Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. (CHG), Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. (WJE), and Liz Sargent HLA, to prepare a Cultural Landscape Report (CLR) for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

The purpose of this project is to expand the scope of work covered in the 1995 Birth Home block CLR to include additional areas within the current National Historical Park boundary. Additional areas and features in this CLR are: Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary; Fire Station No.6; NPS Visitor Center and associated parking, promenade, Civil Rights Walk of Fame, Dreamer's Park, and Peace Plaza; and the commercial corridor of Edgewood Avenue. These features currently do not have cultural landscape documentation. The CLR also includes the Birth Home block and will update the documentation and findings from the 1995 CLR. The cultural landscape remains a critical component of the Birth Home block where Dr. King was born and lived until the age of twelve. Both the Birth Home and the Birth Home block cultural landscapes are included as Fundamental Resources and Values in the *Foundation Document* (2017).

The park manages 32 historic structures, most of which were built between 1890 and 1910. Associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017 is the addition of Prince Hall Masonic Building to the list of structures to be managed by the National Historical Park. Additional significant intact historic features include structures, spatial organization, circulation patterns, land use, views, vegetation, and small-scale features.

A number of existing planning and management documents identify issues that influenced the project and served as references throughout the planning process for this CLR. Documents include:

- The 1986 *Martin Luther King, Jr. General Management Plan/Development Concept Plan/Environmental Assessment* (GMP) was updated and amended in June 1994 to address the large increases in annual visitation and the lack of adequate facilities to serve park visitors and to provide for basic park operations.
- The 1994 *Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site Historic Resource Study* established and documented historic contexts associated with the site and evaluates the extent to which the historic resources represent those contexts.
- The 1995 *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report: Birth-Home Block* provided recommendations for appropriate landscape management in order to protect extant historic landscape features and enhance the visitors understanding of the period setting of the Birth Home block.
- The 2006–2011 *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Strategic Plan* provided broad guidance over a five-year period and established measurable performance objectives for all aspects of park operations.
- The 2011 *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan* is a visionary and pragmatic document that outlined cost-effective recommendations to guide the planning and delivery of the park visitor experience and to assist with resource preservation for the next decade.

- The 2017 *Foundation Document for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site* provides the definitive statement of the significance of the park and its fundamental resources and values. In addition it provides an assessment of planning and data needs for each resource.

Some of the issues identified by the NPS for consideration as part of this CLR project include:

- Compliance with Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS);
- Issues of vandalism;
- Program of residential leasing;
- Conflict of pedestrian and vehicular circulation;
- Implementation of Birth Home block treatment recommendations from the 1995 CLR;
- Provision for more historic utilities, such as period streetlights;
- Evolution of historic vegetation in small yards;
- Additional research and documentation of the Birth Home block cultural landscape; and
- Expansion of scope to include areas not covered in the 1995 CLR.

An update to the Historic Structure Report (HSR) for 501 Auburn Avenue (i.e., Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home) was started in Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 (PMIS 231731), as was a condition assessment (PMIS 234427) and replacement of the lift (PMIS 234013). The final HSR for 501 Auburn Avenue (Birth Home) is scheduled for completion in fall of 2019. Draft (90 percent) findings were incorporated into the analysis and treatment sections of this CLR.

Description of Study Boundaries

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is located in the City of Atlanta, which lies in north central Georgia (Figure 3). Atlanta began as a small town named Terminus that developed around the junction of the Southern Railway and the Western & Atlantic Railroad. Developed on land ceded by the Creek Indians to the federal government on January 8, 1821, the early settlement was an industrial "boom town" with some 100 inhabitants.[5]



FIGURE 3. The location of the City of Atlanta in north central Georgia.

The town was renamed Marthasville on December 23, 1843. The name was officially changed to Atlanta on December 26, 1845. On December 29, 1847, local officials expanded the Atlanta city limits to include one mile in every direction from the zero milepost of the Western & Atlantic Railroad to incorporate the surrounding territory. City officials again expanded the Atlanta city limits from one concentric mile in the 1840s to one-and-

5. Alexa Henderson and Eugene Walker, *Sweet Auburn: The Thriving Hub of Black Atlanta* (Atlanta: US Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1983), 3.

one-half concentric miles in the 1890s. They expanded the city limits later to a two-mile radius after 1899.

By 1848, Atlanta's population numbered about five hundred people, with a majority of those residents associated with the railroad. On December 20, 1853, the state legislature created Fulton County and established Atlanta as the county seat. The city adopted a plan laying out the city into five wards on January 9, 1854.[6]

The National Historical Park is located within the historic Old Fourth Ward developed in the late 1800s. This historically mixed-use neighborhood is situated 1.25 miles east of Atlanta's business district (Figure 4). By the 1900s, the area became an important social, economic, and cultural center for Atlanta's African American community. A large number of historically significant civic, religious, and business institutions located themselves in Old Fourth Ward, in particular in the area around Auburn Avenue, historically known as "Sweet Auburn."[7]

6. Ibid.
7. Robert Blythe, Maureen A. Carroll, and Steven H. Moffson, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, *National Register Documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site*, certified by the Keeper of the National Register on May 4, 1994 (National Archives identifier 93208246), 91.

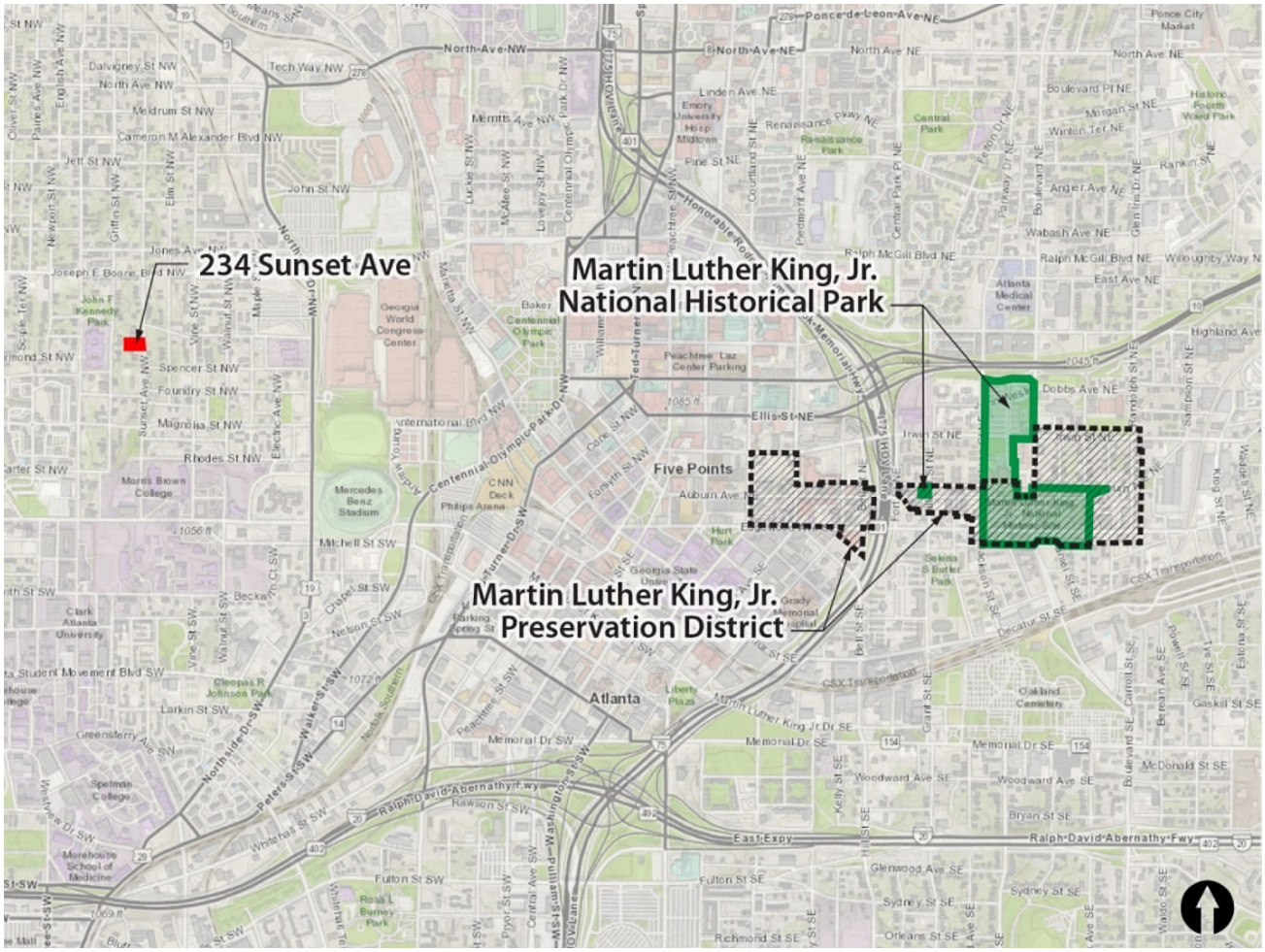


FIGURE 4. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is located east of the central business district of Atlanta. The property at 234 Sunset Avenue recently purchased by the NPS is also part of the National Historical Park. (Base Layer Source: Fulton County GIS, NAIP 2010 [aerial imagery])

National Historical Park Boundary

The original boundary, reflecting the 1980 legislation (Public Law 96-428), was defined by Jackson Street on the west, Old Wheat Street on the north, Howell Street on the east, and rear property lines on the south side of Edgewood Avenue. The non-contiguous Sunset Avenue property was also included in the original boundary. The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, enacted October 30, 1992, expanded the park boundaries to include properties lying between Jackson Street and Boulevard north to Cain Street.[8]

After the addition of 1.86 acres to the National Historical Park boundary expansion, the total acreage of the park comprised 38.38 acres, 13.08 of which are federally owned. On January 8, 2018, the *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act* added Prince Hall Masonic Building and parcel into the park boundary (Figure 5).

8. Ibid., Section 7-1.



FIGURE 5. The 2015 Proposed Boundary Revision Map referenced in the "2018 Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act" illustrates the boundary expansion to include Prince Hall Masonic Temple.

Study Area Boundary

The cultural landscape report Study Area boundary is a subset of the National Historical Park boundary. Parcels that are part of the National Historical Park, but not in this CLR Study Area include:

- The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. ("The King Center")
- EBC Horizon Sanctuary on Jackson Street
- Prince Hall Masonic Building
- 234 Sunset Avenue
- Office Building at intersection of Irwin and Boulevard
- Freedom Parkway Trailhead
- Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. ("The King Center") was not in the scope of work for this CLR. Prince Hall and 234 Sunset will have stand alone CLR documents in the future.

The Study Area is bounded to the north by Cain Street, to the south by Chamberlain Street, to the west by Jackson Street, and to the east by Boulevard and Howell Street (Figure 6).

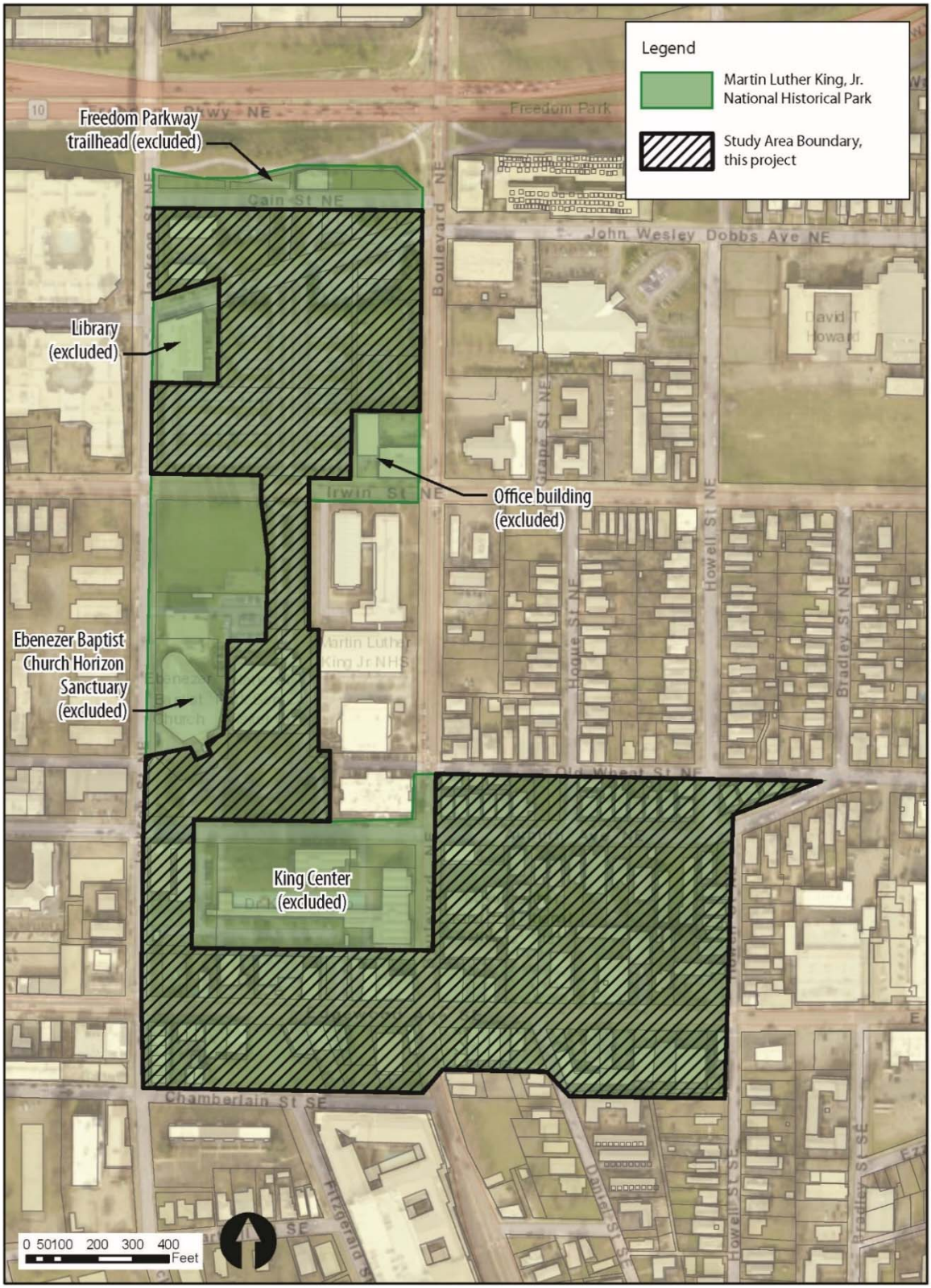


FIGURE 6. Study Area Boundary contains the NPS Visitor Center and Maintenance buildings, the Peace Plaza, the Promenade, Dreamer's Park, Civil Rights Walk of Fame, the Birth Home block, the Birth Home, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Fire Station #6, and the commercial corridor of Edgewood Avenue from Jackson Street to Howell Street. The Ebenezer Baptist Church Horizon Santuary, King Center, library, office building, and Freedom Parkway Trailhead (indicated with arrows) are excluded from the study area for this project; Freedom Parkway is outside of the study area and the park boundary. (Base Layer Source: Fulton County GIS, NAIP 2010 [aerial imagery])

Historical Summary

The National Historical Park is located in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood on the east side of the City of Atlanta (refer to Figure 4). The neighborhood comprises commercial, residential, and religious buildings associated with Atlanta's African American community dating from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century. At the time of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth in January 1929, Auburn Avenue was a thriving center of African American commercial, social, religious, and political activity. Located on the section of Auburn Avenue NE between Boulevard NE and Howell Street NE, the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home stands at 501 Auburn Avenue.

By 1870, the city extended Wheat Street (now Auburn Avenue) from downtown Atlanta farther east through what is now the National Historical Park, to Randolph Street. Auburn Avenue and the surrounding area developed slowly until 1880 when John Lynch began subdividing his large landholdings, which encompassed property on both sides of Auburn Avenue between Jackson and Howland (now Howell) streets. Expansion and improvement of Atlanta's transportation infrastructure in the late nineteenth century contributed to the commercial and residential development of the Auburn Avenue community.In the period spanning the 1850s to 1906, Auburn Avenue developed as a primarily white residential and business district, inclusive of a notable African American minority. By 1880, the Auburn Avenue community was a mixed area with a nearly equal number of blacks and whites. Working-class laborers lived in proximity to wealthier upper- and middle-class residents. Auburn Avenue reflected the changing nature of southern race relations during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. During the years following the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, close to nearly all black-owned businesses vacated downtown Atlanta as African American businesses were forced to leave the downtown central business district due to rising rents and increased hostility. From 1910 to 1930, Auburn Avenue became the center of African American business, institutional, religious, and social life.

In 1909, A.D. Williams, Martin Luther King Jr.'s grandfather, purchased the residence at 501 Auburn Avenue for $3,500. While living with his parents in the Auburn Avenue neighborhood during his formative years, the young King was influenced by activities within the community. He came of age in an environment that exposed him to the richness as well as the poverty of black community life. Martin Luther King Jr. lived in the Birth Home until 1941, when his family moved three blocks away to 193 Boulevard near Houston Street. He delivered his first sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the fall of 1947. On June 18, 1953, he married Coretta Scott at the Scott home in Marion, Alabama. In September of the following year, the couple relocated from Atlanta to Montgomery, Alabama, where King became the minister of the Second Colored Baptist Church (now Dexter Avenue Baptist Church).

Dr. King traveled to Atlanta in 1957 to help establish the SCLC on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration. The King family moved to Atlanta three years later so King could dedicate more of his time to the SCLC and the freedom struggle. He returned to Ebenezer Baptist Church to join his father, "Daddy" King, as co-pastor. In the early 1960s, King worked and lived in his childhood neighborhood. In 1965, one year after winning the Nobel Peace Prize, King moved his family to 234 Sunset Avenue. The house was in Vine City, once a middle-class, predominately black neighborhood. In 2011, the City of Atlanta created the Sunset Avenue Historic District. The house, which is part of the district, currently belongs to the National Park Service.

Dr. King led the modern American civil rights movement for less than thirteen years, a period spanning December 1955 to April 4, 1968. When King moved his base of operations to Atlanta in 1960, he initiated the next phase of a nonviolent movement to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. From their office on Auburn Avenue, the SCLC and King worked tirelessly to support and organize the efforts of the civil rights movement. After the assassination of Dr. King, Coretta Scott King opened the Martin

Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Project Scope and Methodology

As discussed in the National Park Service document, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*,

> The CLR serves two important functions: it is the principal treatment document for cultural landscapes and the primary tool for long-term management of those landscapes. A CLR guides management and treatment decisions about a landscape's physical attributes, biotic systems, and use when that use contributes to historic significance.
>
> A CLR must establish preservation goals for a cultural landscape. The goals must be grounded in research, inventory, documentation, and analysis and evaluation of a landscape's characteristics and associated features. The content of a CLR provides the basis for making sound decisions about management, treatment, and use. Information about the historical development, significance, and existing character of a cultural landscape is also valuable for enhancing interpretation and maintenance.

The consultant team was provided with a detailed statement of work for this CLR by the National Park Service. The primary objectives for the CLR as noted in the statement of work were to:

1. Document the historical development of the park's cultural landscape, determining how the landscape has changed over time, and the origin of existing landscape features. A variety of sources were available to assemble the historical documentary information including historic maps, photographs, correspondence, property records, and miscellaneous narrative materials.

2. Evaluate the cultural landscape, determining how it contributes to the park's historical significance. The team was to develop narrative and graphic depictions of the landscape through identified historic periods, including current conditions, and compare the findings from the site history and existing conditions to identify features that contribute to the significance of the property.

3. Provide treatment recommendations that enable the park to better manage its cultural landscape. The National Park Service sought guidance for park management and maintenance staff to help manage the cultural landscape and provide a preservation maintenance guide to help with treatment of the landscape.

The CLR for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park includes a site physical history of the park landscape; existing conditions documentation of extant historic, natural, and cultural resources; comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions, with a National Register-level significance evaluation and an integrity assessment; and a treatment plan that considers long-term management of the historic landscape to protect its historic resources while accommodating visitor access, interpretation, and maintenance.

Project Methodology

The information conveyed herein is consistent with the guidance provided in federal documents, such as *Preservation Brief 36: Protecting Cultural Landscapes: Planning, Treatment and Management of Historic Landscapes*; *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports*; the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*; and *Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management*.

Additional guidance documents consulted in preparation of the CLR for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park include:

- NPS Director's Order 10A: *Design and Construction Drawings*
- NPS Director's Order 12: *Environmental Impact Analysis*
- NPS Director's Order 77: *Reference Manual 77: Natural Resource Management*

- *NPS Guiding Principles of Sustainable Design*
- National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*
- National Register Bulletin: *How to Evaluate and Nominate Designed Historic Landscapes*
- NPS-SER-82: *Biotic Cultural Resources: Management Considerations for Historic Districts in the National Park System, Southeast Region*
- National Register Bulletin*: Telling the Stories: Planning Effective Interpretive Programs for Properties Listed in the National Register of Historic Places*
- *Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ABAAS) and Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG)*

In addition, the methodology used by the project team members in preparing each component of this study is described in detail below.

Background Research and Data Collection. Prior to visiting the site in August 2017, CLR team members began to collect documents and other materials pertinent to the project and site. These included the NPS List of Classified Structures for park resources, secondary sources addressing the history of the site and region, and information available from the NPS Denver Service Center Technical Information Center. In preparation for field investigations, project personnel requested Geographic Information Systems (GIS) files from the park and the NPS Southeast Regional Office to use in developing base maps for field investigations. The GIS files were utilized to generate a draft field map for the site visit.

Start-up Meeting. During the week of August 1, 2017, project team members from Panamerican, CHG, and WJE visited the site to conduct research and field investigations and to meet with park and regional National Park Service personnel. Those participating in the site visit included:

NPS Southeast Regional Office (SERO)

- Susan Hitchcock, Contracting Officer's Technical Representative and Historical Landscape Architect

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

- Judy Forte, Superintendent
- Elisa Kunz, Acting Deputy Superintendent
- Leah Berry, Museum Technician
- Rebecca Karcher, Chief of Interpretation

Panamerican Consultants, Inc.

- Kelly Nolte, Project Manager and Historian
- Christine Longiaru, Architectural Historian

Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc.

- Jane Jacobs, Historical Landscape Architect
- Christina Osborn, Historic Preservation Specialist

Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc.

- Deborah Slaton, Historian / Conservator
- Tim Penich, Architectural Historian

Additional members of the project team not present at the start-up meeting include Mark Steinback, Editor, and Don Smith, Archeologist, both of Panamerican, and Liz Sargent, Historical Landscape Architect of Liz Sargent HLA. At the meeting, the project team discussed the following:

- Goals and objectives of the project
- CLR purpose, process and primary scope elements
- Study area boundaries and historic structures
- Research resources
- Ongoing future construction projects and interpretive efforts
- Park management procedures and challenges, and
- National Park Service issues of concern

The meeting was followed by field work in what was then the National Historic Site.

Base Mapping. An AutoCAD base map of the park was developed by the CLR team by compiling information available from National Park Service GIS mapping, aerial photography, site plans, and field investigations. The GIS information also was used in conjunction with the AutoCAD map to generate diagrams and other report graphics in AutoCAD and Adobe Illustrator.

Field Investigations. During the period between August 1 and 3, 2017, project team members conducted field investigations of the property, while also visiting other units of the National Historic Site. Over the course of the three-day fieldwork endeavor, team members systematically documented the urban landscape of the park. Team members photographed primary and representative landscape features, both cultural and natural, and annotated copies of base mapping with observations about materials, the conditions of resources, and information that was missing from or not accurately represented on the draft field maps. The location and orientation of photographs were noted on the field maps. Where the available mapping was lacking in detail, team members prepared sketch maps of landscape features that were later used to enhance the electronic files.

Site Physical History. The physical history section for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park consists of a narrative chronological description of the landscape and its evolution over time that is supported by graphics such as historic maps, plans, and photographs. The narrative text is based on research of primary and secondary sources and other available historical documentation. It provides sufficient supporting material to illustrate the physical character, attributes, features, and materials that contribute to the significance of the landscape over the course of its history. This section introduces the historical contexts and periods of significance associated with the landscape. Each significant period of development or change is illustrated with historic plans and photographs. A period plan for each significant historic period is included with the associated section of the narrative.

Historic Period Plan Preparation. Historic period plans of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park were prepared to represent the site during phases of its evolution to the present. The team developed the historic period plans through comparison of historic mapping sources with existing conditions information; preparation of the existing conditions base map thus preceded work on the period plan. The project team then reviewed historic photographs and written descriptions of the landscape found in the research materials collected for the project to create the period plans, each representing key snapshot moments in the history of the site for each historic period identified in the site physical history. Available secondary sources also were used to corroborate information and to generate queries for primary sources. Secondary sources were typically evaluated for their credibility and utilized with caution.

Existing Conditions. The existing conditions documentation section includes a narrative description of the extant landscape as composed of individual resources and systems. The descriptions are organized into a series of landscape characteristics, such as land use, vegetation, circulation, buildings and structures, and small-scale features. The documentation is based on both research and field investigations. Contemporary site functions, visitor services, and natural resources are described to the extent that they contribute to or influence treatment decisions. Narrative text is illustrated with contemporary photographs of existing features and a labeled site plan. Character areas, which are geographic units formed around assemblages of similar resources and landscape characteristics with a cohesive sense of place, are identified and used to organize information.

The existing conditions inventory serves as a checklist to ensure that each feature is addressed consistently throughout the report. The documentation also provides condition assessment information. Feature condition

assessments were made using the categories suggested by the *Cultural Landscapes Inventory Professional Procedures Guide*.

Evaluation of Significance. A 1994 and 2001 National Register Nomination for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site served as the preliminary basis for evaluating site significance. This information, as well as the National Register criteria for evaluation as discussed in the National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, were taken into consideration in developing the evaluation of significance presented herein.

Comparative Analysis of Historic and Existing Conditions. To better understand the relationship between the existing Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park urban landscape and the character of the site during the identified period of significance, the project team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing cultural landscape conditions. The analysis focused on extant features and their dates of origin. The three primary goals of the comparative analysis were to:

- Understand which features survive from the period of significance
- Establish the basis for an integrity assessment
- Provide an understanding of the similarities and differences between historic and existing conditions that would contribute to the development of a well-grounded treatment plan for the cultural landscape.

Identification of Contributing and Non-Contributing Resources. Through the development of the comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions, contributing, non-contributing, and missing features were identified. Contributing features are those surviving from the period of significance; non-contributing features are those that originated after the period of significance; and missing features are those that are known or thought to have existed on the site during previous periods but that are no longer evident except possibly in the archeological record. Conjectural information was indicated as such within the lists.

Assessment of Integrity. The CLR summarizes the park's overall integrity as well as its integrity in accordance with the seven aspects—location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association—described in the National Register Bulletin: *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*.

Treatment Plan. Work on the treatment plan proceeded from the guidance afforded by the list of issues and project goals, needs, and objectives discussed during the project start-up meeting. The collective list of goals, needs, and objectives provided by NPS regional and park personnel for consideration in this CLR is documented in the treatment plan chapter of this document and is addressed in its guidelines and recommendations.

The treatment plan is also based on the findings of each of the chapters represented in the CLR. Site analysis and the National Register-level significance evaluation suggested an overarching treatment approach to support preservation and enhancement of the park's historic urban landscape character, as well as its interpretation. After identifying the treatment approach for the project, the team prepared a treatment concept narrative intended to guide the development of treatment guidelines and recommendations. The subsequent guidelines and recommendations respond to each of the National Park Service's management issues and concerns conveyed during project meetings and in the scope of work, the CLR condition assessments of site resources, and the results of the comparative analysis and integrity evaluations.

Appendices and Bibliography. Appendices contain drawings, illustrations, maps, technical information, or other supplemental support documentation for the CLR. The bibliography lists the sources used in the preparation of the document.

Summary of Findings

Significance

The findings of this study concur with prior National Register documentation. As noted in the 1994 documentation, the historic district is significant under Criteria A, B, and C, and Criteria Considerations A, C, and G. Areas of significance cited in the 1994 documentation include Ethnic Heritage, black; Social History; Commerce; and Architecture.

Per Criterion A, properties "that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," the historic district is nationally significant for its association with the development of the civil rights movement in the United States. The historic district is also locally significant under Criterion A as part of the Sweet Auburn and Auburn Avenue African American community. Specific properties, including Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, are also locally significant as important institutions within this community. In addition, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary is nationally significant as the site of numerous civil rights movement conferences and meetings.

Per Criterion B, properties "that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past," the historic district is nationally significant as the birthplace and boyhood home of Martin Luther King Jr. The Birth Home, where Dr. King grew up, is nationally significant, and the Birth Home block and neighborhood, where Dr. King spent his early years, are contributing resources under this Criterion. The historic district is also significant under Criterion B for Dr. King's work in his adult life as leader in the civil rights movement. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary is nationally significant as a place where Dr. King spent much of his youth and later served as co-pastor, and which informed his nonviolent opposition to racial discrimination.

Criterion C, properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction," pertains to the late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century cultural landscape and resources of the historic district. The residential and commercial structures and their setting represent the evolution of Auburn Avenue and the Sweet Auburn neighborhood as a largely self-contained African American community. Many of the residential and commercial buildings are locally significant for their architecture; these resources survive with sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations to the community that existed throughout the evolution of the Auburn Avenue neighborhood and during Dr. King's lifetime. Several of the residences are also locally significant for their association with individuals who played important roles in the development of Atlanta and the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, while Fire Station No. 6 is of also historic interest as part of the development of the neighborhood as well as in the history of firefighting in Atlanta.

Criteria Consideration A, "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance," pertains to Ebenezer Baptist Church. The church was an important institution in the Auburn Avenue community, and influential in Dr. King's youth as well as his career as a civil rights leader. Ebenezer Baptist Church was also important in the history of the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Per Criteria Consideration C, "a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life," The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home is considered nationally significant as the site of Dr. King's birth and early years. In future, consideration may be given to assessment of the King grave site, which is outside of the current study area, as potentially contributing to the historic district.

Criteria Consideration G, "a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance," was applicable at the time the 1994 National Register documentation

was prepared. At that time, some of the contributing resources of the historic district were not yet fifty years old.

The recently enacted Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017 modifies the boundaries of the park to include the Prince Hall Masonic Temple on Auburn Avenue, where the SCLC established its initial headquarters in 1957, noting the importance of the historic civil rights organization for which Dr. King served as co-founder and first president.[9] Although not specifically addressed as part of the current study, the Prince Hall Masonic Temple is considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

Treatment

Based on the goals for the park indicated in the 1994 GMP Amendment, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park CLR scope of work, and the park's identified list of issues and concerns, which all identify the need for changes to the cultural landscape to meet current and projected future interpretive, functional, and management goals, **rehabilitation** is recommended by the CLR as the most appropriate overarching treatment approach for the park. Because rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property, this approach allows for protection of historic character and resources while carefully addressing the need for limited enhancement of interpretive opportunities and circulation routes, sustainability, expanded access for all visitors to more of the park resources, and the improvement of visitor amenities. As part of rehabilitation treatment, stabilization, protection, and preservation of historic and natural resources are assumed even when new uses are accommodated. The preservation of all surviving historic features as part of the rehabilitation approach is particularly important to the future of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park where so few cultural landscape elements survive today. This treatment standard has already been adopted for the historic structures in the Auburn Avenue character area.

For the park as a whole, the CLR recommends that all historic features identified as contributing to the significance of the property be preserved. The CLR also provides guidance for improving various aspects of the visitor experience, such as the sense of arrival, orientation, gateways, entrances, and thresholds, identity and wayfinding signage, and the marking of routes visitors can follow in order to enjoy all aspects of the park's history. Streetscape elements designed to unify the park identity, which are outside of the control of the NPS, are recommended as ideas to discuss with the City of Atlanta through existing partnership agreements. The CLR also addresses the future of underutilized property on Edgewood Avenue is through provision of recommendations that suggest several alternatives for consideration by the NPS.

In addition to general park treatment recommendations, the CLR provides more specific recommendations for each of three management zones. The management zones are consistent with the three character areas identified in the CLR. For each, the CLR provides specific guidance regarding the preservation of historic character and integrity, and the ways in which change might occur to accommodate proposed new uses. The three management areas include 1) Visitor Services facilities; 2) Auburn Avenue; and 3) Edgewood Avenue.

General recommendations include:

9. *HR 267 - Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017.* The bill to redesignate the National Historic Site as a National Historical Park was introduced by Representative John Lewis of Georgia in January 2017. The National Park Service distinguishes between a National Historic Site, typically containing a single historical feature that is directly associated with its subject, and a National Historical Park, which generally applies to historic parks that extend beyond single properties or buildings. "Designations of National Park System Units," accessed March 1, 2019, https://home.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/ designations.htm.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage all contributing features of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

- Undertake an accessibility evaluation for the park. Use the evaluation as the basis for the design of a comprehensive accessibility plan for the park.

- Consider options for improving the accessibility and safety of the public sidewalks that connect the park's features. Evaluate the possibility of improving the sidewalks through a comprehensive repaving effort that addresses safety and accessibility deficiencies. Consider integrating a wayfinding element in the redesign of the sidewalk system that helps visitors locate the various features of the park.

- Improve identity and wayfinding features of the park. Consider each of the approach routes followed by park visitors, and identify all of the challenges associated with them. Where identity and wayfinding signs are not effective, redesign these features to improve their efficacy.

- Consider ways to guide visitors arriving by private vehicle to the parking area, the visitor center, Auburn Avenue residences and Fire Station No. 6, Ebenezer Baptist Church, and Edgewood Avenue in a logical sequence. For visitors arriving by trolley or bus, evaluate the location of the stop(s) where visitors disembark, and identify any concerns with those locations for discussion with the entities that run the services. From acceptable stop locations, consider how to improve wayfinding systems.

- Develop a comprehensive site furnishings and signage guide for park features. Base the guide on an evaluation of all existing signs and site furnishings.

- Develop a plan for addressing the site furnishings and signage needs of visitors. Limit the number of site furnishings and signs to the fewest needed to ensure the safety and comfort of visitors.

- Identify the key features within the park that are to be the focus of interpretation. Consider a suite of options for the media to be used to convey interpretive information, including wayside exhibits, printed brochures and pamphlets, temporary plaques mounted on walls, fences, stones, or other upright features, and virtual interpretation to be used in conjunction with hand-held personal devices such as cell phones and tablets. Limit the number of wayside exhibits used within historic areas of the park to the fewest needed to tell key stories that cannot be told in another way.

Recommendations for Further Study

- Based on research conducted for this study, consideration should be given to adjusting the start date for the period of significance for the cultural landscape that comprises the historic district of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

- Further research is recommended to determine the effects of the Civil War on this area of Atlanta, and the extent to which the existing cultural landscape reflects the period identified in prior National Register documentation (i.e., 1853), as well as the period immediately following the Civil War suggested by further archival research (circa 1870). The oldest buildings and structures within the historic district date to the 1880s; thus, additional research that is beyond the scope of this study could help to confirm the extent to which the existing cultural landscape reflects the character of the historic district circa 1870 and in the 1880s, or more broadly, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

- The current end date of 1968 for the period of significance reflects the national significance of the park for its association with the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. This date is also fifty-one years before the present (2019). In the future, consideration could be given to revising the end date of the period of

significance based on further evaluation of the continuing significance of primary contributing resources with the historic district, such as Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, and on the potential significance of newer resources, such as the King grave site and memorial constructed in 1976, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame (2004), the Promenade (1996), the "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden (1992–1993), the *"Behold"* Monument (1990), and the Gandhi sculpture (1998).

- In association with the recent NPS acquisition of the Birth Home at 501 Auburn Avenue and the Life Home at 234 Sunset Avenue, it is recommended that cultural landscape reports be developed for each property. The park is currently in the process of laying the groundwork for the completion of these two studies.

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Developmental History

Introduction

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is located in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood and the Old Fourth Ward on the east side of the City of Atlanta. The neighborhood comprises commercial, residential, and religious buildings associated with Atlanta's African American community dating from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth century. At the time of Dr. King's birth in January 1929, Auburn Avenue was a thriving center of African American commercial, social, religious, and political activity. The National Historical Park, as re-designated in January 2018, is an irregularly-shaped tract centered on Auburn Avenue and roughly bound by Jackson Street NE on the west, Cain Street NE to the north, Howell Street NE to the east, and Edgewood Avenue SE to the south. Two non-contiguous parcels on Auburn Avenue NE associated with Prince Hall Masonic Temple, the original home of the SCLC of which Dr. King was its first president, are included within the National Historical Park boundary. The National Historical Park also includes the last Atlanta home of Dr. King and his family on 234 Sunset Avenue. For this discussion on the National Historical Park's development history, the land contained within its boundaries is divided into four distinct areas: the Birth Home block; National Park Service Visitor's Center and Parking Lot; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, and the King Center block; and Edgewood Avenue Commercial Area (refer to Figures 5 and 6).

The Birth Home block contains resources in the National Historical Park historically associated with the childhood of Martin Luther King Jr. and the King family. Located on the section of Auburn Avenue NE between Boulevard and Howell Street, the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home stands at 501 Auburn Avenue. The NPS Visitor Center and Parking Lot is a tract of urban land, originally consisting of multiple parcels, purchased by the National Park Service in 1992 for the expansion of what was then the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site. This area is bound by Auburn Avenue to the south, Cain Street to the north, Boulevard to the east, Jackson Street to the west. Irwin Street bisects the NPS Visitor Center and Parking Lot, and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue runs through the northern end of the parcel. A one-block section of Old Wheat Street once extended east-west through the southern portion of the NPS Visitor Center parcel. There are several properties in this area that abut the perimeter of the National Historical Park and include the following: the Ebenezer Baptist Church Horizon Sanctuary at 101 Jackson Street; Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Complex at 101 Jackson Street; Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library at 409 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue; Legacy Transitional Care and Rehabilitation at 460 Auburn Avenue; the former natatorium site at 70 Boulevard, Hope-Hill Elementary School at 112 Boulevard; and the commercial buildings at 130 Boulevard and 454 Irwin Street.[10]

Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary and The King Center block occupy the south side of a one-block section of Auburn Avenue between Jackson Street, Boulevard, and Jackson Place.[11]

10. The National Historical Park is located in the northeast quadrant of the City of Atlanta, except for Edgewood Avenue SE and intersecting streets on the south side of Edgewood Avenue. The following historic context refers to street names without the quadrant extension.
11. The King Center at 449 Auburn Avenue is not a NPS unit. It is included in the developmental history discussion for its historic importance as the grave site of Dr. King and Coretta Scott King, as well as for its association with the

The church represents one of the major influences in Dr. King's life. To the south of Auburn Avenue, the National Historical Park also embraces a commercial corridor on Edgewood Avenue between Jackson Street and Howell Street. Properties along the south side of Edgewood Avenue in the CLR study area are mostly privately owned. The US government owns the following undeveloped parcels: 445, 455, and 461 Edgewood Avenue; 452 and 456 Chamberlain Street; and 15 Boulevard SE.[12]

Atlanta prior to European Settlement

Human occupation of southeastern North America began before 11,500 years before present (BP) during a time of lower global temperatures.[13] These early inhabitants, referred to as Paleoindians, were highly mobile and inhabited a landscape that was drier than today and covered with open deciduous forests of oak and hickory.[14] Their tools included stone knives, scrapers, and characteristic "fluted" projectile points, some of which were made of high-quality and frequently exotic materials.[15] For several millennia after the Paleoindian period (circa 11,500 to 2,600 BP), populations in the Southeast gradually rose and settlement became less mobile and increasingly concentrated in large river valleys, such as that along the Chattahoochee. People throughout the region started manufacturing clay vessels by 3,250 to 2,600 BP, while implements of bone, wood, and stone continued to be important.[16] Groups also participated in regional exchange (i.e., trade) networks that involved exotic items made from soapstone, hematite, shell, mica, and copper. Some of these practices culminated in the "Hopewell" phenomenon (2,100 to 1,450 BP) which included trade in exotic items, along with shared ideas related to the interment of deceased in burial mounds. In the years after Hopewell, people

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. The King Center serves as a hub for the approximately 38-acre park.

12. Parcel information obtained from Atlanta Department of City Planning GIS, "Atlanta Property Information," accessed January 18, 2018, http://gis.atlantaga.gov/propertyinfo/.
13. David G. Anderson and Kenneth E. Sassaman, "Early and Middle Holocene Periods, 9500 to 3750 B.C.," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 87; P. Gibbard and T. van Kolfschoten, "The Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs," in *A Geologic Time Scale 2004*, eds. F.M. Gradstein, James G. Ogg, and A. Gilbert Smith (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004); Jesse D. Jennings, "Origins," in *Ancient North Americans*, ed. Jesse D. Jennings (New York: W.H. Freeman and Company, 1983), 25-36; Dennis Stanford, "Paleo-Indian: Introduction," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 3, *Environment, Origins, and Population*, ed. Douglas H. Ubelaker (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2006), 16-22.
14. Michael Coe, Dean Snow, and Elizabeth Benson, *Atlas of Ancient North America* (New York: Facts on File, 1986), 32; Kristen J. Gremillion, "Environment," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 66; Bradley T. Lepper and Robert E. Funk, "Paleo-Indian: East," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 3, *Environment, Origins, and Population*, ed. Douglas H. Ubelaker (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2006), 171; Herbert E. Wright, Jr, "Climate and Biota of Eastern North America, in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 3, *Environment, Origins, and Population*, ed. Douglas H. Ubelaker (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2006), 108.
15. Lepper and Funk, 171-172; Jennings, 53-58.
16. Kenneth E. Sassaman and David G. Anderson, "Late Holocene Period, 3750 to 650 B.C.," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 101-114; Kenneth E. Sassaman, *Early Pottery in the Southeast: Tradition and Innovation in Cooking Technology* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 1993).

adopted systems of agriculture centered on maize (corn) and the sedentary ways of life that accompanied it, both of which were widespread by 1,050 BP.[17]

After circa 950 BP, people of the Southeast were increasingly influenced by a set of sociopolitical, subsistence-settlement, and religious systems originating to the north and west collectively termed "Mississippian." People participating in Mississippian lifeways "practiced cleared-field agriculture with maize as the dominant crop. . . had hierarchical political organizations . . .and] shared a set of religious cult institutions and iconographic complexes."[18] They are perhaps best known from archaeological ruins of pyramidal / platform "temple" mounds at population centers and elaborate suites of symbolic / ritual artifacts that sometimes accompanied burials of individuals of social importance, including stone effigy sculptures, eccentric ceramic vessels and lithic items, elaborate smoking pipes, carved shell, copper ornaments, and large discoidal stones.[19]

The earliest contacts between Europeans and American Indians in the Atlanta area occurred during Hernando de Soto's 1539–1543 expedition; the groups he encountered near northern Georgia likely spoke Muskogean languages (or dialects related to a poorly-known group called the Yamasee).[20] Following de Soto's expedition and those of other sixteenth-century Europeans, Native American populations declined significantly throughout much of the Southeast, likely due to diseases introduced by the Europeans. Ultimately, populations would not stabilize until the early nineteenth century.[21]

Probably in part due to decreasing population levels and increasing threats from Europeans, Muskogean groups throughout Georgia and eastern Alabama formed the formidable Creek Confederacy in the late 1500s and early 1600s. From late 1600s and continuing to the early 1800s, the confederacy was involved in a series of conflicts with European colonial powers and, after the American Revolution, the United States. Following an 1802 agreement between Georgia and the United States, in which the latter permitted Georgia to ignore Creek land titles in exchange for relinquishing territorial claims farther to the west, large numbers American settlers began encroaching on Creek territory. Increasing tensions between settlers and the confederacy boiled over with the Creek War in 1813–1814, much of which was fought in Creek territory west of the Chattahoochee River. Following the Creek's defeat, they ceded large

17. Richard W. Jefferies, "Regional Cultures, 700 B.C.-A.D. 1000," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 115-127.
18. John F. Scarry, "The Nature of Mississippian Societies," in *Political Structure and Change in the Prehistoric Southeastern United States*, ed. John F. Scarry (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 1996), 13; Bruce G. Trigger, "Cultural Unity and Diversity," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 15, *Northeast*, ed. Bruce G. Trigger (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 1978), 801.
19. Gordon R. Willey, *An Introduction to American Archaeology*, vol. 1, *North and Middle America* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice-Hall, Inc, 1966), 298-308.
20. Charles Hudson, *The Southeastern Indians*, 4th printing (Knoxville: University of Tennessee Press, 1987, 101, 107-116; Claudio Saunt, "History Until 1776," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 129-130; John R. Swanton, *The Indians of the Southeastern United States,* Smithsonian Institution Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin 137 (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office, 1946), Maps 1, 3, and 12, pp. 39-59; Jack B. Martin, "Languages," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 69, 71, 83.
21. Russell Thornton, "Demographic History," in *Handbook* of *North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 49-52.

portions of territory to the United States. Remaining Creek lands in Georgia were ceded to the United States in 1828. As a result of the Indian Removal Act of 1830 the remaining Creek lands were ceded in 1832, and nearly all the Creeks remaining in the Southeast were relocated to the West during the Trail of Tears; of the approximately 15,000 Creek who left the Southeast, roughly 3,500 died during the migration.[22] However, small numbers chose to remain and there are currently several small Creek communities in Alabama, Georgia, and Florida, including the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, the only federally-recognized tribe in Alabama (there are no federally-recognized tribes in Georgia).[23]

Atlanta after European Settlement

Colonial and Early National Period (1732–1837)

Founded in 1732 by James Edward Oglethorpe (1696–1785) and other colonists, Georgia was the last of the original thirteen colonies to be established in colonial British America.[24] Named for King George II, the Georgia colony was the southernmost of the colonies along the Atlantic Coast of North America. Its original boundaries included much of the land in the current states of Alabama and Mississippi. Georgia represented one of the southern colonies which also included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. The new colony served as a strategic buffer zone between British America and the Spanish colony of Florida to the south. Settlers arrived in 1733 at the port which became Savannah; the aim of the colony was to provide a new start in life to debtors and to others lacking means of support. Georgia's philanthropic trustees initially placed idealistic restrictions on the colony by prohibiting alcohol, large estates, and slavery.

Encounters between Europeans and enslaved Africans in Georgia occurred soon after its settlement. Georgia was the only British-American colony to attempt to prohibit slavery, which occurred during the period between 1735 and 1750.[25] General Oglethorpe and the other Trustees were not opposed to the enslavement of Africans as a matter of principle, but rather banned slavery because it conflicted with their social and economic intention.[26] The trustees wanted to guarantee the early settlers a comfortable living rather than the prospect of the enormous personal wealth associated with the plantation economies elsewhere in British America. Instead, the colonists would earn a profitable living by working for themselves rather than being dependent of the work of others. Early on their idealism proved too restrictive for Georgia's prosperity in comparison to its northern neighbors.

Georgia's settlers campaigned in the late 1730s to overturn the colony's parliamentary ban on slavery. In 1750, the Trustees ultimately conceded by lifting the ban. Between 1750 and 1775 Georgia's enslaved population grew from less than

22. Willard B. Walker, "Creek Confederacy Before Removal," in *Handbook of North American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 388-390; Charles C. Royce, "Indian land Cessions in the United States" in *Eighteenth Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology to the Secretary of the Smithsonian Institution*, 1896-1897, Part 2 (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 1899), 678-678, 734, Plates CVIII and CXXII; Carl Waldman, *Atlas of the North American Indian* (New York: Checkmark Books, 2000), 142-143, 207-208.
23. J. Anthony Paredes, "Creek in the East Since Removal," in *Handbook of* North *American Indians*, gen. ed. William C. Sturtevant, vol. 14, *Southeast*, ed. Raymond D. Fogelson (Washington, DC: Smithsonian Institution, 2004), 404-406; "The Poarch Band of Creek Indians," accessed July 17, 2019, http://pci-nsn.gov/westminster/index.html.
24. Oglelthorpe was a British soldier, Member of Parliament, and philanthropist.
25. Betty Wood, "Slavery in Colonial Georgia," New Georgia Encyclopedia, last modified September 24, 2014, https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/slavery-colonial-georgia.
26. Ibid.

500 to approximately 18,000 people.[27] In the first federal census of 1790, Georgia counted a total population of 82,548 inhabitants, 29,264 of whom were identified as enslaved, constituting 35 percent of the state's total population.[28] At that time, Georgia made up only 2.1 percent of the total population of the United States.

After the War of 1812, the Choctaws, Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws, and Seminoles ceded large tracts of their land in the southeastern United States, but continued to live there. The southeastern states passed laws invalidating federal treaties that established Native American claim to their lands. In 1821, the Creek Confederacy ceded all their land in what is now Georgia, and DeKalb County, which contained the future territory of Fulton County, was established.[29] Sandtown (Oktahatalofa) and Buzzard Roost (Sulecauga) were the two largest Native American villages in the vicinity of the area later established as the City of Atlanta.[30] These two Creek frontier villages were sited along the Chattahoochee River near Utoy and Peachtree creeks, west of the current city limits. When gold was discovered on Cherokee land in northern Georgia in 1829, more than 3,000 white prospectors invaded their land. In 1830, the US Congress passed the Indian Removal Act which appropriated funds and authorized the use of force, if necessary, to relocate the southern tribes west. The Cherokees resisted, seeking protection through the federal courts. In 1831 and 1832, the US Supreme Court ruled that the Cherokees were a domestic dependent nation and could not be forced by a state to give up their lands unwillingly. President Andrew Jackson and Congress defied the Supreme Court decision, and in 1838, the Cherokees were forcibly removed from their home and forced west along the "Trail of Tears." Georgia soon after divided the territory into counties.

Antebellum Atlanta (1837–1861)

Atlanta was the first major inland city in the United States to have developed at the intersection of two Native American paths, Peachtree and Sandtown trails. By 1830, prior to the founding of the City of Atlanta, Georgia's total population increased to more than half of a million (516,823).[31] Georgia at that time counted 2,486 free black people (1.13 percent of total black population) and 217,531 enslaved persons. In 1837, Western & Atlantic Railroad engineers staked a point at the southern end of the line they planned to build south from Chattanooga, Tennessee. First known as "Terminus," a small community grew around the railroad crossroads, later becoming Marthasville and, finally, Atlanta. By 1846, the town had two other railroad lines which connected it to other areas of the state and the Southeast. The railroad spurred the town's rapid early development. When incorporated in 1847, Atlanta's municipal boundaries included a one-mile radius centered on the terminus, or the zero-mile marker.[32] Beginning in the same year, Atlanta's City Council placed a number of restrictions on African Americans in the city that defined for them an inferior position and role in society.[33]

27. Ibid.
28. US Census Bureau, "1790 Census Figures," accessed July 17, 2019, https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1790/number_of_persons/1790a-02.pdf.
29. The City of Atlanta is the county seat of Fulton County, which was formed from DeKalb County in 1853.
30. Franklin M. Garrett, *Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events, 1820s-1870s*, (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 1969), Volume I, 8.
31. The Clerk of the House of Representatives, *Abstracts of the Returns of the Fifth Census* (Washington, DC: Duff Green, 1830), accessed July 17, 2019, https://www2.census.gov/library/publications/decennial/1830/1830b.pdf.
32. Alexa Henderson and Eugene Walker, *Sweet Auburn: The Thriving Hub of Black Atlanta* (Atlanta: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1983), 3.
33. A. Ambrose, V. Fort, A. Henderson, D. Rowley, C. Stevens, and B. Taggert, *Historic Resource Study Auburn Avenue Community of Atlanta 1865-1930* (Atlanta: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Site and Preservation District, n.d.), 1-1.

During the period before the Civil War, Georgia and the other southern states were primarily rural. Georgia also was recognized for holding the greatest number of plantations of any state in the South during that time. In antebellum Atlanta, compared to other urban centers of the Old South, enslaved people were scattered, few in number, and heavily controlled. By 1850, Atlanta's population included 493 enslaved Africans, 18 free black people, and 2,058 white people.[34] With only a few exceptions, enslaved people in Atlanta were forbidden to engage in entrepreneurial activity unless their owners or representatives were present. Most of the enslaved populations in Atlanta worked as general laborers and domestic servants. Others labored in skilled trades as brick masons, carpenters, and blacksmiths.[35] Free people of African descent in antebellum Atlanta, though few in number, were also prohibited by law from participating in the city's commercial life. Antebellum-period census data indicates Atlanta's free black people did not own real estate or personal property.[36] Further, no African American churches were located in Atlanta prior to, or during, the Civil War.[37]

The core of Atlanta was mostly subdivided by 1853, except in the outlying areas of the original incorporation line (Figure 7).[38] The Western & Atlantic Railroad, Macon & Western Railroad, and Georgia Railroad were depicted on the 1853 map with their lines feeding into the railroad depot at State Square. Wheat Street at that that time extended east from Peachtree Street to one block east of Butler Street (current Fort Street NE), near where Interstate 75/85 crosses over Auburn Avenue today. The area of land within the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, east of Fort Street, was not yet subdivided. One individual, L.F. Grant, was identified in 1853 with a property east of Yonge Street (current William Holmes Borders Drive SE) in the vicinity of the park to the south. The 1853 map depicted a two-block section of current Edgewood Avenue SE (former Foster Street) from Calhoun Street to one block east of Butler Street. Wheat Street and Edgewood Avenue both retained their same alignment through 1864.[39]

Laura Lavinia (Kelly) Combs, a free black woman, was the first African American property owner on Wheat Street (now Auburn Avenue). One of only two African American landowners in Atlanta during the pre-Civil War period, Combs purchased a lot at the intersection of Wheat and Peachtree streets, now downtown Atlanta, prior to 1854. She sold the property in 1856 to buy her husband's freedom from slavery.[40]

34. National Park Service, "African American Experience," Atlanta; A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary, accessed July 17, 2018, https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/atlanta/africanamerican.htm.
35. Andy Ambrose, Karen Leathem, and Charles Smith, "Antebellum Atlanta," Atlanta; A National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary. National Park Service, accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/atlanta/antebellum.htm.
36. Ambrose et al., *Historic Resource Study*, 1-3.
37. Tommy H. Jones, *Ebenezer Baptist Church Historic Structure Report* (Atlanta: Cultural Resources Planning Division, Southeast Region, National Park Service, 2001), 10.
38. Edward A. Vincent, *Vincent's subdivision map of the city of Atlanta, DeKalb County, state of Georgia: showing all the lots, blocks, sections, &c.* (Savannah, Georgia: Edward A. Vincent, 1853), map, accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.loc.gov/item/2006635244/.
39. United States Army of the Cumberland, Topographical Engineers Office, *Atlanta: from Vincent's* subdivision *map, published by the City Counc*il (Chattanooga, Tenn. Topl. Engr. Office, Hd. Qrs. A. C., in the field, 1864), map, accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.loc.gov/item/2006459234/.
40. Paul K. Graham, A Love Story Proved: The Life and Family of Laura Lavinia (Kelly) Combs of Atlanta and Augusta, Georgia, *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 101 (December 2013):246-266.

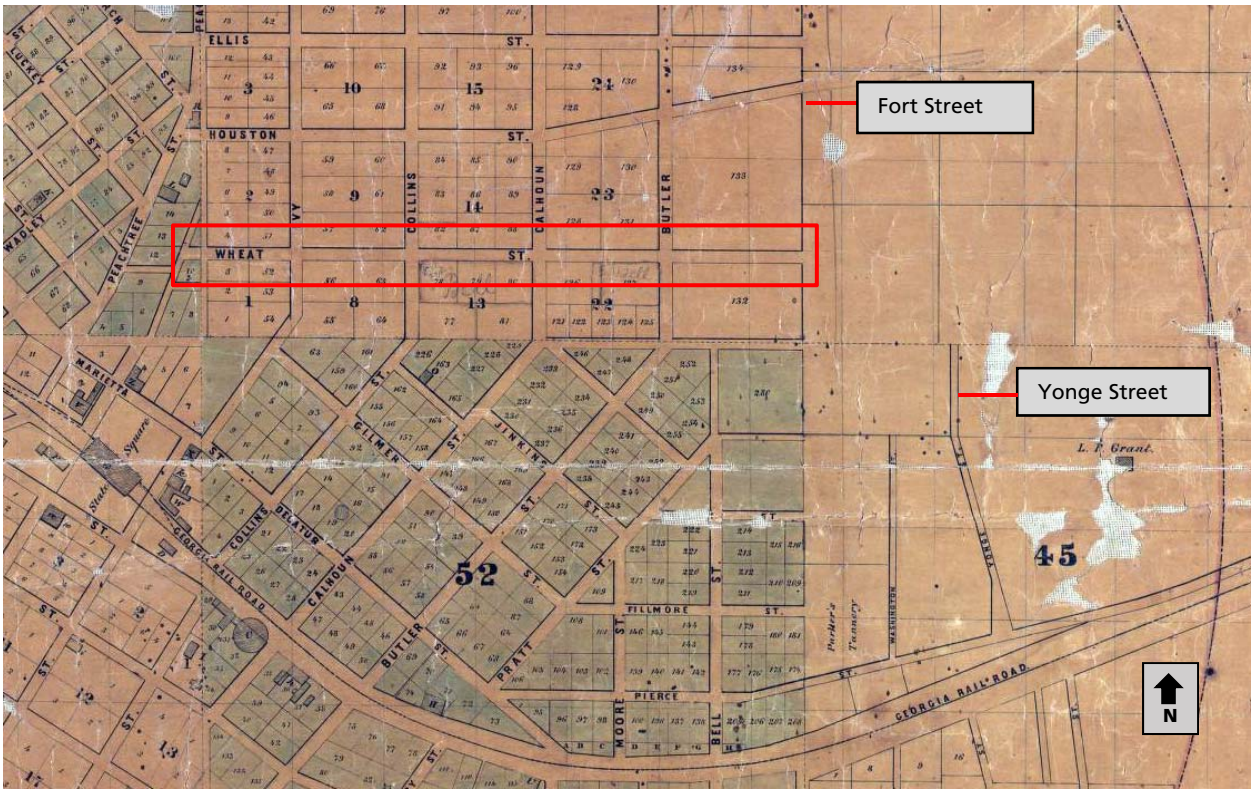


FIGURE 7. Wheat Street outlined in red on the 1853 map. (Source: Vincent 1853)

In 1860, Georgia's population exceeded one million residents for the first time. Census figures from 1860 indicated that more than 591,000 of those residents (56 percent) were white, and nearly 466,000 (44 percent) were black. The state's population had increased by nearly 17 percent from 1850, which reflected a slower growth rate than Georgia had experienced in the first half of the nineteenth century. The state's relative decrease in population has been attributed to the outmigration by Georgians relocating to the west. Sixty percent of the state's population occupied the "Black Belt" region, a broad swath of fertile land extending diagonally through the state's center from South Carolina toward the southwest to the Alabama and Florida lines. The Black Belt region was home to cotton plantations, which used enslaved people to run their operations. As a result of enslavement and forced movement, the Black Belt region held a higher concentration of African Americans outside of major urban areas.[41]

The 1860 census recorded Atlanta's population approaching 10,000 individuals, which placed Atlanta as the 99th most populated city in the country. Atlanta's population at that time consisted of 1,914 enslaved people, a free black population of 25, and a white population of 7,615. Atlanta's eastern defensive works were strategically placed along the city's municipal corporation line, and were positioned just outside of the city limits, east of the park.[42] The Battle of Atlanta occurred on July 22, 1864, outside of the city to the southeast with Gen. William T. Sherman's forces defeating Confederate troops defending the city under Gen. John Bell Hood. By early September, Union forces had captured Atlanta and, in November, Sherman ordered the destruction of Atlanta's industrial district. Known as the "Burning of Atlanta," the great conflagration destroyed more than 3,000 buildings, nearly the entire city, and the region's rail infrastructure hub.

41. Allen Tullos, "The Black Belt," Southern Spaces, accessed July 17, 2019, https://southernspaces.org/2004/black-belt.

42. Robert Knox Sneden, *Atlanta, Georgia and its rebel defences [sic]* (to 1865, 1864), map, accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.loc.gov/item/gvhs01.vhs00311/.

Post-Civil War Period

From the close of the Civil War in May 1865 through 1871, when Republican government and the military occupation of the state ended, Georgia experienced Reconstruction.[43] Approximately 40,000 white Georgians, who numbered more than 590,000 in 1860, had been killed or permanently dispersed by the war. The state's African American population numbered in excess of 460,000 newly freed individuals who confronted a new future with hope and uncertainty. The Civil War left Georgia war ravaged within a transformed political, social, and economic climate. Beginning in 1865, the City of Atlanta entered a period of rebuilding as much of the city was in ruins, and its railroad lines were destroyed. Atlanta's railroad industry had recovered by the autumn of the same year. With all five of city's rail lines restored and in operation again, Atlanta witnessed an increase in commercial development that continued into the twentieth century.[44] The city limits were expanded to a mile and one half from Union Depot in 1866. Atlanta soon became a regional center and, in 1868, the city became Georgia's new state capital.

The end of the Civil War marked the demise of slavery with the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment. Post-Civil War reform movements aimed to eliminate racial discrimination against African Americans. The black population of Atlanta increased as newly freed African Americans from the surrounding countryside came to the city seeking opportunities for education and employment. In the years immediately following the Civil War, at least four African American churches were organized in Atlanta: Big Bethel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) (1865); Friendship Baptist (1866); First Congregational (1867); and Wheat Street Baptist (1869).[45] Big Bethel AME Church at 220 Auburn Avenue is the oldest African American congregation in the Sweet Auburn neighborhood of Atlanta. Other black churches, specifically Baptist, were soon established. With Friendship Baptist Church on the west side and Wheat Street Baptist Church on the east side, a number of mission churches were founded in the nineteenth century and early twentieth century as the city's African American population increased and thrived.[46] Between 1865 and 1885, Atlanta's eight historic black colleges were also founded, including Dr. King's alma mater Morehouse College.

By 1870, the city's 9,929 African American citizens constituted more than 45 percent of the population.[47] Many in Atlanta's black communities continued to live in the post-bellum period as they had during the years of slavery: in servants homes or quarters located to the rear of a white person's residence. An increasing number of other African Americans began to settle in developing black tenements and settlements throughout the city. These clusters of African American settlements developed along railroads and in low-lying areas where land was less expensive and generally considered by the greater population as undesirable. [48] The railroad lines served as barriers between segregated neighborhoods.

Atlanta became the largest city in Georgia in 1880. By 1883, at least six African American urban clusters were located in Atlanta's five wards. In the Old Fourth Ward, a large black community developed along Decatur Street east of Pratt Street in the formerly named Butler Street Bottoms, which is now the general area of the Martin Luther

43. Information on Reconstruction and the post-Civil War period was obtained from William Harris Bragg, "Reconstruction in Georgia, Civil War & Reconstruction, 1861-1877," New Georgia Encyclopedia, last updated October 28, 2018, accessed July 17, 2019, http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/reconstruction-georgia.
44. Andy Ambrose, Atlanta in "Counties, Cities & Neighborhoods," New Georgia Encyclopedia, last updated June 12, 2019, accessed July 17, 2019, http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/counties-cities-neighborhoods/atlanta.
45. Jones, 10; "Our History," *Wheat Street Baptist* Church, accessed July 17, 2019, https://wearewheatstreet.org/.
46. Ibid.
47. Bragg, n.p.
48. Ambrose et al., *Historic Resource Study,* 2-2.

King, Jr. National Historical Park and Preservation District. [49]

Growth and Development of Auburn Avenue and the Fourth Ward (1865–1890s)

By 1870, the city extended Wheat Street (Auburn Avenue) farther east, through what is now the National Historical Park, to Randolph Street (refer to Figure 9, Period Plan circa 1870).[50] The 1870 plan identifies Auburn Avenue as New Wheat Street, Edgewood Avenue as Foster Street, and Boulevard as Rolling Mill. In the 1878 City Atlas of Atlanta, John Lynch was associated with the land within the National Historical Park. A Baptist church stood on the southeast corner of Irwin Street and Boulevard (Jefferson Avenue) on the NPS Visitor Center Block.[51] The church was also depicted on the 1892 map, but not labeled (Figure 8). A stream was shown running southwest-northeast through the block. John Lynch, a wealthy merchant, also owned city blocks between Old Wheat Street and Edgewood Avenue (Foster Avenue) from Jackson Street to Howell Street (Howland Street). Two structures were depicted on the south side of Old Wheat Street, between Jackson and Boulevard, and two other structures were illustrated south of the Birth Home block along Edgewood Avenue.[52]

Auburn Avenue and the surrounding area developed slowly until 1880 when the heirs of John Lynch began subdividing his large landholdings, which encompassed property on both sides of Auburn Avenue between Jackson and Howell (Howland) Streets. The area circumscribed by Boulevard (then Jefferson Street) on the west, Randolph Street on the east, Wheat Street on the south, and Houston Street to the north was largely subdivided. Early residential development in the area occurred primarily north of Auburn Avenue. Several houses were constructed on and near Auburn Avenue in the 1880s, although only one house remains from the pre-1890 period. By 1892, the entire Auburn Avenue community was well established with the exception of a few sections. With increased development on Auburn Avenue, residents petitioned to have the street's name changed to a more stylish one out of concern that their street might be confused with the adjacent, and less desirable, Old Wheat Street. The Atlanta City Council officially changed the name to Auburn Avenue on April 17, 1893.[53]

Development of the Eastern End of Auburn Avenue. Expansion and improvement of Atlanta's transportation infrastructure in the late nineteenth century contributed to the commercial and residential development of the Auburn Avenue community (Figure 10, Period Plan 1900). In 1884, Gate City Street Railroad Company constructed a horse-car line from downtown Atlanta along Auburn Avenue to Jackson Street, and then extending north on Jackson. The development of this new mode of transportation contributed to the growth and accessibility of the Auburn Avenue neighborhood.

49. Ambrose et al., *Historic Resource Study*, 1-3.
50. W.A. Hanleiter, *Hanleiter's Directory Map of Atlanta* (Atlanta: W.A. Hamphill and Company, 1870), map, accessed July 17, 2019, http://digitalcollections.library.gsu.edu/cdm/ref/collection/afpl/id/26.
51. G.M. Hopkins, *City Atlas of Atlanta, Georgia, 1878* (Baltimore, MD: G.M. Hopkins, 1878), accessed July 17, 2019, http://disc.library.emory.edu/atlantamaps/1878-atlas/.
52. Augustus Koch, and Saunders and Kline, *Bird's eye view of Atlanta, Fulton Co., State capital, Georgia* (Chicago: Hughes Litho. Co., 1892), Map, accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.loc.gov/item/75693189/.
53. Lucy A. Lawliss, *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Cultural Landscape Report: Birth Home Block* (Atlanta: National Park Service Southeast Regional Office and Georgia State University, 1995), 21. Most of the information on Auburn Avenue and the Birth Home Block was gleaned from this document.

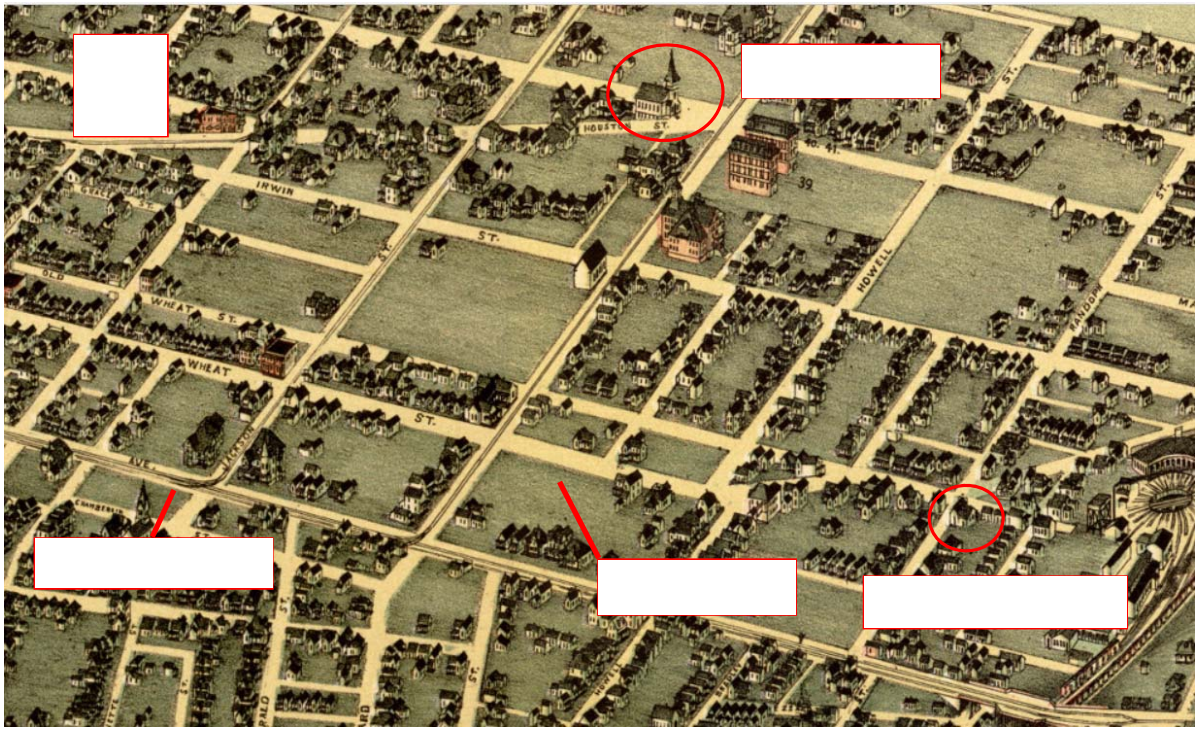


FIGURE 8. An 1892 detail of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park neighborhood in the Fourth Ward with the approximate location of the Birth Home. (Source: Koch, and Saunders and Kline 1892)

By 1880, the Auburn Avenue community was a mixed area with a nearly equal number of black and white people. Working-class residents lived in proximity to wealthier upper- and middle-class professionals. The majority of African American people in the community were working-class laborers, although a number of African Americans residents were proprietors of grocery stores, meat markets, restaurants, wood yards, and other businesses.[54] Black professionals were primarily teachers, ministers, doctors, dentists, and lawyers.

In the 1880s and early 1890s, the largest number of African American-owned businesses operated along Marietta Street in the central business area with others scattered along Alabama, Broad, Forsyth, Peachtree, Pryor, and Whitehall streets. Few black-owned businesses were located on Wheat Street (Auburn Avenue) during this period, since it was still primarily a residential street; the few that did exist were primarily grocery stores.[55]

As horse-drawn cars and businesses were being established in the Auburn Avenue community, the Ebenezer Baptist Church was organized in 1886 by Reverend John A. Parker, a member of Wheat Street Baptist Church.[56] At that time, Wheat Street Baptist Church stood on the northeast corner of Wheat Street and Fort Street, two blocks west of its present location at 359 Auburn Avenue. The new working-class neighborhood that had developed to the east along the Belt Line railroad in the late 1870s and 1880s has been attributed to the formation of Ebenezer Baptist Church.[57] According to church history, after its establishment, the congregation soon had fifty members and met in a building on Airline Street, at the eastern end of Old Wheat Street, two blocks east of the National Historical Park.[58]

54. Steven H. Moffson and John A. Kissane, *National Register of Historic Places Nomination: Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation*, accepted by the National Register, June 21, 2001 (National Archives Identifier 93208256), 30.

55. Ibid.
56. Jones, 11.
57. Ibid.
58. Airline Street is a narrow street that parallels the Belt Line between Auburn and DeKalb avenues.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Blocks
- Parcel lines
- Stream
- Building

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

"Hanleiter's Directory Map of Atlanta." 1870.

Hopkins, G.M. "Part of Ward 4, Atlanta. Plate K." 1878.

Hopkins, G.M. "Part of Wards 3 & 4, Atlanta. Plate L." 1878.

McDaniell, Henry T. "Map of Atlanta." 1877.

Figure 9.
Period Plan

c.1870

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Electric streetcar line opened on Edgewood Avenue, 1889

Horse-car line opened on Wheat (Auburn) and Jackson Streets, 1884
Horse-car lines electrified, 1890s

Jackson Street

Chamberlain Street

Fitzgerald Street

Edgewood Avenue (renamed c.1889)

Auburn Avenue (renamed 1893)

Old Wheat Street

No data available for this area

No data available for this area

Houston Street

Cain Street

Grace M.E. Church

Baptist Church

N. Boulevard (renamed c.1895)

N. Boulevard

Fire Station No. 6 constructed, 1894

Electric streetcar line opened on Boulevard, c.1892

501 Auburn Ave constructed, c.1894
(original address 383 Auburn Ave)

Daniel Street

Howland (Hogue) Street

Brick sidewalks with granite curbs on both sides of Auburn Avenue, c.1890s
[width and extent unknown]

Irwin Street

Houston Street

Howell Street

Howell Street

Bradley Street

0' 200' 400'

SCALE 1" = 200'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street edge
- Streetcar
- Building
- Subdivided building
- S Store
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

Fisk & Company. "Atlanta." 1895.

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

Sanborn-Perris Map Company. "Fire Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1899."

Figure 10.
Period Plan

1900

On August 22, 1889, Atlanta's first electric street railway line, Atlanta & Edgewood Railroad, opened along Edgewood Avenue (refer to Figure 8).[59] The single-car line extended two miles east from Pryor Street in downtown Atlanta through today's National Historical Park to Inman Park.[60] In the early 1890s, the horse-car lines were gradually electrified and new electric lines were built in the city; mulecars still operated on one-mile long Wheat Street (Auburn Avenue) line in 1894.[61] With the expansion of the streetcar system, the Auburn Avenue community had direct transportation to downtown, where many residents worked and shopped. The electrified streetcars brought more traffic to the Auburn Avenue community.[62]

Despite the increased growth and traffic to the community from 1884 to 1900, the racial make-up of the area bounded by Old Wheat, Howell, Edgewood, and Jackson (now a portion of the National Historical Park) remained substantially constant at approximately 55 percent white and 45 percent black.[63] In 1896, the Fourth Ward had the greatest proportion of African Americans, who constituted 46 percent of the ward's population.[64] Further examination of Atlanta city directories from the 1880s and 1890s revealed the Auburn Avenue community was closer to integrated than almost any other southern community at the end of the nineteenth century.[65] The National Historical Park area is outside the area covered by the 1886 and 1892 Atlanta fire insurance maps.

Prior to 1900, Auburn Avenue east of Jackson Street had developed as a predominantly white middle-class residential district. A family either built a new home or moved into one of the newly constructed houses. The 1892 birds-eye view of Atlanta depicted the National Historical Park area as partially developed with largest concentration of buildings located along Old Wheat and Wheat streets (refer to Figure 8). Streetcar lines operated along Edgewood Avenue, Jackson Street, and Boulevard. The Birth Home block at that time was partially developed, with only three buildings on the south side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street.

By 1899, most of the lots along Auburn Avenue between Jackson and Howell streets were developed; more dense residential development remained to the west. Single-family, one- and two-story houses lined the avenue. Some multiple-family dwellings were constructed, but the majority of the homes were large, modestly decorated houses. Many of the properties had stables and wood and coal sheds at the rear. Residences in the Birth Home block are representative of vernacular adaptations of popular domestic architecture of the 1890s and early twentieth century found in American cities.[66] Most single-family houses on the Birth Home block erected in the 1890s exhibit Queen Anne stylistic elements. The residences are mostly two-story, wood-frame dwellings with one-story rear extensions. Only two buildings constructed on the block in the 1890s are one-story, wood-frame dwellings (Nos. 515 and 546 Auburn Avenue). Typical characteristics of these houses include irregular massing, projecting bays, broad front porches carried on columns or posts, contrasting surface areas of shingles and clapboard siding, and decorative millwork. The Queen Anne houses featured concrete front walks (518 Auburn Avenue), rear and side-yard walls of mixed rubble materials (510, 514, and 522 Auburn Avenue) and side-yard retaining walls to hold the grade of the front yard consistent with Auburn Avenue (526 and 530 Auburn).[67] In 1894, the Romanesque Revival Style Fire Station No. 6 was constructed on the southeast corner of Boulevard and Auburn Avenue.

59. Mary Beth Reed et al., *Historic Streetcar Systems in Georgia*, Stone Mountain, GA: New South Associates, 2012), 33
60. Ibid.
61. Ibid., 38.
62. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, Section 7, 3.
63. Ibid., 15.
64. Ibid., 16; Ambrose et al., *Historic Resource Study*, 2-4.
65. Moffson and Kissane, 30.
66. Ibid., 8, 50.
67. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, 61.

In 1899, the Birth Home block, on the north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Hogue Street, contained three one-story frame dwellings.[68] The north side of Auburn Avenue between Hogue and Howell streets had shallow narrow lots occupied by seven two-story dwellings. Access to the rear of the north side lots was off Old Wheat Street. The south side had larger lots and fewer houses, with varied and deeper setbacks from the street. Driveways off Auburn Avenue provide access to the rears of the lots on the south side of the block. Small-scale commercial development coincided with residential growth. Brick sidewalks were laid with granite curbing along both sides of Auburn Avenue through the Birth Home block as early as the 1890s, predating the paving of the street in this area by at least a decade.[69]

The other city blocks in the National Historical Park contained commercial and residential buildings in 1899. The NPS Visitor Center block was residential with nine frame dwellings on the south side of Old Wheat Street.[70] While fifteen frame dwellings, a brick dwelling, and store were located on the north side of Auburn Avenue. A large frame dwelling fronted Boulevard. Old Wheat Street originally stretched east–west through the southern portion of the NPS Visitor Center block. A one-story frame dwelling at 85 Jackson Street stood on the west side of the NPS Visitor Center block, north of Old Wheat Street.

The 1899 Sanborn insurance map coverage of the NPS Parking Lot block is limited to the eastern end of the block along Boulevard.[71] A row of six frame dwellings ranging from one to two stories were shown fronting Boulevard, while one frame dwelling was on the west side of the unnamed alley. Grace M.E. Church, a frame one-story building with basement, and a two-story frame dwelling, were located on the eastern end of the triangular block between Cain Street and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue in 1899. The Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary and The King Center block were also mostly residential at that time. Eight one-story frame dwellings and two combined stores-and-dwellings on the south side of Edgewood Avenue between Jackson Street and Boulevard. Seven dwellings were on the north side of Edgewood Avenue between Jackson Street and Boulevard. The south side of Edgewood between Boulevard and Howell contained a combined store and dwelling and five dwellings, one of which was a brick building.

In 1905, The Empire State Investment Company developed the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard by constructing nine duplex buildings that occupied half of the block between Boulevard and Hogue.[72] One of the lots was sold in November 1905 for $1,800 as rental property.[73] The one-story, frame, double-shotgun houses contrasted with the existing houses on the block, but were typical of the dwellings to the north. Inexpensive shotgun-type housing was a popular vernacular housing type built across the urban South.

The double-shotgun house consisted of two shotgun houses joined by a party wall with separate front entrances. In plan, the shotgun houses are one room wide and two or three rooms deep. These buildings represented the first low-cost rental housing built on the block. The double shotguns were laid out to cover a large portion of the parcel. This left almost no associated property, except for swept (dirt) yards.[74] The 1911 Sanborn

68. Sanborn, *Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia* (New York: Sanborn-Perris Map Co., Ltd., 1899), sheet 48, accessed January 10, 2018, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Atlanta1899/Sheet48.html.
69 Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation,* 54.
70. The NPS Visitor Center block includes the land bound by Auburn Avenue to the south, Irwin Street to the north, Boulevard to the east, Jackson Street to the west.
71. The NPS Parking Lot block is bound by Irwin Street, Cain Street, Jackson Street, and Boulevard. John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, formerly Houston Street, extends diagonally through the northern section of the block.
72. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, Section 8, 57.
73. Ibid.
74. Ibid., 63.

map showed the tightly-clustered shotgun housing.[75]

Auburn Avenue reflected "the changing nature of southern race relations during the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries."[76] From 1910 to 1930, Auburn Avenue became the center of African American business, institutional, religious, and social life.[77] During the 1920s, some African American residents started to migrate to the west side of Atlanta.[78] By the time Martin Luther King Jr. left in 1948 to attend Crozier Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, the majority of residential structures in the Auburn Avenue neighborhood had deteriorated. By the 1950s, the west side had replaced the Auburn Avenue residential district as the preferred African American neighborhood.[79]

Jim Crow and Segregation in Atlanta

Retaliation by white supremacists at the end of Reconstruction and federal rule followed by the disenfranchisement of African American voters triggered a rise in racial segregation in the City of Atlanta. Beginning in the 1890s, Georgia and other southern states passed restrictive Jim Crow laws mandating racial segregation or separation in public facilities which effectively codified the region's tradition of white supremacy.[80] Under Jim Crow, African American citizens suffered from systemic discrimination that pervaded nearly every aspect of daily life. Black people were denied their constitutional right to vote, experienced discrimination in housing and employment, and were refused access to public spaces.

Atlanta Race Riot of 1906. By the early 1900s, Atlanta's African American population faced rigidly enforced Jim Crow laws and segregation within an increasingly dangerous environment.[81] Attacks on African American people were provoked by the racism promoted in the *Atlanta Georgian*, one of the city's three daily papers, and by the vicious race baiting of the 1906 gubernatorial campaign. In September 1906, some of the white population of Atlanta erupted into a three-day race riot resulting in the deaths of at least a dozen African American citizens and a large number of injuries. The 1906 riot significantly affected black residential development. As the number of African American residents in the city continued to grow, efforts to restrict them to well-defined areas of the city intensified.

Growth and Development of African American Community in Sweet Auburn (1910–1930)

During the years following the 1906 Atlanta Race Riot, nearly all African American-owned businesses vacated downtown Atlanta as these businesses were forced to leave the downtown central business district as a result of rising rents and increased hostility (Figure 11, Period Plan circa 1929). In 1909, A.D. Williams, Martin Luther King Jr.'s grandfather, purchased the residence at 501 Auburn Avenue for $3,500. In 1911, a Sanborn insurance map showed the Auburn Avenue community almost entirely built out. Auburn Avenue was residential west to Fort Street, though there were several commercial establishments between Hilliard and Fort streets. Industrial properties were located in the eastern section of the community along the Southern Railway, and Decatur Street to the south was primarily commercial with a few industrial facilities on Decatur toward downtown.[82] The section of Edgewood Avenue at the east end of the community consisted of both commercial establishments and some residential development.

75. Sanborn Map Company, *Insurance Maps Atlanta, Georgia* (New York: Sanborn Map Co., 1911), volume 2, sheet 158, accessed July 17, 2019, http://dlg.galileo.usg.edu/sanborn/CityCounty/Atlanta1911-V2/Sheet158.html.
76. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, Section 8, 24.
77. Ambrose et al., *Historic Resource Study,* 1-24.
78. Ibid., 2-21.
79. Ibid., 2-36, 2-39, and 2-21.
80. Information on late nineteenth-century segregation in Atlanta obtained from Edward A. Hatfield," Segregation," New Georgia Encyclopedia, last modified August 17, 2017 (by Chris Dobbs), accessed July 17, 2019, http://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/history-archaeology/segregation.
81. Jones, 12.
82. Ibid.

During the first half of the twentieth century the Old Fourth Ward consisted of densely lined city blocks of small houses and shops occupied largely by African Americans. Along with the development of small houses and shops, a new church was erected in the National Historical Park neighborhood in 1911. Reverend Ignatius Lissner of the Society of African Mission founded Our Lady of Lourdes. He purchased the lot on the south side of Fire Station No. 6.[83] In November of the following year, the first Catholic Church for African Americans in Atlanta was completed at 25 Boulevard. The three-story brick church building, which also housed a school and parish hall, served the Fourth Ward's African American Catholic community. The building later became Archbishop P. Ryan Memorial Roman Catholic School. Our Lady of Lourdes church and its associated Archbishop P. Ryan Memorial School are still in use. The spaces are used to host community events.

In 1913, Atlanta passed a segregation ordinance and became the first city in Georgia to legislate residential segregation.[84] Two years later, the Georgia Supreme Court ruled against racial zoning ordinances. Nevertheless, increasing segregation during the years leading up to World War I resulted in the transformation of mixed neighborhoods, such as Auburn Avenue, into predominantly African American communities.

Some predominantly African American community consisted of shotgun houses. These shotgun houses were built close together, and many of them lacked running water. The original urban character of the Old Fourth Ward's was greatly affected by the Great Atlanta Fire of 1917, which engulfed almost half of the neighborhood. The fire began near Decatur Street and moved northward until firefighters contained the flames to just north of Ponce De Leon Avenue. The land forming the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park was mostly spared from the fire, although neighboring blocks to the west and north were destroyed. The northernmost section of the park boundary between Irwin and Cain streets was consumed by the fire. Buildings on the north side of the block of Auburn Avenue between Hilliard and Fort streets, the future location of Prince Hall Masonic Lodge, were destroyed in the fire. Much of the neighborhood blighted by the fire remained undeveloped for years. Brick apartment buildings were later constructed on Boulevard to replace the single-family homes, changing the character of the street.

Changes to the Birth Home block's streetscape occurred in 1922, when the original street pavement was "condemned" from Boulevard to Randolph Street and was to be repaved with concrete.[85] At the same time, the existing brick sidewalks along Auburn Avenue were to be replaced with concrete walks. Also during the early 1920s, commercial enterprises constructed new buildings within the area of the park boundaries. The White Company Service Station built a one-and-two-story building on the northwest corner of Old Wheat Street and Boulevard in 1920. The two-story L-shaped section of the building fronting both streets had fire-proof constriction with reinforced concrete and brick curtain walls and a partial basement. This section of the building had offices, an automobile parts store, lockers, and a lunch room. The one-story brick wing with basement housed the general repair shop. In 1921, the Red Rock Bottling Company constructed their factory on the southeast corner of Irwin and Jackson streets at 401 Irwin Street. The 1931 Sanborn fire insurance map showed the works consisting of a two-story fireproof main building with an attached one-story, brick-faced factory. Two one-story frame garages were located to the east of the bottling works at 423 and 435 Irwin Street. The former had an attached one-story brick garage with a capacity of twenty cars.

83. Our Lady of Lourdes, "History," accessed July 17, 2019, http://lourdesatlanta.org/history/.

84. John Dittmer, *Black Georgia in the Progressive Era, 1900-1920* (Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1977), 13-14. Information on the 1913 Atlanta Ordinance was gleaned from this document.

85. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, 54.

In 1922, city officials focused on codifying racial segregation, and it was again incorporated into the city's first zoning ordinance. Even though the law was declared unconstitutional in 1925, zoning was authorized by the state legislature in 1927 and supported by a constitutional amendment in 1928. The ordinance did not recognize the African American business and residential neighborhoods which had developed in the Old Fourth Ward.

Great Depression (1929–1939) Impact on Sweet Auburn

Dr. King was born nearly ten months before the October 1929 stock market crash that triggered the worst economic depression in American history. Overall, the Great Depression affected the South more intensely than some other regions of the country. Southern states were still recovering from the shocks of the devastating loss of cotton fields as a result of the boll weevil infestation and the significant drop in the price of cotton in the decade before the Great Depression. A three-year drought further undermined Georgia's agricultural economy during the 1920s. Many farmers and farm workers were forced to abandon farming, relocating to cities or out of the state, thus contributing to the "great migration" to northern states. In Atlanta, the effects of the Great Depression were so dire that the city's government was on the verge of bankruptcy until the Coca Cola Company offered to help relieve the city from its considerable deficit. At the time of the Great Depression, the typical household in Atlanta lacked electricity, running water, and private bathrooms. Diseases such as tuberculosis and malaria were common under these conditions. The national crisis had exposed the city's fragile economy and infrastructure.

By 1929, African American middle-class families in the neighborhood were the minority on the Birth Home block and surrounding area (refer to Figure 11, Period Plan 1929). During the Great Depression, the National Historical Park area experienced the subdivision of many single-family dwellings, the deterioration of its existing stock, and increased tenancy.[86] Several multiple family dwellings were constructed on the Birth Home block and adjacent streets. Apartment houses were built at 509 Auburn Avenue (1925) and 506 Auburn Avenue (1933), and a quadraplex was constructed at 54 Howell Street (1931), which subdivided an already crowded house lot. A *Real Property Survey* conducted by the Works Progress Administration in 1939 reported that 100 percent of the Birth Home block was occupied by African Americans, though only 13.3 percent of the buildings were owner occupied, and 67.4 percent were in need of major maintenance or unfit for use.[87]

In 1931, the block bound by Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue between Jackson Street and Boulevard was primarily residential with eleven one-story duplexes, eleven single dwellings, four large two-story frame flats, a one-story frame corner store, and a brick commercial building with three stores.[88] The NPS Visitor Center block north of Old Wheat Street contained only four buildings. The main section of the parking lot south of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue was primarily residential with fifteen dwellings, a duplex, a triplex, and nine flats. Non-residential buildings were located on the north side along John Wesley Dobbs Avenue and in the southeast corner of the block. Model Laundry occupied the western end of the block between Grape Alley and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. The laundry was a one- story brick building with basement. Two detached lunch rooms stood on the east side of the laundry.

The Scripto Pencil Company constructed a two-story building with fireproof construction in 1931 on the south side of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, between the laundry and the Mt. Sinai Baptist Church. The notation on the 1931 Sanborn insurance map indicated the building footprint and information for the pencil factory was obtained from plans. The company originally was founded as the M.A. Ferst Company and renamed Scripto in 1924. Manufacturers of graphite lead for

86. Lawliss, 14

87. Ibid.

88. Sanborn Map Company, *Fire Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia* (New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1911 [revised 1931]), Volume 2, sheet 302.

pencils, the company was once one of the largest employers in Atlanta. Its facilities were expanded between the 1930s and 1960s to include plant buildings, offices, and research facilities that eventually covered the entire block west of Boulevard. The Mt. Sinai Baptist Church, a one-story frame building, was located between the pencil factory and the row of dwellings on the east side of the unnamed alley. The Big Boy Bottling Company, a brick two-story building, and a one-story frame store building fronted Boulevard at the southeast corner of the block. The triangular-shaped block between Cain Street and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue contained two dwellings, York Ice Machine Corporation, an automobile garage, Charbox Company Manufacturer of Charcoal Powder, and a filling station.

During the Great Depression, the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), a New Deal federal agency, was created in 1933 to stabilize the housing market by reducing home foreclosures. HOLC appraisers also conducted city surveys during the Great Depression, producing residential security maps indicating risk levels for long-term real estate investments. The security maps ranked and color-coded neighborhoods based on where it was safe to insure mortgages. HOLC divided the City of Atlanta into 111 residential neighborhoods, graded from A to D. On the 1938 residential security map of Atlanta, the city blocks within the National Historical Park and the surrounding neighborhood were included in the area designated "Security Grade D-Area No. 20 (D20) North Avenue to Edgewood Avenue, between Piedmont Avenue and Southern R.R. Belt line."[89] Similar to many African American neighborhoods across the country, D20 received a "D" rating for "hazardous," the lowest ranking, which was color-coded red on the HOLC security maps. Known as the practice of "red-lining," "D" ratings were assigned to African American neighborhoods regardless of their residents' income or the condition of their housing. Red lining secured residential segregation in Atlanta through subsequent decades.

Descriptions of each area also were generated on the security maps. "Favorable Influences" associated with D20 included the following: proximity to the center of the city and occupants' sources of employment; African American schools, churches, and community business centers throughout the area; and good streetcar transportation facilities. While D20's "Detrimental Influences" were as follows: many properties were old and in dilapidated condition; difficulty with rental collections; high juvenile delinquency, infant mortality, tuberculosis incidence, death rate, and adult crime rate; heavy vehicular traffic throughout area; and different racial groups. The area's trend of desirability for the next ten to fifteen years was determined to be "down" for white people and "static" for black people. Inhabitants in D20 area included factory workers, laborers, and domestics. The annual family income circa 1935 was between $400 and $1,200. One-story single family houses comprised 85 percent of D20's building stock and were considered to be in fair to dilapidated condition. Of the area's two-story single duplexes and multi-unit buildings, 15 percent were in poor to dilapidated condition. D20 also contained one of Atlanta's worst slum areas. However, from an investment standpoint, the D20 area was considered a good African American rental area.

89. Home Owners Loan Corporation "Residential Security Map of Atlanta, 1938,"on "Kauffman's Map of the Borough of Atlanta and Adjacent Territory" (Atlanta: I.U. Kauffman, 1938), accessed December 20, 2017, https://www.atlantastudies.org/2017/09/07/jason-rhodes-geographies-of-privilege-and-exclusion-the-1938-home-owners-loan-corporation-residential-security-map-of-atlanta/.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Ebenezer Baptist Church constructed, 1914-1922

Approximate extent of Great Atlanta Fire of 1917

Red Rock Bottling Company factory and garages constructed, 1921

Model Laundry building at 409 Houston St constructed, 1923-1928

York building at 412 Houston St constructed, 1920-1923

Jackson Street

Chamberlain Street

Fitzgerald Street

Edgewood Avenue

Jackson Place

Climax Place

Old Wheat Street

Jackson Alley

Houston Street

Cain Street

Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

442 Cain St constructed, 1929

White Company Service Station building constructed, 1920

Holy Temple C.M.E. Church

N. Boulevard

130 Boulevard constructed, 1920-1923

Grape Place

Double shotgun houses constructed, 1905

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church constructed, 1912

Became Archbishop P. Ryan Memorial Roman Catholic School, by 1925

Auburn Avenue

"Reid's Alley"

Hogue Street

501 Auburn Ave. purchased by A.D. Williams (MLK's grandfather), 1909

Martin Luther King, Jr. born January 15, 1929

Apartment building constructed at 509 Auburn Ave, 1925

Auburn Avenue east of Boulevard repaved with concrete, brick sidewalks replaced with concrete, 1922

Irwin Street

Howell Street

Brick sidewalks with granite curbs on both sides of Howell St between Auburn Ave and Old Wheat St remained

Daniel Street

Sylvia Bryant Baptist Sunday School (Bryant Preparatory Institute)

Mrs. S.C.J. Bryant Memorial Dormitory

Bradley Street

0' 200' 400'

SCALE 1" = 200'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street
- Streetcar
- Sidewalk
- Unpaved alley
- Building
- Subdivided building
- S Store
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate,based on available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

Sanborn Map Company. "Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia," Volumes 2 & 4. 1911, revised 1925.

Sanborn Map Company. "Key Plan of Vol's 2&4 Showing Territory Destroyed by Fire May 21st, 1917." 1917.

Sanborn Map Company. "Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia," Volume 3. 1931–1932.

U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey. "City of Atlanta: Sheet 25." Surveyed 1928.

Figure 11. Period Plan

1929

Martin Luther King Jr. (Early Years, 1929–1941)

Martin Luther King Jr. was born at 501 Auburn Avenue on January 15, 1929. He lived in the Birth Home until 1941, when his family moved three blocks away to 193 Boulevard near Houston Street (Figure 12, Period Plan 1941).[90] The house on Auburn Avenue, still owned by his mother, became a rental property afterwards. While living with his parents in the Auburn Avenue neighborhood during his formative years, the young King was influenced by the activities within the community. In childhood, King observed African Americans succeeding within the constraints of a segregated society. His father's ministry provided the family many contacts with black community leaders. African American clergymen, educators, and businessmen often visited Ebenezer Church and the King home. Dr. King came of age in an environment that exposed him to the richness as well as the poverty of African American community life.

James Albert King (1864-1933), the father of Michael (Martin Luther King Sr.), insisted that he named his son Martin Luther from his birth. Martin and Luther were the names of James King's brothers. At the turn of the twentieth century, birth certificates were not common in that part of Georgia, and King Sr. (Michael King) never had an official birth certificate. King Sr. went by the nickname of Michael or Mike. On his death bed, James King asked his son to officially change his name to Martin Luther King, his intended name. After James King passed away, King Sr. respected his father's wishes and legally changed his name to Martin Luther King Sr. This name change also updated Dr. King's name. When Dr. King was born, he was named Michael and was sometimes referred to as "Little Mike." As a result, Michael Luther King Jr. was renamed Martin Luther King Jr.[91]

Similar to many African Americans throughout the nation, Michael King (Martin Luther King Sr.) left his father's, John Albert King, sharecropper farm in Stockbridge, Georgia, for Atlanta's east side to take advantage of the neighborhood's many benefits as a center of racial pride and economic prowess. King Sr. decided to become a minister in 1917, and by the spring of the following year, he would join his sister, Woodie King, in Atlanta. In 1919, Miss King became a boarder at the home of Reverend A.D. Williams and his wife, Jenny Parks Williams. As a result, King Sr. became acquainted with Reverend and Mrs. Williams and their daughter, Alberta. During his courtship of Alberta, King Sr. became part of the Williams family and the Ebenezer Baptist Church community. Their engagement was announced during Ebenezer's Sunday services in March 1924. During this time, King Sr. served as pastor of several churches while studying at Bryant Preparatory School. Both Reverend Williams and Alberta urged King Sr. to apply to Morehouse College, where he was admitted in 1926. King Sr. and Alberta were married at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary on Thanksgiving Day of the same year.[92]

The newlyweds moved into the Williams home at 501 Auburn Avenue after their wedding. Reverend King Sr. became the Traveler's Rest Baptist Church pastor, and then was later made co-pastor of Ebenezer Church. After A.D. Williams's death in 1931, Martin Luther King Sr. became the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church. The Kings had three children, Willie Christine, Martin (Michael) Luther Jr., and Alfred Daniel. The Birth Home, known as "the Williams House," often served as the scene of spirited baseball and basketball

90. The house at 193 Boulevard was demolished. It was located a short distance from the Birth Home in the Preservation District, on the west side of Boulevard opposite present Hope Hill Elementary School.

91. Martin Luther King Sr., *Daddy King: An Autobiography The Reverend Martin Luther King Sr*. (Boston: Beacon Press, 2017), 78-79.

92. King Sr., *Daddy King*, 9; Martin Luther King Jr., Clayborne Carson, et al., *The Papers of Martin Luther King, Jr.: Volume 1: Called to Serve*: January 1929 – June 1951, (Berkeley: University of California Press), 24-25.

games.[93] Martin Jr. played with other children on the block, including two white boys who were the children of the family that owned the neighborhood grocery store. According to Christine Farris King, her brother and the two neighbor boys were playmates for three or four years until the parents of the two boys ended their friendship. Irene Bryson, a former Birth Home resident and neighbor of the King family, noted in a letter written to Dr. King that her mother and sisters lived a few doors from the King family. She reminisced about how her mother watched Dr. King as a young boy throwing stones on Auburn Avenue.[94] King, who grew up a few doors away from Fire House No. 6, at one time reportedly wanted to become a fireman similar to many other young American boys.[95]

Dr. King's mother, Mrs. Alberta King, had received a teaching certificate from Hampton Institute and only briefly taught school prior to her marriage. Early on she noticed the academic potential in her son, enrolling him for first grade at Yonge Street Elementary School in 1933 with his older sister Christine, and then at David T. Howard Elementary School. The latter school is located in the Preservation District, a short, two-block walk north of the Birth Home at Howell Street and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. King went on to attend Booker T. Washington High School in 1942. He graduated in his early teens from Booker T. Washington High School, Atlanta's only high school for African Americans from 1924 until 1947. After graduating from high school in 1944, at the age of fifteen, King attended Morehouse College, the alma mater of his grandfather and father. While in college, he made his first public declaration for civil rights in an August 1946 letter to the editor of *The Atlanta Constitution*, where he stated that African American people "are entitled to the basic rights and opportunities of American citizens."[96] In 1948, Dr. King was ordained and voted co-pastor in the Ebenezer Baptist Church. He later received his bachelor's degree in sociology from Morehouse, and left Atlanta to attend Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pennsylvania, in September of the same year.

During this period, streetscape features on the Birth Home block, as depicted in oral histories, included street trees and street lighting at the top of wooden poles, which were described by former residents as "coolie hat" lamps.[97] Fire hydrants were installed on the northwest corners of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard, Hogue and Howell streets.[98]

Post-World War II (1945–1960)

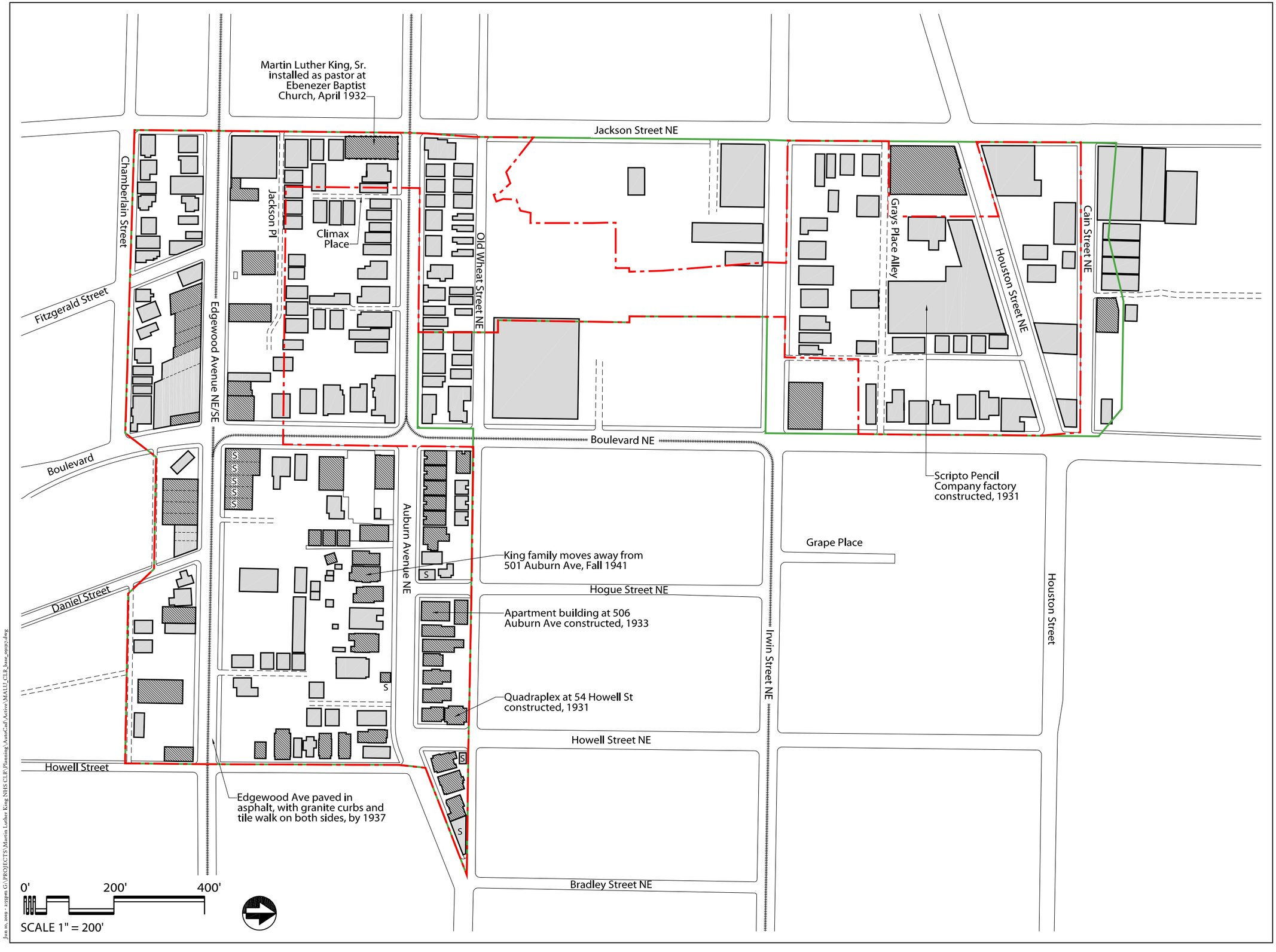
Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his first sermon at Ebenezer Baptist Church in the fall of 1947. Ordained in 1948, he served as co-pastor for the church during breaks from Crozer Theological Seminary and Boston University School of Theology. During the 1950s, Dr. King lived in Pennsylvania and Boston, first attending seminary and then university. On June 18, 1953, Dr. King married Coretta Scott at the Scott home in Marion, Alabama. In September of the following year, the couple relocated to Montgomery, Alabama, where Dr. King, became the minister of the Second Colored Baptist Church (now Dexter Avenue Baptist Church). While in Montgomery, Dr. King earned his doctorate in Systemic Theology from Boston University.

93. Information on the young Martin Luther King Jr. from Christine King Farris, "The Young Martin: From Childhood Through College," *Ebony* (January 1986), 56-58.
94. Irene Bryson to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., March 28, 1968, accessed December 20, 2017, https://www.thekingcenter.org/archive/document/letter-irene-bryson-mlk#.
95. Lily Rothman, "What Martin Luther King Jr. Was Like as a Child," *Time,* January 15, 2015. Reprinted from a February 18, 1957 article, accessed July 17, 2019, http://time.com/3660258/mlk-childhood/.
96. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute (Stanford University), "Major King Events Chronology: 1929-1968," accessed July 17, 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-resources/major-king-events-chronology-1929-1968.
97. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*, 55.
98. Ibid.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park



Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street
- Streetcar
- Sidewalk
- Unpaved alley
- Building
- Subdivided building
- S Store
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate,based on available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

Aerial Survey, Atlanta, Georgia, 1949.

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

Sanborn Map Company. "Insurance Maps of Atlanta, Georgia," Volume 3. 1931–1932.

Works Progress Administration. "Cadastral Survey Map, Atlanta." 1937.

Figure 12.
Period Plan

1941

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Beginning in the mid-1950s, Dr. King traveled extensively across the country and internationally as a spokesperson and leader of the civil rights movement. He received national attention as a civil rights leader for advancing the Montgomery Bus Boycott after local National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) leader Rosa Park's arrest on December 1, 1955, for violating Montgomery's bus segregation ordinance. With Dr. King as the president of the newly formed Montgomery Improvement Association and Ralph David Abernathy as program director, the association led a year-long civil rights protest which spread across the South. The Montgomery Bus Boycott ended on December 20, 1956, after 381 days; it represents the first large-scale demonstration in the United States against segregation.[99]

After the boycott, Dr. King traveled to Atlanta in January 1957 to join leaders of the Montgomery Improvement Association and other protest groups to establish the SCLC on Transportation and Nonviolent Integration.[100] King was elected as the president of the organization, which held its first convention in Montgomery in August 1957. SCLC founders included the following practices as part of their mission: the adoption of nonviolent mass action as the foundation of strategy; affiliation of local community organizations with SCLC across the South; and opening the SCLC movement to all, regardless of race, religion, or background. Other key events of 1957 included the appearance of Dr. King on the cover of *Time* magazine and the passage of the first civil rights act since Reconstruction by the US Congress.

As protests and boycotts occurred, the Kings had two children while living in Montgomery, Yolanda Denise (born November 17, 1955) and Martin Luther III (born October 23, 1957). On September 17, 1958, the first of Dr. King's four books, *Stride Toward Freedom*, was officially released.[101] The book recounts the Montgomery Bus Boycott. During a book signing three days after its release at Blumstein's Department Store in Harlem, New York, he experienced his first assassination attempt. The 29-year old Dr. King was stabbed in the chest with a seven-inch steel letter opener by Izola Ware Curry.[102] He was rushed to Harlem Hospital where doctors performed hours of surgery to remove the weapon which had lodged near his heart. Two days later King's doctors revealed he had developed pneumonia in his lower right lung.[103] In his press conference ten days after the assassination attempt, he stated that he felt no ill-will toward Ms. Curry.[104] He recognized the 42-year old woman suffered from mental health problems and required proper treatment.[105]

Dr. King expressed how the near-death experience deepened his faith in "the relevence[sic] of the spirit of non-violence" and how it allowed him to see more clearly "the redemptive power of non-violence."[106] His doctor later revealed the severity of King's injury, noting that if Dr. King had sneezed or coughed, the weapon would have penetrated his aorta. Dr. King would later recall his near-death experience nearly a decade later in a speech given at the Mason

99. Key events in King's life during the 1950s obtained from the National Park Service. *Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site* (Washington, DC: Government Printing Office, 2010), Brochure.
100. Information on SCLC obtained from SCLC website, accessed July 17, 2019, http://nationalsclc.org/about-us/history/.
101. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Research and Education Institute (Stanford University), "Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story," accessed May 29, 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/stride-toward-freedom-montgomery-story.
102. Ibid., "King Stabbed; rushed to Harlem Hospital," accessed May 29, 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/king-stabbed-rushed-harlem-hospital.
103. Ibid., "King diagnosed with pneumonia at Harlem Hospital," accessed May 29, 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/encyclopedia/king-diagnosed-pneumonia-harlem-hospital.
104. Ibid., "Statement Issued from Harlem Hospital," Press Release, September 30, 1958, accessed May 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/statement-issued-harlem-hospital.
105. Ibid.
106. Ibid.

Temple in Memphis, Tennessee, on the eve of his April 4, 1968, assassination.

One of the most influential events for Dr. King occurred in 1959, when he and Mrs. King traveled to India for a month as guests of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to study the nonviolent teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. Dr. King would practice and implement Gandhi's teachings in his leadership and work for social nonviolence during the civil rights movement.

Dr. King announced his resignation as pastor of the Dexter Avenue Baptist Church and his relocation to Atlanta with a SCLC press release dated December 1, 1959. King explained his decision to shift his base of operation was a response to the appeals from his SCLC colleagues, for the time had arrived for "a broad, bold advance of the southern campaign for equality."[107] In the announcement, he linked his move with the declaration that "a full scale assault will be made upon discrimination and segregation in all forms."[108]

Mid-Twentieth-Century Changes to the Auburn Avenue Neighborhood

Mid-twentieth-century changes in Atlanta included the discontinuation of the Atlanta streetcar system in 1949.[109] Trolleybuses were established on similar routes as the streetcars. Significant changes to the Old Fourth Ward occurred with the introduction of the Interstate Highway System to Atlanta in the 1950s, when highway planners laid out a route bypassing the city's downtown to the east. Dozens of blocks on the western edge of the Old Fourth Ward were cleared for the construction of the new artery. Further destructive highway planning occurred in the 1960s for the construction of Stone Mountain Freeway, which required preliminary land clearing across the center of the neighborhood. A coalition of community activists stopped the freeway project. The large area of cleared land later became the site of Freedom Parkway, Freedom Park, and the Carter Presidential Center.

Families and businesses leaving the neighborhood led to a gradual decline of Auburn Avenue after desegregation. Beginning in the 1950s, apartment buildings replaced single-family dwellings and the overall condition of Auburn Avenue area's historic housing stock continued to decline through neglect and demolition.

Mid-twentieth-century construction within the park boundaries included a filling station and store on the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard, a filling station on the southeast corner of Edgewood Avenue and Boulevard, Christian Education Building at 413 Auburn Avenue, John Hope School at 112 Boulevard, and commercial buildings at 428, 484, 494, 502–504, 509, 510, 521, and 540 Edgewood Avenue. The John Hope School was constructed on the southwest corner of Irwin Street and Boulevard. In 1950, streetlights were installed along Auburn Avenue to Boulevard in 1950.

In 1960, the Archdiocese of Atlanta erected Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic Church, the mother church of African American Catholics, at 25 Boulevard in the immediate vicinity of the National Historical Park. During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, Lourdes parishioners and Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament nuns, participated in protest activities as part of the Old Fourth Ward community.

Ebenezer Baptist Church acquired additional properties beginning in 1947 with 21 Jackson Street, followed by 25 Jackson Street in 1951, 28 Jackson Street in 1952, and 413 Auburn Avenue in 1955.[110] One- and two-story frame dwellings previously stood on these four acquired parcels. The Jackson Street dwellings were razed for the church parking lot, and the Auburn Avenue lot became the site of the Christian Education Building. By 1965, only two dwellings remained on the Jackson Street side of the block.

107. Ibid., "King Leaves Montgomery for Atlanta," SCLC Press Release, December 1, 1959, accessed July 17, 2019, https://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/sclc-press-release-dr-king-leaves-montgomery-atlanta.
108. Ibid.
109 Reed et al., 62.
110. Ibid., 10.

Return of Dr. King to Atlanta (1960–1968)

The King family moved from Montgomery to Atlanta on February 1, 1960. Dr. King returned to Ebenezer Baptist Church to join his father, "Daddy" King, as co-pastor. The move to Atlanta allowed him to dedicate more time to the SCLC and the freedom struggle, which required his engagement on a daily basis. In the early 1960s, King worked and lived in his childhood neighborhood. The family rented a house on Johnson Avenue in the Old Fourth Ward, as King insisted on living among the community's African American working class, a few blocks north of the National Historical Park.

During the early 1960s, the Kings had two more children, Dexter Scott (January 31, 1961) and Bernice Albertine (March 28, 1963). In 1965, the Kings moved out of the Auburn Avenue neighborhood into a house at 234 Sunset Avenue in the Vine City neighborhood on Atlanta's West Side. Dr. King had to make many sacrifices to continue his commitment to the civil rights movement, spending long periods of time away from his family and community.

Civil Rights Movement. Dr. King led the modern American civil rights movement for less than thirteen years, a period spanning December 1955 to April 4, 1968. When he relocated his base of operations to Atlanta in 1960, King initiated the next phase of a nonviolent movement to achieve legal equality for African Americans in the United States. He committed himself to advancing a new SCLC program on a large-scale campaign for voter registration and training in the techniques of social change through nonviolent resistance. Dr. King's campaign faced a hostile environment from the beginning when Georgia governor Ernest Vandiver publicly stated King was not welcome in Atlanta because his presence would bring violence to the city. The governor announced King would be kept under surveillance and prosecuted if he was responsible for any obstruction involving violation of the law.[111] Shortly after their move to Atlanta in April 1960, the King family was the victim of a hate crime when Ku Klux Klan members burned a cross on the front lawn of their Johnson Avenue home. This incident was only the first of numerous threats the prominent civil rights leader faced during the 1960s.

Dr. King organized some of the key events associated with the civil right movement during the 1960s. Confronting seemingly impossible goals at the time, he engaged in acts of nonviolent resistance such as protests, grassroots organizing, and civil disobedience. The SCLC headquarters operated from Prince Hall Masonic Temple on Auburn Avenue, two blocks west of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary. As early as October 1960, Dr. King and dozens of others were arrested for their sit-in at "The Magnolia Room" in Rich's department store in Atlanta. The sit-in occurred eight months after the famous F.W. Woolworth lunch counter sit-in in Greensboro, North Carolina. In these months, several southern cities had integrated their lunch counters. Students along with Dr. King wanted to do the same for Atlanta. He was arrested and kept in jail because of a violation of a previous twelve-month probationary sentence on a charge of driving without a Georgia license.[112] On October 25, he was transferred to Reidsville State Prison, where he was sentenced to four months in a Georgia public works camp. King's attorneys filed an appeal, and presidential candidate John F. Kennedy and his brother, Robert, convinced a judge to grant bond. King was released two days after he was sentenced, and one day after he arrived at the Georgia State Prison.[113] In 1961 and 1962, he was again arrested during a campaign in Albany, Georgia.

From their office on Auburn Avenue, the SCLC and Dr. King worked tirelessly to support and organize the efforts of the civil rights movement. Inspired by King, peaceful mass demonstrations were held during the 1960s. With the 1963

111. King, SCLC Press Release, December 1, 1959.

112. This law was based on an "anti-trespass" law implemented by the State of Georgia to curb lunch counter sit-ins.

113. Dr. King had previously met John F. Kennedy in June 1960, at a private meeting in New York.

campaign in Birmingham, Alabama, King and other activists executed a boycott, sit-ins, and marches to protest segregation, unfair hiring practices, and other injustices. He was arrested for his involvement on April 12. During his imprisonment, he composed the civil rights manifesto in the defense of civil disobedience known as the "Letter from Birmingham Jail." Dr. King worked with civil rights and religious groups to organize the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, which was held on August 28, 1963. He gave his most famous address for peace and equality, the "I Have a Dream" speech, to the more than 200,000 demonstrators. King and other civil rights leaders met with President Kennedy and Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House after the march. The March on Washington is considered a watershed moment in the history of the American civil rights movement.

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 ended segregation in public places on the basis of race, color, religion, sex or national origin. In the same year, at the age of thirty-five, Dr. King became the youngest recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize at that time and was named "Man of the Year" by *Time* magazine. A day after returning home to Atlanta after receiving the Nobel Peace Prize, King supported the International Chemical Workers Union in their strike against the Scripto Company, whose factory once stood at the northern end of the National Historical Park land. Scripto proposed a disparity in pay raises for skilled workers, an increase of 4 percent, and for unskilled workers, an increase of 2 percent. At the time, only six of the factory's 700 African American workers were skilled workers. Dr. King joined the striking workers, walking in the picket line until the strike ended in January 1965.

Dr. King continued with the struggle for equality in March 1965 with demonstrations for equal voting rights, conducting a peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. Led by King, the Selma to Montgomery march influenced the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 by the US Congress. King's activism between 1965 and 1968 shifted in focus toward economic injustice and international peace. He led several campaigns in Chicago, Illinois, and spoke out against the Vietnam War. During these years he advocated for the "Poor People's Campaign," an effort to assemble a multiracial coalition of impoverished Americans who would advocate for economic change.[114]

Beginning of Urban Renewal and Atlanta Downtown Connector (1964). The announcement for future construction of a new freeway (present Freedom Highway) in the 1960s impacted both the King family and the residents of the Old Fourth Ward (Figure 13, Period Plan 1968). In 1965, the Kings moved from their Johnson Avenue house mainly because freeway construction would displace them, but the family also needed more space for their four children.[115] They moved to a house at 234 Sunset Avenue in the Vine City section of the city. Dexter King noted in 2003 that a liquor store stood on the former location of the family's Johnson Avenue home's backyard.[116]

By 1965, buildings on the block containing Ebenezer Church had been largely razed. Ebenezer Church and the Sunday school building are shown on the 1965 Sanborn Insurance map. The Sunday school building was constructed in 1956. Climax Place, a nine-foot wide north–south alley, was located on the western end of the block. Other buildings on the block included two one-story frame dwellings, a concrete block filling station, and a concrete block store on the southwest corner. Almost all of the buildings had been demolished by that time on the block bound by Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue between Jackson Street and Boulevard. Remaining buildings on the block included a brick one-story store and a frame dwelling on the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street; and a one-story frame office building in the middle of the block.

114. The King Center, "About Dr. King," accessed July 17, 2019, http://www.thekingcenter.org/about-dr-king.
115. Dexter Scott King and Ralph Wiley, *Growing Up King* (New York: Warner Books, Inc., 2003), 7.
116. Ibid., 6.

Martin Luther King, Jr. funeral held, April 1968

Streetlights installed along Auburn Ave to Boulevard, 1950

Christian Education Building Church Sunday School constructed, 1956

Residential buildings demolished, 1960-1965

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center constructed, 1960-1965

Jackson Street NE

Chamberlain Street

Climax Pl

Jackson Place

Addition to 438-442 Edgewood Ave, 1946-1953

Fitzgerald Street

443-445 Edgewood Ave altered, 1961

Edgewood Avenue NE/SE

Residential buildings demolished, 1960-1965

Houston Street NE

Cain Street NE

GA 10 (1960s)

Boulevard NE

Boulevard

John Hope School constructed, 1949

454 Irwin St constructed, 1946

Old Wheat Street NE

Auburn Avenue NE

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church constructed, 1960

Grape Place

Daniel Street

Hogue Street NE

Irwin Street NE

Houston Street

Apartments constructed at 531 Auburn Ave, 1954

Howell Street NE

Howell Street

Streetcar service ceases operation, 1949

Bradley Street NE

0' 200' 400'

SCALE 1" = 200'

Jun 10, 2019 - 2:54pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09217.dwg

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street
- Sidewalk
- Unpaved alley
- Building
- Subdivided building
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

1968 Aerial of Atlanta, historicaerials.com

1960 Aerial of Atlanta, historicaerials.com

Figure 13.
Period Plan

1968

The block to the south of the Ebenezer Church, between Jackson Street and Edgewood Avenue, contained seven commercial buildings, a dog and cat hospital, a church, and four ancillary buildings in 1965. These buildings were primarily brick, one- and two-story buildings. One of the buildings, an automobile parts store constructed in 1954, had concrete block construction with brick-faced walls. Extant buildings presently on the block that were identified on the 1965 Sanborn map included the following: a two-story brick dog and cat hospital building at 420 Edgewood Avenue; the two-story concrete block and brick automobile parts store building at 428 Edgewood Avenue; the one-story brick automobile repair shop at 438 Edgewood Avenue; the two-story brick church building at 444 Edgewood Avenue; one story concrete block store building at 456 Edgewood Avenue (now No. 458); and the one-to-two story, brick commercial block at 462–468 Edgewood Avenue.

Only three buildings stood on the current NPS Visitor Center block between Old Wheat and Irwin streets in 1965. These included the Hope School, Red Rock Company Bottling Works, and the service station building. The Red Rock Company Bottling Works factory had expanded its factory by that time with the addition of two, one-story steel-framed warehouse wings and a detached outbuilding. The White Company building at that time was identified as an Auto Truck Sales & Service. A one-story frame building was constructed on the west side of the building by 1965. A frame building was built south of the bottling works on Jackson Street after 1931; by, 1965 the ancillary building was razed.

In 1971, the western approach of the Auburn Avenue corridor into the National Historical Park was altered by construction of a thirteen-story apartment building at 375 Auburn Avenue, changing the urban streetscape of Ebenezer Baptist Church. The high-rise building dwarfs the neighboring buildings on Auburn and Edgewood avenues. In 1977, the Scripto plant closed its factory that was once located at the northern end of the park. New municipal investment in the neighborhood included the opening of the Martin Luther King Jr. Natatorium in 1978 at 70 Boulevard, on the west side of the NPS Visitor Center.

Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr. (1968). Dr. King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He had traveled to Memphis during the previous month to lead a march in support of striking sanitation workers. The death of the civil rights leader shocked the nation. Reactions to his death ranged from violent to peaceful across America. During the week following his murder, civil disturbances and race riots erupted in more than one hundred cities across the country. Dr. King's family was at home at the time of his death. Coretta Scott King returned to Memphis four days later to march with striking sanitation workers and give a speech about continuing her husband's work.

Plans were made for Dr. King's funeral services which included a three-and-a-half mile-long funeral procession through downtown Atlanta. On April 9, 1968, two funeral services were held for Dr. King. The first service occurred at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary where more than 1,000 attendees crowded the 750-person capacity church.[117] Family, friends, distinguished guests, and members of the congregation attended the morning's service. Waiting outside of the church for hours on the morning of his funeral, people were lined up along the sidewalks and streets, pressed up against the church walls, while others stood on rooftops of commercial buildings or crowded on the top of cars. A silent funeral procession commenced after the service at Ebenezer with King's casket atop a wooden wagon pulled by two mules. The large procession passed by tens of thousands of people along the streets of Atlanta on its way to Morehouse College, where a public service was held. King, along with his father and grandfather, were alumni of the college. He was buried later that day at South-View Cemetery, a graveyard established by freed slaves. Only close friends, family, and supporters attended the burial.

117. Rebecca Burns, *Burial for a King* (New York: Scribner, 2011), 161.

Establishment of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change. After the assassination of Dr. King, Coretta Scott King opened the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change (The King Center) in the basement of the couple's home at 234 Sunset Avenue in June 1968. Mrs. King envisioned a living memorial embodying all of Dr. King's vitality, as "a center of human endeavor," committed to the causes for which he lived and died.[118] From the beginning, Mrs. King intended on creating a memorial park on Auburn Avenue dedicated to Dr. King's legacy:

> On Auburn Avenue, we expect to restore his birthplace and continue the life of Ebenezer Baptist Church, his spiritual home. Together with these, in a memorial park, we plan to locate his final place of entombment and build as well a living, open Freedom Hall which will tell for many generations the story of the movement which he led.[119]

Development of the Auburn Avenue Area after 1970

The King Center's Rehabilitation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home (1974)

In 1973, Mrs. Alberta King (Dr. King's mother) signed over the Birth Home to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, Inc. The King Center contracted J.W. Robinson and Associates to restore the Birth Home in 1974. The house was returned from a duplex to a single-family home. Initial exterior, interior, and landscape work on the Birth Home included the following: new concrete driveway; reconstruction of existing chimney; miscellaneous repairs to deteriorating exterior and interior wood on porch, windows, shutters, siding, and trim; installation of plywood roof sheathing and split wood shakes; new gutters and downspouts; installation of insulation; weather stripping of windows and doors; reglazing of windows; new window shades; select new doors; new interior walls – potentially plaster or gypsum wall board; repainting of exterior and interior; installation of interior wall papers (on the advice of Alberta King); soil treatment at basement; and creation of a small second-story apartment for a caretaker. The King Center opened the Birth Home for public tours in 1975.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site[120]

The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District was placed in the National Register of Historic Places on May 2, 1974, and on May 5, 1977, it was designated a National Historic Landmark.[121] The Sweet Auburn Historic District was designated a National Historic Landmark on December 8, 1976.[122] The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District (Landmark) included some portions of the Sweet Auburn Historic District. On May 4, 1994, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was administratively listed on the National Register of Historic Places.[123]

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site (1980). The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Preservation District were

118. Coretta Scott King, "Announcement of The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Center", January 15, 1969, The King Center website, accessed December 20, 2017, https://www.thekingcenter.org/founders-vision.
119. Ibid.
120. Note, "National Historic Site" is used for the following discussion from 1980 through 2017, when it was established as a National Historical Park.
121. *National Register Documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District*, entered in the National Register May 2, 1974 (National Archives Identifier 93208244), and Benjamin Levy, *National Register Landmark Documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District (Landmark)*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1976), designated May 6, 1977 (National Archives Identifier 80000435_NHL).
122. *National Register Landmark Documentation for Sweet Auburn Historic District (Landmark)*, (Washington, DC: National Park Service, 1976), designated December 8, 1976 (National Archives Identifier 93206771).
123. *National Register Documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District*.

established by federal legislation on October 10, 1980 to "protect and interpret for the benefit, inspiration, and education of present and future generations the places where Martin Luther King, Junior, was born, where he lived, worked and worshipped, and where he is buried."[124] As established, historic resources in the original boundaries of the National Historic Site included the houses on the Birth Home block, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, Fire Station No. 6, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, and commercial buildings along Edgewood Avenue.

The 1980 legislation creating the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site authorized a 23.78-acre park. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Preservation District also established by the 1980 legislation adjoins the National Historic Site on the east, north, and west and embraces the larger Auburn Avenue African American community in which Dr. King grew up (refer to Figure 4). The Preservation District links Dr. King's career to the black business, religious, social, and political organizations that flourished along Auburn Avenue prior to and during King's lifetime.

On September 16, 1981, the National Park Service entered into an agreement with the City of Atlanta to provide an impact study of the park and the surrounding area for the Martin Luther King Jr. Advisory Commission.[125] The study documented the existing conditions in the park and adjacent area consisting of a 430-acre study. Between 1970 and 1980, the greatest loss in population (a decrease of 42 percent) within the study area occurred in Census Tract 29 which lies north of Edgewood Avenue, east of Jackson Street, south of Highland Avenue and west of the Southern Railroad line. The study reported that 97 percent of the affected population was African American.

Revitalization of Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District (1980s). In 1983, the National Park Service started recording the annual visitor attendance to the National Historic Site. The first formal recorded year marked the lowest annual attendance to that date with 174, 841 visitors.[126] The NPS operated an information trailer on the east side of the area that is now Peace Plaza at that time.[127] By January 1984, the NPS secured operation and management responsibilities for the Birth Home through a lease with The King Center, owners of the property (Figure 14 and Figure 15). For the next two years, attendance to the National Historic Site reached 322,723 visitors in 1984 and 377,069 visitors in 1985. With the increased popularity of the National Historic Site, the NPS recognized the need for a management plan to protect and preserve the resources in the park.

In 1986, the NPS prepared a *General Management Plan & Development Concept Plan* for the National Historic Site.[128] The plan accounted for sixty-seven historic structures in the park's boundaries, constructed between 1890 and 1910.[129] Acquiring property within the National Historic Site was identified as the focal point of NPS interpretive activities and visitor services at that time.[130] The 1986 NPS plan divided the National Historic Site into three historic zones to concentrate the preservation work and interpretation on the most significant years for the various parts of the community. The Birth Home block's historic period was defined from 1929 to 1941. The NPS maintains the facades of the homes based on the period of significance (1929 – 1941), and it strives to maintain the facades to that representative time period when any restoration, painting or repairs are completed.

124. Public Law 96-428, October 10, 1980.
125. City of Atlanta, Bureau of Planning, *Impact Study for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site and Preservation District* (Atlanta: Bureau of Planning, 1983).
126. National Park Service, *Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic Site, Annual Park Recreation Visitation Data*, August 8, 2017.
127. MALU archives, Series 8 Sub B "Preservation District 1983" Box 5 Fl 20.
128. National Park Service, *General Management Plan & Development Concept Plan, Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site & Preservation District, Atlanta, Georgia* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Region, 1986).
129. Ibid., 13.
130. Ibid.



FIGURE 14. A circa 1983 photograph of the Birth Home with a Martin Luther King Jr. Center sign, prior to when the NPS assumed management responsibilities of the building. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Archives, Photograph, Series 8 Sub B Birth Home Properties 1983–1993 Box 2 Fl 40 020)



FIGURE 15. A circa 1983 photograph of the backyard of Birth Home with a sign for tours of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center sign. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Archives, Photograph, Series 8 Sub B Birth Home Properties 1983–1993 Box 2 Fl 40)

The 1986 management plan identified crime, or the perception of crime, as a major deterrent to the revitalization of the National Historic Site and Sweet Auburn area. Neighborhood residents had reported disappointment in the changes to the neighborhood in the early 1980s, specifically deterioration of buildings and the increase of crime.[131] Early on in the park's history, some residents also expressed dissatisfaction with the influx of visitors on Auburn Avenue which interfered with the residents' use of the sidewalks and the street, available on-street parking, and the use of porches for meetings and socializing (Figure 16).[132] The National Park Service has continued to identify and address similar, as well as new, concerns expressed by the residents of the park and surrounding community.

In 1987, the Propes Furniture Co. Building at 461–467 Elmwood Avenue (Propes Building) was selected as the site for the new NPS Visitor Welcome Center / Parks Administrative Offices. The adjacent two-story Brown Hayes Department Store building was not included in the plans for the new park facility. The contractor submitted drawings to the NPS for the Phase I Demolition, though these plans were not completed.[133] The building's two one-story sections with storefronts on Edgewood Avenue and Boulevard were demolished between circa 1987 and the mid-1990s. A new building was constructed on the site at 461 Auburn Avenue between 1993 and 1999 for the Martin Luther King Jr. Library Branch of the

131. Ibid., 20.
132. Ibid.
133. williams-russell&johnson, inc., *Phase I Demolition* Visitor *Welcome Center/Parks Administrative Offices Propes Building, 461-465 Edgewood Ave., Atlanta, Georgia*.

Atlanta-Fulton Public Library System.[134] By December 2010, the library building at 461 Edgewood Avenue was demolished. The parcel has remained undeveloped.[135]

Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC). The HDDC, a nonprofit community development corporation, was co-founded in 1980 by Coretta Scott King, Christine King Farris, and John Cox. Formed as an all-volunteer neighborhood-based organization, the HDDC was responsible for the preservation and revitalization of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic District.[136] Their mission involves the following three principles: 1) historic preservation—retaining the historic and cultural character of the existing community; 2) non-displacement—maintaining neighborhood diversity by intervening and improving life opportunities for residents; and 3) sustainability—linking mixed-income, mixed-use development to sustainable economic growth.[137] The organization created guiding principles to ensure that the development process was sympathetic to the Sweet Auburn neighborhood's historic character. Since its founding, the HDDC has utilized a block-by-block development strategy, entailing the construction of new homes on vacant lots among existing rehabilitated buildings.

The King Center's Freedom Hall Complex and Dr. King's Tomb (1982)

In 1970, Coretta Scott King moved Dr. King's body to a new tomb on a cleared lot on the south side of Auburn Avenue between Jackson Street and Boulevard, east of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary. The Georgia-marble-faced tomb was set on a circular gravel bed. In 1976, a memorial park was constructed with Dr. King's marble crypt in the center surrounded by a brick and concrete plaza with an arch-covered walkway. A reflecting pool later replaced the gravel under the tomb. An Eternal Flame was added to gravesite in 1977. J. Max Bond, Jr. (1935–2009), a noted African American architect from New York, designed the Martin Luther King Jr. crypt and memorial park and the Center for Nonviolent Social Change. He was one of a few African American architects of national prominence. Bond chose a non-monumental approach to the center's design, as the history of the civil rights movement and Dr. King's assassination were still recent memories. The project was constructed in three phases. Bond created a welcoming space that embraces the visitor, while honoring the character and legacy of Dr. King and others honored at the King Center.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Development (1990s)

As part of planning for hosting the Olympics, the City of Atlanta treated Auburn Avenue as an "Olympic Corridor." The park was expanded in anticipation of the Olympics and its accompanying visitors. In 1992, the National Park Service initiated a two-year planning process to upgrade the National Historic Site in preparation for the 1996 Summer Olympic Games. In 1995, Auburn Avenue received upgrading with special paving, lighting, and signage.[138]

134. Google Earth imagery, January 1993 and February 1999.
135. Ibid., December 2010.
136. HDDC website, accessed July 17, 2019, https://sites.google.com/site/historicdistrictdevelopment/.
137. Ibid.
138. Urban College, Inc., Executive Summary in *Eastside / Auburn Focus Area* (Atlanta: Urban College, Inc., 2014), 13. Accessed July 17, 2019, https://www.atlantadowntown.com/_files/docs/auburn1.pdf.



FIGURE 16. A circa 1984 view of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Visitor Center on the north side of Auburn Avenue, between Jackson Street and Boulevard. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Archives, Photograph, Series 8 Sub B NPS Trailer Undated 1984 Box 6 Fl 41 061)

National Historic Site Boundary Expansion (1992). The Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, enacted October 30, 1992, expanded the park boundaries to include properties located between Jackson Street and Boulevard north to the rear property lines on the north side of Cain Street. The east side of Jackson Street became the expansion area's west boundary line. The west side of Boulevard and the west property lines of 70 Boulevard and 200 Auburn Avenue form the formed the east boundary of the expansion area. In 1994, fifteen industrial and commercial buildings were located in the boundary expansion area. Many of the buildings within the boundary expansion area were unoccupied and in disrepair at that time. Interior alleys were no longer apparent, and the streetscapes were defined by vacant lots separating most buildings (Figure 17, Period Plan circa 1994). Buildings on the site were razed after 1994.

Ebenezer Baptist Church renovated, 1970-1971

Dr. King's remains reinterred, 1970
King Center constructed, 1976

Rose garden, dedicated 1993

Community Center Plaza, by 1984

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

Jackson Street NE

Chamberlain Street SE

Jackson Place

Edgewood Avenue SE

Auburn Avenue NE

Alley

John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE

Cain Street NE

NHS boundary expanded, 1992

Freedom Parkway NE (completed in this area c.1994)

Fitzgerald Street SE

443-445 Edgewood Ave rehabilitated, 1984

Behold monument, 1990

Martin Luther King National Historic Site, established, 1980 (extent of original boundary)

Fire Station No. 6 closed, 1991
Converted to museum, 1993

Boulevard NE

Scripto factory closed, 1977

488 Edgewood Ave rehabilitated, 1986

Shotgun Houses rehabilitated, 1990-1992

492-494 Auburn Ave rehabilitated, 1990

501 Auburn Ave (MLK Birth Home) rehabilitated, 1974
Opened for tours, 1975
NPS took over operation, 1984

Grape Street NE

John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE (renamed 1994)

Daniel Street SE

Hogue Street NE

509 Auburn Ave razed, 1990

513 Edgewood Ave remodeled, 1970s

525 Edgewood Ave altered, c.1986

NPS Interpretation and Visitor Services moved to 522 Auburn Ave, 1990

526 Auburn Ave rehabilitated and converted to NPS Administrative offices, 1990

Irwin Street NE

Howell Street NE

54 Howell St damaged by fire, 1985
Rehabilitated, 1994

Howell Street SE

18 Howell St destroyed by fire, 1991

Stone wall and brick walk rehabilitated, 1987 and 1989

540, 546, 550 Auburn Ave rehabilitated, early 1980s
Acquired by NPS, 1988

Old Wheat Street NE

Bradley Street NE

0' 200' 400'

SCALE 1" = 200'

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street
- Sidewalk
- Unpaved alley
- Building
- Subdivided building
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

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2. Prince Hall Masonic Building, added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave, located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

"As-Built, Boundary, and Topo Survey, Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic Site" Dwg. No. 489-41007, January 1994.

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

Figure 17.
Period Plan

1994

Planning and Design Activities for the National Historic Site Facility Development.

Funding for Construction of Permanent Facilities. In 1994, the State of Georgia ceded to the United States jurisdiction over all lands within the boundaries of the National Historical Site. The city's sidewalks and streets in the park became subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the United States.[139] In a Memorandum of Agreement signed in 2010, the city retained jurisdiction of the enforcement of all pertinent criminal and civil laws ordinances and regulations of the State of Georgia, County of Fulton, and City of Atlanta. The city also retained primary responsibility for the maintenance of its sidewalks and streets within the park, though the city and the National Park Service could engage in joint projects affecting those resources. This agreement remained in effect for a five-year period.

1996 XXVI Summer Olympics. The Summer Olympics in Atlanta began on July 19, 1996. Two aerial photographs taken in 1996 documented the construction progress at the park in the months leading up to the start of the games. The first aerial photograph taken on March 3, 1996, showed the east wing of the community center block fronting Jackson Street, a row of buildings on the west side of Boulevard between Irwin Street and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, and a building on the north side of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue.[140] The Peace Plaza, visitor center promenade, and parking lot were under construction. A later 1996 aerial photograph captured the newly completed visitor center and Peace Plaza. The plaza was redesigned with new landscape plan which removed the landscape elements from the earlier layout. Landscape and construction work were still underway at the time of this 1996 aerial photograph. The visitor center parking lot was under construction at that time. On August 4, 1996, the last day of the Summer Olympics, the men's marathon route passed through Sweet Auburn and the National Historic Site (Figure 18).



FIGURE 18. Runners competing in the 1996 XXVI Summer Olympics Men's Marathon passing by the Birth Home. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Archives, Photograph, Series 8 Sub B King Center Olympics 1996 Box 5 Fl 49 033)

Twenty-First Century Development and Planning

In 2001, the original boundary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District was increased.[141] The purpose of the expansion was to increase the district's boundaries to include contiguous and intact portions of the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood not included in the original National Register nomination. The boundary increase includes historically residential properties as far as the Interstate 75/85 corridor. The elevated interstate was rebuilt and widened three times its original width since 1980 and is a large visual and physical barrier between the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District and the Sweet Auburn Historic District farther west. Historically, these two historic districts were once part of a single African American community. Sweet Auburn is now considered downtown, while the Auburn Avenue community is generally viewed as a residential neighborhood on the east side of Atlanta. Freedom Parkway forms the northern boundary of the historic district and DeKalb Avenue forms the boundary on the south.

139. City of Atlanta and National Park Service, *Management Agreement Between the City of Atlanta and* the *United States of America*, 2010.

140. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Archives, Series 8 Sub B "Carter Center 1996" Box 1 Fl 29 (Aerial Photograph No. B8672, Date: 3-11-96).

141. See Moffson and Kissane.

Death of Coretta Scott King / Tomb at The King Center. Coretta Scott King died on January 30, 2006. Mrs. King was considered the "first lady of the civil rights movement," carrying out Dr. King's work after his death. While honoring the work and legacy of her husband, she too became a leader in the movement. Mrs. King's body laid in repose at the Georgia capital for public viewing, and flags were flown at half-staff at all state buildings in memoriam. Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary also hosted a viewing where thousands came to pay respects. Her body was temporarily interred in a smaller white tomb near Dr. King's grave until his single crypt was replaced with a larger one.

Early Twenty-First Century. Physical changes have occurred to the NPS Visitor's Center block since the turn of the twentieth-first century. In 2012, the City of Atlanta closed the Martin Luther King Jr. Natatorium due to structural concerns; it was demolished in 2016. The Martin Luther King Sr. Community Resources Center was constructed in 2012 on the west side of the NPS Visitor Center.

From National Historic Site to National Historical Park.

> I hope that this moment will serve as a reminder of the constant work to realize Dr. King's dream of building the Beloved Community—a community at peace with itself and our neighbors.
>
> —Congressman John Lewis[142]

On January 8, 2018, during the fiftieth anniversary year of Dr. King's assassination, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was re-designated as the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park with the signing of the "Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Act" (HR 267; Public Law No: 115-108) (Figure 19, Period Plan 2017). Atlanta Congressman and prominent civil rights leader John Lewis first introduced legislation to create what would become Georgia's first National Historical Park. The US House of Representatives passed the bill on March 15, 2017, and the US Senate adopted the legislation by voice vote on December 21, 2017. The Act reclassified the National Park unit from a National Historic Site to a National Historical Park. The legislation also added Prince Hall Masonic Building, the former headquarters of the SCLC to the park. This historic re-designation represents the first-ever National Park unit authorized to fully commemorate an individual African American.

Increased Attendance. Annual visitation to the National Historical Park is approximately 700,000.[143] The park offers free parking and is accessible by public transportation. Cyclists and pedestrians can also access the park via the Freedom Trail. Park visitation is generally consistent throughout the year, with exception of January and February when the park receives a spike in visitors with the commemoration of Dr. King's birth and death. In Fiscal Year 2016, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park received 467,715 visitors who spent a total of 701,575 visitor's hours at the park.[144] In September 2016, the NPS prepared a Congestion Assessment Report for the Park, which offered recommendations for reducing congestion at the site in anticipation of the fiftieth anniversary of Dr. King's death in 2018.[145] The report outlines problems and solutions to more effectively manage congestion and enhance the visitor's experience at the park.

142. John Lewis, *Lewis Statement on HR 267, The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Park Act*, Press Release, January 8, 2018, accessed January 9, 2018, https://johnlewis.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/lewis-statement-hr-267-martin-luther-king-jr-national-historical-park.

143. National Park Service, *Congestion Assessment Report Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site* (Denver: National Park Service, Denver Service Center, 2016), 5.

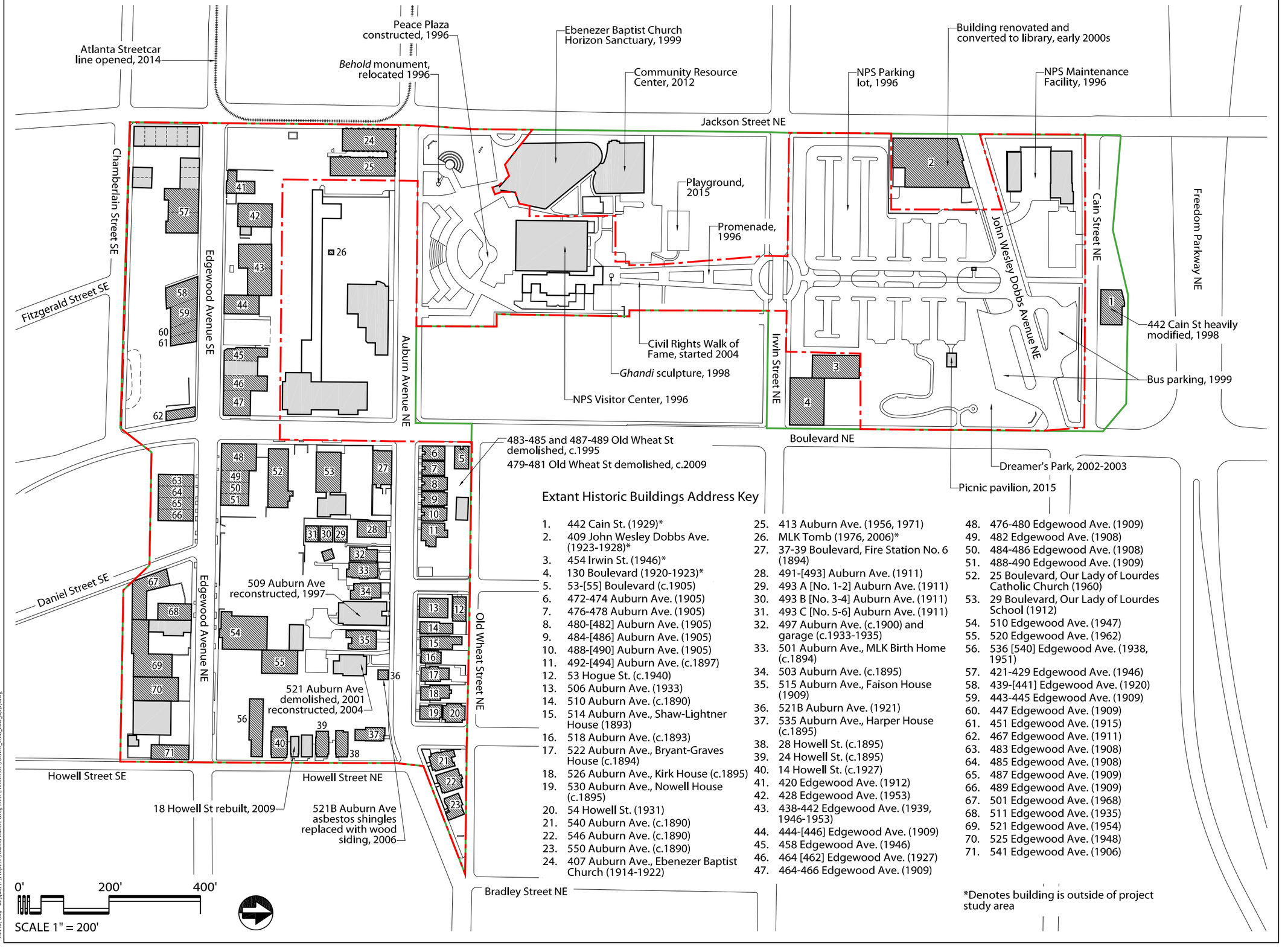
144. National Park Service, *Monthly Public Use Report*, December 2016. On file at MALU.

145. National Park Service, *Congestion Assessment Report*.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park



Extant Historic Buildings Address Key

1. 442 Cain St. (1929)*
2. 409 John Wesley Dobbs Ave. (1923-1928)*
3. 454 Irwin St. (1946)*
4. 130 Boulevard (1920-1923)*
5. 53-[55] Boulevard (c.1905)
6. 472-474 Auburn Ave. (1905)
7. 476-478 Auburn Ave. (1905)
8. 480-[482] Auburn Ave. (1905)
9. 484-[486] Auburn Ave. (1905)
10. 488-[490] Auburn Ave. (1905)
11. 492-[494] Auburn Ave. (c.1897)
12. 53 Hogue St. (c.1940)
13. 506 Auburn Ave. (1933)
14. 510 Auburn Ave. (c.1890)
15. 514 Auburn Ave., Shaw-Lightner House (1893)
16. 518 Auburn Ave. (c.1893)
17. 522 Auburn Ave., Bryant-Graves House (c.1894)
18. 526 Auburn Ave., Kirk House (c.1895)
19. 530 Auburn Ave., Nowell House (c.1895)
20. 54 Howell St. (1931)
21. 540 Auburn Ave. (c.1890)
22. 546 Auburn Ave. (c.1890)
23. 550 Auburn Ave. (c.1890)
24. 407 Auburn Ave., Ebenezer Baptist Church (1914-1922)
25. 413 Auburn Ave. (1956, 1971)
26. MLK Tomb (1976, 2006)*
27. 37-39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6 (1894)
28. 491-[493] Auburn Ave. (1911)
29. 493 A [No. 1-2] Auburn Ave. (1911)
30. 493 B [No. 3-4] Auburn Ave. (1911)
31. 493 C [No. 5-6] Auburn Ave. (1911)
32. 497 Auburn Ave. (c.1900) and garage (c.1933-1935)
33. 501 Auburn Ave., MLK Birth Home (c.1894)
34. 503 Auburn Ave. (c.1895)
35. 515 Auburn Ave., Faison House (1909)
36. 521B Auburn Ave. (1921)
37. 535 Auburn Ave., Harper House (c.1895)
38. 28 Howell St. (c.1895)
39. 24 Howell St. (c.1895)
40. 14 Howell St. (c.1927)
41. 420 Edgewood Ave. (1912)
42. 428 Edgewood Ave. (1953)
43. 438-442 Edgewood Ave. (1939, 1946-1953)
44. 444-[446] Edgewood Ave. (1909)
45. 458 Edgewood Ave. (1946)
46. 464 [462] Edgewood Ave. (1927)
47. 464-466 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
48. 476-480 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
49. 482 Edgewood Ave. (1908)
50. 484-486 Edgewood Ave. (1908)
51. 488-490 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
52. 25 Boulevard, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church (1960)
53. 29 Boulevard, Our Lady of Lourdes School (1912)
54. 510 Edgewood Ave. (1947)
55. 520 Edgewood Ave. (1962)
56. 536 [540] Edgewood Ave. (1938, 1951)
57. 421-429 Edgewood Ave. (1946)
58. 439-[441] Edgewood Ave. (1920)
59. 443-445 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
60. 447 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
61. 451 Edgewood Ave. (1915)
62. 467 Edgewood Ave. (1911)
63. 483 Edgewood Ave. (1908)
64. 485 Edgewood Ave. (1908)
65. 487 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
66. 489 Edgewood Ave. (1909)
67. 501 Edgewood Ave. (1968)
68. 511 Edgewood Ave. (1935)
69. 521 Edgewood Ave. (1954)
70. 525 Edgewood Ave. (1948)
71. 541 Edgewood Ave. (1906)

*Denotes building is outside of project study area

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Street
- Streetcar
- Sidewalk
- Unpaved alley
- Building
- Subdivided building
- Extant historic building (2017)

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations, NPS-provided GIS data, and available historic mapping.
2. Prince Hall Masonic Building (1941), added to the National Historical Park in 2018, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.
3. 234 Sunset Ave (1950), located within the park's authorized boundary, is not part of the study area for this project and is not depicted on this illustration.

Sources:

Atlanta.gov, Building Permits.

"Extant Historic Resources" Dwg. No. 489-80015, August 1993.

"Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Maintenance Facility" Dwg. No. 489-60027, April 1996.

Blythe, et al. *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Historic Resource Study.* August 1994.

Figure 19.
Period Plan

2017

Oct 01, 2019 - 10:51am J:\Projects\Martin Luther King CLR\AutoCAD\MALU_CLR_base_091917.dwg

Revitalization of Sweet Auburn. Initial efforts to preserve Sweet Auburn began in 1976 when the neighborhood was designated a National Historic Landmark. Coretta Scott King and Christine King founded the HDDC four years later, which focused on revitalizing Sweet Auburn's residential area. During the 1980s, Sweet Auburn began its decline. Sweet Auburn was placed on the National Trust for Historic Preservation's list of "America's 11 Most Endangered Historic Places" twice, in 1992 and 2002.[146] The neighborhood has rebounded since the early 2000s with the eastern edge of Atlanta slowly returning to a social and cultural hub. The Atlanta Streetcar, MARTA's Downtown Loop, opened for passenger service in 2014. The new light rail system extends along Auburn Avenue from Downtown Atlanta to the Sweet Auburn neighborhood.

Current land use within the National Historical Park is mostly residential on Auburn Avenue and largely commercial on Edgewood Avenue. The NPS has rehabilitated many of the dwellings on the Birth Home block, restoring the exteriors to the period of 1929 to 1941. The historic streetscape features and the major spatial relationships that define the streetscape within the Birth Home block have remained relatively constant since its development in the late nineteenth century. The residential buildings on the Birth Home block are used as park offices or private residences. Fire Station No. 6's exterior has been restored to its appearance in the 1930s–1940s. The building houses exhibits on fire-fighting history.

The Birth Home, 501 Auburn Avenue, purchased by the National Park Foundation.

In 2012, the NPS and The King Center began negotiations for the sale of the Birth Home, 501 Auburn Avenue, to the National Park Foundation. There were months of complicated discussions between the groups, and some King Center board members were reluctant to sell the property. Nevertheless, Bernice A. King, Dr. King's daughter and chief executive of the King Center, told *The New York Times,* "the time was ripe to do this, and it gives us an opportunity to transfer this to an entity that does an extremely good job at preserving and telling the stories of our history in America."[147]

The Birth Home was sold to the National Park Foundation, the charity arm of the NPS, and the home was turned over to the NPS on November 27, 2018. Wil Shafroth, the foundation president commented, "This is a big deal and one of [our] most important acquisitions." Shafroth indicated that the National Historical Park plans to "improve and enhance" the house which would "include repairs not visible to visitors such as heating, which are still being determined." He indicated that repairs would cost "in the millions of dollars" but had no specific figure.[148]

146. Meghan White, "Reviving Atlanta's Sweet Auburn Water Tower," National Trust for Historic Preservation, accessed January 10, 2018, https://savingplaces.org/stories/reviving-atlantas-sweet-auburn-water-tower#.Wl-Rc9QrKGh.

147. Mihir Zaveri, "National Park Service Now Owns the Home Where Martin Luther King Jr. Was Born," *The New York Times*, December 15, 2018, accessed February 15, 2019, https://www.nytimes.com/2018/12/15/us/mlk-home-national-park-service.html.

148. Ibid.

Timeline for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Study Area

1853	Wheat Street (later Auburn Avenue) opens.
1880	Landowner John Lynch begins subdividing his large landholdings on Auburn Avenue.
1884	Gate City Street Railroad Company constructed a horse-car line from downtown Atlanta along Auburn Avenue to Jackson Street, and then north on Jackson.
1886	Ebenezer Baptist Church is organized.
1889	Electric street railway line opens along Edgewood Avenue.
1890s	Ten, two-story Queen Anne Style residences built at 497, 503, 510, 514, 518, 522, 526, 530, 535, and 550 Auburn Avenue. Two, one-story frame buildings constructed at 515 and 546 Auburn Avenue.
1893	Wheat Street becomes Auburn Avenue.
1894	City of Atlanta constructs Fire Station No. 6 at 39 Boulevard.
1895	Future Birth Home of Martin Luther King Jr. constructed at 501 Auburn Avenue.
1905	Empire State Investment Company constructs five of nine double shotgun houses on the north side of Auburn Avenue (472–474, 476–478, 480–482, 484–486, and 488–490).
circa 1905	Double-shotgun constructed at 53–55 Boulevard.
1906	African Americans begin moving into Auburn Avenue area after the Atlanta Race Riot of 1906.
1906–1909	Brick commercial buildings constructed at 443–445, 444–446, 447, 464–466, 476–480,482, 483, 484, 485, 487, 488, 489, and 541 Edgewood Avenue.
1911–1927	Brick commercial buildings constructed at 420, 439–441, 451, 462, 467, and 513 Edgewood Avenue.
1929–1941	Brick commercial buildings constructed during the period of significance at 438–442 and 479 Edgewood Avenue.
1909	Martin Luther King Jr.'s grandfather A.D. Williams purchases the residence at 501 Auburn Avenue for $3,500.
1909	Residence at 515 Auburn Avenue constructed.
1910	Birth Home block is predominantly African American, with only two white residents remaining on the block.
1910–1930	Auburn Avenue becomes the center of African American business, institutional, religious, and social life in Atlanta.
1911	Apartment building constructed at 491 Auburn Avenue. Three double shotguns on alley behind Birth Home block at 493 Auburn Avenue (rear units 1–6).
1912	Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church constructed at 29 Boulevard.

1913	Reverend A.D. Williams received bond for title to a lot on the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street, the future permanent home of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary.
1914–1922	Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary constructed at 407–13 Auburn Avenue.
1917	Great Atlanta Fire engulfs most of Old Fourth Ward.
1918	Michael King (later Martin Luther King Sr.) leaves his family farm in Stockbridge, Georgia, for Atlanta.
1921	Store building constructed at 521½ Auburn Avenue.
1925	Apartment house at 509 Auburn Avenue constructed.
1926	Reverend Michael King (Martin Luther King Sr.) and Alberta Christine Williams are married.
1929	Michael (later Martin) Luther King Jr. born on January 15 in the home of his grandparents at 501 Auburn Avenue.
Late 1920s / Early 1930s	Two Queen Anne buildings at 506 and 509 Auburn are demolished. The lots were redeveloped with two-story, multi-unit buildings.
1931	Quadraplex at 54 Howell Street constructed and original lot subdivided.
	Reverend A.D Williams dies on March 21. Martin Luther King Sr. is officially installed as pastor in April 1932.
1933	Apartment house constructed at 506 Auburn Avenue.
1941	Dr. King's grandmother, Mrs. Williams, dies on May 18. The King family moves to a new home at 193 Boulevard later in the fall.
1949	John Hope School (Hope-Hill Elementary School) constructed at 12 Boulevard on the east side of the future NPS Visitor Center block; named after African American educator John Hope (1868–1936).
	Streetcar service ceases operation on Auburn Avenue.
1950	City of Atlanta installs streetlights on Auburn Avenue from Ivy (now Peachtree Center Avenue) to Boulevard.[149]
1953	Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott marry on June 18 in Marion, Alabama.
1954	Two brick apartment buildings erected at 531 Auburn Avenue.
1955–1956	Ebenezer Baptist Church constructs Christian Education Building Church Sunday School at 413 Auburn Avenue.
1960	Dr. King Jr. and his family return to Sweet Auburn neighborhood.
1964	Georgia Department of Transportation finishes construction of the Atlanta Downtown Connector (I-75/I-85), dividing Sweet Auburn neighborhood into two sections.
1968	Assassination of Dr. King on April 4 in Memphis.

149. Jones, 20.

1970	Dr. King's remains transferred from South-View Cemetery to a cleared lot east of Ebenezer Baptist Church (now The King Center campus).
1971–1974	The King Center rehabilitates the Birth Home to the period of when the King family resided in it.
1973	Mrs. Alberta King (Dr. King's mother) signed over the Birth Home to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center, Inc.
1974	Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District listed on the National Register of Historic Places.
1975	Birth Home opens for public tours.
1976	Sweet Auburn Historic District established as a National Historic Landmark.
	A memorial park is constructed around the marble tomb of Dr. King.
1977	Dedication of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s tomb and the Eternal Flame at present location.
	Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District (Landmark) established as a National Historic Landmark.
1978	City of Atlanta builds Martin Luther King Jr. Natatorium at 70 Boulevard on the east side of the future NPS Visitor Center block.
1980	Public Law 96-428 established Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site on October 10.
	Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC) is co-founded by Coretta Scott King, Christine King Farris, and John Cox in 1980 as an all-volunteer neighborhood-based organization with a charge to rehabilitate and revitalize the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic District.
1982	Mrs. King dedicates The King Center's Freedom Hall Complex on the fifty-third anniversary of Dr. King's birth.
1984	National Park Service assumes responsibility for tours and maintenance of Birth Home.
	National Park Service acquires vacant building at 509 Auburn Avenue.
1990[150]	Rehabilitation of Queen Anne Style house at 526 Auburn Avenue is completed. National Park Service administrative staff moves its offices into the building.
	Rehabilitation of duplexes at 480–482, 484–486, and 488 A & B Auburn Avenue begins; projected completion date summer 1991.
	1996 Summer Olympics awarded to Atlanta, on September 18.
	National Park Service razes building at 509 Auburn Avenue due to safety hazard to adjacent buildings and visiting public.
	HDDC completes rehabilitation of the National Park Service-owned building at 492–494 Auburn Avenue.
	National Park Service initiates plans for the design and location of a permanent park headquarters and a maintenance facility.
	Cooperative Agreement between NPS Southeast Region and Georgia State University negotiated for the development of a Historic Landscape Plan for the Birth Home block.

150. Events from 1990 to 1993 obtained from Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District annual reports.

New driveway / sidewalk poured in the rear of 514 Auburn Avenue.

Accessibility entrance installed at the Birth Home.

Interpretation and Visitor Services moved to 522 Auburn Avenue.

Plans initiated to change the location of the King Center parking lot to the property located on Irwin Street between Boulevard and Jackson Street.

Buildings at 506 and 510 Auburn Avenue receive new roofs.

1991 Fire Station No. 6 closes.

International Civil Rights Walk of Fame is completed.

Residential building at 18 Howell Street is destroyed by fire.

1992 Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992, enacted October 30, 1992, expanded the Park boundaries to include properties located between Jackson Street and Boulevard north to Cain Street.

Public Law 102-575 establishes Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site boundary expansion for off-street parking lots. A portion of the new acreage is later made available to the Ebenezer Baptist Church for the construction of a new place of worship.

The Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden is planted.

Highest attendance in park's history recorded at 3,353,140 visitors.

1993 City of Atlanta removed 500 Old Wheat Street in Preservation District

A draft Historic Landscape Plan for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site is completed.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site completes first draft of a Resources Management Plant, updated the Interpretive Prospective, Land Protection Plan and General Management Plan.

New roofs installed at 522, 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue.

National Park Service landscapes vacant lot at 460 Edgewood Avenue and constructs new steps from south side of sidewalk.

A Rose Garden planted at the Community Center Plaza officially dedicated.

In conjunction with the expansion of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site boundary, major planning and design activities for facility development continue that included a major parking facility, 300-ft pedestrian mall, visitor center, redevelopment of the Community Center Plaza, Rehabilitation of Fire Station No. 6 into a fire museum, which was later dropped as a consideration, completion of the acquisition and rehabilitation of residential properties on the Birth Home block, coordination with the City of Atlanta for the development of a replacement community center.

National Park Service receives an appropriation of $10 million for construction of major visitor facilities and one million for land acquisition.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site rangers establish a buffer zone by assisting adjacent landowners in boarding, monitoring, and securing their properties. Vacant properties abutting park properties exposed a weak link in the park's security plan.

	Through assistance of the Trust For Public Lands, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site acquired property at 515 Auburn Avenue.
	The Park, HDDC, and Nations Bank enter an agreement to construct a replacement facility.
1994	The State of Georgia cedes to the United States jurisdiction over all lands within the boundaries of the National Historic Site. The city's sidewalks and streets in the National Historic Site became subject to the concurrent jurisdiction of the United States.
	Houston Street renamed John Wesley Dobbs Avenue; Dobbs was the unofficial "mayor" of Auburn Avenue.
1995	Demolition of Scripto, Inc. factory for NPS Visitor Center parking lot.
1996	NPS Visitor Center at 450 Auburn Avenue is constructed.
	City of Atlanta hosts the Summer Olympics; marathon route through Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.
	The "Behold" Monument, a ten-foot bronze statue donated by sculptor Patrick Morelli, is unveiled at its present site. Coretta Scott King originally unveiled the statue in 1990 at the Peace Plaza.
1998	Mohandas K. "Mahatma" Gandhi statue by Indian Sculptor Ram Sutar installed at the south end of the NPS Visitor Center promenade.
1999	The new Ebenezer Baptist Church (Horizon Sanctuary) is constructed at 101 Jackson Street NE (formerly 400 Auburn Avenue) to accommodate growing congregation.
2004	Public Law 108-314 expanded the boundary to enhance emergency street access to the National Historic Site Visitor Center and Museum.
	International Civil Rights Walk of Fame installed on the NPS Visitor Center promenade.
2006	Coretta Scott King is laid to rest with Dr. King in an enlarged marble tomb.
2009	Old playground on NPS Visitors Center block removed.
2012	Martin Luther King Jr. Natatorium closes.
2014	Atlanta Streetcar installed on Auburn and Edgewood avenues, connecting the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site to downtown Atlanta.
2015	New playscape for Hope-Hill Elementary School erected on north side of NPS Visitor Center.
2016	Martin Luther King Jr. Natatorium demolished.
2018	Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site re-designated Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.
	Ownership of the Birth Home was transferred to the NPS following the purchase of the property by the National Park Foundation.
2019	Ownership of the house at 234 Sunset Avenue was transferred to the NPS following its purchase by the National Park Foundation on January 8, 2019.

Existing Conditions

Introduction

This chapter describes through narrative text, contemporary photographs, and labeled base mapping, the current conditions and extant landscape features associated with the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. The purpose of documenting the park's existing landscape is three-fold. The primary role of the existing condition documentation is to convey the range and breadth of landscape features by identifying, describing, and locating them on a map. This documentation serves as a baseline of information for the rest of the document. The second purpose is to generate an inventory of park features that can be utilized to develop cultural landscape analyses and assess National Register eligibility and integrity. The final role is to provide a record of the urban landscape that may prove useful to future research efforts.

The first section of this chapter—Project Context—sets the Historical Park within a regional and local context and describes regional elements such as major road corridors, planning and zoning districts, preservation districts, National Register of Historic Places and National Historic Landmark areas, and other contextual information that provide a cultural framework for the park. The second section—Existing Conditions Overview—describes the overall organizing elements and features that characterize the property. The third section—Existing Conditions Documentation by Landscape Character Areas—depicts the extant landscape features located within each character area. These feature descriptions are organized by landscape characteristics, the tangible and intangible aspects of a site that collectively convey its historic character and aid in the understanding of its cultural importance. Landscape characteristics range from large-scale patterns and relationships to site details and materials. The following categories of landscape characteristics are used to document the National Historical Park.

- **Patterns of Spatial Organization.** These reflect the three-dimensional organization of physical forms and visual associations in a landscape, including the articulation of ground, vertical, and overhead planes that define and create spaces.
- **Land Uses and Activities.** These illustrate the principal activities in a landscape that form, shape, and organize it as a result of human interaction.
- **Circulation.** This represents the spaces, features, and applied material finishes that constitute the systems of movement in a landscape.
- **Cultural Vegetation.** This includes the deciduous and evergreen trees, shrubs, vines, ground covers, and herbaceous plants that have been introduced into a landscape by cultural activities.
- **Buildings.** These are elements constructed primarily for sheltering any form of human activity in a landscape.
- **Structures.** These are elements constructed for functional purposes other than sheltering human activities.
- **Views.** These are generally defined as being expansive and panoramic prospects, whether naturally occurring or designed.

- **Small-scale features.** These are the elements providing detail and diversity for both functional needs and aesthetic concerns in a landscape.

Archeological resources are addressed at the end of the chapter.

Project Context

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is located in the heart of the City of Atlanta, Georgia. Atlanta developed among the foothills of the southern Appalachian Mountains atop a ridge just south of the Chattahoochee River.[151]

The city, including the study area, lies within the Atlanta Plateau, a component of the Southern Piedmont Major Land Resource Area (MLRA). Soils are well drained and present loamy subsoil that appears in characteristic shades of red and brown often referred to as "Georgia red clay," chiefly due to its iron oxide content.[152] However, the soils located within the boundaries of the Study Area would more likely be classified as "Urban." "Urban soil is material that has been manipulated, disturbed or transported by human activity in the urban environment and is used as a medium for plant growth."[153]

Native vegetation of the Atlanta area includes a mixture of pines and hardwoods such as maples, oaks, and magnolia. Within the study area, however, substantial, long-term development of the urban landscape has led to substantial augmentation of native vegetation. Due to the park's location in a densely developed urban area, most vegetation is found in fairly small residential front and back yards, the urban streetscape, and the National Park Service visitor services area and associated parking and circulation. Cultural vegetation planted in the National Historical Park is a mixture of native and nonnative planted species that date to the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

The top employment sectors in metro Atlanta are trade, transportation, and utilities; professional and business services; education and health services; and leisure and hospitality. Headquartered in Atlanta and its nearby suburbs are several major national and international companies including the Coca-Cola Company, Home Depot, and United Parcel Service. In the City of Atlanta, Delta Air Lines is the largest employer and the metro area's third largest employer. Atlanta's metro area ranked as the tenth largest "cyber city" in the United States, boasting 126,700 jobs in high-tech industries. In 2012, the metro area was second only to New York City in the number of African-American firms.[154]

Atlanta's role as the Southeast's business and transportation center brings visitors to the city and therefore to the park. Atlanta is a vibrant and diverse city, and consequently it has become an attractive regional tourist destination. The proximity of the park to downtown Atlanta has a major effect on visitor use.

Land Use and Zoning

The study area is located entirely within the city limits of Atlanta and is therefore subject to all city development controls and zoning ordinances. Zoning designations within the study area are categorized as either institutional, residential,

151. Anthony Scalletta, "A Water Resources Survey: Atlanta, Georgia 1960–2009," last modified April 23, 2010, https://www.slideshare.net/anthonyscaletta/a-water-resources-survey-atlanta-ga-19602009.
152. Curtis G. Marshall, *Soil Survey of Fulton County, Georgia* (Washington, DC: US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service, 2008), accessed January 29, 2018, https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ detail/ga/soils?cid=nrcs144p2-021883.
153. Phillip J. Craul, *Urban Soils* (Syracuse, NY: SUNY-College of Environmental Science & Forestry, n.d.), accessed January 29, 2018, https://www.ces.ncsu.edu/fletcher/programs/nursery/metria/metr ia05/m57.pdf.
154. US Census Bureau, "Los Angeles County a Microcosm of Nation's Diverse Collection of Business Owners, Census Bureau Reports," Press Release, December 15, 2015, accessed January 29, 2018, https://census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2015/cb15-209.html.

commercial service or commercial corridor. All but one section of the study area (C-2 Commercial Service District) is dually designated by the City of Atlanta as part of both a Cultural Conservation District (HC) and of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Landmark District (20-C). The City of Atlanta defines a Cultural Conservation District as "one that has retained an adequate amount of its historic character for interpretation, although some alterations may have occurred."[155] The Martin Luther King, Jr. Landmark District is divided into several subareas for the purpose of designating areas of similar characteristics with regulations fitting to preservation, restoration, rehabilitation and / or redevelopment treatment.[156] The north section of the study area bounded by Jackson Street NE, Cain Street NE, Boulevard NE, and Irwin Street NE is designated by the city as C-2, Commercial Service District (Figure 20).

National and Local Historic District Designations

Two National Register Districts, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District and the Sweet Auburn Historic District, were established in the 1970s and commemorate Dr. King and the historic Atlanta east side black community. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District was placed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1974 and was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1977. The Sweet Auburn Historic District was placed in the National Register and made a National Historic Landmark in 1976. The 1980 Martin Luther King, Jr. Preservation District, established by the park's enabling legislation, included the areas listed in both the 1974 Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District and the 1976 Sweet Auburn Historic District; the preservation district was expanded in 1992. In 1989, the City of Atlanta, through the Atlanta Urban Design Commission, established the Martin Luther King, Jr. Landmark District, consolidating two existing city preservation districts. In 2001, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District was significantly expanded to include much more of the Old Fourth Ward neighborhood context. Most of these districts overlap within the study boundary for this cultural landscape report (Figure 21).

Transportation

While the majority of visitors arrive at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park in private cars, public transportation is available for transport to the park. The Atlanta Streetcar (*Cities Connect Atlanta Plan*) provides access to the park with stops at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. MARTA (Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority) is the public transit system in the city. It has no direct train service to the park but there is a stop called "King Memorial" that is approximately one-half mile south of the visitor center. There is bus service and routes include: Route 3, Martin Luther King Jr. / Auburn Avenue, and Route 99, Boulevard / Monroe Drive.

The major interstate highway through Atlanta was completed in 1964. The Atlanta Downtown Connector (I-75 / I-85) divided the Sweet Auburn neighborhood into two sections. This resulted in the existing split boundary of the Preservation District.

155. City of Atlanta, *Code of Ordinances,* accessed January 29, 2018, https://library.municode.com/ga/atlanta/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOORANDECO_PT16ZO_CH20HCHICUCODI.

156. City of Atlanta, *Code of Ordinances,* accessed January 29, 2018, https://library.municode.com/ga/atlanta/codes/code_of_ordinances?nodeId=PTIIICOORANDECO_PT16ZO_CH20CMALUKIJRLADI.

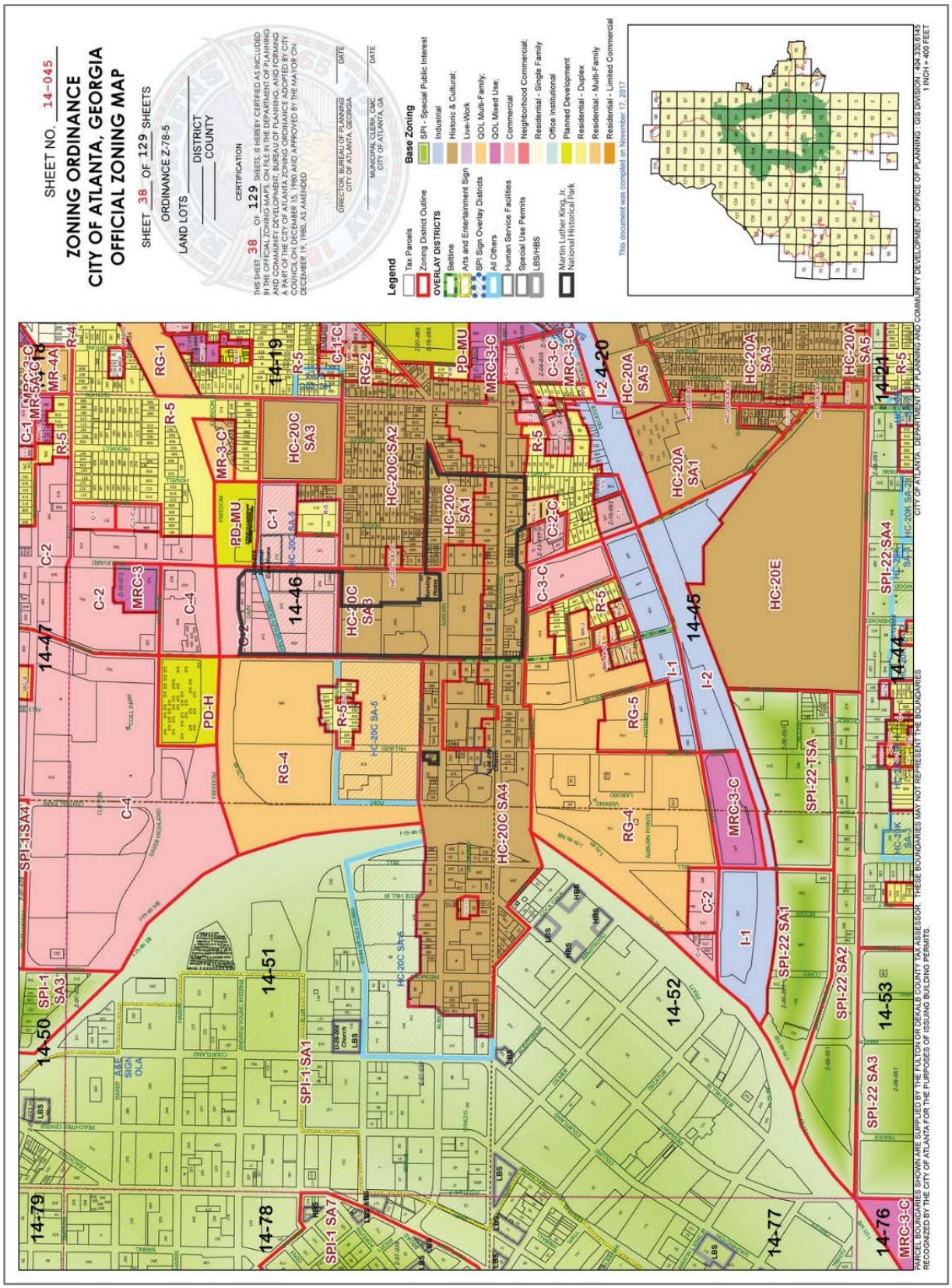


FIGURE 20. The zoning map describes the designations for the parcels within the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. Classifications include: **HC:** Cultural Conservation District; **20-C:** Martin Luther King, Jr. Landmark District; **SA 1,3,4** indicates sub-areas of HC-20C; and **C-2:** Commercial Service District, to provide a broad range of sales, service, and repair activity and encourage residential use either as a principal use or in mixed use development. (Source: City of Atlanta)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Park Boundaries

- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park*
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, 2018 Addition

District Boundaries

- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Register Historic District, 1974
- Sweet Auburn National Historic Landmark District, 1976
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Landmark District, 1977
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Preservation District, 1980
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Landmark District (City of Atlanta), 1989
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Preservation District, 1992 Addition
- Martin Luther King, Jr. National Register Historic District Amendment, 1994, 2001

*Notes:

1. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site was redesignated Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park in 2018.
2. 234 Sunset Avenue NW (within the authorized boundary established by the 1980 enabling legislation) was acquired by the Park in 2019 and is not depicted on this map.

Base Layer Sources: ESRI, USGS, NAIP 2010 (aerial imagery)

0 300 600 1,200 1,800 2,400 Feet

Figure 21.

Historic and Preservation Districts

Existing Conditions Overview

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park comprises approximately 38.38 acres of land in the heart of the City of Atlanta, 1.25 miles east of the central business district. The urban landscape of the study area consists of a multitude of features including: mature trees and well-maintained plantings; tree-lined walking paths; sidewalks and city streets; paved parking facilities; community greenspaces and residential lawns; interpretive and commemorative features such as wayside exhibits and statues; and a large number of historic residential, commercial, and public buildings. Alterations have occurred to the site through time due to urban growth, changes in land use, preparations for the 1996 Olympic Games, removal or addition of vegetation, demolition and construction of buildings, and evolving interpretation, management, and maintenance goals. However, the existing landscape retains many of its character-defining features dating from the period of significance. Distinct areas within the National Historical Park reflect modern and historic functions.

The five most important landscape characteristics within the park are spatial organization, circulation, cultural vegetation, land use, and buildings and structures. These characteristics shaped the design and evolution of the park landscape and they continue to be the essential components that characterize the existing urban landscape of the park. The combination of these characteristics illustrates the sequence, events, and changes that shaped the evolution of the study area from 1870 to the present day. Existing features and historic resources in the park, including streets, sidewalks, buildings and structures, and cultural vegetation retain historic spatial patterns, circulation, and land use. There have been changes over time in the cultural vegetation of the park, with most existing vegetation dating from 1949 through today (Figure 22 through Figure 24).



FIGURE 22. Auburn Avenue's existing alignment, sidewalks, and residential land use survive from the period of significance and convey the historic landscape character of this area.



FIGURE 23. The Walk of Fame Promenade defines spatial patterns in the visitor services area with pedestrian circulation, cultural vegetation, and paving materials.



FIGURE 24. The historic character of Edgewood Avenue survives in the existing streetscape which retains commercial land use, buildings, street alignment, and patterns of spatial organization.

With few exceptions, existing land use in the northern section of the study area between Cain Street and Auburn Avenue reflects the development of visitor support facilities and circulation constructed from 1996–2015, predominately in association with the Olympic Games hosted in Atlanta in 1996. The area is characterized by the buildings and structures, circulation, vegetation, and spatial organization of the features associated with the support of visitor services. These existing features remain today and reflect changes in land use, circulation, cultural vegetation, and spatial organization since 1996. Most visitors arriving by car and bus use the designated visitor parking lot north of the visitor center. The entrance to the visitor and tour bus parking lot is located on John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. From the parking lot, visitors cross Irwin Street and walk south on the Promenade to the visitor center. The visitor parking lot and its immediate surrounds serve primarily to meet modern support functions for the park. In addition to visitor parking, there are two sizeable, modern, brick-faced maintenance buildings as well as staff parking. East of the visitor parking lot is Dreamer's Park. The park contains the Martin Luther King Jr. Tennis Court, a grass public recreation field, and a picnic shelter with seating.

Existing conditions associated with the Birth Home block reflect its historic land use as an urban residential neighborhood. With few exceptions, this area is characterized by extant historic resources and features from the period of significance. Current landscape characteristics of land use, spatial organization, views, and circulation in the Birth Home block survive and retain the historical character of the neighborhood. Spatial patterns continue to be defined by the street (Auburn Avenue) and the dense residential buildings that occupy its edges. The streetscape is a mix of old and new. Most of the major characteristics such as street paving widths, sidewalk widths, two-way flow of traffic, and building setbacks remain in the landscape. These features are important in defining the character of the block and retaining the scale of the residential neighborhood. Major architectural features include: the Birth Home and other residences on Auburn Avenue between Howell Street and Boulevard; Fire Station No. 6; and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary.

The existing commercial area along Edgewood Avenue retains its historic land use as an urban commercial corridor. With few exceptions, this area is characterized by extant historic resources that were built along the street after 1900. Most of the land use in this area in 1900 was residential with numerous residential buildings and only a few corner stores. The period plan for 1900 shows most of the buildings along Edgewood Avenue were residential. By 1929, land use was changing and more commercial businesses were established along the street. The existing conditions of this area reflect this latter time period.

The existing urban commercial streetscape of Edgewood Avenue retains its spatial patterns and organization as a result of the relationship of existing buildings to the street and pedestrian sidewalks. The scale of the street remains consistent even with some variations of building setbacks and some new building construction. There are also some vacant parcels due to building loss and parcels designated for parking. These open parcels are in stark contrast to the dense footprints of the continuous massing of buildings along the street. Attempts at economic revitalization along Edgewood Avenue are reflected in renovation and restoration efforts for the building architecture. There have been changes over time due to the addition of cultural vegetation and the evolution of paving patterns and materials on the sidewalk and street along the length of the two blocks. These changes post-date the period of significance and are ongoing as the commercial area continues to be rehabilitated and occupied. Existing conditions include a variety of paving materials on the pedestrian sidewalks, and a variety of plant material introduced into the streetscape.

Existing Conditions Documentation by Landscape Character Area

Landscape Character Areas

For the purposes of organizing the documentation of existing conditions, as well as later sections of the CLR, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park has been divided into three discrete character areas that share similar traits and are unified by land use, buildings and structures, circulation, and historic associations (Figure 25). The three character areas that are the focus of this study include:

Visitor Services Character Area. This character area is bounded on the north by Cain Street and the south by Auburn Avenue. Portions of the east and west boundaries of this area are defined by Boulevard to the east and Jackson Street to the west. Major features that characterize this area include: the National Park Service maintenance complex; the NPS Visitor Center and associated sculptures and signage structures; large parking lot and associated promenade; Civil Rights Walk of Fame, Dreamer's Park, and the Peace Plaza.

Auburn Avenue Character Area. Major features in this character area include: the Birth Home block defined by the Auburn Avenue residential corridor from Bradley Street to Boulevard and the buildings on either side; the Birth Home at 501 Auburn Avenue; Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street NE; and Fire Station No. 6 at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard. This character area is an urban residential corridor defined by streets and dense residential housing. This area contains the highest number of historic resources within the study area.

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area. This character area is an urban corridor defined by Edgewood Avenue and the buildings that line both sides of the street. The character area boundary is defined to the east by Howell Street SE and by Jackson Street SE. With a few exceptions, the major land use is commercial. Major features include commercial and institutional architectural resources.

Descriptions of the landscape resources present within each character area within the project boundary are conveyed below. All of the resources described below as comprising the character area have been assessed as in good condition unless otherwise noted. These categories are defined as follows:

- *Good:* indicates the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and / or human forces. The cultural landscape's historical and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.
- *Fair:* indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbance and deterioration by natural and / or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its historical and / or natural values.
- *Poor:* indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and / or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural areas.
- *Unknown:* indicates that not enough information is available to make an evaluation.[157]

157. Robert R. Page, Cathy A. Gilbert, and Susan A. Dolan, *A Guide to Cultural Landscape Reports: Contents, Processes, and Techniques* (Washington, DC: Department of the Interior, 1998), 67.

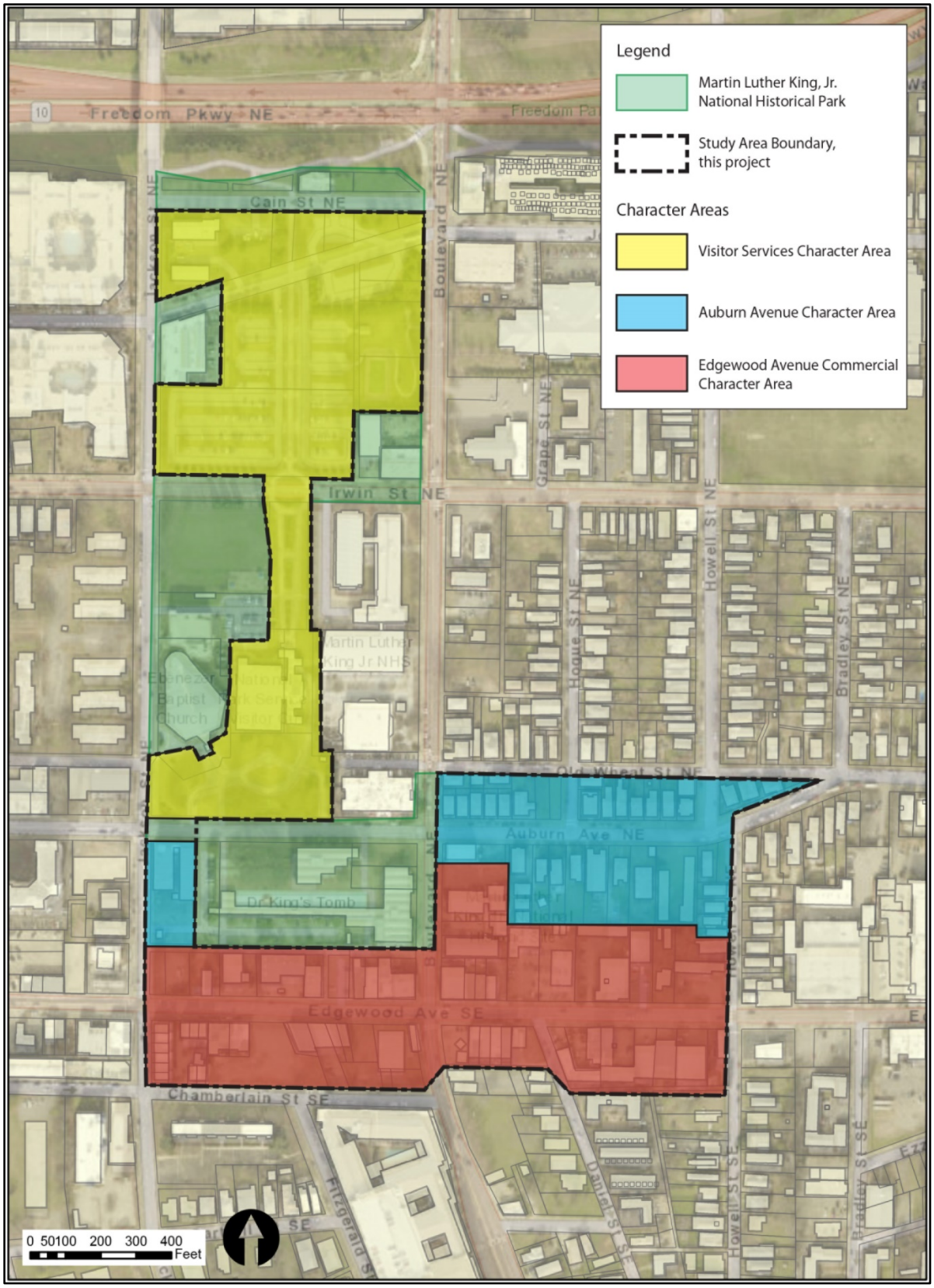


FIGURE 25. Within the study area boundary, three landscape character areas have been identified. The Visitor Services character area is highlighted in yellow; the Auburn Avenue character area is highlighted in blue; and the Edgewood Avenue Commercial character area is highlighted in orange. (Base Layer Source: Fulton County GIS, NAIP 2010 [aerial imagery])

Visitor Services Character Area

Patterns of Spatial Organization. The boundaries of the Visitor Services character area define the overall spatial configuration of the landscape within the context of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. The area's boundaries are delineated by a mixture of urban streets, sidewalks, fencing, buildings, and structures. Maps showing existing conditions of the Visitor Services character area are presented in Figure 29 and Figure 30.

The major spatial organization within this area is characterized by a long central axis originating with a 12-foot-wide sidewalk at Cain Street and continuing south to the Gandhi statue and the main entrance to the visitor center. The formal geometry is reinforced by the orthogonal layout of the street patterns and the symmetrical layout of the parking bays along the central axis. The Freedom Park Trail along this major axis includes the Promenade and the Civil Rights Walk of Fame (Figure 26).



FIGURE 26. Freedom Park Trail is divided by a planted median and continues on axis to the visitor center.

Formal tree plantings along the axis walkway and in the parking medians produce a consistent overhead canopy and distinct spatial character along the axis corridor. An additional geometric configuration of pathways, with an implied axis, exits from the south side of the visitor center through a circular pedestrian node and the amphitheater adjacent to Auburn Avenue (Figure 27).

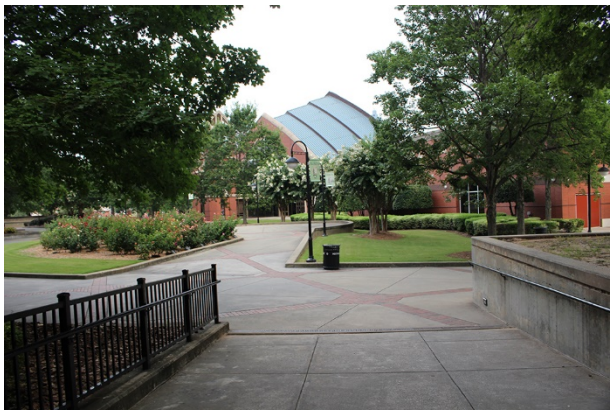


FIGURE 27. Geometric configuration of walkways in the Peace Plaza.

Land Uses and Activities. The primary land use and activities associated with this character area include: visitor services (gift shop, restrooms, and orientation to the park); interpretive / museum (site wayside exhibits and interpretation within the visitor center); commemoration (Gandhi sculpture, *Behold* monument, Civil Rights Walk of Fame, and various identity signs commemorating Martin Luther King Jr.); administration (within the visitor center); and recreation (Dreamer's Park, tennis court, picnic shelter, and Freedom Trail which functions dually as a recreational and interpretive trail). In addition, maintenance activities are provided through the maintenance facility located within the character area. All functions are directly associated with the role of the National Historical Park.

Circulation. The primary vehicular circulation routes within the Visitor Services character area are Irwin Street NE and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE. Both are two-lane streets and allow traffic in both directions. Boundaries of the character area are defined by Cain Street NE, and the major thoroughfares of Jackson Street NE, Boulevard NE, and Auburn Avenue NE. Parallel parking is permitted on both sides of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue but is limited to the northwest section of Cain Street.

Visitor parking is accessed from John Wesley Dobbs Avenue through one of two short, narrow drives serving as vehicle entrance and exit points. Both points are traversed through operable gates in the metal fencing. Mature and recently planted

trees frame the vehicle entrance and exit points to the park. The Freedom Park Trail is the major axis that creates the spatial organization within the character area. The axis begins at Cain Street, crosses John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, bisects the visitor parking lot and continues as the Promenade and the Civil Rights Walk of Fame. It continues to the entrance of the visitor center (Figure 28).



FIGURE 28. The Civil Rights Walk of Fame is part of the axial walkway to the visitor center.

Sidewalks in this character area are primarily scored concrete, and the axis sidewalk is 12 feet wide. Sidewalks associated with the crossing at Irwin Street and the entrance to the Promenade are scored concrete with double brick edging. At the crosswalks at Irwin Street, the associated sidewalk segments running east to west on Irwin Street are brick. The Freedom Park Trail divides into two segments once it is past Irwin Street and is referred to as the Promenade (last segment of the Freedom Park Trail). The paving of the Promenade is scored concrete with double brick edging next to the planted median.

Cultural Vegetation. There is great diversity in the cultural vegetation found within the Visitor Services character area. Holly *(Ilex opaca)* trees and shrubs surround the brick park entrance sign on the corner of Boulevard and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue. Planted along Cain Street are pin oaks *(Quercus palustris)* and ash *(Fraxinus Americana)* trees. Planted within the gated area which encompasses both the park's maintenance facilities and bus parking lot are holly, zelkova *(Zelkova serrata)*, and crapemyrtle *(Lagerstroemia indica)* trees. The small section of the Freedom Park Trail that passes through this area is lined by maple *(Acer rubrum)* trees and pin oaks. A holly hedge runs along the stone wall connecting the maintenance building and maintenance shed. Entry into the visitor parking lot is flanked by Southern magnolias *(Magnolia grandiflora)* and hollies. The Freedom Park Trail and vegetated medians dividing the visitor parking lot contain a selection of pin oaks, crapemyrtles, and red maples. Mature magnolias, crapemyrtles, willow oaks *(Quercus phellos)*, and evergreens serve to screen Dreamers' Park from the urban landscape.

The southern boundary of the visitor center parking lot is bordered with neatly spaced holly shrubs. Visual continuity created by mirroring the semi-circular path and herringbone-patterned brickwork between opposing sides of Irwin Street is supported with the addition of semi-circular shrub plantings. This landscape feature is mirrored on the opposite side of Irwin Street at the entrance to the Promenade. The Promenade is lined on either side by red maples. Vegetated medians at the center of the Promenade are planted with a mixture of juniper *(Juniperus chinensis)*, boxwood *(Buxus japonica)*, and holly shrubs as well as mixed perennials. Plantings adjacent to the covered visitor center entryway include Japanese maple *(Acer palmatum)*, and numerous varieties of annuals, perennials, and small hedges.

South of the visitor center, the areas of the Peace Plaza and Peace Garden are heavily planted with a variety of vegetation (Figure 31). Several small patches of grass are evident in this area. In addition, there are a large number of red maples scattered through this area, along with several hollies. Privet hedges are common as is nandina *(Nandina domestica)* which is incorporated into the small terraced landscape surrounding the amphitheater along Auburn Avenue. Daylilies are also featured among the plantings in the terrace. The Peace Garden, which is located at the heart of the Peace Plaza, is planted with a multitude of rose varieties.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Brick entrance sign
"Ebenezer Baptist Church"
"Sweet Auburn Walk"
Amphitheater
Brick sign for Horizon Sanctuary
Jackson Street NE
Ebenezer Baptist Church, Horizon Sanctuary (not in project)
Martin Luther King, Sr. Community Resource Center (not in project)
Baseball field (not in project)
"Behold"
Concrete orientation marker
Behold monument
Picnic tables
Peace Plaza
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Playground (not in project)
Irwin Street NE
Asphalt parking lot
Concrete orientation marker
Fountain
Peace Garden
National Park Service Visitor Center
"The Home Place... Sweet Auburn"
Auburn Avenue NE
Promenade
Promenade
Forecourt canopy
Ghandi sculpture
Civil Rights Walk of Fame plaques
"Mandate" & "Minister"
"Motivator"
Concrete orientation marker
Concrete orientation marker (beneath canopy)
Civil Rights Walk of Fame stone monuments
John Hope Elementary School
Parkview Manor Nursing Home
Martin Luther King, Jr. Natatorium, demolished
Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center
See Visitor Services Character Area Map 2

0' 70' 140'

SCALE 1" = 70'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.

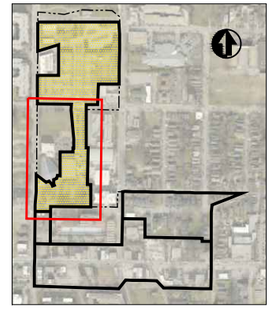


Figure 29.

Existing Conditions

Visitor Services Character Area (1 of 2)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Concrete sidewalk
Jackson Street NE
Concrete sidewalk
Asphalt parking lot
Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library (not in project)
409
Covered storage
Concrete maintenance yard
Maintenance Building
Freedom Parkway trailhead (not in project)
Baseball field (not in project)
Irwin Street NE
Vegetated medians, typ.
"Visiting the Historic Area"
Three flagpoles
NPS Maintenance Facility
Asphalt parking lot
"Freedom Park"
Concrete walk
Parking kiosk
Parking entrance
Promenade
Asphalt parking lot
Parking exit
Concrete block wall
Cain Street NE
442
Private residence (not in project)
John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE
Bus parking
Bus parking
Rubble wall
See Visitor Services Character Area Map 1
454 Office building (not in project)
Tennis court
Picnic shelter
Dreamer's Park
Office building (not in project)
130
Concrete walk
Brick entrance sign
Boulevard NE
Concrete sidewalk

0' 70' 140'

SCALE 1" = 70'

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Legend

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Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.

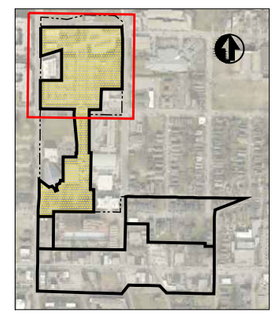


Figure 30.

Existing Conditions

Visitor Services Character Area (2 of 2)



FIGURE 31. A variety of cultural vegetation is planted on the south side of the Peace Plaza.

Buildings

Visitor Center (1996). The visitor center is located on the north side of Auburn Avenue NE, adjacent to the Ebenezer Baptist Church Horizon Sanctuary. The visitor center is rectangular in plan and is clad with red brick masonry (Figure 32). String courses of brown brick line the facade of the building. There are a few aluminum-framed windows on the visitor center, with the majority at the second level of the building. A low-slope membrane roof, not visible from grade, covers the building.

A colonnade consisting of concrete columns and wood beams topped with standing-seam, metal-clad, hip roofs lines the east side of the visitor center (Figure 33).



FIGURE 32. A partial view of the south elevation of the visitor center.



FIGURE 33. A view of the colonnade along the east elevation of the visitor center.

Maintenance Complex (1996). The maintenance complex is located on the northeast corner of Jackson Street NE, and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE. The complex consists of a two-story maintenance building as well as an adjacent covered, open-air shed. Both structures are accessed from a concrete paved lot.

The maintenance building is clad with split-faced concrete masonry units with horizontal bands of brick masonry at the first level and brick masonry at the second level (Figure 34). The building has a low-slope roof that is not visible from grade. The structure is built into a sloping site, with two levels visible at the south elevation and only the second level visible from the north. Two overhead doors provide vehicular access to the first floor of the building from the concrete-paved lot. A split-faced concrete unit masonry-clad screen wall extends from the southwest corner of the maintenance building to the northwest corner of the maintenance shed, parallel to Jackson Street NE (Figure 35).

The maintenance shed is clad with split-faced concrete masonry units with horizontal bands of brick masonry (Figure 36). The structure has a shed roof clad with standing-seam metal. The steel-framed roof structure is raised above the concrete masonry unit walls. The north elevation of the structure is open to the concrete-paved lot to the north.



FIGURE 34. A view of the maintenance building from the southeast.



FIGURE 35. A view of the concrete masonry unit wall from the northwest.



FIGURE 36. A view of the maintenance shed from the southeast.

Structures. In addition to the visitor center, a number of small structures are present to support visitor services. North of the tennis courts, between the main parking area and Boulevard NE, a small steel-framed pavilion houses picnic tables for park visitors (Figure 37). The open structure sits on a concrete pad, topped by a standing-seam metal-clad gable roof.



FIGURE 37. A view of the picnic shelter from the south.



FIGURE 38. A view of the entrance booth from the northeast.

A small metal-clad booth is located at the entrance to the main parking area off of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE (Figure 38). The prefabricated structure has a hipped roof that is clad with the same metal as the exterior walls. Windows are present on the north and west elevations, with an entry door at the east elevation. The structure sits on a concrete slab.

Dreamer's Park contains both the Martin Luther King Jr. Tennis Court and a small picnic structure. The tennis court is composed of a synthetic surface and is enclosed by a chain-link fence. The open-air shelter in Dreamer's Park features a metal seam roof similar to that of the maintenance shed.

Three flagpoles are found in this character area, on the south side of the Freedom Park Trail intersection with Irwin Street. The curvilinear path at this point surrounds the vegetated area and the flagpoles visually announce the entrance to the park.

South of the covered entry is the Peace Plaza which contains two small amphitheaters. The first is located along Auburn Avenue overlooking the Peace Garden. The second is located just behind the park's brick entrance sign, on axis with the *Behold* Monument. It provides visitors a place to sit and contemplate the Monument and the life of Martin Luther King Jr. Both amphitheaters are constructed of concrete (Figure 39).



FIGURE 39. View from the west amphitheater to the *Behold* Monument.

Small-Scale Features. Small-scale features including modern powder-coated metal waste receptacles, streetlamps, and benches are found consistently throughout the Visitor Services character area. Powder-coated metal bollards are present at each end of the Promenade, preventing any nonpedestrian traffic from entering.

Signage is present throughout the character area. Brick entrance and NPS identity signs are located at the corner of John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE and Boulevard NE, and at the corner of Jackson Street NE and Auburn Avenue NE (Figure 40). Small waysides provide information for "Freedom Park" and "Visiting the Historic Area" along the pedestrian walkway near Irwin Street. At intervals along the Promenade are four identical interpretive signs, each one containing different information about the park. Two additional exhibits are located adjacent to the brick entrance sign at the corner of Jackson Street NE and Auburn Avenue NE. At the Irwin Street entrance to the promenade is a concrete orientation marker. Two identical markers are located along Auburn Avenue on either side of the Peace Plaza. Directly behind the Auburn Avenue amphitheater on the edge of the Peace Plaza is a small lighted fountain.



FIGURE 40. A brick NPS identity sign is located at Jackson Street and Auburn Avenue.

Several small-scale commemorative features are within this area. Embedded into the final section of the Promenade's concrete paving are a series of plaques known as the Civil Rights Walk of Fame. Each plaque contains the cast shoeprints of a prominent civil-rights figure along with their name, dates of birth and death, if applicable. Directly to the south of the plaques, at the terminus of the Promenade, is a raised, bronze sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi (Figure 41) and in the southwest corner of the Peace Plaza is the *Behold* Monument, a bronze sculpture depicting an African American man raising a newborn infant into the air.



FIGURE 41. The sculpture of Mahatma Gandhi is located south of the Civil Rights Walk of Fame on the way to the visitor center entrance.

Auburn Avenue Character Area

Patterns of Spatial Organization. The boundaries of the Auburn Avenue character area define the overall spatial configuration of the landscape within the context of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. This character area consists of two non-contiguous areas. The principal section (commonly referred to as the Birth Home block) is bounded by Boulevard NE, Old Wheat Street NE, and Howell Street NE. It is bounded to the south by what is the northern border of the Edgewood Avenue character area. Located on the corner of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary and its surrounding lot comprise the secondary, non-contiguous portion of the Auburn Avenue character area. Maps showing existing conditions of the Auburn Avenue character area are presented in Figure 44 and Figure 45.

Spatial organization within this character area is defined by the orthogonal layout of the streets including Auburn Avenue, Boulevard, Old Wheat Street, Hogue Street NE, and Howell Street. Spatial organization is also defined by the closeness of the residential houses to each other and the setbacks of the buildings on both sides of the street. The change in elevation from the public sidewalk to the front yard and up steps to the front porches—all characteristic of the condition on the south side of Auburn Avenue—creates smaller-scale spatial organization along the urban corridor (Figure 42).

> While front walks and front porches are consistent elements throughout the Birth-Home Block, the front yard—the distance from sidewalk edge to the face of the porch—varies on the north and south sides of Auburn Avenue. On the north side there is a consistent shallow front yard of approximately seven feet. These yards are flat and at grade with the sidewalk. On the south side, however, the front yards are considerably deeper (from thirty to fifty feet) with no consistency from lot to lot, and in most yards there is a grade change that occurs at the sidewalk. This transition is most often handled with a low wall and steps up to the front walk. The wall raises the front yard approximately eighteen inches above the sidewalk grade [Figure 43].[158]

Cultural vegetation and small-scale features associated with the residential buildings and the streetscape reinforce the linear corridor of the urban street and define the smaller-scale spaces of the individual yards.



FIGURE 42. Streetscape of Auburn Avenue includes walls, plantings, changes in elevation to front porches, and large trees associated with individual residences.



FIGURE 43. Changes in elevation above sidewalk grade are apparent on the south side of Auburn Avenue.

Land Uses and Activities. The primary land uses in this character area include: residential (abundance of residential buildings); administration (offices, meeting rooms); commemoration (exhibits and information about Martin Luther King Jr.); and religious institution (Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary).

158. Lawliss, 40.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See analysis diagrams in Chapter 4 for more detail.

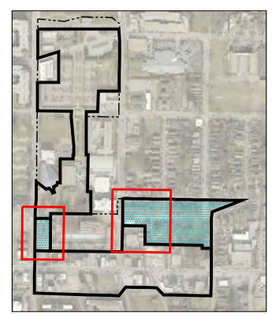


Figure 44.

Existing Conditions

Auburn Avenue Character Area (1 of 2)

0' 50' 100'

SCALE 1" = 50'

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Rock wall
Wood deck
Concrete drive
Radial brick
Stone wall
Old Wheat Street NE
Park identity sign
Brick wall
Brick wall
Concrete drive
Rock wall
Brick wall
Brick walk
53
54
Howell Street NE
Hogue Street NE
550
546
540
506
510
514
518
522
526
530
Brick walk
Auburn Avenue NE
Stone wall
Stone wall
Radial brick
"Stepping Up"
"Apartment House"
"Neighborhood Pride"
"Bryant-Graves House"
"A Relaxing Atmosphere"
Concrete sidewalk
Parallel parking on both sides of Auburn Avenue
Rock wall
Concrete block wall
Auburn Avenue NE
"Neighborhood Transformed"
"Harper House"
521-B
"Bryant Preparatory Institute"
535
503
509
Concrete driveway
515
521
Concrete driveway
Brick walk
Vacant grass lot
28
See Auburn Avenue Character Area Map 1
Wood ramp
Stairwell
Howell Street NE
Wood decks
24
Concrete parking lot
Asphalt parking lot
20
18
Concrete sidewalk
See Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area Map 2

0' 50' 100'

SCALE 1" = 50'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
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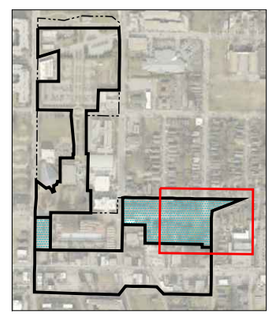


Figure 45.

Existing Conditions

Auburn Avenue Character Area (2 of 2)

Circulation. The vehicular circulation routes within this character area are Auburn Avenue NE, Hogue Street NE, and Howell Street SE. All three are two-lane streets that allow traffic in both directions. In comparison with Hogue and Howell streets, Auburn Avenue is wide, allowing for ample parallel parking on both sides of the street (Figure 46). There are no stops for public transit or specific accommodations for bicycle traffic within the Auburn Avenue character area. However, the city's streetcar line does operate along Jackson Street NE, passing by the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary along its west facade.



FIGURE 46. On-street parking is permitted on both sides of Auburn Avenue.

Existing sidewalks within this character area are for the most part scored exposed aggregate concrete with a granite curb (Figure 47). However, lengths of sidewalks along Howell Street and the eastern end of Auburn Avenue are constructed with brick in a herringbone pattern and a granite curb. At the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street, a brick sidewalk is laid in a radial pattern and also has granite curbing. The walks of both houses flanking the Birth Home (the park bookstore at 497 Auburn Avenue) and 503 Auburn Avenue consist of brick in a running bond pattern. The sidewalk on the south side of Auburn Avenue associated with the entrance to the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary is concrete, scored with a hexagonal pattern.



FIGURE 47. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk on the north side of Auburn Avenue. Elevation change to porches is minimal on this side of the street.

In several instances the interstitial spaces between buildings are employed as concrete driveways (as is evident at the Birth Home) or as parking spots. Additionally, there are occurrences of either concrete or asphalt parking lots behind the residential buildings within the Birth Home block. An asphalt parking lot is also found to the rear of Fire Station No. 6, the only non-residential building in the Birth Home block portion of this character area.

Remnants of historic Reid's Alley are existing between 491 and 497 Auburn Avenue. The alignment of the alley is evident; however, the mixture of remnant asphalt and gravel is in poor condition, and it is overrun with adjacent turf grass.

Cultural Vegetation. As a historic neighborhood long inhabited and manipulated by human intervention, the Auburn Avenue character area features a myriad of cultural vegetation associated with individual residential yards, the streetscape, and vacant lots.

Cultural vegetation associated with individual yards includes: small ornamental trees and large shrubs; neatly pruned shrubs associated with the low walls that separate the sidewalk from the front yards; various shrub species for foundation plantings adjacent to front porches; and a few large deciduous trees planted in individual yards resembling street tree plantings. There are no formal street trees located in sidewalk tree wells on the south side of Auburn Avenue. There are two

trees on the north side of Auburn Avenue located in tree wells within the sidewalk and associated with the 526 Auburn Avenue residential property (Figure 48 and Figure 49).



FIGURE 48. Wall, driveway paving, and vegetation are associated with individual houses.



FIGURE 49. Large trees exist within individual property yards on the south side of Auburn Avenue. Trees are not located within sidewalk tree wells.

Large evergreen and deciduous trees are associated with 531 Auburn Avenue (between 521 and 535 Auburn Avenue) near the intersection of Auburn and Howell (Figure 50).The trees are large and planted closely together especially at the south edge of the lot. The trees enclose the grass open space and effectively screen the space from the rear yards of the residences on Howell Street. An interpretive wayside ("Bryant Preparatory Institute") is located in the grass in proximity to the sidewalk.

Existing trees in this character area include: tree of heaven *(Ailanthus altissima);* Siberian elm *(Ulmus pumila); s*hagbark hickory *(Carya ovata);* Southern catalpa *(Catalpa bignoniodes);* Southern magnolia *(Magnolia grandiflora);* pecan *(Carya illinoinensis);* pin oak *(Quercus palustris);* purple-leaf plum *(Prunus cerasifera);* water oak *(Quercus nigra);* red mulberry *(Morus rubra);* common fig *(Ficus carica);* red maple *(Acer rubrum);* winged elm *(Ulmus alata);* dogwood *(Cornus florida);* crapemyrtle *(Lagerstroemia indica);* and Chinese elm *(Ulmus parvifolia)*.

Shrubs include: common privet *(Ligustrum sinense* 'Variegatum'*)*; common hibiscus *(Hibiscuc syriacus)*; Burford holly *(Ilex cornuta* 'Burfordii'*)*; elaeagnus *(Elaeagnus pungens)*; oakleaf hydrangea *(Hydrangea quercifolia)*; butterfly bush *(Buddleia globosa)*; juniper *(Juniperus chinensis)*; smooth hydrangea *(Hydrangea arborescens)*; and varigated privet *(Ligustrum sinense* 'Variegatum').



FIGURE 50. Trees surround the south and east sides of 531 Auburn Avenue between 521 and 535 Auburn. The lot is currently vacant.

Buildings

Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home (1895). The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home at 501 Auburn Avenue NE is a two-story residence with influences of the Queen Anne Style (Figure 51). The building has a brick foundation, wood clapboard siding, wood double-hung windows, and an asphalt shingle hip roof with gables.



FIGURE 51. A view of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home from the northeast.

The north elevation, which fronts Auburn Avenue, features a projecting gabled bay at the east and a one-story front porch that wraps around the west elevation (Figure 52). The main entrance to the house is accessed from the front porch, immediately west of the projecting bay. A circular window is present next to the main entrance door.

A pair of windows is centered on the projecting bay at both the first and second floors. A window is also centered over the main entrance door at the second-floor level.

The east elevation contains a gabled bay near its center. Four windows, two on each level, are present at the south end of the house, with a single window at the north end on the first floor. Windows are also located at the angled walls of the projecting bay.



FIGURE 52. A view of the north elevation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home from the northeast.



FIGURE 53. A view of the south and east elevations of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home from the southeast.

A single-story wing extends off the east side of the south elevation of the house (Figure 53). A contemporary exit stair and lift are located on the west side of the south elevation. An enclosed two-story porch is obscured by the exit stair.

The front porch wraps around the west elevation of the house. The porch extends to a projecting gabled bay at the south end of the west elevation. A door leads to the house from the south end of the porch. A set of windows, one on each floor, are centered on the projecting bay south of the porch.

Historic Fire Station No. 6 (1894). The Fire Station, located at the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Boulevard NE, is a two-story red brick mass masonry building. The design exhibits influences of the Richardsonian Romanesque Style. It features an asymmetrical front elevation on the west, arched window openings, and a large arched vehicular door opening. The building also incorporates a range of building materials and decorative elements such as corbelled brickwork, stone sills and stringcourses, and terra cotta panels.

The west elevation is the primary facade of the building and features decorative brick work, stone elements, and ornamental terra cotta panels (Figure 54). Decorative brickwork includes a corbelled brick blind arcade, a decorative band with corbelled brick arranged in a diamond pattern immediately below the arcade, and a corbelled brick trim around window and door openings. Stone elements include window sills, door thresholds, parapet coping, a stringcourse that

extends across the north half of the elevation, quoins at the vehicular door opening, and a base course of stone at the south half of the building. Decorative glazed terra cotta units, arranged to form plaques, are set in the field of the wall. Terra cotta units are also used at pilaster caps that separate arched window openings. The elevation is divided into two bays; a main entrance bay and a projecting tower bay. A large, arched vehicular door opening with a hinged double-leaf door is centered at the main entrance bay. The door opening has stone and brick trim. Immediately adjacent and to the north of the vehicular door opening is a personnel door opening with stone lintel.

The projecting tower bay at the south end of the west elevation has a door opening with segmented arch at the first-floor level. At the second-floor level is a rectangular window opening.



FIGURE 54. A view of the west elevation of Historic Fire Station No. 6 from the west.

The north elevation is the secondary street facade and has a symmetrical arrangement of window openings (Figure 55). Similar to the west elevation, decorative features on the elevation include a corbelled brick blind arcade, a decorative band with corbelled brick arranged in a diamond pattern immediately below the arcade, and a corbelled brick trim around window openings. The north elevation is less ornate than the west elevation.



FIGURE 55. A view of the north elevation of the Fire Station No. 6.

The south elevation has no window or door openings. However, physical evidence indicates that windows and doors were removed and the openings infilled with new brick.

The east elevation includes a rear entrance and features a non-original two-story elevator tower addition that divides the elevation into north and south sections. The door opening is arched and has a wall-mounted light centered over the top of the arch. A non-original metal-framed canvas canopy is mounted on the wall over the entrance. Segmented arched windows are also located at the second-floor level, above the door and north window openings.

Birth Home Block. Auburn Avenue NE between Boulevard NE to the west and Bradley Street NE is lined by a number of one- and two-story residences dating to the late 1800s. The residences generally contain influences of the Queen Anne Style (Figure 56). The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home is located along the south side of Auburn Avenue NE while Historic Fire Station No. 6 is located at the west end of the block.

Most, if not all, of the houses have wood-frame front porches that open up onto Auburn Avenue. The houses in the neighborhood typically have hip roofs with a projecting gabled bay at their front elevation. Additionally, the houses are clad with wood clapboard siding and sit on brick masonry foundations.



FIGURE 56. Overview of Auburn Avenue streetscape looking west.

Multi-unit residences are scattered on the block, along with what would have originally been single family houses (Figure 57). The multi-unit buildings are generally two-story buildings with two-story porches on the principal facade.

Six single-story, two-unit shotgun houses are located along the north side of Auburn Avenue NE between Boulevard NE and Hogue Street NE (Figure 58). These houses are clad with wood clapboard siding and have asphalt shingle-clad roofs. All of the shotgun houses have front porches that face Auburn Avenue NE.



FIGURE 57. Overview of Auburn Avenue streetscape looking west. Note the multi-unit building at the left.



FIGURE 58. A view of the shotgun houses along Auburn Avenue NE from the southeast.

Ebenezer Baptist Church (Heritage Sanctuary 1914–1922 and Christian Education Building 1956). The Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary is located on the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Jackson Street NE. The historic church, constructed between 1914 and 1922, is a masonry building, rectangular in plan (Figure 59). Red face brick is present at the north and west elevations of the church, while brown common brick is present at its south and east elevations. The lower level at the north and west elevations is clad with stucco that has been scored to mimic the appearance of stone. Two towers at the corners of the north elevation flank the main entrance to the church. The towers extend slightly higher than the peak of the asphalt shingle-clad hip roof. Three windows are present above the entrance doors, with a tripartite Gothic-arched window at the gable end of the north elevation. Two Gothic-arched openings are present on the north elevation of each tower: one at the main level of the church and the other near the top of the tower.

The west elevation consists of a series of windows at the lower level as well as at the first floor (Figure 60). Buttresses are present between the windows. A gable is located near the north end of the elevation adjacent to the tower and at the south end of this elevation.



FIGURE 59. A view of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary and education center from the northeast.



FIGURE 60. A view of the west elevation of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary.

An addition, constructed in 1970, extends the width of the south elevation of the church. The addition is constructed of brick masonry and has an asphalt shingle clad hip roof.

East of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary is the Christian Education Building, a brick masonry building constructed in 1956 (see Figure 59). The north elevation of the education building mimics the massing of the historic church. The education building is connected to the historic church building at the north through a vestibule constructed in 1970, and an elevated walkway to the south of the 1956 structure. The east, west, and south elevations are lined by evenly spaced aluminum-framed windows (Figure 61).

A new sanctuary, known as the Horizon Sanctuary, was completed in 1999 on the north side of Auburn Avenue NE.



FIGURE 61. A partial view of the south elevation of the Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary and education center from the southwest.

Structures. Structures in the Auburn Avenue character area are found mainly in the form of various concrete masonry walls, separating residential yards from adjacent sidewalks. Although these are not tall enough to create a physical barrier, they do serve to create visual barriers between private yards and public spaces. The other type of masonry wall found in the character area is constructed of natural stone (Figure 62). Some residences have short wooden picket fences, while others have fencing composed of chicken wire framed by wooden boards (Figure 63).



FIGURE 62. A mortared stone retaining wall is adjacent to the brick sidewalk of Auburn Avenue forming the property boundary for 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 63. Board and wire fence in the front yard at 515 Auburn Avenue.

Small-Scale Features. Small-scale features within this character area include numerous wayside exhibits associated with park interpretation. The wayside exhibits are similar to those along the Freedom Park Trail, the Promenade, and Peace Plaza. Interpretive signage along Auburn Avenue relates information about extant buildings such as the "Birth Home," "Shotgun Houses," and the "Graves and Harper Houses." Missing buildings, such as the "Bryant Preparatory Institute," are also interpreted with a wayside exhibit. Other waysides deal with relevant themes and topics, such as "Neighborhood Pride," and "Stepping Up" (Figure 64). There is also a park identity sign located within the triangular lot formed by the convergence of Old Wheat Street NE and Auburn Avenue NE. The sign face is mounted on a stone wall with stone columns. The use of materials for this identity sign differs from the brick park identity signs located in the Visitor Services character area.

Site furnishings include black metal trash receptacles. Also, there are numerous utility poles and wires along both sides of Auburn Avenue. These utilities interrupt the streetscape and clutter the viewshed east to west on Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 64. Wayside interpretive exhibits include topics such as "A Relaxing Atmosphere."

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area

Patterns of Spatial Organization. The boundaries of the Edgewood Avenue Commercial character area define the overall spatial configuration of the landscape within the context of the National Historical Park. The character area's boundaries are delineated by a mixture of urban streets, alleyways, sidewalks, fencing, and buildings. Maps showing existing conditions of the Edgewood Avenue Commercial character area are presented in Figure 67 and Figure 68.

Within the boundaries of the Edgewood Avenue character area, spatial organization is characterized by the orthogonal layout east to west of Edgewood Avenue and the north to south layout of the streets that form the border of the character area (Jackson and Howell streets) and the street that splits the character area in half (Boulevard).The spatial organization is also characterized by clusters of historic and non-historic commercial and residential buildings, their setbacks from the street, and the numerous curb cuts for business parking along Edgewood Avenue. Commercial buildings within the area are sited with some variation of setback from the street edge.



FIGURE 65. Rehabilitated commercial buildings located on the south side of Edgewood Avenue.



FIGURE 66. Vacant parcel on the south side of Edgewood Avenue.

Clusters of commercial buildings are interspersed with a multitude of chiefly square or rectangular open lots of various dimensions (Figure 65). Lots are paved with concrete, gravel, or asphalt, or in some instances a combination of one or more of these materials. As is typical of urban commercial areas, existing patterns of spatial organization are a result of changes in land use, demolition of buildings, construction of new buildings and associated parking and access from Edgewood Avenue, restorations and rehabilitation of structures and associated visitor amenities, and the evolving need for more vehicular parking in the area.

The multitude of open lots appear to be used primarily for parking associated with commercial businesses along the length of Edgewood Avenue, while others have no discernible use. Lots appear at random intervals, on land once occupied by residential or commercial buildings (Figure 66).

In 1900, the majority of the buildings along Edgewood were residential, with small corner markets being the exception. The majority of open lots with and without parking are devoid, or almost completely devoid, of vegetation and are typically enclosed by chain-link or masonry fencing.

Land Uses and Activities. The primary land uses and activities associated with the Edgewood Avenue character area include: various commercial and retail operations; several restaurants and drinking establishments; vehicular parking lots; and residential and mixed-use residential buildings. There is also religious land use present as a result of the Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, parish hall, and associated parking on Boulevard NE and on Edgewood Avenue. There is no recreational land use within the Edgewood Avenue character area.

Circulation. The primary vehicular circulation routes within the character area are Edgewood Avenue, aligned east to west, and Boulevard, aligned north to south (Figure 69). These wide, three-lane, commercial corridors intersect each other at the approximate mid-point of the character area. Minor streets within the character area are Howell Street NE and Daniel Street NE, accessible via Edgewood Avenue NE. Both Howell and Daniel streets are one-way. Within the character area, vehicle access to these streets is possible only by right turns made from Edgewood Avenue. Chamberlain Street SE, which runs parallel to Edgewood Avenue, connects Boulevard NE with Jackson Street NE. Nearby, Jackson Place NE is a long, narrow, gravel alleyway connecting Jackson Street with Boulevard, and is accessible to both pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Dr. King and Coretta Scott King Tomb (not in project)

Freedom Walkway (not in project)

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary

See Auburn Avenue Character Area Map1

King Center, Freedom Hall (not in project)

Jackson Street NE

Gravel alley (Jackson Place NE)

Rubble wall

Rubble wall

Gated gravel parking court (EBC)

Concrete sidewalk

420

428

438

442

444

Concrete parking

Concrete sidewalk

Asphalt public parking

458

460

464 [462]

464-466

Gravel alley (Jackson Place NE)

Boulevard NE

Metered parking on south side of street

Concrete sidewalk

Edgewood Avenue SE

Concrete sidewalk with scored hexagons

Edgewood Ave NE

See Edgewood Avenue Character Area Map 2

10

12

14

16

18

20

415

417

419

421-423

427-429

439

443-445 (NPS)

447

451

467

Jackson Street SE

Gated asphalt parking court

Mixed asphalt and gravel parking area (Ebenezer Baptist Church)

Gated asphalt parking court (NPS)

Concrete block wall

Vacant lot (NPS)

Boulevard SE

412

410

Asphalt remnant

Redbuds in planting strips

Chamberlain Street SE

Parallel parking on both sides of street

Redbuds in planting strips

Fitzgerald Street SE

0' 60' 120'

SCALE 1" = 60'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.

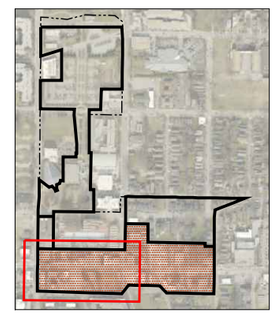


Figure 67.

Existing Conditions

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area (1 of 2)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.

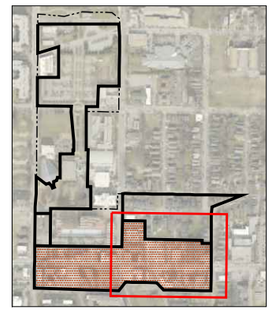


Figure 68.

Existing Conditions

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area (2 of 2)

0' 60' 120'

SCALE 1" = 60'

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FIGURE 69. Intersection of Boulevard and Edgewood Avenue looking east.

Street parking is limited to Edgewood Avenue and Chamberlain Street. Metered parallel parking is available on the south side of Edgewood Avenue SE. Parallel parking is also present on either side of Chamberlain Street.

Pedestrian sidewalks are part of both sides of the two-block streetscape of Edgewood Avenue from Jackson Street to Howell Street. Most of the sidewalks are unembellished concrete walkways, except in several locations in both blocks where they are scored with a hexagonal pattern. In addition, the sidewalk at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Howell Street has been inlaid with brick set in a herringbone pattern. Sidewalks in the character area vary in width and allow easy pedestrian access from the myriad of parking lots to the area's commercial buildings. Sidewalk widths along Edgewood Avenue from Jackson to Boulevard are typically 5 feet in width. From Boulevard to Howell, the sidewalks are typically 9-1/2 feet in width. Condition of the sidewalks is typically good, but some areas of the paving are in poor to fair condition, due to cracking and heaving (Figure 70).

An abundance of fencing around parking and vacant lots limit pedestrian traffic and "shortcuts" through these areas, thus compelling those on foot to utilize sidewalks. To accommodate bicycle traffic, narrow lanes, moving with the direction of vehicular traffic, are located on either side of Edgewood Avenue, the only street within the character area to incorporate them. There are no stops for public transit within the character area.



FIGURE 70. Sidewalk paving is hexagonally scored concrete, transitioning to square scored concrete. Paving materials and patterns vary along the two-block length of Edgewood Avenue.

Cultural Vegetation. Vegetation along the Edgewood Avenue commercial corridor between Howell Street and Boulevard consists of intermittent street trees planted at various intervals creating some continuity to the streetscape. Most of these trees are still small but seem to be in good condition (Figure 71). There are gaps where trees are missing from the street pits. From Boulevard to Jackson Street, street trees only line the edge of the vacant lot between 467 and 451 Edgewood Avenue. These are larger trees, and they are located on the edge of the vacant property, not in street tree pits. Several of these trees are in poor to fair condition. There are a variety of tree species used for the street tree plantings including: crapemyrtle; honey locust *(Gleditsia triacanthos);* tree of heaven; hornbeam *(Carpinus caroliniana);* post oak; and red maple.

Other cultural vegetation consists of plantings in front of the various commercial buildings, each unique to a particular building.



FIGURE 71. Street tree plantings on Edgewood Avenue looking west.

Buildings

The Edgewood commercial corridor extends along Edgewood Avenue SE between Jackson Street NE and Howell Street NE. Edgewood Avenue is generally lined with one- and two-story masonry buildings that generally date to the late nineteenth century (Figure 72). While a number of the buildings are simple in their construction, some include decorative brick features, such as arches, articulated panels, and belt courses common to structures of that age (Figure 73).



FIGURE 72. A typical two-story commercial building along Edgewood Avenue SE. Note the stone detailing at the second level.



FIGURE 73. Commercial buildings along Edgewood Avenue SE. Note the detailing at the building on the left.



FIGURE 74. A view looking northwest at the building at 510 Edgewood Avenue SE.

A number of contemporary buildings dating to the second half of the twentieth century are present along Edgewood Avenue, particularly at the eastern end of the corridor (Figure 74).

Structures. Structures in the character area consist primarily of masonry walls and a single outbuilding that is located behind 510 Edgewood Avenue. A narrow rubble wall extends from the sidewalk edge on Edgewood Avenue to Jackson Street NE. A second rubble wall runs the length of the gap between the rear facades of numbers 428 and 438 Edgewood Avenue. Farther east, a vacant lot at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Boulevard includes a free-standing concrete-block wall constructed parallel and perpendicular to Edgewood Avenue. There are also concrete block steps associated with this vacant lot.

Small-Scale Features. Small-scale features in the character area include: parking meters; bike racks; trash receptacles; and a variety of signage, unique to each particular business (Figure 75).



FIGURE 75. Commercial establishments display signage unique to their business.

Archeological Resources

There are currently no known archeological resources at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Park. A 2007 condition assessment for the National Historic Site conducted by an archeologist from the Southeast Archaeological Center (SEAC) noted no immediate concerns related to potential archeological resources. The trip report for the assessment indicates that ". . . there are no records of previous archeological investigations having been conducted by NPS within the district. In fact, the accession number associated with [the] condition assessment is the first one issued by SEAC that is related to MALU."[159]

Since 2007, SEAC has conducted two archeological investigations related to improvements at MALU: a 2013 survey for the picnic shelter in Dreamer's Park and a 2015 study for the installation of a drainage line along Auburn Avenue NE. No archeological materials were identified in either investigation.[160]

Potential archeological resources at MALU include precontact and early contact-period Native American sites, as well as Euro-American-period deposits and features. Euro-American resources could include those associated with the late nineteenth-century structures related to John Lynch and others along the former New Wheat and Foster streets in the south portion of the park, as well as resources associated with subsequent early twentieth century residences throughout the park. The yard at the Birth Home and the site surrounding Ebenezer Baptist Church could yield important information related to the setting in which Dr. King lived and worked.

159. Robert Hellman, to Director, Southeast Archeological Center, "Trip Report of Archeological Site Condition Assessments for Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 6/19-29/06." SEAC Acc. 2061, and Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, SEAC Acc. 2062," March 9, 2007, 1-2, 21-22.

160. Jessica McNeil, Archeologist, Southeast Archeological Center, to David W. Morgan, Director, Southeast Archeological Center, "Trip Report on Archeological Testing at Martin Luther King Jr. National Historic Site, Atlanta, Georgia, September 3, 2013." SEAC Acc 2623, October 21, 2013; Rusty Simmons, Archeological Technician, Compliance Division, to David Morgan, Director, Southeast Archeological Center, "Trip Report on the Archeological Survey of Shotguns for Sewer Installation Martin Luther King Jr. [sic] National Historic Site (MALU), Atlanta, GA, June 102, 2015." SEAC Acc. 2746, June 18, 2015.

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Analysis and Evaluation

Introduction

This chapter consists of three sections: an evaluation of the significance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park landscape in accordance with the guidance provided by the National Register of Historic Places, an integrity assessment, and a comparative analysis of historic and existing landscape conditions that identifies contributing and non-contributing resources.

The significance evaluation identifies the property's important historical associations over time, as well as its architectural, archeological, and social value. The property's significance is tied to discrete period(s) of time in which its important contributions were made and the historic contexts within which the activities that occurred on the property may be placed.

The second section of the chapter comprises an integrity assessment that summarizes to what degree the property retains its ability to convey its historic associations with the identified period of significance.

Based on this identification and discussion of the property's significance, and the period during which historical associations occurred, the CLR team prepared a comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions. The analysis conveys an understanding of change over time and suggests which resources today reflect their character and appearance during the period(s) when historical contributions were made. The comparative analysis also provides an indication of resources that survive from the identified period(s) of significance. These are referred to as contributing features. Resources that originated after the period(s) of significance, or that have lost integrity, are assessed as non-contributing. The CLR also identifies features that existed during the period(s) of significance but no longer survive, except perhaps in the archeological record. These are categorized as missing resources.

Current National Register Status of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

National Register of Historic Places documentation pertaining to the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park reviewed for the purposes of this project includes the following:

- *National Register nomination documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr. Historic District*, bounded approximately by Irwin, Randolph, Edgewood, Jackson, and Auburn Avenues. Documentation prepared by Elizabeth Z. Macgregor, Architectural Historian, and Carole A. Summers, Coordinator, Historic Sites Survey, Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, Atlanta, March 25, 1974; entered in the National Register May 2, 1974.[161]

  The National Register form used at the time allowed preparers to select date ranges as significant periods. The preparers of the

161. *National Register Documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District*, entered in the National Register May 2, 1974 (National Archives Identifier 93208244). (The nomination form notes that the Atlanta Baptist Preparatory Institute site was, at the time the nomination documentation was prepared, occupied by apartments.)

National Register documentation selected 1800–1899 and 1900– as significant periods. The form identifies areas of significance including Architecture, Education, Political, Religion/Philosophy, and Other: History. The nomination documentation cites several structures that together "comprise an identifiable and definable historic district"; these structures include Ebenezer Baptist Church, the gravesite of Martin Luther King Jr; King's birthplace and boyhood home at 501 Auburn Avenue; shotgun row houses and Victorian houses on Auburn Avenue; the Alexander Hamilton House at 102 Howell Street; the Atlanta Baptist Preparatory Institute at 535 Auburn Avenue; Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church Mission; and Fire Station No. 6.[162]

- *National Historic Landmark documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District*, including Auburn Street between Jackson and Howell streets. Documentation prepared by Benjamin Levy, Historic Sites Survey, National Park Service, Washington, DC (based on the work of Elizabeth Z. Macgregor and Carole A. Summers, Historic Preservation Section, Department of Natural Resources, State of Georgia, and Joseph S. Mendinghall, Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation), January 5, 1976. The historic district was designated a National Historic Landmark on May 5, 1977.[163]

  The National Historic Landmark nomination was prepared using a National Register form, as was the convention at the time. As noted above, the form allowed preparers to select date ranges as significant periods. The preparers of the NHL documentation selected 1800–1899 and 1900– as significant periods. The form identifies relevant areas of significance as Architecture, Education, and Religion. An inventory of individual buildings provided with this documentation is entitled, "Martin Luther King National Historic Landmark – Inventory," and includes the following resources:

  - 407–413 Auburn Avenue, Ebenezer Baptist Church, 1922
  - 472–474 Auburn Avenue, 1905
  - 476–478 Auburn Avenue, 1905
  - 480–482 Auburn Avenue, 1905
  - 484–486 Auburn Avenue, 1905
  - 488 Auburn Avenue, 1905
  - 491–493 Auburn Avenue, 1911
  - 492–494 Auburn Avenue, 1897
  - 501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home, circa 1895
  - 503 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895
  - 506 Auburn Avenue, 1933
  - 509 Auburn Avenue, Smith-Charleston House, 1925–1930[164]
  - 510 Auburn Avenue, pre-1892
  - 514 Auburn Avenue, circa 1893
  - 515 Auburn Avenue, Faison House, 1909
  - 518 Auburn Avenue, 1893–1895
  - 521 Auburn Avenue, Calhoun House, 1880s[165]
  - 522 Auburn Avenue, 1893–1895
  - 526 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895
  - 530 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895
  - 535 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895
  - 29 Boulevard, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 1912
  - 37–39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6, 1894
  - 53–[55] Boulevard, 1905
  - 479–481 Old Wheat Street, 1905[166]
  - 483–485 Old Wheat Street, 1905[167]
  - 487–489 Old Wheat Street, 1905[168]

162. Ibid.
163. Levy; the National Historic Site was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1977. See also Joseph Scott Mendinghall, *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form: Martin Luther King Jr. Historic District (Landmark),* (Washington, DC: Afro-American Bicentennial Corporation, 1973).
164. 509 Auburn Avenue was demolished in 1990 and reconstructed in 1997.
165. 521 Auburn Avenue was demolished in 2001 following a fire, and reconstructed in 2004.
166. Demolished circa 2009.
167. Demolished in 1995.
168. Demolished in 1995.

- 53 Hogue Street, Finley-Baynes duplex, circa 1940
- 54 Howell Street, 1931[169]

- *National Register documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site*, comprising a historic district approximately bounded by Jackson, Howell, and Old Wheat streets and Edgewood Avenue. This documentation was prepared by Robert Blythe, Maureen A. Carroll, and Steven H. Moffson, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, and certified by the Keeper of the National Register on May 4, 1994.[170]

  The 1994 documentation indicates that the historic district is significant under Criteria A, B, and C, and meets Criteria Considerations A, C, and G. Areas of significance cited include the following: Ethnic Heritage, black; Social History, Commerce, and Architecture. The period of significance is given as circa 1880–1968, and specific significant dates cited include 1906, 1929, and 1968. The documentation explores three historic contexts:

  A. The Development of a Black Community Leader; Atlanta's Auburn Avenue Neighborhood and Martin Luther King Jr., 1906–1948
  B. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Leadership of the American Civil Rights Movement, 1955–1968
  C. Architectural Resources of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, ca. 1880–1950[171]

  The 1994 documentation also notes that the district includes thirty-five contributing resources. These include the following buildings:

  - 407–413 Auburn Avenue, 1914–1922 (LCS 090002)
  - 449 Auburn Avenue, 1976 (LCS 090045)
  - 472–474 (LCS 23361), 476–478 (LCS 023363), 480–[482][172] (LCS 090003), and 484–[486] Auburn Avenue (LCS 090004), 1905
  - 488–[490] Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 090005)
  - 491–[493] Auburn Avenue, 1911 (LCS 090047)
  - 493 Auburn Avenue, rear units 1–2 (LCS 090007), 3–4 (LCS 090008), 5–6 (LCS 090009), 1911
  - 497 Auburn Avenue, circa 1900 (LCS 090010)
  - 501 Auburn Avenue, circa 1894 (LCS 090011)
  - 503 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895 (LCS 090012)
  - 506 Auburn Avenue, 1933 (LCS 090013)
  - 510 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 090014)
  - 514 Auburn Avenue, 1893 (LCS 023362)
  - 515 Auburn Avenue, 1909 (LCS 090015)
  - 518 Auburn Avenue, circa 1893 (LCS 090016)
  - 521 Auburn Avenue, circa 1886 (LCS 090017)[173]
  - 521-1/2 Auburn Avenue, circa 1920 (LCS 090018)

169. Levy.
170. Robert Blythe, Maureen A. Carroll, and Steven H. Moffson, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, *National Register documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site*, certified by the Keeper of the National Register on May 4, 1994, (National Archives Identifier 93208246). Blythe, Carroll, and Moffson also prepared a *Historic Resource Study for the Martin Luther King., Jr., National Historic Site* (Atlanta: National Park Service Southeast Regional Office, 1994), which includes a significance assessment consistent with that provided in the 1994 National Register nomination documentation.
171. Ibid.
172. Ibid. As shown in the 1994 documentation, street numbers no longer used, as with duplexes that have been converted to single-family residences, are indicated in brackets.
173. 521 Auburn Avenue was demolished in 2001 following a fire, and reconstructed in 2004.

- 522 Auburn Avenue, circa 1894 (LCS 023326)
- 526 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895 (LCS 023365)
- 530 Auburn, circa 1895 (LCS 090019)
- 535 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895 (LCS 090020)
- 540 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 023368)
- 546 Auburn Avenue, circa 1900 (LCS 023370)
- 550 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 023367)
- 29 Boulevard, 1912 (LCS 090040)
- 37–39 Boulevard, 1894 (LCS 090039)
- 53–[55] Boulevard, circa 1905 (LCS 023364)
- 420 Edgewood Avenue, 1912
- 438–442 Edgewood Avenue, 1939
- 439–441 Edgewood Avenue, 1920
- 443–445 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 023327)
- 444–446 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 447 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 451 Edgewood Avenue, 1915
- 458 Edgewood Avenue, 1946
- 464–468 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 467 Edgewood Avenue, 1911
- 476–480 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 090030)
- 482 Edgewood Avenue, 1908 (LCS 090031)
- 483 Edgewood Avenue, 1908
- 485 Edgewood Avenue, 1908
- 487 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 488 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 090035)
- 489 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 510 Edgewood Avenue, 1947 (LCS 090037)
- 541 Edgewood Avenue, 1906
- 53 Hogue Street, 1940 (LCS 090041)
- 14 Howell Street, circa 1927 (LCS 090042)
- 24 Howell Street, circa 1895 (LCS 090043)
- 28 Howell Street, circa 1895 (LCS 090046)
- 54 Howell Street, 1931 (LCS 090044)
- 483–485 Old Wheat Street, circa 1905 (LCS 023366)[174]
- 487–489 Old Wheat Street, circa 1905 (LCS 23369) [175]

Also noted as contributing are the following landscape features:

- Alley running south from Auburn Avenue between 493 and 497 Auburn, circa 1911 (LCS 090057)[176]
- Brick sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue east of Howell, circa 1890–1920 (LCS 090059)
- Brick sidewalk, west side of Howell Street north of Auburn Avenue, circa 1895–1922 (LCS 090060)
- Pea-gravel sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street, circa 1922–1923 (LCS 090058)[177]

- National Register documentation for Martin Luther King, Jr., Historic District Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation, for an area approximately bounded by Freedom Parkway and John Wesley Dobbs Avenue on the north, Decatur Street on the south, the Southern Railway line on the east, and Interstate 75/85 on the west. This documentation, which provides additional information and expands the boundaries of the 1974 National Register nomination, was prepared by Steven H. Moffson, Architectural Historian, Historic Preservation Division, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, with John A. Kissane, Historic Preservation Consultant, Historic District Development Corporation, Atlanta, Georgia. It was accepted by the National Register on June 21, 2001.[178]

174. Demolished in 1995.
175. Demolished in 1995.
176. The alley is sometimes referred to as "Reid's Alley."
177. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*.
178. Moffson and Kissane; note that the copy of the 2001 documentation on the National Archives web sites is not the final copy, as it is unsigned.

The 2001 documentation indicates that the historic district is significant under Criteria A, B, and C, and meets Criteria Considerations C and G. Areas of significance cited include the following: Ethnic Heritage, black; Social History, Community Planning and Development, and Architecture. The 2001 documentation cites a period of significance of circa 1853–1968, beginning with the opening of Auburn Avenue (then called Wheat Street), and citing specific dates including 1906, the Atlanta Race Riot; 1917, the Atlanta fire; 1929, the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.; 1964, the strike at the Scripto plant and the opening of the Wheat Street Gardens I Housing Complex; 1968, the death of Martin Luther King Jr.; and 1976, construction of the Martin Luther King Jr. grave site. The documentation explores four historic contexts:

A. The Development of the Auburn Avenue Community in Atlanta, Georgia, circa 1853–1968
B. Martin Luther King Jr. and Atlanta's Auburn Avenue Neighborhood, 1929–1968
C. The American Civil Rights Movement and Atlanta's Auburn Avenue Community, 1945–1968
D. Architectural and Landscape Resources in Atlanta's Auburn Avenue Community, circa 1853–1968[179]

The Boundary Increase and Additional Documentation indicates that there are 443 contributing buildings, 1 contributing site, and 1 contributing structure (not including 37 previously listed resources) and 79 non-contributing buildings.[180]

Evaluation of Significance

Based on review of the existing National Register documentation, although the 2001 Boundary Extension and Additional Documentation provided extensive additional information not contained in previously developed National Register nomination materials, the resources and significance of the park are not completely addressed in current documentation. This is the case in part because the recent (2018) public law included a boundary extension to incorporate Prince Hall Masonic Temple, which was not addressed in previous documentation. In addition, the cultural landscape assessed as part of the current study was not addressed in the context of the previous National Register documentation.

This significance evaluation takes into consideration the information presented in the existing National Register nomination documentation, as well as the guidance afforded in the National Register Bulletin *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*. The findings of this CLR, particularly the investigation into the history of the landscape and analysis of its evolution, are also considered in the following evaluation.

National Register of Historic Places Significance Criteria

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the nation's historic places worthy of preservation. Authorized by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the National Park Service's National Register of Historic Places is part of a national program to coordinate and support public and private efforts to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.[181]

The significance evaluation identifies the important historical associations of the property, and comments on its architectural, archeological, and social value as they relate to the National Register of Historic Places. A property's significance is tied to a discrete period of time in which its important contributions were made, and

179. Ibid.
180. Ibid.
181. National Park Service, "National Register of Historic Places," accessed May 22, 2019, https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/index.htm.

to relevant national, state, and local historic contexts.

In order for a property to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, it must possess significance under one of four criteria. The Criteria for Evaluation for listing in the National Register of Historic Places state:

> The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:
>
> A. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
>
> B. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
>
> C. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
>
> D. That has yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.
>
> **Criteria Considerations**
>
> Ordinarily cemeteries, birthplaces, graves of historical figures, properties owned by religious institutions or used for religious purposes, structures that have been moved from their original locations, reconstructed historic buildings, properties primarily commemorative in nature, and properties that have achieved significance within the past 50 years shall not be considered eligible for the National Register. However, such properties *will qualify* if they are integral parts of districts that do meet the criteria or if they fall within the following categories:
>
> a. A religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance; or
>
> b. A building or structure removed from its original location but which is primarily significant for architectural value, or which is the surviving structure most importantly associated with a historic person or event; or
>
> c. A birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life; or
>
> d. A cemetery that derives its primary importance from graves of persons of transcendent importance, from age, from distinctive design features, or from association with historic events; or
>
> e. A reconstructed building when accurately executed in a suitable environment and presented in a dignified manner as part of a restoration master plan, and when no other building or structure with the same association has survived; or
>
> f. A property primarily commemorative in intent if design, age, tradition, or symbolic value has invested it with its own exceptional significance; or
>
> g. A property achieving significance within the past 50 years if it is of exceptional importance.[182]

National Register Significance of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

The findings of this study concur with prior National Register documentation. As noted in the 1994 documentation, the historic district is significant under Criteria A, B, and C, and Criteria Considerations A, C, and G. Areas of significance cited in the 1994 documentation include Ethnic Heritage, black; Social History; Commerce; and Architecture.

182. *Code of Federal Regulations*, Title 36, Part 60, "The National Register Criteria for Evaluation."

Per Criterion A, properties "that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history," the historic district is nationally significant for its association with the development of the civil rights movement in the United States. The historic district is also locally significant under Criterion A as part of the Sweet Auburn and Auburn Avenue African American community. Specific properties, including Ebenezer Baptist Church, are also locally significant as important institutions within this community. In addition, Ebenezer Baptist Church is nationally significant as the site of numerous civil rights movement conferences and meetings.

Per Criterion B, properties "that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past," the historic district is nationally significant as the birthplace and boyhood home of Martin Luther King Jr. The Birth Home, where King grew up, is nationally significant, and the Birth Home block and neighborhood, where King spent his early years, are contributing resources under this Criterion. The historic district is also significant under Criterion B for King's work in his adult life as leader in the civil rights movement. Ebenezer Baptist Church is nationally significant as a place where King spent much of his youth and later served as co-pastor, which informed his nonviolent opposition to racial discrimination.

Criterion C, properties "that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction," pertains to the late nineteenth-century and twentieth-century cultural landscape and resources of the historic district. The residential and commercial structures and their setting represent the evolution of Auburn Avenue and the Sweet Auburn neighborhood as a largely self-contained African American community. Many of the residential and commercial buildings are locally significant for their architecture; these resources survive with sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations to the community that existed throughout the evolution of the Auburn Avenue neighborhood and during King's lifetime. Several of the residences are also locally significant for their association with individuals who played important roles in the development of Atlanta and the Sweet Auburn neighborhood, while Fire Station No. 6 is also of historic interest as part of the development of the neighborhood, as one of the first fully integrated fire stations in Atlanta, and in the history of fire-fighting in Atlanta.[183]

Criteria Consideration A, "a religious property deriving primary significance from architectural or artistic distinction or historical importance," pertains to Ebenezer Baptist Church. The church was an important institution in the Auburn Avenue community, and influential in King's youth as well as his career as a civil rights leader. Ebenezer Baptist Church was also important in the history of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s.

Per Criteria Consideration C, "a birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance if there is no appropriate site or building associated with his or her productive life." The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home is considered nationally significant as the site of King's birth and early years. In future, consideration may be given to assessment of the King grave site, which is outside of the current study area, as potentially contributing to the historic district. (See further discussion under Period of Significance Discussion, below.)

Criteria Consideration G, "a property achieving significance within the past fifty years if it is of exceptional importance," was applicable at the

183. "Fire Station No. 6," Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park web site, accessed February 2019, https://www.nps.gov/malu/learn/historyculture/fsn6-brief-history.htm. The Atlanta Fire Department was integrated in 1963, before passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, when sixteen African Americans were hired and assigned to Fire Station No. 16 on Simpson Road. In 1977, seven female firefighters were hired by the Fire Department.

time the 1994 National Register documentation was prepared. At that time, some of the contributing resources of the historic district were not yet fifty years old. (See further discussion under Period of Significance Discussion, below.)

The recently enacted Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017 modifies the boundaries of the park to include Prince Hall Masonic Temple on Auburn Avenue, where the Southern Christian Leadership Conference established its initial headquarters in 1957, noting the importance of the historic civil rights organization for which Dr. King served as co-founder and first president.[184] Although not specifically addressed as part of the current study, Prince Hall Masonic Temple is considered a contributing resource to the historic district.

Although not within the study area of this CLR, the house at 234 Sunset Avenue NW in Atlanta is a contributing resource to the historic district and a part of the National Historical Park. The house was the residence of Dr. King, his wife Coretta, and their family from 1964 until King's death in 1968. The National Park Service purchased the property with donated funds on January 8, 2019.

Period of Significance Discussion

As noted above, the original National Register (1974) and National Historic Landmark (1977) documentation for the historic district define the period of significance broadly, as 1800–1899 and 1900–, following the convention used in the National Register form at that time. The 1994 documentation defines a period of significance as circa 1880–1968, with specific significant dates cited including 1906, 1929, and 1968. The 2001 documentation cites a period of significance of 1853–1968, beginning with the opening of Auburn Avenue (then called Wheat Street) and ending with the year of Dr. King's death. The 1994 documentation also cites specific dates including 1906, the Atlanta Race Riot; 1917, the Atlanta fire; 1929, the birth of Martin Luther King Jr.; 1964, the strike at the Scripto plant and the opening of the Wheat Street Gardens I Housing Complex; 1968, the death of Martin Luther King Jr.; and 1976, construction of the Martin Luther King Jr. grave site; the latter date is outside the period of significance identified in the 2001 documentation.

Based on research conducted for this study, consideration should be given to adjusting the start date for the period of significance for the cultural landscape that comprises the historic district of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. Review of archival documentation suggests that the date of 1853 may be earlier than is appropriate for the opening of Wheat Street relative to the historic district. Based on review of archival maps, Wheat Street terminated one block east of Butler Street (later Fort Street) in 1853.[185] The termination of Wheat Street was the same in 1864.[186] By 1870, however, Wheat Street had been extended east of Boulevard (Rolling Mill Street) to Randolph Street.[187] By 1877, Wheat Street extended east of Randolph Street; Wheat Street and New Wheat Street (Auburn Avenue) appear on a map from that year beginning at Fort Street. The 1877 map also shows the beginning of a subdivision along Wheat Street.[188] Based on this documentation, a start date of circa 1870 could be considered for the overarching period of

184. *HR 267 - Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Act of 2017.* (See "Designations of National Park System Units," https://home/www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/designations.htm.)
185. Vincent.
186. Atlanta, *Vincent's Subdivision Map*, 1864.
187. Hanleiter.
188. Henry T. McDaniel, *Map of Atlanta, Completed & Drawn by Henry T. McDaniel, City Engineer, by order of the City Council,* 1877, accessed January 30, 2018, http://tomitronics.com/maps historic%20maps/1877atlanta.jpg. See also Oscar F. Kern, *Atlanta (*Philadelphia: Oscar F. Kern, 1878), accessed January 2018, http://www.digitalgallery. emory.edu/luna/servlet/detail/EMORYUL~3~3~970~100069:Street-Directory--Atlanta?sort=Title %2CPage_No_%2CCity%2CDate&qvq=w4s:/who/Hopkins,%20Griffith%20Morgan;sort:Title%2CPage_No_%2CCity%2CDate;lc:EMORYUL~3~3&mi=21&trs=24.

significance if an amendment to the National Register nomination is undertaken.[189]

The current end date of 1968 for the period of significance reflects the national significance of the park for its association with the life and work of Martin Luther King Jr. This date is also fifty-one years before the present (2019). In the future, consideration could be given to revising the end date of the period of significance based on further evaluation of the continuing significance of primary contributing resources within the historic district, such as Ebenezer Baptist Church, and on the potential significance of newer resources, such as the King grave site and memorial constructed in 1976, the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame (2004), the Promenade (1996), the "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden (1992–1993), the *"Behold"* Monument (1990), and the Gandhi sculpture (1998).

Based on the above, for purposes of this study, a period of significance of circa 1870 through 1968 has been used for assessment of contributing and non-contributing resources and is the basis for the treatment plan.

Potential Changes to Existing National Register Documentation.

As noted above, consideration could be given to adjusting the beginning date for the overarching period of significance to reflect additional research into the opening of Wheat Street relative to the historic district. Also, consideration could be given to adjusting the end date based on further analysis of the continuing significance of primary resources (e.g., Ebenezer Baptist Church) and potential significance of newer resources (the King grave site and memorial).

Assessment of Prince Hall Masonic Temple and 234 Sunset Avenue NW could also be conducted to determine whether existing documentation merits additional documentation or revisions to address and more fully document these resources.

Comparative Analysis of Existing and Historic Conditions in the Park

For the purposes of this study, the period of significance of 1870–1968, as defined in the National Register nomination, has been utilized to compare historic and existing landscape conditions and determine the contributing status of surviving resources. Using the period of significance identified herein as the basis of comparison, the comparative analysis that follows focuses on assessing the degree to which the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park landscape and each of its features help to convey significant historic associations and contribute to the significance of the property.

The landscape characteristics defined in Chapter 3 are used as the basis for the comparative analysis. These include:

- Patterns of Spatial Organization
- Land Uses and Activities
- Circulation
- Cultural Vegetation
- Viewsheds
- Buildings and Structures

189. Further research is also recommended to determine the effects of the Civil War on this area of Atlanta, and the extent to which the existing cultural landscape reflects the period identified in prior National Register documentation (i.e., 1853), as well as the period immediately following the Civil War suggested by further archival research (circa 1870). The oldest buildings and structures within the historic district date to the 1880s; thus, additional research that is beyond the scope of this study could help to confirm the extent to which the existing cultural landscape reflects the character of the historic district circa 1870 and in the 1880s, or more broadly, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

- Small-scale Features

The date of origin of each resource or feature is identified, and any changes that have occurred over time are noted. Those features that were established during the period of significance and retain sufficient integrity to convey their historic associations are identified as contributing, while those that postdate the period of significance or have lost integrity are indicated as non-contributing. Features that existed during the period of significance but are no longer extant are identified as missing resources. Also supporting the comparative analysis are pairs of historic and contemporary photographs taken from the same or a similar location that help to illustrate change over time. In addition, a series of site development maps were generated to show the evolution of circulation, land use, and building densities in 1900, 1929, 1968, and 2018, framed within the period of significance and the existing condition for 2018.

Overview

When comparing the landscape of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park during the period of significance to present-day conditions, it is clear that the majority of the urban landscape associated with the Auburn Avenue character area and the Edgewood Avenue character area (as it evolved before 1968) survives with integrity. Contributing features include circulation form and layout of the orthogonal grid of streets; broad patterns of spatial organization within the urban landscape; spatial patterns of the streetscapes; relationships of the building masses to open space; patterns of cultural vegetation and use of small-scale features in the residential yards; and large numbers of extant historic buildings.

Within the National Historical Park, four distinct land uses were established as part of the urban context of Atlanta and survive with integrity from the period of significance. The land uses are residential, commercial, religious, and public facility. These land uses from the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century survive today.

Despite an overall assessment that the historical urban landscape of the park possesses sufficient integrity to convey its historic associations, there was a notable change to the urban fabric and landscape that postdated the period of significance. In 1992, the NPS bought the land between Cain Street and Auburn Avenue, north of the Birth Home block. All remaining buildings, vegetation, alleys, and structures were removed from the site before construction of the new visitor center and associated facilities began in 1994. The visitor services area may diminish integrity of setting and feeling in relationship to the historical areas of the park, but it is an integral component of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park.

Patterns of Spatial Organization

(Refer to Figure 76, Figure 77, Figure 78 with illustrations of Spatial Patterns in 1900, 1929,1968, and 2017)

Summary Analysis

The broad patterns of spatial organization within the urban landscape of the park have not changed greatly over time as residential and commercial land uses developed in the area from the late nineteenth century through the mid-twentieth century. These broad patterns are extant and survive with integrity from the period of significance. The spatial patterns are created by the orthogonal grid of the streets and define the boundary of the park and its historic core. Smaller-scale spatial patterns related to the growth and development of residential and commercial structures over time are conveyed through figure/ground illustrations for each character area, depicting building masses and open space along the street corridors.

Historic Conditions. There is a distinct spatial order within the streetscapes of Auburn and Edgewood avenues. Auburn Avenue spatial patterns are defined by the street width, building setbacks, sidewalks, walls, and individual lot size. The streetscape scale and relationship of elements survive with little alteration from the period of significance and are evident in the historic core of the park by 1890–1905, when most of the residences in the Birth Home block were

constructed. Buildings on Edgewood Avenue retain their consistent setbacks and the streetscape reflects the relationship of the commercial buildings to the sidewalk and the street. Street width has remained consistent as have the widths of the sidewalks. Within the streetscape spatial order, there is a small-scale pattern of spatial organization in association with the residential buildings and lots on Auburn Avenue, Howell Street, and Old Wheat Street. The individual yards—front, back, and side—are an integral feature of most of the residential parcels. The yards create patterns of space that are not always identical, but they are similar and defined by property boundary fences and or hedges. This spatial order was part of the historic condition on Auburn Avenue and was evident when the buildings were completed during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Existing Conditions. (Refer to the 2017 illustrations.) The streetscape pattern of spatial organization on Edgewood Avenue was in place by 1929 and is evident today. The historic spatial patterns of Auburn Avenue were in place by 1905 and are evident today. Patterns have changed over time for the Visitor Services character area. From 1968 to the current conditions in 2019, the park made major changes to accommodate visitors and park maintenance.

Evaluation. The broad patterns of spatial organization are organized by the density and scale of the architecture and the relationship of building mass to the landscape. This spatial pattern has survived from the period of significance. The spatial density of the buildings in relationship to open space has changed through time; however, the basic spatial relationships and urban landscape character remain intact and contribute to the significance of the park. The streetscape pattern for the Auburn Avenue character area retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the park. The streetscape pattern of the Edgewood Avenue character area retains integrity, but individual defining characteristics differ from Auburn Avenue. Patterns of spatial organization that postdate the period of significance are evident in the Visitor Services character area.

Construction of the visitor center, maintenance facility, associated circulation, and outdoor spaces has created a distinct spatial pattern within the existing grid layout of the streets. The broad pattern of spatial organization defined by the streets remains, but the interior spatial patterns postdate the period of significance.

Contributing Features

- Broad patterns of spatial organization created by the form and structure of the streets that define the historic core of the park and delineate its boundary
- Figure/ground relationships that organize the density, scale, and spatial patterns of building masses in relationship to the landscape
- Hierarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape, determined by road widths, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, individual lot size, and defined spaces within each individual parcel
- Spatial organization of residential yards

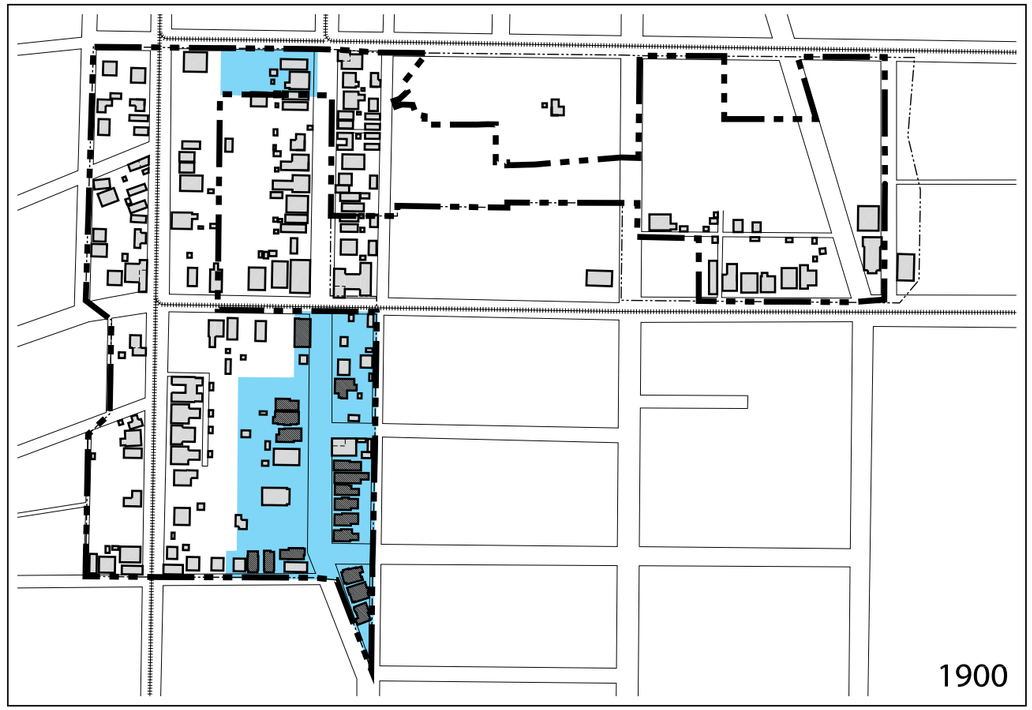
Non-Contributing Features

- Broad pattern of spatial organization within the Visitor Services character area of the park

Missing Features

- Former spatial patterns (before 1992) in the Visitor Services character area

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- Building
- Extant historic building
- Street
- Unpaved alley
- Streetcar route

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

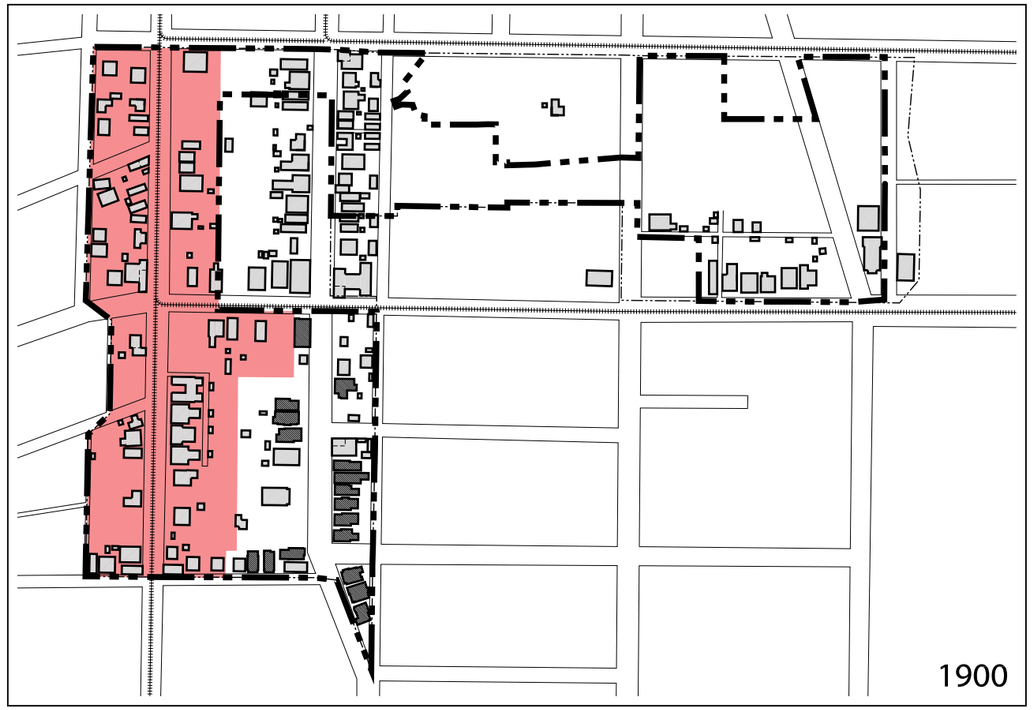
Figure 76.

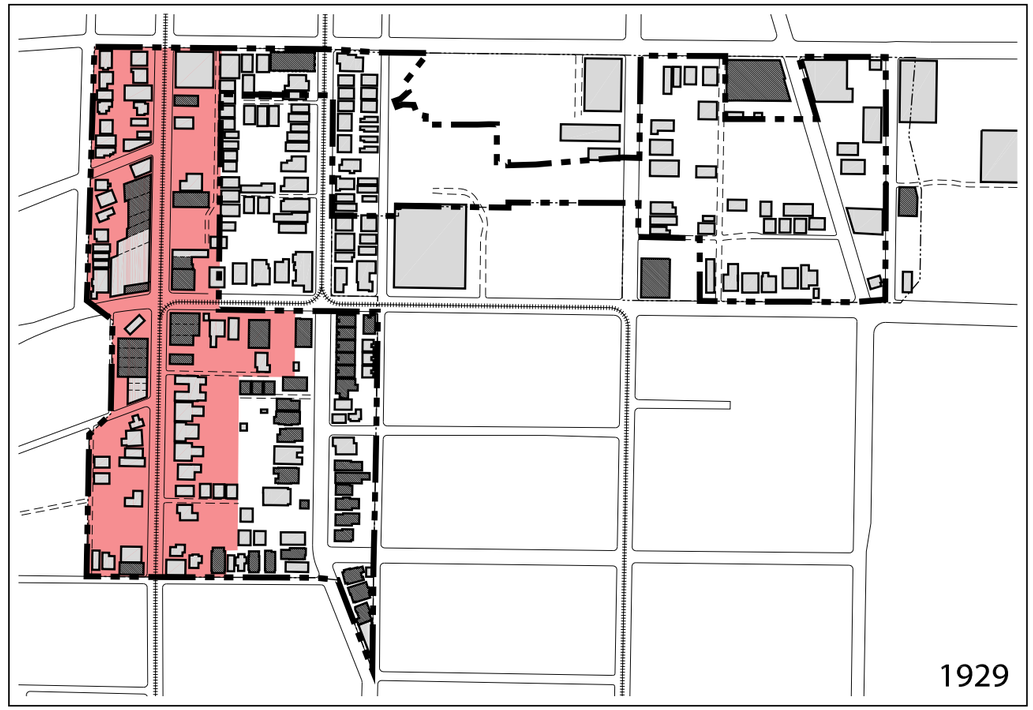
Site Development, Auburn Avenue Character Area

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park









Legend

- Building
- Extant historic building
- Street
- Unpaved alley
- Streetcar route

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

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SCALE 1" = 400'

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Figure 77.

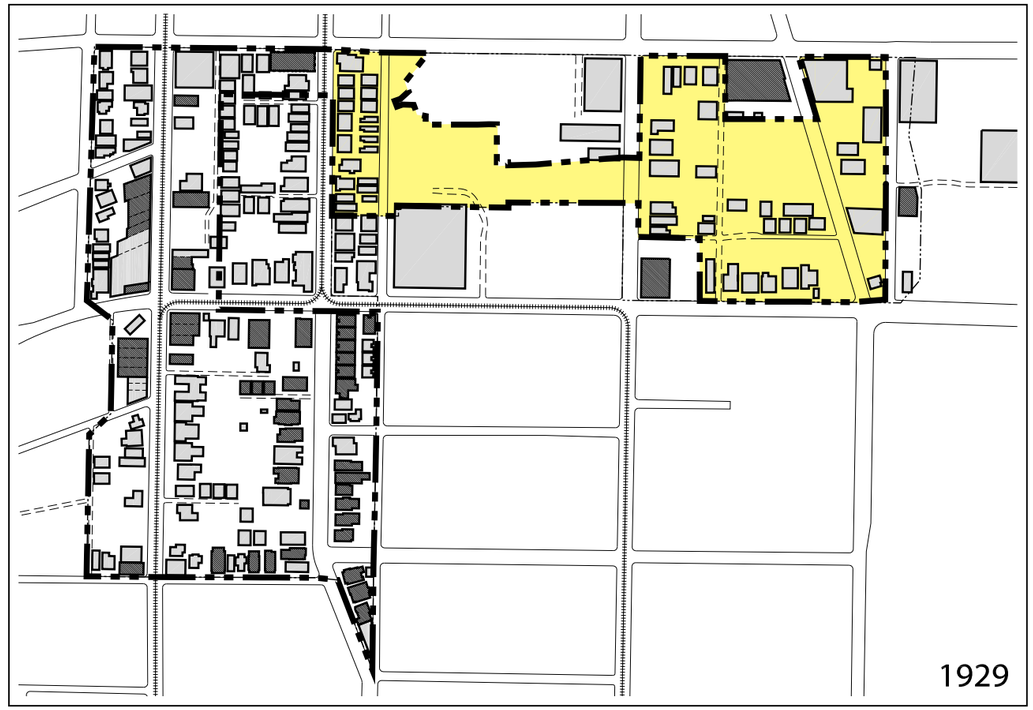
Site Development, Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park









Legend

- Building
- Extant historic building
- Street
- Unpaved alley
- Streetcar route

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

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SCALE 1" = 400'

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Figure 78.

Site Development, Visitor Services Character Area

Land Uses and Activities

(Refer to Figure 79 with illustrations of Land Use Development in 1900, 1929, 1968 and 2017.)

Summary Analysis

Land uses associated with the National Historical Park include: residential; commercial; religious; public facility; and industrial (Figure 79). These land uses survive from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the park landscape. Land uses that have been added since the end of the period of significance include: museum / interpretation / education; commemoration; maintenance; and recreation.

Historic Condition. At the turn of the twentieth century, land use in the park was almost exclusively residential. There were only scant examples of commercial land use located at the corner of Howell and Edgewood, and two religious establishments, one at Boulevard and Irwin and the other at the intersection of Cain and Boulevard. Within the subsequent thirty years, the evolution of the landscape reflected the development of commercial establishments on Edgewood Avenue. However, the predominant land use in 1929 remained residential. Some industrial sites had developed in what is currently the visitor services area of the park. By 1968, extensive change was apparent in land use within the park boundary. Edgewood Avenue was predominantly commercial, and Auburn Avenue and the Birth Home block were predominantly residential, with religious facilities occupying the land between Auburn and Edgewood avenues and at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street. Industrial land use was present in 1968 in the visitor services area of the park. Industrial land use was located at the intersection of Irwin and Jackson Streets and along what was then Houston Street.

Existing Condition. Land use from 1968 to the present changed in 1992, when the National Park Service bought the land between Cain and Auburn and cleared all the remaining buildings on the site. The groundwork was laid for the addition of the visitor services area including the major facilities of the National Historical Park. In addition, the King Center was built south of Auburn Avenue at the intersection with Boulevard. The first phase was dedicated in 1971 and in 1981 the center's headquarters moved to the National Historic Site. These changes introduced a large expanse of public facility land use currently present in the National Historical Park.

Land use adjacent to the park is residential along Hogue and Howell streets. The density and scale of both streets are similar to Auburn Avenue. The commercial area of Edgewood Avenue forms a historic buffer between the park and the thirteen-story apartment building constructed on Chamberlain Street SE and other proposed changes within the expanding inner city. There are a variety of land uses on the west side of Jackson Street that indicate lower density office or commercial uses.

Major features contiguous to the park boundaries include: Ebenezer Baptist Church Horizon Sanctuary; Martin Luther King Jr. Community Resources Complex; Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library; and the John Hope Elementary School.

Evaluation. Land uses that are extant from the period of significance include: residential; commercial; religious; and industrial (north corner of Edgewood Avenue at the intersection with Howell Street). The historic associations of these land uses retain integrity and convey the significance of the urban landscape.

Contributing Land Use

- Residential
- Commercial
- Public Facility
- Religious
- Industrial

Non-Contributing Land Use

- Museum / Interpretation / Education
- Recreation (Dreamer's Park)

- Commemoration
- Maintenance

Missing Land Use

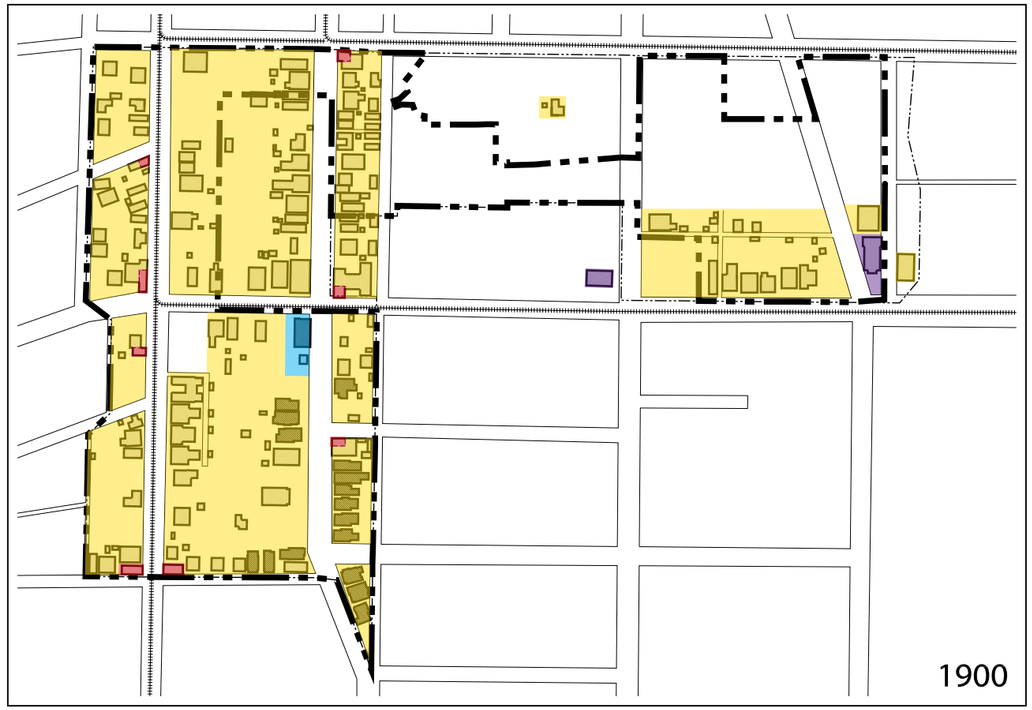
N/A

Circulation

(Refer to Figure 80 with illustrations of Circulation in 1900, 1929, 1968, and 2017.)

Summary Analysis

The framework of the urban street pattern within what is now the park boundary was in place in the late nineteenth century. This road pattern, in place by 1900, remained unaltered through the period of significance. The street pattern is retained in the extant streetscape of the National Historical Park. There were major infrastructure changes to the immediate vicinity of the of the park boundary that included the construction of Interstate Highway I-75/I-85. The Atlanta Expressway divided the Preservation District by crossing Auburn Avenue (Refer to Figure 4 in Chapter 1). In addition, Freedom Parkway (Highway 10) was constructed north of Cain Street. These highways were in place by 1964. Lane expansion altered these features between 1964 and 2017. The highways continue to divide the Preservation District both physically and visually.









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SCALE 1" = 400'

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Legend

- Building
- Extant historic building
- Street
- Unpaved alley
- Streetcar route

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Land Use Legend

- Residential
- Commercial
- Religious
- Public Facility
- Industrial

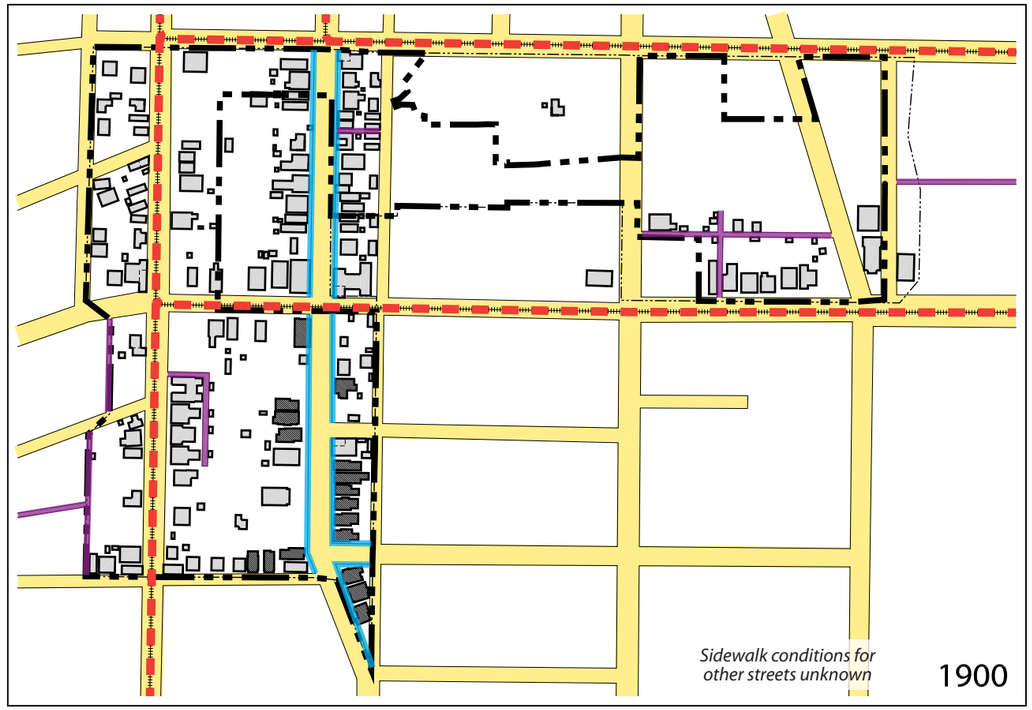
Figure 79.

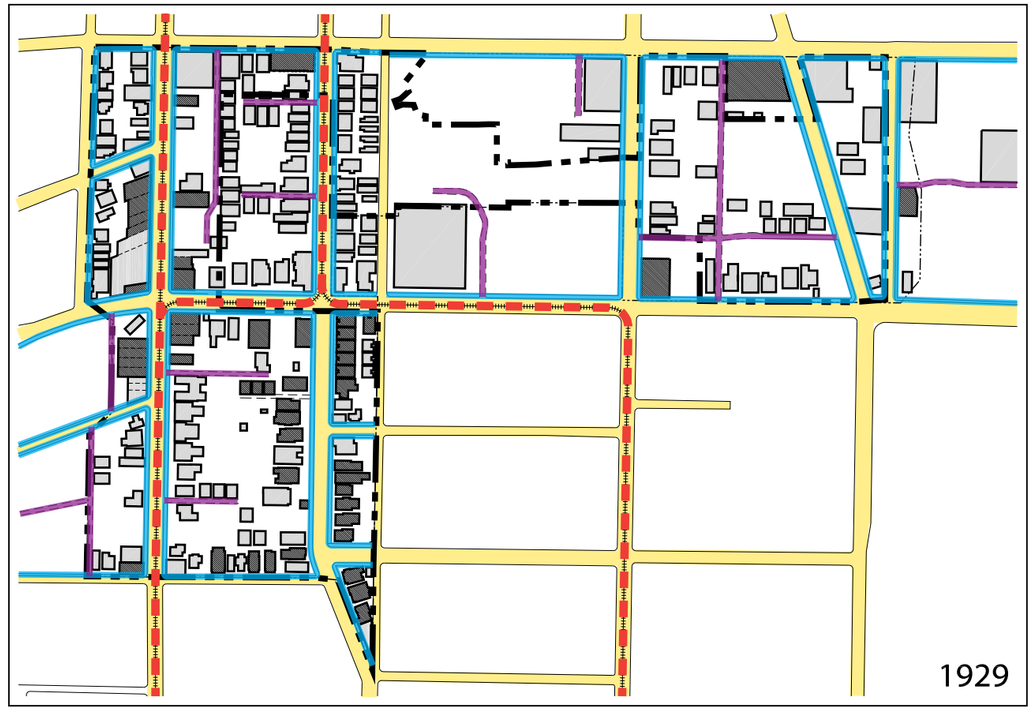
Site Development, Land Use

Cultural Landscape Report

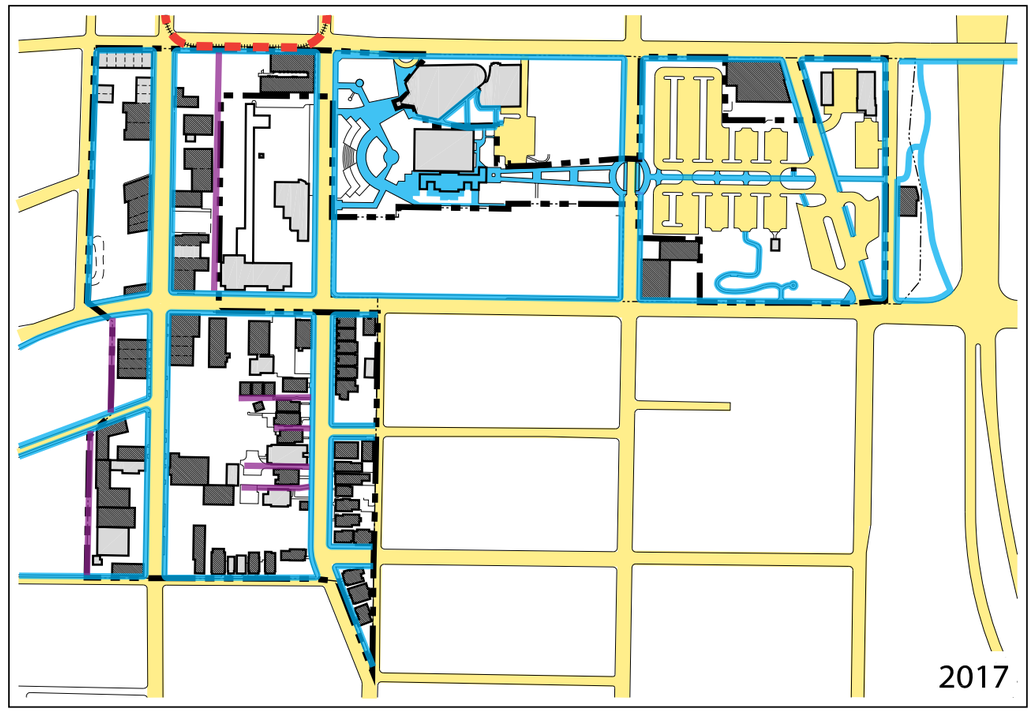
for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park









0' 400' 800'

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Legend

- Building
- Extant historic building
- Street
- Unpaved alley
- Streetcar route

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.

Circulation Legend

- Streets
- Sidewalks
- Alleys
- Streetcar

Figure 80.

Site Development, Circulation

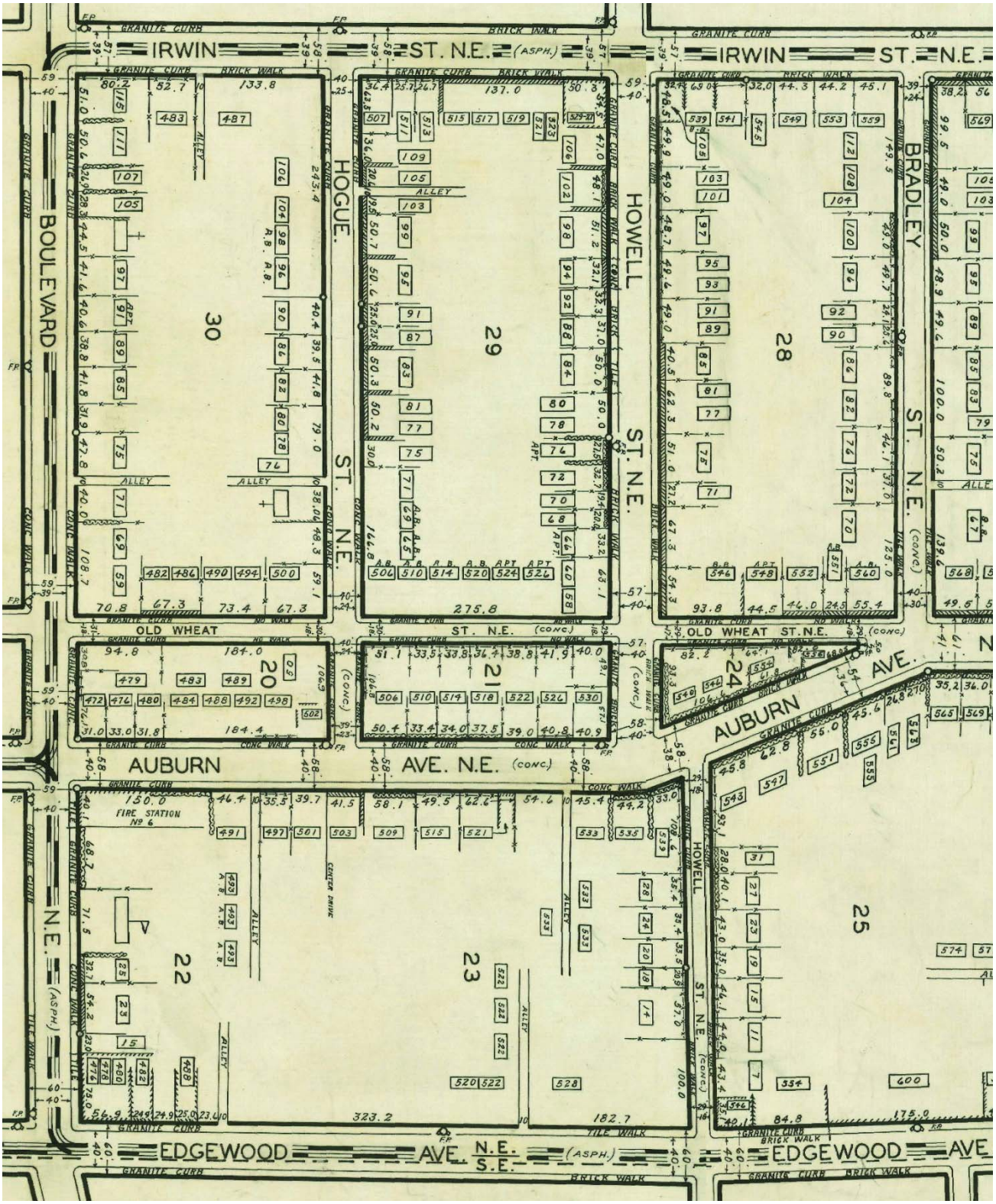


FIGURE 81. This map illustrates the streetscape conditions and paving materials used for streets, sidewalks, and curbs. (Source: Cadastral Survey Map, Works Progress Administration, Atlanta, 1937, Tax District 1, Sheets 6 and 7; Georgia State University collection)

Feature Discussions

Streets and Alleys

Historic Conditions. Streets were the framework for the development of the neighborhood and commercial areas. They remained the framework of the inner city area during changes to populations, land uses, and transportation infrastructure. Auburn Avenue was designed with a 40-foot width, curb to curb, which it maintained through the Birth Home block. This allowed for a smooth flow of traffic in both directions. Over time, changes were made in paving materials on the streets. The most significant evolution occurred after 1923, when Auburn Avenue was re-paved with concrete (Figure 81). All of the surrounding streets were also paved with concrete.

Alleys were present in the urban fabric of the streets through the period of significance. Alleys behind commercial and residential blocks were part of the urban form and circulation as the area evolved and changed.

Streetcars were present as alternative transportation during the period of significance and by 1900 were operating along Edgewood Avenue, Boulevard, and Jackson Street. Streetcar lines changed configuration in 1929 when a line was established on Auburn Avenue west of Boulevard. Streetcar service ended in Atlanta in 1949. Edgewood Avenue retained the streetcar line until it was taken out all together by 1968.

Existing Conditions. The street pattern is retained in the existing streetscape of the National Historical Park. Streets recorded as concrete in 1937 are now paved with asphalt. Alleys in what is now the visitor services area do not survive and were part of the clearing of existing features in 1992. Historic alleys remain in the Auburn Avenue character area and the Edgewood Avenue character area. Most prominent is Reid's Alley between 491 and 497 Auburn Avenue.

Evaluation. The urban street pattern dating from the period of significance survives today with integrity. Streets retain their original alignments that define the urban grid and most have retained their original widths. The orthogonal layout of the streets retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the park. The historic alleys have diminished integrity due to loss of paving materials and defined edges, as well as changes in land use and building mass that once defined their alignments. Alleys are evident in the Auburn Avenue and Edgewood Avenue character areas. Reid's Alley is an existing feature in the Auburn Avenue character area. The original paving for this alley and Jackson Place Alley in the Edgewood Avenue character area is unknown. The original alignment of Reid's Alley was designed with a width of ten feet in order to provide access to 493 A, B, and C. The alignment is evident but the paving is in very poor condition. Extant paving remnants indicate layers of concrete, asphalt, and gravel. The alignment of the alley is an extant historic feature of the circulation system and a contributing feature to the significance of the site.

Parking

Historic Conditions. Once the automobile was firmly introduced, streets within the character areas provided parallel parking, usually on both sides. After 1929, large parking areas associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church and Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church were developed to accommodate vehicular transportation and were in place by 1968.

Existing Conditions. Parallel parking is provided on both sides of Auburn Avenue. Edgewood Avenue provides metered parallel parking on the south side of the street between Jackson Street SE and Boulevard SE and parallel parking on the south side of the street between Boulevard SE and Howell Street SE. Public parking is provided in two locations along Edgewood Avenue. One lot is between 444 and 458 Edgewood and the other is adjacent to 483 Edgewood at the intersection of Edgewood Avenue NE and Boulevard SE. There are various parking areas provided along Edgewood in association with business or residential use.

Parking lots for Ebenezer Baptist Church include a paved asphalt area directly south of the church and a large mixed asphalt and gravel area in the middle of the block between Edgewood Avenue

SE and Chamberlain Street SE. The parking lots for Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church are located north and south of the parish hall in the block between Auburn and Edgewood Avenues.

In the development of the Visitor Services character area north of Auburn Avenue, a large visitor parking lot was constructed in 1996.

Evaluation. The parking lot associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church survives from the period of significance with diminished integrity due to substantial changes in configuration. The small parking lot associated with the Our Lady of Lourdes School survives from the period of significance, also with diminished integrity. These parking lots are considered non-contributing features. The large parking lot and associated circulation features in the visitor center character area postdate the period of significance and are considered non-contributing.

Sidewalks

Historic Conditions. In the evolution of the development of streets and sidewalks, brick sidewalks were on both sides of Auburn Avenue as early as 1890. Sidewalks were added by 1929 to include both sides of Edgewood Avenue, the west side of Boulevard, and part of the east side of Boulevard, between Auburn and Edgewood Avenues. Sidewalks continued to be added after 1929 and are clearly evident on the 1937 Cadastral Survey map. The only street that did not have sidewalks was Old Wheat Street. All of the sidewalks were edged with granite curbing. The granite curbs as shown on the 1937 cadastral map are extant and survive with integrity. Boulevard has replaced its granite curbs with concrete curbs associated with new concrete sidewalks.

Existing Conditions. Most of the extant sidewalks associated with streets in the Auburn Avenue and Edgewood Avenue character areas are concrete, reflecting various aggregate mixes and scoring patterns. The sidewalk on the south edge of Auburn Avenue from Boulevard to Howell streets is paved with exposed aggregate concrete and has a granite curb. At the intersection of Auburn and Howell, the sidewalk paving changes to brick in a herringbone pattern that runs the length of the sidewalk to 28 Howell Street. The brick sidewalk is edged with a granite curb. The remainder of the sidewalk extending to Edgewood Avenue is paved with concrete. The sidewalk north of Auburn Avenue that defines the triangular section of the study area between Auburn Avenue NE and Old Wheat Street NE is paved with brick in the herringbone pattern and is edged with a granite curb. This sidewalk paving turns the corner at the intersection of Auburn and Howell and extends on the east side of Howell to the intersection with Old Wheat Street NE. The west side of Howell between Auburn and Old Wheat is also paved with brick in the herringbone pattern edged by a granite curb. The north side of Auburn Avenue from Howell to Boulevard is paved with exposed aggregate concrete edged with a granite curb. Both sides of Hogue Street between Auburn and Old Wheat streets is paved with exposed aggregate concrete with a granite curb, and the segment of sidewalk on Boulevard between Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street NE is paved with exposed aggregate concrete. At this location there is also a 3-foot-wide area from the curb to the edge of the concrete paved with brick in a herringbone pattern edged with a granite curb.

Evaluation. The presence of sidewalks and their designed widths and curbing retain integrity from the period of significance and contribute to the significance of the park. Sidewalk paving materials have changed over time, however this does not diminish the significance of the presence of sidewalks in relation to the major streets. Original brick sidewalks on Auburn Avenue were changed to concrete in 1925 as the City Council called for the condemnation of brick sidewalks on both sides of Auburn Avenue from Boulevard to Howell Street NE. Similar resolutions in 1926 and 1927 called for the laying of concrete sidewalks on Hogue Street NE and the laying of granite curbing on Old Wheat Street (Figure 82 and Figure 83).[190] The concrete material is an extant historic feature within the Auburn Avenue character area. It was present during the period of significance and is a

190. Lawliss, 21-22.

contributing feature of the circulation system within the park.



FIGURE 82. Northwest corner of Howell Street NE and Auburn Avenue, showing herringbone brick-patterned sidewalk and granite curb in 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 83. Northwest corner of Howell Street NE and Auburn Avenue, showing herringbone brick-patterned sidewalk and granite curb in 2018.

The concrete sidewalk north of the entrance of Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary dates from the period of significance as part of the sidewalk condition on Auburn Avenue. The hexagonal scoring pattern was introduced in the 1950s and is a contributing feature (Figure 84 through Figure 87).



FIGURE 84. Auburn Avenue entrance to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, circa 1940, with a concrete sidewalk visible in the foreground. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)

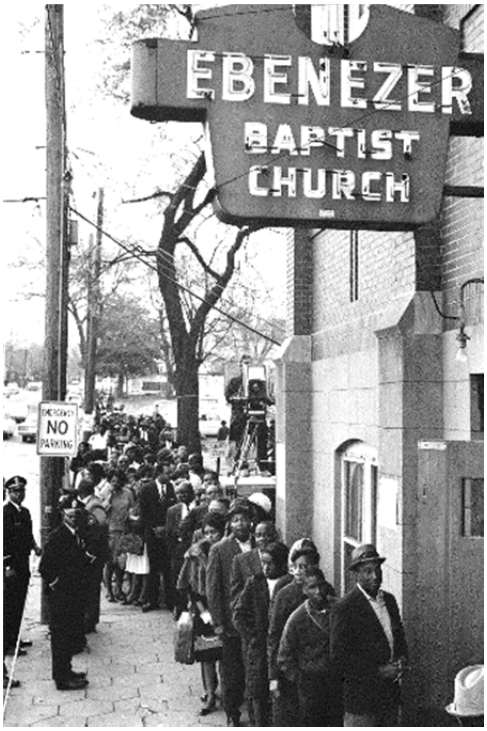


FIGURE 85. Auburn Avenue entrance to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary in 1968 with hexagonal pavers for the sidewalk. (Source: AP photograph, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)



FIGURE 86. Auburn Avenue entrance to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary in 1999. Hexagonal pavers are longer present. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)



FIGURE 87. Auburn Avenue entrance of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary in 2017. Hexagonal pavers are again present.

Sidewalks along Edgewood Avenue were indicated as brick on the 1937 cadastral map and have been changed for the most part to concrete. New brick paving has been introduced on Edgewood Avenue sidewalks associated with revitalization of the streetscape that postdates the period of significance. In addition, segments of the Edgewood Avenue sidewalks are paved in concrete with hexagonal scoring (Figure 88 through Figure 90).



FIGURE 88. Edgewood Avenue with concrete sidewalks and granite curbs in 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 89. Edgewood Avenue between Howell Street and Boulevard, showing concrete sidewalks and granite curbs, 2017.



FIGURE 90. Edgewood Avenue (corner of Edgewood and Boulevard) showing concrete sidewalks and granite curbs, circa 1959. (Source: Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers, Georgia State University Special Collections Archives)

Contributing Features

- Streets: Auburn Avenue, Edgewood Avenue, Boulevard, Jackson Street, Howell Street, Old Wheat Street, Chamberlain Street, Houston Street (now John Wesley Dobbs Avenue), and Cain Street
- Reid's Alley running south from Auburn Avenue between 493 and 497 Auburn, circa 1911 (LCS 090057)
- Brick sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue east of Howell, circa 1890-1920 (LCS 090059)
- Presence of sidewalks associated with all the contributing streets
- Brick sidewalk, west side of Howell Street north of Auburn Avenue, circa 1895–1922 (LCS 090060)
- Exposed aggregate sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street, circa 1922–1923 (LCS 090058)
- Granite curbs on contributing sidewalks
- Granite curbs on the south side of Old Wheat Street within the Birth Home block.
- Granite curbs on Edgewood Avenue

Non-Contributing Features

- Freedom Park Trail from Cain Street to the visitor center east entrance
- Visitor center vehicular parking
- Visitor center bus parking
- Concrete walkways in Dreamer's Park
- Path system and plaza at the east entrance to the visitor center
- International Civil Rights Walk of Fame.
- Promenade (Freedom Park Trail segment)
- Parking lot for Ebenezer Baptist Church
- Parking Lot for Our Lady of Lourdes

Missing Features

- Alleyways in the Visitor Services character area

Cultural Vegetation

Summary Analysis

From exploration of historical aerial photography, it appears that there were no formal tree plantings along streets within the boundaries of the National Historical Park. Cultural vegetation (street trees, shrubs, and ornamental plants) within the Edgewood Avenue character area and the Visitor Services character area postdate the period of significance. Plantings in the Visitor Services character area are associated with the construction of the NPS visitor facilities from 1994–2015. There are examples of street trees, residential trees and shrubs within the individual yards of the Birth Home block that survive from the period of significance and are considered contributing features of the culture landscape.

Features Discussion

Streets and Outdoor Space

Historic Conditions. Cultural vegetation in the National Historical Park is present in all of the character areas. Vegetation associated with the period of significance is present only in the Auburn Avenue character area. Vegetation in the Visitor Services character area and along the Edgewood Avenue corridor was planted after 1968.

Existing Conditions. Street trees currently exist along Edgewood Avenue associated for the most part with revitalization efforts for the commercial buildings including the addition of street trees. No pattern of street trees exists in the Auburn Avenue character area. There are two existing street trees in the Birth Home block, both of which are documented in the 1949 aerial photograph. Field investigations verified that these trees are extant. Both trees are Chinese elms (*Ulmus parvifolia)*, located in front of 526 Auburn Avenue, just west of Howell Street.

A significant amount of cultural vegetation was planted in association with the construction of the Visitor Services character area of the National Historical Park. Rows of trees line the parking lot and circulation systems. Dreamer's Park has numerous trees massed along the border fence and scattered throughout the landscape. The Peace Plaza utilizes trees as ornamental and shade features. Various shrub materials are used throughout the area for ornamental purposes, as well as a variety of perennials and seasonal annuals. An important feature of the Peace Plaza adjacent to the Visitor Center of the park is the Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden. In March 1992, the Garden was planted at the National Historical Park. It is an artistic interpretation of Dr. King's life and ideals of peace through nonviolence. The Garden borders the Peace Plaza in front of the Visitor Center. It has 185 roses in a variety of colors and fragrances. The Garden is one of five major World Peace Rose Gardens established around the world by International World Peace Rose Gardens.

Evaluation. Plantings associated with the Visitor Center character area postdate the period of significance and are considered non-contributing features. Street trees, shrubs, and ornamental plantings within with the Edgewood Avenue character area also postdate the period of significance and are considered non-contributing features. The Auburn Avenue character area contains cultural vegetation that survives from the period of significance. These plantings are considered contributing features of the historical Sweet Auburn neighborhood and specifically the Birth Home block. The Chinese elm street trees survive from the period of significance and are considered contributing features of the landscape.

The "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden was constructed after the current National Register period of significance and thus is non-contributing. The Garden does offer visitors the opportunity to reflect on Dr. King's life and ideals of peace through nonviolence. The visual connection to the King Center and the graves of Dr. and Mrs. King from the plaza, with the Garden in the foreground, is one of the most profound experiences for visitors to the park.

Residential Yards

(Refer to Updated CLR and Comparative Analysis for the Birth Home block.)

Historic Conditions. The specific patterns and varieties of landscaping noted within the Birth Home block during the period of significance are a reflection of the distinct mix of African American economic and social classes present at the time. Therefore, oral histories played a significant role in helping to interpret these unique values in the Birth Home block residential landscapes. They were used to develop the *Cultural Landscape Report for the Birth Home Block* (1995) and discussions and evaluations pertaining to the period of significance identified in the 1995 CLR as 1929–1941.[191] For the purposes of this study, the work from the 1995 CLR was utilized to aid in the documentation of yard condition changes from 1995 to 2018. This was necessary in order to update existing conditions and comparative analysis within the period of significance 1870–1968.

The historic condition of residential yards in the Birth Home block was described in the 1995 CLR:

> The front yards, most especially the front porch, were the key outdoor social spaces of the Birth Home Block. Without exception, all of the residences present during the period of significance had a front porch and a front walk that connected the porch to the street. The front walk, which was centered on the front door, ran perpendicular from the sidewalk to a set of steps, raising the front porch above the year level. The materials of these walkways varied; however, concrete with a rolled curb edge was most commonly used. Side yards

191. Lawliss, 29. In discussion of 1995 conditions throughout this chapter, the historic period of 1929–1941 is referenced as cited in the 1995 CLR. Refer to the discussion provided earlier in this chapter for findings of this CLR Update relative to the period of significance, identified through research conducted for the current study as 1870–1968.

> were in general very narrow and therefore, unusable spaces except for circulation from front to back yards. This is particularly true on the north side of the Birth Home Block where only a ten-foot space separated the structures. The back yards of the single-family houses were generally quite large. On the north side of Auburn Avenue they extended all the way to Old Wheat Street; an average of thirty-five feet. Back yards were usually "fenced" from neighboring yards with materials that differed greatly from those found in the front yards. Back yards were primarily used for utilitarian purposes and not for show. Because of the back yard's role as a work space, and its low visibility from the street, back yard appearances were given little attention. In contrast to the front yards, no attempt was made to establish or maintain grass in the back yards and most were kept with bare dirt. These dirt yards were often swept with a switch broom. For the most part, fences were kept high enough and constructed of the type of materials that obstructed views into the back yards.
>
> The typical yards of the double shotguns were very small and composed only of dirt. These yards were referred to as "swept." Interest in landscaping centered on decorating the porch with annual plants, mostly flowering, that sat on the railings in boxes or pots."[192]

Existing Condition. (Refer to Updated CLR and Comparative Analysis for the Birth Home block).

Evaluation. Trees associated with individual yards in the Birth Home block may postdate the period of significance, but the historic pattern of tree plantings within individual yards survives from the period of significance. The historic pattern of tree plantings associated with individual yards contributes to the significance of the block. There are trees in residential yards that survive from the period of significance within the Birth Home block. Use of grass in some yards is also part of a historic vegetation pattern and an extant feature that survives with integrity. The same is true for plantings along the boundary edges of the yards as seen on the 1937 cadastral map survey (Figure 91 through Figure 93). Privet or boxwood hedges that define the front yards of many of the houses on Auburn Avenue reflect the pattern of shrubs employed commonly from the period of significance and are considered contributing features.

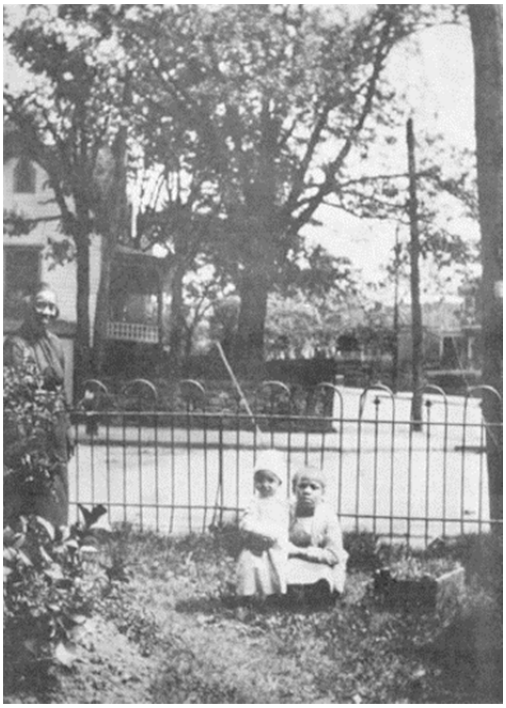


FIGURE 91. View from 530 Auburn Avenue looking east showing mature residential trees and other vegetation, believed to be early twentieth century. These trees no longer exist. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)



FIGURE 92. View from front porch of 501 Auburn Avenue, showing hedges and residential trees, circa 1980s. These trees no longer exist. (Source: Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)

192. Ibid., 30-37.



FIGURE 93. A similar view from the porch of 503 Auburn in 2018, showing hedges and the loss of the street trees in front of the shotgun houses.

Contributing Features

- Front yard perimeter boxwood or privet shrubs defining front yards along Auburn Avenue in the Birth Home block
- Two Chinese elm street trees on Auburn Avenue *(Ulmus parvifolia)*
- Large post oak (*Quercus stellata*) in the front yard of 515 Auburn Avenue
- Large 50-inch water oak *(Quercus nigra)* in the front yard of 521 Auburn Avenue
- Large elm *(Ulmus)* in the front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue
- Large oak tree in the front yard of 540 Auburn Avenue
- Large elm *(Ulmus)* in the front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue
- Grass in individual yards within the Birth Home block (historically documented in lots 531, 515, 503, and 501 Auburn Avenue).
- Large Burford hollies in front of 491 Auburn Avenue

Non-Contributing Features

- Street trees on two blocks of Edgewood Avenue between Howell Street and Jackson Street
- Shrub and flower plantings associated with commercial and residential properties on Edgewood Avenue
- Trees and shrubs associated with the visitor center parking lot
- Trees and shrubs associated with Dreamer's Park
- World Peace Rose Garden
- Trees, shrubs, perennials, and annuals associated with the Freedom Park Trail, Promenade, Civil Rights Walk of Fame, and the Peace Plaza
- Trees present at 531 Auburn Avenue (vacant lot)
- Siberian elm tree in front yard of 492–494 Auburn Avenue
- Large oak trees in the rear and side yard of 492–494 Auburn Avenue.
- Two winged elms *(Ulmus alata)* and one red maple in rear yard at 554 Auburn Avenue.

Missing Features

- Vegetable garden in the back yard of the Birth Home
- Swept dirt yards associated with the double shotguns on Auburn Avenue in the Birth Home block
- Street trees on the north edge of Auburn Avenue in front of the shotgun houses
- Ailanthus trees within the Birth Home block

Viewsheds

Summary Analysis

Views have been an important and character-defining feature of the urban landscape since 1870, the beginning of the period of significance. Views were an integral part of the design as the urban neighborhoods and commercial corridors

developed. Once the commercial and residential areas reached higher densities, views in either direction from the street included the expanding residential streetscapes and the quickly expanding inner city of Atlanta. The grid pattern of the streets directed views in either direction. These views survive from the period of significance. However, change has occurred to the content of the viewsheds and the focal points of the visual axis of the street. Viewsheds now contain the expanded urban landscape development including high-rise buildings of Atlanta, easily seen from the Birth Home block and other areas of the National Historical Park.

Historic Condition. By 1900, there was sufficient density in the mainly residential areas that occupied what is now park land to create axial views in both directions on the major streets of Auburn, Edgewood, and sections of Boulevard. The density was even more apparent in 1929. While there were some changes in the density of the Edgewood commercial corridor between 1929 and 1968, streetscape views were retained.

Existing Condition. In 2003–2004, a thirteen-story apartment building was constructed at the intersection of Chamberlain and Fitzgerald streets. The building exists today and viewsheds to the high-rise continue to disrupt the feel of the historical form and scale of the adjacent historic core of the Historical National Park.

In 1971, the first phase of the King Center was dedicated; Dr. King's marble tomb was constructed in 1976; and the buildings completed in 1981. The unique architecture of the King Center has become a focal point of views from surrounding streets and from the visitor services area. Views to the King Center aid in orientation for visitors throughout the entire park and its immediate urban landscape context (Figure 94).



FIGURE 94. Designed axial viewshed from the eternal flame in the King Center north to the visitor center.

Evaluation. Extant viewsheds from Auburn and Edgewood avenues retain integrity and survive from the period of significance. Changes in buildings, building density, and land use within the viewshed have diminished its integrity.

Contributing Features

- Axial views in either direction from Auburn Avenue, Edgewood Avenue, and Howell Street.
- View of the Ebenezer Baptist Church from the Peace Plaza, with the *Behold* monument in the foreground. These views are non-contributing to the period of significance but are major visual connections from the visitor center's commemorative Peace Plaza to the King Center. This visual connection combined with the audio speeches that can be heard from the Peace Plaza create an inspirational and unforgettable visitor experience.

Non-Contributing Features

- View of the King Center from the surrounding areas of the park, including the axial view from the Memorial Rose Garden in the Peace Plaza to the tombs of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King.

Missing Features

N/A

Buildings

Summary Analysis

The majority of the buildings present within the boundaries of the National Historical Park survive from the period of significance. The evolution of change in the buildings within each character area of the park is seen in Figure 76, Figure 77, and Figure 78. Also refer to the 2017 period plan in Chapter 2 of this document, which contains a comprehensive illustration of the extant historic buildings within the National Historical Park.

Features Discussion

The major building resources that survive with sufficient integrity to contribute to the significance of the National Historical Park are detailed below. In the area of the Birth Home block and Edgewood Avenue where the density of buildings is high, they will be listed as to their status as contributing or non-contributing, but each individual building will not be discussed at length.

Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home

Historic Condition. The house where Martin Luther King Jr. was born in 1929 is located at 501 Auburn Avenue. The house was constructed circa 1894 for a family named Holbrook and is a two-story middle-class house incorporating Queen Anne elements. Dr. King's grandfather, A.D. Williams, purchased the house in 1908. The family lived in the house until the death of Mrs. Williams in 1941, although the Williams's daughter, Alberta King, retained ownership.[193]

The house is set on a long, narrow lot. In plan, it is an elongated rectangle with shallow projections on all four sides. The asymmetrical facade is dominated by a front-facing gable and a one-story, full width porch that wraps partially around the west side of the structure.[194] Like many other properties on the block, the back yard contained a shed, which was converted to a garage by the King family. After the King family moved in 1941, the house was converted to a duplex.

Existing Condition. Following Dr. King's death, his mother sold the house to the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Center in 1971. Work completed in 1974 returned the house to its appearance when Dr. King lived in the house as a child. It was opened for tours in 1975, although an efficiency apartment was used by tenants. In 1984, the National Park Service entered into a Memorandum of Agreement with the King Center to manage and operate the site. The efficiency apartment was closed at this time, and the number of visitors allowed in the house was limited to fifteen.

The National Park Service undertook historic preservation treatment of the house and grounds in 1989–1990. At this time, a concrete slab was added directly adjacent to the building to provide an accessible surface for visitors wanting to use the lift (refer to Figure 53). A number of maintenance activities have taken place between 2008 and the present, including the addition of a wheelchair lift and accessible egress stair to the rear facade of the house in 2010 and 2012. The house was closed from August 2016 to April 2017 to stabilize the floor of the front foyer.[195] During that time, an assessment of the load-bearing capacity was performed on the floors throughout the home and the hallways on the first and second floor were further stabilized.[196]

The National Park Service acquired the Birth Home in 2018 and continues to maintain the

193. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA, *Historic Structure Report Amendment, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home, 501 Auburn Avenue NE, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia*. (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2018).

194. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*.

195. Lord Aeck Sargent, with Palmer Engineering, and Newcomb and Boyd Engineers, *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birth Home, MALU 234427 – Condition Assessment of Exterior Envelope and Systems* (Atlanta: Lord Aeck Sargent, Inc., 2017); Panamerican Consultants, Inc. et al., *Birth Home HSR Amendment*.

196. Ibid.

historic house and grounds, providing guided tours and interpretive programming.

Evaluation. Although a number of changes to meet accessibility standards have occurred since 1968, the Birth Home retains integrity as a contributing resource (Figure 95 and Figure 96).

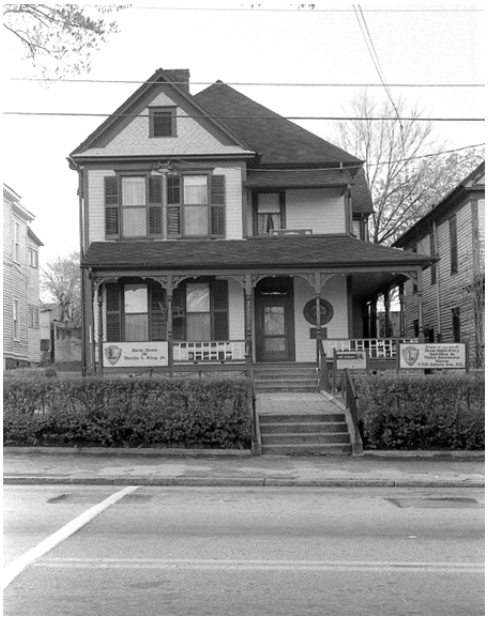


FIGURE 95. North elevation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home, 501 Auburn Ave., in 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 96. North elevation of the Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home, 501 Auburn Ave., in 2010. (Source: National Park Service, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park website 2019)

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall

Historic Condition. Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary, located at 407–413 Auburn Avenue, is part of a tradition of church-building that existed in the Sweet Auburn community in the first decades of the twentieth century. Big Bethel A.M.E. Church, Wheat Street Baptist Church, and Ebenezer Baptist Church are substantial buildings erected by a prosperous black community and built in the popular styles of their day.[197] Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary was designed in the Late Gothic Revival Style of architecture. Popular in the United States as a residential style from 1840–1880, Gothic Revival remained a common choice for ecclesiastical buildings well into the twentieth century. The structure was refurbished in the late 1930s, and in 1956 the old sanctuary was extensively remodeled and expanded. This change was concurrent with the construction and dedication of the Christian Education Building (Fellowship Hall) at 413 Auburn Avenue in 1956. The education building, built in the International Style, was originally constructed 15 feet back from the facade of the historic church, replacing a residential structure that was purchased by the church the preceding year. The two buildings were connected via an elevated and enclosed metal "skywalk," running from the second floor of the new building to the rear of the church near the choir loft. A neon sign, still extant, was installed above the main entrance to the church.

Existing Condition. Following Dr. King's assassination in 1968, the church became a commemorative destination. In 1970–1971, the church underwent further alterations to accommodate the larger crowds. The stairwells and vestibule of the church were remodeled, and the baptismal pool and halls at the back of the church were expanded. A vestibule addition to the north elevation of the education building constructed at the same time mimics the massing and Late Gothic Revival Style of the historic church. In addition to these alterations, a hyphen was constructed connecting the church and the

197. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*.

adjacent education building. The roof of the church was replaced in 1984, in 1998, and again in 2017.[198]

In April 1996, the National Park Service secured a fifty-year lease of the church building. The NPS prepared a historic structure report of the church and education building in 2001. Following completion of the report, the church underwent a multi-year, multi-million-dollar rehabilitation that included repairs to the roof and building exterior, and restoration of the sanctuary interior to its appearance in 1968. The church reopened in 2011 to the public for tours and houses a variety of interpretive exhibits.[199]

Evaluation. Although diminished slightly due to the alterations to the church and education building in the early 1970s, the church retains integrity. The sanctuary looks much as it did during the period of significance. Although no longer used for regular worship or baptisms, the recent rehabilitation of the interior strengthens its connection to the period of time when Dr. King was co-pastor (Figure 97 and Figure 98).



FIGURE 97. North facade of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, 407–413 Auburn Avenue, just after construction of the education and administration addition in 1956. (Source: David Stills, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park Collection)

198. Jones, n.p.
199. National Park Service, *Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site Long-Range Interpretive Plan* (Atlanta: Southeast Regional Office, 2011), 34-36.



FIGURE 98. North facade of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, 407–413 Auburn Avenue, 2017.

Historic Fire Station No. 6

Historic Condition. Fire Station No. 6 is one of a series of neighborhood station houses constructed from approximately 1890 to 1920. It is a two-story Romanesque Revival-Style building erected in 1894 at 37–39 Boulevard. Like other station houses constructed during this period, Fire Station No. 6 is a two-story, rectangular brick building with a shed roof and decorative parapet. It features an asymmetrical front elevation on the west, arched window openings, and a large arched vehicular door opening. The building also incorporates a range of building materials and decorative elements such as corbelled brickwork, stone sills and stringcourse, and terra cotta panels.[200] Until the 1960s, the fire station was segregated, with white firemen serving the surrounding predominantly African American community.[201] By 1963, the city of Atlanta had trained the first African American firemen. Fire Station No. 6 was one of the first to integrate its staff circa 1965.

Existing Condition. Fire Station No. 6 closed in 1991. In 1992, the National Park Service entered into an agreement with the City of Atlanta Fire Department to preserve and interpret Fire Station No. 6 and operate it as a City of Atlanta Fire Museum. Interior and exterior stabilization and rehabilitation took place in 1993–1995. During this work, the first floor was converted to an exhibit

200. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation*.
201. National Park Service, *Long Range Interpretive Plan*, 33.

space and the second floor was converted to a meeting space and offices.[202]

Currently, interpretative exhibits in the fire station include a history of the Sweet Auburn community from Reconstruction era through the civil rights movement, incorporating the history of Atlanta's five departments and the historic fire station that operated within the Sweet Auburn community for ninety-seven years. In addition, the film *Sweet Auburn,* which talks about the Sweet Auburn neighborhood where Dr. King was raised, is available for those visitors who are not able to visit the Birth Home itself. The rear of the fire station is a multi-purpose space and the second floor, which is not open to the general public, is used for educational programs and special use.

Evaluation. A childhood friend of Dr. King described Fire Station No. 6 as "…a place you could go to get information, to get help if you needed it. It was a vital part of the community."[203] Although no longer in use as a fire station, Fire Station No. 6 still serves as of a place of information and service. The building retains integrity and a relationship to the surrounding Sweet Auburn neighborhood (Figure 99 and Figure 100).



FIGURE 99. East elevation of Fire Station No. 6 at 37–39 Boulevard in 1977, prior to restoration. (Source: Levy, 1977 NHL documentation)



FIGURE 100. East elevation of 37-39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6, in 2017.

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and School

Historic Condition. At 29 Boulevard, just south of the fire station, is a three-story building constructed in 1912 to house a Catholic church and school. It was built under the leadership of Father Ignatius Lissner and was intended to serve the surrounding black community. The ground floor was designed as a church, the second floor housed the school (known both as Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and Archbishop P. Ryan Memorial Roman Catholic School), and the third floor contained the auditorium. The structure is a plain, hip-roofed building faced with stone at the first-floor level and displaying English bond brickwork on the floors above. The exterior ornamentation is largely associated with the brick lintels and corbeled surround of the windows.

202. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elster Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA, *Historic Structure Report Historic Fire Station No. 6, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2019).

203. NPS signage at Fire Station No. 6.

In 1960, worship services moved to a new church building, constructed at 25 Boulevard. This large, mid-century, rectangular, brick-clad, two-story building features a street-facing gable roof.[204] The church's Boulevard exterior is dominated by a raised belvedere staircase leading to a second-floor entrance. The building's facade of running-bond brick veneer is typical of many buildings constructed mid-century.

Existing Condition. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School closed in 2001, and is now the Katharine Drexel Community Center, housing a variety of church functions, including offices, Sunday school classrooms, and a choir rehearsal hall. It also serves as the parish hall for the adjacent church.[205] The exterior was not significantly altered during this transition. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church maintains its original facade, materials, and massing, as well as its historic relationship adjacent to the 1912 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. The church is still operational as a religious facility.

Evaluation. The 1912 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church and School is significant not only as the first Catholic Church in Atlanta to serve the African American community, but as the earliest remaining ecclesiastical building within the National Historical Park. The 1960 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, although not a high-style example of the Midcentury Modern-style, is an important representation of a building late within the period of significance. The buildings' exteriors have been little modified since their construction, resulting in the retention of historic integrity.

Birth Home Block

The Birth Home block is defined by the Auburn Avenue residential corridor from Bradley Street to Boulevard and the buildings on either side. There are more than thirty extant residential buildings associated with the Birth Home block that survive with integrity from the period of significance. (Refer to Updated CLR and Comparative Analysis for discussion of individual buildings on the Birth Home block.)

Historic Condition. Prior to 1900, Auburn Avenue east of Jackson Street developed as a predominantly white, middle-class residential district. By 1899, most of the lots along Auburn Avenue between Jackson and Howell streets were developed. Single-family, one- and two-story houses lined the avenue. Some multiple-family dwellings were constructed, but the majority of the houses were large, modestly decorated houses. Many of the properties had stables and wood and coal sheds at the rear.

Residences on the Birth Home block are representative of vernacular adaptations of popular domestic architecture of the 1890s and early twentieth century found in American cities. Most single-family houses on the Birth Home block erected in the 1890s exhibit Queen Anne stylistic elements. The residences are mostly two-story, wood-frame dwellings with one-story rear extensions. Only two buildings constructed in the 1890s on the block are one-story, wood-frame dwellings—515 and 546 Auburn Avenue. Typical characteristics of these houses include irregular massing, projecting bays, broad front porches supported by columns or posts, contrasting surface areas of shingles and clapboard siding, and decorative millwork.

In 1899, the north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Hogue Street contained three one-story frame dwellings. The north side of the block between Hogue and Howell streets had seven two-story wood-frame houses. A store was located in the building on the corner of Howell Street and Auburn Avenue at that time. The south side of Auburn Avenue from Boulevard to Howell Street contained Fire Station No. 6 (discussed above), four two-story wood-frame houses, and two one-story wood-frame houses.

The north side of Auburn Avenue between Hogue and Howell streets has shallow, narrow lots

204. Fulton County Board of Assessors Fulton County Property Records, accessed July 17, 2019, http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/ga_address_dw.php?county=ga_fulton.
205. Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church. "History," accessed July 17, 2019, http://lourdesatlanta.org/history/.

occupied by seven two-story dwellings. Access to the rear of the north side lots was off Old Wheat Street. The south side has larger lots and fewer houses, with varied and deeper setbacks from the street. Driveways off of Auburn Avenue provide access to the rears of the lots on the south side of the block. Small-scale commercial development coincided with residential growth.

In 1905, the Empire State Investment Company developed the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard by constructing nine duplex buildings that occupied half of the block between Boulevard and Hogue Street. The one-story frame double-shotgun houses contrasted with the existing houses on the block but were typical of the dwellings to the north. Inexpensive shotgun-type housing was a popular vernacular housing type built across the urban South. These buildings represented the first low-cost rental housing built on the block.

A population shift occurred on the block in 1909–1910, when all of the double shotguns changed from white to black occupancy, and several of the single-family residences were purchased by African Americans. Martin Luther King Jr.'s maternal grandfather, Reverend A.D. Williams, purchased the circa 1894 single-family house at 501 Auburn Avenue in 1908. By the following year, with only two white families remaining, the block had become predominantly African American. One of the white families owned and operated a grocery store at 502 Auburn Avenue through the 1930s. The two blocks west of Boulevard contained a thriving African American commercial district, while the Birth Home block persisted as a quiet residential area.

Following the construction of additional double shotgun houses on the remaining undeveloped lots, the block acquired a distinct mix of African American socio-economic classes where middle-class professionals lived alongside working-class laborers. Differences in the length of occupancy also occurred as a result of the diverse socio-economic status of the block's residents. The block's rental units exhibited a greater rate of turnover, as short-term residents lived mostly in the smaller shotgun housing.

Several corner stores and restaurants served Auburn Avenue residents. One corner grocery was located on the northwest corner of Hogue and Auburn at 502 Auburn Avenue, opposite the Birth Home.

By 1929, African American middle-class families in the neighborhood were in the minority among the total population of residents on the Birth Home block. During the Great Depression, Auburn Avenue and the Birth Home block experienced the subdivision of many single-family dwellings, the deterioration of its existing stock, and increased tenancy. Several multiple family dwellings were constructed on the Birth Home block and adjacent streets. Apartment houses were built at 509 Auburn Avenue (1925) and 506 Auburn Avenue (1933), and a quadraplex was constructed at 54 Howell Street (1931), which subdivided an already crowded house lot. "A Real Property Survey conducted by the Works Progress Administration in 1939 reported that 100 percent of the Birth Home block was occupied by African Americans, though only 13.3 percent of the buildings were owner occupied and 67.4 percent were in need of major repairs or unfit for use."[206]

Beginning in the 1950s, physical changes occurred to the Auburn Avenue setting. In 1954, two brick apartment buildings were erected at 531 Auburn Avenue on a lot formerly containing four wood dwellings of the Baptist Memorial Institute School. The apartment buildings are no longer extant and this lot now stands vacant.

Existing Condition. By 1994, at the time the Birth Home block CLR was completed, several lots on the Birth Home block were vacant. The property at 502 Auburn Avenue, which once contained a house and store, stood vacant, although the concrete slab foundation of the store remains on the lot. The apartment building that stood at 509 Auburn Avenue was documented and demolished in 1990 due to unsafe conditions. The building was reconstructed in 1997. Additionally, the two brick apartment buildings at 531 Auburn Avenue and their associated features were removed in February 1995. Also in 1995, two of the three

206. Lawliss, 14.

double shotgun houses on Old Wheat Street (483–485 and 487–489 Old Wheat Street), which were vacant and in severe disrepair, were demolished. A new, privately owned residence was constructed at 483 Old Wheat Street in 2005. The third double shotgun house, at 479–481 Old Wheat Street, which had been converted into a single-family house, was demolished in 2009.

Starting shortly after the National Historic Site was established in 1980, a series of rehabilitation projects commenced for residences on the Birth Home block. The late 1980s and early 1990s saw a large number of these rehabilitation projects take place in rapid succession. Since 2000, comprehensive rehabilitation efforts have occurred with less frequency, although numerous smaller maintenance projects have been completed on most of the houses on the Birth Home block. Major rehabilitation efforts are listed as follows:

- 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated and converted to duplexes 1982; stone walls rehabilitated 1987 and 1989.[207]
- 526 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1988–1989 and basement remodeled 1994.[208]
- 522 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1990.
- 492–[494] Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1990. Considered a reconstruction but managed as a cultural resource.[209]
- 472–474, 476–478 Auburn Avenue, and 53-55 Boulevard, rehabilitated 1990–1991.[210] Most changes occurred on the interior and the double shotguns retain integrity as contributing to a district.
- 480– [482], 484– [486], 488– [490] Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated and converted to single residences 1991–1992.[211]
- 535 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1992–1993 and 2003.[212]
- 54 Howell Street, rehabilitated and exterior stabilized 1992–1994.[213]
- 510 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated and exterior stabilized 1993–1994.[214]
- 518 Auburn Avenue, exterior stabilized 1994.[215]
- 503 Auburn Avenue, exterior rehabilitated 1994; interior rehabilitated 2002–2003.[216]

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207. WLA Studio, SBC+H Architects, and Palmer Engineering, *540 Auburn Avenue Historic Structure Report, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.* Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Region, 2017).
208. WLA Studio, SBC+H Architects, and Palmer Engineering, *536 Auburn Avenue Historic Structure Report. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site.* Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Region, 2017).
209. Blythe et al., *Historic Resource Study*.
210. Joseph K. Oppermann—Architect, P.A., *Double-Shotgun House, 488 Auburn Avenue Historic Structure Report, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site*. Draft (Winston-Salem, NC: Joseph K. Oppermann—Architect, PA, 2017).
211. Ibid.
212. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elster Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA., *535 Auburn Avenue NE, Historic Structure Report, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia*. Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2019).
213. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elster Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA., *54 Howell Street Historic Structure Report Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia*. Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2019).
214. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elster Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA., *510 Auburn Avenue NE, Historic Structure Report, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia*. Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2019).
215. Panamerican Consultants, Inc. et al., *Birth Home HSR Amendment*.

- 506 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1994.[217]
- 521 Auburn Avenue, demolished in 2001 after a fire, and reconstructed in 2004.[218]
- 521B Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 1996.[219]
- 497, 514 Auburn Avenue, exterior rehabilitation treatment completed 2000.[220]
- 530 Auburn Avenue, rehabilitated 2017–2018.

Evaluation. The majority of buildings on the Birth Home block retain sufficient integrity to be considered contributing resources. The 1994 Historic Resources Study (HRS) defined contributing resources in the Birth Home block as follows:

> To qualify as contributing resources, Site residences must have been present during the period (1929–1941) that Martin Luther King, Jr., lived within the Site. Residences on the Birth Block or near enough to it to have been an important part of King's youthful environment are evaluated under this context. Because residences are primarily significant under this context for associative characteristics rather than for design, a considerable degree of alteration or deterioration may be present without defeating eligibility. Much of the housing stock within the Site has deteriorated since 1941, detracting from the integrity of design and workmanship in some cases. Some single-family houses have been converted to multiple occupancy; non-historic exterior treatments, such as asphalt siding, have been applied to some structures; and some original architectural details have been removed or replaced. To be eligible as a contributing resource, enough original fabric should remain to permit a residence, after exterior rehabilitation, to adequately represent the appearance of the neighborhood in the 1929–1941 period.[221]

The 1994 HRS did not consider changes to the extant contributing buildings that took place from 1941 to 1968, such as the conversion from single-family homes to multiple occupancy homes, to significantly reduce the integrity of the buildings. Those that were considered contributing at that time are still contributing today. Some changes to the extant contributing buildings that took place during the period 1941 and 1968, such as the conversion of several structures from single-family homes to multiple occupancy homes, could now be considered contributing. The 1994 HRS did not consider such conversions to significantly reduce the integrity of the structures. Rehabilitation efforts and maintenance activities that have taken place since the 1994 HRS have not reduced the integrity of those structures; those that were considered contributing at that time are still contributing today.

Five buildings within the Birth Home block are non-contributing. These include 509 Auburn Avenue (1997 reconstruction), 521 Auburn Avenue (2004 reconstruction), 483 Old Wheat Street (constructed 2005), 18 Howell Street (constructed 2008), 20 Howell Street (constructed 2015).

216. National Park Service, *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report, Fiscal Year 2003* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, 2003).
217. Panamerican Consultants, Inc., Wiss, Janney, Elster Associates, Inc., and WFT Architects, PA., *510 Auburn Avenue NE, Historic Structure Report, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Atlanta, Georgia*. Draft (Atlanta: National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, 2019).
218. Research conducted by team in the tax records pertaining to 510 Auburn Avenue revealed that the building was demolished in 2001 after a fire and reconstructed in 2001. Information was verified by park staff in October 2018.
219. National Park Service, *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report. Fiscal Year 1996* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, 1996).
220. National Park Service, *Superintendent's Annual Narrative Report. Fiscal Year 2000* (Atlanta: National Park Service, Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, 2000).
221. Blythe et al. *Historic Resource Study*, 29–30.

Edgewood Avenue

There are more than twenty-five extant buildings associated with Edgewood Avenue that survive with integrity from the period of significance. The majority of these buildings are commercial, are located on Edgewood Avenue, and were constructed before 1941 (the year of the King family left the Sweet Auburn neighborhood). Among these, however, the vast majority were constructed before 1920.[222] All of the buildings are either one or two stories high and, depending on the number of stories, are generally referred to as either a one- or two-part commercial-block-building. These building types are exceedingly characteristic of early twentieth-century commercial districts in the United States.

Typical for the period, extant contributing buildings along Edgewood Avenue constructed in the early part of the twentieth century feature a variety of widths and dimensions. For example, some are square or rectangular, while others are parallelogram-shaped. Overall, original fenestration patterns for these earliest buildings are intact as are their historic entrance-door relationships with the street. Most also retain original end piers, shaped brick parapets, and corbeled brick cornices. Brick facades, when visible, are laid in a running-bond pattern.

In general, extant contributing buildings along Edgewood Avenue constructed between 1941 and 1968 represent changing architectural styles that emerged in the mid-twentieth-century. Buildings such as the Art Moderne 458 Edgewood Avenue and the Midcentury Modern Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church at 25 Boulevard (discussed above), are just two of several extant contributing buildings from this period associated with Edgewood Avenue.[223]

Evaluation. The majority of buildings associated with Edgewood Avenue retain integrity and are considered contributing resources. There are now several extant structures built between 1941 and 1961 that can be classified as contributing.

Only six buildings associated with Edgewood Avenue are non-contributing. These are 537 Edgewood Avenue (1983), 460 Edgewood Avenue (1994), 415–419 Edgewood Avenue (2001), 10–20 Jackson Street (2001), 410–412 Chamberlain Street (2001), and 513 Edgewood Avenue (2005).

Contributing Buildings on Edgewood Avenue

464–466 Edgewood Avenue

Historic Condition. Located at the corner of Edgewood Avenue and Boulevard, this large, two-story, brick commercial building was constructed in 1909 and features a flat roof with corbeled parapet.[224] The building's Edgewood Avenue facade contains six pairs of operable sash windows with masonry (possibly limestone) lintels and sills atop two separate storefronts (464 and 466 Edgewood Avenue). By at least the 1950s, this building housed Danneman's Supermarket (Figure 101). During its occupation by Danneman's, the building's separate storefronts were obscured to create a unified facade with a single entry. Part of this unified facade, the adjacent single-story brick commercial building, constructed in 1927, was also visually incorporated as part of the supermarket's first-floor exterior. This was accomplished, in part, through the addition of a metal fascia with roof that extended along the facades of both buildings. This evolution can be seen in Figure 102 and Figure 103.

222. Fulton County Property Records, accessed February 1, 2018. http://qpublic9.qpublic.net/ga_address_dw.php?county=ga_fulton.

223. Fulton County Property Records.

224. Blythe et al., *Historic Resource Study*.



FIGURE 101. Danneman's Super Market, 464 Edgewood Avenue (corner of Edgewood and Boulevard), circa 1959. (Source: Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers, Georgia State University Special Collections Archives)



FIGURE 102. 464 Edgewood Avenue NE, circa 2000. (Source: Dwell Design Studio)



FIGURE 103. 464 Edgewood Avenue, 2018.

Existing Condition. Currently, 464–466 Edgewood Avenue displays its originally intended function as two separate storefronts and is once again visually separate and distinct from the adjacent 1927 building. Although each business (464–466 Edgewood Avenue) operates as a bar or tavern, county records indicate separate ownership.[225] Entrance into each business is accessed from Edgewood Avenue through original recessed entrances. Original fenestration patterns are also in place.

Evaluation. Given the building's original facade, massing, fenestration, and separate storefront entrances, this structure has been restored to its originally intended state and maintains integrity.

438–442 Edgewood Avenue

Historic Condition. Constructed in 1939, the building at 438 Edgewood Avenue historically served the neighborhood as Ivie's Garage. This three-bay brick-masonry building features a hemispherical roof with stepped parapet. Due to its original use as a garage, the building is set back considerably from the street, creating a sizeable front lot. In the lot is a pump island and shelter dating to circa 1950. A four-bay, one-story brick-masonry addition, numbered as 442 Edgewood Avenue, was added to the east facade of the 1939 garage building between 1946 and 1953.[226]

Existing Condition. Currently, 438–442 Edgewood Avenue houses the Georgia Justice Project which purchased the building in 2000.[227] The 1939 garage (438 Edgewood Avenue) retains its original fenestration, including its central double-bay garage doors. The pump island and shelter (circa 1950) also remain. The east addition (442 Edgewood Avenue) constructed between 1946 and 1953 also retains its original fenestration, including a single bay garage door.

Evaluation. Both buildings comprising 438–442 Edgewood Avenue retain integrity, as does the circa 1950 pump island and shelter.

225. Fulton County Property Records.
226. Blythe et al., *Historic Resource Study*.
227. Fulton County Property Records.

536 Edgewood Avenue

Historic Condition. This building, which sits on the large lot at the corner lot Edgewood Avenue and Howell Street NE, was constructed in two parts. The original structure, a one-story, concrete-masonry-block garage featured a flat roof and three service bays, was constructed in 1938.[228] In 1949, 536 Edgewood Avenue became the home of the Fred Martin Welding Company.[229] Two years later, in 1951, a one-story western addition featuring four additional service bays and office was added to the original structure.[230] The building at 536 Edgewood Avenue is sited at the extreme north edge of the lot, creating a sizeable service lot in front of the building.

Existing Condition. Notably, the building and business are still owned by the Martin family and still operating as the Fred Martin Welding Company.[231] With the exception of the 1951 addition, only minor alterations have been made to the functionality of the building's 1938 facade. The 1951 addition of four additional service bays and small office have undergone little visible alteration.

Evaluation. Both the 1939 building and 1951 addition retain integrity. The original spatial arrangement of the large open service lot in relationship to the historic garage structure also contributes to the integrity of the site as a whole. It continues to operate as a welding business, maintain its connection to the surrounding community and commercial landscape.

458 Edgewood Avenue

Historic Condition. 458 Edgewood Avenue was constructed in 1946 in the late Art Deco Style commonly referred to as Art Moderne or Streamline Modern.[232] This concrete-block commercial building is one story and features a flat roof with coping. The building's porthole window, glass block, stucco finish, and chrome components are all hallmarks of the Art Moderne Style.

Existing Condition. Buildings constructed in the Art Moderne Style are a stylistic rarity, not only along Edgewood Avenue, but in the city of Atlanta.[233] The building is currently owned by Community Hospitality, Inc., and is operated as Café 458, a charitable eatery whose proceeds benefit the Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency (ACSS).[234] The building retains its original characteristic features, fenestration, and relationship with the street.

Evaluation. The building retains integrity due to its extant original hallmark features of the Art Moderne Style. In 1994, a two-story building was erected contiguous to the east facade of 458 Edgewood Avenue.[235] This building (460 Edgewood Avenue) has been stylistically incorporated into the facade of 458 Edgewood Avenue by using similar massing and surface materials, including glass block, and extending the older building's chrome cornice onto the facade of 460 Edgewood Avenue. However, the 1994 building is not a true addition to 458 Edgewood Avenue, as it has a separate entrance. . Further, it is not connected to the east facade of 458 Edgewood Avenue and does not affect the historic integrity of 458 Edgewood Avenue.

Non-Contributing Buildings on Edgewood Avenue

Only six buildings associated with Edgewood Avenue were constructed after 1968. Erected between 1983 and 2005, several of these buildings are immediately discernable as contemporary since they are three stories high, as buildings taller than one or two stories in this area are incongruous with the historic streetscape.[236] In general, however, non-contributing contemporary buildings associated with Edgewood Avenue reflect some level of consideration in terms of

228. Ibid.
229. Fred Martin Welding Co., Inc. "About Us," accessed July 17, 2019, http://fredmartinwelding.webs.com/aboutus.htm.
230. Blythe et al., *Historic Resource Study*.
231. Fred Martin Welding.
232. Fulton County Property Records.
233. Blythe et al., *Historic Resource Study*.
234. Atlanta Center for Self Sufficiency, "ACSS Café 458," accessed July 17 2019, http://www.atlantacss.org/cafe-458/.
235. Fulton County Property Records.
236. Ibid.

visual incorporation into the historic streetscape. This attention is manifested in massing, materials, and relationships with the street.

Three contemporary, non-contributing buildings constructed in 2001 occupy a substantial portion of the northwest corner of Edgewood Avenue and Jackson Street.[237] Respectively, these buildings are 415–419 Edgewood Avenue, 10–20 Jackson Street, and 410–412 Chamberlain Street. However, given their adjacency, and their extreme stylistic similarities, these buildings read as a unified block.

Although each building varies in length, all feature a two-story facade with stepped brick parapets fronting a three-story building set back from the street. This configuration is a common approach used by modern builders to acquire building height without interrupting historic relationships of scale with the street. Each building is clad in a red brick veneer in a running-bond pattern and features historically congruous fenestration patterns and entrance relationship with the street. These buildings appear mixed-use, with commercial businesses housed on the main level and residential use on the upper floors.

513 Edgewood Avenue is a three-story, running-bond brick veneer structure constructed in 2005. As with the 2001 non-contributing building block located at the northwest corner of Edgewood Avenue and Jackson Street, 513 Edgewood Avenue is mixed-use commercial and residential. The building houses five residential condominiums and one street-level commercial business.[238] Elements such as the building's materials and recessed storefront entrance pay homage to nearby historic commercial buildings.

Contributing Buildings

- 407–413 Auburn Avenue, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, 1914-1922, and Christian Education Building [Fellowship Hall], 1956 (LCS 090002)
- 472–474 Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 023361)
- 476–478 Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 023363)
- 480–[482] Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 090003)
- 484–[486] Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 090004)
- 488–[490] Auburn Avenue, 1905 (LCS 090005)
- 491–[493] Auburn Avenue, 1911 (LCS 090047)
- 492–[494] Auburn Avenue, circa 1897 (LCS 090006)
- 493A [No. 1-2] Auburn Avenue, 1911 (LCS 090007)
- 493B [No. 3-4] Auburn Avenue, 1911 (LCS 090008)
- 493C [No. 5-6] Auburn Avenue, 1911 (LCS 090009)
- 497 Auburn Avenue, Park Bookstore, circa 1900 (LCS 090010) and garage, circa 1933-1935
- 501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Birth Home, 1895 (LCS 090011)
- 503 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895 (LCS 090012)
- 506 Auburn Avenue, 1933 (LCS 090013)
- 510 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 090014)
- 514 Auburn Avenue, Shaw-Lightner House, 1893 (LCS 023362)
- 515 Auburn Avenue, Faison House, 1909 (LCS 090015)
- 518 Auburn Avenue, circa 1893 (LCS 090016)
- 521B (521-1/2) Auburn Avenue, 1921 (LCS 090018)
- 522 Auburn Avenue, Bryant-Graves House, circa 1894 (LCS 023326)
- 526 Auburn Avenue, Kirk House, circa 1895 (LCS 023365)

237. Ibid.
238. Ibid.

- 530 Auburn Avenue, Nowell House, circa 1895 (LCS 090019)
- 535 Auburn Avenue, Harper House, circa 1895 (LCS 090020)
- 540 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 023368)
- 546 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 023370)
- 550 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890 (LCS 023367)
- 25 Boulevard, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, 1960
- 29 Boulevard, Our Lady of Lourdes School, 1912 (LCS 090040)
- 37–39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6, 1894 (LCS 090039)
- 53—[55] Boulevard, circa 1905 (LCS 023364)
- 420 Edgewood Avenue, 1912
- 421–429 Edgewood Avenue, 1946
- 428 Edgewood Avenue, 1953
- 438–442 Edgewood Avenue, 1939; 1946-1953
- 439–[441] Edgewood Avenue, 1920
- 443–445 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 023327)
- 444–[446] Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 447 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 451 Edgewood Avenue, 1915
- 458 Edgewood Avenue, 1940
- 464 [462] Edgewood Avenue, 1927
- 464–466 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 467 Edgewood Avenue, 1911
- 476–480 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 090030)
- 482 Edgewood Avenue, 1908 (LCS 090031)
- 483 Edgewood Avenue, 1908
- 484–486 Edgewood Avenue, 1908
- 485 Edgewood Avenue, 1908
- 487 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 488–490 Edgewood Avenue, 1909 (LCS 090035)
- 489 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 501 Edgewood Avenue, 1968
- 510 Edgewood Avenue, 1947 (LCS 090037)
- 511 Edgewood Avenue, 1935
- 520 Edgewood Avenue, 1962
- 521 Edgewood Avenue, 1954
- 525 Edgewood Avenue, 1948
- 536 [540] Edgewood Avenue, 1951
- 541 Edgewood Avenue, 1909
- 53 Hogue Street, circa 1940 (LCS 090041)
- 14 Howell Street, circa 1927 (LCS 090042)
- 24 Howell Street, circa 1895 (LCS 090043)
- 28 Howell Street, circa 1895 (LCS 090046)
- 54 Howell Street, 1931 (LCS 090044)

Adjacent Contributing Buildings

The buildings listed in this section are outside the project study area, but within the boundary of the National Historical Park.

- 449 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King Grave Site, 1976; 2006 (LCS 090045)
    - Freedom Hall, 1979
    - Administrative Office / Library / Archives
    - Freedom Walkway, 1976–1977
    - Reflecting Pool, 1976–1977
    - Eternal Flame
    - International Chapel of All Faith, 1976–1977
    - Screening Room
- 442 Cain Street, 1929
- 409 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library, 1923–1928
- 130 Boulevard, 1920–1923
- 454 Irwin Avenue, 1946

Non-Contributing Buildings

- 450 Auburn Avenue, National Park Service Visitor Center, 1996
- 412 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue, National Park Service Maintenance Facility, 1996
- 509 Auburn Avenue, 1997
- 521 Auburn Avenue, 2004
- 483 Old Wheat Street, 2005
- 18 Howell Street, 2008
- 20 Howell Street, 2015
- 537 Edgewood Avenue, 1983
- 513 Edgewood Avenue, 2005
- 460 Edgewood Avenue, 1994
- 415–419 Edgewood Avenue, 2001
- 10–20 Jackson Street, 2001
- 410–412 Chamberlain Street, 2001

Missing Buildings

The buildings listed in this section are those historic buildings that were present during the 1994 Historic Resources Study but have been demolished in the interim.

- 479 Edgewood Avenue, filling station, 1932; demolished circa 2005
- 513 Edgewood Avenue, commercial building, 1920; demolished circa 2004
- 412 Houston Street, York Building, 1920-1923; demolished circa 1995
- 423 Houston Street, Scripto Building, 1931; demolished circa 1995
- 450 Houston Street, commercial building, circa 1923; demolished circa 1995
- 456–460 Houston Street, commercial building, 1942-1953; demolished circa 1995
- 466 Houston Street, commercial building, 1938–1946; demolished circa 1995
- 18 Howell Street, residence, 1927; major fire 1991, demolished circa 1994
- 479–481 Old Wheat Street, double shotgun house, circa 1905; demolished circa 2009
- 483–485 Old Wheat Street, double shotgun house, circa 1905 (LCS 023366); demolished circa 1995
- 487–489 Old Wheat Street, double shotgun house, circa 1905 (LCS 023369); demolished circa 1995

Structures

Summary Analysis

Landscape features considered as structures within the boundary of the park include free-standing walls, retaining walls, steps, small yard sheds, forecourt canopy, fountains, and amphitheaters. Many of these structures are part of the Visitor Services character area and the Edgewood Avenue character areas of the park and postdate the period of significance. There are a number of structures within the Auburn Avenue character area that survive with integrity from the period of significance.

Historic Conditions. (Refer to Updated CLR and Comparative Analysis for the Birth Home block.)

Existing Conditions. (Refer to Updated CLR and Comparative Analysis for the Birth Home block.)

There are numerous examples of walls within the historic core area of the park associated with the Birth Home block residential yards and with commercial parcels on Edgewood Avenue. The walls associated with Edgewood Avenue for the most part delineate property boundaries. An extended concrete block wall runs along the property boundary between the residences on the south side of Auburn Avenue within the Birth Home block and the Our Lady of Lourdes parking lot and Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall and smaller parking lot.

Evaluation. The walls, steps, and walkways are part of the contributing pattern of spatial organization of the streetscape of Auburn Avenue. This condition survives from the period of significance and is evident within the Birth Home block today (Figure 104 and Figure 105). Within the Birth Home block, there are retaining walls that occur on both sides of Auburn Avenue to alleviate grade changes. On the south side, a consistent retaining wall parallels the sidewalk and becomes perpendicular as the wall turns south and defines front yards and driveways. The retaining wall absorbs a 4-to-5-foot grade change from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street. There are also low walls/stone curbs on the north side of Auburn Avenue that absorb the grade change from the sidewalk to the front yards. These walls survive from the period of significance and are contributing features of the Birth Home block. Steps provide access the entrance walkways and are also contributing features of the streetscape of Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 104. Masonry wall from the corner of Auburn Avenue extending east, 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 105. Masonry wall at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street in 2017.

Contributing Features

- Rear and side yard walls of mixed rubble materials in Birth Home block
- Retaining walls to hold the grade of the front yards on the south side of Auburn Avenue in the Birth Home block
- Steps to access the front yard of the residences
- Low retaining walls/curbs on the north side of Auburn Avenue

- Steps associated with side yard walls on both sides of Auburn Avenue
- Granite steps with a thin marble cheek-wall treatment at 503 Auburn Avenue
- Masonry wall along Auburn Avenue in front of 540, 546, and 550 and wrapping around 540 Auburn Avenue along Howell Street.
- Year-round outbuilding / garage, circa 1933-1935 in the rear yard of 497 Auburn Avenue

Non-Contributing Features

- Picnic pavilion in Dreamer's Park
- Tennis court in Dreamer's Park
- Parking kiosk in visitor center parking lot
- Concrete block wall on the south side of Cain Street NE
- Forecourt canopy at the visitor center.
- Free-standing concrete walls within the Edgewood Avenue commercial corridor blocks

Missing Features

- Shed on the east side of the back yard of the Birth Home
- Small shed behind the garden of the Birth Home that served as a coal shed
- Wire clotheslines at the Birth Home that ran from the house to the shed, supported in the middle with sticks
- Utilitarian outdoor structures generally located in the back yards of residences with the Birth Home block
- Walls within residential yards in the Birth Home block

Small-Scale Features

Summary Analysis

Small-scale features within the National Historical Park surviving from the period of significance are associated with the use of fences in the individual yards of the Birth Home block and signage along Edgewood Avenue. Their significance is described as a historic pattern of use. Individual features may not retain integrity to the period of significance, but their collective use survives with individual features that may postdate the period of significance. They are considered to be contributing features and should be treated as cultural resources. There are also numerous signs, furnishings, sculptures, and monuments within the visitor services area of the park. All of the existing small-scale features in this area postdate the period of significance. They were erected during the period of construction of the portion of the park from 1994–2015.

Feature Discussion

Signs

Historical Condition. Commercial signs on Edgewood Avenue were historically utilized to great effect and included: hanging and projecting signs; awning and rooftop signs; and signs painted on glass windows, doors, transoms, and walls. In 1956, a blue, metal-framed sign with the words "Ebenezer Baptist Church" in white neon was installed on the exterior of the building above the main entrance to the church.

Existing Condition. The pattern of signage in relationship to commercial development on Edgewood Avenue occurred between 1929 and 1941, when Edgewood Avenue transitioned from predominantly residential to commercial land use.

Existing signage in the Visitor Center character area and the Auburn Avenue character area provides interpretation, orientation, traffic regulation, feature or building identification, park identification, and direction.

Evaluation. Use of signage on Edgewood Avenue survives from the period of significance and is a character-defining feature of the historic urban

landscape. Individual signs may postdate the period of significance but there are extant examples of painted signage on historic buildings that survive from the period of commercial transition on Edgewood Avenue.[239]

This "Ebenezer Baptist Church" sign within the Auburn Avenue character area survives with integrity from the period of significance.

Signage in the Visitor Services character area and in the Auburn Avenue character area postdates the period of significance.

Fences

Historic Condition. The patterns of fencing in back and side yards were created during the period of significance and in association with the construction and occupation of residential houses in the Birth Home block. Fences often were made of miscellaneous scraps of unpainted wood planks and nailed together or combinations of wood and some type of wire fencing. Fences were uniform in height, shape, or color because they were put together only to enclose and define a space, not for aesthetic purposes.[240] Additional fences remain in the Auburn Avenue character area associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church parking and the Birth Home block.

Existing Conditions. Fencing occurs in the Edgewood Avenue commercial corridor. A metal fence on Edgewood Avenue delineates the south edge of the parking lot associated with Our Lady of Lourdes Church. The fencing continues around the entire parking lot to the rear property line of the Birth Home. The parking lot east of this is also fenced but not to the north sidewalk of Edgewood Avenue. There are numerous other fences that define the boundaries of vacant lots and smaller parking areas along Edgewood Avenue. There is also extensive fencing associated with the Visitor Services character area. It is used to delineate property boundaries, separate the parking area from the Dreamer's Park, and enclose the NPS maintenance facility.

Fences remain in the Auburn Avenue character area and are associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church parking and the Birth Home block.

Evaluation. Use of fences to delineate property boundaries in the Auburn Avenue character area survives from the period of significance, specifically from 1890–1905 when a majority of houses were completed within the Birth Home block. Many of the fences were replaced with new materials but retain the original design intent, scale, and configuration, and they are still considered contributing. The ornamental iron fence associated with 530 Auburn Avenue is an exception. Portions of the original fence were salvaged and used in the rehabilitation of the dwelling and site. Some pieces had to be replicated and replaced in kind due to irreparable damage but for the most part the fence retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the property.

The Edgewood Avenue character area fences postdate the period of significance and are considered non-contributing. The fencing within the Visitor Services character area is associated with the construction of NPS visitor facilities (1994–2015) and postdates the period of significance.

Monuments and Sculpture

(The monuments and sculpture discussed below are not associated with a historical context.)

Gandhi Sculpture. The bronze sculpture of Mohandas "Mahatma" Gandhi (Dr. King's mentor in nonviolence) was sculpted by Sri Ram Sutar of New Delhi and dedicated in 1998. It was donated by Indian American Cultural Association and the National Federation of Indian American Associations. It is located north of the visitor center entrance at the terminus of the Civil Rights Walk of Fame. The sculpture postdates the period of significance and considered a non-contributing feature of the park.

Behold Monument. The *Behold* monument was unveiled in 1990 commemorating the heroic principles of Martin Luther King Jr. The sculptor Patrick Morelli was inspired to create this artwork

239. Blythe, et al., *National Register Documentation*.
240. Lawliss.

by an ancient African ritual of lifting a newborn baby to the heavens and reciting the words, "Behold the only thing greater than yourself." The monument was moved to its current location in the Peace Plaza north of the visitor center in 1996. The monument postdates the period of significance and is considered a non-contributing feature of the park.

Contributing Features

- The neon identification sign at Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary
- Hanging, painted, and projected signs on Edgewood Avenue
- Ornamental iron fence within the front and side yards of 530 Auburn Avenue
- Pattern of board, or chicken wire and board, fencing in the Birth Home block yards
- Pattern of back yard fencing in the rear yards of the Birth Home block
- Pattern of side yard fencing to delineate property lines in the Birth Home block

Non-Contributing Features

- National Park Service picnic shelter in Dreamer's Park
- Civil Rights Walk of Fame granite marker featuring engraved footsteps of civil and human rights icons
- Gandhi sculpture
- *Behold* monument
- Park boundary fences along Cain Street NE around Dreamer's Park, and maintenance complex and the visitor center parking
- Park fencing east of the Promenade separating the park from John Hope Elementary School
- Concrete orientation and welcome sign markers in the Peace Plaza
- Interpretive wayside exhibits within the visitor services area
- Site furnishings within the visitor services area
- Brick National Park Service identity signs in the visitor services area
- Parking and vacant lot fences delineating boundaries within the Edgewood Avenue commercial corridor

Missing Features

- Fences from individual yards in the Birth Home block
- Period porch furniture associated with residences within the Birth Home block

Existing Conditions and Analysis Update from 1995 CLR

Comparative Analysis of Individual Lots in the Birth Home Block

The years 1929 (the year Dr. King was born at 501 Auburn Avenue) and 1941 (the year the King family moved to a new home on Boulevard) frame the period of significance of the park interpreted at the Birth Home and along the Birth Home block in the 1995 CLR. The 1995 CLR documents the evolution of the site and compares it to an inventory of historic existing conditions in order to identify changes that occurred since 1941. By 1995, nineteen structures had been rehabilitated, with rehabilitation planned for others. This CLR (2019) compares the evolution of the site as documented in an inventory of existing conditions from 1995 with conditions present in 2018 to identify changes that occurred over time. Illustrations of existing conditions for individual yards documented in the 1995 CLR and in this CLR (2019) are provided at the end of the chapter.

The period of significance for this CLR (2019) is 1870–1968, and it is used for the assessment of contributing and non-contributing resources. The CLR (2019) updates and documents changes to

the cultural landscape that post-date the 1995 CLR. The update is based on current fieldwork, photographic surveys, and research and is an integral part of the comparative analysis in this chapter.

The historic condition descriptions below are based directly on the 1995 CLR text, with minor edits.

37–39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6

Historic Condition. The rectangular two-story brick building was constructed in 1894 and was one of the first of the decentralized fire stations to be built in the city. The narrow front facade that faced Boulevard was designed in the Romanesque Revival Style with characteristic brick arches. The long, unadorned brick side of the building sat along the sidewalk on Auburn Avenue with no setback. In the rear of the fire station was a large open unpaved lot containing a one-story coal shed that sat on the south (side) property line and was set back approximately 10 feet from the east (rear) property line. The rear yard was enclosed by a hedge that ran from the northeast corner of the building to the intersection of the side and rear property lines and then turned and ran down the rear property line. Although the material of the hedge is not known, it was assumed to be privet, the common shrub used for the yard hedges. The 1949 aerial photograph documents an opening in the hedge allowing access onto Auburn at the northeast corner of the lot.

1995 CLR Condition. In the analysis, the fire station was in the process of rehabilitation by the NPS for museum / office space. The building footprint was intact, but there had been substantial changes to the back yard. The back yard was entirely paved with asphalt and the grade was raised approximately 3 feet above the finished ground floor of the station. This grade change began 4 feet from the rear elevation of the building and is held up by a retaining wall that runs the width of the back yard. An 8-foot-high chain-link fence, with three strands of barbed wire across the top and a gate at the driveway for vehicular access, enclosed the site. A 10-foot-wide strip had been removed from the back yard and paved with asphalt in order to provide access to Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School.

2018 Existing Condition. Since the 1995 CLR, there have been additional changes to the 37 Boulevard parcel (refer to Figure 244 at the end of this chapter). The metal awning was removed from the front of the fire station building, and the east elevation steps have changed in configuration. The elevator shaft was added in 1994–1996, when the rear yard was part of the overall rehabilitation of the fire station to a museum space. Features that remain include: the concrete sidewalk with granite curb adjacent to the building along Boulevard and Auburn Avenues; chain-link fence (atop retaining walls) along the north, east, and south boundaries of the parking lot; a double chain-link gate across the entrance to the parking lot; the paved parking lot with egress to Auburn Avenue; the alley created for school access to Auburn Avenue; and the major grade change along the property line and within the yard (Figure 106 and Figure 107).



FIGURE 106. The east side of Fire Station No. 6 (37 Boulevard) is used for parking and access to the rear of the building. The space is defined by the concrete retaining wall with chain-link fencing on top.



FIGURE 107. Concrete staircase leads to the double back doors at the rear of Fire Station No. 6 (37–39 Boulevard).

Analysis. The fire house building is an extant and contributing historic feature. It retains integrity and is the only contributing feature remaining on the 37–30 Boulevard parcel (Figure 108 and Figure 109). There are no contributing features in the landscape.



FIGURE 108. Fire Station No. 6 (37–39 Boulevard) as it appeared in 1992, with an awning on the west facade above the Romanesque Revival-style brick arch. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 109. Fire Station No. 6 (37-39 Boulevard) in 2017 after rehabilitation by the NPS for museum and office space.

The Double Shotguns: 472–488 Auburn Avenue, 53 Boulevard, and 479–489 Old Wheat Street

Historic Condition. The double shotguns represent a house type that existed throughout the study area. This group includes the nine double shotguns constructed at the intersection of Boulevard and Auburn Avenue. Typically, the shotgun yards were very small and composed of dirt. This type of yard was commonly referred to as a "swept yard," because tenants would maintain a tidy surface by sweeping the loose dirt and debris from the compacted sub-base with a switch broom. Most of these yards were too small for mules to be used to till the ground and the dirt was too hard to till by hand. If residents wanted to make the yard more decorative, it was common for them to purchase plants—flowering annuals were most typical—and place them on the porch railings. Sometimes plants were transferred to wooden flower boxes, easily constructed from 1x6 boards. Plants such as pansies, coleus, or marigolds were often planted in these boxes as they were less expensive and were easily grown from seed. Some individuals also grew collards in these planter boxes. The back yard surface of the typical shotgun was composed of dirt and, like the single-family dwellings, was a work space. The dominant feature of the back yard landscape was the clothesline. The line was usually a long piece of electrical wire that was gathered from the street or vacant lots. Other aspects of the typical back yard landscape included the piles of ashes people threw out from their stoves. Sometimes back yards also included a woodpile used for kindling.

The three double shotguns that face Old Wheat Street were built circa 1906. Almost identical in appearance to the Auburn Avenue shotguns and built about the same time, these double shotguns were distinguished by their smaller size, no yard space, and shared front walks centered between, with steps integrated into the front porch space. The front facades lined up with the Old Wheat Street 5-foot setback line and the 15-foot space behind the units belonged entirely to the Auburn Avenue double shotguns. The back yard property line was defined by a fence that began at the rear elevation of the Old Wheat Street double shotguns.

1995 CLR Condition. There was a significant change from the historic setting of the double shotguns to the conditions documented in the 1995 CLR. The six buildings that were owned by the NPS were in the process of major rehabilitation. Three were completed (53–55 Boulevard, 472–474, and 476–478 Auburn Avenue), and three were still undergoing treatment (480–482, 484–486, and 488 Auburn Avenue). The last three (479–481, 483–485, and 487–489 Old Wheat Street) were not then owned by the NPS and were in a general state of disrepair. The 1994 Historic Resource Study for the site recommended 479–481 as non-contributing because of its lack of integrity. Because the NPS policy was to return the shotguns to residential use, there was an effort to upgrade the interiors and landscape to contemporary residential standards. This policy resulted in many changes because, in the thinking at that time, the historic size and condition of this house type was considered substandard. Therefore, many non-historic features were added, such as a 4-foot-high chain-link fence around the perimeter of the three corner properties, sodded lawn areas, and foundation and ornamental plantings. In the back yards, fences that historically defined the small size of individual yards were removed and one large grassed area was maintained. Consequently, an important definition of space was lost, especially between the shotguns on Old Wheat Street and the Auburn Avenue shotguns. Trees such as the tree-of-heaven *(Ailanthus altissima),* that grew up in the unmaintained yards of the Old Wheat Street shotguns were all that remained to define the narrow space that were the back yards. These trees suggested that all the back yards of the Auburn Avenue shotguns were enclosed historically.

Three rehabilitated double shotguns—480–488 Auburn Avenue—were reconfigured into single-family dwellings. In the process, the historic double front porches were joined into single units by the addition of a connecting piece of porch. The three double shotguns on Old Wheat Street were in a serious state of disrepair. Their existence, however, added significantly to the integrity of the historic landscape of Old Wheat Street, as well as to the interpretation of what life and the landscape were like at the double shotguns. They were some of the last structures left in the Birth Home block with roll roofing (something typical of every roof during the historic period). The yards were so small that nothing much grew there. The existing trees that grew up all around the edges were the result of years of neglect and were not considered historic. Neither was the wood planter box on the porch railing at 479–481 Old Wheat Street. Also noteworthy was the open, semi-dilapidated condition of the porches, typical and character-defining features of these double shotguns during the period of significance.

472–474 Auburn Avenue

2018 Existing Condition. The one-story double shotgun dwelling is in good condition (refer to Figure 245 at the end of this chapter). Entrance walkways to each set of entrance steps are composed of four pairs of square aggregate pavers. There is one privet hedge remaining in the front yard adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. Turf grass is maintained in the front yard and the back yard. Back yards are no longer defined with fences. Ongoing repairs on the building were underway during fieldwork in the fall of 2018. Wood picket fencing and gates define the south and west property boundaries adjacent to sidewalks on Auburn Avenue and Boulevard (Figure 110 and Figure 111).



FIGURE 110. The shotgun dwelling at 472–474 Auburn is maintained in good condition. A wood picket fence with gates define the south and west property boundaries.



FIGURE 111. Repair and maintenance of the shotgun buildings on Auburn Avenue were ongoing in 2018.

Analysis. This double shotgun was not rehabilitated into a single-family home. The building retains integrity of location and setting within the neighborhood context, association, and design. It is an extant and contributing historic feature. The landscape was historically small and cramped, with dirt yards and fencing defining each individual yard space. The defined yards were functional and filled with clotheslines. The fencing and two clotheslines in the back yard of this dwelling no longer exist. The remainder of the landscape is maintained in turf grass. Remnants of the cultural landscape no longer exist that convey the historical significance of the property (Figure 112 and Figure 113).



FIGURE 112. Condition of 472–474 Auburn Avenue in 1992 indicated major rehabilitation was complete and non-historic features added such as chain-link fence on the perimeter of the property. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders,1992)



FIGURE 113. Condition of 472–474 Auburn Avenue in 2018 indicates the structure is well maintained and a wood picket fence has replaced the chain-link fence.

476–478 Auburn Avenue

2018 Existing Condition. The one-story double shotgun building is in good condition (refer to Figure 245 at the end of this chapter). Front walks to each set of entrance steps are composed of four pairs of square aggregate pavers. There are no privet hedges in the front yard adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. Turf grass is maintained in the front yard and the back yard. Back yards are no longer defined with fences (Figure 114). A board and wire fence defines the east boundary of this property and the west boundary of 480 Auburn Avenue. The board and wire fence also defines the south boundary of the property adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. One small tree exists adjacent to the east fence-line of the back yard.



FIGURE 114. Rear yards of 472–474 and 476–478 Auburn Avenue are not defined by historic boundary fences. The yards are planted with turf grass, and there is a modern wire clothesline with metal support posts in place.

Analysis. The double shotgun building was not rehabilitated into a single-family home. It retains integrity of location and setting within the neighborhood context, and integrity of design and workmanship. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The landscape was historically small and cramped, with dirt yards and fencing defining each individual yard space. The defined yards were functional and filled with clotheslines. The fencing and two clotheslines in the back yard of this dwelling no longer exist. The remainder of the landscape is maintained in turf grass. Remnants of the cultural landscape no longer survive to convey the historical significance of the property (Figure 115; also refer to Figure 112 and Figure 113).



FIGURE 115. The shotgun dwelling at 476–478 Auburn Avenue in 1992. The dwelling was rehabilitated at this time and chain-link fencing extended along the front property line. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)

480–[482] Auburn Avenue

2018 Existing Condition. The one-story wood shotgun building was rehabilitated into a single-family home and remains in that condition (refer to Figure 246 at the end of this chapter). A board and wire fence is located the length of the west property line. A privet hedge has been maintained in the front yard, forming the edge of the south property boundary adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. Turf grass is maintained in the front, side, and back yards (Figure 116 and Figure 117).

Analysis. The building retains integrity of location, setting, and association within its urban context on Auburn Avenue, and diminished integrity of materials, design, and workmanship resulting from the rehabilitation to a single unit. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The landscape has diminished integrity. The cultural landscape is no longer swept dirt and the large deciduous tree in the front yard is no longer extant. A privet hedge remains, contributing to historic patterns of shrub plantings in the Birth Home block.



FIGURE 116. A privet hedge has been maintained in the front yard of 480 Auburn Avenue, forming the edge of the south property boundary. Turf grass is maintained in the front, side and back yards.



FIGURE 117. The second entrance to 480 Auburn Avenue from the sidewalk is similar in condition and features as seen in the previous photograph.

484–[486] Auburn Avenue

2018 Existing Condition. The double shotgun building remains a single unit as rehabilitated and the front porch remains joined (refer to Figure 247 at the end of this chapter). The ailanthus tree is no longer extant in the small front yard. There is a manicured privet hedge between the two walkways and steps (Figure 118 and Figure 119). A Rose-of-Sharon shrub and a clump of monkey grass form the west end of the privet hedge. The small front and narrow side yards are maintained in turf grass.



FIGURE 118. A privet hedge adjacent to the sidewalk defines the south boundary of the 484 Auburn Avenue property.



FIGURE 119. There are paired entrance walks at the 484 Auburn Avenue shotgun building with concrete pavers.

Analysis. The building retains integrity of location, setting, and association within its urban context on Auburn Avenue, and diminished integrity of materials, design, and workmanship resulting from the rehabilitation to a single unit. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The surrounding yard has diminished integrity. The cultural landscape is no longer swept dirt, and the large deciduous tree in the front yard is no longer extant. The privet hedge remains, contributing to the pattern of shrub plantings in the yards of the Birth Home block (Figure 120 and Figure 121).



FIGURE 120. In 1992, the shotgun dwelling at 484 Auburn Avenue was in good condition, with a privet hedge across the front property line. A large ailanthus tree was located within the front yard of the dwelling. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders,1992)



FIGURE 121. A privet hedge remains on the south property boundary of 484 Auburn Avenue, and a Rose-of-Sharon shrub and a clump of monkey grass form the west end of the hedge.

488–[490] Auburn Avenue

2018 Existing Condition. The double shotgun building was changed to a single unit, and it remains a single unit today (refer to Figure 248 at the end of this chapter). The landscape is maintained in turf grass, and there is no other vegetation on the lot. Concrete walkways lead to the wooden steps that access the front porch of the building (Figure 122). There is an interpretive wayside sign ("Shotgun Houses") located in the front yard between the wooden steps. The sign is adjacent to the house, so the grass in front of the sign has been worn away due to foot traffic to read the wayside sign (Figure 123).



FIGURE 122. There are paired entrance walkways to the front steps and porch of 488 Auburn Avenue. This double shotgun was changed to a single unit.



FIGURE 123. A wayside interpretive sign, "Shotgun Houses," is located between the entrance walkways adjacent to 488 Auburn Avenue. The grass has been worn away from foot traffic associated with the wayside.

Analysis. The building retains integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling within its urban context on Auburn Avenue and diminished integrity of materials and design resulting from the rehabilitation to a single unit. The building is the only extant and contributing historic feature associated with 488-490 Auburn Avenue. The cultural landscape is no longer swept dirt, and the large deciduous tree in the front yard is no longer extant. Fencing in the side or back yards is no longer extant.

53–[55] Boulevard

2018 Existing Condition. The one-story wooden double shotgun building remains on this property and is in good condition (refer to Figure 245 at the end of this chapter). The concrete sidewalk that runs along Boulevard from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street remains, but the grass median strip from the sidewalk to the curb of Boulevard is now herringbone brick. The property boundary is defined by a board and wire fence north and east (Figure 124). Historically, the south property line was immediately adjacent to the south facade of the house and defined by a fence. Today, the back yards of 472-474 and 476-478 Auburn Avenue extend to 53–[55] Boulevard, but there are no fences dividing the individual yards. A rose bush remains in the northeast back yard adjacent to the fence (Figure 125). There is one new clothesline in the back yard east of the building. Turf grass is maintained in the back, side, and front yards.



FIGURE 124. The property boundary of 53 Boulevard is defined by a board and wire fence north and east.



FIGURE 125. A few small plantings exist adjacent to the fence in the rear yard of 53 Boulevard. This yard is adjacent to the yard now associated with 483 Old Wheat Street.

Analysis. This double shotgun building was not rehabilitated into a single-family home. It retains integrity of location and setting within the neighborhood context, association, and design.

The building is an extant historic feature and contributes to the significance of the site. The landscape was historically small and cramped with dirt yards and fencing defining each individual yard space. The defined yards were functional and filled with clotheslines. The chain link fencing and two clotheslines in the back yard of this dwelling no longer exist, and one new clothesline has been installed. The existing board and wire fence post-dates the 1995 CLR. The remainder of the landscape is maintained in turf grass. Remnants of the cultural landscape no longer exist that convey the historical significance of the property (Figure 126 and Figure 127).



FIGURE 126. The back yard of 53 Boulevard in 1992 indicated rehabilitation of the building was complete, and the chain-link fence extended along the property boundary. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 127. The back yard of 53 Boulevard in 2018 shows the change in fencing to board and wire, removal of ornamental plantings, and a new and relocated clothesline.

479–481 Old Wheat Street

2018 Existing Condition. The building at 479-481 Old Wheat Street was demolished circa 2009 (refer to Figure 246 at the end of this chapter). There are few remaining features on the vacant lot. A board and wire fence has replaced the chain-link fence that runs south to north from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street. This fence is between 480–482 Auburn and 476–478 Auburn and continues to Old Wheat Street. A small tree has been planted in the back yard, and the clothesline is no longer extant. A few shrubs are growing near the grass right-of-way of Old Wheat Street (Figure 128 and Figure 129).



FIGURE 128. The vacant lot and driveway associated with the new building at 483 Old Wheat Street was the original location of 479-481 Old Wheat Street. The shotgun building was demolished circa 2009.



FIGURE 129. View toward 53 Boulevard where 479-481 Old Wheat Street was located. These small shotgun buildings were in close proximity with fences defining limited yard space for each one.

Analysis. There are no contributing features remaining on the 479–481 Old Wheat Street parcel (Figure 130 and Figure 131).



FIGURE 130. The building that existed at 479-481 Old Wheat Street in 1992 was already in a state of disrepair. It was torn down in 2009. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 131. The lot formerly associated with 479-481 Old Wheat Street is now part of another property (483 Old Wheat Street) with a new building and area of open turf grass lawn.

483–485 Old Wheat Street

2018 Existing Condition. The double shotgun building is no longer extant at 483–485 Old Wheat Street (refer to Figure 247 at the end of this chapter). A new residence was constructed at 483 Old Wheat Street in 2005 (Figure 132 and Figure 134). Two ailanthus trees remain south of the new residence along the property line, and a chain-link fence defines the extent of the back yard.

Analysis. There are no contributing features present on this parcel of Old Wheat Street (Figure 133 and Figure 134).



FIGURE 132. The shotgun building at 483-485 Old Wheat Street was demolished circa 1995, and the new residence was constructed in 2005. The driveway and west portion of the new house now occupy the original location of shotgun house.



FIGURE 133. In 1992, the existing shotgun building at 483-485 Old Wheat Street was in a state of disrepair, and invasive vegetation had taken over the front yard. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 134. A new residential building was constructed with a large driveway and additional yard space in the 483-485 Old Wheat Street lot.

487–489 Old Wheat Street

2018 Existing Condition. Most of this property is occupied by the new residential building (refer to Figure 248 at the end of this chapter). There is a chain-link fence south of the building, and ailanthus tree growth along the fence. The owner of the property has installed brown gravel along the east side of the dwelling with brick entrance steps into the house (Figure 135). Foundation plantings have also been added at the north facade in a mulch bed that extends to the stone curbing adjacent to Old Wheat Street (Figure 136). The mulch bed extends across the north facade of the building.



FIGURE 135. Side entrance to the new building at 483 Old Wheat Street is adjacent to the rear yard of 492 Auburn Avenue. The part of the lot was formerly associated with 487-489 Old Wheat Street.



FIGURE 136. The shotgun building at 487-489 Old Wheat Street was demolished circa 1995. The new residence (483 Old Wheat Street) now completely occupies the original site.

Analysis. The small double shotgun building was demolished. A new residential building was constructed that includes the original location of 487-489 Old Wheat Street. There are no contributing features present on this parcel (Figure 136 and Figure 137). The site has lost all historic integrity.



FIGURE 137. The shotgun building at 487-489 Old Wheat Street was in extremely poor condition in 1992. Invasive vegetation had completely taken over the site. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 138. The new residential building (483 Old Wheat Street) was constructed with a large driveway and additional yard space in the lot that was 483–485 and 487–489 Old Wheat Street.491 Auburn Avenue

491 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. A four-unit apartment building with a two-story front porch was built in 1911 by Alexander Hamilton, "Atlanta's leading African American contractor in the early twentieth century." It was the first apartment building constructed on the Birth Home block. The building occupies a tiny lot with a shallow setback from the sidewalk, negligible side yards, and a small shallow back yard. No hedge or fencing treatment is illustrated on the Cadastral Survey. A wide brick landing / walk matched the width of the front steps. Two extant hollies, one on each side of the walk, are assumed to be original because of their size (14-inch-diameter trunks). A hedge existed between the first station lot and the west front yard. A 15-foot-wide alley (Reid's Alley) ran along the east property line providing access to three double shoguns immediately behind and was oriented perpendicular to the apartment building. Although it is not illustrated on any map, it was assumed that small back yard had been fenced because of the closeness and diversity of the adjacent properties (fire station, double shotguns, and church/school). A small outbuilding was visible in the aerial photograph at the southwest corner of the back yard.

1995 CLR Condition. At this time, the building was still in private ownership, and the site was very much intact. A brick landing separated the front steps from the sidewalk, and two Burford hollies filled the ground space on either side of the landing. The alley on the east side of the house was paved with asphalt. The small back yard was enclosed by a fence of miscellaneous materials, parts of which may have been historic. The historic outbuilding was not extant, however it was replaced by a smaller outbuilding as shown on the existing condition plan. The only other feature of note was two wire clotheslines within the yard. Although the clotheslines were not considered original, their material and configuration were authentic based on descriptions of existing yards where oral histories were available. They were considered significant. There was a small staircase added to the house on the southwest corner. Reid's Alley was paved with asphalt which did not reflect the historic condition.

2018 Existing Condition. Paving remnants of Reid's Alley remain in broken and poor condition adjacent to 497 Auburn Avenue (refer to Figure 249 at the end of this chapter). The large brick landing and the low brick edging remain. Two large and limbed up Burford hollies (assumed to be historic due to their size) also remain as do the concrete block steps to the front porch (Figure 139 and Figure 140). A single ailanthus tree remains in the back yard. Features missing from the 1995 CLR include: clumps of cannas, pipe handrail on the front steps, clotheslines, mixed material fence, the outbuilding and associated hydrangea; the small staircase on the southwest corner of the house, and the wooden landing on the south elevation is now enclosed.



FIGURE 139. View to 491 Auburn Avenue shows the north facade with the large hollies, steps, and landing. Reid's Alley extends along the east boundary of this property.



FIGURE 140. The wide brick landing that forms the entrance walkway and the low brick edging remain, but in fair condition. Two large and limbed up Burford hollies remain as do the concrete block steps to the front porch.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. Additional features that retain integrity and contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape and streetscape include: the large brick landing that forms the entrance walk; the concrete block steps to the front porch; the low brick edging and small retaining walls associated with the steps; the two large Burford hollies on either side of the steps; and Reid's Alley alignment (Figure 141 and Figure 142).



FIGURE 141. 491 Auburn Avenue was in good condition in 1992. Reid's Alley on the east side of the house was paved with asphalt. An 11-foot-wide brick landing separated the front steps from the sidewalk, and two hollies filled the ground space on either side of the landing. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 142. In 2018, paving remnants of Reid's Alley are visible and remain in broken and poor condition. The brick landing and brick edging remain at the entry to 491 Auburn Avenue as do the two large holly shrubs.

492–494 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. This duplex was larger and built earlier than any of the surrounding double shotguns. The estimated date of construction is circa 1897. It was distinguished from the other duplexes by a deeper front yard setback and a full facade front porch that wrapped the east corner and continued across the eastern ell extension. Several features were discerned from the aerial photograph. A large deciduous tree occupied the

west side of the front yard, and vehicle access to the site was from Old Wheat Street in the west corner in the back yard. There was a fenced-in area at the rear center of the back yard (use unknown). The Cadastral Survey did not record any fencing on the site.

1995 CLR Condition. This early duplex was rehabilitated circa 1990, and at the time all vestiges of an earlier landscape were removed. The back yard was enclosed by a 5-foot-high chain-link fence.

2018 Existing Condition. There is currently a Siberian elm *(Ulmus pumila)* located in the southeast corner of the 492-494 parcel (refer to Figure 250 at the end of this chapter). Within the shade of this elm, two wayside signs provide interpretation of the Birth Home clearly visible across Auburn Avenue from the front yard (Figure 143 and Figure 144). The grass is completely worn down due to visitor foot traffic, and the roots of the tree cause unstable footing within the interpretive area of the yard. The back yard is enclosed with a board and wire support fence, with an opening in the northwest corner adjacent to the compacted grass right-of-way with a granite curb on Old Wheat Street. Wooden steps have been added on the east side of the front porch of the building.



FIGURE 143. South elevation of the shotgun building at 492 Auburn Avenue is devoid of any vegetation except for turf grass.



FIGURE 144. Two wayside interpretive signs are located in the southeast corner of the 492 Auburn Avenue lot. The interpretation is associated with the Birth Home. Titles for the waysides are "The Birthplace" and "The Home." Heavy foot traffic has destroyed the grass. A large Siberian elm is adjacent to the interpretive signs.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. As observed and recorded for the 1995 CLR, all vestiges of an earlier landscape were removed. There are no extant features of the cultural landscape that convey the significance of the site. There is integrity of location for the yards and the property boundaries and for context within the neighborhood (Figure 145 and Figure 146).



FIGURE 145. The early duplex at 492 Auburn Avenue was rehabilitated circa 1990 as shown in this 1992 photograph, and vestiges of any cultural landscape features are missing. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 146. Currently the landscape of 492 Auburn Avenue contains a Siberian elm and two wayside signs that provide interpretation of the Birth Home across Auburn Avenue. The back yard is enclosed with a board and wire support fence.

493A, 493B, and 493C Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. Three small pyramidal-roof double shotguns (27 by 28 feet) existed on an interior alley immediately behind 491 Auburn Avenue. They were constructed at the same time and by the same African American contractor, Alexander Hamilton. It is interesting to note that W.E.B. Du Bois, an African American sociologist and author teaching at Atlanta University at the turn of the century, wrote in his 1908 study of the "Negro American Family" that:

> [The} nucleus of [the] Negro population in southern cities is the alley…It represents essentially a crowding— a congestion of population—an attempt to utilize for dwellings, spaces inadequate and unsuited to the purpose and forms the most crushing indictment of the modern landlord system . . . . The typical alley is a development of the backyard space of two usually decent houses. In the backyard spaces have been crowded little two-room dwellings, cheaply constructed, badly lighted and ventilated, and with inadequate sanitary arrangements. In Atlanta the badly drained and dark hollows of the city are threaded with these alleys, usually unpaved and muddy, and furnishing inviting nests for questionable characters. [241]

241 W.E. Burghardt Du Bois, ed. *The Negro American Family* (Atlanta: The Atlanta University Press, 1908, reprinted Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1969), 58.

In a minimum amount of space—5 feet between structures, a 10-foot-deep back yard split by a fence to define each unit's space, and the dirt alley as the front yard—there was little landscape available for tenants to manipulate. While nothing has been found to document the historic condition of this alley, the AHA photographs show other alleys in 1940 to be poorly maintained with hard-packed dirt surfaces, open-backed wood steps, porch railings with no vertical supports, overgrown grass, and weedy trees growing up in corners and along property lines. Decoration of the outdoor living space would have been limited to some potted plants on the porches. The tiny back yards would have been used for necessities like clotheslines. Small square outbuildings, centered on the rear property line of each space, are visible on the aerial photograph.

1995 CLR Condition. The shotguns were in private ownership, and their setting was remarkably intact. Although paved with asphalt, the alley comprised the extent of the front yard, and the view across the alley to the back yard of 497 Auburn remained undisturbed. The integrity of the shotguns—double front porches, open foundations, missing balusters, and rolled roofing—contributed significantly to the space. The shallow back yards seemed even smaller because of the non-historic retaining wall and school building (Our Lady of Lourdes School on Boulevard) that defined the rear (west) property line. Chain-link fence gates were set between the front corners of the shotguns and prevented access to the back yards.

2018 Existing Condition. These shotgun buildings are now owned by the NPS and are not currently in use for residential purposes (refer to Figure 251 at the end of this chapter). The buildings are in fair condition. Their setting is intact and Reid's Alley remains visible. It retains its alignment that continued past the front of the buildings. The mixture of remnant asphalt and gravel paving is in poor condition and is taken over by grass in front of the buildings (Figure 147). Fences with gates are no longer extant between the buildings, and there is no longer a rolled wire fence separating the rear of 491 Auburn from 493A and the rear yards of the

shotguns. There is a wood power and light pole located in the grass near the southeast corner of 493B. An interpretive wayside exhibit has been installed in the grass east of 493C. The title of the exhibit is "Low Income Housing" (Figure 148). There is a deciduous tree located against the concrete block wall northwest of 493A.



FIGURE 147. Asphalt remnants remain along what was Reid's Alley in front of 493A-C Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 148. View from the back yard of 497 Auburn Avenue northwest to the three shotgun buildings. An interpretive wayside sign, "Low Income Housing," is located in the foreground.

Analysis. Features that retain integrity and are considered contributing are the shotgun buildings and their spatial relationship to each other and to the rear yard of 497 Auburn Avenue. The alignment of the alley retains integrity, but it has been greatly diminished due to the poor condition of the paving and absence of the paved segment that once ran in front of the houses ending at the concrete block wall to the south (Figure 149 and Figure 150). The original paving material of the alley is unknown, but its alignment and width of 10 feet were to be kept in perpetuity as access to the dwellings. Remnant paving remains with traces of asphalt, concrete, and gravel.

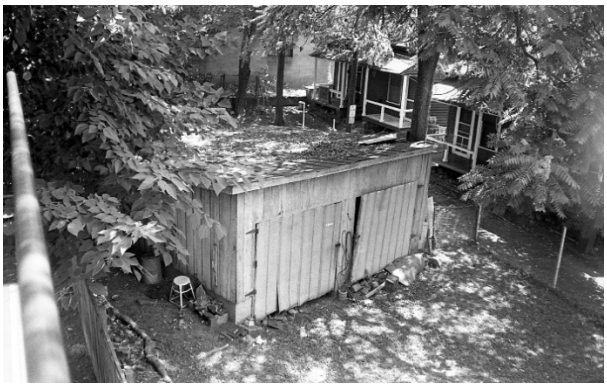


FIGURE 149. In 1992, the setting of the three shotgun buildings at 493A-C Auburn Avenue was intact. Reid's Alley still comprised the extent of the front yard. Fencing and abundant vegetation were also on the site. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 150. The 2018 view to the three shotgun buildings from an elevated platform associated with the Birth Home shows the poor condition of the asphalt paving of the alley, the lack of vegetation in the landscape, and the small shed documented in the 1995 CLR as part of the historic condition of 497 Auburn Avenue.

497 Auburn Avenue, Park Bookstore

Historic Condition. A large single-family residence (circa 1905) occupied this large deep lot. The house had a generous front yard (set back from the sidewalk, similar to that of the Birth Home next door), and a long narrow back yard ran the length of the three double shotguns that sat across the alley along the west property line. There was a narrow side yard, approximately five feet wide, between 497 and 501 Auburn Avenue with

the property line splitting the space. A low wall ran along the front property line raising the front yard approximately 18 inches above the sidewalk. Off center to the west, three steps were built into the wall. At the top of the steps a herringbone-pattern brick walk, with a border of bricks on edge, ran straight to the porch steps, and both walk and steps were centered on the front door. From the aerial photograph it is apparent that a hedge topped the front wall. It is assumed to have been privet. The back yard was fenced-in except for a break at the southwest corner of the house where an opening (approximately 10 to 12 feet wide) allowed vehicle access to a shed / garage that was placed mid-back yard. The shed was skewed from perpendicular approximately 30 degrees in order to accommodate automobile maneuverability from the awkward corner entrance.

1995 CLR Condition. At this time, the house was privately owned. The house and setting retained integrity. Concrete block front steps replaced older—most likely wood—steps. A concrete block retaining wall (material similar to the front steps) ran along the west front yard and along the sidewalk edge. Remnants of an overgrown privet hedge were atop the wall. The other notable plant in the front yard was a Rose-of-Sharon *(Hibiscus syriacus)* located at the east corner of the front porch. The back yard was a one-of-a-kind landscape remnant on the Birth Home block. The key feature of the historic yard, a garage / outbuilding set on a cockeyed angle, remained remarkably intact. The fence along the west property line was a mix of wire materials on wood and metal supports. It is assumed to be historic because it represents a type of fence that was described at other locations. A gate of wire and wood existed in what would have been the approximate historic location of the opening to the back yard. The back yard was densely shaded by paper mulberries and water oaks growing along the property's edge.

2018 Existing Condition. This once privately owned building now belongs to the NPS and has been rehabilitated as the Park Bookstore (refer to Figure 252 at the end of this chapter). Group tours of the Birth Home begin here, and there is now a functioning relationship between the two parcels that provide enhancement for the visitor experience to the Birth Home block. The building at 497 Auburn Avenue provides visitor services, interpretation, information, and refreshment. Features that remain on the site include: the brick walk, the concrete block retaining walls on the north, east, and west boundaries of the parcel, concrete block steps, and concrete cheekwalls that lead from the sidewalk to the front walk and front steps of the structure (Figure 151). Privet hedges remain adjacent to the concrete retaining wall north of the building and as foundation plantings near the structure. The front steps to the porch are concrete. None of the back yard trees shown on the parcel are existing today. A concrete block wall remains on the south boundary of the parcel. There is an interpretive wayside exhibit, "Middle-Class Dwelling," installed immediately adjacent to the retaining wall along the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 152).



FIGURE 151. Features that retain integrity at 497 Auburn Avenue include the concrete block retaining wall, steps, and the brick front sidewalk.



FIGURE 152. A wayside interpretive sign, "Middle-Class Dwelling," has been attached to the concrete block wall adjacent to the sidewalk in the front yard.

Analysis. Features that retain integrity and are contributing include: the building; the concrete block retaining wall; steps; and the brick entrance walkway. The retaining wall exhibits integrity as a feature that was constructed historically to raise the yard 18 inches above the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. That condition remains today and contributes to the significance of the landscape and streetscape (Figure 153 and Figure 154). The sawtooth brick edging on the entrance walkway is no longer extant. A one-story wood outbuilding remains in the back yard in the same location and skewed from perpendicular as described in the historic condition. The structure retains integrity as an example of an outbuilding or garage from the period of significance (see Figure 149 and Figure 150).

Integrity of the building, as an example of the Queen Anne-style residences on Auburn Avenue, is retained, however, the rear of the structure and the spatial organization around the house is diminished due to changes made to meet current accessibility standards. A new concrete sidewalk was constructed to provide ADA/ABAAS compliant access leading from the Auburn Avenue sidewalk along the west side of the building to a wooden ramp and rear entrance to the park bookstore.



FIGURE 153. In 1992, the house and setting at 497 Auburn Avenue retained integrity, with concrete block front steps and retaining wall that ran along the west front yard and the sidewalk edge. The back yard contained a garage / outbuilding set on a skewed angle, a surviving historic feature. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 154. The historic garage / shed structure remains on the 497 Auburn Avenue lot (see Figure 150). Other remaining features include the concrete block retaining walls constructed to raise the yard 18 inches above the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home

Historic Condition. Martin Luther King Jr. was born in this house on January 15, 1929, and lived here until 1941 along with his parents, grandparents, brother, and sister. The Birth Home is a circa 1895, two-story wood house with Queen-Anne-style detailing. Reverend A.D. Williams purchased the house in 1909. The Williams / King family, like the other residents of the single-family dwellings on the block, comprised educated middle-class professionals who took pride in

maintaining an attractive home and yard. In the 1930s, the front yard consisted of grass bordered from the sidewalk and the property to the west by a privet hedge. There was also a small circular flower bed in the middle of the lawn on the west side of the front walk that was created by Mrs. Williams. The bed was bordered with bricks set on an angle with flowers described as "very colorful." As was customary in the neighborhood, the Williams/King family often sat on their porch to socialize with their neighbors. The porch had five tall rocking chairs and a porch swing. Adding decoration and color to the porch were wooden flower boxes that sat on the railing. It is believed that coleus was most often planted in these boxes. The King children used the back yard of their home as an area for play. While there were no obvious play structures in the back yard, the children improvised with the existing landscape, and reportedly did not need to leave the yard to get into mischief. On the east side of the back yard was an old shed that King's father had converted into a garage. It was a long wood building with a shed roof. It was not painted and was raised slightly off the ground, so that some old planks of wood had to be angled at the entrance in order to drive the car into the garage. There was a tree near Martin Jr.'s bedroom window that he used to escape from the house to the yard. Behind the back yard was an open field (an undeveloped lot along Edgewood Avenue) where King and his friends liked to play. The King yard was separated from neighboring properties by a board fence. The children made a hole in the fence to escape the yard and sneak into neighboring lots.

The Kings' back yard was quite large, measuring approximately 40 by 188 feet and could accommodate many different features and activities. On the west side of the yard, Mrs. Williams had a vegetable garden. She protected her garden from the boy's play by fencing it in with pieces of barbed wire. Behind the garden was a small outbuilding that served as a coal house. This building was a small square structure with a shed roof that was covered with clapboard siding and painted the same color as the house. Also, in the yard were some apple trees that were located near the back fence. The fence was primitive looking because it was made of old boards that were unmatched and unpainted. The yard also had the characteristic clotheslines. They were fashioned from odd pieces of wire and supported by sticks in the middle to keep the lines from sagging. Both lines ran from the rear west corner of the house: one was stretched to the coal house and a second line was attached to the west side-yard fence.

1995 CLR Condition. At this time, very little of the historic landscape remained at the Birth Home. The existing conditions were the result of stabilization and rehabilitation by the NPS and the King Center; however, most of the historic landscape features described in the oral histories were gone prior to NPS involvement. This included all of the back yard features as well as the circular planting bed in the front yard. Most of the NPS changes to the landscape were made to accommodate visitors to the Birth Home and to satisfy fire and access codes. Examples of these types of changes included the two-story exterior stairs / fire escape in the back yard and the concrete driveway that fills the side yard between the Birth Home and 503 Auburn Avenue. In the front yard, changes to the landscape included sodding the existing grass area and edging the lawn area with a low (12-inch-tall) post-and-chain detail to discourage people from walking on the grass. The foundation shrubs were removed and replaced with flower beds that were maintained seasonally. The porch furniture and plant boxes were restored. To accommodate circulation, a secondary path from the front stoop to the driveway was added by the NPS. This path was constructed of hexagonal concrete pavers to match the front walk and sidewalk in front of the Birth Home. In the back yard a 5-foot-tall, 1-foot-wide board fence completely enclosed the space. The fence was evenly cut top and bottom and erected with no measurable space between boards. Access to the back yard was through a wood gate that matched the fence across the end of the driveway at the southeast corner of the house.

A 15-foot-wide hexagonal paver terrace was installed by the NPS and began at the gate and extended 20 feet along the back of the house. It provided a congregation area for groups visiting the

Birth Home. Separated from the terrace by a 3-foot-wide space planted with a double row of Japanese hollies *(Ilex japonica var.)* was a concrete pad for a two-story, painted metal staircase. Two air-conditioning units were placed on the pad beneath the first flight of stairs. Other features in the back yard included a 15-by-15-foot garden plot in the center of the back yard just off the terrace, with peach trees planted along the east side between the garden and the fence. Large paper mulberries have grown up along the south (rear) and west fence lines and caused dense shade across the back yard. A clothesline was placed in the back yard along the west side supported by two metal posts. The back yard was planted with grass.

2018 Existing Condition. Numerous changes occurred within the Birth Home cultural landscape after the 1995 CLR (refer to Figure 253 at the end of this chapter). The Auburn Avenue sidewalk north of the Birth Home is currently paved with exposed aggregate concrete, replacing the hexagonal pavers that were present in the 1995 CLR. The front yard retains the concrete block wall and privet hedge lining the north, east, and west yard boundaries, and the metal post and chain guard along the front walk has been expanded along the secondary walkway leading to the driveway east of the front yard (Figure 155 and Figure 156). Oakleaf hydrangeas have replaced seasonal plantings at the north foundation of the house. The well-defined front lawn area remains turf. The back yard has changed significantly with the removal of the 5-foot-high wood plank fence along the east edge of the property, the NPS garden, the small peach tree, foundation plantings adjacent to the heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) units, metal clothesline pole, and three paper mulberry trees along the west property and southeast property edges. Existing conditions in the back yard also reflect the addition of the wheelchair lift and stairway to the second floor and a concrete hexagonal paver walkway leading from an expanded patio to an opening along the western fence-line, allowing access to the back yard of 497 Auburn Avenue. At present the back yard is maintained in turf and spatially defined on the west and south boundaries with fencing and vegetation. The back yard is a large open space devoid of landscape elements.



FIGURE 155. View of the north facade of the Birth Home (501 Auburn Avenue) with privet hedge defining the front yard and oakleaf hydrangea used as foundation plantings.



FIGURE 156. The entrance to the Birth Home (501 Auburn Avenue) from Auburn Avenue includes the concrete steps and cheek walls flanked on both sides by a low concrete block retaining wall with adjacent privet hedge. Sidewalk is paved with hexagonal concrete pavers with rolled concrete curbs.

Analysis. The Birth Home is an extant and contributing historic feature of the site and the Birth Home block. Additional features that retain integrity are in the front yard and include: the concrete block retaining wall; concrete steps from the sidewalk to the front walkway; the continuous privet hedge that defines the north, east, and west boundary of the front yard; the front concrete hexagonal paver walk, metal post and chain guard; the memorial plaque in the sidewalk; and steps leading to the front porch. The retaining wall exhibits integrity as a feature that was constructed historically to raise the yard 18 inches above the

Auburn Avenue sidewalk. That condition remains today and contributes to the significance of the site. The replacement of the hexagonal pavers on the Auburn Avenue sidewalk with exposed aggregate concrete and the installation of the oakleaf hydrangea foundation plantings reflect historic conditions and possess integrity of materials, design, association, and feeling that contribute to the significance of the landscape. Dramatic changes in the rear yard have totally diminished the integrity of the cultural landscape.

Integrity of the building as an example of the Queen Anne-style residences on Auburn Avenue is retained; however, the rear of the structure and the spatial organization around the house has diminished integrity due to changes made to meet current accessibility standards (Figure 157 through Figure 162).



FIGURE 157. Very little of the historic landscape remained at the Birth Home (501 Auburn Avenue) in 1992. The back yard included the board fence separating 501 and 503, a small peach tree, the small vegetable garden, and additional trees. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 158. By 2018, the wooden plank fence was removed, as were the garden, the peach tree, and three paper mulberry trees. A wheelchair lift was added as well as a hexagonal paver walkway.



FIGURE 159. In 1992, sodding of the existing grass area and edging the lawn areas with a low post-and-chain detail were added to discourage visitors from walking on the grass at 501 Auburn Avenue. Foundation shrubs were replaced with flower beds. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 160. The front yard at 501 Auburn Avenue retains the privet hedge, and oakleaf hydrangeas have replaced seasonal plantings at the north foundation of the house.



FIGURE 161. The back yard of 501 Auburn Avenue in 1992 included the wooden plank fence, peach tree, and garden. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 162. Removal of elements has left the landscape in the back yard of 501 Auburn Avenue devoid of any contributing landscape features. The yard is open and planted only with turf grass.

502 Auburn Avenue; 498–500 Auburn Avenue; and 50 Hogue Street

Historic Condition. A group of three buildings crowded the west corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street. None of these structures survived, and there is little known about them. From the Sanborn maps, the structure at 498–500 Auburn Avenue was a double shotgun that matched, at least in plan view and in its setback from Auburn Avenue, the other double shotguns farther west on the block. The building at 502 Auburn Avenue was a small, one-story grocery store that sat just off the Auburn Avenue sidewalk by a foot or two and against the edge of the Hogue Street sidewalk. The grocery was an important structure not only because it was directly across the street from the Birth Home, but it was a store that was owned and operated by a white family throughout the period of significance. It was a store that the young Martin Luther King Jr. knew well.

A one-story single-family residence, with an L-shaped plan, occupied the site at 50 Hogue Street. It had an almost full facade front porch that

sat approximately 2 feet off the sidewalk edge leaving little space for a front yard. It had no back yard because the rear ell went all the way up to the side yard fence of 500 Auburn. An open lot was present at the north side of the house and may have been used as yard space. Based on the aerial photograph, the yard seemed to be fenced. The only fencing for these three buildings recorded on the Cadastral Survey was a section along the front property line of 498-500 Auburn Avenue. The aerial photograph, however, showed the rear yard of 498-500 enclosed by a fence.

1995 CLR Condition. The only feature that remained from this group of structures is the concrete pad where the grocery store was located. The rest of the site was a vacant grassed lot with one significant elm tree.

2018 Existing Condition. The existing landscape of this lot remains vacant with grass cover (refer to Figure 254 at the end of this chapter). Remnants of the concrete pad also remain on the parcel (Figure 163 and Figure 164). The 30-inch elm is no longer extant. Two ailanthus trees remain on the parcel in the northwest corner, adjacent to the grass right-of-way and granite curb along Old Wheat Street. Small street trees have been planted in the grass strip east of the concrete sidewalk along Hogue Street, the east boundary of this property.



FIGURE 163. View southwest toward Auburn Avenue with the concrete pad remnant where the grocery store was located on the corner property, 502 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 164. View of concrete pad on the 502 Auburn Avenue lot, looking northeast toward Hogue Street.

Analysis. There are no extant historic features on the site that convey the significance of the property. There is integrity of the location of the lot with its clear view across the street to the Birth Home. Interpretation would be required to convey the significance of the property within the neighborhood and the significance of the remnant concrete pad associated with the store that once occupied the site.

503 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. This structure was built circa 1895 at the same time as the Birth Home as a single-family residence in the Queen Anne-style. It shared a driveway with 501 Auburn Avenue, although only 501 seemed to have had access to its back yard from the driveway. At 503, vehicle access to the back yard seemed to be blocked by shrubs growing along the side yard fence. This dwelling has the same front yard setback and deep back yard that characterized most of the houses along the south side of the Birth Home block. A low wall lifted the front yard approximately two feet above the sidewalk grade, and a hedge ran along the top of the wall and down the front-yard property lines. Centered along the front wall were five rough-faced granite steps with a two-inch-thick white marble edging at each end of the steps. A front walk ran from the top of the steps to the porch steps, and both walk and stairs were centered on the front door. The distinguishing feature in the front yard was the large red oak *(Quercus falcata)* just off the west end of the porch near the property line. The only features noted about the back yard are two or three small

outbuildings in the southeast corner. The back yard was fenced.

1995 CLR Condition. At this time, the property was owned by the King Center. The existing front yard landscape approximated the historic setting. The large red oak was the character-defining feature in the front yard. A hedge atop the low retaining wall defined the sidewalk from the front yard. The steps at the sidewalk up to the front yard—rough-faced granite with marble edging—were most likely original to the 1890s house. However, the hexagonal-paver front walk and the revised porch with brick steps, cheek walls, and piers supporting the porch columns were later changes. Because this work so closely resembled the porch treatment directly across the street at 506 Auburn Avenue (built 1933), it was assumed these changes to 503 Auburn dated to within the period of significance. The only foundation shrubs were two wax-leaf Ligustrum *(Ligustrum japonicum)*. These were not assumed to be historic. Everything of historic value was gone from the back yard (date unknown). A thick stand of grass covered the yard. Two large, twenty-inch and thirty-inch diameter, paper mulberries grew along the west property line fence. Because of their fast-growing nature, the mulberries were not assumed to be historic. A retaining wall that separated 503 from 509 along the east property line was removed when 509 Auburn Avenue was torn down circa 1980. A grassed bank was all that remained to define this line.

2018 Existing Condition. A prominent feature from the 1995 CLR documentation was the 56-inch caliper red oak located in the front yard of the building (refer to Figure 255 at the end of this chapter). This tree is no longer extant in the landscape of the front yard. The front sidewalk is paved with brick, replacing the hexagonal pavers. (Figure 165). A concrete block retaining wall with concrete cap stones now runs along the entire length of the northwest boundary of the front yard and the west side of the building's brick foundation. This matches the retaining wall along the east side of the yard and house at 501 Auburn Avenue. The concrete driveway shared by 501 and 503 remains and is in good condition. The driveway extends a few feet east, adjacent to the wooden deck addition with wood steps and a small concrete sidewalk at the bottom of the steps. A section of brick remains on the driveway east of the property and adjacent to 509 Auburn Avenue (Figure 166).



FIGURE 165. Front entrance to 503 Auburn Avenue has granite steps with white marble cheekwalls that pre-date the 1995 CLR.



FIGURE 166. A section of brick remains on the driveway east of the 503 Auburn Avenue property and adjacent to 509 Auburn Avenue.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The cultural landscape of 503 Auburn Avenue retains features of integrity that contribute to the significance of the property and the overall cultural landscape of the neighborhood. The low concrete wall adjacent to the north and west boundaries of 503 has been preserved and retains the scale and proportions of the historic street cross-section of Auburn Avenue. The steps from the sidewalk and the marble cheek walls retain integrity as individual features and integral parts of the streetscape of Auburn Avenue (Figure 167 and Figure 168). Spatial organization

of the front and back yards retains integrity and contributes to the significance of the cultural landscape. Two features no longer extant include the large 56-inch red oak in the front yard and the hexagonal sidewalk pavers on the front entrance walk. The walk is currently paved with brick. Also, the stone retaining wall along the east property line is no longer extant and was not restored as recommended in the 1995 CLR treatment plan.



FIGURE 167. In 1992, the 503 Auburn Avenue property was owned by the King Center. The existing front yard landscape approximated the historic setting. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 168. The historic large red oak is no longer in the landscape of 503 Auburn Avenue, and the front sidewalk is paved with brick, replacing the hexagonal pavers documented in the 1995 CLR.

506 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. This two-story, four-unit apartment building was constructed in 1933 on the site of an earlier residence. At about this same time the back quarter of the lot was subdivided, and a duplex was developed directly behind the apartment building (53-55 Hogue Street). The apartment building had a two-story front porch and a small front yard like the other residences on the north side of Auburn Avenue. It had a centered front walk. The Cadastral Survey and aerial photograph both document a hedge planted along the front property line.

1995 CLR Condition. The landscape of 506 Auburn Avenue was limited to a concrete front walk (not historic), a shrub rose along the front edge of the porch, just west of the porch steps, and the remains of a privet hedge along the sidewalk. The narrow side and rear yards were grassed. The concrete sidewalk (historic materials) was documented in the 1995 CLR as well as the grass strip between the walkway and the granite curb.

2018 Existing Condition. The small concrete front walk with brick steps and cheekwall are extant and a privet hedge has been restored along the entire south property line, adjacent to the concrete sidewalk along Auburn Avenue (Figure 169 and Figure 170; refer to Figure 256 at the end of this chapter). The rose bush in the front yard is no longer extant. Two redbud trees have been added to the grass planting strip between the concrete sidewalk and the granite curb along Hogue Street, west of 506 Auburn Avenue. East of the structure, a board and wire fence has been added running north to south along the boundary line between 506 and 510 Auburn Avenue. The metal fire escape and stairs remain adjacent to the north facade of the structure.



FIGURE 169. A privet hedge has been restored along the entire south property line of 506 Auburn Avenue, adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.



FIGURE 170. The front and side yards of 506 Auburn Avenue are very small, narrow, and planted with turf grass. There are no trees located within the front yard.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. Additional contributing features that remain on the site include: the entrance walkway and brick front steps; the restored privet hedge; the board and wire fence location (the fence itself is not historic) between 506 and 510 Auburn Avenue; and the sidewalk and grass median strip along Hogue Street (Figure 171 and Figure 172). Interventions to retain and reinforce period character were largely a part of treatment recommendations in the 1995 CLR that were implemented.



FIGURE 171. In 1992, the landscape of 506 Auburn Avenue was limited to a concrete front walk (not historic), a shrub rose near the porch steps, and the remains of a privet hedge along the sidewalk. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 172. The small concrete entrance walkway, brick steps, and cheekwall are extant, and a privet hedge has been restored along the south property line of 506 Auburn Avenue.

53-55 Hogue Street

Historic Condition. This duplex was developed on the back half of the lot of 506 Auburn Avenue circa 1930. It had a tiny front yard, approximately six feet deep, determined by the five steps required to reach

the front porch from the sidewalk. There was an equally narrow back yard, and according to the Cadastral Survey, a fence separated it from the back yard of 510 Auburn Avenue. A low retaining wall defined a two-foot-wide side yard that was 12 to 18 inches below the back yard of 506 Auburn Avenue. The side yard along Old Wheat Street was the unpaved setback from the street, and according to the Cadastral Survey there was a fence along the length of the property on north side.

1995 CLR Condition. The landscape of this parcel retained much of its integrity. The front yard was still limited to the tiny patch of ground on either side of the entry steps. The yard was enclosed by a rolled wire fence (one of the last examples of this once popular fence type in the Birth Home block). A narrow planting strip existed as a side yard along Old Wheat Street. This strip was edged with a rubble wall, and it appeared to be a continuation of the wall along the rear setback line of 510 Auburn Avenue. It was assumed to date to the period before the construction of 53 Hogue Street, circa 1930, when all of this lot was the back yard of 506 Auburn Avenue.

2018 Existing Condition. The one-story wood duplex remains on the site and maintained in good condition (refer to Figure 256 at the end of this chapter). The small front lawn remains intact with five concrete steps required to reach the front porch from the sidewalk. There is a crapemyrtle *(Lagerstromia indica)* tree north of the concrete steps and a dogwood tree south of the steps (Figure 173). A low wooden retaining wall defines the small lawn area of the front yard. A wooden porch and steps have been added to the back of the dwelling. There are ornamental shrubs lining the north foundation of the dwelling, and a timber retaining wall provides the planting area for the shrubs. The timber retaining wall extends along the north elevation of the dwelling (Figure 174). At the northeast corner of the duplex, the retaining wall is comprised of low stacked stone and extends the length of the lawn. Granite curbing exists along Old Wheat Street and continues around the corner lot extending to Hogue Street. The depressed area of granite curb remains west of the front sidewalk.



FIGURE 173. West facade of the duplex at 53 Hogue Street contains a crapemyrtle and a dogwood tree. A low wood retaining wall defines the small lawn area of the front yard.



FIGURE 174. A wood timber retaining wall holds a planting bed filled with ornamental foundation plantings. The wooden wall stops at the northeast corner of 53 Hogue Street, and the retaining wall becomes a low stone wall.

Analysis. The duplex building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The landscape of 53 Hogue Street retains much of its integrity. The front yard is still limited to the tiny patch of ground either side of the entry steps. Both are contributing historic features. A narrow planting strip exists as the side yard along Old Wheat Street. The yard, however, is no longer enclosed by a rolled wire fence (one of the last examples of this once popular fence type in the Birth Home block). The rubble wall that edged the planting strip north of the house has been replaced by a timber retaining wall except for one small segment near the northeast corner. Due to the preservation of the duplex, the landscape spatial organization, wall location, and preservation of plant material, the property retains integrity of location, design,

association, and feeling (Figure 175 and Figure 176). Due to changes in materials, and removal of fencing, there is diminished integrity of materials and workmanship.



FIGURE 175. A narrow planting strip existed as a side yard of 53 Hogue Street along Old Wheat Street in 1992. The strip was edged with a rubble wall. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 176. A low wood retaining wall currently supports the planting strip at the foundation of 53 Hogue Street along Old Wheat Street. At the northeast corner of the building the retaining wall becomes low stacked stone and extends the length of the lawn.

509 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. 509 Auburn Avenue was built circa 1930 as apartments for working-class African Americans. A massive building, it was a third wider than any of the other residences and was unadorned except for two, two-story front porches that were associated with each of the four units. The building sat approximately 10 feet closer to the sidewalk than the adjacent Queen Anne-style residences and dominated the smaller buildings on either side of it. The front yard had the same low wall at the sidewalk. The wall was topped by a hedge that went across the front and down the side property lines to the corners of the building. The hedge and wall opened at the middle to accommodate four steps and a centered front walk running straight to the porch steps. A driveway ran along the west edge of the property. The back yard was large and fenced according to the aerial photograph. The only discrepancy between the 1932 Sanborn map and the 1949 aerial photograph was a small outbuilding. On the Sanborn map the outbuilding was illustrated along the east property line, while in the aerial photograph a building of identical size was pictured in the same spot only along the west property line.

1995 CLR Condition. The 1930s apartment building was torn down, and the site was planted with grass by the NPS around 1990. All site features associated with the apartment building were removed at that time except for remnants of a brick driveway at the front (west) property line. A large, 24-inch pecan tree in the back yard was assumed to date to the historic period (1929–1941).

2018 Existing Condition. There have been many changes to 509 Auburn Avenue since the 1995 CLR (refer to Figure 257 at the end of this chapter). The apartment building was replaced with a larger building in 1997, with porches added on both the north and south facades (Figure 177). A concrete parking lot serving 509 and 515 Auburn Avenue was added south and east of the apartment building at 509 Auburn. A large metal double stairwell was constructed south of the apartment building leading from the second-floor porch to the ground, and an attached concrete sidewalk was added leading to the parking area. A mortared stone wall has been added along the Auburn Avenue sidewalk, containing a set of four steps leading from the sidewalk to a small concrete landing (Figure 178 and Figure 179). There is another set of nine steps leading from the concrete landing to the front porch of the building. The steps are wood except for the concrete bottom step and are supported by a concrete cheekwall. Hydrangea shrubs are planted on either side of the large porch steps and privet shrubs are planted

next to the smaller set of steps. The brick drive segment between 503 and 509 is extant, with grass planted along the remainder of the area between the buildings. There is no fencing running along the eastern boundary of 509 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 177. The apartment building at 509 Auburn Avenue was replaced and enlarged in 1997, with porches added on the north and south facades.



FIGURE 178. A mortared stone wall has been added along the sidewalk in front of 509 Auburn Avenue, containing a set of four steps leading from the sidewalk to a small concrete landing.



FIGURE 179. The wayside interpretive sign is located directly behind the wall in front of 509 Auburn Avenue and has the title "Apartment House."

Analysis. As documented in the 1995 CLR, site features were removed along with the structure in circa 1990. There are no contributing features remaining in the cultural landscape of 509 Auburn. Reconstruction of the stone wall adjacent to the sidewalk along Auburn Avenue and the historic location of the new entrance walkway contribute to the integrity of the streetscape of Auburn Avenue and maintain the relationships established historically of the street, sidewalk, wall, yard, steps, and setbacks of the buildings.

510 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. The historic condition of this lot is grouped together with 522 and 518 Auburn Avenue because the landscapes were typical of the Queen Anne houses built between 1893 and 1895 on the north side of the Birth Home block. They have small front yards (approximately 11 feet between the edge of sidewalk and the front porch) and narrow side yards. Hedges are evident in the aerial photograph across the front property one of all three units, although the Cadastral Survey does not record a hedge at 522 Auburn Avenue. Front walks, although centered on the door, were off center to the west at 522 and 518 Auburn, and to the east at 510 Auburn. Walks are concrete with a rolled curb-edge treatment. According to the aerial photograph, the walks at 522 and 518 Auburn turned and ran along the face of the porch on each side as a walk/gutter. No distinguishable landscape features, including outbuildings, were recorded in the back yards. Like all of the yards on

this side of the block, fences enclose the back yard space. The materials of these fences are unknown.

1995 CLR Condition. The privet hedge adjacent to the sidewalk was one of the few remaining features in the tiny front yard of 510 Auburn Avenue. In the back yard, there were remnants of a rubble wall that defined the setback from Old Wheat Street. The most interesting feature was the 20- inch vitex *(Vitex agnus-castus)* just behind the wall remnants. Because of its extremely large size, it was assumed that it dated to the period of significance and probably much earlier.

2018 Existing Condition. The two-story wood building remains and is in good condition (refer to Figure 258 at the end of this chapter). The yards have lost all historic features except the privet hedge adjacent to the sidewalk. In the back yard, the large vitex is no longer extant and other missing features include ailanthus and paper mulberry trees (non-historic), the clotheslines, and the metal fence (non-historic) along the east boundary. A stone wall along the north edge of the back yard is extant and was documented in the 1995 CLR. It was drawn as part of the historic condition, but not mentioned in the text. The dirt side yards and back yard have been replaced with grass, and a new board and wire fence was constructed along the west property boundary from Auburn Avenue to the edge of the structure (53 Hogue Street). In the front yard, privet shrubs have replaced the holly hedge east of the front walk (Figure 180). The privet hedge adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk remains. A wayside sign has been installed inside the board and wire fence that runs from the west boundary to the privet hedge, in close proximity to the sidewalk. The title of the wayside is "Stepping Up" (Figure 181). The concrete front sidewalk and steps remain in good condition.



FIGURE 180. The yard of 510 Auburn Avenue has lost all historic features except the privet hedge along the front sidewalk. Privet shrubs have replaced the holly hedge east of the front walk.



FIGURE 181. A wayside interpretive sign, "Stepping Up," is located in the southwest corner of the front yard of 510 Auburn Avenue.

Analysis. The building and the privet hedge adjacent to the entrance walkway are the only extant and contributing historic features on 510 Auburn Avenue (Figure 182 and Figure 183). The large vitex tree no longer survives, and the stump was not preserved as recommended in the 1995 CLR treatment plan, in order to take cuttings and propagate for future plantings. Fencing was documented as the historic condition and defined the entire property boundary. Currently, there is fencing along the west property boundary and the east edge of the back yard. The stone wall along the north edge of the back yard is extant and was recorded in the 1995 CLR. No text was provided to verify the wall was a historic feature. The concrete steps indicated in the 1995 CLR were not shown as part of the historic condition of the front yard.



FIGURE 182. The building at 510 Auburn Avenue was in very poor to fair condition in 1992. The privet hedge was one of the few remaining features in the tiny front yard. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 183. The building is in good condition but the yards have lost all historic features except the privet hedge along the front sidewalk.

514 Auburn Avenue, Shaw-Lightner House

Historic Condition. The Shaw-Lightner House was constructed as a single-family dwelling for F. Knox, one of the original white residents of the area. When Mrs. Lightner and her first husband, J. H. Shaw, purchased the house in 1923, the house had never been modified. However, the house was converted to a duplex in order to generate income following the death of Mr. Shaw in 1930. The front yard was enclosed by a grey picket fence that sat on top of a 1-foot-high cement base. The pickets were stakes about 1 inch thick and pointed at the top. A gate in the fence separated the front walkway from the sidewalk. The front yard was very small but full of a variety of plants. Even though the yard was seeded with Bermuda grass each spring, the grass was very fine and sparse and maintained with a scissors or a scythe. Near the fence on the east side of the yard, there was a small tree that Mrs. Lightner called a pepper tree. Also, on the right side of the yard, closer to the house, was a magnolia tree that Mrs. Lightner planted in 1936–1937. Planted along the inside of the fence were hedges, flowering shrubs, and vines. On the east side was a gardenia bush, and on the west side were rose bushes. There were no foundation plants in front of the porch because the cement walkway turned and narrowed to form a gutter / walk across the front of the house on each side. Hedges separated the front yard on both sides from the neighbors' yards. In contrast to the ornamental plant varieties of the front yard, the back yard was composed of dirt, some weeds, and wild tomato bushes that would frequently have to be cut back. Two peach trees planted on either side of the back stairs were the only other vegetation in the back yard. A 6-foot-high board fence enclosed the back yard. Other features of the back yard included a clothesline that ran from the east corner of the house to the fence post on the far east side of the yard, and a play area for the children on the west side of the back yard.

1995 CLR Condition. Nothing of the historic landscape recorded in the oral history was extant at the Shaw-Lightner house. The structure was owned by the NPS and was restored as a duplex. The small front yard changed significantly with the removal of all the shrubs except for one hydrangea on the front east property line. The sidewalk in front of the residence was replaced (date unknown) and widened approximately 1 foot into the yard. The NPS planted a hedge of variegated privet at this time. In addition, the front walk was replaced with a crude version of the original: gently rounded edges were squared off, and a smooth finish was replaced with a rough, broom-swept finish. A two-story rear addition was constructed circa 1965, which obliterated most of the back yard. An exterior stairway was added down the west side of this addition into the back yard. An 18-inch rubble wall defined the property line along the west side. Along the east property

line, only a piece of rolled wire fence was left. The surface of the back yard was entirely paved with concrete. This same paving continued halfway down the building along the east side where the concrete transitioned into dirt. Stairs at the northeast corner of the house climbed up to the front yard from the east side yard.

2018 Existing Condition. Existing conditions for this property are indicative of changes since the 1995 CLR (refer to Figure 259 at the end of this chapter). As recorded at that time, none of the historic landscape was extant at the house. The rear addition to the structure, constructed circa 1960, remains, with the adjacent metal fire escape. Trees in the back yard have been removed and the dirt side yard east of the structure is now planted in grass. A wood picket fence with a gate replaced the picket fence atop a 1-foot-high cement base. The fence currently extends along the edge of the front yard adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk and defines short segments of the east and west boundaries of the property. A large butterfly bush has been planted in the front yard, and the front sidewalk has been reduced in width (Figure 184). A privet hedge (not variegated) remains along the edge of the front yard adjacent to the sidewalk. A wayside sign ("Neighborhood Pride") is located next to the hedge, adjacent to the front sidewalk to the house (Figure 185).



FIGURE 184. A wooden picket fence with a gate defines the front yard of 514 Auburn Avenue and partially defines the two side yards. A privet hedge is located behind the fence, and a large butterfly bush is located in the southeast corner of the front yard.



FIGURE 185. A wayside interpretive sign, "Neighborhood Pride," is located in the southwest corner of the 514 Auburn Avenue property adjacent to the concrete walkway at the entrance.

Analysis. The building and the privet hedge are the two remaining extant and contributing historic features. Many changes occurred that subsequently diminished the integrity of this property (Figure 186 and Figure 187). Changes since the 1995 CLR further diminish the historic character of the property. The back yard is compromised by the rear addition to the house and is void of any features.



FIGURE 186. In 1992, 514 Auburn Avenue was restored as a duplex. The National Park Service planted a hedge of variegated privet and the front walk was replaced with a version of the original. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 187. A wood picket fence with a gate replaced the picket fence atop a one-foot-high cement base in front of 514 Auburn Avenue. A privet hedge remains along the edge of the front yard adjacent to the sidewalk.

515 Auburn Avenue, Faison House

Historic Condition. This structure was one of two, one-story cottages constructed on the Birth Home block. It was built circa 1909, and its original owner was an African American, Charles Faison, who lived here until 1940. The house sat on a large lot with a front setback that was 15 feet deeper than 509 Auburn Avenue, but not as deep as that of 521 Auburn Avenue. Its neighbor to the east sat back an additional 15 feet. A low wall ran along the front property line, although the 1937 Cadastral Survey recorded only a fence at this location. A hedge appears to enclose the front yard in the aerial photograph. Three steps break the front wall approximately midway, and from the top step, a front walk runs straight to the house. The Sanborn map documented two outbuildings in the back yard—one rectangular and one square—joined end-to-end along the east property line. From the aerial photograph, it appears that only the square building still existed by 1949.

1995 CLR Condition. Historic features in the front yard remained relatively intact. The same low wall that defined the front edge of the properties on the south side of the Birth Home block was extant at 515 Auburn Avenue. A privet hedge topped the wall for most of the distance with one notable gap at the east end. A 20-inch diameter post oak *(Quercus stellata)* sat just behind the hedge on the west side of the front yard. Two azaleas were planted on the east side of the front porch. A 30-inch water oak *(Quercus nigra)* was growing on the east property line, midway along the side of the front porch. The front walk was the original concrete, scored with paired squares and a rolled-curb edge. A 4-foot-tall chain-link fence enclosed the yard. Because of dense growth of vegetation along the side yard fence, a 28-inch-diameter elm *(Ulmus paviflora)* was the only back yard feature surveyed.

2018 Existing Condition. There have been changes to the cultural landscape of 515 Auburn (refer to Figure 260 at the end of this chapter). In the front and side yard, two trees are missing, including the 48-inch elm east of the house and the 14-inch box elder on the west side of the property. There is a 36-inch post oak that remains in the

front yard; its location was part of the historic condition of the property. The 18-inch concrete block wall remains along the north edge of the property adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 188). This is the typical street, sidewalk, and setback section for this block. The location of concrete steps and entrance walkway leading to the house remain from the historic period. The current scored concrete is relatively new and in good condition (Figure 189). The former rolled curb edge has been removed. A steel-edged planting bed has been added to both sides of the front sidewalk and extends to the north foundation of the residential structure. The post and wire fence along the top of the concrete block wall on the north property boundary replaced a 4-foot-high chain-link fence. A concrete block wall was added on the west side of the lot running the length of the front yard and ending just beyond the southwest corner of the house. Adjacent to the wall is a concrete driveway that runs the length of the property from Auburn Avenue to the parking area south of the house, serving 515 and 509 Auburn Avenue. A wood deck and ramp were added to the south facade of the house, and the remainder of the back yard is turf lawn. There are weed trees in the southeast corner of the back yard.



FIGURE 188. A concrete block retaining wall is a major feature that defines the north property boundary of 515 Auburn Avenue as well as the west boundary adjacent to the driveway shared with 509 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 189. The location of the front concrete steps and entrance walkway to 515 Auburn Avenue remain from the period of significance. The current concrete paving material is in good condition.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The cultural landscape of 515 Auburn Avenue retains features of integrity that contribute to the significance of the property and the overall cultural landscape of the neighborhood (Figure 190 and Figure 191). The concrete block retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk has been preserved and retains the scale and proportions of the historic street cross-section of Auburn Avenue. The steps from the sidewalk and the associated cheek walls also retain integrity and are contributing features of the streetscape of Auburn Avenue. A large post oak tree is a contributing feature and is located in the northwest portion of the front yard and a continuous privet hedge defines the north and west boundary of the front yard. Two features no longer extant include the large 48-inch elm east of the house and the box elder in the front yard. The walk is currently paved with scored concrete and the historic rolled curb is missing. Integrity of location, setting, association, and feeling is retained, with diminished integrity of materials and design.



FIGURE 190. Historic features remained in the landscape of 515 Auburn Avenue in 1992, including the low wall defining the front edge of the properties and a privet hedge topping the wall with one noticeable gap. Large trees were present in the front yard. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 191. A 36-inch post oak tree remains in the front yard of 515 Auburn Avenue and predates the 1995 CLR. The 18-inch concrete block wall and the front concrete steps and entrance walkway to the house remain. These are historic features surviving from the period of significance.

518 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. The historic condition of this lot is grouped together with 522 and 510 Auburn Avenue because the landscapes were typical of the Queen Anne houses built between 1893 and 1895 on the north side of the Birth Home block. They have small front yards (approximately 11 feet between the edge of sidewalk and the front porch) and narrow side yards. Hedges are evident in the aerial photograph across the front property of all three units, although the Cadastral Survey does not record a hedge at 522 Auburn Avenue. Front walks, although centered on the door, were off center to the west at 522 and 518 Auburn, and to the east at 510 Auburn. Walks were concrete with a rolled curb-edge treatment. According to the aerial photograph, the walks at 522 and 518 Auburn turned and ran along the face of the porch on each side, as a walk / gutter. Similar to all of the other yards on this side of the block, fences enclosed the back yard space. The materials of these fences are unknown.

1995 CLR Condition. Several of the historic landscape features were still evident at 518 Auburn Avenue. The original concrete walk, with a rolled-curb edge, was extant in the front yard. An 18-inch elm tree dominated the east side of the front yard, and pieces of a privet hedge were extant along the front property line. Features that defined the historic character of the back yard no longer survived. One large elm tree shaded the space along with three paper mulberry trees, two of which were grouped tightly with an ailanthus tree. There was also a small peach tree near the northeast corner of the house.

2018 Existing Condition. Some of the historic landscape features are evident at 518 Auburn (refer to Figure 261 at the end of this chapter). The concrete entrance walkway with rolled-curb edge is extant but in very poor condition. The rolled curb has broken up completely on some areas, and the walk is cracked and missing a small section of concrete (Figure 192). The size of the front, rear, and side yards remains the same, and the site retains a large 36-inch elm tree in the front yard. The privet hedge remains but individual plants need various degrees of maintenance. The brick and stone wall remains on the west boundary of the property (although deteriorated), and the concrete block wall is on the east boundary of the property. Two mulberry trees remain in the back yard. The peach tree, elm tree, and ailanthus tree are no longer extant. Turf lawn is maintained in both the front and back yards (Figure 193).



FIGURE 192. The concrete walk with rolled-curb edge remains in front of 518 Auburn Avenue but is in very poor condition.



FIGURE 193. The front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue is planted with turf grass and is the location of the large elm tree. The tree has a high canopy depicted in the photograph from the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature. The front yard retains features that contribute to the significance of the property. These include the concrete sidewalk with roll-curb edge, the privet hedge, and the large 36-inch elm tree that dominates the small front yard (Figure 194 and Figure 195). The integrity of the entrance walkway and roll-curb is severely compromised due to the poor condition of both features. The privet hedge has diminished integrity due to the condition of the plantings. The large tree retains integrity of location, association, setting, and materials.



FIGURE 194. Several historic landscape features associated with 518 Auburn Avenue were still evident in 1992 including concrete walk with a rolled-curb edge and an elm tree in the front yard. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 195. The concrete sidewalk with rolled-curb edge, the privet hedge, and the large elm remain in the front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue.

521 and 521B Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. The Calhoun House was an Italianate-style structure and was the oldest dwelling remaining on the Birth Home block (Note: this is the historic condition as recorded in the 1995 CLR. The 1995 CLR documentation predates the fire that destroyed the original dwelling in the late 1990s). It was purchased and occupied by Moses and Polly Mae Calhoun in 1913. They remained in this house until their deaths. Mrs. Calhoun's sister, Ida McKennon, came to live with them in the 1940s and continued to reside there at least until 1991. The Calhoun house was originally constructed as a single-family

dwelling. However, consistent with changing socio-economic patterns in the study area, it was converted to three apartments in 1931. In addition to the house, there was a small outbuilding sitting next to the sidewalk, where Mr. Calhoun operated a small neighborhood restaurant and store. This structure was converted into a living space in 1936. The space in the front yard was significantly larger than that of the other single-family dwellings. Because the family was farmers, they chose to use the space for a large vegetable garden. There was also a smaller garden on the east side of the yard where vegetables were grown. The entire front yard was fenced from the street and adjacent properties with rolled wire on wood supports. Hydrangeas and other bushes were planted along the foundation of the house. Plum trees were planted along the east side yard fence, and a large oak tree was located on this same side. The back yard was very spacious, and a large portion of it was used for planting another garden. This garden was the largest of the three and contained a variety of vegetables. There was also a small shed in the back yard where the family kept their hoes, plows, and garden tools. The family clotheslines were located in the back yard and strung between trees.

1995 CLR Condition. No access was granted to the NPS to conduct a detailed survey of the Calhoun landscape. Because it was the oldest house on the block and still privately owned, it had some of the most interesting extant landscape features. Details of the existing front yard landscape were obtained from a visual assessment made from the sidewalk and during the oral history. No survey of the back yard was completed. The most important feature in the yard, and to the overall streetscape, was the one-story outbuilding that was extant at the northeast corner of the lot, adjacent to the sidewalk (521B Auburn Avenue). The structure rested on piers approximately 18 inches off the ground. Like the main house, it was covered with siding, and the original fabric and its condition was not determined. The front yard was enclosed by a non-historic 4-foot-high chain-link fence. The front walk was an interesting original detail. It was a smooth concrete walk that had a scored diamond pattern with a rolled-curb edge. This edge detail was typical of many of the old entrance walkways, and was one of the best surviving examples. A concrete driveway was installed about 1980 along the east property line into the back yard. A black iron gate was installed across the driveway.

2018 Existing Condition. In the late 1990s, an ice storm occurred in Atlanta that subsequently caused a fire in the structure at 521 Auburn (refer to Figure 262 at the end of this chapter). The building burned to the ground, with only partial steps and some foundation remaining. Therefore, by 2001 the lot was vacant except for 521B adjacent to the sidewalk. The extant dwelling on this privately owned parcel was constructed in 2004 and remains a private residence today. Two large trees are extant in the front yard adjacent to the north property boundary: one is the 50-inch water oak west of the front walkway and the other is the 30-inch post oak (in very poor condition) adjacent to the steps to 521B in the northeast corner of the property (Figure 196). A second water oak in the front yard is no longer extant. Two oak trees are located in the front yard, between the front sidewalk and the concrete driveway. A privet hedge lines the north segment of the properly line west of the front walkway and continues between the east side of the walkway to the corner of 521B. Privet hedges are located west of the concrete driveway and along the east property line behind 521B and continue to the northeast corner of the house. The front concrete sidewalk runs to the front steps that continue up to the front porch of the house (Figure 197). A secondary sidewalk runs between the driveway and the concrete stoop at the bottom of the porch steps. The driveway is concrete and currently extends into the back yard. It is adjacent to new wood decking and staircases attached to the south side of the house. A small shed in the back yard is no longer extant. An extensive asphalt parking lot was added in the back yard. A chain-link fence encloses the back yard.



FIGURE 196. The two large trees in the front yard of 521 Auburn Avenue adjacent to the north property boundary survive from the period of significance. Additional trees have been planted.



FIGURE 197. The small building (521B Auburn Avenue) which was once a store remains in its original location adjacent to the front sidewalk of 521 Auburn Avenue.

Analysis. The extant reconstructed building is considered a noncontributing feature. However, the property exhibits integrity of location, setting, and association. The small building (521B), which was once a store, remains in its original location and in the same spatial relationship to the larger building. It is an extant historic feature of the property. Two large trees survive from the period of significance and, together with 521B, convey the significance of the site (Figure 198 and Figure 199). The location of the entrance walkway and the secondary walkway retain integrity of location, setting, and association. Integrity is diminished due to the change in materials on the sidewalk and design details that were not duplicated in the rehabilitation of the property. Extensive changes in the back yard diminish the integrity of the site and there are no features that convey the significance of the property.



FIGURE 198. The building at 521 Auburn Avenue in 1992 was the original building constructed in the late 1800s. The small outbuilding was also extant in 1992. The yard was enclosed by a non-historic 4-foot-high chain-link fence. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 199. The current building at 521 Auburn Avenue was constructed in 2004 after a fire destroyed the original. The small 521B structure remains on the site in its original location.

522 Auburn Avenue, Bryant-Graves House

Historic Condition. The historic conditions of 522, 518, and 510 Auburn Avenue are grouped together because the landscapes were typical of the Queen Anne houses built between 1893 and 1895 on the north side of the Birth Home block. They had small front yards (approximately 11 feet between the edge of sidewalk and the front porch) and narrow side yards. Hedges were evident in the aerial photograph across the front property line of all three units, although the Cadastral Survey did not record a hedge at 522 Auburn Avenue. Front walks, although centered on the door, were off

center to the west at 522 and 518 Auburn and to the east at 510 Auburn. Walks were concrete with a rolled-curb edge treatment. According to the aerial photograph, the walks at 522 and 518 Auburn turned and ran along the face of the porch on each side as a walk / gutter.

1995 CLR Condition. This was one of the first structures on Auburn Avenue purchased and rehabilitated by the National Park Service. The existing landscape reflected the changes that the NPS made during the process. These changes included re-pouring the front walk with smaller radii at corners and widening the walk / gutter detail to the width of the walk and extending it to the east to meet a new walk in the front yard of 526 Auburn Avenue. A patch of grass east of the front walk was replaced with hexagonal pavers and a flagpole was installed. A 10-inch dogwood *(Cornus florida)* in the east front corner was probably the only remnant from the historic period. The back yard was equally disturbed by the elimination of historic features and the addition of non-historic fabric. A 12-foot-wide concrete drive was added from Old Wheat Street to the house. At the south elevation of the house the drive narrowed to 6 feet and continued as a walk around to the west and down the east side yard. An arbor, grown over with grape vines, and an 18-inch-square paver floor were installed just west of the driveway. A non-historic brick pier and wood picket fence was placed along the back yard setback from Old Wheat Street.

2018 Existing Condition. The building remains on the site in good condition (refer to Figure 263 at the end of this chapter). It is currently the home of the Historic District Development Corporation (HDDC). An identity sign has been located in the front yard on the hexagonal pavers that surround the flag pole. Hexagonal pavers also connect the front walkways of 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue (Figure 200). One large flower pot containing a prolific leafing annual is located behind the identity sign, and two additional pots are located on either side of the porch steps. A wayside sign ("Bryant Graves House") is located adjacent to the entrance sidewalk (Figure 201). The dogwood tree has been removed from the front yard, as have the privet shrubs along the edge of the front yard adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. The poured concrete front yard walk with rolled edges remains, as does the brick wall along the east property boundary for a small distance north. From there, it meets a stone wall that edges the east property boundary to the north property boundary and sidewalk associated with Old Wheat Street. A concrete block wall runs the length of the west boundary of the property, and a wood fence with a brick wall base defines the north edge of the property on either side of the concrete driveway. Large fig trees are located in the back yard and a grape arbor anchored in square concrete pavers.



FIGURE 200. The poured concrete entrance walkway with rolled edges remains at 522 Auburn Avenue. Hexagonal pavers surround the flagpole and connect the front walkways of 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 201. There is a wayside interpretive sign in the southwest corner of the front yard of 522 Auburn Avenue. The title of the wayside is "Bryant-Graves House."

Analysis. The building is the only extant and contributing historic feature of 522 Auburn Avenue. Improvements in the front and back yard

of this dwelling made by the NPS as documented in the 1995 CLR were not implemented with any research or interest in interpreting a historic landscape. Many of the features and conditions remain on the site today, and no effort was made to implement treatment recommendations that would enhance interpretation of the historic landscape. At present, the building is the only contributing feature on the property (Figure 202 and Figure 203).



FIGURE 202. 522 Auburn Avenue was one of the first buildings on Auburn Avenue purchased and rehabilitated by the NPS. The landscape in 1992 reflected the changes made during the process. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 203. The building at 522 Auburn Avenue remains on the site in good condition and is currently the home of the Historic District Development Corporation. Changes in the landscape are evident in the front yard.

526 Auburn Avenue, Kirk House

Historic Condition. According to the oral histories, the Kirks' front yard was surrounded by a black iron fence that was approximately 4 feet high. A gate at the sidewalk provided entry into the front yard. Within the yard itself, grass was maintained and a tree (species unknown) was located in the middle of the west side of the yard. Beginning with one shrub east of the gate, a hedge ran along the inside of the fence on the west side and connected to another hedge along the west property line. The exact type of shrub is not known; however, it was evergreen and did not flower. The house porch was typical of the single-family dwellings on Auburn Avenue and included the usual group of chairs. The back yard contained a large garden that covered most of the west side. The back yard was fenced in on two sides by a fairly high—4- to 5-foot—wire fence that was described as resembling a large mesh chicken-wire fence. This fence sat on some blocks or stones that were piled up to increase its height. On the east side of the yard, a high brick retaining wall secured the rest of the yard from the street. There was also a peach tree located near the house on the west side of the yard toward the bottom of the stairs, and a yellow flowering plant, probably a forsythia, on the east side along the brick wall.

1995 CLR Condition. None of the historic landscape within the yards described in the oral histories survived at the Kirk house. Two Chinese elm trees *(Ulmus parvifolia)* were located in sidewalk tree wells south of the Kirk house. The street trees were present before 1992. The structure was rehabilitated by the NPS and used as NPS office space. All of the foundation shrubs (privet) were removed, as well as some shrubs on the east side of the porch and one nandina *(Nandina domestica)* on the west side of the porch. A walkway was extended from 522 Auburn to the entrance walkway of the Kirk house. In addition, the front yard was sodded, and an NPS identification sign was placed at the left side of the front walk near the edge of the sidewalk. A survey completed by the NPS in 1985 recorded "wood-framed, rolled wire fence" across the front property line. This fence was gone, and new privet shrubs were added to extend the hedge at 522 Auburn up to the NPS sign in the yard of 526 Auburn. The upper side yards were sodded. Four-foot-high (from the low side) brick retaining walls crossed the east and west side yards between houses. Below the wall the ground was dirt. In the

back yard the groundcover was mixed species grass. The fence across the back property was gone. Collapsed pieces of a rubble retaining wall existed along the east property line. The south elevation of the house was a raised one-story facade. The foundation of the elevation was planted with post-1985 privet shrubs. Wooden stairs came down from the center of the main floor and terminated in a wooden landing, out from which ran a narrow walk of paired square stepping stones laid to the rear property line. There were no significant plants in the back yard.

2018 Existing Condition. The building is maintained and is in good condition (refer to Figure 264 at the end of this chapter). An interpretive wayside exhibit has been added in the small, grassed front yard southeast of the dwelling. The exhibit title is "A Relaxing Atmosphere," and the wayside describes the general character and function of the neighborhood (Figure 204). The interpretive exhibit is not specific to the structure. Two Chinese elms remain south of the structure in the sidewalk tree pits. The hexagonal paver walkway to 522 Auburn Avenue remains in good condition, but the adjacent dogwood tree was removed and not replaced as recommended in the 1995 CLR (Figure 205). The front concrete entrance walkway and step are extant and in good condition, with a squared curb edging instead of a rounded edging as documented in the 1995 CLR. Flower pots have been added on either side of the front porch steps. There is one privet shrub located at the southeast corner of the structure, and several privet shrubs located on either side of the rear entrance to 526 Auburn Avenue. The brick wall with chain-link fencing on the southeast boundary of the property still remains. There is also a mortared stone wall that extends along the west property line from the front yard to within a few feet of the curb of Old Wheat Street, adjacent to the back yard.



FIGURE 204. A wayside interpretive sign is located in the southeast corner of the front yard of 526 Auburn Avenue. The title of the wayside is "A Relaxing Atmosphere."



FIGURE 205. The front walkway of 526 Auburn Avenue is concrete with concrete-squared curbs and one concrete step to the porch. A walkway with hexagonal pavers connects 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue.

Analysis. The building is the only extant and contributing historic feature of 526 Auburn Avenue. As stated in the 1995 CLR, there are no historic landscape features left to be preserved at 526 Auburn Avenue (Figure 206 and Figure 207). The street trees in this location are extant historic features of the streetscape and contribute to the significance of the neighborhood. A few treatment recommendations were implemented, but key features such as the black iron fence that enclosed the front yard were not rehabilitated for the purpose of interpretation based on oral histories. Grass has been retained as appropriate maintenance for the front yard. Nothing remains of the back yard landscape that was recorded in the oral history and full restoration was not recommended in the 1995 CLR.



FIGURE 206. None of the historic landscape described in the oral histories survived at 526 Auburn Avenue. One of the large elm trees planted in a tree pit in the sidewalk was visible in 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 207. An interpretive wayside has been added to the front yard of 526 Auburn Avenue.

530 Auburn Avenue, Nowell House

Historic Condition. The front yard of the Nowell house was enclosed by a 3-foot-high black iron fence that separated the Nowells' yard from the sidewalk on the front and east and the neighboring property to the west. Running along the inside of the fence on the front and east sides was a hedge that was kept neatly trimmed at about the height of the fence. Flowers were planted on the inside of the hedge, facing the house to add variety and color to the yard. Typical of the properties on the north side of Auburn Avenue, the Nowells' front yard was quite small. Originally there had been one tree on either side of the front walk; however, the tree on the east side was cut down because it became too big and was growing too close to the house. The yard had grass, probably Bermuda. The front porch of the Nowell house was also typical of the neighborhood. There was a porch swing and porch chairs. The major difference noted between the landscape of the Nowell house and the other single-family dwellings on the Birth Home block was the absence of a back yard. The proximity of 20 Howell Street left no space for a back yard. As a result, the family used the space on the west side of the house to place their clothesline and store their garbage bins. The yard was originally a flat dirt space wide enough to accommodate a work area.

1995 CLR Condition. The Nowell house was in private ownership during development of the 1995 CLR and occupied by Annie Nowell Johnson. There was no major renovation of the building or yard, and as a result, the landscape retained much of its historic integrity according to the oral history. The most notable change was the amount of shade cast by a 40-inch-diameter water oak *(Quercus nigra)* and resulting lack of vegetation, especially grass growing in the small front yard. The hedges took over the iron fence on two sides, almost obscuring it from view. Along the west property line the fence was exposed. The Nowell house had no back yard because of the proximity of the apartment building at the southwest corner of Howell and Old Wheat streets.

2018 Existing Condition. The treatment of the house and yard at 530 Auburn Avenue was completed in 2018 after a large oak tree impacting the iron fence and hedge was taken down and the fence and hedge restored. Some sections of the fence are original and some sections were replaced in kind (Figure 208). The hedge was replaced with variegated privet. The brick herringbone pattern sidewalk east of 530 Auburn Avenue is preserved and brick paving was installed on the segment continuing in front of 54 Howell Street. The enclosed landscape is grass lawn. Hydrangea shrubs are present at the base of the front porch (refer to Figure 265 at the end of this chapter). The west side-yard is concrete with concrete steps and path leading to the rear area of the house. A new entrance was created from the brick sidewalk along Howell Street to the southeast corner of the

house (Figure 209). A small concrete walk leads to the wooden steps and porch.



FIGURE 208. The ornamental iron fence was replaced on the site during the rehabilitation of 530 Auburn Avenue. Some segments of the fence are original and others are replaced in kind.



FIGURE 209. A new entrance was created on the east facade of 530 Auburn Avenue providing access from the sidewalk along Howell Street.

Analysis. Within the rehabilitation of the entire property, the NPS has maintained many of the historic landscape features associated with this property (Figure 210 and Figure 211). The building is an extant contributing feature and the wrought iron fence retains integrity of location, association, materials, and design. The size of the yard and the perimeter hedge planting also retain integrity of location, association, materials, and feeling. The historic hedge was restored with variegated plants and does not diminish integrity. Within the rehabilitation treatment, the hedge retains the historic spatial organization and design of the front yard.



FIGURE 210. The landscape at 530 Auburn Avenue retained much of its historic integrity in 1992. Most notable was the 40-inch-diameter water oak. The hedges overgrew the iron fence on two sides almost obscuring it from view. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 211. The rehabilitation of 530 Auburn Avenue by the NPS was completed in 2018. Sections of the wrought iron fence are original and sections were replaced in kind. (Leslie Schwartz, 2018)

54 Howell Street NE

Historic Condition. Built in 1931 on the back half of the 530 Auburn Avenue property, this apartment building was occupied by a series of African American tenants. The footprint of the building, which included almost full facade, two-story porches across the front and back, filled the buildable space to the property lines. From the aerial photograph, it is evident that the brick sidewalk in front of the apartment building recorded on the Cadastral Survey was replaced with another material, probably concrete, between 1937 and 1949.

1995 CLR Condition. Rehabilitated in the summer of 1992 by the NPS, the apartment building at 54 Howell Street was close to its original condition by 1995. There was so little landscape associated with this site that it maintained integrity. Historic conditions outside the site changed. The duplexes were gone from the northwest corner of Old Wheat Street, and the small store across the street at 57 Howell Street was also gone.

2018 Existing Condition. There is little vegetation associated with the small landscape area of this site (refer to Figure 266 at the end of this chapter). The brick sidewalk east of the building along Howell Street extends the length of the property boundary and wraps around the corner intersection of Old Wheat and Howell streets and ends at the grassed side yard of the structure (Figure 212). The brick wall with chain-link fencing on the top is documented in the 1995 CLR along the west boundary of the property (Figure 213). There are some vestiges of vine growth on the chain-link fence.



FIGURE 212. The brick herringbone pattern sidewalk turns the corner at the intersection of Howell Street and Old Wheat Street in front of 54 Howell Street.



FIGURE 213. West facade of 54 Howell Street retains the brick wall with chain-link fencing on the top.

Analysis. The building is an extant historic feature and contributes to the significance of the site. The cultural landscape associated with 54 Howell Street is limited in size but retains integrity (Figure 214 and Figure 215). The brick herringbone pattern sidewalk depicted on the Cadastral Survey was restored, replacing the concrete sidewalk constructed between 1937 and 1949. This is a historic feature that contributes to the significance of the 54 Howell Street property. A brick wall with fencing on top defines the west property line and is also a contributing feature to the significance of the small landscape of 54 Howell.



FIGURE 214. 54 Howell Street was rehabilitated after this photograph was taken in 1992, and the building was close to its original condition by 1995. There was little landscape associated with the site. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 215. The brick wall with chain-link fencing on the west facade of 54 Howell Street remains on the site.

531–533 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. Two historic names for this property were illustrated on period maps. The 1928 City of Atlanta topographic map labeled this complex of four buildings (three pyramidal roof double shotguns and one rectangular duplex) as the Baptist Memorial Institute School, while the 1932 Sanborn map referred to the same area as the Sylvia Bryant Baptist Sunday School and Dormitory. No records from either of these institutions were found, and nothing remained of the historic structures or landscape. Two apartment buildings were erected on this site in 1954 and were demolished by the NPS in spring of 1995.

1995 CLR Condition. The site became open space due to the removal of the two apartment buildings. At this time, it was maintained as open space with grass turf.

2018 Existing Condition. This site remains an open space with grass turf (refer to Figure 267 at the end of this chapter). A wood plank fence defines the east boundary of the parcel, adjacent to 535 Auburn Avenue and behind the residences on Howell Street. A cinderblock wall delineates the south boundary and most of the west boundary of the parcel. The wall stops at the 521B structure that marks the remainder of the west boundary. There are three large magnolia trees in the southeast corner of the parcel and two large deciduous trees, one located on the northeast corner and one on the northwest corner (Figure 216). Various smaller trees form an opaque screen on the south boundary that separates the parcel from Edgewood Avenue properties. There are a number of magnolia trees along the south and west boundaries. A wayside exhibit installed adjacent to the sidewalk on Auburn Avenue interprets the previous use of this parcel in the Birth Home block (Figure 217). The exhibit title is "Bryant Preparatory Institute." A trash container has been added to the site approximately 10 feet behind the wayside exhibit (Figure 218).



FIGURE 216. Extensive vegetation exists on the vacant 531 Auburn Avenue lot, including large magnolia and mulberry trees.



FIGURE 217. A wayside interpretive sign is located near the sidewalk on the 531 Auburn Avenue lot. The title of the wayside is "Bryant Preparatory Institute."



FIGURE 218. The 531 Auburn Avenue lot became open space due to the removal of the two apartment buildings. It is maintained as open space with grass turf.

Analysis. The story of this site and its features would need to be told through various forms of interpretation. No physical features exist that convey the significance of the site.

535 Auburn Avenue, Harper House

Historic Condition. Charles L. Harper owned and occupied this circa 1895 house from 1910 to 1945. He was the first African American high school principal in the city of Atlanta. The two-story house, with a one-story rear addition, occupied most of the small site. The remaining yard space was equally distributed around the house. The Cadastral Survey documented a hedge across the front property line and halfway down the side property lines. The rear yard was assumed to have been fenced in, and a small outbuilding was documented on the Sanborn map in the back yard at the southeast corner. This outbuilding was not evident on the aerial photograph.

1995 CLR Condition. The National Park Service completed the rehabilitation of this house in the fall of 1992. Extant landscape features consisted of a hedge of abelia (*Abelia grandiflora)*, privet, and Rose-of-Sharon across the front property line and a 24-inch crapemyrtle *(Lagerstroemia indica)* behind the hedge on the west property line.

2018 Existing Condition. A large pecan tree is currently established in the northwest corner of the property, adjacent to the existing crapemyrtle tree (refer to Figure 268 at the end of this chapter). A single Rose-of-Sharon shrub is located west of the steps adjacent to the foundation of the house. A pruned hedge with gaps is located along the north edge of the property adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 219). The wayside sign "Harper House" remains at the east edge of the entrance walkway to the building (Figure 220). The concrete entrance walkway and front steps also remain. The sign panel is exhibiting mold or mildew and is very difficult to read. A large Burford holly is located east of the wayside sign. There is a clump (as opposed to a running hedge) of privet and Rose-of-Sharon on the east boundary of the yard. Turf grass covers the entire landscape area. A wood board and wire fence is located along portions of the east and west property lines. A chain-link fence runs the length of the south property line. A large mulberry tree is located in the southwest area of the property.



FIGURE 219. A pruned hedge with gaps is located along the north edge of the 535 Auburn Avenue property adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature on 535 Auburn Avenue. Additional contributing features include the concrete entrance walk and front steps. There are scattered privet shrubs along the west front property line and one Burford holly on the east side of the entrance walk (Figure 221 and Figure 222). The integrity of the cultural landscape is diminished due to missing shrub plantings and the condition of the remaining plant material. The building possesses integrity of design, location, setting, and association and conveys the significance of the property. The cultural landscape lacks extant historic features, thus diminishing the site's integrity.



FIGURE 220. A wayside interpretive sign is adjacent to the intersection of the Auburn Avenue sidewalk and the front walkway of 535 Auburn Avenue. The title of the wayside is "Harper House."



FIGURE 221. The National Park Service completed the rehabilitation of 535 Auburn Avenue as shown in this 1992) photograph. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 222. Plant material has been added and a large pecan tree is currently established in the northwest corner of the 535 Auburn Avenue property. Wayside interpretive signage is currently part of the front yard landscape.

539 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. This parcel was a narrow lot at the southwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. A two-story duplex was recorded on this lot in the 1932 Sanborn map, and it

appeared on the 1949 aerial photograph. The Cadastral Survey records a hedge across the front property line and a fence down the east (side) property line (material unknown). The shadow of a large deciduous tree was documented on the aerial photograph at the northeast property corner.

1995 CLR Condition. The site was vacant and maintained as an open turf lawn.

2018 Existing Condition. This site remains a vacant, grassed lot (refer to Figure 269 at the end of this chapter). There are two deciduous trees located in the northeast and southeast corners of the parcel (Figure 223). The sidewalk along Auburn Avenue north of the parcel is paved with exposed aggregate concrete that extends around the corner and changes to brick in a herringbone pattern as it extends down Howell Street (Figure 224 and Figure 225). A granite curb extends along the entire length of the sidewalks surrounding 539 Auburn Avenue. There is an interpretive wayside exhibit in the north portion of the parcel, adjacent to the concrete sidewalk (Figure 226). The title of the interpretive exhibit is "Neighborhood Transformed." The wayside panel is soiled and difficult to read. A 4-foot-high wire and wood fence runs the length of the parcel along Howell Street.



FIGURE 223. The vacant lot at 539 Auburn Avenue shares a boundary with 535 Auburn Avenue and 28 Howell Street.



FIGURE 224. The brick herringbone pattern sidewalk extends south along Howell Street. There is also a board and wire fence marking the east boundary of 539 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 225. The brick sidewalk along 539 Auburn Avenue intersects with the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk on Auburn Avenue. A granite curb extends along the length of the brick sidewalk.



FIGURE 226. The open space of 539 Auburn Avenue forms the corner landscape at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street.

Analysis. The 539 lot no longer retains integrity. Historically, a building occupied the lot, but was not extant in the 1995 CLR documentation. The exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk along Auburn Avenue north of the parcel is a contributing feature that reinforces the period character of the neighborhood circulation system. The same is true for the herringbone brick sidewalk along the east edge of the vacant lot along Howell Street.

28, 24, 20, 18, and 14 Howell Street NE

Historic Condition. These five small houses were constructed in two periods: circa 1895 for 28, 24, and 20 Howell Street; and circa 1927 for 18 and 14 Howell Street. All were constructed on tiny lots with a shallow front yard setback from Howell Street. The Cadastral Survey recorded a brick sidewalk with a granite curb along this end of Howell Street. The sidewalk is assumed to have been identical in material and pattern to the sidewalk remnant north of Auburn Avenue. The survey also recorded side-yard fences between every lot and a front fence at 28, 18, and 14 Howell Street. No hedges were recorded. The aerial photograph did not yield much information about the yards because of the small size of the lots, the compactness of the development, and the way the house shadows obscured the ground plane. It did appear, however, that large deciduous trees grew in the front yards of 24, 20, and 18 Howell Street.

1995 CLR Condition. Four of the five houses and yards were extant. The building at 28 Howell Street was included in the report because it formed an important edge to the Birth Home block and because the yard was noteworthy; it should be recognized as a contributing landscape. Not only does this lot share a property line with 535 Auburn Avenue, but the long-time resident of this house kept a traditional garden of a variety of flowering plants, small trees, and bare (swept) ground. No access was acquired to survey this yard in detail; however, the 1995 CLR noted that every effort should be made to preserve this place as an authentic example and resource of African American gardening techniques.

2018 Existing Condition. Much of the plant material recorded in the 1995 CLR has been removed or died out (Figure 227 and refer to Figure 270 at the end of this chapter). In front of the house the only remaining tree or shrub is a purple leaf plum. Missing are the dogwood, rose, and other assorted ornamental shrubs in the north and east yards. The dirt yard has since been planted in grass. A 4-foot-high chain-link fence runs along the north property line. A wooden board fence runs along the south and west borders of the parcel. A strip of land south of the house is paved in concrete from the edge of the house to the south boundary of the parcel.



FIGURE 227. The front yard of 28 Howell Street is small and contains only a few plantings. The house and lot form an important edge to the Birth Home block.

Analysis. The building is an extant and contributing historic feature on 28 Howell Street. (Figure 228 and Figure 229). The presence and location of the plum tree is also contributes to the significance of the property. There are no

remaining features of the traditional garden and bare-swept ground. The parcel does remain an important edge to the Birth Home block and shares a property line with 535 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 228. 28 Howell Street formed an important edge to the Birth Home block and shares a property line with 535 Auburn Avenue, as shown in this 1992 photograph. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 229. Much of the plant material recorded in front of 28 Howell Street has been removed or died out.

The Triangle (Streetscape Context for 554–558 Auburn, 550–552 Auburn, 546 Auburn, and 540 Auburn Avenue)

Historic Condition. The triangular piece of property at the eastern end of the Birth Home block—defined by Auburn Avenue, Old Wheat Street, and Howell Street—is very significant to the streetscape of the site. To create a level piece of ground, a granite retaining wall was constructed along Auburn Avenue and Howell Street (date unknown) which raised the ground level of the triangle on these two sides, 3 to 4 feet above the sidewalk grade. During the historic period, the triangle contained three residential structures and two commercial buildings.

540 Auburn Avenue and 57 Howell Street

Historic Condition. A wood-framed residence was built at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street circa 1890 at the western end of the triangle. It was later converted to apartments (date unknown). By the early 1910s, African American tenants occupied the house. The distinguishable front feature was a large deciduous tree that occupied the west corner of the front yard. A small store was located at the northwest corner of the lot facing Howell Street. It was recorded on the Sanborn map and the 1949 aerial photograph. The city directories listed it as a grocery through 1942. According to the Cadastral Survey, the side yard along Old Wheat Street was fenced. The material of the fencing is unknown.

1995 CLR Condition. The extant wood building was rehabilitated prior to the park obtaining it. In that process the top third of the masonry wall around the site was rebuilt, and steps leading up to the building were widened and formed from concrete. Privet shrubs were present in the front yard adjacent to the masonry retaining wall. The large tree that occupied the west corner of the front yard no longer existed. The brick sidewalk along Auburn Avenue was repointed circa 1990 and an accessible corner was created as part of sidewalk rehabilitation at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. New (non-historic) brick was installed to construct the corner radius pattern. The brick sidewalk along Howell Street was relaid circa 1990. Along the Howell Street side of 540 Auburn Avenue, the curb was broken and a concrete driveway pad was constructed at the Howell Street level. An ailanthus tree existed on the rear west corner of the property. The rest of the site was covered with turf grass.

2018 Existing Condition. A 4-foot-high stone masonry retaining wall runs the length of the block in front of this property and 550 and 546 Auburn (Figure 230 and refer to Figure 271 at the end of this chapter). The wall wraps around the corner and extends to the edge of the house, forming a complete boundary of the front yard of 540 Auburn Avenue. This small section of the retaining wall along Howell Street is in poor condition and needs repair (Figure 231). The wall is also forms the cheek walls for the concrete steps leading to the front porch of the building. The sidewalks along Auburn Avenue in front of the buildings and around the corner on Howell Street are paved with brick in a herringbone pattern. Privet hedges are present adjacent to the masonry wall and help define the south and west yard of the property. There is an extant large oak tree that occupies the same location as the oak tree documented in the historic conditions for this site. The historic tree was not extant in 1992. A small crapemyrtle is located adjacent to the front porch. An elm tree is located north of the dwelling on the 57 Howell Street portion of the property. A board fence was added north of the building in the vacant landscape.



FIGURE 230. A four-foot-high stone retaining wall runs the length of the block in front of 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 231. The stone wall along the Howell Street side of 540 Auburn Avenue is in need of repair.

Analysis. The building is an extant historic feature and contributes to the significance of the site. In the front yard, the extant oak tree is planted in the same location as the large deciduous tree that occupied the west corner of the front yard documented in the historic conditions map. The presence of a tree in this location is consistent with historic conditions and thus a contributing feature (Figure 232 and Figure 233). The masonry wall is a contributing feature and retains integrity of location, association, and setting with diminished integrity of design, materials, and workmanship due to changes in the width and use of concrete in the restoration. The steps built into the wall are a contributing feature and retain integrity of location, association, and setting. The integrity of the steps was diminished due to changes in width and the use of concrete in the restoration. The brick sidewalks are contributing features and appear in the Cadastral Survey. This feature retains integrity of location, association, and materials. The bricks were re-laid after 1990 in cooperation with the City of Atlanta to match the historic color and pattern.



FIGURE 232. 540 Auburn Avenue was rehabilitated prior to the NPS obtaining it. In that process, the top one-third of the wall around the site was rebuilt, and steps leading to the building were widened and formed from concrete, as shown in this 1992 photograph. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 233. The masonry wall in front of 540 Auburn Avenue is currently lined with privet hedge, and a large tree is flourishing in the front yard.

546 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. Built circa 1900, this house was occupied from the 1910s to the 1930s by an African American candy maker. It remained a single-family residence until the 1970s. Steps up to the front yard were cut into the granite wall that ran along the front property line. Two large deciduous trees, one on either side of the front walk, are distinguishable features on the aerial photograph. A small outbuilding sat in the northwest corner of the back yard. According to the Cadastral Survey, a hedge ran along the top of the wall in the front yard and the back yard was fenced. The material of the hedge and fence is unknown.

1995 CLR Condition. The extant wood building was rehabilitated prior to the NPS obtaining it. In that process the top one-third of the wall around the site was rebuilt, and steps leading up to the buildings were widened and formed from concrete. One 16-inch tree remained in the west front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue. Scattered shrubs were located adjacent to the masonry wall east of the front steps to the dwelling.

2018 Existing Condition. A 4-foot-high masonry retaining wall runs the length of the block in front of this property and 550 and 540 Auburn Avenue (refer to Figure 272 at the end of this chapter). The wall wraps around the corner and extends to the edge of the house, forming a complete boundary of the front yard of 540 Auburn. The wall forms the cheek walls for the concrete steps leading to the front porch of the dwelling (Figure 234). There are three groupings of privet hedges along the south border of the front yard, adjacent to the top of the wall. The remainder of the front and side yards are maintained in turf grass. There is a large 16-inch elm tree located in the front yard, west of the front steps. A board and wire fence lines the south boundary of the property, and board fencing defines the east and west boundary of the back yard (Figure 235). There is no sidewalk along Old Wheat Street by the granite curb has been maintained. The right-of-way adjacent to Old Wheat Street is planted with grass. The sidewalks along Auburn Avenue in front of the dwellings and around the corner on Howell Street are paved with brick in a herringbone pattern.



FIGURE 234. The masonry wall in front of 546 Auburn Avenue forms the cheek walls on either side of the concrete steps.



FIGURE 235. The back yard of 546 Auburn Avenue is adjacent to Old Wheat Street, and a board and wire fence indicate the north property boundary.

Analysis. The building is an extant historic feature and contributes to the significance of the site. In the front yard, the elm tree is an extant historic feature. The presence of a tree in this location is consistent with historic conditions and thus a contributing feature (Figure 236 and Figure 237). The masonry wall is a contributing feature with integrity of location, setting, association, and materials, and helps convey the significance of this property as well as the significance of the grouping of the three houses on Auburn Avenue. The steps built into the wall are a contributing feature and retain integrity of location, association, and setting. The integrity of the steps was diminished due to changes in width and the use of concrete in the restoration. The brick sidewalks are contributing features and appear in the Cadastral Survey. This feature retains integrity of location, association, and materials. The bricks were re-laid after 1990 to match the historic color and pattern in co-operation with the City of Atlanta.



FIGURE 236. 546 Auburn Avenue was rehabilitated prior to the NPS obtaining it. Foundation plantings existed in 1992 as well as one tree in the west front yard. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 237. The four-foot-high masonry retaining wall in front of 546 Auburn Avenue remains with privet hedge adjacent to it. There are no foundation plantings remaining in front of the house.

550–552 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. This building was originally constructed circa 1890 as a residence for M.K. Jenkins, owner of the triangle and developer of the adjacent brick commercial building. After 1900, this two-story, paired-gable building became apartments. During the period of significance, the apartments were primarily occupied by single African American women workers and widows. The granite rubble retaining wall began in front of this structure and ran west, and then north, adjacent to the sidewalks of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. Steps were built into the wall in front of the house which allowed access to the front door. A small outbuilding existed in the

northwest corner of the back yard. According to the Cadastral Survey, the back yard was fenced, and the material of the fence was unknown.

1995 CLR Condition. The extant wood building was rehabilitated prior to the NPS obtaining it. In that process the top one-third of the wall around the site was rebuilt, and steps leading up to the buildings were widened and formed from concrete. There were scattered privet shrubs adjacent to the stone wall south of the dwelling.

2018 Existing Condition. A 4-foot-tall masonry retaining wall runs the length of the block in front of this property and 546 and 540 Auburn Avenue (refer to Figure 273 at the end of this chapter). The masonry wall forms the cheek walls for the concrete steps leading to the front porch of the building (Figure 238). There is one privet shrub in the front yard, adjacent to the west side of the front steps (Figure 239). Turf grass is maintained in both the side yards of this property. A board fence defines part of the north and west boundary line of the property. Outside the fence, the right-of-way along Old Wheat Street consists of unimproved grass adjacent to the granite curb. The sidewalks along Auburn Avenue in front of the dwellings and around the corner on Howell Street are paved with brick in a herringbone pattern.



FIGURE 238. The stone wall extends to the front steps of 550 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 239. Privet shrubs are located on top of the stone wall in front of 550 Auburn Avenue, in the front yard landscape.

Analysis. The building is an extant historic feature contributes to the significance of the property. There is little landscape associated with the building except for the masonry wall that begins at the east front corner (Figure 240 and Figure 241). The wall remains a contributing feature with integrity of location, setting, association, and materials, and helps convey the significance of this property as well as the significance of the grouping of the three houses on Auburn Avenue. The steps built into the wall are also contributing features and retain integrity of location, association, and setting. The integrity of the steps was diminished due to changes in width and the use of concrete in

the restoration. The brick sidewalks are contributing features and appear in the Cadastral Survey. This feature retains integrity of location, association, and materials. The bricks were re-laid after 1990 in co-operation with the City of Atlanta to match the historic color and pattern.



FIGURE 240. After 1900, the two-story building at 550 Auburn Avenue became apartments. The granite rubble retaining wall began in front of this structure and ran west, and then north, adjacent to the sidewalks of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street, as shown in 1992. (Source: 1995 CLR, scanned from original research materials, SERO CRD Archives, MALU binders, 1992)



FIGURE 241. There is one privet shrub in the front yard of 550 Auburn Avenue, adjacent to the west side of the front steps. Turf grass is maintained in both side yards of the property.

554–558 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition. A brick flat-iron commercial building was built on the point of the triangle formed by Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue, circa 1922. The building was owned by a white family (Jenkins) and leased to grocers and butchers throughout the period of significance. The building footprint filled the point of the triangle from setback to setback and the western wall of the structure came up to the east wall of the adjacent apartment building. The original 1890s brick sidewalks remained on the triangle along Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street.

1995 CLR Condition. The commercial building was no longer extant. It was removed in the 1970s. In addition, the sidewalk adjacent to Auburn Avenue at the narrow east end of the triangle was removed. The sidewalk remained at 550 Auburn Avenue and continued past 540 Auburn and around the corner along Howell Street NE. The landscape was vacant and planted with turf grass. The granite curb was retained along Auburn Avenue, around the narrow east end of the triangle and along Old Wheat Street. The retaining walls were present at this time, preserving the original effort to create a level piece of ground.

2018 Existing Condition. The landscape remains vacant with grass turf (refer to Figure 274 at the end of this chapter). The brick sidewalk has been reconstructed from 550 Auburn Avenue to the narrow east end of the triangle. The granite curb remains along Auburn Avenue, around the east end of the triangle and along Old Wheat Street. The National Park Service erected an identity sign (post-1995) in the vacant landscape (Figure 242). Three trees have been planted within the open landscape of the east end of the triangle (Figure 243). Retaining walls remain along Auburn Avenue and Howell Street, preserving the original effort to create a level piece of ground.



FIGURE 242. A park identification sign is located in the narrow lot at 554 Auburn Avenue that forms the triangle between Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 243. The 554 Auburn Avenue lot and signage form a major entrance to the Birth Home block. There are three large trees surrounding the identification sign, and the lot is planted with turf grass.

Analysis. The historic condition of this lot was defined by the two-story brick commercial building. The cultural landscape does not retain integrity of design, materials, association, or feeling. There are no extant historic features contributing to the significance of the site.

Integrity Assessment

The National Register bulletin, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, states that:

> Integrity is the ability of a property to convey its significance . . . Historic properties either retain integrity (that is convey their significance) or they do not. Within the concept of integrity, the National Register criteria recognize seven aspects or qualities that, in various combinations, define integrity.
>
> To retain historic integrity a property will always possess several, and usually most, of the aspects. The retention of specific aspects of integrity is paramount for a property to convey significance. Determining which of these aspects are most important to a particular property requires knowing why, where, and when the property is significant.[242]

Assessment of integrity is based on an evaluation of the existence and condition of physical features dating from a property's period of significance. This takes into consideration the degree to which the individual qualities of integrity are present. The seven aspects of integrity included in the National Register criteria are location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. As noted in the National Register bulletin:

> **Location** is the place where the historic property was constructed or the place where the historic event occurred; **setting** is the physical environment within and surrounding a property; **design** is the combination of elements that create the form, plan, space, structure, and style of a property; **materials** are the physical elements that were combined or deposited during a particular period of time and in a particular pattern or configuration to form a historic property; **workmanship** is the physical evidence of the crafts of a particular culture or people during any given period in

242. Patrick W. Andrus, and Rebecca H. Shrimpton, *National Register Bulletin: How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 2002), 48.

> history or prehistory; **feeling** is a property's expression of the aesthetic or historic sense of a particular period of time; and **association** is the direct link between an important historic event or person and a historic property.[243]

With the landscape, circulation patterns remain on the original site within inner city Atlanta. Street patterns and adjacent sidewalks preserve the historic character of the park's urban landscape form and scale. Despite modification to cultural vegetation, structures, and small-scale features within the historic character areas of the park, and some modifications of individual buildings and settings, the extant historical resources and historical urban fabric of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park continue to retain integrity, and to convey the historic character and contribute to the significance of the cultural landscape.

In 1992, there were fifteen industrial and commercial buildings remaining on the north portion of the current park boundary. These were all demolished and the site was cleared in preparation for the expansion of NPS visitor facilities.

Comparative analysis of historic and existing conditions conveyed previously in this chapter, and an analysis of the seven aspects of integrity, reveals that the cultural landscape of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park possesses integrity for the 1870–1968 period of significance to convey its important historical associations. The landscape characteristics, associated features, and spatial qualities that shaped the urban landscape during the period of significance remain present in much the same way they existed historically.

Visitor Services Area

Buildings and features were constructed in the visitor services area of the park from 1994 to 2015, postdating the period of significance. Main features of this area of the National Historical Park include: the visitor center and associated parking; the maintenance complex and parking; Dreamer's Park; extension of the Freedom Park Trail including the Promenade and the Civil Rights Walk of Fame; the Peace Plaza; commemorative features such as the sculpture of Gandhi, and the large *Behold* monument; and numerous interpretive exhibits and structures. None of these features is included in the period of significance, and thus they are all considered non-contributing. However, the visitor services area was designed to create viewsheds to the King Center and Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary that visually connect the visitor to historic resources associated with the life, death, and accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. This connection within the interior of the National Historical Park enhances the visitor experience and provides further opportunities for interpretation. Though not contributing features from the period of significance, these resources are significant to the visitor experience of the park and the interpretation of the life and career of Martin Luther King Jr.

Auburn Avenue Area

Although much of the context of the urban landscape surrounding the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park has been modified or altered, the broad patterns of spatial organization within the park survive with integrity. The historic streetscape features of Auburn Avenue are essential in establishing the physical context of the historic neighborhood. The major spatial relationships that define the streetscape within the Birth Home block have remained relatively constant since the late nineteenth century and survive with integrity. In addition, a fairly consistent right-of-way on Auburn Avenue has been maintained. The hierarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape determined by road width, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, lot size, and defined

243. Ibid.

spaces within each individual property has remained consistent and survives with integrity. The architectural resources of Auburn Avenue reflect its continuing evolution as an inner-city Atlanta neighborhood. Residences on Auburn Avenue illustrate the growth of the community as well as evidence of its changing population. The most intact historic area of Auburn Avenue lies between Boulevard and Howell Street. This streetscape includes the birthplace of Martin Luther King Jr. Located on this portion of Auburn Avenue are residences constructed between circa 1886 and 1933. Individually, as well as collectively, these historic buildings possess integrity of location, setting, design, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary possesses integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association as the place of worship where Martin Luther King Jr. attended as a child, preached as an adult, and delivered several of his most important sermons and speeches. Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary occupies an isolated lot not contiguous with the Auburn Avenue and Edgewood Avenue areas of the historic district. Integrity of setting is diminished due to the changes that have occurred to the environs of the church, including construction of the King Center, the National Historical Park Visitor Center, Peace Plaza, pedestrian promenade from Cain Street to the east facade of the visitor center, and associated parking area.

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Area

The Edgewood Avenue commercial corridor also possesses integrity of location, setting, design, association, and feeling. The major spatial relationship that defines the streetscape of Edgewood Avenue has remained consistent and there is a fairly consistent right-of-way that has been maintained since the period of significance. Edgewood Avenue remains a commercial corridor, consistent with that present during the period of significance, and similar to other Atlanta-area urban commercial corridors that emerged in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. However, there are also several built features that post-date the period of significance. These contemporary additions including new commercial and residential buildings and associated parking diminish the integrity of the Edgewood Avenue corridor through the introduction of non-historic materials and spatial patterns. Nonetheless, Edgewood Avenue continues to possess a predominance of historical commercial features that themselves retain integrity.[244]

244. Blythe et al., *National Register Documentation,* 60.

Integrity Summary for Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Aspect of Integrity	Landscape Integrity Assessment
Location	**Retains Integrity of Location:** The park retains integrity of location as the original site of development of the Sweet Auburn neighborhood beginning in the 1870s as part of a broader expansion of Atlanta. Original streets in the area date from 1870, the beginning of the period of significance. It is also the site of the residence where Martin Luther King Jr. was born and the neighborhood where he lived until he was twelve years old. All of the extant historic resources remain in their original locations.
Setting	**Retains Integrity of Setting:** The historic core of the park retains integrity of setting and appears much as it did historically. The area retains its physical relationship to the urban center of Atlanta and viewsheds from the historic streets to the neighboring urban context of buildings and structures. The majority of the residences within the Birth Home block date from 1886 to 1933. Street corridors of Edgewood and Auburn avenues maintain integrity since the historic streetscapes and residential landscapes are intact.
Design	**Retains Integrity of Design:** The majority of components that comprise the historic core of the park retains integrity collectively as well as individually, and they continue to convey the qualities and characteristics of their original design. The spatial relationships of the components of the urban landscape also remain substantially unchanged since the period of significance. The modest changes that have occurred over time to accommodate the evolving needs of residents have not diminished the historic design character of the historic core, composed of form, space, scale, spatial relationships, and visual rhythm of elements.
Materials	**Retains Integrity of Materials:** The historic district retains integrity of materials through the ongoing presence of concrete and brick sidewalks and front walks, granite curbs, stone walls, privet hedges, and trees used along the streets and in yards to provide shade. These materials and their contribution to the composition of historic district streetscapes survive from the period of significance and help to convey integrity. Changes that have occurred since the period of significance that diminish integrity of materials to a degree include the introduction of new plant materials, new paving materials on sidewalks and streets, and building materials used to address rehabilitation and in new construction.
Workmanship	**Retains Integrity of Workmanship:** The park retains integrity of workmanship and craft through the concentration of architectural features on Auburn and Edgewood avenues. The most distinctive examples of historic workmanship is reflected in the architecture of residential houses on Auburn Avenue and surrounding streets. Residences exhibit elements of identifiable national architectural styles applied to vernacular house types.
Feeling	**Retains Integrity of Feeling:** The park retains integrity of feeling due to the ongoing presence of the densely developed urban neighborhood composed of predominantly residential, religious, and commercial land uses similar to that present during the period of significance. Elements contributing to integrity of feeling include historic buildings that continue to form a streetscape of similar scale, cultural vegetation characteristic of neighborhood properties, and historic materials.

Association	**Retains Integrity of Association:** The park retains integrity of association with Atlanta's African American community and with Martin Luther King Jr., dating from the period of significance. The National Historical Park contains King's birthplace, boyhood neighborhood, and spiritual home, and served as the center of the civil rights movement spearheaded by King.

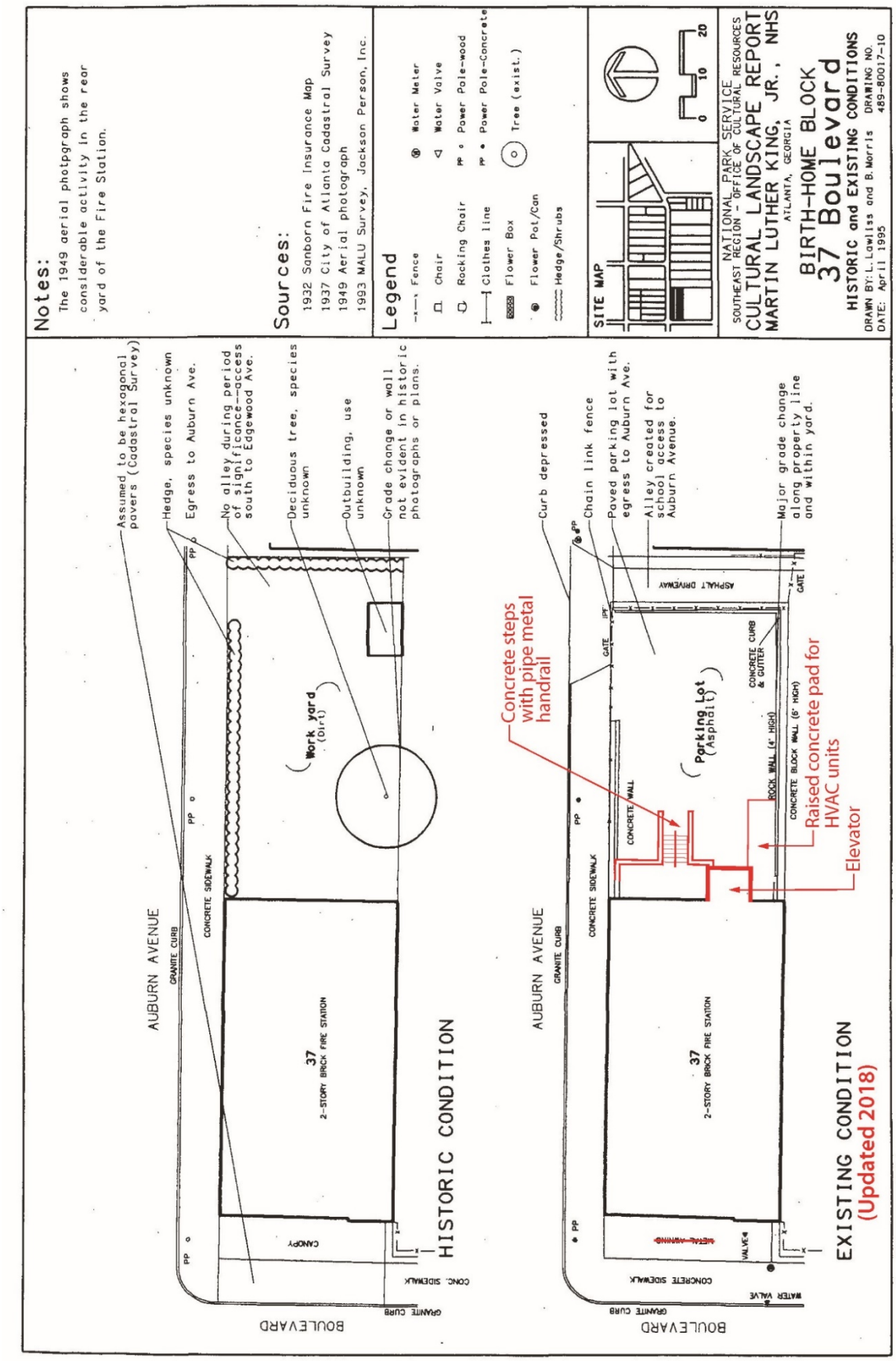


FIGURE 244. 37 Boulevard, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

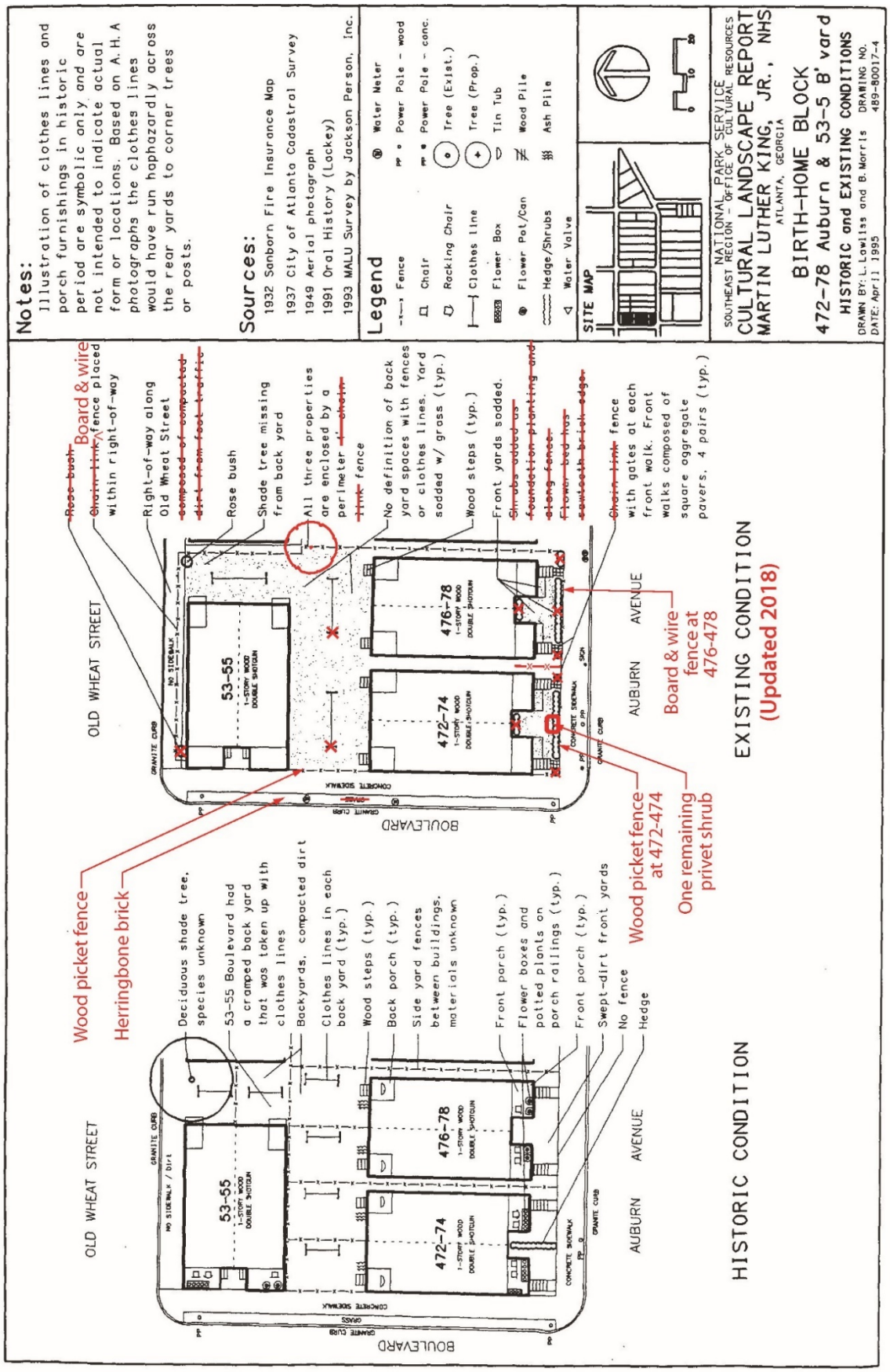


FIGURE 245. 472–478 Auburn Avenue and 53–[55] Boulevard, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

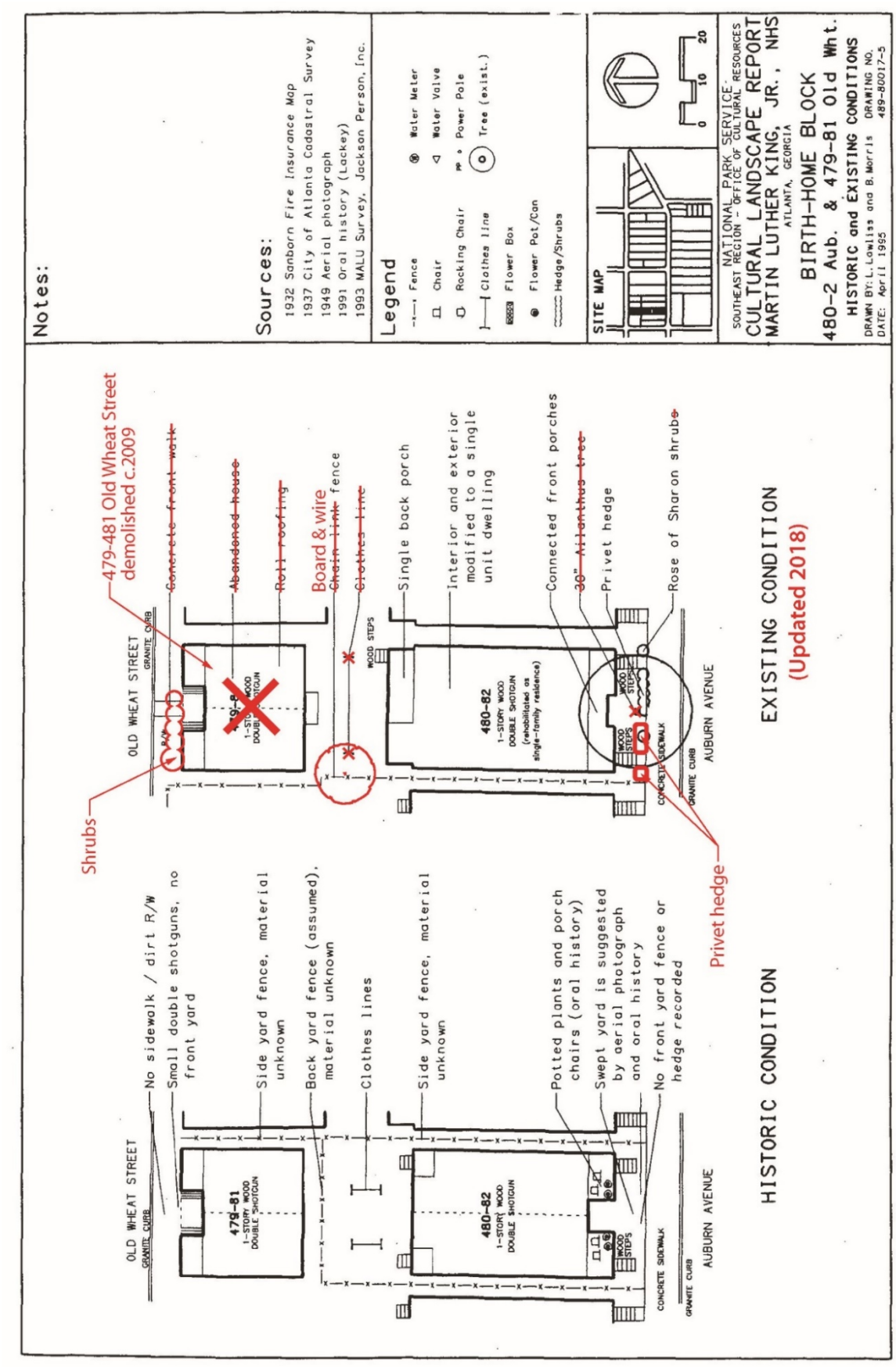


FIGURE 246. 480–[482] Auburn Avenue and 479–481 Old Wheat Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

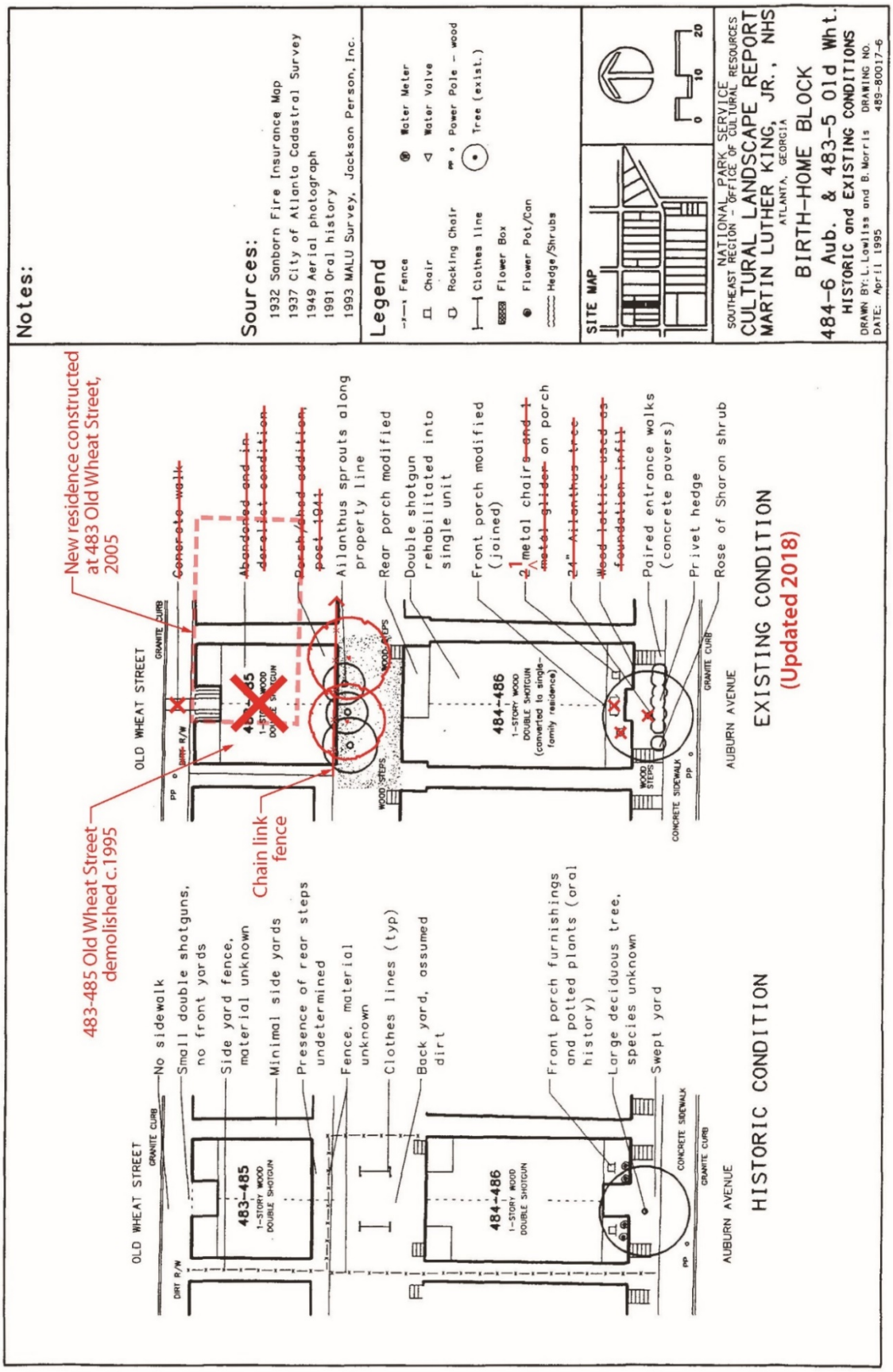


FIGURE 247. 484–[486] Auburn Avenue and 483–485 Old Wheat Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

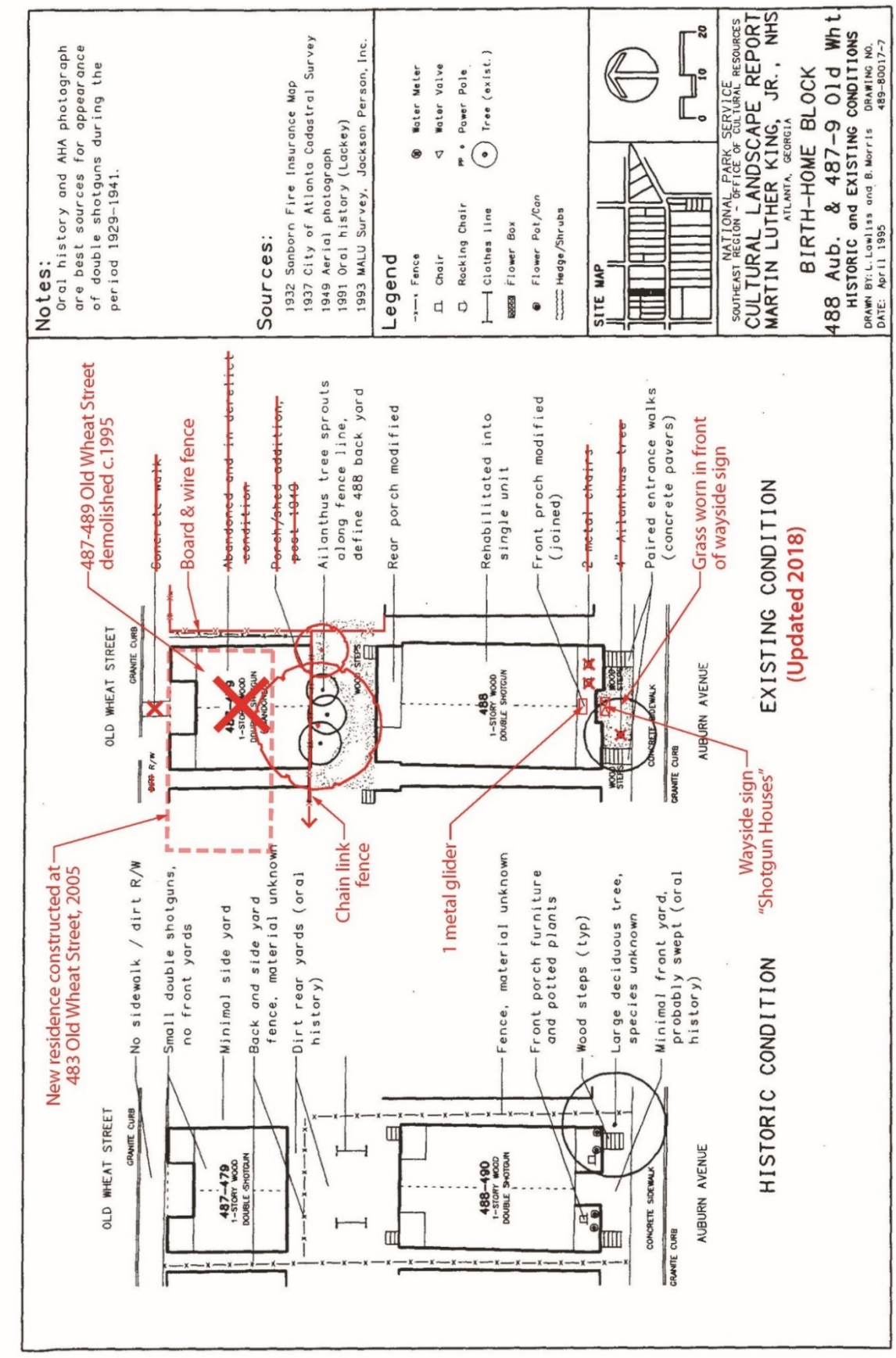


FIGURE 248. 488–[490] Auburn Avenue and 487–489 Old Wheat Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

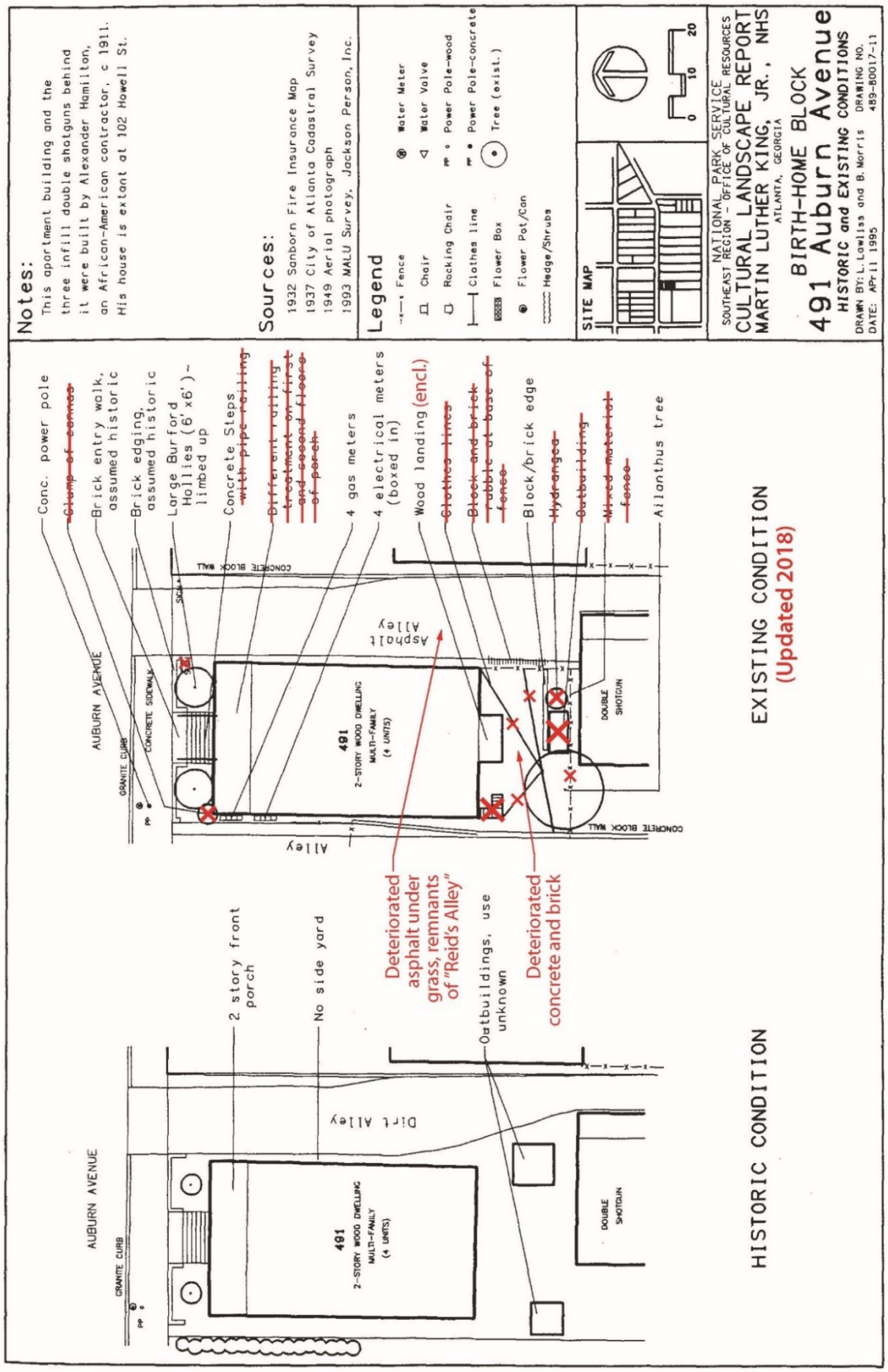


FIGURE 249. 491–[493] Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

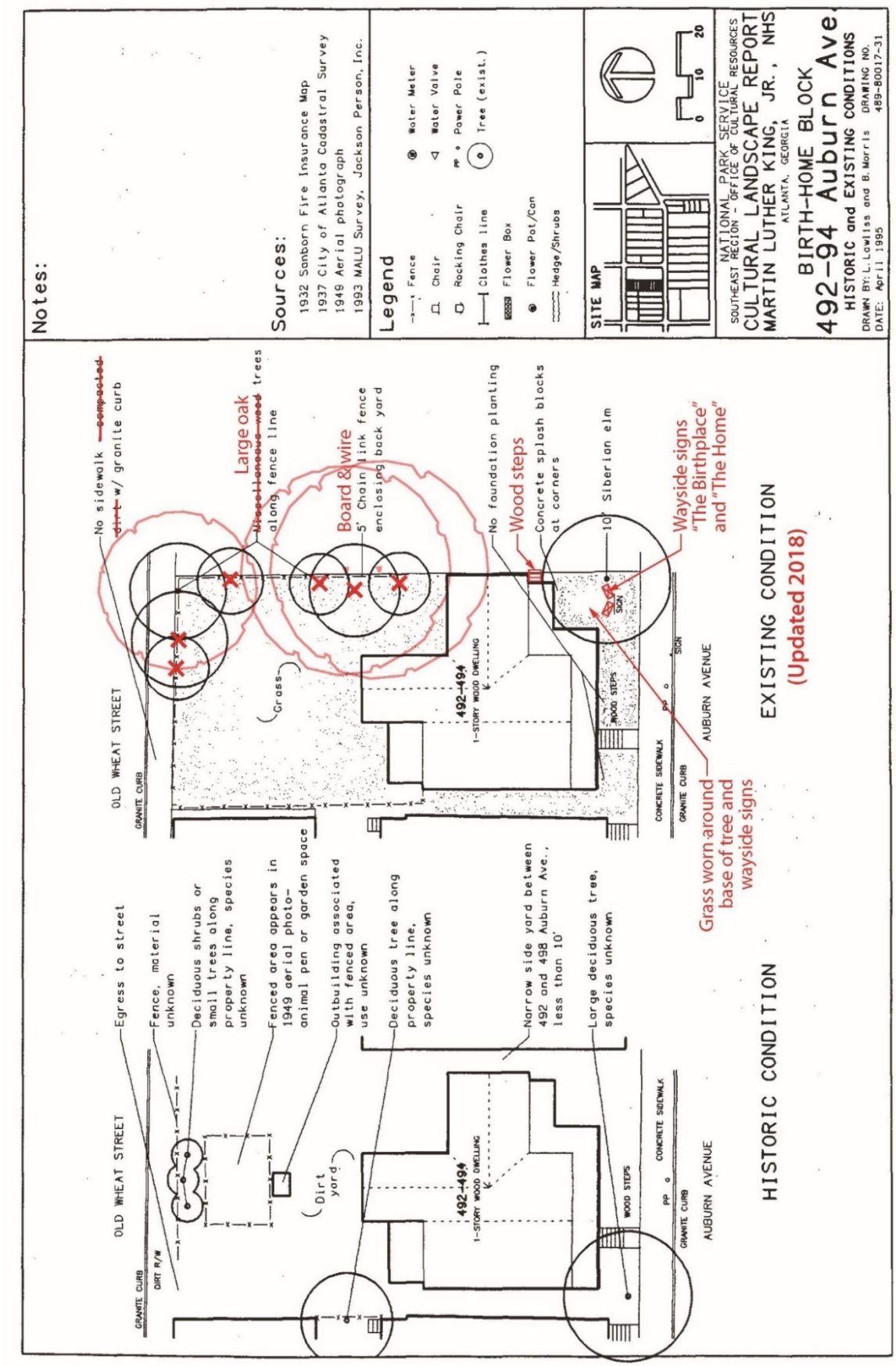


FIGURE 250. 492–[494] Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

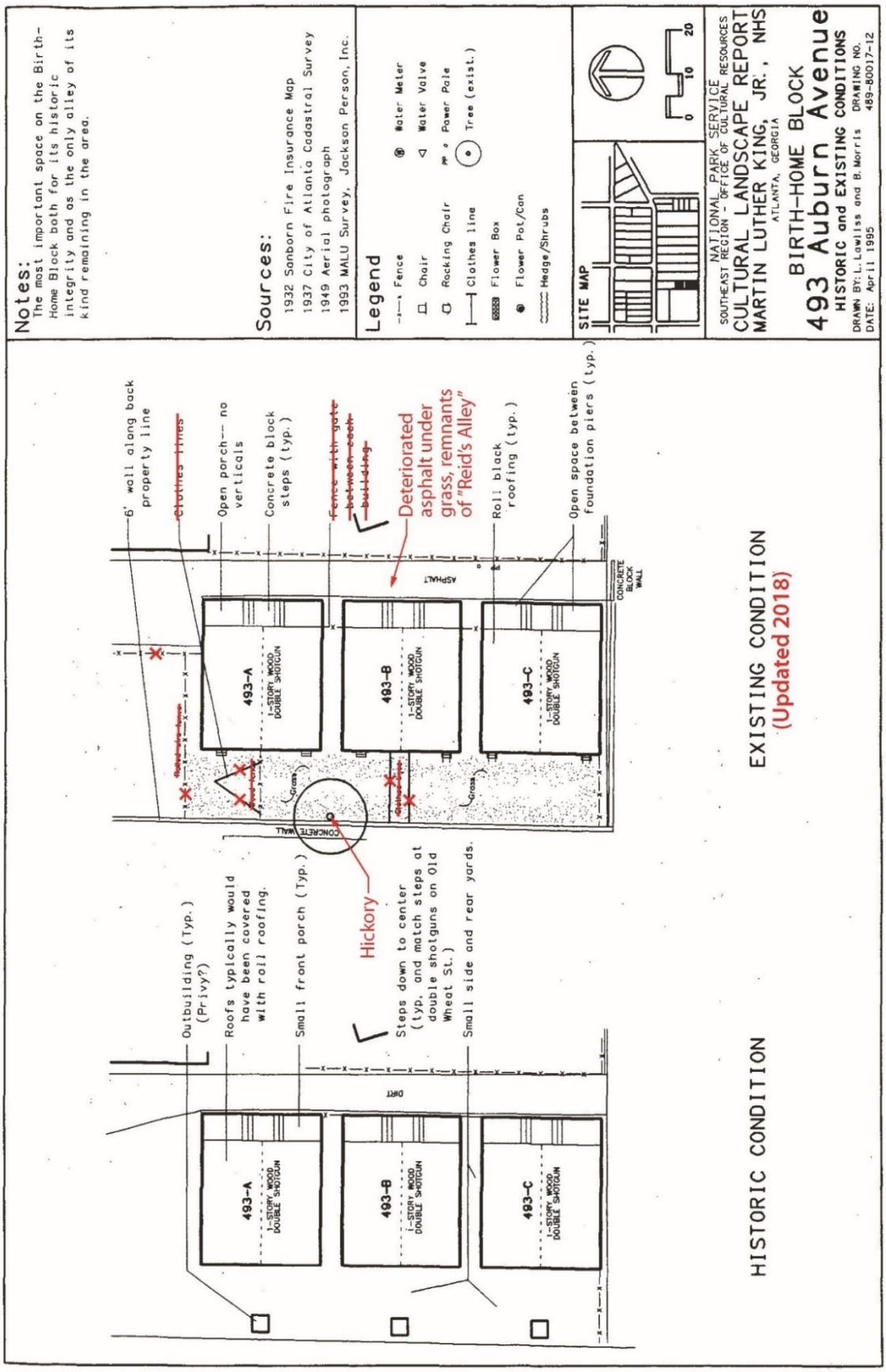


FIGURE 251. 493A [No. 1-2], 493B [No. 3-4], and 493C [No. 5-6] Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

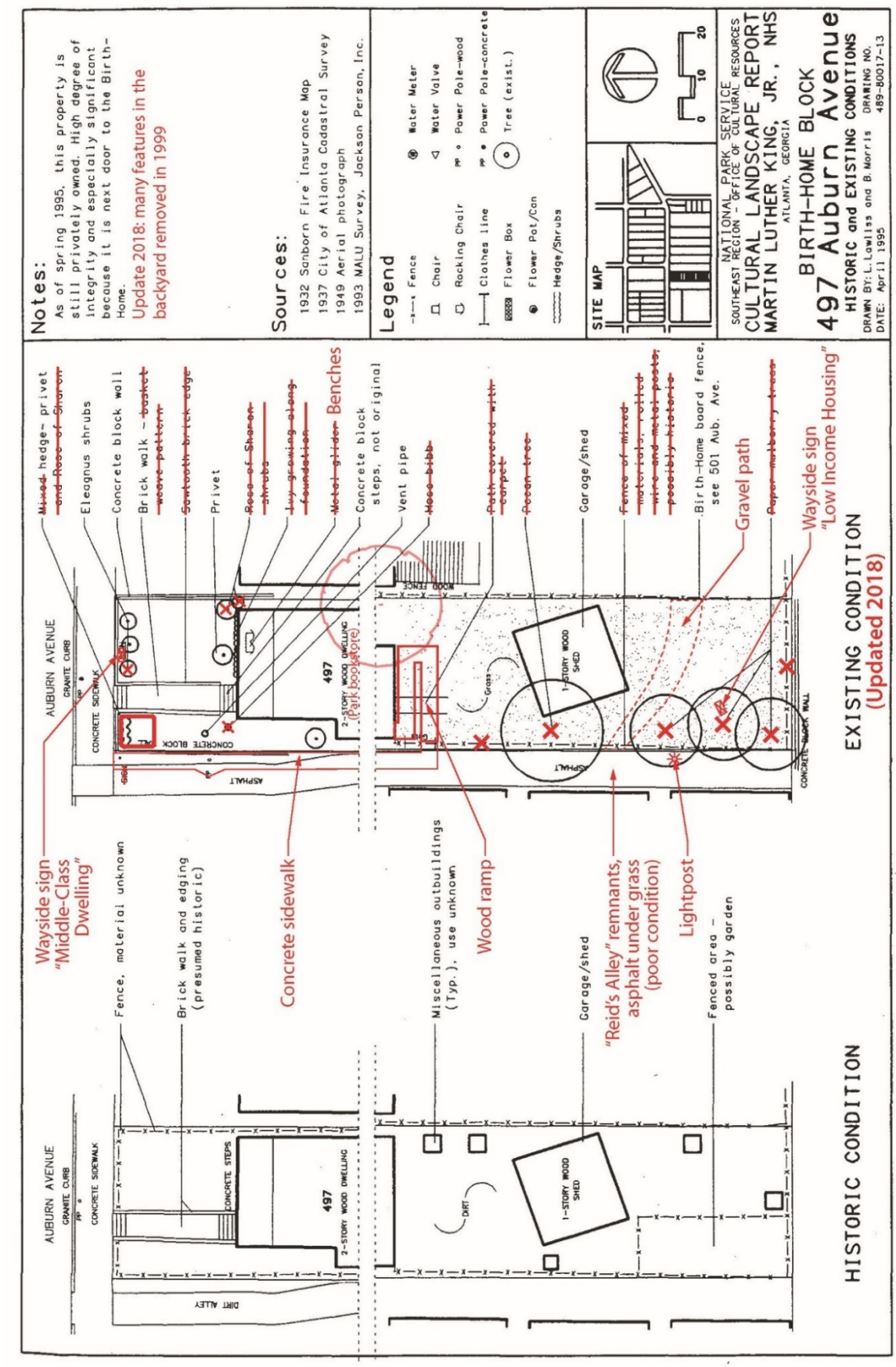


FIGURE 252. 497 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

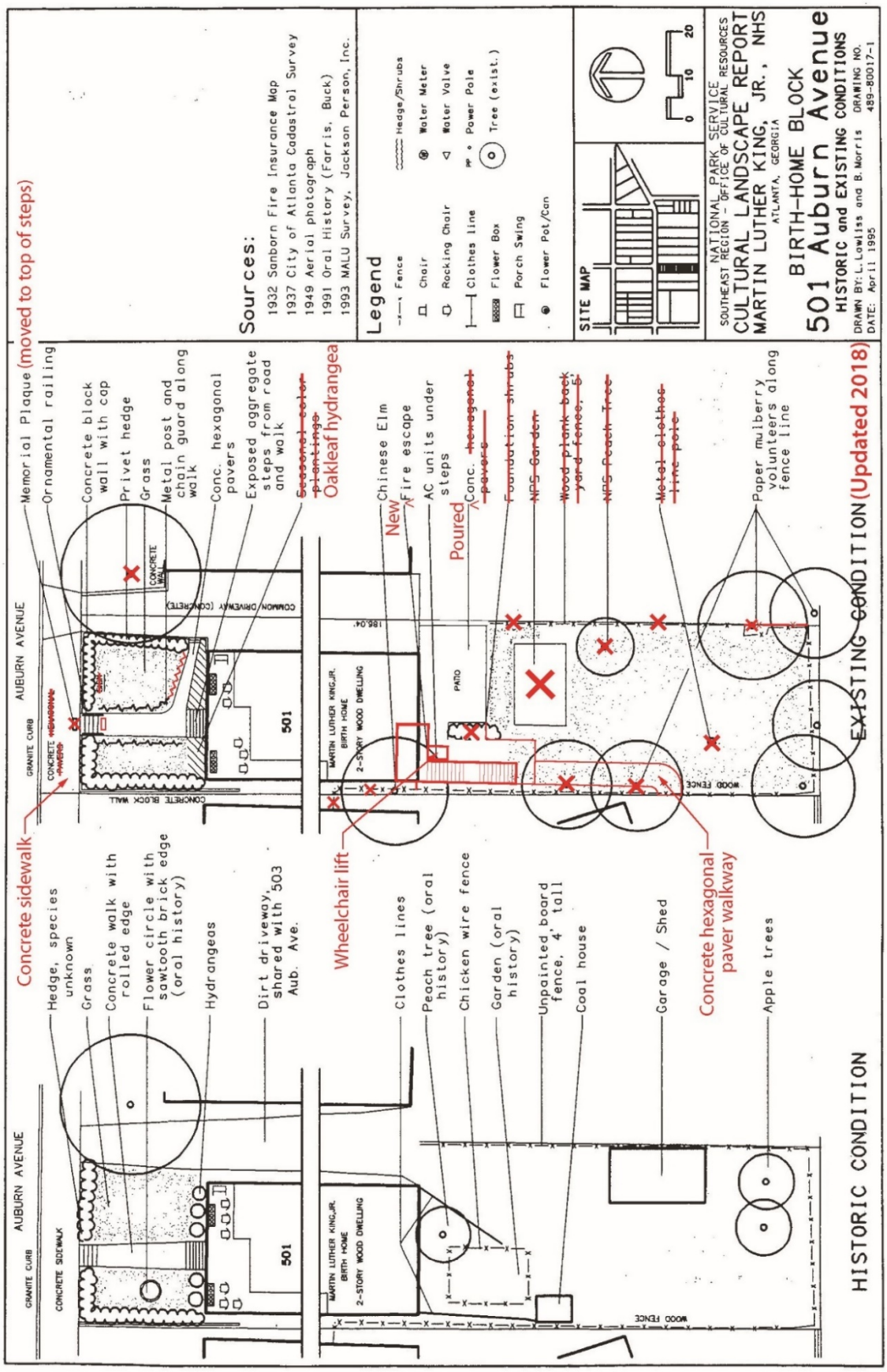


FIGURE 253. 501 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

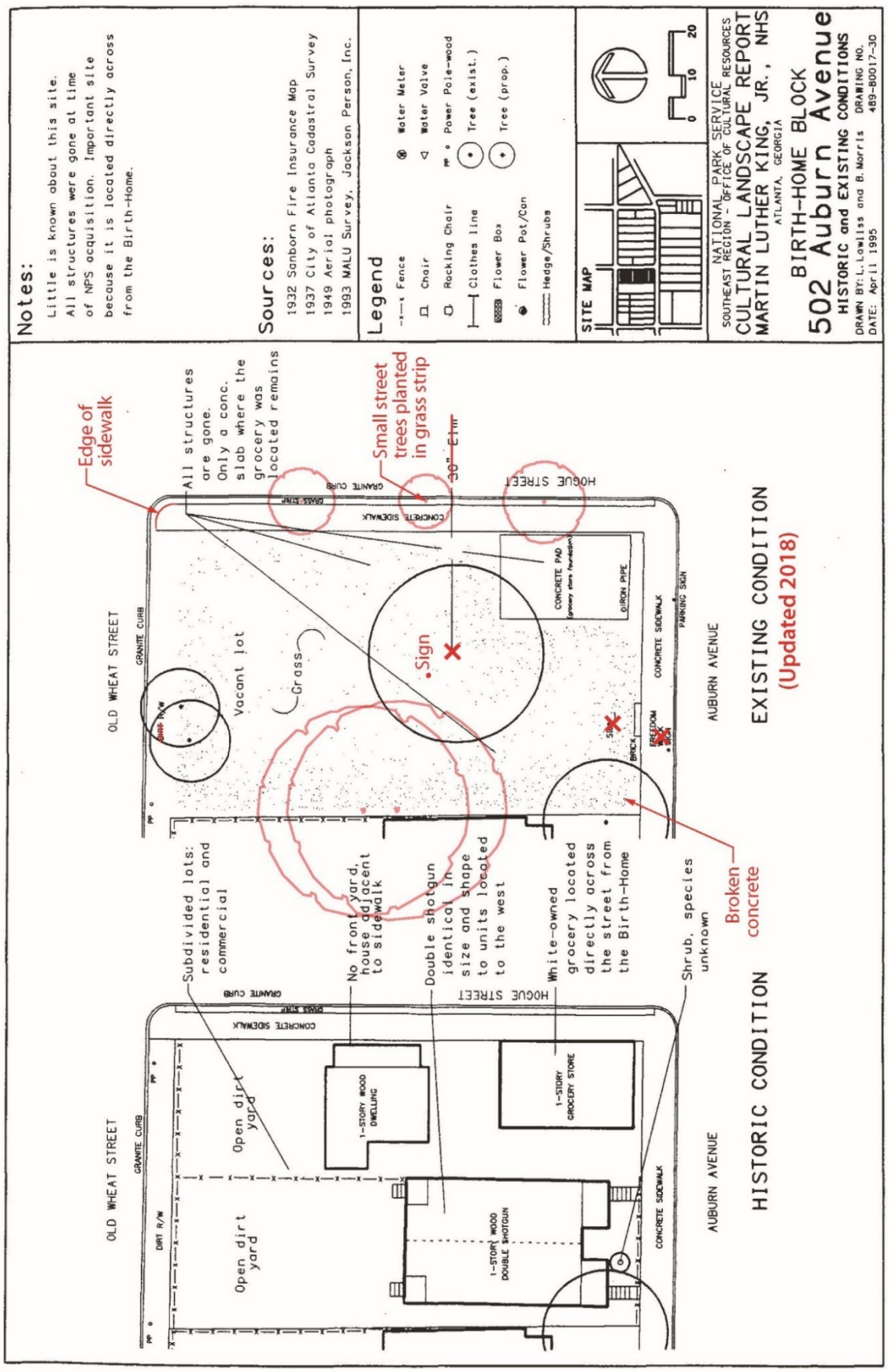


FIGURE 254. 502 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

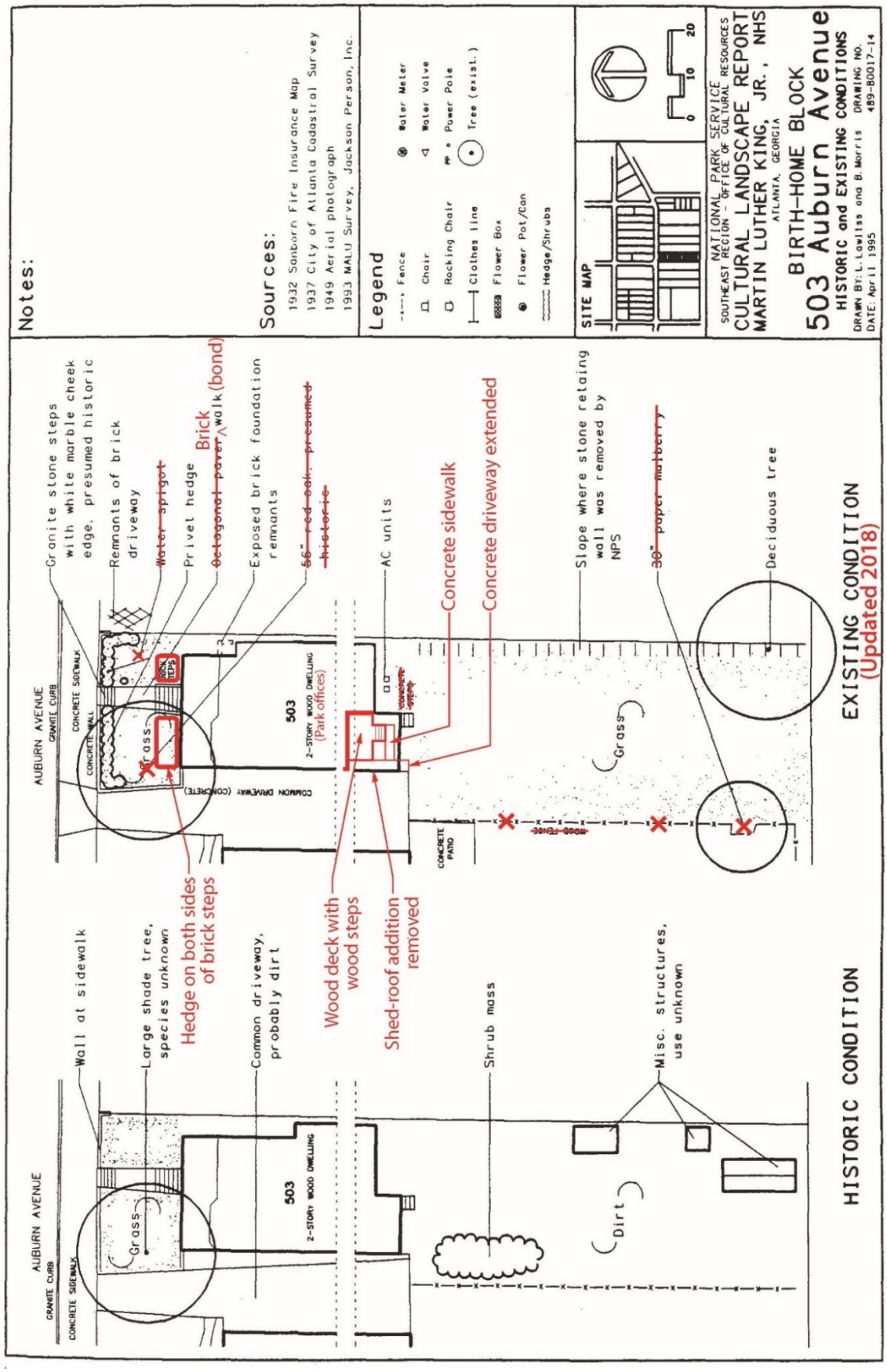


FIGURE 255. 503 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

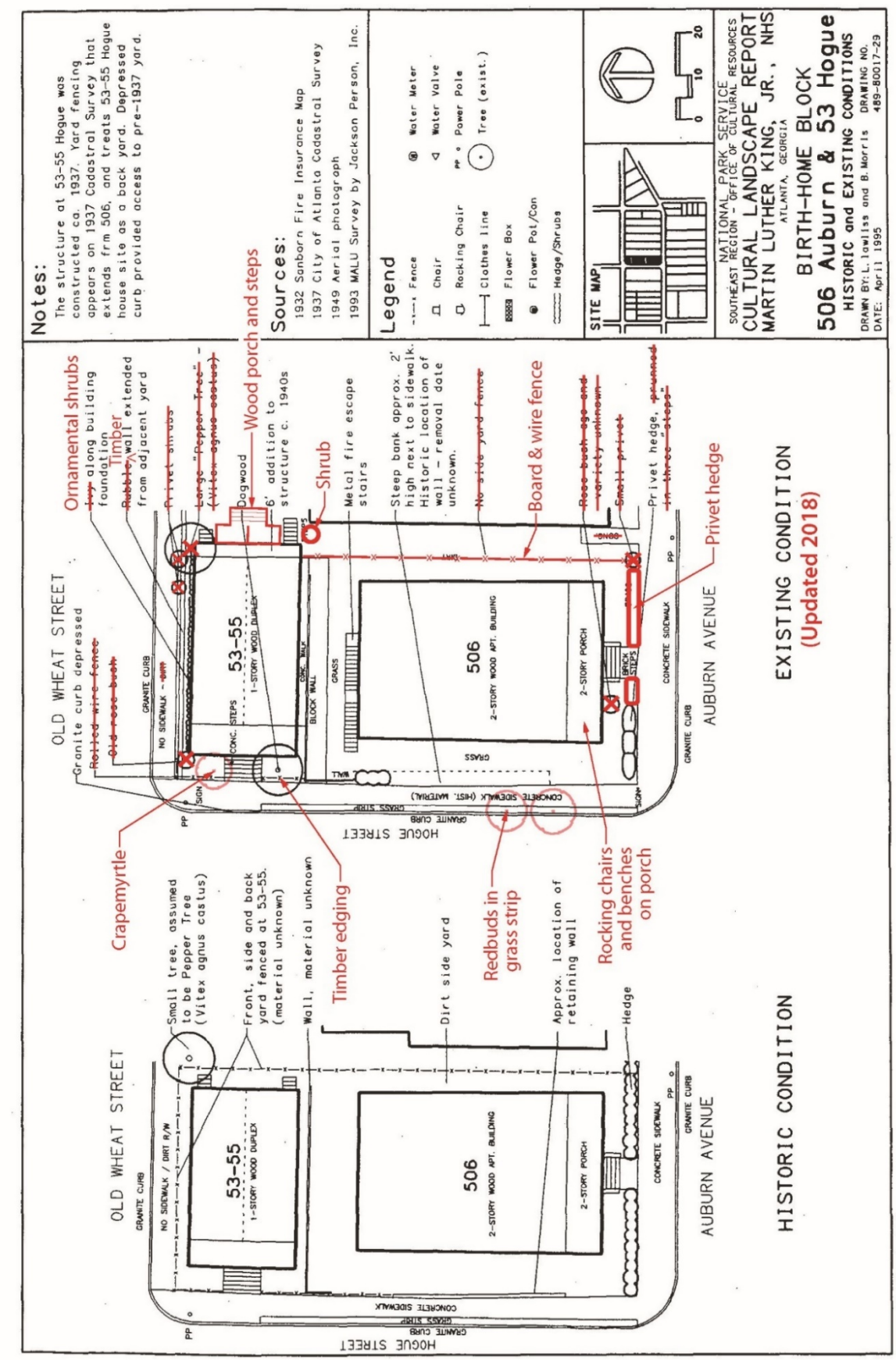


FIGURE 256. 506 Auburn Avenue and 53–55 Hogue Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

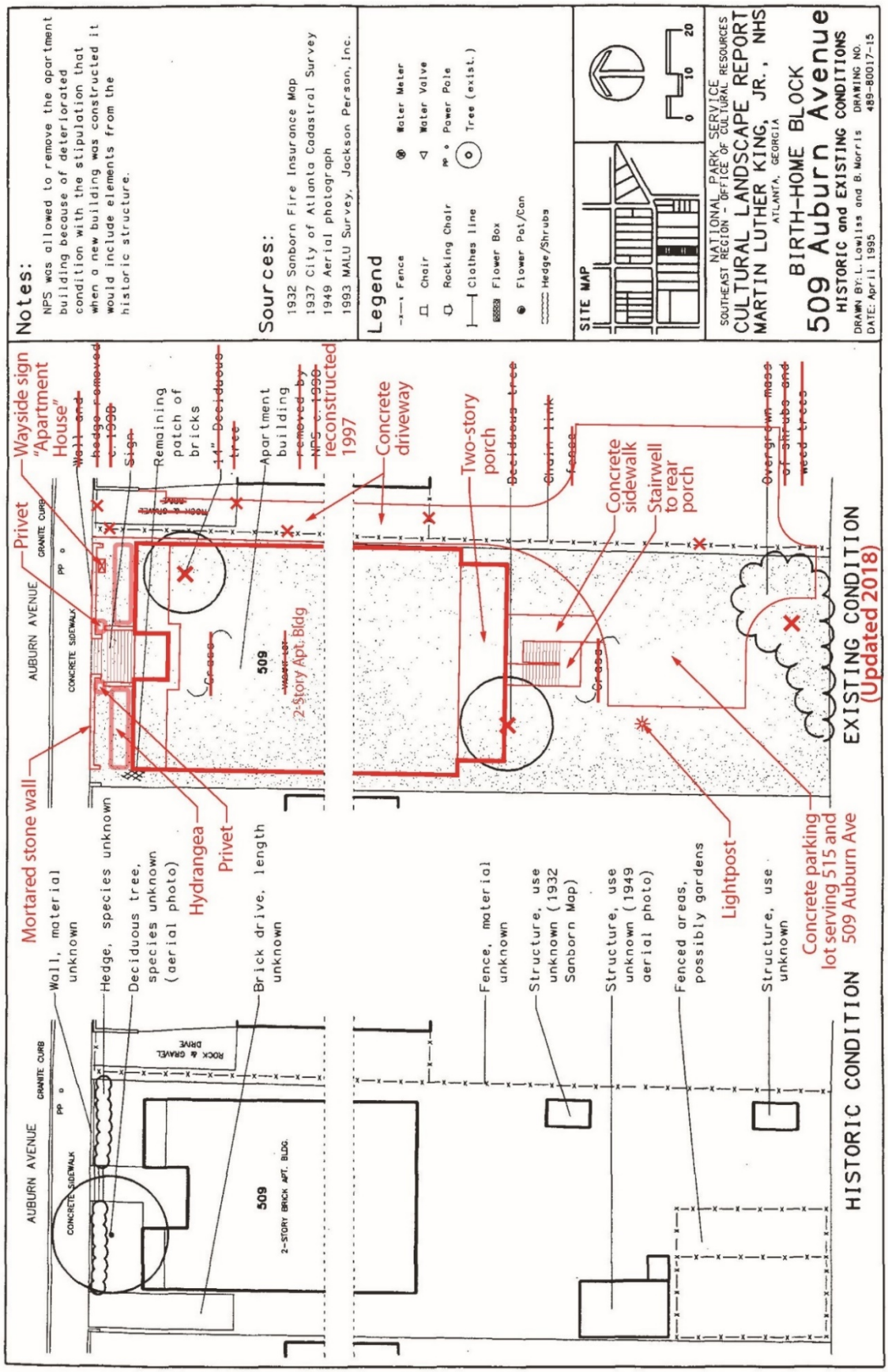


FIGURE 257. 509 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

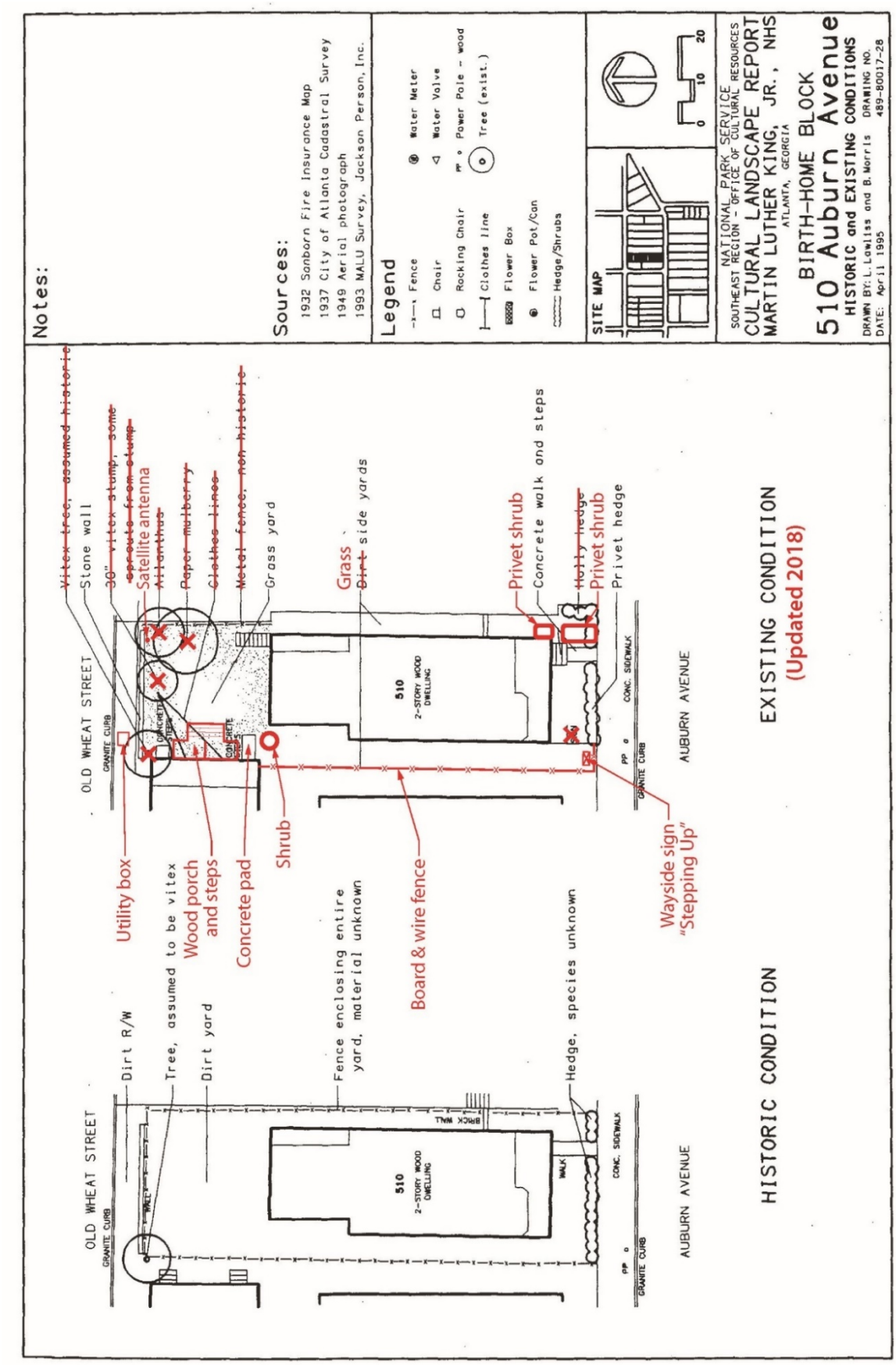


FIGURE 258. 510 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

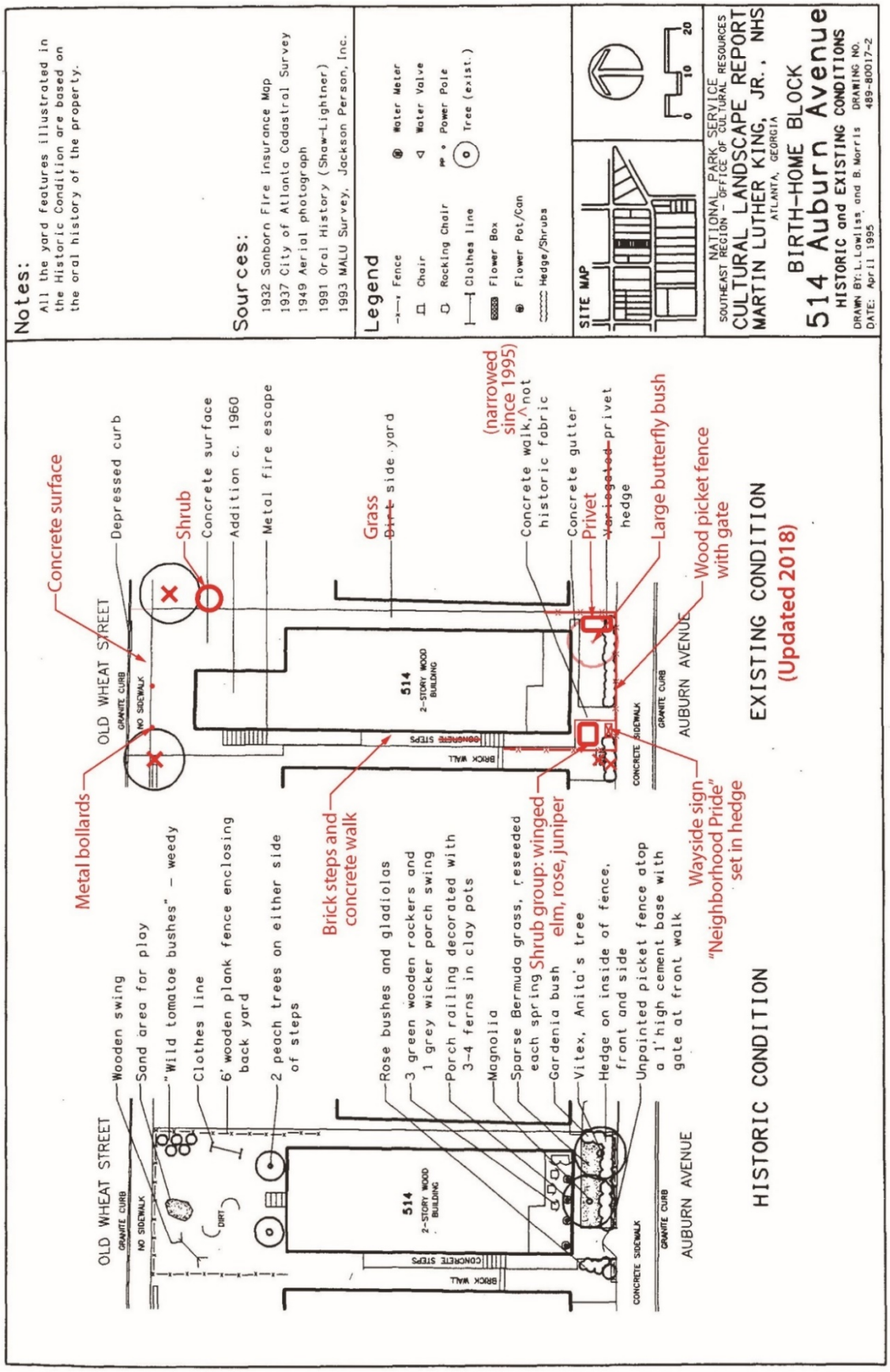


FIGURE 259. 514 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

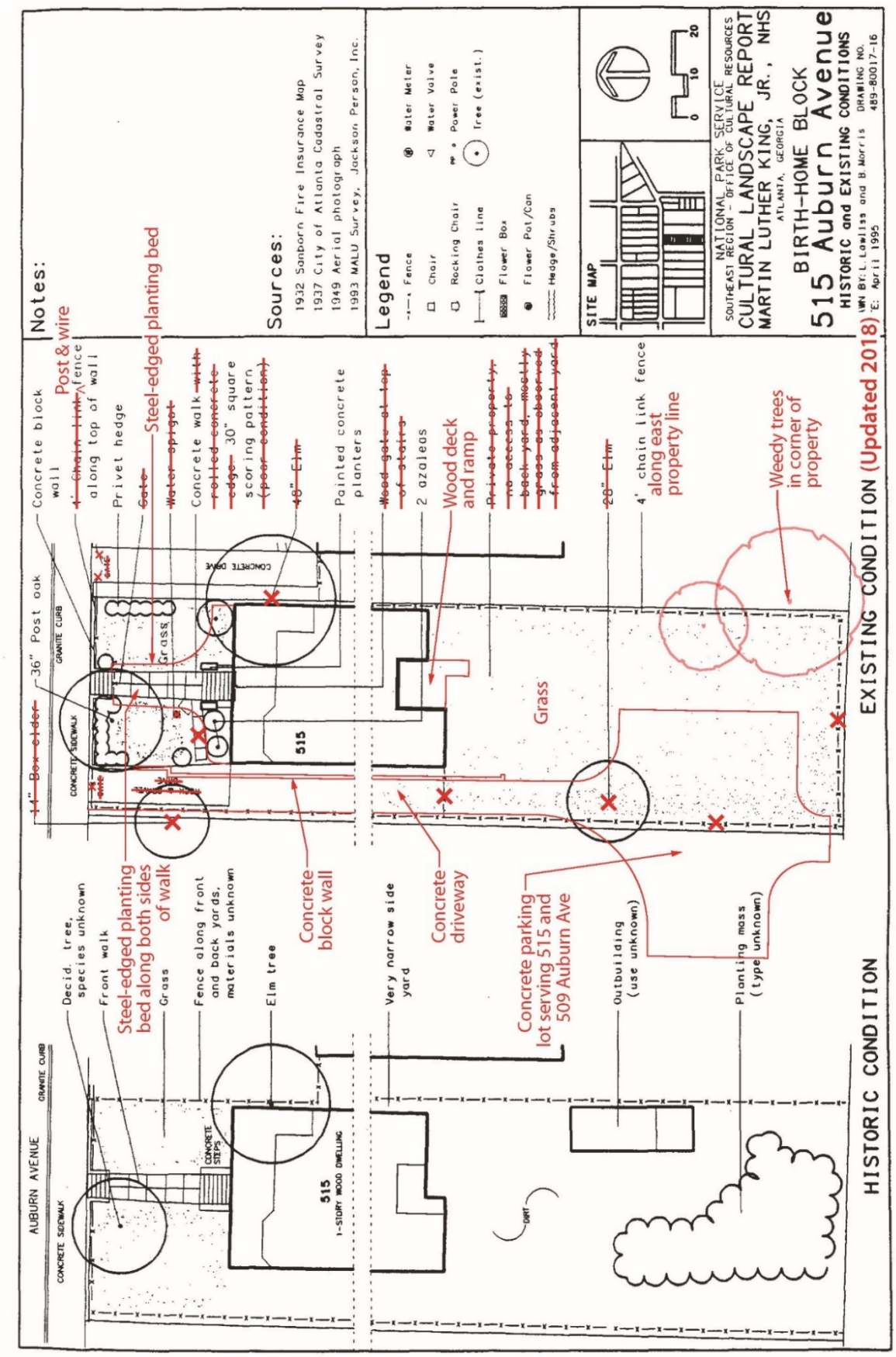


FIGURE 260. 515 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

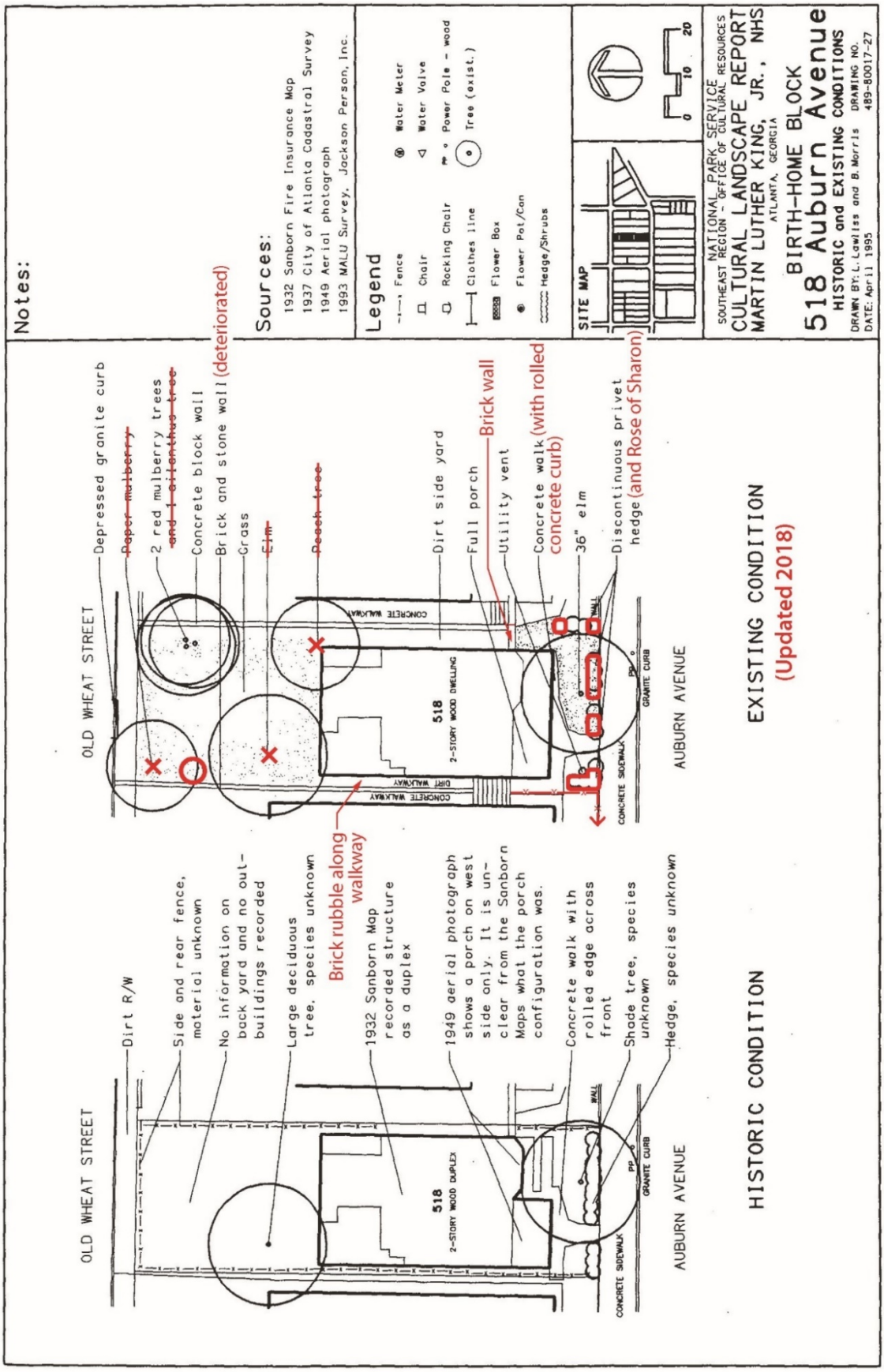


FIGURE 261. 518 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

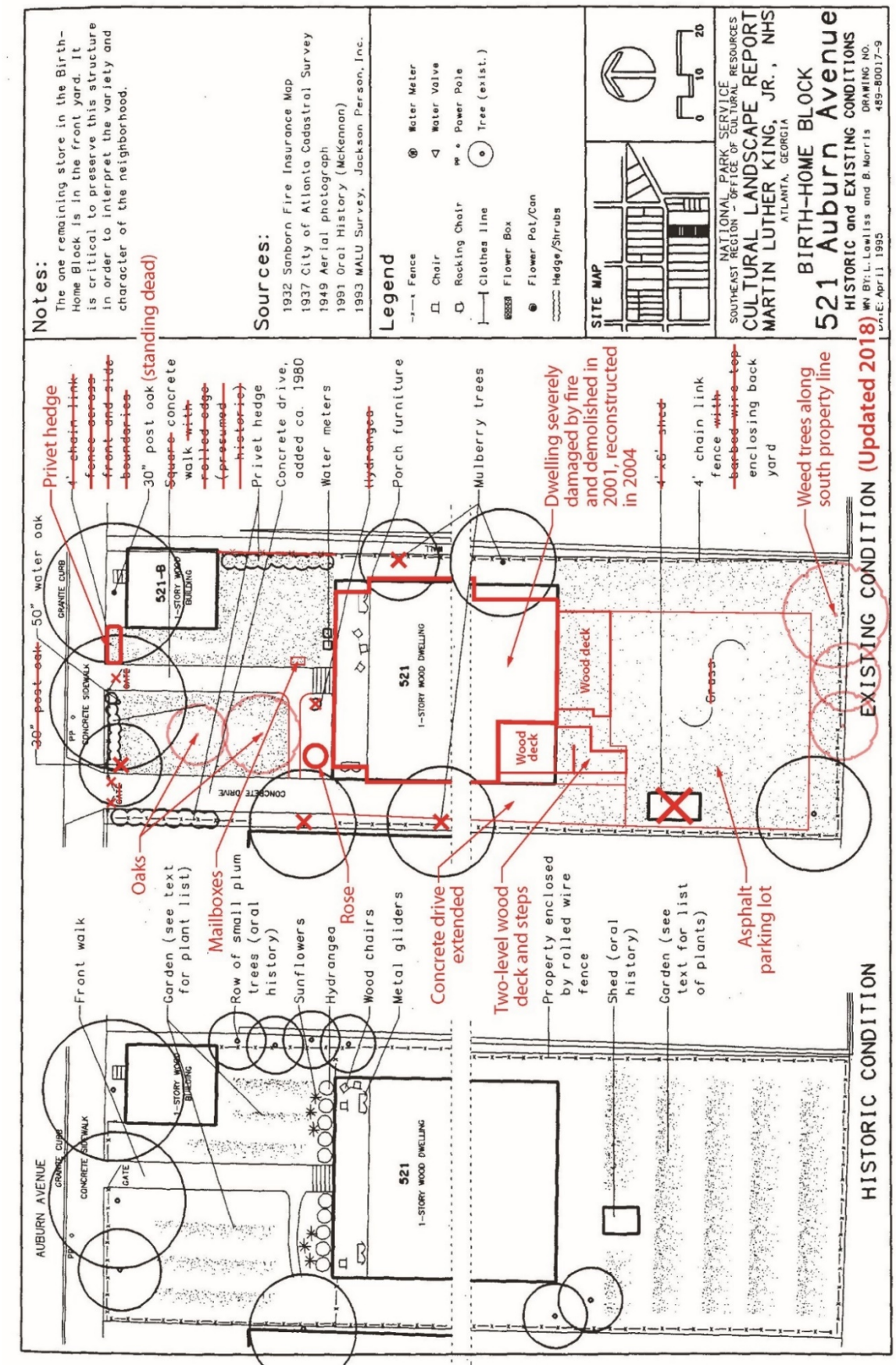


FIGURE 262. 521 and 521–B Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

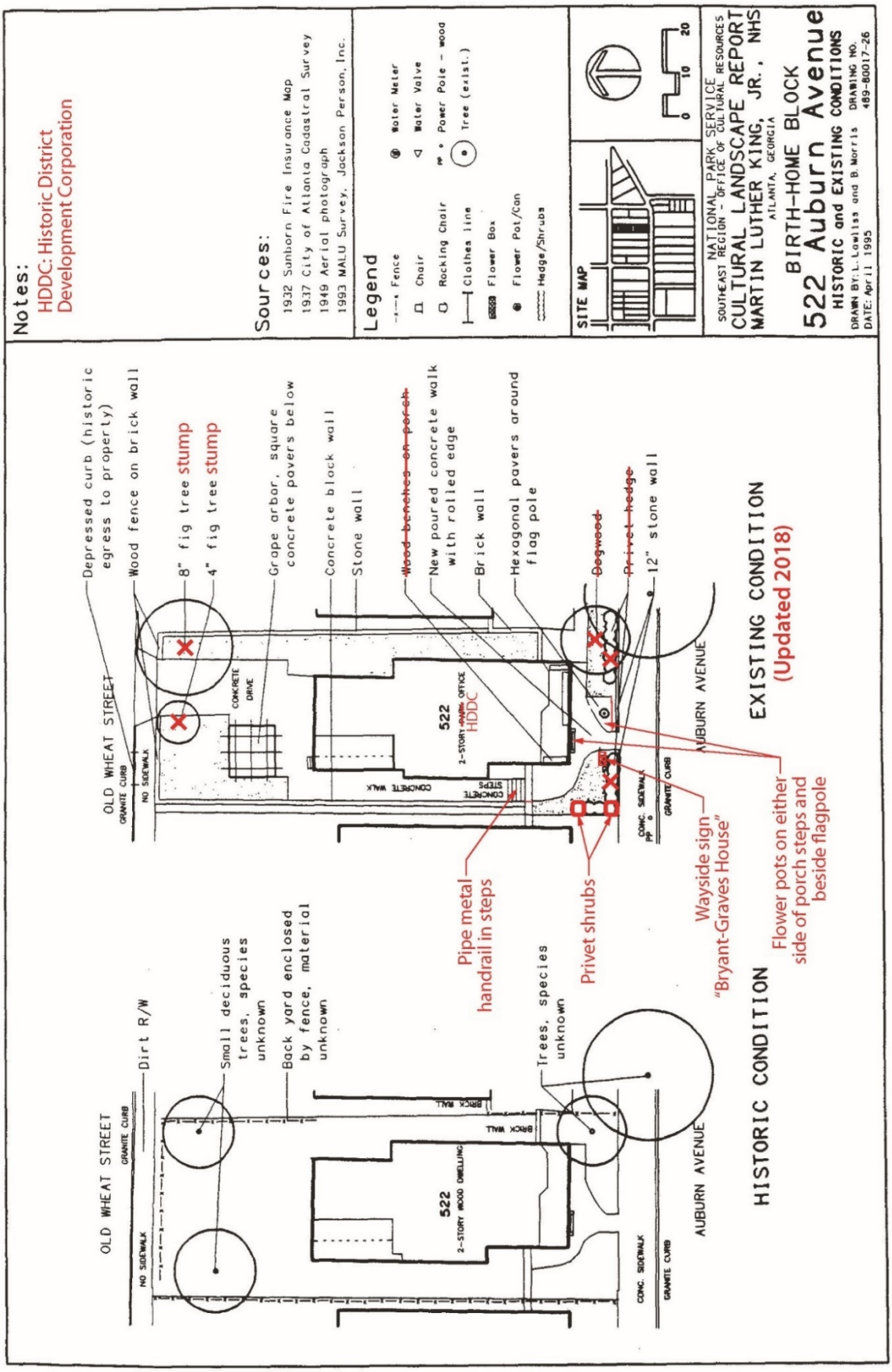


FIGURE 263. 522 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

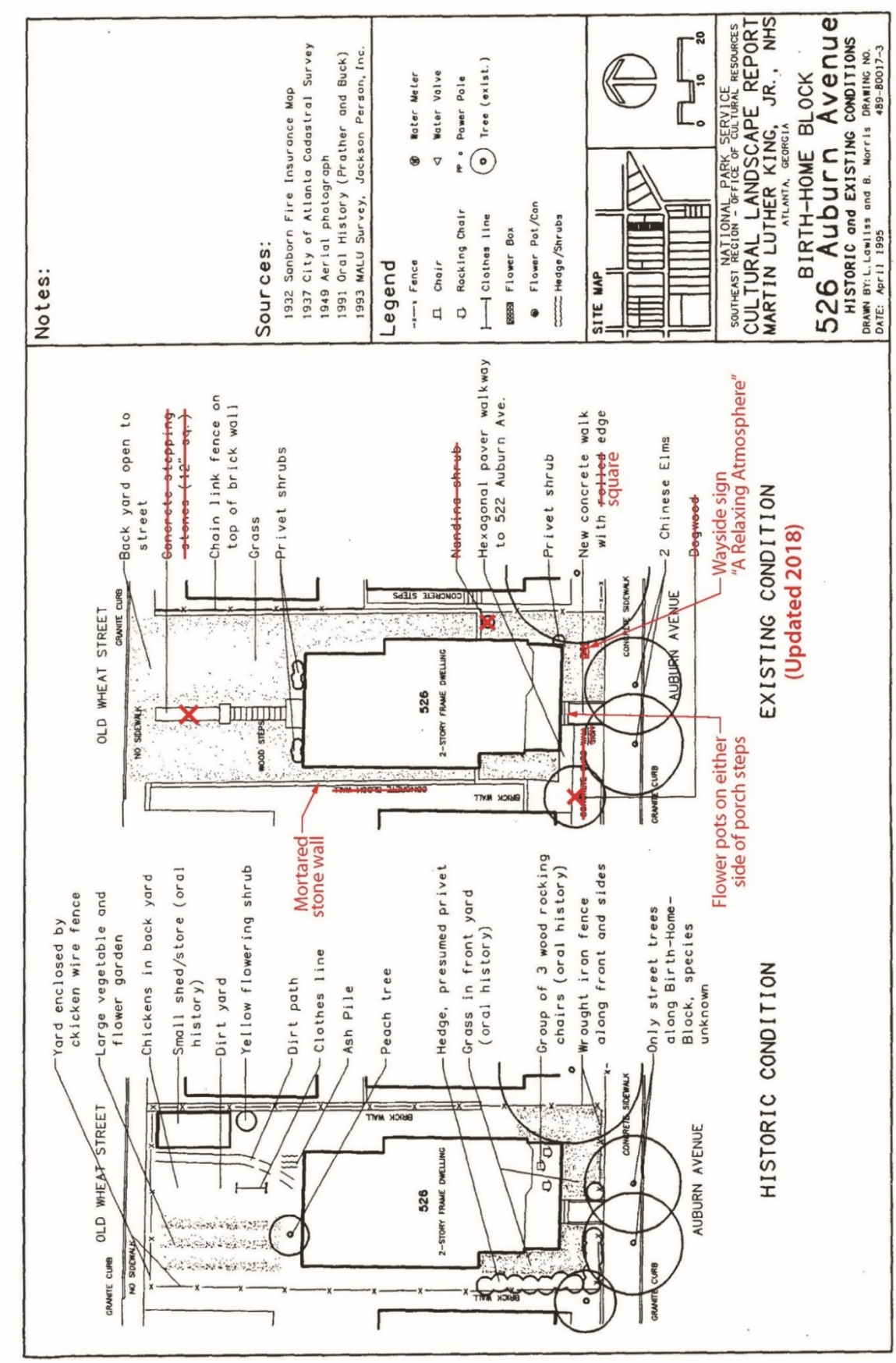


FIGURE 264. 526 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

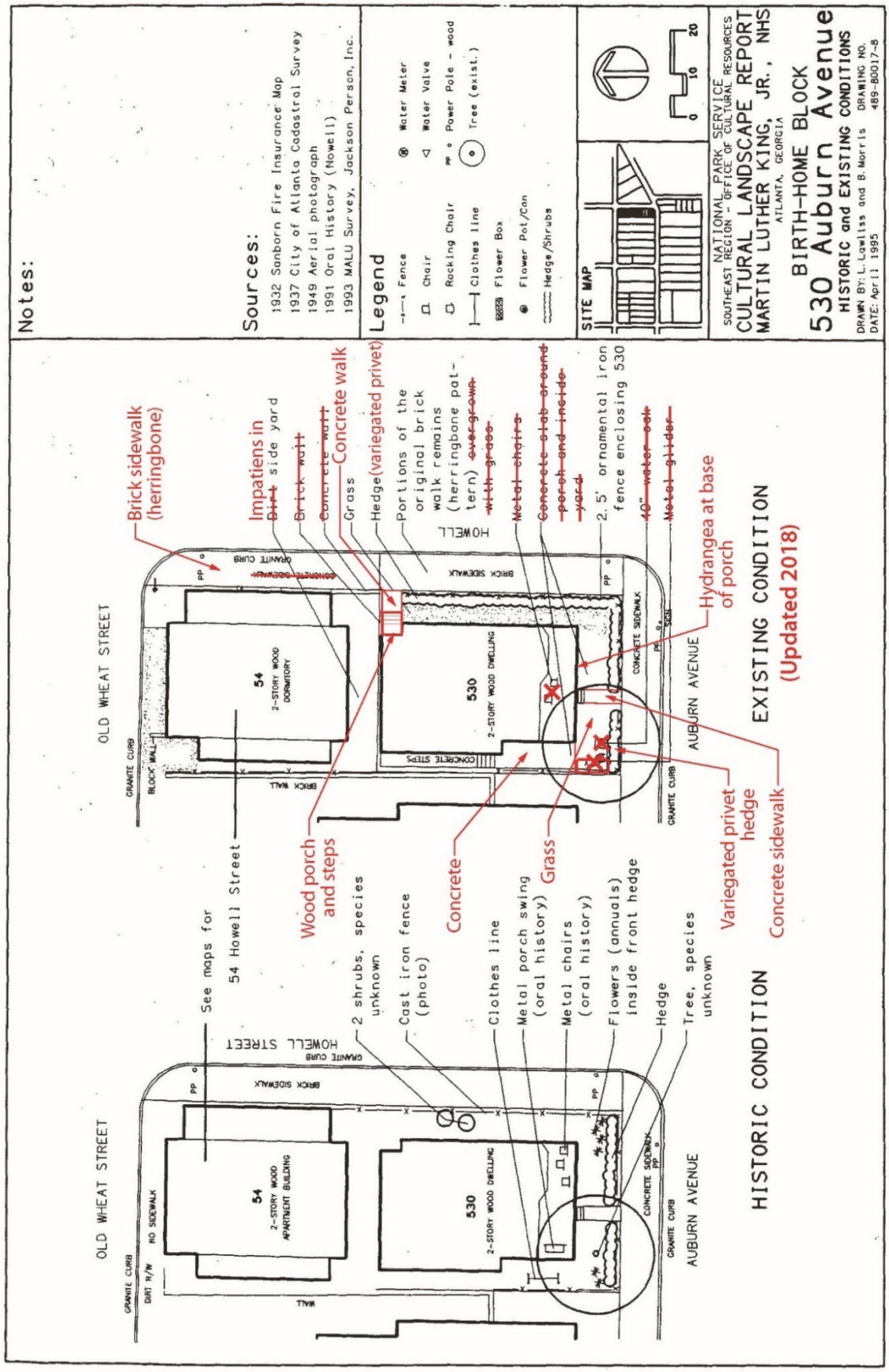


FIGURE 265. 530 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

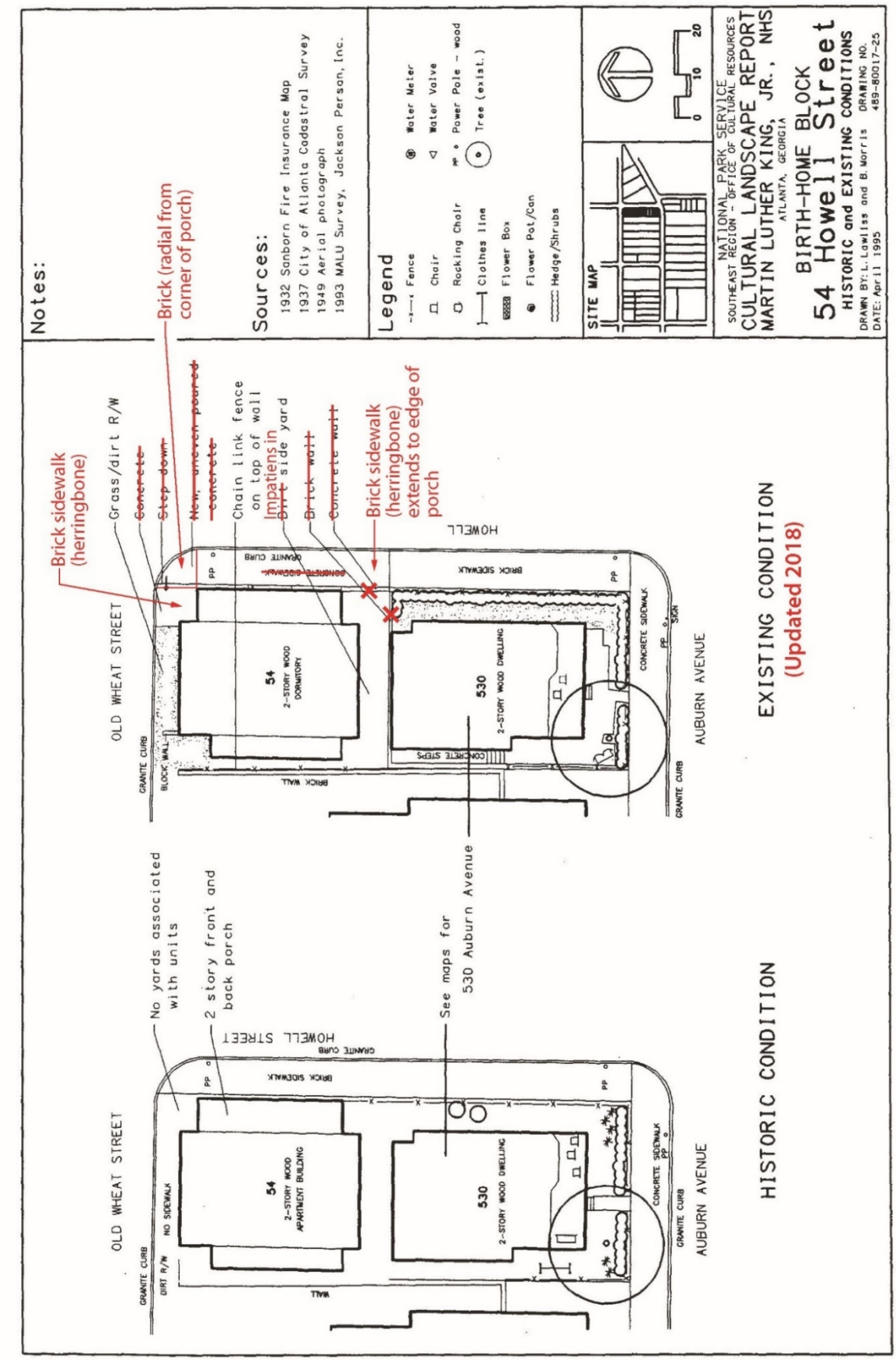


FIGURE 266. 54 Howell Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

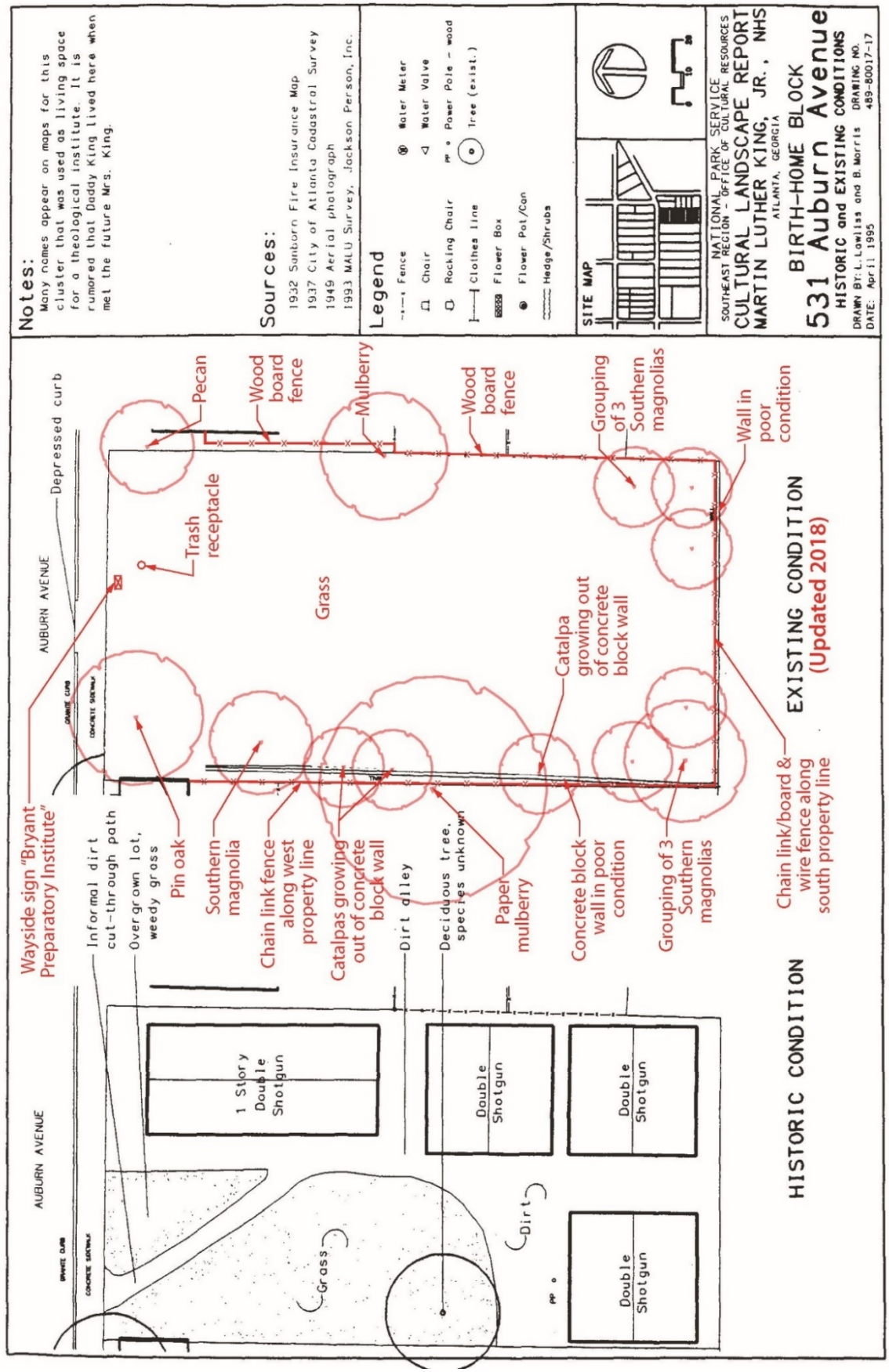


FIGURE 267. 531 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

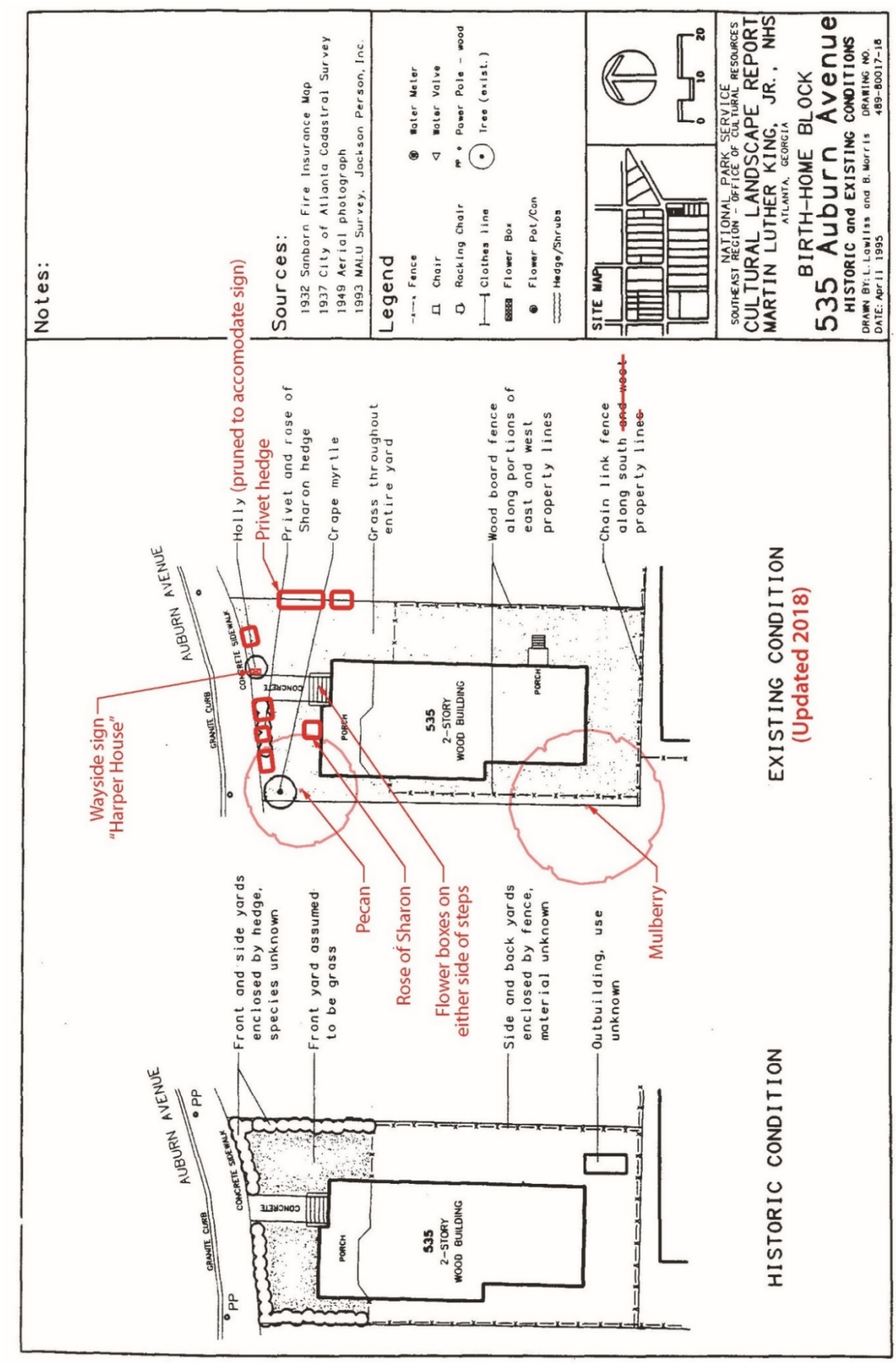


FIGURE 268. 535 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

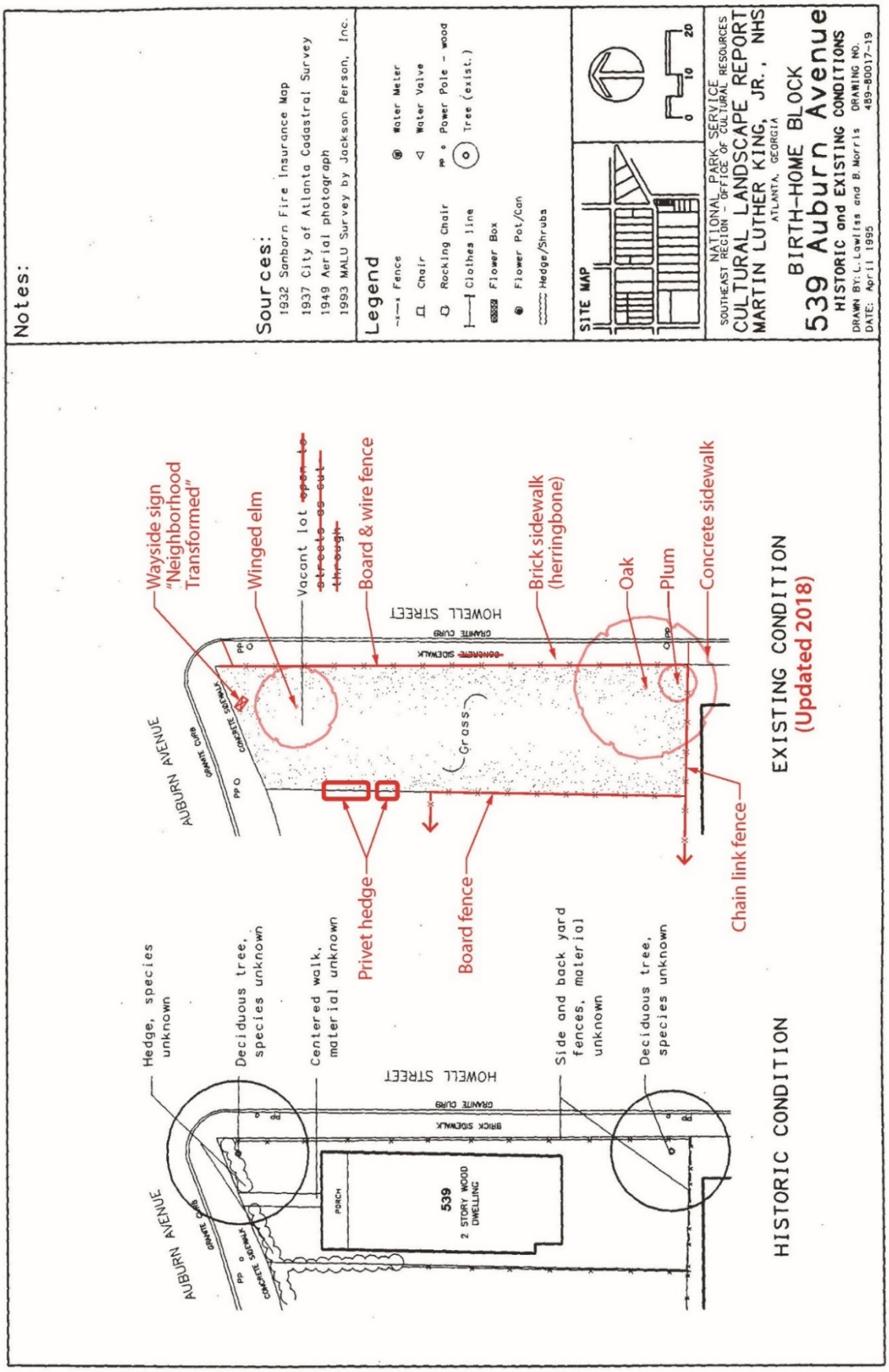


FIGURE 269. 539 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

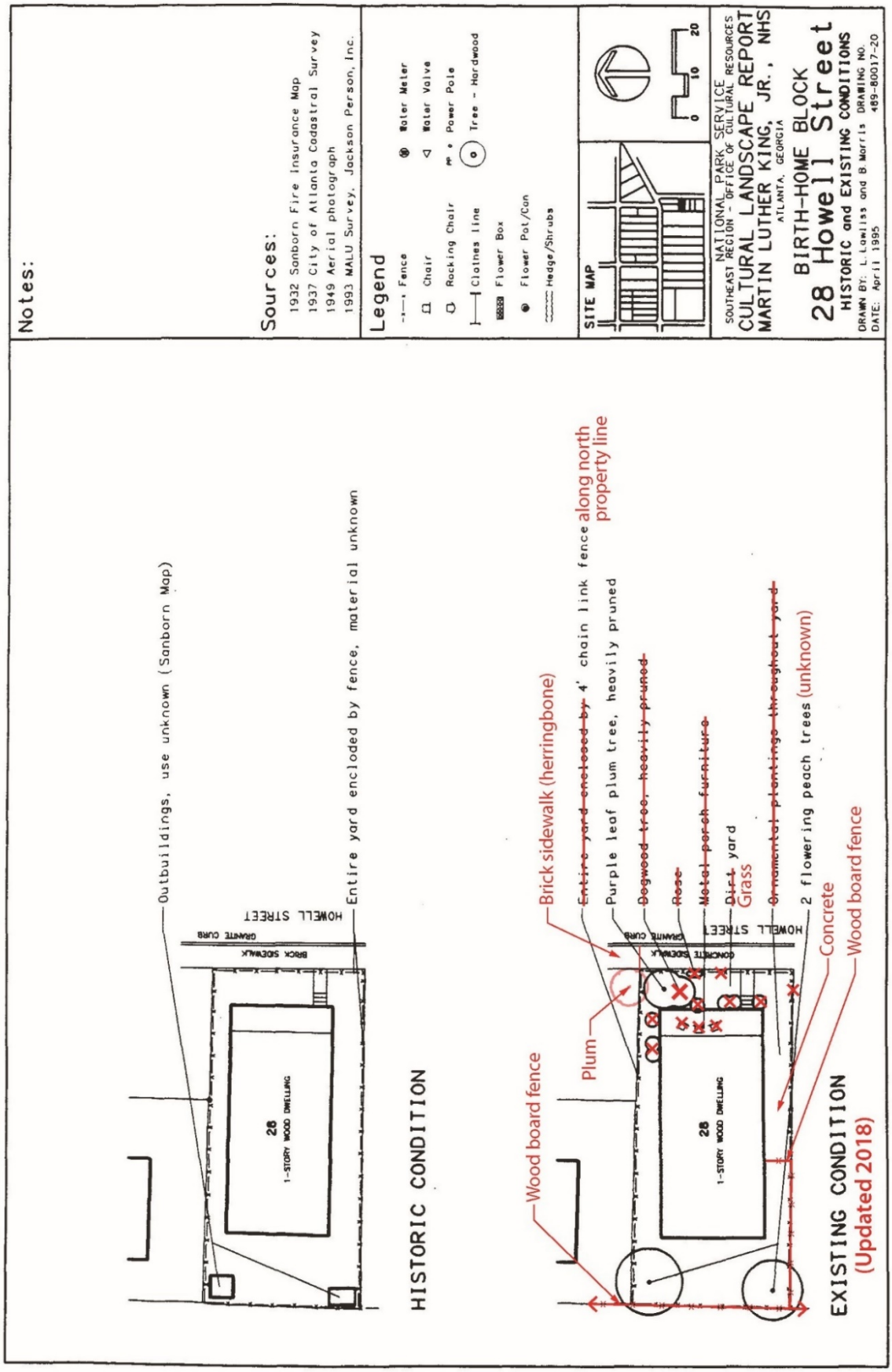


FIGURE 270. 28 Howell Street, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

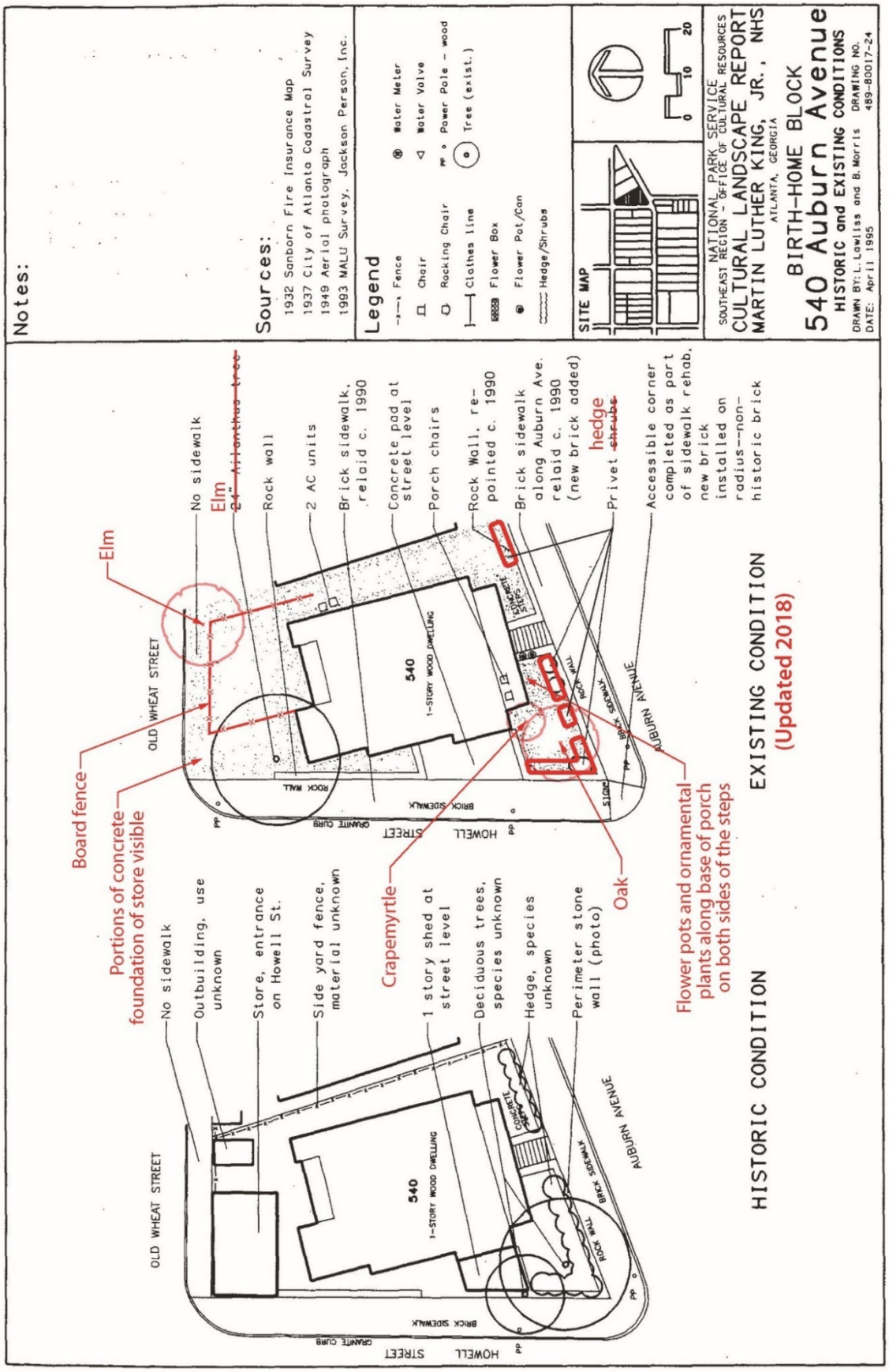


FIGURE 271. 540 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

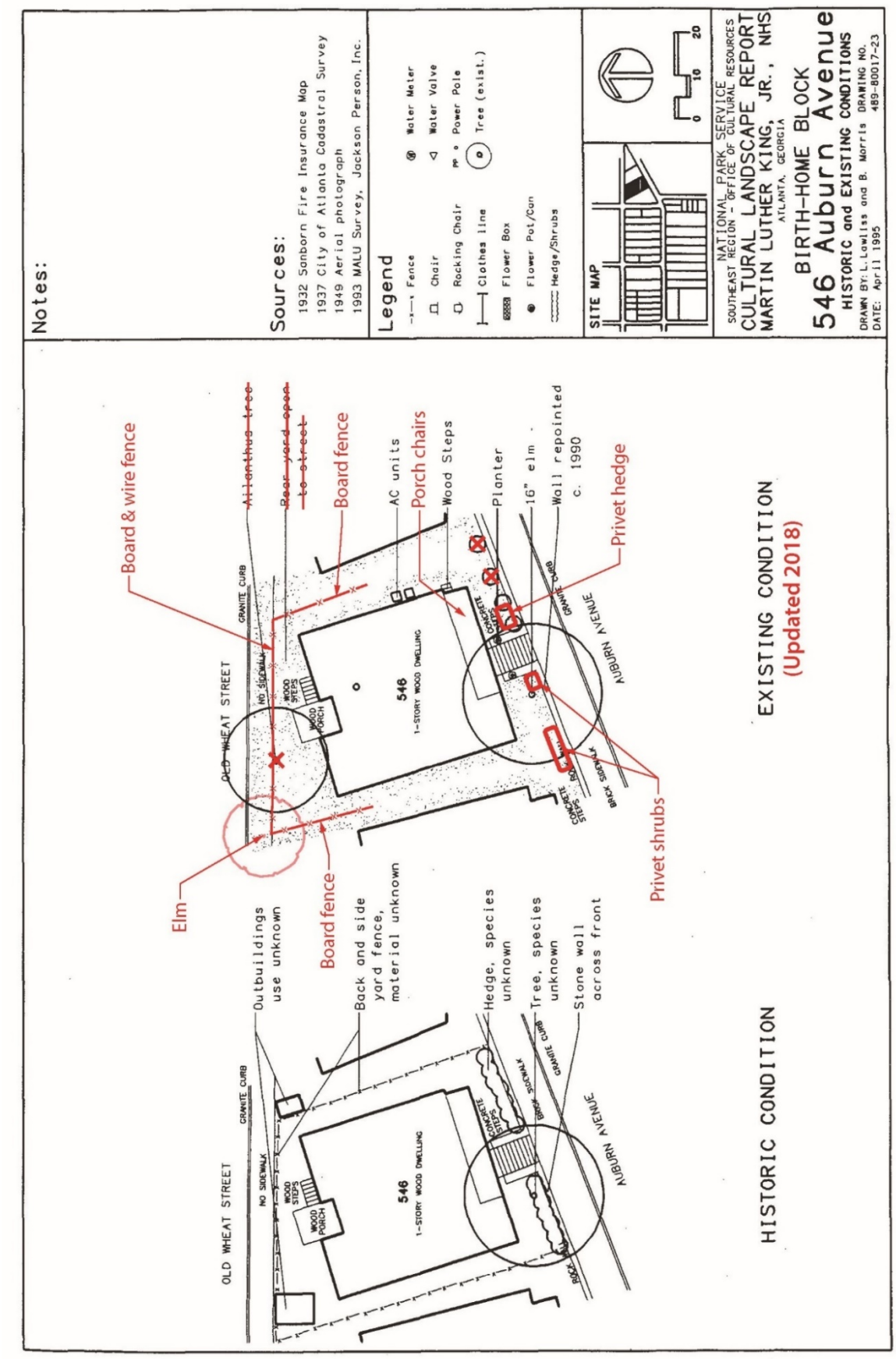


FIGURE 272. 546 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

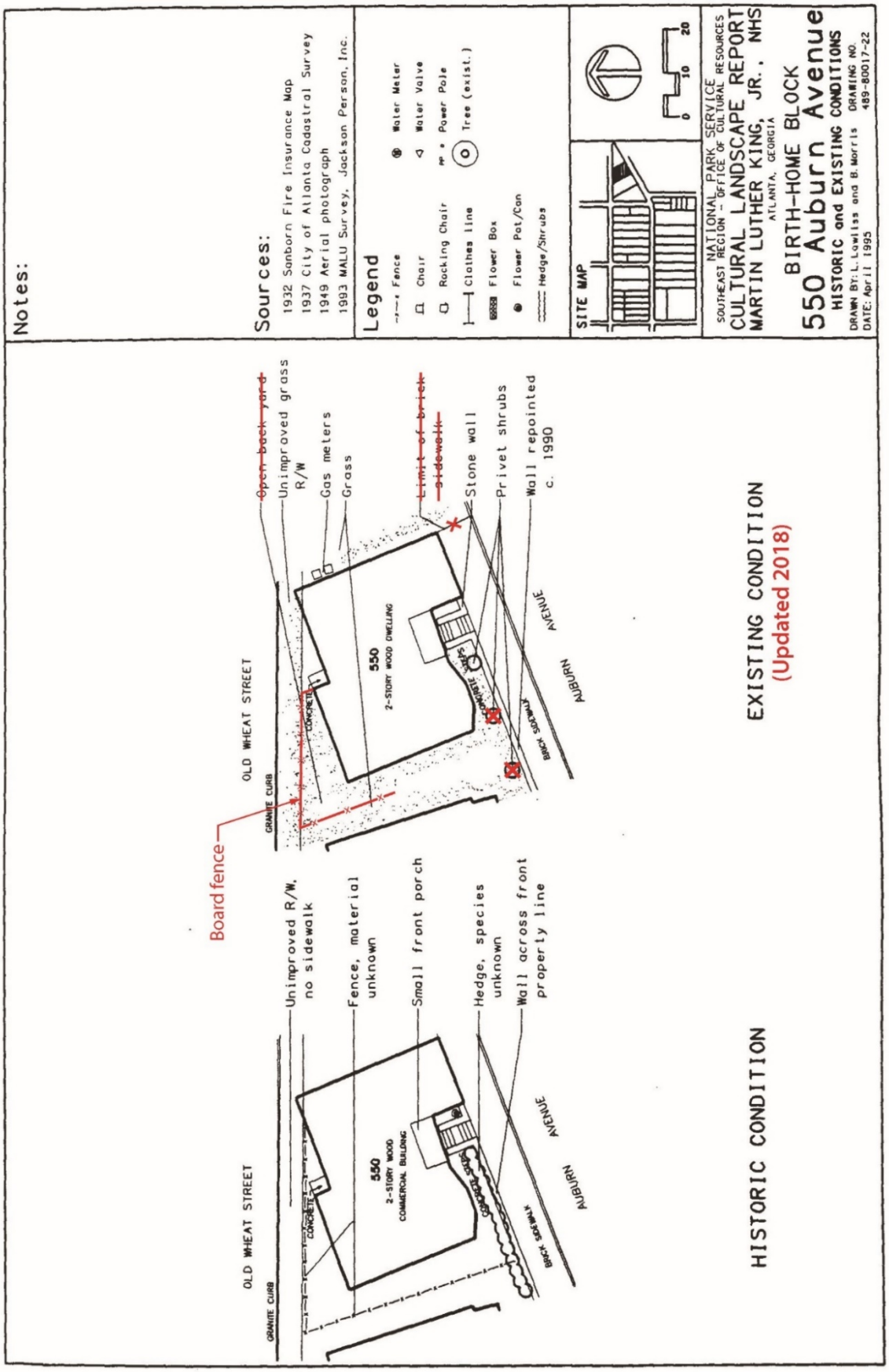


FIGURE 273. 550 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

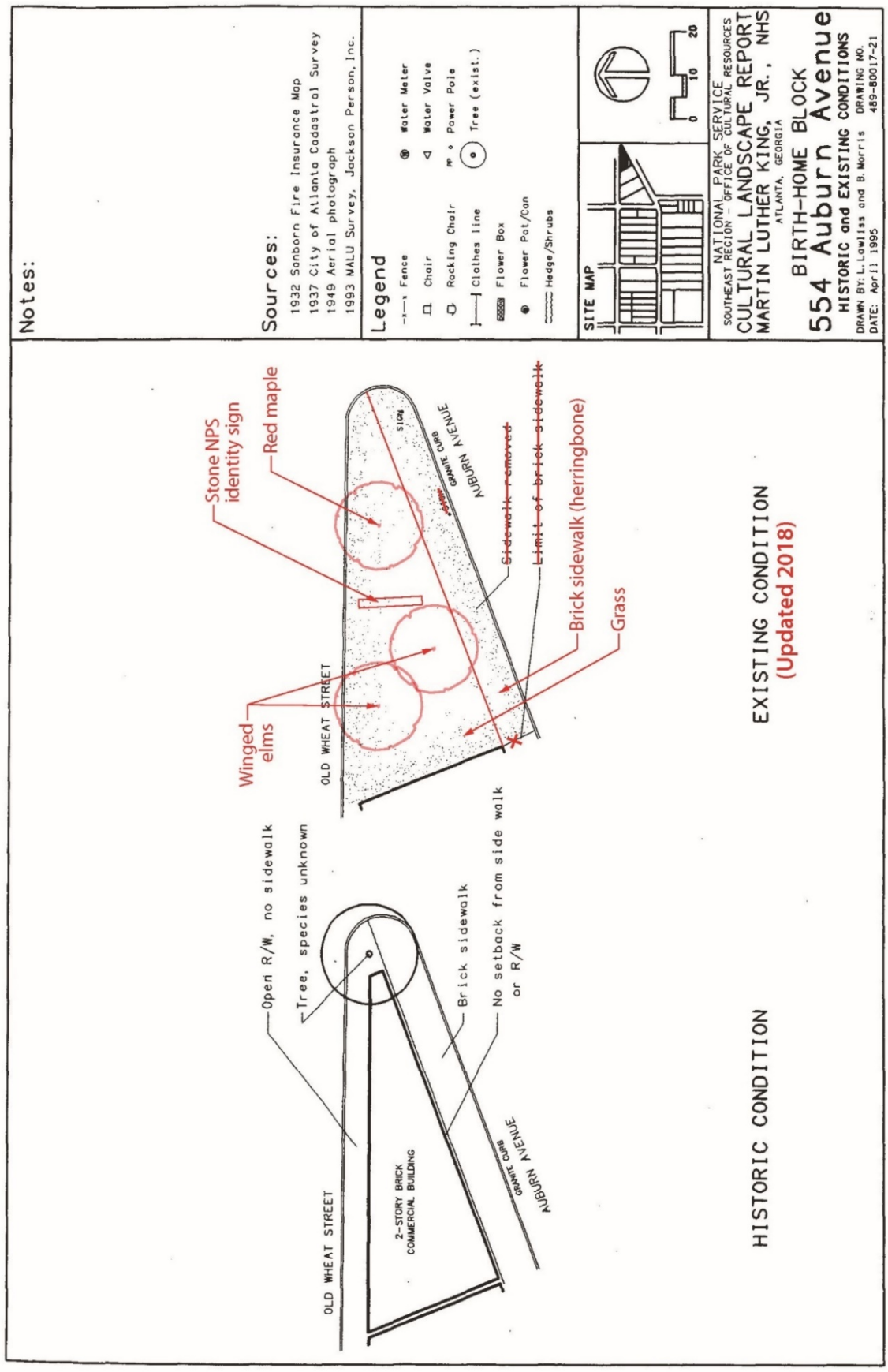


FIGURE 274. 554 Auburn Avenue, updated 2018. (Source: Lawliss, annotated by authors)

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Treatment Plan

Introduction

Treatment is a preservation strategy for long-term management of a historic property designed to address specific resource protection, interpretation, and maintenance needs such that the distinguishing characteristics and features that contribute to its significance are preserved. At the same time, treatment addresses the needs associated with contemporary access, function, and use of a historic landscape.

The treatment plan portion of a cultural landscape report addresses resource management by providing a preservation strategy and plan for the historic landscape that considers both short- and long-term strategies and approaches. Treatment plans establish how the landscape should look and be maintained. In so doing, treatment plans help protect and or enhance historic landscape integrity and character. Treatment plans also address other park management goals, such as sustainability and interpretation, and provide guidance regarding appropriate routine and cyclical maintenance measures intended to perpetuate historic landscape integrity and character.

This treatment plan has been prepared to provide the National Park Service (NPS) with an overall vision for the cultural landscape of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park within the context of urban Atlanta, while also providing specific guidance to address the inherent needs of each character area / management zone and individual resources. It builds on and updates the 1995 *Cultural Landscape Report for the Birth Home Block*. The project also addresses issues and concerns for future management of the cultural landscape articulated by park personnel. The plan is composed of a set of treatment guidelines that outline an appropriate approach to resource management regardless of specific actions that are implemented, and treatment recommendations that suggest a suite of efforts to be conducted to protect cultural resources, address the issues and concerns raised by park personnel, and enhance integrity, character, access, and interpretation within the study boundaries.

Park Management Goals, Issues, and Concerns

The resource management strategies presented in this treatment plan have been guided by input from the NPS, including park and regional personnel, afforded during meetings and through the review process. The input relating to management goals, issues, and objectives provided by park and regional personnel was critical to this project, as were several guiding documents: the 1985 General Management Plan, the 1994 General Management Plan Amendment, and the 2011 Long-Range Interpretive Plan.

Many of the issues were presented and discussed in the project start-up meeting on August 1, 2017. Additional issues were identified during field investigations conducted on site in August 2017 and October 2018 and a follow-up teleconference call to discuss treatment recommendations with park and regional staff. Goals and issues provided for guidance in development of a treatment plan include:

- **Accessibility for visitors and staff.** Many of the city sidewalks that extend through the park are in need of repair and exhibit uneven surfacing, changes of material, and broken

pavement. Another accessibility issue of concern is safety when considering the various instances where visitors and staff are required to cross the city streets to travel from one site to another. The treatment plan should consider how pedestrian use of the park might be encouraged, promoted, and made safer.

- **Safety.** Auburn and Edgewood avenues within the park experience high visitation by the public. They are also city streets, and the park has no jurisdiction over them. The NPS is interested in recommendations within the treatment plan that address visitor safety, especially as they attempt to cross streets. Currently the park partners with the City of Atlanta for safety and signage improvements.

- **Sidewalks.** The treatment plan should consider recommendations for appropriate character and materials for sidewalks within the park.

- **Care of yards**. The front, side, and rear yards of the properties located within the park include a variety of plantings that require care and maintenance. The NPS currently administers a contract with a private company for maintenance of these yards. The treatment plan should provide guidelines to structure the work plans of the contractor.

- **Waysides and signage.** Additional wayside exhibits and other types of signage are likely needed within the cultural landscape to address wayfinding, identity, interpretation, and regulations. The treatment plan should provide guidelines for wayside locations and necessary changes in pedestrian circulation.

- **Coordination with partners and neighbors**. Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is a partnership park whereby several properties that fall within the authorized boundary are not owned by the federal government. The NPS works closely with these partners to address appropriate administration, management, interpretive, and maintenance needs. There is also a preservation district that extends beyond the park administrative boundary that needs to be respected. The NPS also works with the neighborhoods within which the park is located. These neighborhoods are currently undergoing change due to rising housing costs and gentrification pressures. The treatment plan should consider how the park can work with neighbors to encourage appropriate treatment of their properties so that they contribute to the context of the park rather than detract from it. In addition, the park is considering leasing out the row houses, and is in need of guidance regarding how to control the appearance of these buildings, as well as the impact on the rear yard of the Birth Home.

- **Parking lot.** The public parking area used by some visitors is maintained by the Federal Highway Administration. The NPS is responsible for maintaining landscape features within the parking area. The treatment plan should consider how to improve safety for visitors using the parking area, while also addressing the need for more signage, and the aesthetics and appearance of the facility.

- **Interpretation.** The focus of most visitors is the Birth Home block and Auburn Avenue. The 1995 CLR recommended interpreting features within this area to the 1930s. This approach needs to be revisited as it was difficult to reconcile with contemporary conditions in adjacent properties. Currently, the park emphasizes the need to focus on Fire Station No. 6, the Birth Home, the bookstore (497 Auburn Avenue), Park offices (503 Auburn Avenue), 526 Auburn Avenue, and 533 Auburn Avenue where the NPS maintains a partnership for use with the Historic District Development Corporation.

- **Views.** Currently, the NPS follows guidelines for how to trim shrubs in order to promote safety and ensure views of historic buildings are preserved.

- **Specific recommendations for features associated with the properties located within the Auburn Avenue character area.** The park seeks guidance regarding how to

address yard and streetscape elements for the properties located within the Auburn Avenue character area, including walls, steps, fences, and walks.

- **Maintenance.** Treatment recommendations need to be consistent with the park's ability to maintain the landscape. Maintenance recommendations should include specific ways for managing historic vegetation features.

Recommended Treatment Approach

The four treatment approaches recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for historic properties were considered in conjunction with the park's objectives in developing this CLR in order to determine the approach most suitable for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park landscape. Described in the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* as forming the "philosophical basis for responsible preservation practice and enable long-term preservation of a landscape's historic features, qualities, and materials," the four treatment approaches include: preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction. The approaches are defined as:

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment. The Standards for Preservation require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric along with the building's historic form.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the building's historic character.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the restoration period. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project. The Restoration Standards allow for the depiction of a building at a particular time in its history by preserving materials, features, finishes, and spaces from its period of significance and removing those from other periods.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building with new

> materials, primarily for interpretive purposes.[245]

The 1994 General Management Plan Amendment for the park identified preservation and rehabilitation as the treatment standards for the site. The plan focuses historic preservation efforts on the Birth Home block to enable visitors to see and experience the flavor of the 1930s residential street where Dr. King was born and understand the influences of the middle-class community on his life. Within the larger landscape of this study, treatment recommendations refer to areas that focus on retaining and reinforcing period character, and there are areas where interventions are proposed to support current and projected future interpretive, functional, and management goals. Rehabilitation is recommended as the most appropriate overarching treatment approach for the park cultural landscape. Because rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property, this approach allows for protection of historic character and resources while carefully addressing the need for limited enhancement of interpretive opportunities and circulation routes, sustainability, expanded access for all visitors to more of the park resources, and the improvement of visitor amenities. As part of rehabilitation treatment, stabilization, protection, and preservation of historic and natural resources are assumed even when new uses are accommodated. The preservation of all surviving historic features as part of the rehabilitation approach is particularly important to the future of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park where so few cultural landscape elements survive today. This treatment standard has already been adopted for the historic structures in the Auburn Avenue character area. Rehabilitation of the cultural landscape to meet contemporary needs is a fact of management, given the existence of historic fabric, the inability to document what has been lost in order to guide restoration, as well as the need to accommodate two groups—owners / tenants and visitors who continue to use the historic properties.

Review of the other treatment alternatives recognized by the Secretary of the Interior for the park landscape for the CLR found these alternatives to be inappropriate for the following reasons. Preservation was disregarded as overly restrictive because it does not allow for the enhanced interpretation and access changes that are needed to meet the park's resource management and visitor experience goals. Restoration and reconstruction were also found to be inappropriate for the cultural landscape because they assume, as a prerequisite, that sufficient documentation exists to accurately portray a lost historic condition. At this time, it does not appear that there are documentary sources detailed enough to support restoration or reconstruction of any of the historic properties that comprise the park's cultural landscape.

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Recommended Treatment Approach

The Secretary of the Interior has developed standards for rehabilitation as applied to historic properties. There are ten basic principles that comprise the standards. These are intended to help preserve the distinctive character of a historic property while allowing for reasonable change to meet new needs. The standards (36 CFR Part 67) apply to historic properties of all periods, locations, sizes, conditions, and uses. These standards create a baseline of guidance to which intended changes to the historic landscape must be compared. These standards are neither technical

245. Anne E. Grimmer, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring & Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (Washington, DC: US Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Technical Preservation Services, 2017).

nor prescriptive but promote responsible preservation practices. The rehabilitation standards are as follows:

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.

2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.

3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.

4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.

6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.

7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.

8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.

9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and special relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.

10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.[246]

Treatment Concept

As noted above, the overarching treatment approach recommended by the CLR is rehabilitation. For the park as a whole, the CLR recommends that all historic features identified as contributing to the significance of the property be preserved. Both of these treatment standards are included in the 1994 General Management Plan Amendment for the park. The CLR also provides guidance for improving various aspects of the visitor experience, such as the sense of arrival, orientation, gateways, entrances and thresholds, identity and wayfinding signage, and the marking of routes visitors can follow in order to enjoy all aspects of the park's history. Streetscape elements designed to unify the park identity, which are outside of the control of the NPS, are recommended as ideas to discuss with the City of Atlanta through existing partnership agreements. The CLR also addresses the future of the property on Edgewood Avenue that is underutilized through provision of recommendations that suggest several alternatives for consideration.

In addition to general park treatment recommendations, the CLR provides more specific recommendations for each of three management zones. The management zones are

246. Grimmer.

consistent with the character areas identified in Chapter 3 of the CLR. For each, the CLR provides specific guidance regarding the preservation of historic character and integrity, and the ways in which change might occur to accommodate proposed new uses. The three management zones include: 1) Visitor Services; 2) Auburn Avenue; and 3) Edgewood Avenue Commercial.

The Visitor Services management zone does not contain any historic resources contributing to the significance of Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. All facilities post-date the period of significance. Treatment recommendations included herein are intended to support functional needs related to park operations and the visitor experience. Specifically, visitors are currently challenged to locate the main park parking facilities and once there, to find the visitor center. The visitor center affords visitors an important opportunity to connect with park staff and volunteers, to gain an appreciation for Martin Luther King Jr.'s life and contributions to important events in American history. However, after exiting the visitor center, visitors are again challenged to find their way to the historic areas of the park—Auburn Avenue and Edgewood Avenue. The CLR provides recommendations related to the need to improve wayfinding and visual clues to guide visitors to the various key destinations within the park.

The Auburn Avenue management zone is a primary destination of most visitors. The zone successfully conveys the feeling and appearance of an early to mid-twentieth century residential neighborhood, and features the Birth Home of Martin Luther King Jr. The CLR provides specific recommendations for protecting and preserving all contributing features within the block, repairing features in fair to poor condition, enhancing visitor safety, and providing guidance regarding signage, planting, and interpretation. The CLR provides guidance regarding protection of the gateway at the east end of the management zone, as well as the exterior appearance of yards associated with leased buildings, or those owned by neighbors. The NPS acquired the Birth Home during the process of preparing this CLR. Although the project scope of work was not expanded to address this change, the CLR team anticipates that the addition of these features to NPS administration will affect logistics and the visitor experience. Every effort has been made to anticipate some of the changes that are likely to result and address them in the treatment recommendations.

The Edgewood Avenue management zone is a secondary destination of most visitors. This commercial area continues to depict its association with Dr. King through murals on the walls, signage, and protection of historic building facades. The CLR provides recommendations for improving safety and wayfinding for visitors within this management zone. It also provides suggested alternatives for the use of the NPS property at 443 Edgewood Avenue and 445 Edgewood Avenue and the nearby vacant lot. None of these properties has a direct connection to the Martin Luther King Jr. story, and their administration should be enhanced through the identification of appropriate future uses.

General Treatment Recommendations

The following section provides general guidelines for treatment intended to support the rehabilitation approach as well as all treatment recommendations and alternatives presented below. These guidelines relate to a philosophy of cultural landscape treatment based on the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*, and a comprehensive view of the property as a whole. They should be used when planning for any and all landscape changes and should be considered in connection with each of the proposed landscape treatments included in this CLR.

Land Use

- Avoid land use activities, permanent or temporary, which threaten or impair known or potential archeological resources.

- Monitor and regulate use of the landscape to minimize immediate and long-term damage to cultural resources.
- Consider equally both natural and cultural features in treatment decisions.

Buildings and Structures

- Consider the interpretive value of non-intrusive, non-contributing buildings and structures, and retain when possible.
- Consider the removal of non-contributing structures that are intrusive to the historic landscape only if they are found to be without historical or functional merit or value.
- Avoid conjectural reconstruction of historic buildings and structures.

Circulation

- Address the need to provide access for all visitors to Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. Design for accessibility should follow the guidelines afforded in the Americans with Disabilities Act and the Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards (ADA/ABAAS).
- Address the safety issues of concern relating to street crossings, parking, and public transportation throughout the park.

Sustainability

- Institute cultural and natural resource treatment and maintenance methods that are environmentally and culturally sensitive and sustainable over the long term.
- Minimize the extent of any ground-disturbance, earth-grading, compaction, and drainage pattern alteration.
- Promote biodiversity and native plant species. Species should be selected with the understanding of historical precedents so as not to create a false sense of history.
- Take into consideration life-cycle costing of materials, including their long-term wearing capacity and maintenance costs, when evaluating options. Always consider materials that are non-toxic, durable, long-lived, and low-maintenance.

New Design and Construction

- Avoid altering existing features or adversely affecting the urban landscape's historic character when adding new features to support interpretive, management, and visitor access functions. Features that facilitate access and interpretation should be designed to minimize adverse impacts on the character and features of the urban landscape.
- Undertake sufficient study and recordation of features requiring modification, repair, or replacement before work is performed to protect research and interpretive values.
- Protect and preserve archeological resources in place. If such resources must be disturbed, undertake mitigation measures such as recovery, curation, and documentation.
- Limit the use of destructive techniques, such as archeological excavation, to provide information required to support research, interpretation, and management goals.
- Retain and maintain historic materials, features, finishes, construction techniques, spaces, and spatial relationships when changes to the cultural urban landscape are considered.
- Design and site new additions or alterations to the landscape to ensure preservation of historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the cultural urban landscape. Design all new additions and alterations to be compatible with historic resources in materials, size, scale and proportion, and massing.
- Design and site new additions and alterations to the landscape in such a way that, if removed

in the future, the essential form and integrity of the cultural landscape would be unimpaired.

- Repair, rather than replace, deteriorated historic features. Replacement of severely deteriorated features should be based on archeological, documentary, or physical evidence. The new feature should match the old in design, color, texture, and, where possible, materials.

- Avoid landscape changes that create a false sense of historical development, including the addition of conjectural, typical, or representative features. Consider interpretation of typical features in cases where restoration is not possible, but where providing the information is important to the visitor experience.

- Avoid the use of chemical or physical treatments that cause damage to cultural resources and natural systems. Undertake the surface cleaning of structures using the gentlest means possible.

Interpretation

- Provide an alternative means for interpretation for those features located in areas that cannot be made universally accessible or where new interpretive features would be a visual intrusion.

- Minimize the visual and physical impacts of interpretive and visitor use facilities on cultural resources. Develop the least-intrusive interpretive and visitor use improvements possible.

- Erect the minimal number of signs necessary to meet identity, directional, interpretive, and regulatory needs.

- Develop interpretive programs and media to be as accessible as possible for the widest range of visitors.

Role of Preservation Specialists

- Undertake all treatment projects under the direction of appropriate specialists, including historical landscape architects, historical architects, archeologists, conservators, and qualified technicians and artisans.

Documentation

- Document, through drawings, photographs, and notes, all changes and treatments to the historic urban landscape. Consider the use of GPS and GIS technology in documentation efforts. Maintain records of treatments and preserve this documentation according to professional archival standards.

Parkwide Treatment Recommendations

The recommendations that follow are specific suggestions for actions to be taken within the park that address the property as a whole.

- Preserve and maintain all contributing features of the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park. [See Recommendations by Management Zone below for specific recommendations related to individual features located within the park.]

- Ensure compliance with relevant federal laws in undertaking any actions anticipated to alter the character-defining features of the historic landscape including:

    - Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties,

    - National Environmental Policy Act,

    - Section 106 (36 CFR 800) in consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), and

    - Americans with Disabilities Act as addressed in Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Standards.

- Consider ways to guide visitors arriving by private vehicle to the parking area, the visitor center, Auburn Avenue residences (Birth Home block), Fire Station No. 6, Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, and Edgewood Avenue in a logical sequence. Consider how interpretation might be structured to support the preferred route of visitation through the park. For visitors arriving by bus or trolley, evaluate the location of the stop(s) where visitors disembark, and identify any concerns with those locations for discussion with the entities that run the services. From acceptable stop locations, consider how to improve wayfinding systems.

- Use the recommendations provided in the CLR to generate a parkwide interpretive strategy that focuses on the key features and stories associated with the park. Consider a suite of options for the media to be used to convey interpretive information, including wayside exhibits, printed brochures and pamphlets, temporary plaques mounted on walls, fences, stones, or other upright features, and virtual interpretation to be used in conjunction with hand-held personal devices such as cell phones and tablets. Limit the number of wayside exhibits used within historic areas of the park to the fewest needed to tell key stories that cannot be told in another way. [See Recommendations by Management Zone below for specific recommendations].

- Develop a Vegetation Management Plan that preserves the historic character of the park by identifying a planting and replacement policy for trees and shrubs considered as contributing to its significance or known to be missing and desirable to reestablish. Use this CLR as the basis for developing the planting and replacement policy. Consider the viability of all species indicated in the previous plans for use in the future. Develop a list of recommended plants as part of the vegetation management plan, taking into consideration the accumulated experience of park maintenance personnel regarding the species that have performed well in the urban environment and local climate. Trends in climate change should also be taken into consideration in developing a list of recommended species for use in the future.

- Maintain and manage historic vegetation by stabilizing and pruning to protect against structural failure caused by wind, ice, snow, or age.

- Implement a cyclical maintenance program that includes periodic inspection of all trees for damage, disease, and or evidence of decline in order to prevent deterioration or loss of plant material. Treat each condition appropriately and ensure that maintenance actions are documented for the database record. Regular maintenance of vegetation would also prevent damage to adjacent and nearby resources such as dwellings, sidewalks, walls, and fences.

- Make every reasonable effort to treat or stabilize a historic tree that is diseased or damaged prior to considering removal. Avoid removing historic specimen trees unless they pose a safety threat to visitors, are in advanced decline, or present a risk to other historic resources.

- Consider preparation of a parkwide accessibility plan and partnering with the National Center on Accessibility. The Center offers extensive experience in comprehensive planning for ADA/ABAAS accessibility in national parks. This approach would aid in the development of comprehensive programmatic interpretation in all areas where there are limitations to physical access. An accessibility plan would guide the staff in making improvements to accommodate the public in accordance with all federal accessibility requirements for both programmatic and physical access. The accessibility plan would address issues and ensure that the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park is as accessible and inclusive as possible to all visitors.

Treatment Recommendations by Management Zone

Visitor Services Management Zone

(Refer to Figure 363 and Figure 364 at the end of this chapter)

The goal for managing the Visitor Services management zone is to improve identity and wayfinding systems so visitors traveling by private vehicle can easily locate the parking area, travel to the visitor center, and proceed from the visitor center to Auburn Avenue and beyond to experience the key features of the park. Currently, the identity and wayfinding signage is insufficient to properly direct visitors. Similarly, wayfinding signage is needed to direct visitors from public transportation stops to the visitor center to enjoy the orientation to the park that helps set the stage for experiencing all the park has to offer. In addition to improving wayfinding to guide visitors to the parking facilities, visual clues to allow visitors to follow the walking route to Auburn Avenue are in need of improvement.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the following contemporary features:
    - Martin Luther King Jr. "I Have a Dream" World Peace Rose Garden and associated plaza
    - Views of the King Center from the park, including the axial view from the World Peace Rose Garden and associated plaza to the Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King graves
    - Views of Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary from the World Peace Rose Garden and associated plaza with the *Behold* sculpture in the foreground
    - *Behold* monument
    - *Gandhi* sculpture
- Consider interpreting the view from the World Peace Rose Garden and associated plaza toward the Kings' graves and King Center to provide visitors with an understanding of the connection between the two sites (Figure 275).
- Consider interpreting the view from the *Behold* monument within the plaza to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary (Figure 276).
- Improve the wayfinding associated with the intended route for visitors to follow in experiencing the park. Provide additional visual clues that guide visitors from the World Peace Rose Garden and associated plaza toward Auburn Avenue. Consider options such as a band of color added to the walk that visitors can follow, low signs with arrows placed regularly along the walk, and / or the use of a specific plant material that edges the route (Figure 277). Thin the overhead canopy along the route to reduce the gloomy character of portions of the corridor that render the space less inviting (Figure 278).
- Consider how to reorient, or supplement, existing park identity signs associated with the visitor center complex so that they are visible and clearly legible along the key routes that visitors typically follow to reach the park (Figure 279 and Figure 280). Consult with Harpers Ferry Center on how to update park identity signage to provide the best possible wayfinding assistance to visitors.
- Increase the frequency with which the concrete identity signs north and south of the visitor center are cleaned (Figure 281 and Figure 282). The concrete and photographs embedded in the signs are subject to discoloration from atmospheric pollution and organic growth.



FIGURE 275. Iconic viewshed looking south from the Peace Plaza over the World Peace Rose Garden toward the graves of Martin Luther King Jr. and Coretta Scott King. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)



FIGURE 276. Viewshed looking south from the Peace Plaza with the *Behold* Monument in the foreground and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary in the background. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)



FIGURE 277. Consider visual and textural options to guide visitors from the Peace Plaza to the King Center and to Auburn Avenue and the Birth Home destination. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)



FIGURE 278. Removal of some canopy trees and the addition of visual and textural options in the pavement would help guide visitors to other areas of the park. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)



FIGURE 279. This is one excellent location for a larger orientation map that would include the new wayfinding system to all the areas of the park. Others would be located in the Peace Plaza and on Auburn Avenue as visitors go from the visitor center to the King Center.



FIGURE 280. The proposed orientation map should be larger and guide visitors to the destination points within the park. This wayside provides good information, but it needs to be expanded and linked to additional options for wayfinding.



FIGURE 281. Identity sign north of the visitor center at the promenade. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)



FIGURE 282. Identity sign south of the visitor center near Auburn Avenue.

Auburn Avenue Management Zone

(Refer to Figure 365 and Figure 366 at the end of this chapter for general treatment recommendations in this management zone)

The Auburn Avenue management zone is a primary destination for most park visitors. All historic resources should be preserved. The character of the streetscape also needs to be preserved. At the same time, limited and visually non-intrusive additions are needed to improve safety and interpretation within the management zone. Visitors should be able to easily find their way to the Birth Home block and experience the residential neighborhood, Fire Station No. 6, and Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary as part of a broader designed visitor experience. Visitor amenities including benches, shade, water, and interpretation should be available, but sited in the least intrusive manner possible. Accessibility and safety concerns should be addressed.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage all buildings listed as cultural resources within this management area. Also preserve, maintain and manage all other contributing features listed below in the Auburn Avenue management zone.
    - Broad patterns of spatial organization created by the form and structure of the streets that define the Birth Home block and delineate the boundaries of the character area
    - Figure/ground relationships that organize the density, scale, and spatial patterns of building masses in relationship to the landscape
    - Hierarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape, determined by road widths, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, individual lot size, and defined spaces within each individual property
    - Residential, Public Facility, and Religious land use within the boundaries of the management zone
    - Streets: Auburn Avenue, Old Wheat Street, Hogue Street, and Howell Street, within the management zone
    - Reid's Alley
    - Brick sidewalk north side of Auburn Avenue and east of Howell Street associated with 540, 546, 550 and 554 Auburn Avenue properties.
    - Brick sidewalk west side of Howell Street, north of Auburn Avenue
    - Brick sidewalk along Howell Street associated with the vacant property at 539 Auburn Avenue
    - Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street
    - Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk, south side of Auburn avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street
    - Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk on both sides of Hogue Street from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street
    - Granite curbs
    - Brick walk and edging in front of 491 Auburn Avenue
    - Front yard perimeter privet shrubs in the Birth Home block
    - Large Burford hollies in front of 491 Auburn Avenue
    - Two Chinese elm trees in sidewalk tree pits on Auburn Avenue in front of 526
    - Large post oak in front yard of 515 Auburn

- Large elm in front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue
- Large oak in front yard of 540 Auburn Avenue
- Large water oak in front yard of 521 Auburn Avenue
- Large elm in front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue
- Grass in individual yards within the Birth Home block
- Axial views in either direction on Auburn Avenue, Howell Street, and Hogue Street
- Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary
- 472–474 Auburn Avenue, 1905
- 476–478 Auburn Avenue, 1905
- 480–[482] Auburn Avenue, 1905
- 484–[486] Auburn Avenue, 1905
- 488–[490] Auburn Avenue, 1905
- 491–[493] Auburn Avenue, 1911
- 492 –[494] Auburn Avenue, circa 1897, rehabilitated in 1990
- 493A [Nos. 1–2] Auburn Avenue, 1911
- 493B [Nos. 3–4] Auburn Avenue, 1911
- 493C [Nos. 5–6] Auburn Avenue, 1911
- 497 Auburn Avenue, Park Bookstore, circa 1900 and garage, circa 1933-1935
- 501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home, 1895
- 503 Auburn Avenue, circa 1895
- 506 Auburn Avenue, 1933
- 510 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890
- 514 Auburn Avenue, Shaw-Lightner House, 1893
- 515 Auburn Avenue, Faison House, 1909
- 518 Auburn Avenue, circa 1893
- 521B [521-1/2] Auburn Avenue, 1921
- 522 Auburn Avenue, Bryant-Graves House, circa 1894
- 526 Auburn Avenue, Kirk House, circa 1895
- 530 Auburn Avenue, Nowell House, circa 1895
- 535 Auburn Avenue, Harper House, circa 1895
- 540 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890
- 546 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890
- 550 Auburn Avenue, circa 1890
- 37–39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6, 1894
- 53–[55] Boulevard, circa 1905
- 53 Hogue Street, circa 1940
- 28 Howell Street, circa 1895
- 54 Howell Street, 1931
- Rear and side yard walls constructed of stone, brick, and concrete in the Birth Home block
- Retaining walls to hold the grade of the front yard on the south side of Auburn Avenue in the Birth Home block
- Steps from the sidewalks to the front yards of the residences within the Birth Home block

- Steps associated with side yard walls on both sides of Auburn Avenue
- Granite steps with marble cheekwall at 503 Auburn Avenue
- Stone wall wrapping around 540 Auburn Avenue
- Ornamental cast iron fence around the front and side yards of 530 Auburn Avenue
- Outbuilding/garage circa 1933–1935 in back yard of 497 Auburn Avenue
- Neon identification sign at Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary
- Pattern of board or chicken wire and board fencing in the Birth Home block yards
- Pattern of back yard fencing and side yard fencing in the Birth Home block yards

Streetscape

The streetscape within the Auburn Avenue management zone is a mix of the old and new. Most of the major characteristics, such as street paving widths, sidewalk widths, two-way flow of traffic and building setbacks from the street, have remained unchanged. These features are very important in defining the character of the zone, specifically in the Birth Home block (Figure 283 and Figure 284). The streetscape condition associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary has also retained its major characteristics of a more urban street width, sidewalk width, and building setback (Figure 285).



FIGURE 283. Streetscape character on the south side of Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 284. Streetscape character on the north side of Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 285. Urban streetscape character associated with Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street.

Streetscape Treatment Recommendations

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the hierarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape, determined by road widths, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, individual lot size, and defined spaces within

each individual property within the Auburn Avenue management zone.

- Recognize the integrity of the streetscape features and work with the City of Atlanta and the utility companies to protect them from potential improvement projects.

Circulation

Sidewalk and Curb Treatment Recommendations

- Auburn Avenue NE (north side of Auburn Avenue) associated with 540, 546, 550, and 554 Auburn Avenue:
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the existing herringbone pattern brick walkway and the radial brick pattern at the corner of Howell Street NE and Auburn Avenue NE.
    - Repair and maintain transitions between brick patterns and replace missing bricks when necessary (Figure 286).
    - Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp (Figure 287).
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite curbing associated with the brick sidewalk.



FIGURE 286. Transition from the herringbone pattern to the radial bricks defining the corner of Howell Street and Auburn Avenue, needs maintenance and repair and bricks replaced where necessary.



FIGURE 287. Access to the sidewalk from the intersection of Howell Street and Auburn Avenue needs repair.

- East side of Howell Street from Auburn Avenue NE to Old Wheat Street NE:
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone pattern brick sidewalk on the east side of Howell Street between Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street (Figure 288).
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite curb associated with the brick sidewalk adjacent to Old Wheat Street (Figure 289).
    - Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp.



FIGURE 288. Herringbone pattern sidewalk along the east side of Howell Street is in good condition.



FIGURE 289. Granite curb needs repair at the intersection of Howell Street and Old Wheat Street.

- West side of Howell Street from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street:
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone pattern and the granite curb (Figure 290).
    - Complete the herringbone brick pattern around the corner condition and align it with the foundation of the dwelling at 54 Howell (Figure 291).
    - Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp.



FIGURE 290. Sidewalk and curb along the west side of Howell Street are in good condition.



FIGURE 291. Brick needs to be finished and form a clean line where it intersects with the dwelling at 54 Howell Street.

- Howell Street NE from Auburn Avenue to 28 Howell, associated with the vacant property at 539 Auburn Avenue:
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone brick sidewalk and granite curb adjacent to 539 Auburn Avenue (Figure 292).

- Consider extending the brick herringbone sidewalk to the edge of the residential driveway at 28 Howell Street and include granite curbing (Figure 293). This may be an issue as this is private property, but it is part of the public right-of-way. This small extension of the sidewalk would give the historic core better visual definition and a defined edge as visitors approach from Edgewood Avenue.



FIGURE 292. The brick sidewalk and granite curb along Howell Street south of Auburn Avenue are in good condition.



FIGURE 293. Extension of the brick herringbone sidewalk past 28 Howell Street to the driveway edge would include the dwelling that forms an important edge to the Birth Home block.

- Auburn Avenue NE from Howell Street NE to Hogue Street NE (north side of Auburn Avenue) and associated with residential properties 530, 526, 522, 518, 514, 510, and 506 Auburn Avenue:
  - Preserve, maintain, and manage the sidewalk in the existing exposed aggregate concrete paving, including the granite curb (Figure 294).
  - Maintain and manage the tree pits and trees within the sidewalk (Figure 295). Destabilization of the sidewalk may occur due to the growth of tree roots, causing unsafe walking conditions for visitors.
  - Consider removing the trees if the sidewalk experiences buckling or upheaval. There are two street trees in the sidewalk south of 526 Auburn Avenue.
  - Monitor the height and condition of the granite curb as the asphalt layers of the street paving are starting to rise and diminish the height and condition of the curb.



FIGURE 294. Exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk along Auburn Avenue is generally in good condition.



FIGURE 295. Tree pits in the sidewalk in front of 526 Auburn Avenue allow some root growth. Roots can threaten the stability of the sidewalk.

- Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp. Ensure that the width of the sidewalk adjacent to the street trees complies with accessibility standards.

- Hogue Street NE from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street and associated with properties 506 and 502 Auburn Avenue and 53 Hogue Street. The sidewalk on both sides of the street is paved with exposed aggregate concrete, and there is a small grass median between the sidewalk and the granite curb.

  - Preserve, maintain, and manage the sidewalk in the existing exposed aggregate concrete paving, including the granite curb and grass median (Figure 296).

  - Consider replacing paving at the corner of Hogue Street and Old Wheat Street with exposed aggregate concrete to match the existing historic conditions (Figure 297). It is likely that the utility pole located in the sidewalk at the corner was replaced, and when that occurred, new concrete paving was applied to the sidewalk. The bright white concrete is in stark contrast to the exposed aggregate concrete paving on both sides of the street.



FIGURE 296. East and west sides of Hogue Street are paved with exposed aggregate concrete.



FIGURE 297. Exposed aggregate concrete should be extended to the corner of Hogue Street and Old Wheat Street.

- Auburn Avenue NE from Hogue Street NE to Boulevard NE (north side of Auburn Avenue) and associated with properties 502, 492, 488, 484, 480, 476–478, 472–474 Auburn Avenue. The sidewalk wraps around the corner of Auburn and Boulevard and extends north to Old Wheat Street NE and is associated with 472–474 Auburn Avenue and 53 Boulevard.

  - Preserve, maintain, and manage the sidewalk in the existing exposed aggregate concrete paving (Figure 298).

  - Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite curb and monitor the height of the asphalt when Auburn Avenue and Boulevard are re-paved.

  - Consider replacing areas paved with concrete that do not match the exposed aggregate used on Auburn Avenue. This

condition is evident along the Boulevard segment of the sidewalk.

- Maintain and manage the herringbone brick paving between the concrete sidewalk and the curb (Figure 299).

- Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp.



FIGURE 298. Sidewalk extending east/west on the north side of Auburn Avenue is paved with exposed aggregate concrete and is in good condition.



FIGURE 299. Concrete on this segment of the sidewalk along Boulevard is adjacent to a strip of herringbone pattern brick pavement.

- Auburn Avenue NE from Howell Street NE to Boulevard NE (south side of Auburn Avenue and associated with properties 539, 535, 531, 521 and 521B, 515, 509, 503, 501 [Birth Home], 497, and 491 Auburn Avenue, and 37–39 Boulevard [Fire Station No. 6]). The sidewalk wraps around the corner of Auburn and Boulevard extending south, adjacent to the west entrance to Fire Station No. 6.

  - Preserve, maintain, and manage the sidewalk in the existing exposed aggregate concrete paving, including the granite curb (Figure 300).

  - Repair areas where the sidewalk and curb are in poor to fair condition (Figure 301). There are sections of the curb missing and crumbling and segments where repair attempts have not succeeded.

  - Ensure the aggregate paving matches in all areas of repair and replacement.

  - Extend the aggregate paving around the corner at the intersection of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard and include the front entrance landing of Fire Station No. 6. This would help visually define the extent of the historic core of the park and guide visitors to the front entrance to Fire Station No. 6 (Figure 302 and Figure 303).

  - Ensure the entrance to Fire Station No. 6 meets standards for accessibility.

  - Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop granite curb and accessibility ramp.



FIGURE 300. The exposed aggregate paving on the south side of Auburn Avenue is generally in good condition.

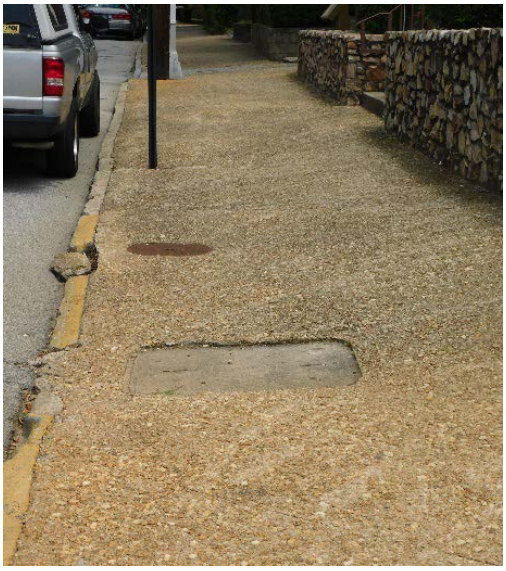


FIGURE 301. Curbs need repair in some segments of the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.



FIGURE 302. The brown exposed aggregate stops at 491 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 303. Brown exposed aggregate concrete should extend to Fire Station No. 6 and around the corner to the main entrance of the building.

Alley Treatment Recommendations

- Reid's Alley, extending from 491 Auburn, east along the front of 493A, 493B, and 493C.
    - Remove the asphalt remnants of the alley (Figure 304 and Figure 305).
    - Preserve, maintain, and manage the historic alignment of Reid's Alley.
    - Define the west edge of the alley with a grass strip (refer to 491 Auburn Avenue).
    - Regrade and stabilize the alley. Maintain the 10-foot-wide alignment and continue the alley to the south boundary of the lot. This allows access to 491 A, B, and C.

- Introduce contrasting textures and colors on the concrete accessibility walkway leading to the wooden ramp at the rear of the Park bookstore (Figure 306). Use accessibility signage to further direct visitors to the accessible entrance.

- Consider defining and stabilizing the alley with permeable paving, using a concrete grid and grass. This would support both pedestrian and vehicular traffic (Figure 307). The permeable paving would extend south to the property boundary and define a pedestrian path and interpretive node connecting with the rear yard of the Birth Home. This connection would enhance the visitor experience and provide better circulation in and around 497 and 501 Auburn Avenue. The connecting path and node would also support the existing wayside exhibit and an additional interpretive opportunity for Reid's Alley.



FIGURE 304. View of Reid's Alley looking south from Auburn Avenue sidewalk. The concrete walkway provides accessibility at the rear entrance to 497 Auburn Avenue, the park bookstore.



FIGURE 305. Reid's Alley looking north from the back yard of 497 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 306. Accessible route to the rear entrance of the bookstore could be delineated by changes in paving materials and textures. (Source: Royal National Institute of Blind People)

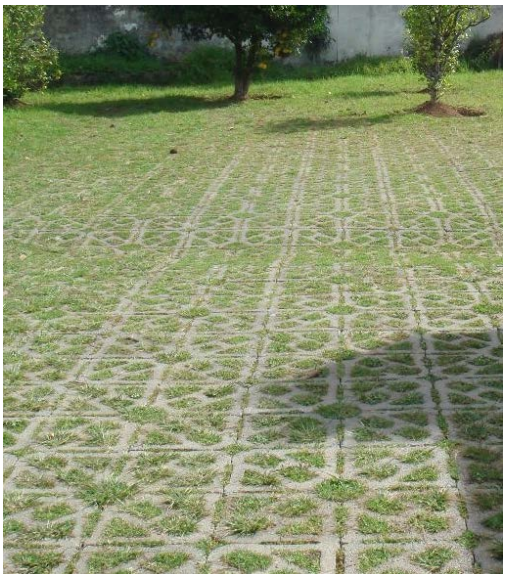


FIGURE 307. Permeable paving could be used to stabilize Reid's Alley. (Source: Terraforce)

- Asphalt access road adjacent to 491 Auburn Avenue and the east fenced boundary of the Fire Station. This alley provides access to Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School.
    - Remove existing asphalt paving on the access road and provide new asphalt paving.
    - Repair and replace the retaining wall along the west side of 491 Auburn Avenue in order to create a clean edge and definition to the edge of the access road (Figure 308).
    - Ensure that new paving does not intrude on the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.



FIGURE 308. Asphalt access alley to the school overflows into the sidewalk and is sloughing off on the edge adjacent to 491 Auburn. The retaining wall that separates the access alley from the Fire Station rear parking lot is missing stones and is deteriorating.

Individual Buildings and Yards

407–413 Auburn Avenue, Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary

Current Treatment Recommendations:

- Preserve, maintain, and manage Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the neon identification sign at the front entrance to the church as a cultural resource (Figure 309).
- Maintain and manage the pedestrian sidewalks on Auburn Avenue and Jackson Street.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the hexagonal paving pattern that exists in the Auburn Avenue sidewalk in front of the church (Figure 310).



FIGURE 309. Preserve and maintain the Ebenezer Baptist Church identity sign as a cultural resource.

- Provide ADA/ABAAS-compliant access to the sidewalk with a drop curb, accessibility ramp, and adequate width in areas with utility poles and temporary signs.



FIGURE 310. Maintain hexagonal pavers in front of the Ebenezer Baptist Church entrance.

37–39 Boulevard, Fire Station No. 6

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: None of the treatment recommendations specific to the east section of the parcel directly behind the Fire Station were implemented. The asphalt driveway created for school access to Auburn Avenue was maintained.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 367 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the Fire Station as a cultural resource.

- Implement a new plan, or a plan similar to that recommended in 1995, for the east section of the site. If the park feels that parking cannot be removed from this area, integrate parking with raised planting beds and introduce small tree plantings.

- If a security fence is required here, remove the existing chain-link and gate and replace with either a black metal picket fence / gate of the required height or a black vinyl-coated chain-link fence/gate of the required height (Figure 311 and Figure 312).



FIGURE 311. Consider black vinyl-coated chain-link fence if security fence and gate is necessary behind the Fire Station. Fencing may be associated with the existing concrete retaining wall or buried directly in the pavement. (Source: Hercules Fence)



FIGURE 312. Consider metal picket fencing as an alternative for the area east of the Fire Station. (Source: Ameristar Fence)

472–474 and 476–478 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The chain-link fence adjacent to the Boulevard sidewalk, forming the boundary of the back yard of this property, was removed and a wooden picket fence 5 feet in height was established. The chain-link fence defining the south property boundary of 472–474 was replaced by wood picket fence and gates at each entrance. Board and wire was recommended, but only implemented at 476–478 Auburn Avenue.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 368 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the shotgun buildings as cultural resources.

- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the backyards of both buildings. The turf grass lawn extends to the back yard of 53–55 Boulevard.

- Maintain and manage the front entrance walkways and steps for each building. This includes preserving the four pairs of square aggregate pavers associated with each entrance.

- Maintain and manage the back steps on the north elevations of the buildings.

- Maintain and manage the turf grass front yards of both shotgun buildings.

- Maintain and manage the picket fence associated with 472–474 Auburn Avenue and the board and wire fence and gates associated with 476–478 Auburn Avenue (Figure 313).

- Consider removing the one remaining privet shrub in front of 472–474 Auburn Avenue. This would allow the fencing to define the front yards in front of these two shotgun buildings.



FIGURE 313. Wooden fences and gates in front of the shotgun buildings should be maintained in good condition.

480–482 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The recommendation to maintain the privet hedge approximately 36 inches high along the south property line adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk was implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 369 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the shotgun building as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge at 36-inch height.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front, back, and side yards.
- Maintain and manage the front concrete walkways.

484–486 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The single recommendation that was implemented for this property was the maintenance of the privet hedge along the south property boundary between the two entrance walkways and steps and adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 369 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the shotgun building as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge at 36-inch height.
- Maintain and manage the Rose-of-Sharon and allow it to grow to 5 to 6 feet in height.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front, back, and side yards (Figure 314).
- Maintain and manage the front concrete walkways. Provide topsoil fill where necessary to bring the grade level to the walking surface of the concrete. The eroded edge on the west side of the walkway may become a tripping hazard.



FIGURE 314. Maintain plantings and turf grass in front of 484 Auburn Avenue in good condition. Aggregate pavers have been replaced with poured concrete on the front walkways.

488-490 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Recommendations implemented for the property were the maintenance of the grass back yard for current residents and the removal of the small ailanthus tree in the front yard.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 369 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the shotgun building as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front, back, and side yards.
- Maintain and manage concrete walkways to the front steps.
- Relocate the interpretive wayside ("Shotgun Houses") to the edge of the sidewalk so visitor foot traffic stays on the sidewalk and does not erode the front yard grass. Install the wayside on a 4-foot square concrete pad adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. Reestablish the turf grass once the sign is relocated (Figure 315).



FIGURE 315. Relocate the wayside interpretive exhibit and reestablish the turf grass in front of 488 Auburn Avenue.

53–[55] Boulevard

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The chain-link fence along Old Wheat Street and extending to form the east boundary of the parcel and the east boundary of 476-478 Auburn Avenue was removed and replaced with board and wire fencing as recommended. Chain-link fence that formed the west boundary between this property and 472-474 Auburn Avenue was also removed and replaced with a wooden picket fence. Grass has been maintained in the front, side, and back yards as the recommended treatment. Recommendation for replacement of the shade tree was not implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 368 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 53–[55] Boulevard as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the side and back yard of 53–[55] Boulevard, shared yard with 472–474 and 476-478 Auburn Avenue (Figure 316).
- Maintain and manage the picket fence adjacent to the Boulevard sidewalk and front yard.



FIGURE 316. The side yard of 53 Boulevard is adjacent to the back yards of shotgun buildings facing Auburn Avenue. Historically, the Boulevard shotgun did not have a side yard. The back yard fencing for the shotguns facing Auburn Avenue extended to the edge of the dwelling.

- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence / gate on the north and east edge of the property.
- Consider reestablishing a small shade tree in the northeast corner of the property inside the board and wire fence (Figure 317).

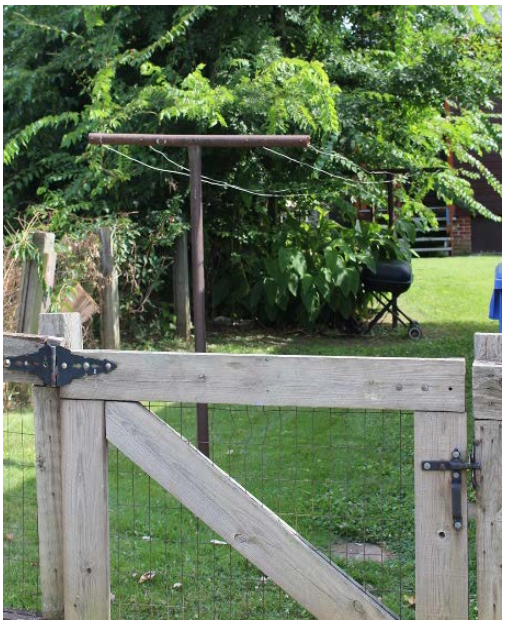


FIGURE 317. Board and wire fence extends north to define the back yard of 53 Boulevard. The fence defines the northeast corner and the proposed location for reestablishing a small shade tree planting.

- Recommendations for small shade trees include redbud *(Cercis canadensis)*; dogwood *(Cornus florida);* Washington hawthorn *(Crataegus phaenopyrum);* American holly *(Ilex opaca);* Carolina cherry laurel (*Prunus caroliniana);* purple leaf plum *(Prunus cerasifera 'atropurpurea');* peach *(Prunus persica);* and vitex *(Vitex agnus-castus)*.

479–481 Old Wheat Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Major treatment recommendations in the 1995 CLR were not implemented for this parcel. The double shotgun building was demolished circa 2009. The concrete sidewalk to the curb was removed as recommended. The right-of-way was not maintained as a dirt strip, it is now grass. The clothesline in the backyard was removed and has not been replaced.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

- Maintain and manage the 5-foot-wide grass right-of-way and the granite curb along Old Wheat Street.
- Residential yard and structure is privately owned and maintained.

483–485 Old Wheat Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Major treatment recommendations in the 1995 CLR were not implemented for this parcel. The double shotgun building was demolished along with the roll roofing. The concrete sidewalk to the curb was removed as recommended. Ailanthus trees remain to demarcate the historic fence/property line.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

- Maintain and manage the 5-foot-wide grass right-of-way.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite curb along Old Wheat Street.
- Residential yard and building is privately owned and maintained.

487–489 Old Wheat Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Recommendations implemented for this property were the removal of the concrete walk south of the property, adjacent to Old Wheat Street, and the maintenance of trees to demarcate the historic fence/property line south of the original duplex building on the property.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

- Maintain and manage the 5-foot-wide grass right-of-way and the granite curb along Old Wheat Street.
- Residential yard and building is privately owned and maintained.

491 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Preservation of the brick walk and edging and concrete block steps, preservation of the hollies on either side of the walk, and maintenance of the ailanthus tree were treatment recommendations that were implemented from

the 1995 CLR. No other recommendations were implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 370 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 491 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the small brick entrance walkway between Auburn Avenue sidewalk and the concrete block steps to the front porch of the building. The brick entrance walkway was assumed to be historic in the 1995 CLR. The walkway and concrete block steps are contributing features and should be treated as a cultural resources.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick edging adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk. This feature was assumed to be historic in the 1995 CLR. The brick edging is a contributing feature to the landscape. Engage a mason with experience in historic materials conservation to repair the brick edging and small retaining walls associated with the steps (Figure 318).
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the two large Burford hollies, one on either side of the entrance steps (Figure 319). It is not known if the two shrubs survive from the period of significance, but individual shrubs were present in their location before 1995. They are considered contributing features.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage Reid's Alley alignment (refer to recommendations on page 273).
- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the front yard.



FIGURE 318. The brick walkway, concrete block steps, and west brick retaining wall and edging in front of 491 Auburn Avenue are in good condition. Treatment includes maintenance and, if necessary, repairs by masons familiar with historic materials conservation.



FIGURE 319. Preserve, maintain, and manage the large limbed-up Burford hollies in front of 491 Auburn Avenue. Repair of the brick retaining wall should be a priority due to its poor condition.

492–494 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Several treatment recommendations from the 1995 CLR were implemented. They include: removal of the chain-link fence around back yard and replacing it with a board and wire fence; maintenance of the elm tree

in the southeast corner of the property; and removal of trees from the fence line on the north and east boundaries of 492–494 Auburn Avenue. There was no reestablishment of a shade tree in the historic location at the southwest corner of the front yard.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 371 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 492–494 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Consider reestablishing a large shade tree in the historic location, the southwest corner of the front yard, west of the entrance steps.
- Recommendations for large shade trees include: Red maple *(Acer rubrum);* Chinese elm *(Ulmus parvifolia);* and White ash *(Fraxinus americana)*. Also refer to recommended small shade trees associated with treatment of 53–55 Boulevard.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the front, back, and side yards.
- Maintain and manage the Siberian elm in the southeast corner of the front yard, but do not replace in the future.
- Remove the concrete remnants on the ground near the base of the tree and consider relocating the wayside interpretive signs "The Birthplace" and "The Home" to 502 Auburn Avenue (See treatment recommendations for 502 Auburn Avenue). After relocation of the signs, reestablish the heavily eroded area near the base of the elm tree (Figure 320).
- Monitor, maintain, and manage the large trees on this site. There is a very large oak in the northeast corner of the property located on the crest of a steep embankment (Figure 321). The roots are large and potentially damaging to the board and wire fence. If a weather event or disease results in the removal of the tree, do not replace it near the embankment. Plant a replacement tree 20 to 30 feet south of the fence in the open space of the yard. In addition, there are two very large oaks straddling the board and wire fence on the east side of the property, closer to the building, which appear to be in very good condition. None of these trees are contributing features. They should be monitored closely for damage, disease, and instability with continued management and maintenance.



FIGURE 320. Foot traffic has caused major erosion around the elm tree and the wayside interpretive signs in front of 492 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 321. The location of the tree on the crest of the embankment in the back yard of 492 Auburn Avenue undermines its root growth and threatens its stability, especially during weather events.

493A, 493B, 493C Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The only implemented treatment recommendations were preservation of the open spaces between foundation piers of the structures (except on building 493A) and retaining the open porches on all of the buildings.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 370 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the three double shotgun buildings as cultural resources (Figure 322). Their condition is poor to fair, and their rehabilitation would be a treatment priority, before there is further deterioration.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the side and back yards.
- Reestablish Reid's Alley east of the three buildings and refer to page 273 for recommendations (Figure 323).



FIGURE 322. Preserve, maintain, and manage the three double shotguns (492A–C Auburn Avenue) as cultural resources.



FIGURE 323. Recommendations for Reid's Alley include paving to the accessibility ramp and use of permeable grid paving along the length of the shotgun buildings.

497 Auburn Avenue (Park Bookstore)

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Implemented recommendations include removal of paper mulberry trees in the rear yard; preservation of the one-story wood shed; maintenance of the foundation planting in front of the building; preservation of the brick walk in herringbone pattern; maintenance of mixed hedge behind the concrete block retaining wall adjacent to the concrete sidewalk on Auburn Avenue; and rejuvenation of the hedge by pruning along the front retaining wall.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 370 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 497 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the one-story garage structure in the back yard as a cultural resource (Figure 324).
- Consider a new accessible pathway from 501 Auburn through the fence into the back yard and over to Reid's Alley (refer to page 273 for recommendations).
- Relocate the interpretive wayside "Low Income Housing" to a node adjacent to the walkway between the Birth Home and the park bookstore.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete block retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk and extending along the northwest edge of the front yard. (Figure 326).
- Maintain the concrete sidewalk and wooden ramp in good condition as the accessible entrance to the park bookstore.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick walkway and the sets of steps north and south of the entrance walk.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the privet hedge west of the entrance walkway and the turf grass in the front yard. Consider establishing a continuous privet hedge adjacent to the retaining wall and east of the entrance walk.

- Maintain and manage the wayside interpretive sign "Middle-Class Dwelling" in its current location.



FIGURE 324. Garage structure in the back yard of 497 Auburn Avenue is a contributing feature of the cultural landscape in the back yard.



FIGURE 325. Recommended treatment includes changes to circulation within the three properties (493A–C, 497, and 501 Auburn Avenue), reestablishment of Reid's Alley and location of existing interpretive wayside and the proposed interpretive wayside for Reid's Alley.



FIGURE 326. Concrete block wall in the front yard of 497 Auburn Avenue.

501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The octagonal pavers on the sidewalk adjacent to Auburn Avenue and north of the Birth Home were removed and replaced with a concrete sidewalk as recommended. The memorial plaque was removed from the sidewalk adjacent to Auburn Avenue and moved to the front walkway at the top of the steps leading to the front door of the Birth Home. Oakleaf hydrangeas have been re-installed along the front foundations of the house and two paper mulberries along the west fence of the rear yard were removed. Trees along the back wall south of the house and rear yard are maintained as recommended, and the concrete block retaining wall and privet hedge in the front yard are also maintained as recommended in the 1995 CLR.



FIGURE 327. Front yard of 501 Auburn Avenue, Martin Luther King Jr. Birth Home (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography)

Current Treatment Recommendations

(Refer to Figure 370 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the Birth Home at 501 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge that defines the north, east, and west boundaries of the front yard and the turf grass in the front yard.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the low retaining wall adjacent to the sidewalk and the

concrete steps from the sidewalk to the entrance walkway.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete hexagonal paver walk, concrete steps to the porch, metal post and chain guard and the memorial plaque in the sidewalk.
- Maintain and manage hydrangea shrubs adjacent to the foundation of the building in the front yard.
- Maintain and manage unobstructed viewsheds to Auburn Avenue.
- Incorporate recommendations from the lift replacement project that is currently ongoing. One recommendation is to remove the concrete slab next to the house to improve drainage and replace with a 6-to 10-foot walkway.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk on Auburn Avenue.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the back yard.
- Maintain and manage the concrete block wall with a cap along the north and east perimeter of the property.
- Consider restoring the board fence in the back yard along the visible fence line between 501 and 503 Auburn Avenue (Figure 328). The fence should be board and picket and constructed at a height of 4 feet. This recommendation is consistent with the treatment recommendation for the fence in the 1995 CLR for the Birth Home block.
- Consider planting apple or peach trees in the back yard near the south boundary of the property (as shown in the historic condition map in Chapter 4).
- Maintain and manage the accessible hexagonal pathway to the break in the west fence line of the back yard. The path will then follow recommendations for the 497 Auburn Avenue back yard (Figure 329).



FIGURE 328. Proposed fence replacement in the back yard of 501 Auburn Avenue would be located along the fence line evident on the site (dashed white line). Accessible walkway would continue into the back yard of the park bookstore.



FIGURE 329. Connection of the back yards of 501 and 497 Auburn Avenue is part of a comprehensive proposal for circulation, stabilization and interpretation of Reid's Alley.

502 Auburn Avenue; 498–500 Auburn Avenue; and 50 Hogue Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The 1995 CLR stated that although this lot remained vacant and all of the buildings and features associated with it were gone, it remained an important site because of its location directly across the street from the Birth Home. At a minimum, any plans for the site should include interpretation of the historic structures, especially the grocery store on the corner. This recommendation was not implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 371 at the end of this chapter)

- Treatment recommendations are based on the future acquisition of the property, or permission from the owner to provide a portion of the site for interpretation and visitor comfort.

- Consider the use of a small area of the parcel directly across the street from the Birth Home. The wayside interpretive signs currently located in the front yard of 492 Auburn Avenue would be relocated, and an area around the signs would be designated as a visitor staging area. The staging area would be paved with exposed aggregate concrete to match the sidewalk and would contain benches. The same paving could extend across the street, as a wide crosswalk that signals cars to slow down. It also visually emphasizes this portion of the block as the Birth Home destination.

- Maintain and manage the turf grass on the vacant lot.

- Maintain and manage the large trees on the site; monitor for damage and instability.

503 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Implemented recommendations include: preservation of the granite stone steps with white marble cheek walls, leading from the sidewalk along Auburn Avenue to the front sidewalk and front steps of 503 Auburn Avenue; retention of the privet hedge along the wall adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk; maintenance of grass in the front and back yards; relocation of the west fence to the property line; and maintenance of an existing tree in the southeast corner of the property. An additional tree was removed and not replaced based on the treatment recommendation to not re-plant when these particular trees die or need to be removed.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 372 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 503 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite stone steps and marble cheekwall edging from the sidewalk to the front walk as cultural resources (Figure 330). Consult with specialists in historic materials conservation for maintenance and repair of these features.

- Preserve, maintain and manage the brick entrance walkway leading to the porch steps.

- Maintain and manage ligustrum shrubs flanking the front porch steps.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage a continuous privet hedge on either side of the granite steps leading to the entrance walkway and the turf grass in the front yard.

- Maintain and manage turf grass in the back yards.

- Maintain and manage the concrete driveway shared by 501 and 503 Auburn Avenue.

- Repair the brick foundation and back porch structure for safety of staff using the building (Figure 331).

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the low concrete wall north and west of 503 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 330. Preserve, maintain, and manage the granite steps and marble cheek walls at 503 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 331. The steps and flooring of the back porch at 503 Auburn Avenue are in poor condition, and the brick foundation has a huge gap that needs repair.

506 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Implemented treatment recommendations evident on the site today include the restoration of the privet hedge along the south edge of the front yard adjacent to Auburn Avenue sidewalk. Grass remains in the side yard west of the structure as recommended. The side yard east of the structure is currently planted with grass; the CLR had recommended this area remain dirt. The historic location of the fence line in the side yard was reestablished and constructed with board and wire. The sidewalk along Hogue Street was preserved as an example of historic materials and the grass strip remains.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 373 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 506 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete block retaining wall in the back yard, north of the building.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge in front of 506. (Figure 332).
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete entrance walkway and brick front steps. Consider removing the remainder of the paint from the brick steps (Figure 333).
- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence between 506 and 510 Auburn Avenue.
- Reestablish, maintain and manage turf grass in the front, back, and side yards.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the grass median strip along Hogue Street and the aggregate concrete sidewalk.
- Maintain and manage the redbud trees that occupy the median.



FIGURE 332. Preserve the continuous privet hedge in the front yard of 506.



FIGURE 333. Consider removing the remainder of the paint from the brick steps at 506 Auburn Avenue. Maintain bricks in their original color.



FIGURE 334. Mulched planting bed and small trees flanking the front entrance steps of 53 Hogue Street.

53–55 Hogue Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The depressed curb west of the front steps and sidewalk was preserved as well as the existing dogwood tree at the southwest side of the duplex. The roll wire fence was not preserved.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 373 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 53–55 Hogue Street as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the planting beds on either side of the entrance steps currently supported by low retaining walls.
- Maintain and manage the two small trees on either side of the front steps (Figure 334). One is a crapemyrtle *(Lagerstromia indica)* and the other is a flowering dogwood *(Cornus florida)*.
- Repair, maintain, and manage the stone rubble wall connecting to the timber retaining wall in the northeast corner of the property.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete front steps.

509 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The wall adjacent to the sidewalk along Auburn Avenue was rebuilt with material removed and saved by the park. The recommended privet hedge contains only two plants, one on either side of the small set of steps. The front walk was re-established in its historic location.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 372 at the end of this chapter)

- Maintain and manage the building at 509 Auburn Avenue.
- Maintain and manage the mortared stone wall on the north edge of the front yard, adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.
- Maintain and manage the oakleaf hydrangea plantings associated with the north foundation of the building.
- Establish a continuous low privet hedge adjacent to the mortared stone wall. Height should not exceed 18-24 inches. Retain the space for the interpretive wayside adjacent to the wall.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front, side, and back yard.

- Maintain and manage the concrete curb edging adjacent to the driveway east of 509 Auburn Avenue.

- Maintain and manage the wayside interpretive sign "Apartment House" in its current location (Figure 335).



FIGURE 335. Retain wayside exhibit in its current location in front of 509 Auburn Avenue, easily readable from the sidewalk.

510 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Treatment recommendations implemented include: removal of the existing paper mulberry and ailanthus trees; reestablishment of a portion of the historic side yard fence with a post and wire construction; and preservation of the existing hedge along the north edge of the front yard, adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 373 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 510 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.

- Reestablish, maintain, and manage turf grass in the back and side yards.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge plantings and turf grass in the front yard adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

- Maintain and manage the stone wall on the north perimeter of the back yard adjacent to Old Wheat Street right-of-way.

- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence between 506 and 510.

- Maintain and manage the wayside interpretive sign "Stepping Up" in its current location (Figure 336).



FIGURE 336. The interpretive wayside in front of 510 Auburn Avenue is in good condition and in an appropriate location for viewing from the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.

514 Auburn Avenue (Lightner House)

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Treatment recommendations implemented included removal of existing variegated privet and re-establishment of green privet hedge across the front yard and reestablishment of historic fence location with an unpainted 3-foot picket fence. The fence was not constructed on a cement base as recommended.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 374 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 514 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge. Identify the butterfly bush species. Depending on the species, maintain and manage the butterfly bush according to the following guidance:
    - *Buddleia alternifolia:* Alternate leaf butterfly bush flowers along in the leaf axils of the previous year's stems. These shrubs are typically only pruned in order to remove dead branches and to maintain a desirable shape. Pruning should occur immediately after the plant has finished flowering.
    - *Buddleia davidii:* The species *Buddleia davidii* requires only minimal annual pruning in order to address dead limbs and to shape to keep in bounds.
    - *Buddleia davidii* cultivars*:* Many cultivars of *Buddleia davidii* are weak wooded and produce insufficient roots to support their branching habits. The weak wood can split with age, while the insufficient root system can lead to the plant being blown over by wind. For this reason, they should be heavily pruned on an annual basis to 1 or 2 feet above the ground in the spring.
- Maintain, and manage the wooden picket fence defining the south boundary of the front yard, adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 337).
- Maintain and manage the wayside interpretive sign "Neighborhood Pride" set in the hedge.
- Maintain and manage the brick steps and concrete walk along the west facade of the building.
- Maintain and manage the concrete front walk and step to the porch.



FIGURE 337. Picket fence and plant materials in the front yard of 514 Auburn Avenue.

515 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The front sidewalk was repaired as recommended, but the rolled curb was not repaired or restored. Features that were preserved include the front wall, and the privet hedge was re-established along the north property line. The large 36-inch post oak was planted based on the location of a shade tree during the period of significance. The chain-link fence, present on the site in 1995, was replaced with a board and wire fence. This was recommended as a more appropriate treatment.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 372 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 515 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the large post oak *(Quercus stellata)* in the northwest portion of the front yard as a cultural resource.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete block retaining wall and continuous privet hedge associated with the northwest boundary of the front yard, adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 338).

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete steps and cheek walls to the front entrance walkway and the turf grass in the front yard.

- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence along the top of the wall.

- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the back yard.

- Repair the concrete block wall west of the building, extending from the front retaining wall into the back yard adjacent to the driveway. After repairs, the wall should be maintained in good condition. (Figure 339).

- Maintain and manage the 4-foot-high chain-link fence extending along the east property boundary.



FIGURE 338. Contributing landscape features at 515 Auburn Avenue include the post oak, the concrete block wall, board and wire fence, privet hedge and front yard turf grass.



FIGURE 339. The concrete block retaining wall in front of 515 Auburn Avenue is in need of repair.

518 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: A small number of treatment recommendations were implemented from the CLR. They include: preservation of the large elm tree in the front yard, infill of the privet hedge, preservation of the brick and stone wall on the west boundary of the property, preservation of the depressed curb in the southwest section of the granite curb, and maintenance of grass lawn in both the front and back yards.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 374 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 518 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource. The front porch flooring, balusters, and columns are in need of repair.

- Repair, maintain, and manage the front concrete entrance walk and the concrete rolled curb (Figure 340).

- Establish a continuous privet hedge along the front yard perimeter and maintain and manage.

- Reestablish, maintain, and manage the turf grass in the front and back yards.

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the large Siberian elm *(Ulmus pumila)* in the front yard as a cultural resource (Figure 341).



FIGURE 340. Features of the 518 Auburn Avenue dwelling and the entrance walk are in poor condition and in need of repair.



FIGURE 341. The large elm in the front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue occupies a prominent location within the building yard and the larger streetscape of Auburn Avenue.

521 and 521B Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Within the cultural landscape of this property the 50-inch water oak was preserved and the 30-inch post oak remains standing in place but appears to be in very poor condition. The one-story wood building (521B) was preserved but the recommended restoration has not been implemented. Two of the back yard trees were not replaced as recommended, and one of them is currently being maintained in the southwest corner of the property.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 375 at the end of this chapter)

- Residential yard and building is privately owned and maintained.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the small building (521B) as a cultural resource (Figure 342).
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the large water oak *(Quercus nigra)* and treat as a cultural resource (Figure 343). The 30-inch post oak *(Quercus stellata)* immediately adjacent to 521B appears to be in poor health. Consider consulting an arborist to determine the health of the tree and obtain advice on removal. If the tree is removed it should not be replaced. Any new planting would jeopardize 521B and its status as a contributing feature.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage a continuous privet hedge adjacent to the Auburn Avenue sidewalk.
- Maintain and manage the trees planted after 1995 including the two oaks in the front yard.
- Maintain and manage the front entrance walkway and the secondary walkway.



FIGURE 342. The small building at 521B Auburn Avenue was once a store that served the neighborhood. It should be preserved and treated as a cultural resource.



FIGURE 343. Preserve the privet hedge adjacent to the sidewalk at 521 Auburn Avenue.

522 Auburn Avenue (Bryant-Graves House)

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: A small number of treatment recommendations were implemented from the CLR. They include: maintaining the fig trees; retaining grass in the back and side yards; maintaining the grape arbor but not replacing in the future; establishing pots of flowers on either side of the front steps; and establishing grass in the front yard.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 374 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 522 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front, side, and rear yards.
- Preserve, maintain and manage the low 12-inch stone curb separating the Auburn Avenue sidewalk from the front yard.
- Consider reestablishing a continuous privet hedge along the front yard, on either side of the entrance walkway.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage stone walls north, east, and west of 522.
- Consider relocating the interpretive wayside "Bryant-Graves House" a few feet south and adjacent to the 12-inch curb. The sign can then be easily read from the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 344 and Figure 345). Proposed privet hedge would start west of the sign.
- Maintain and manage the concrete entrance walkway and rolled curbs.



FIGURE 344. Wayside in front of 522 Auburn Avenue would be relocated next to the stone curb for ease of the visitor experience.



FIGURE 345. The wayside interpretive sign in front of 522 Auburn Avenue should be maintained in good condition.

526 Auburn Avenue (Kirk House)

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: There were no historic landscape features that remained at 526 Auburn Avenue.

Many of the treatment recommendations were not implemented and are currently not part of the cultural landscape of this property. The two Chinese elms south of the front entrance and located within the concrete sidewalk along Auburn Avenue were preserved. The dogwood located southwest of the dwelling was removed, and it was recommended that it not be replaced. A brick wall has been preserved along the northeast boundary line with chain-link fencing on top. The concrete paver walkway in the rear yard was removed as recommended in the treatment plan.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 376 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 526 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the two Chinese elms (*Ulmus parvifolia*) located in tree pits within the sidewalk in front of 526 Auburn Avenue (Figure 346). The trees should be treated as cultural resources. If the trees require removal due to health or weather damage, do not replace within the sidewalk.
- Maintain and manage the hexagonal concrete pavers between 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue.
- Consider relocating the wayside exhibit "A Relaxing Atmosphere" adjacent to the east side of the entrance walkway and the Auburn Avenue sidewalk (Figure 347).
- Consider reestablishing a wrought-iron fence on the south property line.
- Consider reestablishing the privet hedge inside of the fence extending the length of the front yard.
- Maintain and manage turf grass in the front and back yards.



FIGURE 346. Two elms are in tree pits in front of 526 Auburn Avenue and should be preserved and maintained.



FIGURE 347. The interpretive wayside in front of 526 Auburn Avenue is in good condition but needs to be located closer to the sidewalk and the front walk for ease of visitor experience.

530 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: In 1995, the house was slated for purchase by the NPS; it was privately owned at that time. The NPS has since purchased the house and rehabilitated the entire property. Within the rehabilitation of the yard, care was given to the existing historic landscape features. In particular, the remnant cast-iron fence that was present in 1995 was preserved and replaced in kind where necessary. The 40-inch water oak is no longer extant; however, the recommendations to remove the concrete slabs in the front yard and the brick placed in the east front yard were implemented. Replacement of these materials with a grass lawn was also implemented. The variegated privet

hedge shown in the 1995 existing conditions was retained as recommended.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 376 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 530 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage the landscape associated with the rehabilitation of the building and implemented treatment plans from 1995.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the ornamental iron fence as a cultural resource (Figure 348).



FIGURE 348. The ornamental iron fence in front of 530 Auburn Avenue is a historic feature and should be treated as a cultural resource. The fence is located within the south, east, and west yards of the property.

54 Howell Street NE

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The 1995 CLR treatment recommendations included restoration of the herringbone brick sidewalk for the entire length of the block on Howell Street. This project was implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 376 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 54 Howell Street as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick herringbone pattern of the sidewalk in front of 54 Howell and at the corner intersection of Howell and Old Wheat streets.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick wall with fencing on top that forms the west property line of 54 Howell.

531–533 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: None of the treatment recommendations were implemented on this site. Most of the recommendations were associated with a mowing regimen associated with distinguishing the location of the historic structures by height of the grass. There was only one tree recorded on this lot in 1995.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 377 at the end of this chapter)

- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the vacant lot.
- Maintain and manage the trees currently surrounding the lot. Monitor the condition of the trees and if any are removed due to health or weather conditions, do not replace without a strategic plan for the use of this site by visitors, for expanded interpretation, and for a specific function of new plant materials.
- The perimeter concrete block walls on the south and west are falling into serious disrepair due to the tree growth and roots in the immediate vicinity. Trees that interfere with the wall should be removed (Figure 349). If replacement trees are desirable for screening views to the adjacent lot, locate them at least 10 feet from the wall toward the interior of the vacant lot.
- Maintain and manage the pin oak (*Quercus palustris*) in the northwest corner of the vacant lot. Consider relocating the interpretive wayside "Bryant Preparatory Institute" within the shade of this tree and adjacent to the sidewalk. Relocate the trash receptacle in the

vicinity, within easy reach of visitors along the sidewalk (Figure 350 and Figure 351).



FIGURE 349. Tree growth should be removed and the concrete block wall repaired and replaced at the back of the 531 Auburn Avenue lot.



FIGURE 350. Use the area within the shade of the oak tree in the 531 Auburn Avenue lot for viewing the interpretive sign from the adjacent sidewalk on Auburn Avenue.

535 Auburn Avenue (Harper House)

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Grass has been maintained in the front and back yards as recommended. The existing holly and some remnants of the privet hedge have been preserved as well as the crapemyrtle on the northwest corner of the parcel. The CLR recommended the installation of a board fence along the east property line, beginning at the end of the replanted hedge, and a 6-foot board fence along the west property line. These fences were installed but not to the exact heights that were recommended.



FIGURE 351. Relocate the wayside exhibit in the 531 Auburn Avenue lot in closer proximity to the shade tree and the sidewalk. Also relocate the trash receptacle in the same vicinity.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 378 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 535 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete entrance walkway and steps to the front porch.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass in the front and back yards.
- Maintain and manage the board fence on portions of the east and west property lines and the chain-link fence on the south property line.
- Maintain and manage the pecan tree in the northwest corner of the front yard.
- Consider reestablishing a continuous privet hedge (historic condition) while preserving the existing holly along the front and side yards.
- Maintain and manage the wayside interpretive exhibit “Harper House” in its current location,

adjacent to the front sidewalk. The wayside is currently in very good condition (Figure 352).



FIGURE 352. Interpretive wayside would remain in its current location adjacent to the front sidewalk at 535 Auburn Avenue.

539 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: A deciduous tree was planted in both the northeast corner and the southeast corner of the grassed open space, and the concrete sidewalk along Howell Street was replaced with brick in a herringbone pattern. The wood and wire fence was constructed along the parcel boundary on Howell Street. A wayside interpretive exhibit was installed in the north area of the parcel, adjacent to the sidewalk on Auburn Avenue. A privet hedge was not re-established along the north and west boundaries.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 378 at the end of this chapter)

- Maintain and manage the elm tree in the northeast portion of the vacant lot and the oak and plum trees located in the southeast corner of the lot.
- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence constructed along the parcel boundary on Howell Street.
- Consider reestablishing a continuous privet hedge on the north property line (historic condition).
- Maintain and manage the turf grass that covers the vacant lot.
- Provide an exposed aggregate concrete staging area 6 feet by 6 feet and adjust the wayside exhibit. Locate the wayside "Neighborhood Transformed" facing north so visitors can associate the interpretation with 530 Auburn where the ornamental iron fence is located. Paving this area will alleviate the wear and tear on the grass and subsequent erosion caused by foot traffic. The wayside exhibit needs to either be cleaned or replaced due to organic growth or mildew that covers much of the interpretive sign face (Figure 353).



FIGURE 353. The wayside exhibit "Neighborhood Transformed" needs cleaning or replacement and relocation on the 539 Auburn Avenue lot.

28, 24, 20, 18, and 14 Howell Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: There are new small shrub plantings along the east foundation of the house as recommended in the treatment plan. The majority of the plantings recorded in 1995 were not preserved, the porch furnishings were not preserved, and the chain-link fence was not changed to wire fence as recommended. The herringbone brick walkway was not extended along the front of the house along the east

property boundary. It ends at the south boundary of 539 Auburn Avenue.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 378 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 28 Howell Street as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick herringbone sidewalk (see treatment recommendations for circulation / sidewalks).
- Maintain and manage the plum tree in the adjacent 535 Auburn Avenue lot.
- Consider extending the brick sidewalk along the front of the house to the concrete driveway.

540 Auburn Avenue and 57 Howell Street

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: There were numerous treatment recommendations for the yard, and many were implemented. They include: establishment of a board fence around the back yard; maintenance of the open space on the northwest corner of the property for potential interpretation of the store; maintenance of the turf grass in the yard; maintenance and management of the large elm tree southwest of the house; establishment of privet plantings along the perimeter of the front yard; and establishment of new trees in the southwest portion of the front yard.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 379 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 540 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage the board fence around the back yard.
- Maintain and manage the open space on the northwest corner of the property.
- Provide an interpretive wayside in this corner that describes the use of the property as a commercial store (Figure 354). This interpretive wayside should be part of a larger interpretive theme in the Birth Home block describing the commercial nature of the neighborhood. This theme should be reinforced with other similar waysides on the appropriate lots.
- Maintain and manage the trees on this lot. They include an elm tree in the northeast corner of the lot, an elm tree just south of the open space in the northwest corner, a crapemyrtle adjacent to the front porch, and a southern red oak *(Quercus falcatta)*—as recommended in the 1995 CLR—in the southwest corner of the front yard (Figure 355). The southern red oak should be treated as a cultural resource as the presence of an oak tree in this location is part of the historic condition.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage continuous privet hedge along the edge of the masonry wall in front of 540 Auburn Avenue. Much of the hedge is existing here and in good condition.
- Repair the masonry wall along the west property boundary adjacent to the brick sidewalk (Figure 356). The wall is in poor to fair condition and needs stabilization. Utilize an experienced stone mason to match new stones and wall construction methods to the existing wall along Auburn Avenue. Preserve and maintain the wall in good condition.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the steps built into the wall



FIGURE 354. The corner of Howell Street and Old Wheat Street in the rear yard of 540 Auburn Avenue provides an ideal location for an interpretive wayside in proximity to the sidewalk and within the shade of the existing tree.



FIGURE 355. Preserve, maintain and manage the large southern red oak in the front yard of 540 Auburn Avenue.



FIGURE 356. The entire length of the wall along the Howell Street side of 540 Auburn Avenue should be repaired by an experienced stone mason.

546 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Reestablishment of a back yard board and wire fence was the only treatment recommendation implemented for this property.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 379 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 546 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the masonry wall and the steps built into the wall.
- Maintain and manage the board and wire fence in the back yard.
- Consider reestablishing a continuous privet hedge along the edge of the stone wall on both sides of the front steps.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the elm tree in the front yard as a cultural resource, as the presence of a tree in this location is part of the historic condition (Figure 357).
- Maintain and manage turf grass inside the fence.



FIGURE 357. A tree in the front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue was part of the historic condition before 1995.

550–552 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: Treatment recommendations that were implemented include: reestablishment of the historic back yard fence location with a 5 foot board fence; maintenance of the turf lawn; and restoration of the brick sidewalk east to the intersection. The recommended continuous privet hedge at the top of the stone retaining wall was not implemented.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 379 at the end of this chapter)

- Preserve, maintain, and manage the building at 550–552 Auburn Avenue as a cultural resource.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass inside the fence.
- Maintain and manage the board fence in the back yard.
- Consider reestablishing a continuous privet hedge along the edge of the masonry wall in the front yard.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the masonry retaining wall and the steps built into the wall along this segment of Auburn Avenue.
- Work with the City of Atlanta to preserve, maintain and manage the granite curbs on Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street.
- Work with the city to provide ongoing maintenance of the open turf grass right-of-way along Old Wheat Street from the intersection of Old Wheat and Auburn to Howell Street (Figure 358).



FIGURE 358. The 5-foot-wide right-of-way along Old Wheat Street behind 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue should be maintained with turf grass in good condition. Monitor for areas of erosion. The granite curb should also be maintained in good condition.

554–558 Auburn Avenue

Treatment Recommendations implemented from 1995 CLR: The brick herringbone sidewalk was restored as recommended on the south side of the lot along Auburn Avenue. The CLR recommended one tree planting to replace the large deciduous tree that grew on the point of the triangle. This tree (red maple) was installed and an additional two trees (Chinese elms) were planted.

Current Treatment Recommendations:

(Refer to Figure 380 at the end of this chapter)

- Maintain and manage the stone NPS identity sign.

- Maintain and manage the three large trees on the triangular parcel.
- Maintain and manage the turf grass cover.
- Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick herringbone sidewalk and work with the City of Atlanta to ensure the brick sidewalk is maintained in good condition.

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Management Zone

(Refer to Figure 381 and Figure 382 at the end of this chapter)

The Edgewood Avenue Commercial Management Zone encompasses a two-block section of Edgewood Avenue from Howell Street to Jackson Street in urban Atlanta that parallels park property along Auburn Avenue. This urban streetscape is a commercial district that features more than twenty-five historic buildings that survive with integrity from the period of significance. Many were built by 1941, the year the King family left the Sweet Auburn neighborhood. Many of the individual buildings are privately owned and were known to Martin Luther King Jr. during his lifetime. The recommendations below address features located within the two-block section of Edgewood Avenue that falls within the authorized boundary of the park. The National Park Service does not administer the majority of the features that fall within the authorized boundary. As such, the agency operates in an advisory role. In addition to working with private property owners, the park works with the City of Atlanta to recommend appropriate treatment and management of the public streetscape. The recommendations provided below must be considered within this framework.

Preserve, maintain, and manage all buildings listed as cultural resources within this management area. Also preserve, maintain and manage all other contributing features listed below in the Edgewood Avenue Commercial management zone.

- Guide and encourage preservation and maintenance of all contributing features of the Edgewood Avenue management zone, including:
  - Axial views in either direction along the Edgewood Avenue street corridor
  - Hanging, painted, and projected signs associated with store fronts
  - Granite curbing and brick sidewalks
  - 420 Edgewood Avenue (1912)
  - 421–429 Edgewood Avenue (1946)
  - 28 Edgewood Avenue (1953)
  - 438–442 Edgewood Avenue (1939; 1946-1953)
  - 439–[441] Edgewood Avenue (1920)
  - 443–445 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
  - 444–[446] Edgewood Avenue (1909)
  - 447 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
  - 451 Edgewood Avenue (1915)
  - 458 Edgewood Avenue (1940)
  - 464 [462] Edgewood Avenue (1927)
  - 464–466 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
  - 467 Edgewood Avenue (19 11)
  - 467–480 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
  - 482 Edgewood Avenue (1908)
  - 483 Edgewood Avenue (1908)
  - 484–486 Edgewood Avenue (1908)
  - 485 Edgewood Avenue (1908)
  - 487 Edgewood Avenue (1909)

- 488–490 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
- 489 Edgewood Avenue (1909)
- 501 Edgewood Avenue (1968)
- 510 Edgewood Avenue (1947)
- 511 Edgewood Avenue (1935)
- 520 Edgewood Avenue (1962)
- 521 Edgewood Avenue (1954)
- 525 Edgewood Avenue (1948)
- 536 Edgewood Avenue (1951)
- 541 Edgewood Avenue (1909)

- Improve wayfinding associated with the intended route for visitors to follow in experiencing this part of the park. Provide additional visual clues that guide visitors to and through the interpreted features of Edgewood Avenue. Consider options such as adding a scoring pattern, using hexagonal pavers, or introducing a band of color to the sidewalk that visitors can follow, or alternately hanging signs or banners from poles, either introduced or existing in the form of street lights, to serve as an identity element for this two-block section of the park.

- Work with the City of Atlanta to repair the existing sidewalk to ensure sure and even footing for visitors and remove trip hazards. Retain the use of granite curbs and concrete sidewalk surfacing, which is character-defining. Preserve brick sidewalk paving where appropriate (Figure 359 and Figure 360).



FIGURE 359. Herringbone brick sidewalk at the intersection of Howell Street and Edgewood Avenue on the south side of the street. Brick paving should be preserved, maintained and managed by the City of Atlanta.



FIGURE 360. Some of the sidewalks along Edgewood Avenue are in good condition with concrete paving with hexagonal pattern, similar to the pattern in front of Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary.

- Consider options for introducing an identity feature to help visitors understand when they are within the park.

- Continue to allow / support the use of colorful and diverse signage for businesses located along Edgewood Avenue, and murals on the

walls of the buildings, which have traditionally been an important component of the character of the commercial district. Work with local groups to direct future mural painting efforts away from unpainted masonry surfaces of historic buildings and structures; these should not be altered through the addition of paint.

- Engage in a planning process to consider options for the future use of the lots currently included in the park but not formally programmed. Evaluate a range of proposed future uses that might include leasing the space for an appropriate proposed activity, constructing new buildings along Edgewood Avenue to address specific space or programming needs or selling the property, if it is not found to support the park's mission and purpose.

- Maintain the vacant lot in good condition during the planning process conducted to determine its future use. Retain the existing chain-link fencing. Continue to maintain in turf cover, with limited parking (Figure 361 and Figure 362).



FIGURE 361. Consider a range of options for the future use of the vacant lot shown above that is administered as part of the park, but not currently programmed.



FIGURE 362. Continue to maintain the turf cover in the vacant lot.

Archeological Resources

The park should consider developing an archeological inventory program so as to be in compliance with Section 110 of the NHPA. The Park should also endeavor to be in compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Specifically, in consultation with the Georgia SHPO and any other stakeholders for a given undertaking, the effects of the undertaking on archeological sites that are listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register should be taken into account. Stakeholders may include federally recognized tribes or nations that no longer have land in Georgia, but that do have an historic connection with the Atlanta region. The completion of an archeological inventory program would greatly expedite Section 106 compliance. Another tool the Park may wish to consider developing to facilitate its participation in the Section 106 process is a Programmatic Agreement (PA) with the Georgia SHPO and (potentially) tribes or nations and other stakeholders that would define the Park's Section 106 responsibilities for archeological resources as they relate to types of undertakings. Specifically, the PA could define what types of undertakings would affect archeological resources and would necessitate archeological investigation, and what types are unlikely to affect archeological sites and would be excluded from investigation.

Resilience to Natural Hazards

Studies of climate change by the National Park Service and consulting climate scientists, and published in 2018, address climate issues including temperature and precipitation trends in all US national parks.[247] For each park, the study includes data on temperature and precipitation trends for the periods 1950–2010 and 2000–2100.[248] For Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, trends over the 1950–2010 period show increasing temperatures and precipitation. Predicted trends over the 2000–2100 period, including evaluation of an emissions reduction scenario and a highest emissions scenario, show significant increases in temperature and precipitation (even under the reduction emissions scenario). Predicted increases are significantly greater than past historic increases.[249]

Based on studies prepared by federal and other agencies, such as the Environmental Protection Agency's "What Climate Change Means for Georgia," and the *Atlanta Climate Action Plan*, weather patterns are anticipated to change and become warmer, and include weather events that are more severe in the future, including droughts and floods. Rain is anticipated to fall more regularly in heavy downpours that can overwhelm storm-water management systems. The increased heat is anticipated to lead to more unpleasantly hot days, and incidents of heat stroke and other heat-related illness.[250]

The City of Atlanta is joining an increasing number of local governments committed to addressing climate change at the local level. The City of Atlanta recognizes the risk that climate change poses to its citizens and is acting now to reduce the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, or "carbon footprint," of both its government operations and the community at-large through the innovative programs laid out in the Climate Action Plan. The city has recognized the need for climate change actions in order to preserve the local landscape and history of Atlanta. Ultimately, local action is needed to reduce the City of Atlanta's contribution to the problem of climate change and adapt to its current and future effects.[251]

This has several implications for the park. The park's location in the heart of the city and the presence of cultural resources that are highly significant in the history of Atlanta are of special concern, and treatment recommendations will align with the overall goals of the Climate Action Plan and any NPS climate change goals and actions. Recommendations regarding new storm-water management systems need to be addressed in such a way as to accommodate the potential for more frequent heavy downpours, drought, and the impact of heat on plant transpiration. Protection of historic resources in anticipation of increased heavy downpours is also an important consideration. The park should ensure that positive drainage is achieved so that storm water moves away from buildings and structures and does not pond or pool near buildings and sidewalks, and erosion does not further detract from the aesthetics of the park landscape. Recommendations for safe and easy public transportation to the park from within the city and beyond need to be addressed in order to contribute to reductions in GHG emissions. Recommendations for sustainability in new

247. Gonzalez, P., F. Wang, M. Notaro, D. J. Vimont, and J. W. Williams. "Disproportionate Magnitude of Climate Change in United States National Parks." *Environmental Research Letters* 13: 104001, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/aade09, 2018. See also "Historical and Projected Climate Change Trends for the United States and U.S. National Parks," Geospatial Innovation Facility, University of California at Berkeley, accessed June 2019.
248. Ibid., S22.
249. Ibid.
250. Environmental Protection Agency, "What Climate Change Means for Georgia," EPA 430-F-16-012. Available online at https://19january2017snapshot.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-09/documents/climate-change-ga.pdf (accessed September 5, 2018).
251. "Local Actions and Policies for Reducing City of Atlanta's Greenhouse Gas Emissions," 2015. Available online at: https://atlantaclimateactionplan.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/atlanta-climate-action-plan-0702302015.pdf (accessed December 20, 2018).

construction and historic rehabilitation practices also need to be addressed in order to contribute to the goals for reduction of energy consumption in residential and commercial buildings by 20 percent by 2020 and by 40 percent by 2030.

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Brick entrance sign

Improve wayfinding from this critical point of entry to the park associated with the intended visitor route

"Ebenezer Baptist Church"

"Sweet Auburn Walk"

Amphitheater

Consider interpreting the view from the *Behold* monument within the plaza to Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary; maintain and manage the *Behold* monument

Brick sign for Horizon Sanctuary

Jackson Street NE

"Behold"

Concrete orientation marker

Behold monument

Picnic tables

Peace Plaza

Ebenezer Baptist Church, Horizon Sanctuary (not in project)

Martin Luther King, Sr. Community Resource Center (not in project)

Maintain and manage the Peace Garden

Preserve, maintain, and manage the Peace Garden and associated plaza and consider interpreting the view to the King Tomb

Baseball field (not in project)

Improve the wayfinding from this critical point on entry to the park associated with the intended visitor route

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Playground (not in project)

Irwin Street NE

Increase the frequency with which the concrete identity signs north and south of the visitor center are cleaned

Concrete orientation marker

Asphalt parking lot

Auburn Avenue NE

Fountain

Peace Garden

National Park Service Visitor Center

Maintain and manage the Ghandi sculpture

"The Home Place... Sweet Auburn"

Promenade

Promenade

Forecourt canopy

Ghandi sculpture

Civil Rights Walk of Fame plaques

"Mandate" & "Minister"

"Motivator"

Concrete orientation marker

Concrete orientation marker (beneath canopy)

Civil Rights Walk of Fame stone monuments

Proposed location for large park orientation sign

Consider visual and textural options to guide visitors from the Peace Plaza to the King Center, Auburn Avenue, and the Birth Home

John Hope Elementary School

Consider removal of selected trees to reduce the gloomy character that renders portions of the entry uninviting

Parkview Manor Nursing Home

Martin Luther King, Jr. Natatorium, demolished

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

Improve wayfinding from this critical point of entry to the park associated with the intended visitor route

See Visitor Services Management Zone Map 2

0' 70' 140'

SCALE 1" = 70'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

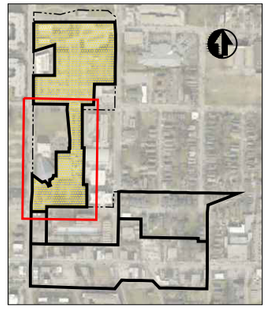


Figure 363.

Treatment Recommendations

Visitor Services Management Zone (1 of 2)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Concrete sidewalk
Jackson Street NE
Concrete sidewalk
Asphalt parking lot
Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch Library (not in project)
409
Covered storage
Concrete maintenance yard
Maintenance Building
Freedom Parkway trailhead (not in project)
Baseball field (not in project)
Irwin Street NE
Vegetated medians, typ.
Maintain the axial viewshed from John Wesley Dobbs Avenue to the major park orientation sign
Consider this an excellent location for a larger orientation map, including a new wayfinding system to all areas of the park
Existing Historical Marker
Improve wayfinding at the entrance to the parking lot, associate the signage with parking for the entire park
NPS Maintenance Facility
Asphalt parking lot
Three flagpoles
"Freedom Park"
Concrete walk
Parking kiosk
Parking entrance
Promenade
Asphalt parking lot
Parking exit
Concrete block wall
Cain Street NE
442
Private residence (not in project)
John Wesley Dobbs Avenue NE
Bus parking
Bus parking
Rubble wall
See Visitor Services Management Zone Map 1
454 Office building (not in project)
Tennis court
Picnic shelter
Dreamer's Park
Office building (not in project)
130
Concrete walk
Brick entrance sign
Enhance the visual impact of this park entrance for visitors traveling on Boulevard NE
Boulevard NE
Concrete sidewalk

0' 70' 140'
SCALE 1" = 70'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

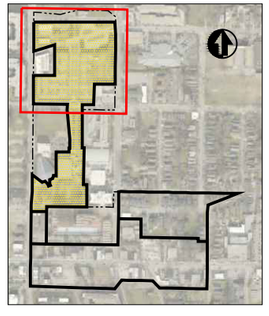


Figure 364.

Treatment Recommendations

Visitor Services Management Zone (2 of 2)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Provide a drop curb and accessibility ramp that ensures compliance with ABAAS; ensure adequate sidewalk width in areas with powerpoles and signs

Preserve, maintain, and manage the neon identification sign at the front entrance

Preserve, maintain, and manage hexagonal concrete pavers

See Visitor Services Management Zone Map 1

See Visitor Services Character Area Map

Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone brick paving between the concrete sidewalk and the curb

Consider replacing areas paved with concrete that does not match the exposed aggregate paving

Preserve, maintain, and manage the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk, granite curb, and grass planting strip

Preserve, maintain, and manage the heirarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape determined by road width, sidewalks, and building setback

Extend exposed aggregate paving from 491 Auburn Avenue to the corner and continue to the front of the fire station

Preserve, maintain, and manage the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk and the granite curb; monitor height of asphalt when repaving occurs

Preserve, maintain, and manage the heirarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape determined by road width, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, lot size, and defined spaces within each individual property

See figures 367 through 380 for treatment recommendations for individual lots on the Birth Home block

Jackson Street NE

Auburn Avenue NE

Old Wheat Street NE

Hogue Street NE

Jackson Place NE

Streetcar line

Several clotheslines present in yard

Vacant grass lot

Concrete foundation

"The Birthplace"

"The Home"

"Shotgun Houses"

Brick walk

"Middle-Class Dwelling"

Flexible delineators

Concrete hexagonal pavers

Concrete wall

Brick walk

Parallel parking on both sides of street

Concrete sidewalk

"Reid's Alley" remnants

Concrete block wall

Concrete sidewalk

Concrete ramp

Concrete hexagonal pavers

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary

Courtyard

Sky-walk

Asphalt parking area

37-39 Historic Fire Station No. 6

Gated asphalt parking lot

Fire stairs

Site enclosed by chain link fence

Asphalt parking area

Utility enclosure

Gravel alley (Jackson Place NE)

Concrete driveway

Wood ramp

Wheelchair lift

Shed

Concrete hexagonal pavers

"Low Income Housing"

See Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area Map 1

See Edgewood Avenue Commercial Character Area Map 2

See Auburn Avenue Management Zone Map 1

See Auburn Avenue Management Zone Map 2

53 | 483 | 472-474 | 476-478 | 480 | 484 | 488 | 492 | 53 | 506 | 407-413 | 491 | 497 Park bookstore | 501 King Birth Home | 503 Park offices | 509 | 493 A | 493 B | 493 C

0' 50' 100'

SCALE 1" = 50'

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

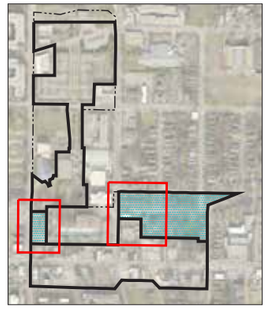


Figure 365.

Treatment Recommendations

Auburn Avenue Management Zone (1 of 2)

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Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Preserve, maintain, and manage the exposed aggregate concrete sidewalk and granite curb

Ensure access to sidewalk complies with ABAAS

Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone brick sidewalk and granite curb

Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone brick sidewalk and granite curb

Repair areas where sections of curb are missing

Maintain and manage tree pits and trees within the sidewalk

Preserve, maintain, and manage the radial brick pattern at the corner; repair and replace bricks as necessary; provide access to the brick sidewalk with a drop granite curb and ramp that complies with ABAAS

Ensure access from street to sidewalk at every intersection; curb and ramp must comply with ABAAS

Preserve, maintain, and manage the herringbone brick sidewalk and granite curb

Consider extending brick herringbone pattern to the concrete driveway at 28 Howell Street

See figures 367 through 380 for treatment recommendations for individual lots on the Birth Home block

Preserve, maintain, and manage the heirarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape determined by road width, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, lot size, and defined spaces within each individual property

See Auburn Avenue Commercial Character Area Map 2

See Auburn Avenue Management Zone Map 1

Rock wall
Wood deck
Concrete drive
Brick wall
Concrete drive
Brick wall
Rock wall
Radial brick
Brick walk
Stone wall
Old Wheat Street NE
Park identity sign
53
54
Hogue Street NE
Howell Street NE
506
510
514
518
522
526
530
540
546
550
Brick walk
Auburn Avenue NE
Stone wall
Radial brick
"Stepping Up"
"Apartment House"
"Neighborhood Pride"
"Bryant-Graves House"
Concrete sidewalk
Parallel parking on both sides of Auburn Avenue
Rock wall
Concrete block wall
Auburn Avenue NE
"Neighborhood Transformed"
"Harper House"
503
509
515
521
521-B
535
"Bryant Preparatory Institute"
Concrete driveway
Concrete driveway
Brick walk
Vacant grass lot
28
24
20
18
Howell Street NE
Concrete sidewalk
Wood ramp
Stairwell
Wood decks
Concrete parking lot
Asphalt parking lot

0' 50' 100'

SCALE 1" = 50'

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Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

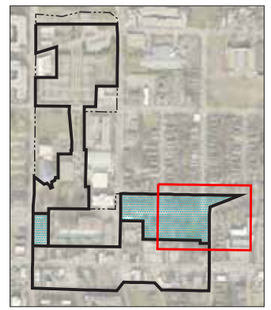
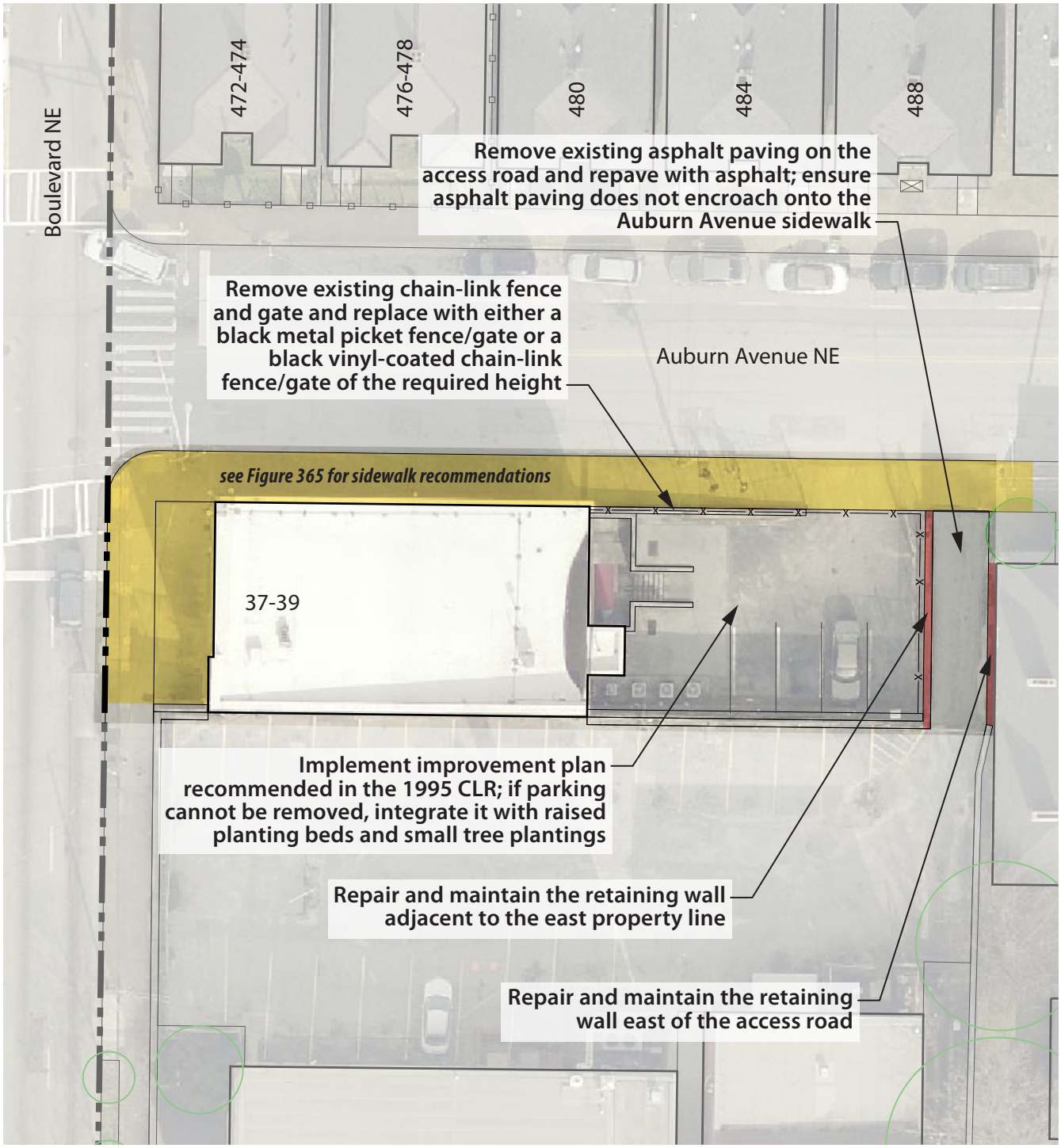


Figure 366.

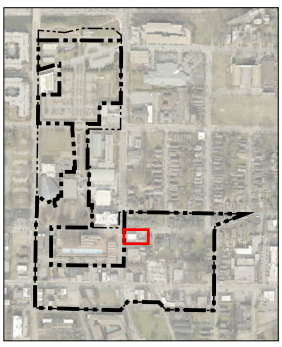
Treatment Recommendations

Auburn Avenue Management Zone (2 of 2)



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

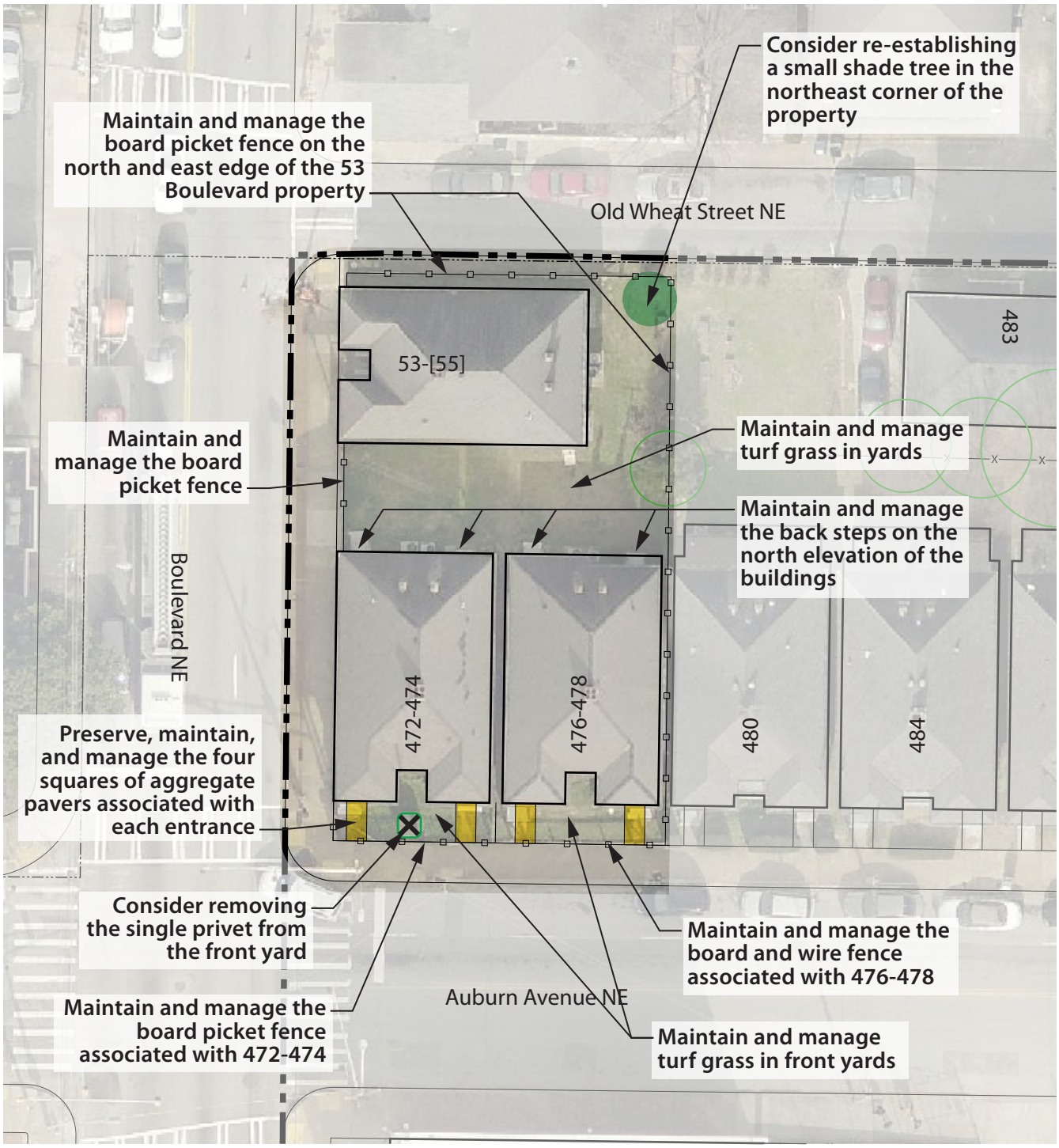
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

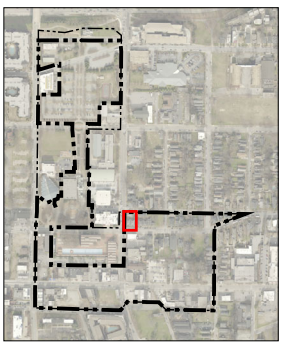
Figure 367. Treatment Recommendations, 37-39 Boulevard (Fire Station No. 6)

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:38pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

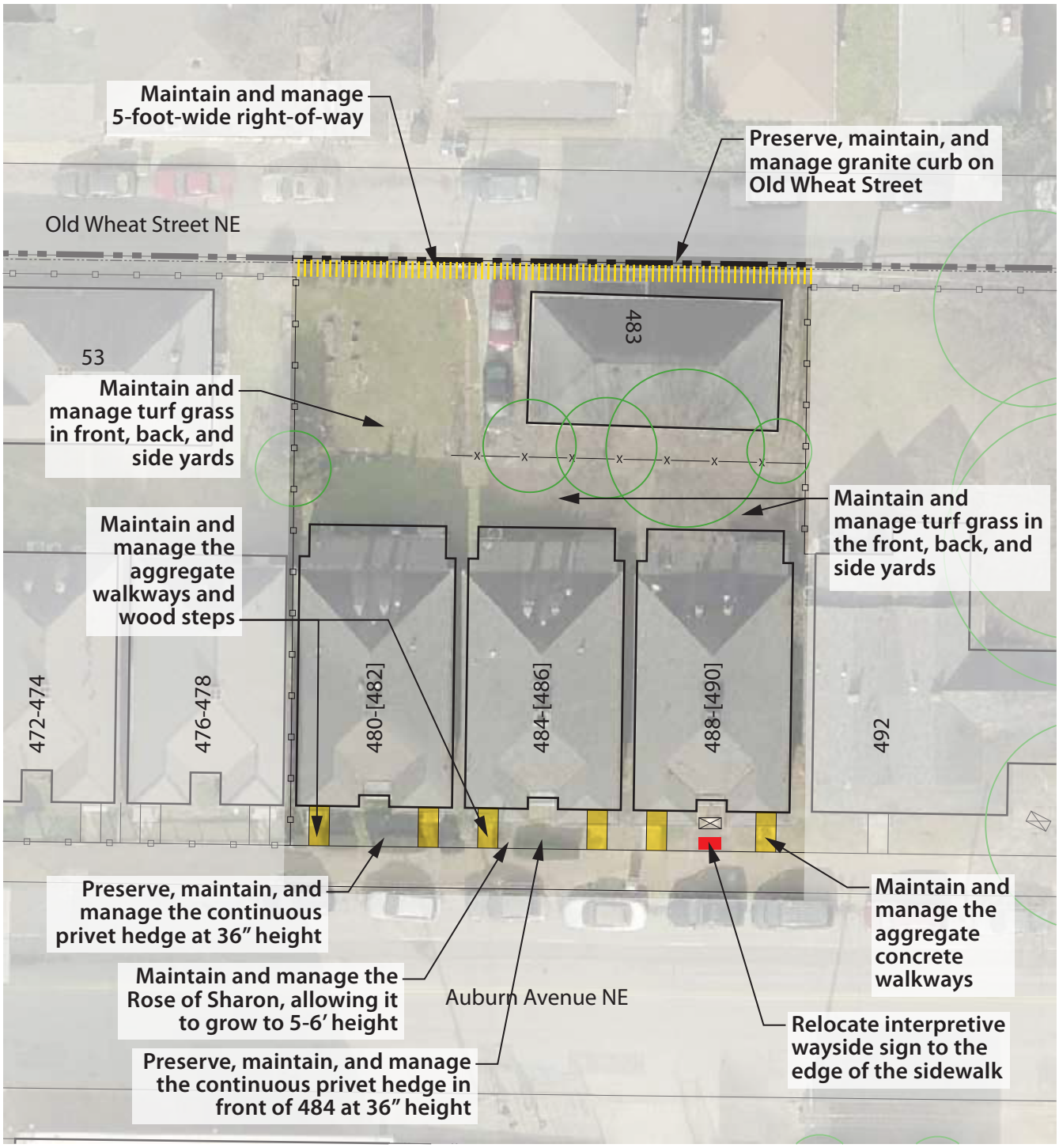
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 368. Treatment Recommendations, 472-474 and 476-478 Auburn Avenue and 53 Boulevard

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:34pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 369. Treatment Recommendations, 480, 484, and 488 Auburn Avenue and 483 Old Wheat Street

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:49pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Preserve, maintain, and manage the wide brick landing that forms the entrance walkway and concrete block front steps at 491

Preserve, maintain, and manage the brick edging on either side of the front walk/steps

Preserve, maintain, and manage privet hedges and turf grass in front yards of 497 and 501

Preserve, maintain, and manage brick walkway and sets of steps north and south of the entrance walkway

Maintain and manage interpretive sign in its current location

Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete block retaining walls in front of 497 and 501

Preserve, maintain, and manage the large Burford hollies on either side of the front walk/steps

Auburn Avenue NE

Maintain and manage the turf grass in the front yard

Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete steps

Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete hexagonal paver walk, concrete steps, metal post and chain guard, and memorial plaque in sidewalk

Preserve, maintain, and manage the concrete block retaining wall in front of 497 and along the northwest edge of the property

Preserve, maintain, and manage the continuous privet hedge defining the front yard of 501

Maintain and manage hydrangea shrubs

491

Reid's Alley

497

501

503

515

Preserve the historic 10-foot alignment of Reid's Alley and stabilize with permeable paving (refer to alley treatment recommendations)

Maintain and manage the concrete drive

Create a grass strip alongside stabilized alley surface

Maintain and manage the concrete block wall with cap along north and east perimeter of 501

Maintain and manage the concrete sidewalk and wood ramp providing accessible entry to the park bookstore

493 A

Incorporate recommendations from the ongoing lift replacement project

Maintain and manage turf grass in side and back yards

493 B

Maintain and manage turf grass in back yard

Maintain and manage the hexagonal concrete pavers to the opening in the fence

Consider re-establishing a 4-foot-high board fence in the back yard

Preserve, maintain, and manage the garage structure

493 C

Consider planting apple or peach trees as shown on the historic conditions map

Extend permeable paving to south boundary of the lots

Relocate interpretive sign to a small staging area

Relocate the light pole

0' 30' 60'

SCALE 1" = 30'

Jun 18, 2019 - 4:09pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09017.dwg

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

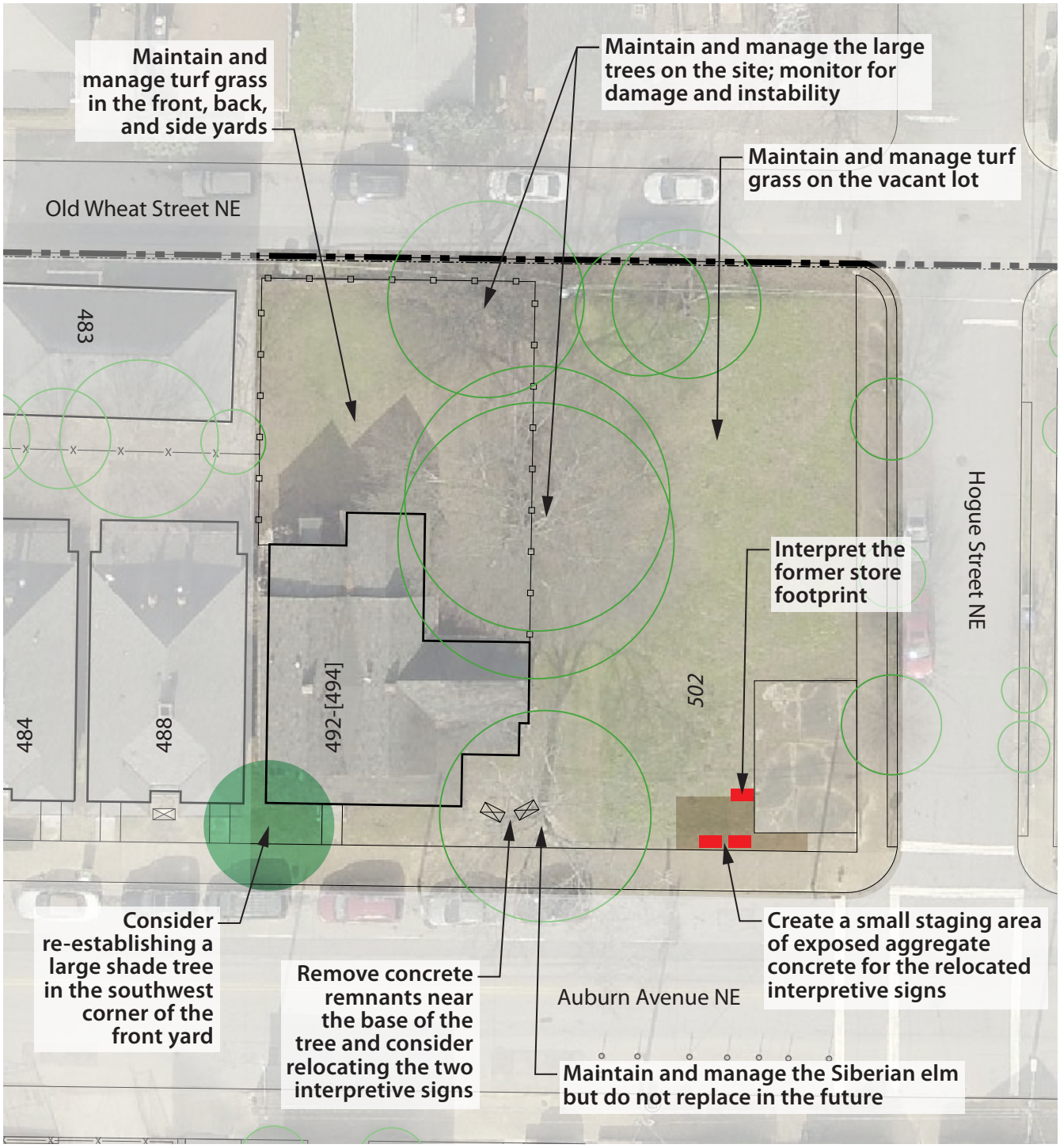
Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.



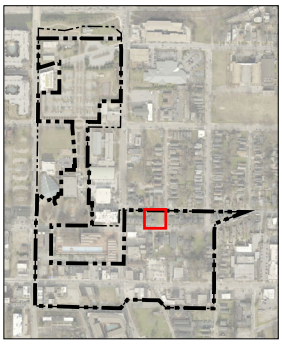
Figure 370.

Treatment Recommendations, 491, 493 A–C, 497 (Park bookstore), and 501 (Birth Home) Auburn Avenue



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

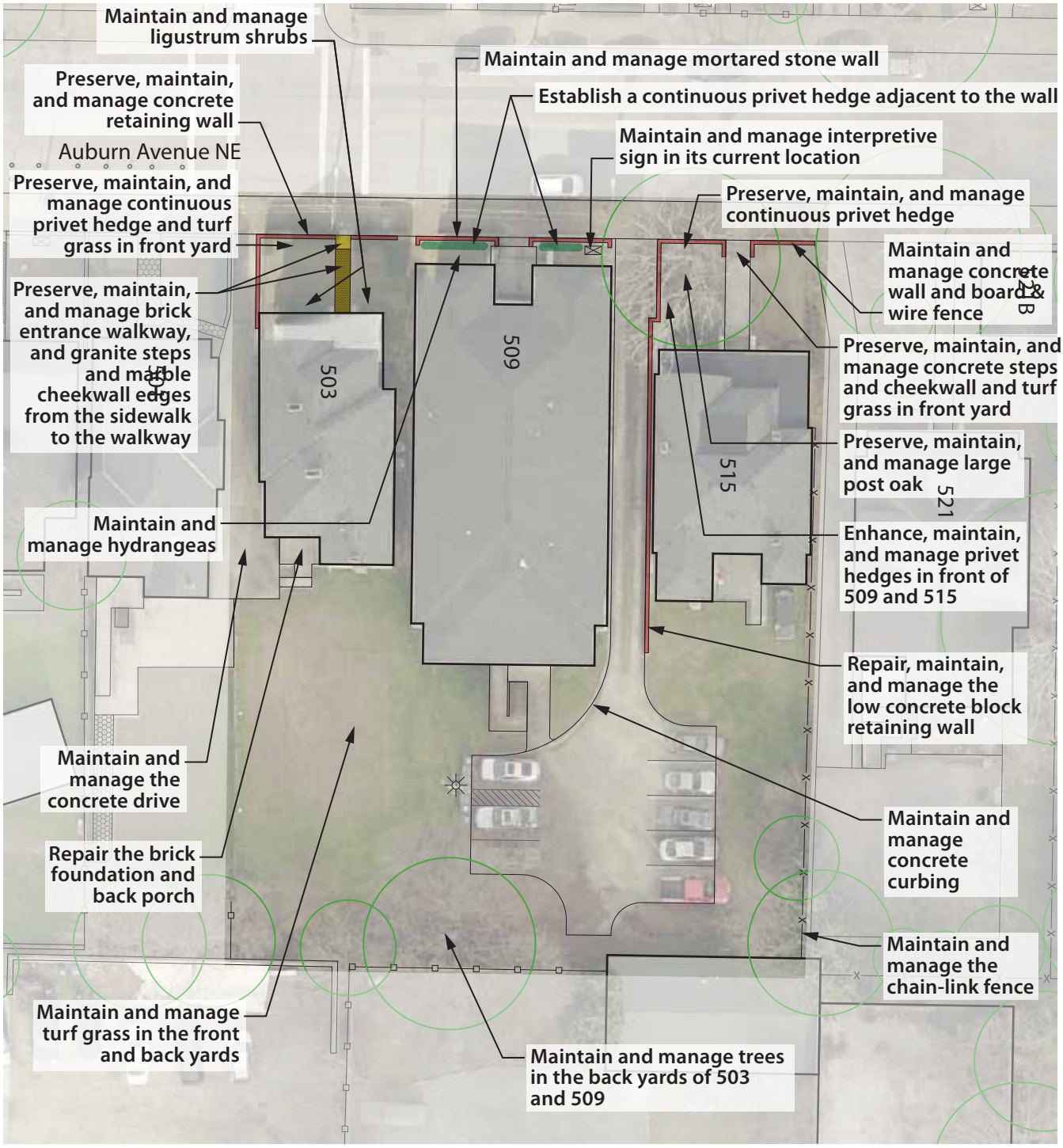
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 371. Treatment Recommendations, 492 and 502 Auburn Avenue

Jun 18, 2019 - 1:57pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09337.dwg



0' 40'

SCALE 1" = 40'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

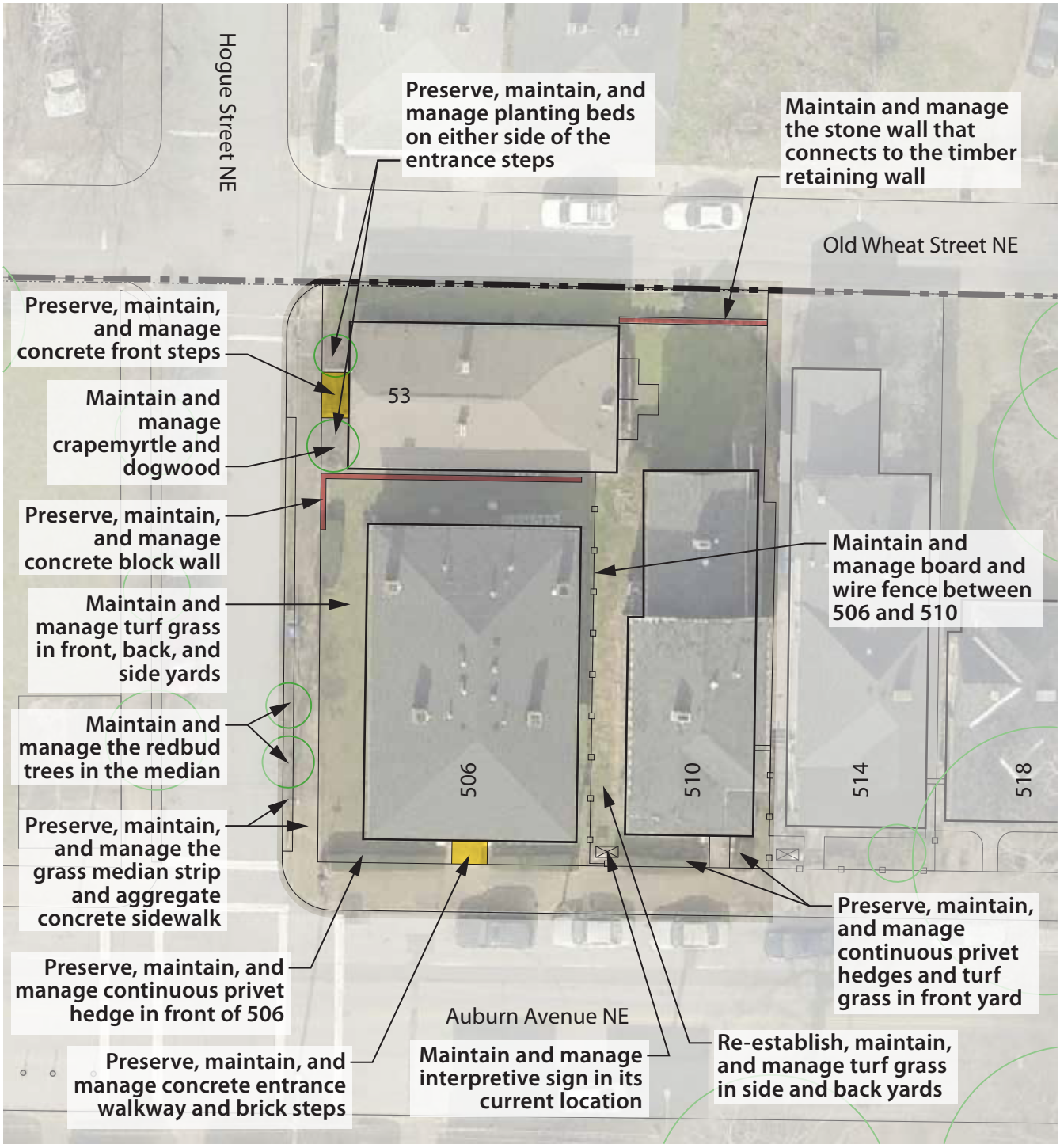
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 372. Treatment Recommendations, 503 (Park offices), 509, and 515 Auburn Avenue

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:48pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

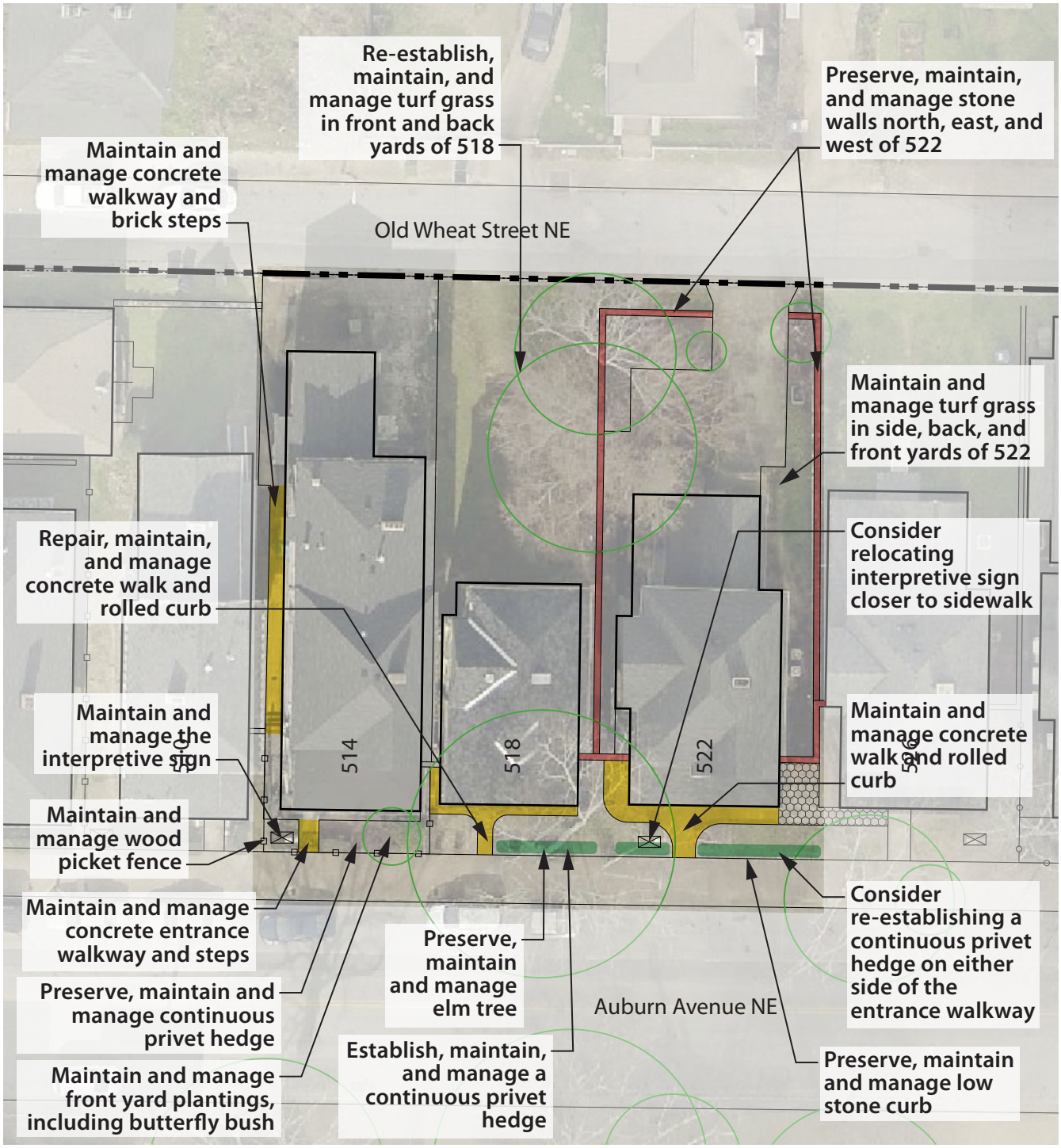
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

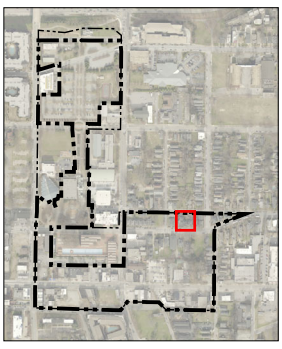
Figure 373. Treatment Recommendations, 506 and 510 Auburn Avenue and 53 Hogue Street

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:52pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_20137.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

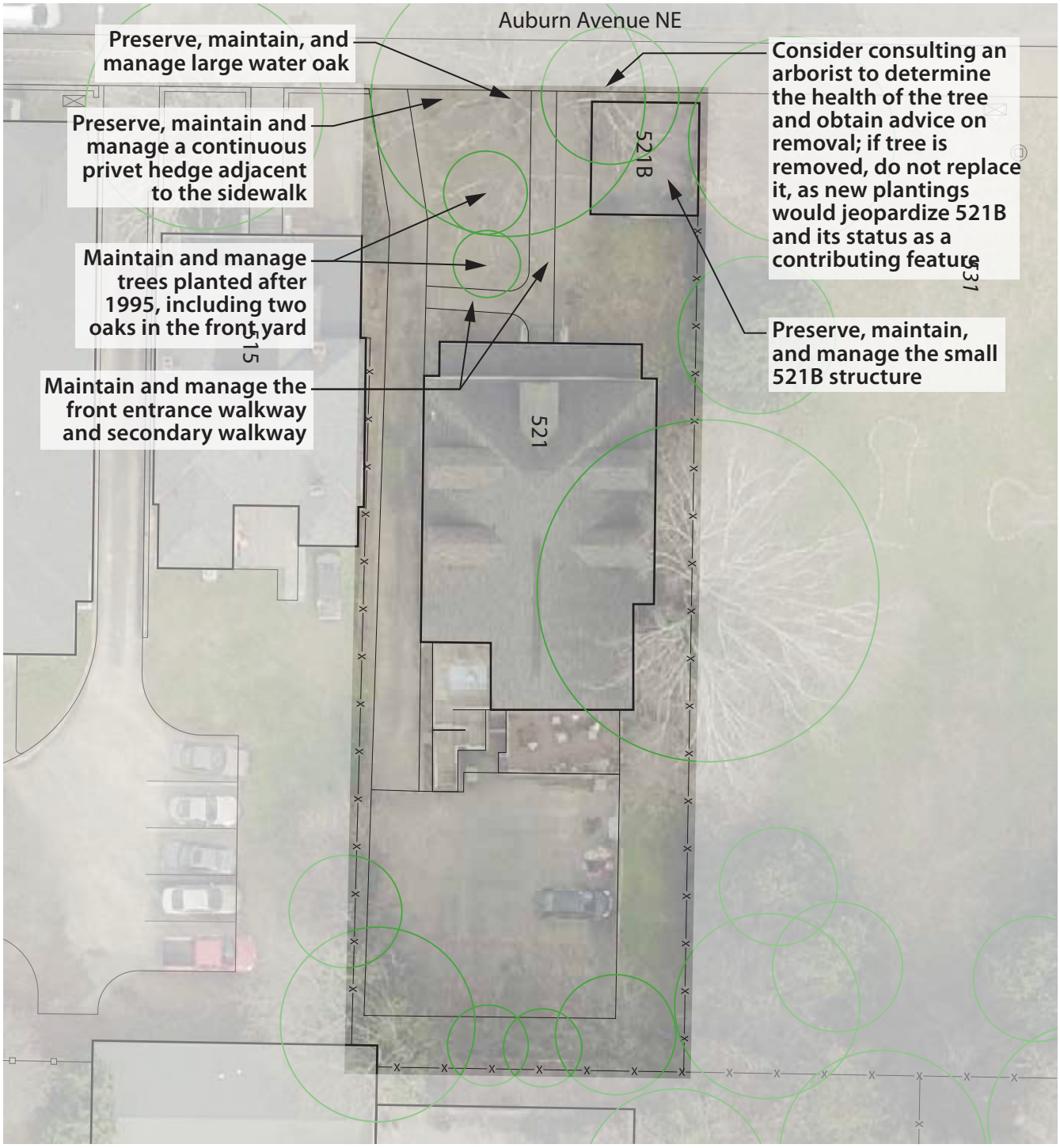
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 374. Treatment Recommendations, 514, 518, and 522 Auburn Avenue

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:56pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

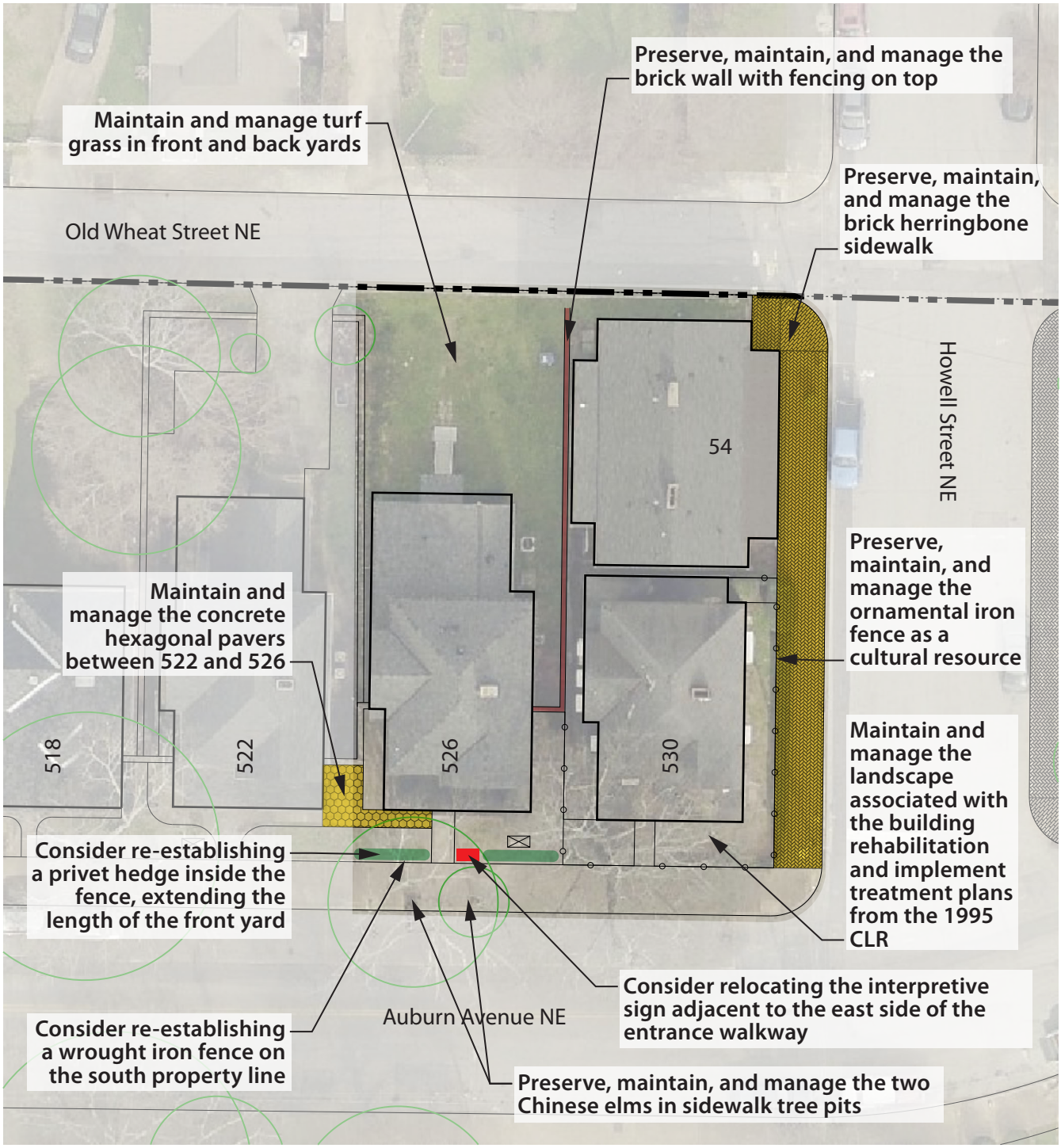
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

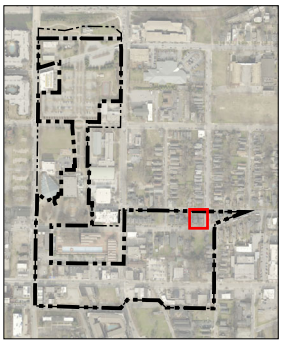
Figure 375. Treatment Recommendations, 521 and 521B Auburn Avenue

Jun 14, 2019 - 4:58pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

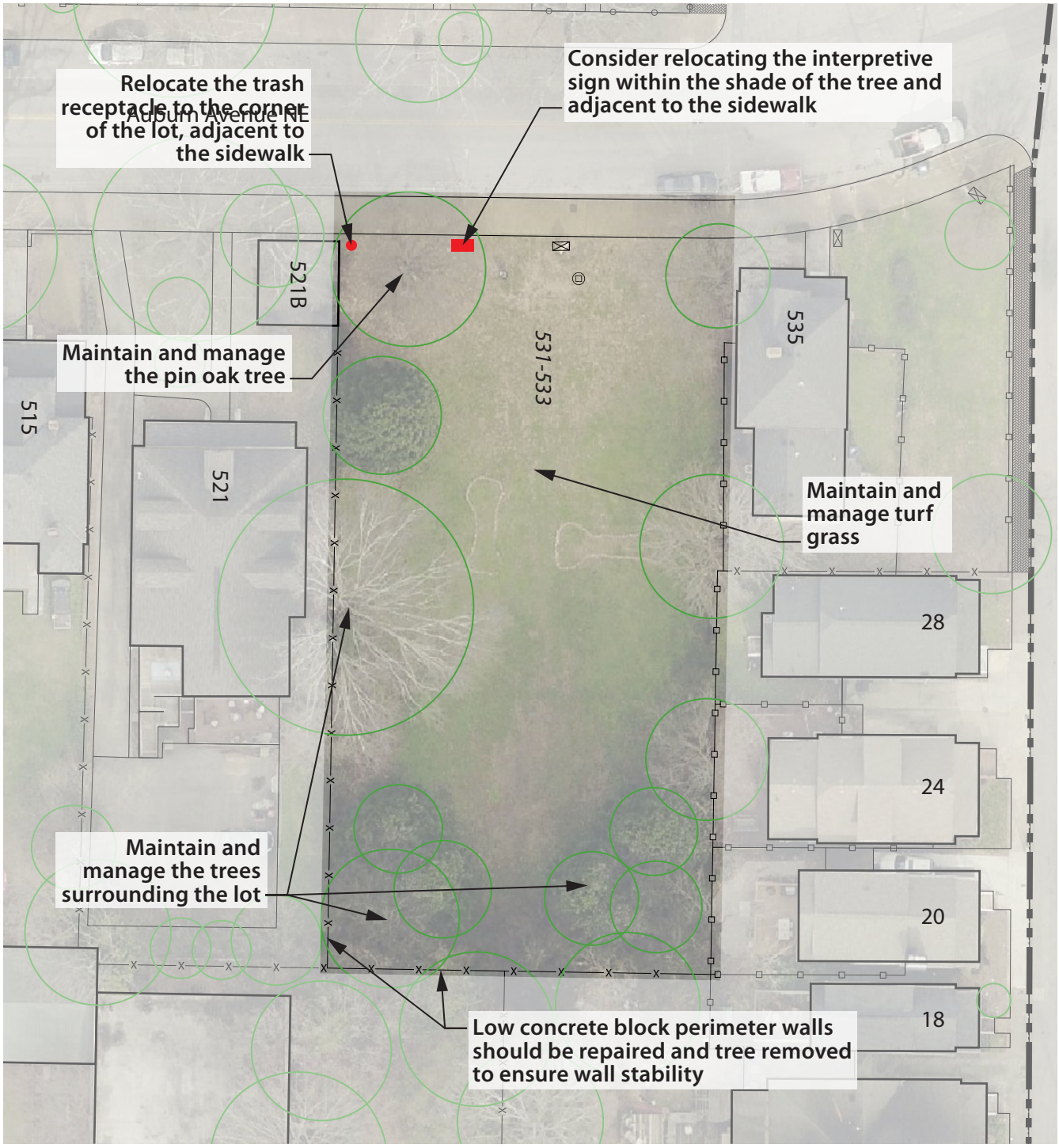
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

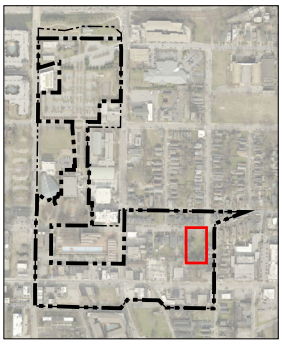
Figure 376. Treatment Recommendations, 526 and 530 Auburn Avenue and 54 Howell Street

Jun 14, 2019 - 3:01pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 40'

SCALE 1" = 40'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

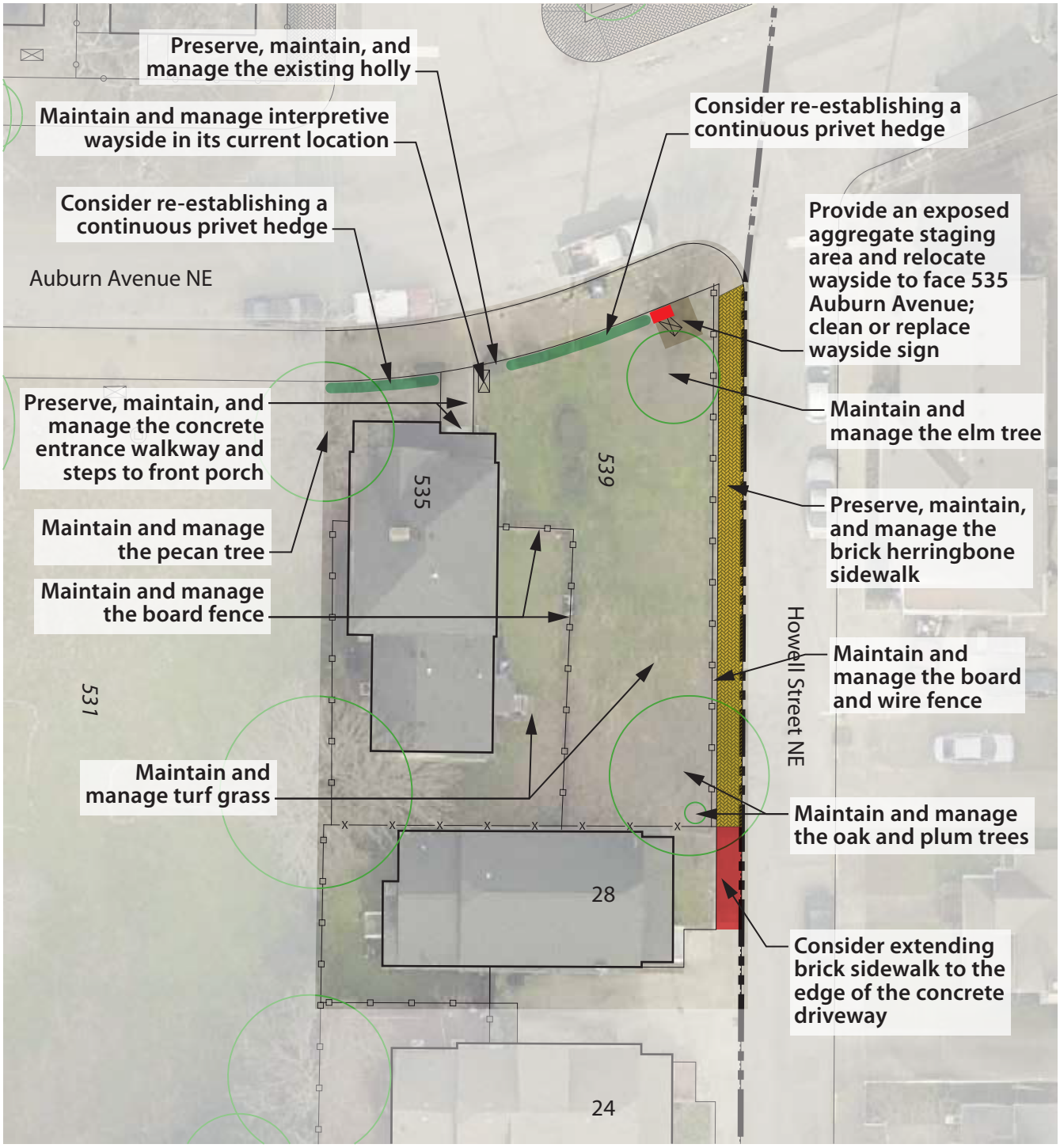
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 377. Treatment Recommendations, 531 Auburn Avenue

Jun 14, 2019 - 3:04pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

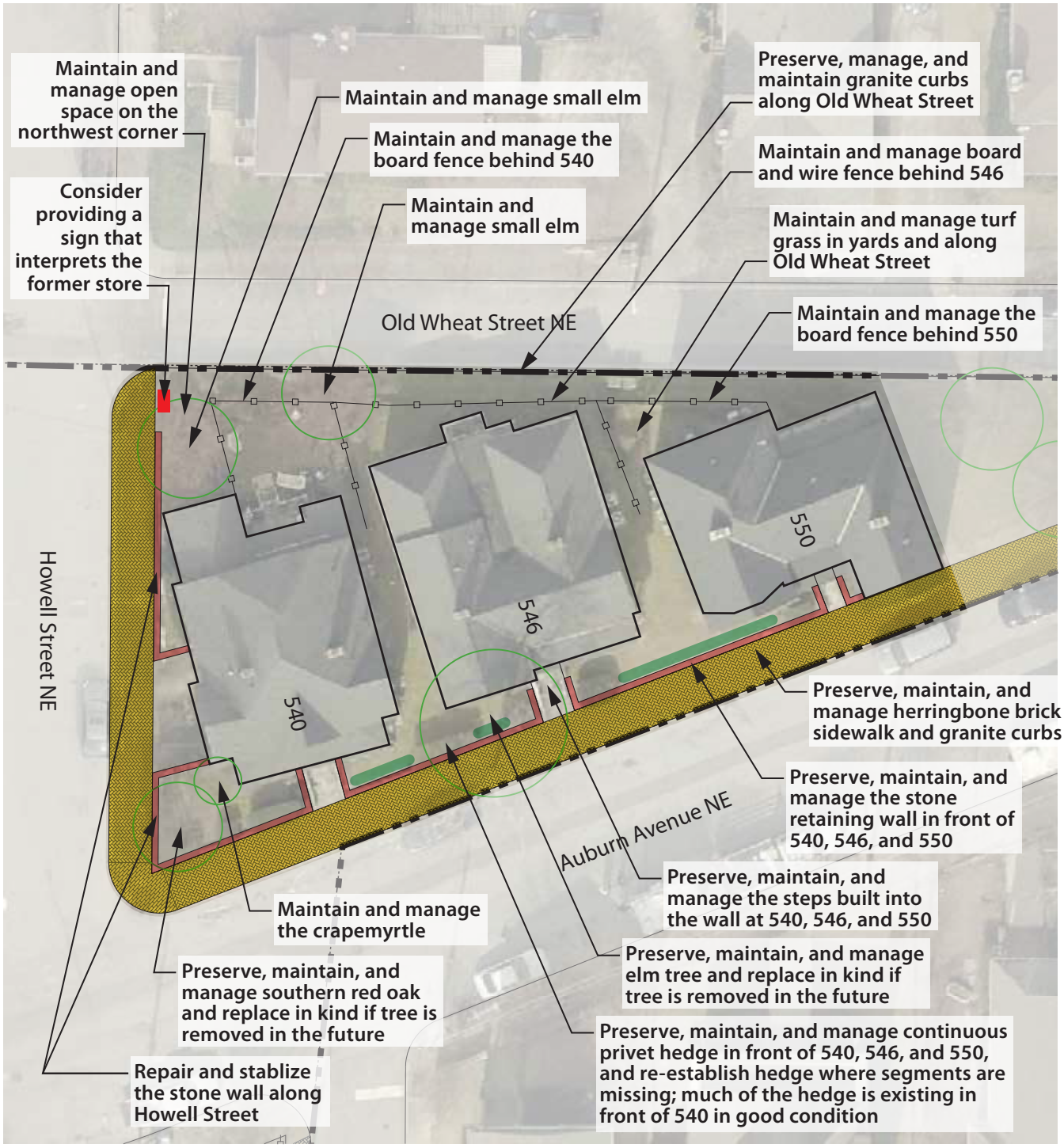
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 378. Treatment Recommendations, 535 and 539 Auburn Avenue and 28 Howell Street

Jun 19, 2019 - 12:07pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_0917.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

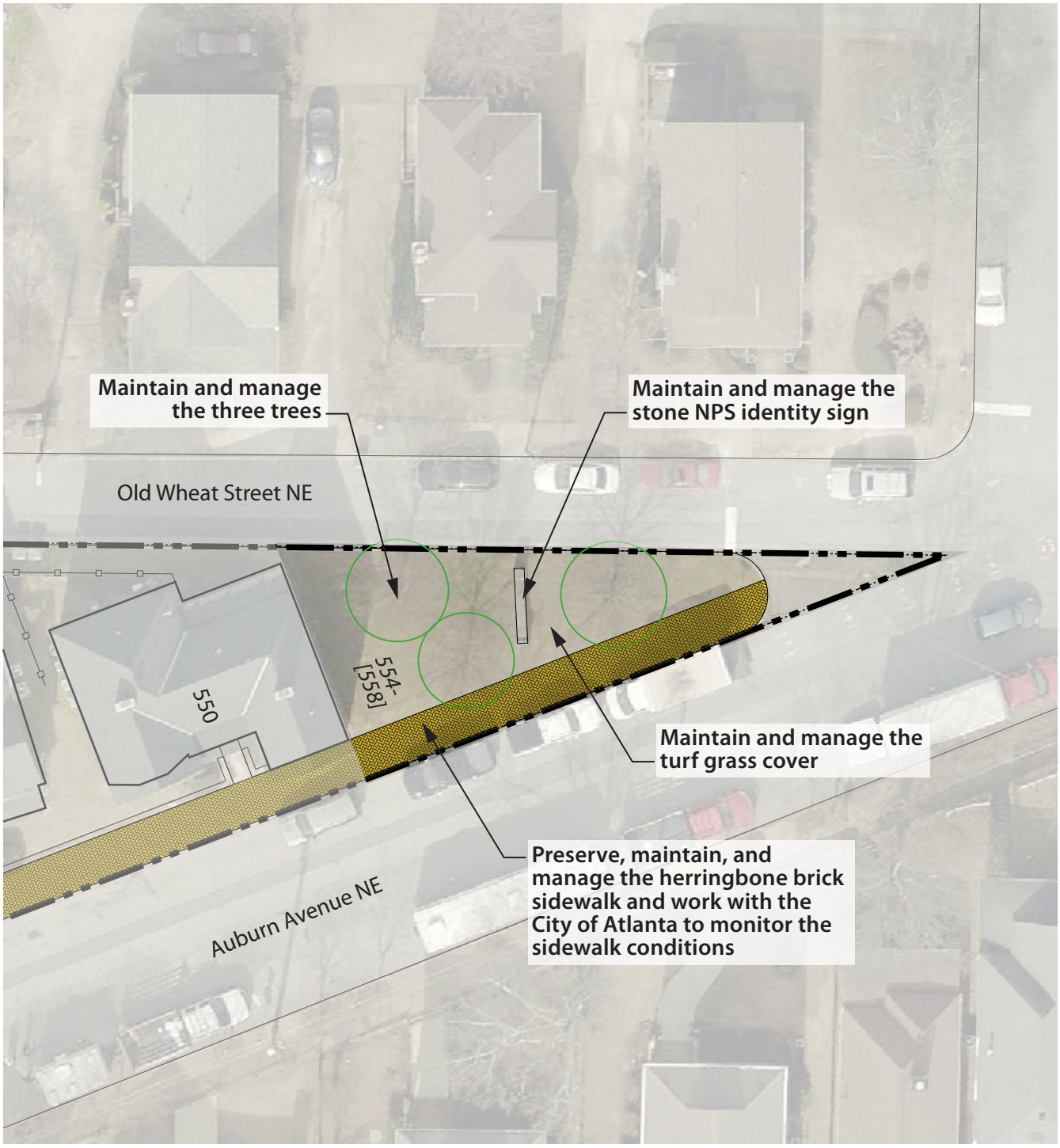
Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

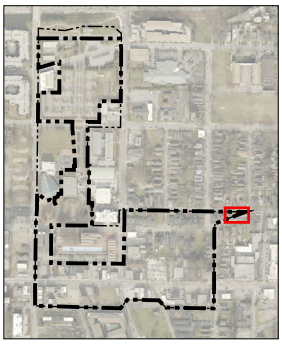
Figure 379. Treatment Recommendations, 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue

Jun 19, 2019 - 12:08pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_0917.dwg



0' 30'

SCALE 1" = 30'



Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

Existing Features Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Cultural Landscape Report
Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Figure 380. Treatment Recommendations, 554 Auburn Avenue

Jun 19, 2019 - 12:09pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09317.dwg

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Dr. King and Coretta Scott King Tomb (not in project)

Freedom Walkway (not in project)

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary

See Auburn Avenue Character Area Map 1

King Center, Freedom Hall (not in project)

Preserve and manage axial viewsheds in either direction along the Edgewood Avenue street corridor

Jackson Street NE

Gravel alley (Jackson Place NE)

Rubble wall

Rubble wall

Gated gravel parking court (EBC)

Concrete sidewalk

420

428

438

442

444

Concrete parking

Concrete sidewalk

Asphalt public parking

Gravel alley (Jackson Place NE)

458

460

464 [462]

464-466

Boulevard NE

Metered parking on south side of street

Edgewood Avenue SE

Concrete sidewalk

Concrete sidewalk with scored hexagons

Edgewood Ave NE

See Edgewood Avenue Character Area Map 2

10

12

14

16

18

20

Jackson Street SE

415

417

419

421-423

427-429

Gated asphalt parking court

412

410

Mixed asphalt and gravel parking area (Ebenezer Baptist Church)

439

443-445 (NPS)

447

451

467

Concrete block wall

Boulevard SE

Gated asphalt parking court (NPS)

Vacant lot (NPS)

Asphalt remnant

Redbuds in planting strips

Chamberlain Street SE

Parallel parking on both sides of street

Redbuds in planting strips

Consider introducing identity and orientation signage to enable visitors to understand they are entering the park

Engage in a planning process to consider options for the future use of the lots currently included in the park but not formally programmed; maintain the vacant lot in good condition during the planning process; maintain the existing chain-link fence and turf cover with limited parking

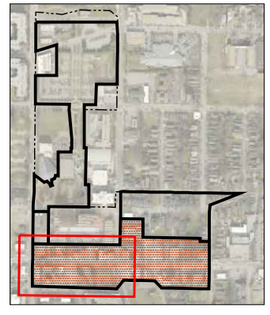
Consider introducing identity and orientation signage to enable visitors to understand they are entering the park

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.



0' 60' 120'

SCALE 1" = 60'

Jun 26, 2019 - 1:05pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AuteCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_op17.dwg

Figure 381.

Treatment Recommendations

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Management Zone (1 of 2)

Cultural Landscape Report

for

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park

Gated parking lot accessed from Auburn Avenue (Our Lady of Lourdes)

29 Our Lady of Lourdes parish hall

Parking

Concrete block wall

25 Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church

Concrete block wall

Gated parking area

Outbuilding

520

14

Howell Street NE

Gated parking lot (Our Lady of Lourdes)

536

Boulevard NE

476-478

482

484-486

488-490

510

Parking

Vacant lot

Mixed gravel and concrete workyard

See Auburn Avenue Character Area Maps 1 and 2

See Edgewood Avenue Management Zone Map 1

Preserve and manage axial viewsheds in either direction along the Edgewood Avenue street corridor

Work with City of Atlanta to manage and maintain herringbone brick sidewalks and concrete sidewalks to ensure safety for pedestrians; preserve brick pavement where appropriate

Parallel parking on south side of street

Tree pits with small trees

Concrete sidewalk with scored hexagons

Edgewood Avenue NE

Concrete sidewalk

Herringbone brick

Tree pits with small trees

Boulevard SE

483

485

487

489

Asphalt parking area

Daniel Street SE

Parking

511

513

Parking

Parking

541

Gated parking area

501

Gated parking area

521

525

537

Howell Street SE

Shed

Work with City of Atlanta to manage and maintain hexagonal concrete pavers where appropriate

Consider introducing identity and orientation signage to enable visitors to understand they are entering the park

0' 60' 120'

SCALE 1" = 60'

Jun 26, 2019 - 1:08pm G:\PROJECTS\Martin Luther King NHS CLR\Planning\AutoCad\Active\MALU_CLR_base_09137.dwg

Legend

- NHP Boundary
- Study Area Boundary
- Character Area Boundary
- Road
- Concrete sidewalk
- Hexagonal paver sidewalk
- Brick sidewalk
- Building
- Wall
- Chain-link fence
- Metal picket fence
- Wood fence
- Interpretive sign
- Light post
- Trash receptacle
- Tree

Notes:

1. Dimensions and locations are approximate, based on field observations and NPS-provided GIS data.
2. Locations of non-NPS small-scale features not recorded.
3. See Chapter 5 text for full list of treatment recommendations.

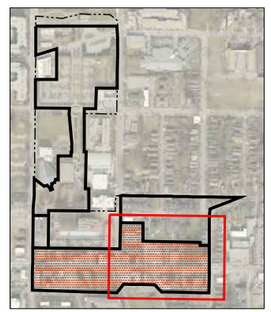


Figure 382.

Treatment Recommendations

Edgewood Avenue Commercial Management Zone (2 of 2)

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Appendix A: Resource Inventory Table

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
* Condition ratings are based on the following definitions:									
Good: indicates the cultural landscape shows no clear evidence of major negative disturbance and deterioration by natural and/or human forces. The cultural landscape's historical and natural values are as well preserved as can be expected under the given environmental conditions. No immediate corrective action is required to maintain its current condition.									
Fair: indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of minor disturbances and deterioration by natural and/or human forces, and some degree of corrective action is needed within three to five years to prevent further harm to its historical and/or natural values. The cumulative effect of the deterioration of many of the significant characteristics and features of the cultural landscape, if left to continue without the appropriate corrective action, will cause the landscape to degrade to a poor condition.									
Poor: indicates the cultural landscape shows clear evidence of major disturbance and rapid deterioration by natural and/or human forces. Immediate corrective action is required to protect and preserve the remaining historical and natural areas.									
Unknown: indicates that not enough information is available to make an evaluation.									
Patterns of Spatial Organization									
Broad patterns of spatial organization created by the form and structure of the streets that define the historic core of the park and delineate its boundary	x			(1870-1968)		Good			
Figure/Ground relationships that organize the density, scale, and spatial patterns of building masses in relationship to the landscape	x			(1870-1968)		Good			
Hierarchy of spatial organization and scale within the streetscape, determined by road widths, building setbacks, sidewalks, retaining walls, individual lot size, and defined spaces within each individual parcel	x			(1870-1968)		Good			
Spatial organization of residential yards	x			(1870-1968)		Range of conditions: fair to good			
Broad pattern of spatial organization within the Visitor Services character area of the park		x		1994		Good			
Missing Patterns of Spatial Organization									
Former spatial patterns in the Visitor Services character area			x	pre-1992	1992				

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Land Uses and Activities									
Residential	x								
Commercial	x								
Public Facility	x								
Religious	x								
Industrial	x								
Museum/Interpretation/Education		x							
Recreation		x					Dreamer's Park		
Commemoration		x							
Maintenance		x							
Missing Land Uses									
N/A									
Circulation (Refer to Text for Features in the Individual Residential Yards in the Birth Home Block)									
Auburn Avenue *New Wheat Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	renamed 1893, repaved with concrete ca. 1923, repaved with asphalt after 1937	Fair to good	Sections of curb and sidewalk need repair. Monitor sidewalks, curbs, tree wells, and new layers of asphalt.		
Edgewood Avenue *Foster Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	renamed ca. 1889	Fair to good	Monitor condition of sidewalks and curbs and new layers of asphalt paving		
Boulevard *Rolling Mill Street, Jefferson Avenue*	x			pre-p.o.s.	renamed ca. 1895	Good			
Jackson Street	x			pre-p.o.s.		Good			
Hogue Street *Howland Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	repaved with asphalt after 1937	Good	Monitor condition of sidewalks and curbs and new layers of asphalt paving		
Howell Street *Howland Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	repaved with asphalt after 1937	Fair to good	Monitor layers of new asphalt and protect granite curbing		
Old Wheat Street *Wheat Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	repaved with asphalt after 1937	Fair to good	Monitor layers of new asphalt and protect granite curbing		
Chamberlain Street	x			pre-p.o.s.		Good			
Daniel Street	x			pre-p.o.s.		Good			
Irwin Street	x			pre-p.o.s.		Good			
John Wesley Dobbs Avenue *Houston Street*	x			pre-p.o.s.	renamed 1994	Good			

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Cain Street	x			pre-p.o.s.	repaved with asphalt after 1937	Good			
Reid's Alley	x			ca. 1911		fair/poor	Renmant paving remains	AL493	LCS 90057
Parking lot between Our Lady of Lourdes School and Fire Station No. 6 accessed from Auburn Ave.	x			by 1941		Fair to good			
Parallel parking on Auburn Avenue and Edgewood Avenue	x			by 1941					
Exposed aggregate sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue between Boulevard and Howell Street	x			ca. 1922-1923		Fair to good	Condition should be monitored; specific sections need repairs		LCS 90058
Exposed aggregate sidewalk, south side of Auburn Avenue.	x			ca. 1922-1923			Condition should be monitored; specific sections need repairs		
Brick sidewalk, north side of Auburn Avenue east of Howell Street	x			ca. 1890-1920		Fair-good	Condition should be monitored		LCS 90059
Brick sidewalk, west side of Howell Street north of Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1895-1922		Good	Condition should be monitored		LCS 90060
Presence of sidewalks associated with contributing streets	x			ca. 1895-1922		Fair to good	Sidewalk conditions should be monitored		
Presence of granite curbs on contributing streets, on the south sisde of Old Wheat Street within the Birth Home block, and Edgewood Avenue.	x			ca. 1890		Fair	granite curbs were documented on the Cadastral Survey Map, WPA, Atlanta, 1937		
Use of brick as a sidewalk paving material	x			ca. 1890		Fair to good	ca. 1925 brick was replaced with concrete along Auburn Avenue and concrete walks were laid on Hogue Street		
Use of hexagonal concrete pavers as a sidewalk paving material	x			ca. 1950s		Fair-good	Present on Edgewood Avenue, sidewalk adjacent to Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary and on the front walk of the Birth Home		
International Civil Rights Walk of Fame		x		2004		Good			

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Promenade (Freedom Park Trail segment)		x		1996		Good			
Peace Plaza		x		1996		Good			
Freedom Park Trail segment from Cain Street to the visitor center		x		1996		Good			
NPS parking lots		x		1996		Good			
NPS bus parking		x		1999		Good			
Public and business-associated parking lots on Edgewood Avenue		x		various		Fair-good			
Ebenezer Baptist Church parking lots on Edgewood Avenue		x		undetermined		Fair-good			
Our Lady of Lourdes parking lots on Edgewood Avenue and Boulevard		x		undetermined		Fair			
Concrete sidewalks in Dreamer's Park		x		2002-2003		Good			
Atlanta Streetcar line on Jackson Street between Edgewood Avenue and Auburn Avenue		x		2014		Good			
Missing Circulation									
Alleyways			x	various					
Streetcar lines on Edgewood Avenue, Boulevard, Jackson Street, and Auburn Avenue			x	1884, 1889, ca. 1892	ceased operation 1949, all lines removed by 1968				
Old Wheat Street between Jackson Street and Boulevard			x	pre-p.o.s.	demolished ca. 1994				
Fitzgerald Street between Chamberlain Street and Edgewood Avenue			x	pre-p.o.s.	demolished ca. 1965				
Brick sidewalks on both sides of Auburn Avenue			x	ca. 1890	repaved in concrete 1925				
Cultural Vegetation (Refer to Text for Features in the Individual Residential Yards in the Birth Home Block)									
Front yard perimeter shrubs of boxwood or privet along Auburn Avenue in the Birth Home block	x			ca 1890s	Original plants have been lost and replaced, but pattern of perimeter privet hedges remain	Varies	Dates for privet hedges are associated with the construction of the dwellings and yards. Pattern remains in many of the yards.		

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Two Chinese elm street trees on Auburn Avenue	x			ca 1949		Fair	Specific trees may have been planted after 1968, but the presence of trees in the sidewalk tree pits dates to the p.o.s Condition should be monitored.		
Large post oak in the front yard of 515 Auburn Avenue	x			dates to the p.o.s.		Fair to good	Condition of the tree needs to be monitored.		
Large post oak in front of 521-B	x			dates to the p.o.s.		poor to dead	Evaluate and remove		
Large water oak in the front yard of 521 Auburn Avenue	x			dates to the p.o.s.		Fair to good	Condition of the tree should be monitored.		
Large elm in the front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue	x			dates to the p.o.s.		Good	Condition of the tree should be monitored.		
Large oak tree in the front yard of 540 Auburn Avenue	x			presence of a large deciduous tree dates to the p.o.s.		Good	Historically a large deciduous tree was present in this location, it was not in the inventory survey in the 1995 CLR.		
Large elm in the front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue	x			dates to the p.o.s.		Fair to good	Condition of the tree should be monitored.		
Two large Burford Hollies in front yard of 491 Auburn Avenue	x								
Presence of grass in individual front yards at 501,503,510 and 515 in the Birth Home block.	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies, poor to good	Some areas of yards need re-seeding for a healthy stand of grass.		
Trees in individual yards within the Birth Home block		x		various dates		Fair to good	Trees conditions should be monitored.		
Martin Luther King, Jr. "I Have a Dream World Peace Rose Garden		x		1992-1993		Good	Condition of the garden should be monitored and maintained		
Street trees along Edgewood Avenue (between Howell Street and Jacskon Street)		x		post-p.o.s.		Fair	Condition of trees should be monitored		
Shrub and ornamental plantings associated with commercial and residential properties on Edgewood Avenue		x		post-p.o.s.		Fair to good	Condition of trees should be monitored.		
Trees and shrubs in NPS parking lot		x		1996		Good	Condition of trees should be monitored.		
Trees and shrubs in Dreamer's Park		x		2002-2003		Good	Condition of trees should be monitored.		

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Trees, shrubs, and ornamental plantings associated with the Freedom Park Trail, Promenade, Civil Rights Walk of Fame, and Peace Plaza		x		1996		Good	Condition of trees should be monitored.		
Missing Vegetation									
Vegetable garden in the back yard of the Birth Home			x						
Swept dirt yards associated with the double shotgun houses on Auburn Avenue			x						
Street trees on the north edge of Auburn Avenue in front of the double shotgun houses			x						
Ailanthus (Tree of Heaven) trees within the Birth Home block			x						
Viewsheds									
Axial views in either direction from Auburn Avenue, Edgewood, and Howell Street	x								
View of the King Center from the surrounding areas of the park		x		1996					
Axial view to the tombs of Dr. and Mrs. King from the World Peace Rose Garden/Peace Plaza		x		1976					
View of Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church from the Peace Plaza, with the Behold statue in the foreground		x		1996					
Missing Viewsheds									
N/A									
Buildings									
407 Auburn Avenue *Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church Heritage Sanctuary*	x			1914-1922	1970-1971, rehabilitated 2000s		407 Auburn Avenue and 413 Auburn Avenue are considered one resource	A407-413	LCS 90002
413 Auburn Avenue *Christian Education Building, Fellowship Hall*	x			1956	1971, rehabilitated 2000s		407 Auburn Avenue and 413 Auburn Avenue are considered one resource	A407-413	LCS 90002

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
450 Auburn Avenue *National Park Service Visitor Center*		x		1996					
472-474 Auburn Avenue	x			1905	rehabilitated 1984, 1990-1991			A472-474	LCS 23361
476-478 Auburn Avenue	x			1905	rehabilitated 1984, 1990-1991			A476-478	LCS 23363
480-[482] Auburn Avenue	x			1905	rehabilitated 1991-1992		converted to single residence	A480	LCS 90003
484-[486] Auburn Avenue	x			1905	rehabilitated 1991-1992		converted to single residence	A484	LCS 90004
488-[490] Auburn Avenue	x			1905	rehabilitated 1991-1992		converted to single residence	A488	LCS 90005
491-[493] Auburn Avenue	x			1911				A491	LCS 90047
492-[494] Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1897	rehabilitated 1990				LCS 90006
493 A [No. 1-2] Auburn Avenue	x			1911				A493,1-2	LCS 90007
493 B [No. 3-4] Auburn Avenue	x			1911				A493,3-4	LCS 90008
493 C [No. 5-6] Auburn Avenue	x			1911				A493,5-6	LCS 90009
497 Auburn Avenue *Park Bookstore*	x			ca. 1900	rehabilitated 2000, 2005			A497	LCS 90010
501 Auburn Avenue *Martin Luther King, Jr. Birth Home*	x			ca. 1894	rehabilitated 1974, restored 1980-1982, 1987-1990, wheelchair lift added 2010, stablized 2016-2017			A501	LCS 90011
503 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1895	rehabilitated 1977, altered 1980, restored 2002-2003			A503	LCS 90012
506 Auburn Avenue	x			1933	rehabilitated 1992-1993			A506	LCS 90013
509 Auburn Avenue		x		1997			reconstruction; original structure demolished 1990		
510 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1890	stabilized 1992, rehabilitated 1995			A510	LCS 90014
514 Auburn Avenue	x			1893	rehabilitated 1990, 2000			A514	LCS 23362
515 Auburn Avenue *Faison House*	x			1909	rehabilitated 2001-2002			A515	LCS 90015
518 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1893	exterior stabilized 1994			A518	LCS 90016

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
521 Auburn Avenue		x		2004			reconstruction; original structure demolished 2001		
521 B [521 1/2] Auburn Avenue	x			1921	rehabilitated 1996, 2006		asbestos siding replaced with wood shingles		LCS 90018
522 Auburn Avenue *Bryant-Graves House*	x			ca. 1894	rehablitated 1982			A522	LCS 23326
526 Auburn Avenue *Kirk House*	x			ca. 1895	rehabilitated 1988-1990; remodeled 1994			A526	LCS 23365
530 Auburn Avenue *Nowell House*	x (to be confirmed)			ca. 1895	rehabilitated 2017-2018				LCS 90019
535 Auburn Avenue *Harper House*	x			ca. 1895	rehabilitated 1992-1993			A535	LCS 90020
540 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1890	rehablitated 1982-1984, 2003		converted to duplex	A540	LCS 23368
546 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1890	rehablitated 1982-1984		converted to duplex	A546	LCS 23370
550 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1890	rehablitated 1982-1984		converted to duplex	A550	LCS 23367
25 Boulevard *Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church*	x			1960					
29 Boulevard *Our Lady of Lourdes School, Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Archbishop P. Ryan Memorial Roman Catholic School*	x			1912			Katharine Drexel Community Center		LCS 90040
37-39 Boulevard *Fire Station No. 6*	x			1894	closed 1991, restored 1993-1995		converted to museum	B37-39	LCS 90039
53-[55] Boulevard	x			ca. 1905	rehabilitated 1985			B53-55	LCS 23364
410-412 Chamberlain Street		x		2001					
415-419 Edgewood Avenue		x		2001					
420 Edgewood Avenue	x			1912					
421-429 Edgewood Avenue	x			1946					
428 Edgewood Avenue	x			1953					
438-442 Edgewood Avenue *Ivie's Garage*	x			1939	addition 1946-1953				
439-[441] Edgewood Avenue	x			1920					
443-445 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909	altered 1961, rehabilitated 1984		only NPS-owned building on Edgewood Avenue	E443	LCS 23327
444-[446] Edgewood Avenue *Danneman's Supermarket*	x			1909	façade altered 1950s				

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
447 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					
451 Edgewood Avenue	x			1915					
458 Edgewood Avenue	x			1946					
460 Edgewood Avenue		x		1994					
464 [462] Edgewood Avenue	x			1927					
464-466 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					
467 Edgewood Avenue	x			1911					
476-480 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					LCS 90030
482 Edgewood Avenue	x			1908					LCS 90031
483 Edgewood Avenue	x			1908					
484-486 Edgewood Avenue	x			1908					
485 Edgewood Avenue	x			1908					
487 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					
488-490 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909	rehabilitated 1986				LCS 90035
489 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					
501 Edgewood Avenue	x			1968					
510 Edgewood Avenue	x			1947					LCS 90037
511 Edgewood Avenue	x			1935					
513 Edgewood Avenue		x		2005					
520 Edgewood Avenue	x			1962					
521 Edgewood Avenue	x			1954					
525 Edgewood Avenue	x			1948	altered ca. 1986				
536 [540] Edgewood Avenue *Fred Martin Welding Company*	x			1938	addition 1951				
537 Edgewood Avenue		x		1983					
541 Edgewood Avenue	x			1909					
53 Hogue Street	x			ca. 1940					LCS 90041
14 Howell Street	x			ca. 1927					LCS 90042
18 Howell Street		x		2008-2009			reconstruction; original destroyed by fire 1991		
20 Howell Street		x		2015					
24 Howell Street	x			ca. 1895					LCS 90043
28 Howell Street	x			ca. 1895					LCS 90046
54 Howell Street	x			1931	rehabilitated 1992-1994			HW54	LCS 90044
10-20 Jackson Street		x		2001					
412 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue *NPS Maintenance Facility*		x		1996					
483 Old Wheat Street		x		2005					
Adjacent Buildings (within the park boundary but not included in this report)									
449 Auburn Avenue *Martin Luther King, Jr. and Coretta Scott King Grave Site*		x		1976	2006				LCS 90045

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
King Center buildings and structures *Including: Freedom Hall, Administrative Office, Freedom Walkway, Reflecting Pool, Eternal Flame, International Chapel of All Faith, and Screening Room*		x		1976-1977, 1979					
130 Boulevard	x			1920-1923					
442 Cain St.	x			1929	1998				
454 Irwin Street	x			1946					
101 Jackson Street *Ebenezer Baptist Church Horizon Sanctuary*		x		1999	2012		Martin Luther King, Sr. Community Resources Center attached to church		
409 John Wesley Dobbs Avenue *409 Houston Street (Model Laundry Building), Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library*	x			1923-1928	early 2000s		Martin Luther King Jr. Branch Library		
Prince Hall Masonic Temple	x			1941					
234 Sunset Avenue	x			1950					
Missing Buildings									
509 Auburn Avenue			x	1925	demolished 1990		reconstructed		
521 Auburn Avenue			x	1886	demolished 2001		reconstructed		
Apartments at 531 Auburn Avenue			x	1954	demolished 1994				
479 Edgewood Avenue			x	1932	demolished ca. 2005		Filling station		
513 Edgewood Avenue			x	1920	remodeled 1970s, demolished ca. 2004		Commercial building		
412 Houston Street *York Building*			x	1920-1923	demolished ca. 1995				
423 Houston Street *Scripto Building*			x	1931	demolished 1995				
450 Houston Street			x	ca. 1923	demolished ca. 1995		Commercial building		
456-460 Houston Street			x	1942-1953	demolished ca. 1995		Commercial building		
466 Houston Street			x	1938-1946	demolished ca. 1995		Commercial building		
18 Howell Street			x	1927	fire 1991, demolished ca. 1994		reconstructed		
479-481 Old Wheat Street			x	ca. 1905	demolished ca. 2009				

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
483-485 Old Wheat Street			x	ca. 1905	demolished ca. 1995				LCS 23366
487-489 Old Wheat Street			x	ca. 1905	demolished ca. 1995				LCS 23369
Structures (Refer to text for Features in Individual Residential Yards within the Birth Home Block									
Garage/shed in rear yard of 497 Auburn Avenue	x			ca. 1933-1935		Fair		A487G	LCS 90052
Mixed rubble walls in rear and side yards of Birth Home block	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies			
Retaining walls in front yards on south side of Auburn Avenue	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies	Dates are associated with the construction of the building and original streetscape		
Steps to access front yards of residences on Birth Home block	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies	Dates are associated with the construction of the building and original streetscape		
Retaining walls/curbs on north side of Auburn Avenue	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies	Dates are associated with the construction of the building and original streetscape		
Steps associated with side yard walls on Birth Home block	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Varies	Dates are associated with the construction of the building and original streetscape		
Granite steps with thin marble cheek-wall at 503 Auburn Avenue	x			Dates to the p.o.s.		Fair to good	Date is associated with the construction of 503 dwelling and yard		
Masonry wall along Auaburn Avenue in front of 540, 546, and 550 and wrapping around 540 along Howell Street.	x			Dates to the p.o.s.	rehabilitated 1987, 1989	poor to fair	Date is associated with the construction of 540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue. This segment of the wall should be repaired.		
Picnic pavilion in Dreamer's Park		x		2015		Good			
Tennis court in Dreamer's Park		x		2002-2003		Good			
Parking kiosk in NPS parking lot		x		1996		Fair to good	Consider removal and replace with orientation signage.		
Concrete block wall on south side of Cain Street (above bus parking)		x		1999		Fair			
Forecourt canopy at the visitor center		x		1996		Good			

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Free-standing concrete walls within the Edgewood Avenue commerical corridor		x		various		Varies poor to good			
Missing Structures									
Shed on the east side of the back yard of the Birth Home			x						
Small shed behind the garden of the Birth Home that served as a coal shed			x						
Wire clotheslines at the Birth Home that ran from the house to the shed			x						
Utilitarian outdoor structures generally associated with the Birth Home block			x						
Walls within residential yards in the Birth Home block			x						
Small-scale Features									
Neon sign at Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church	x			1956		Good			
Hanging, painted, and projected signs on Edgewood Avenue	x			1929-1941		Varies			
Ornamental iron fence at the front and side of 530 Auburn Aveue	x				2017-2018	Good	Some segments are historic and date to the period of significance, others were replaced in kind when 530 was rehabilitated.		
Pattern of board, or chicken wire and board fencing in the Birth Home block yards	x			Dates to the p.o.s		Varies			
Pattern of back yard fencing in the rear yards of the Birth Home block	x			Dates to the p.o.s		Varies			
Pattern of side yard fencing to delineate property lines in the Birth Home block	x			Dates to the p.o.s		Varies			
Ghandi sculpture		x		1998		Good			
Behold Monument		x		1990	relocated 1996	Good			

Feature Name *Other Name*	Contributing	Non-contributing	Missing	Date of Origin	Modifications	Condition*	Notes	HS No.	LCS No.
Civil Rights Walk of Fame granite marker featuring engraved footsteps of civil and human rights icons		x		2004		Good			
Park boundary fences along Cain Street, around Dreamer's Park, maintenance complex, visitor center parking, and east of Promenade		x		post-p.o.s.		Fair to good			
Fences delineating boundaries within Edgewood Avenue commercial area		x		post-p.o.s.		Varies poor to good			
Concrete orientation and welcome markers		x		1996		Good			
NPS identity signs		x		post-p.o.s.		Good			
Interpretive wayside exhibits		x		post-p.o.s.		Varies poor to good			
Regulatory, traffic, and directional signage		x		post-p.o.s.		Fair to good			
Site furnishings: trash receptacles, light posts, flagpoles, parking meters, flexible delineators		x		post-p.o.s.		Good			
Missing Small-scale Features									
Fences from individual yards on the Birth Home block			x						
Period porch furniture associated with residences on the Birth Home block			x						

Appendix B: Record Photography

In conjunction with the development of the Cultural Landscape Report for the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historical Park, Leslie Schwartz Photography took record photography of the Park in October 2018.

Views represented in the photographs were selected to provide an overview of the study area addressed in the Cultural Landscape Report, including streetscapes along Auburn Avenue NE and adjacent residential streets, as well as the Edgewood Avenue commercial district, and the Visitor Services area. A caption is provided with each photograph to indicate the resources included and the direction of view.

The record photography completed in 2018 in association with this report provides baseline documentation for current conditions, as well as an opportunity to compare the current appearance and condition of streetscapes and individual buildings with that documented in photographs prepared in coordination with the 1995 Cultural Landscape Report by Lucy Lawliss of the National Park Service, and with other archival documentation of buildings and streetscapes.

The perspective-corrected color record photographs included in this project are provided on archival CD under separate cover to the National Park Service.



The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth home, 501 Auburn Avenue NE, looking south (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The Martin Luther King Jr. Birth home, 501 Auburn Avenue NE, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



497 Auburn Avenue NE through 509 Auburn Avenue NE, looking southeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



509 Auburn Avenue NE, looking southeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The northeast corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Boulevard showing the shotgun houses at 472–474 Auburn Avenue NE through 492 Auburn Avenue NE, looking northeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Fire Station No. 6, 39 Boulevard, looking southeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



492 Auburn Avenue NE through 472–474 Auburn Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The northeast corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Hogue Street NE, looking northeast, with 506 Auburn Avenue NE in the foreground (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



518 Auburn Avenue NE through 530 Auburn Avenue NE, from the front yard of 518 Auburn Avenue NE, looking northeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



521B Auburn Avenue NE, looking southeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The north side of the 500 block of Auburn Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Auburn Avenue NE, looking west from the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Howell Street NE (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The north side of the 500 block of Auburn Avenue NE, from the front of 530 Auburn Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



540 Auburn Avenue NE through 550 Auburn Avenue NE, looking north (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



550 Auburn Avenue NE through 540 Auburn Avenue NE, looking west (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The park identity sign at the corner of Auburn Avenue NE and Old Wheat Street NE, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Edgewood Avenue NE, from the front of 510 Auburn Avenue NE, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



488–490 Edgewood Avenue NE through 476–478 Edgewood Avenue NE, looking northwest. (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The south side of the 400 block of Edgewood Avenue NE, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



464–466 Edgewood Avenue NE through 458 Edgewood Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



444 Edgewood Avenue NE through 420 Edgewood Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, with *Behold* statue in foreground, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Ebenezer Baptist Church, Heritage Sanctuary, looking southeast (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



East concrete orientation marker along Auburn Avenue NE, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Peace garden, looking south toward Auburn Avenue NE (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The Martin Luther King National Historical Park Visitor Center, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



The Martin Luther King National Historical Park Visitor Center, looking northwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Promenade with Civil Rights Walk of Fame plaques, with Gandhi statue and visitor center in background, looking north (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Concrete orientation marker and promenade, looking southwest (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).



Parking lot and concrete walk, looking south toward Irwin Street NE (Source: Leslie Schwartz Photography, 2018).





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for the most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under US administration.

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Martin Luther King, Jr National Historical Park

Cultural Landscape Report

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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