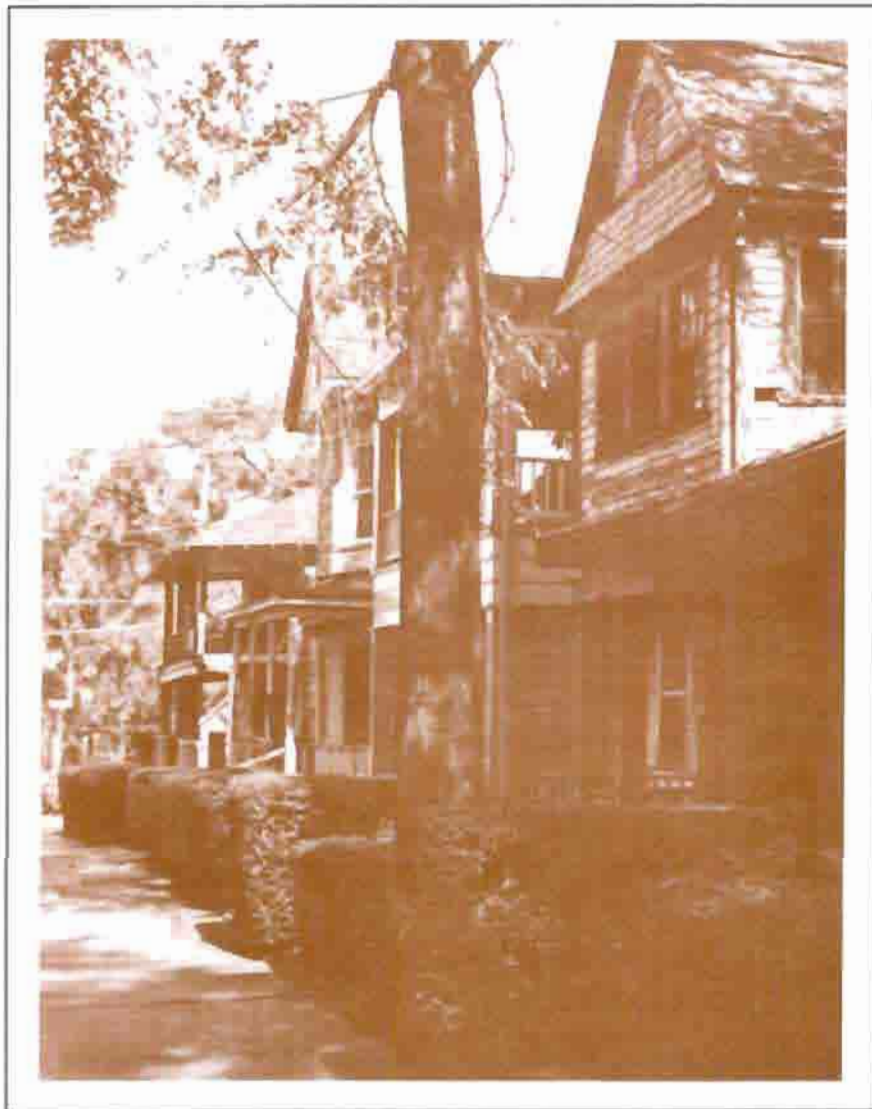


MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT: BIRTH-HOME BLOCK



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**MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT: BIRTH-HOME BLOCK**

May 1995

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Regional Historical Landscape Architect**

**Prepared under Cooperative Agreement No. CA-5000-5-8901,
Sub-agreement No. CA-5000-0-9033/11 between the National Park Service and
Georgia State University**

**Cultural Resources Planning Division
Southeast Region
National Park Service**

On the cover: North side of Auburn Avenue looking west, 1995.

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. Many individuals and institutions contributed to the successful completion of this work. The cultural landscape report was accomplished through a cooperative agreement with Georgia State University (GSU), Department of History, under the direction of Dr. Tim Crimmins. GSU graduate students, and in particular Lauren Cotton, completed the initial research and survey. Ms. Cotton conducted the oral history interviews with present-day and former residents of the Birth-Home Block and sketched memory maps as part of the interview process. We wish to express a sincere debt of gratitude to those who graciously shared their memories with Ms. Cotton. They are Mrs. Christine King Farris, Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Mr. Silas Lackey, Mrs. Virginia Prather, Mr. John Buck, Mrs. Ida McKennon, and Mrs. Annie Nowell Johnson.

The Cultural Resources Planning Division staff furnished assistance in many ways. The author benefitted from the *Historic Resource Study: Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site*, prepared by Bob Blythe, Maureen Carroll, and Stephen Moffson and the identification of historic maps, photographs, and aerial photographs by Ruthanne Mitchell. Brian Morris deserves special recognition for applying his computer drafting skills to both the historical base map and the final editing of the condition and treatment plans.

The park staff was instrumental to the process as well. Superintendent Troy Lissimore, Facility Manager Hayward Robinson, Chief of Interpretation Gayle Hazelwood, and Historian Dean Rowley generously provided assistance and comments throughout the project. The staffs of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Atlanta Historical Society Collections at the Atlanta History Center, the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library, the City of Atlanta-Engineering Department, the Pullen Library-Georgia State University, the archives at the Atlanta University Center-Robert W. Woodruff Library, and the National Archives also provided assistance in locating historical images.

We hope that this study will prove valuable to park management and others in protecting and interpreting the historical significance of the park's cultural landscape.

Kirk A. Cordell
Chief
Cultural Resources Planning Division
National Park Service Southeast Region
May 3, 1995

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

This study is the product of a joint effort by the National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office, Office of Cultural Resources, and the Georgia State University, Heritage Preservation Program. The objective of the cooperative agreement is to research and document the urban residential landscape associated with the Birth Home of Martin Luther King, Jr.¹ This area along Auburn Avenue, herein referred to as the Birth-Home Block, is geographically defined by Boulevard on the west and the triangle formed by Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue, just east of Howell Street, on the east. The Birth-Home Block is an essential part of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (Site). The Site was established in 1980 to commemorate the life and accomplishments of this prominent leader of the American Civil Rights Movement. The legislated mandate of the Site is 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.*²

The Site is located within the city of Atlanta, Fulton County, Georgia, and lies 1.25 miles east of the central business district. The Site contains approximately 23.18 acres, some of which is federally owned.³ The National Park Service (NPS) leases the Birth Home from the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change, Inc. (King Center), in order to provide long-term preservation and interpretation of this key structure. According to the 1986 General Development Plan, all vacant and tenant-occupied structures on the Birth-Home Block are to be acquired and rehabilitated by the NPS and, in some cases, resold to individuals. At present all of the NPS rehabilitated structures, with the exception of the Birth Home, are being leased.

However, it is the intent of the NPS to maintain sufficient interest in these properties in perpetuity, through facade and landscape easements, and to protect the historic streetscape and to ensure continued residential use. To date, nineteen structures have been rehabilitated with more on line for rehabilitation in 1995.

Scope and Purpose of the Cultural Landscape Report

The cultural landscape report (CLR) addresses the overall streetscape, as well as all the yards within the Birth-Home Block of the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site (figure 1). The years 1929 (the year 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 that the park interprets at the Birth Home and along the Birth-Home Block. The research, therefore, documents the evolution of the Site and compares it to an inventory of existing conditions in order to identify changes that have occurred since 1941. The intent of the report is to provide recommendations for appropriate landscape management in order to protect extant historic landscape features and, by selective restoration and rehabilitation, enhance the visitors understanding of the period setting. To the extent that historic documentation allows, the report proposes preservation treatments, including rehabilitation and/or restoration, of key features that have changed or been lost over time. Where restoration of the historic landscape feature is not possible, the report can be used to provide interpretive information on features missing from the historic landscape. The recommendations in the report are intended to be used for guiding immediate treatment, as well as guiding a long-term management strategy for the preservation and interpretation of the historic landscape.

The original scope of work called for a detailed analysis of the overall streetscape and selected historic yards associated with the following residential structures: the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birth Home (501 Auburn Avenue); 503 Auburn Avenue; the Charles L. Harper home (535 Auburn Avenue); the double shotgun houses (472-488 Auburn Avenue); the Alexander Hamilton, Jr., home (102 Howell Street); and the Bryant-Graves home (522 Auburn Avenue). The final report, however, addresses all the yards within the Birth-Home Block because of the amount of rehabilitation work to be accomplished prior to the increase in visitation associated with the 1996 Summer Olympics to be held in Atlanta. The Alexander Hamilton, Jr., home was eliminated from the report because of the lack of historic information and the fact that it is outside the Site boundary and the NPS has no legal interest in its rehabilitation.

Methodology and Resources

The focus of the study is the landscape of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birth Home and its environs. The CLR is based on primary and secondary sources that deal with the physical history and development of this northeast Atlanta area. Topics

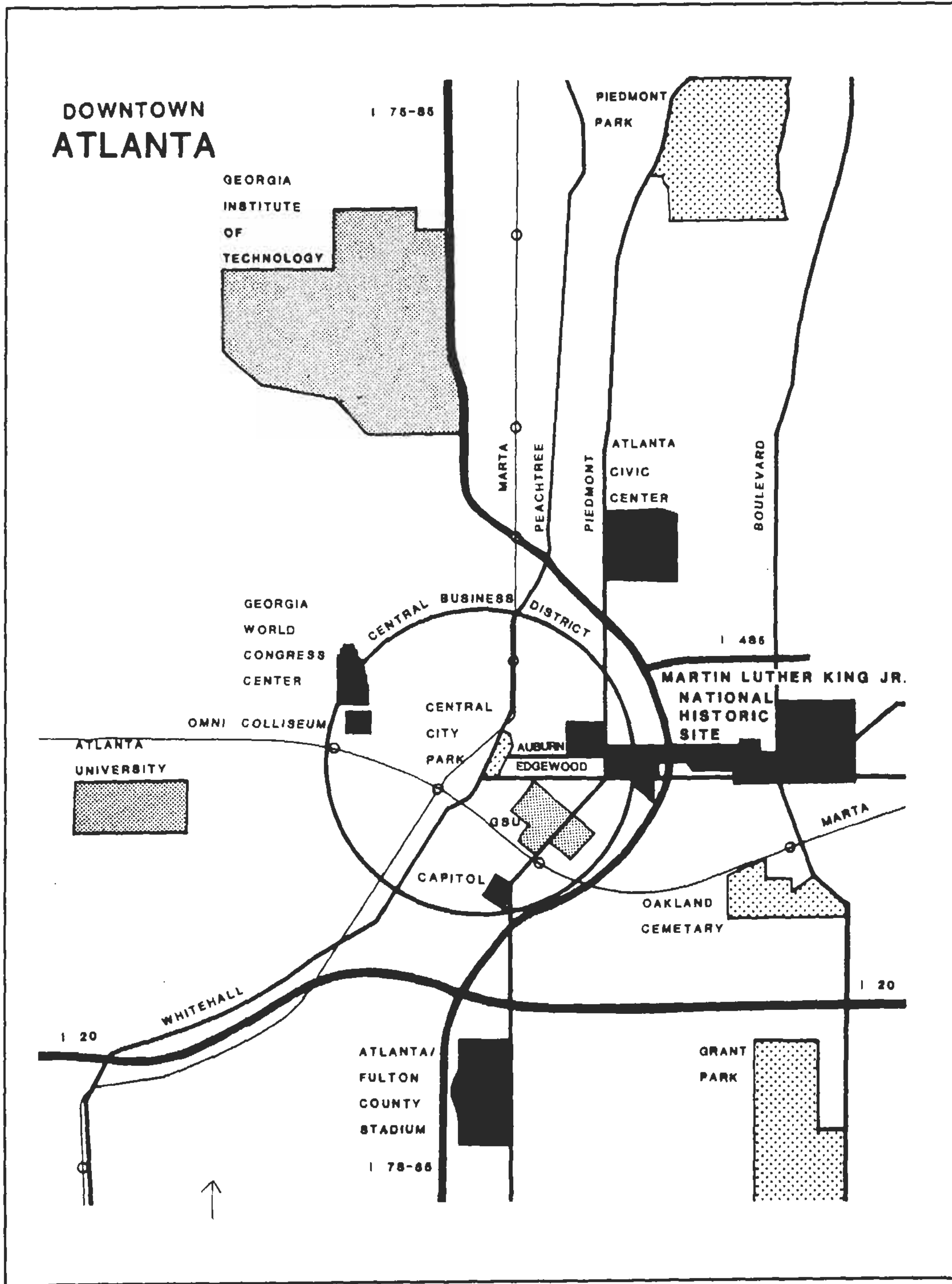


Fig. 1. Location map.

investigated include the pattern and use of the residential environment as well as racial and socioeconomic influences on the development of the neighborhood. Historical, archival, and oral history sources were used to obtain this information. A special emphasis was put on locating visual resource collections with relevant materials such as photographs, maps, and other graphic images related to the Birth-Home Block. This was done with the hope of verifying landscape features described in the oral and written histories. Period photographs of the Birth-Home Block have not been located. The only visual record of African-American neighborhoods of this period found to date is the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA) photograph collection at the Atlanta Historical Society. Photographed in 1940, the AHA collection documents three neighborhoods later torn down for federal housing projects--Grady Homes, Capitol Homes, and University Homes. These photographs are an excellent record of African-American housing and landscape conditions in Atlanta at the later stages of the Depression. While a few of the houses along the Birth-Home block were well-kept, middle-class homes, many would have resembled the well-worn condition recorded in these photographs.

Another resource used to obtain information on the development of the neighborhood was the Site's building files. These files have been compiled by the park since 1981 and contain information on each of the properties in which NPS has, or will have, interest. Typical information includes the approximate date of building construction (which was then verified in City of Atlanta building permit records), a description of the architectural style, and the historic as well as the present use of each property. Names of the original owners were generally included in the file. These names were verified; any gaps were filled in through the use of the Atlanta City Directories (1913-1961). Where appropriate, these historic names are used to identify properties.

The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps covering the Birth-Home Block are available for 1899, 1911, 1932, and 1960. These maps provide a variety of information. Typically these maps depict building footprints (including porches, additions, and/or alterations), notations on materials, and lot configurations. Because the Sanborn Fire Insurance Company regularly revised them to update building information, these maps help to frame general dates of building construction based on when a building first appears on the maps. These maps, when compared to the information in the city directories, substantiate and clarify information on settlement patterns and building uses. For example, what might appear to be a single-family residence by shape and notation on the Sanborn maps, may have become a multi-family dwelling as evidenced by several names being listed at the same address in the city directory.

Information on the historic street materials was primarily obtained from two sources: the 1928 Topographical Maps of Atlanta and the 1937 Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey maps. This information was then cross-referenced

with records obtained from several local and state agencies. The 1928 Topographical Maps, in addition to showing the topography of the area, illustrate the location of fire hydrants, manhole covers, building setbacks, and spatial configuration of buildings and open spaces. The City of Atlanta Water Bureau and the Bureau of Highways and Streets--Sewer Operation Division were contacted for specific details on types of hydrants and manhole covers that would have been used during the 1930s.

The 1937 Cadastral Survey Maps, retained at the City of Atlanta's Public Works Department, are a record of the variety of street and sidewalk paving materials existing in the City in the late 1930s, as well as the presence and location of hedges, fences, and concrete or masonry walls as they occurred along the front, side, and rear property lines. The Cadastral Survey Maps do not show the location of any buildings.

Street light information for the Birth-Home Block was first pursued through sources at Georgia Power Company. Although they were unable to provide any help on the type of fixtures, they could verify that fixtures used in residential neighborhoods during the period of significance were typical throughout the city.

In order to better appreciate the economic and social make-up of the population living on Auburn Avenue during the study period and to obtain personal accounts of what the neighborhood was like, as well as how it evolved, seven long-time residents were interviewed. These people represent a cross section of the age and socioeconomic diversity of the Birth-Home Block. They offer insight into the lifestyles of the middle and working-class people who lived in the district during the 1930s and 1940s. Each person interviewed was asked to describe the appearance of the street, front and back yards, and porches, as well as what their yards meant to them and how their yards were used. Since the period of significance was fifty to sixty years ago, most of the people interviewed were children or young teenagers at the time. However, an aunt of the one of the interviewees, who owned her house and resided at 514 Auburn Avenue during the 1930s, was discovered to be living in California at a spry ninety-seven years old. She was contacted and interviewed. Because she was an adult during the 1930s, she was able to provide an insight into the shaping of the landscape of the Birth-Home Block that was missing from the other childhood reminiscences.

The identification of historic plant material in the district was an important part of the study because of the report's special focus on the landscape. Documentary research included a survey of a popular local nursery's publication, *Hastings Seed Catalog*,⁴ for the years 1890-1939, as well as a 1991 publication by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, *Georgia's Living Places-Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings*. Through these resources, a palette of period plant material--both exotic and commonplace--is identified. It consists of plants that were available for use in an urban, residential landscape during the evolution of the Birth-Home Block. This baseline information on historic plant material was then compared with a survey of the

existing vegetation on the Birth-Home Block, thereby allowing an evaluation of the significance and relative age of the plants. The oral histories further substantiated the use of certain plants during the historic period and provided important information on the location of missing plant material, as well as where, when, and why plants were purchased and installed.

Birth-Home Block Boundaries

The Birth-Home Block represents, as stated in the 1986 NPS General Management Plan (GMP), "the primary cultural resource of the national historic site." It is an area that was and remains primarily residential. The Birth-Home Block boundaries, as defined for this study, are within the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site, which is itself an area within the National Register District Boundary (also known as the "Preservation District") established in 1974. The Preservation District includes a large residential area, as well as all the commercial zone of Auburn Avenue west to Courtland Street and a commercial zone on Edgewood Avenue (figure 2).

The District boundary takes in a multiblock residential neighborhood (north to Irwin and bounded east and west by Randolph Street and Boulevard respectively). This neighborhood consisted of 996 housing units with an eighty-six per cent occupancy rate at the time of the GMP study. It also includes a transitional commercial area along Edgewood Avenue, and several institutional buildings (Firehouse No. 6, Ebenezer Baptist Church, the King Center, and Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School).

Although a detailed study of the larger district was not a part of this report, a visual survey of the entire area was made in order to understand the present relationship of the overall streetscapes and residential landscapes, as well as to understand how these features relate to the managed landscape of the Birth-Home Block. The presence of common landscape features and treatments throughout the larger area, often in a more authentic state due to the lack of change caused by the NPS and visitor activities is important. They support the research findings of this cultural landscape report and can be used as guides for future preservation and restoration efforts.

Architectural Integrity Of The Existing Structures

As set out in the General Management Plan, the NPS:

will lease the [B]irth [H]ome from the King Center to provide for long-term preservation and interpretation of this key structure. All vacant and tenant-occupied structures on the [B]irth-[H]ome [B]lock will be acquired and rehabilitated by the National Park Service.

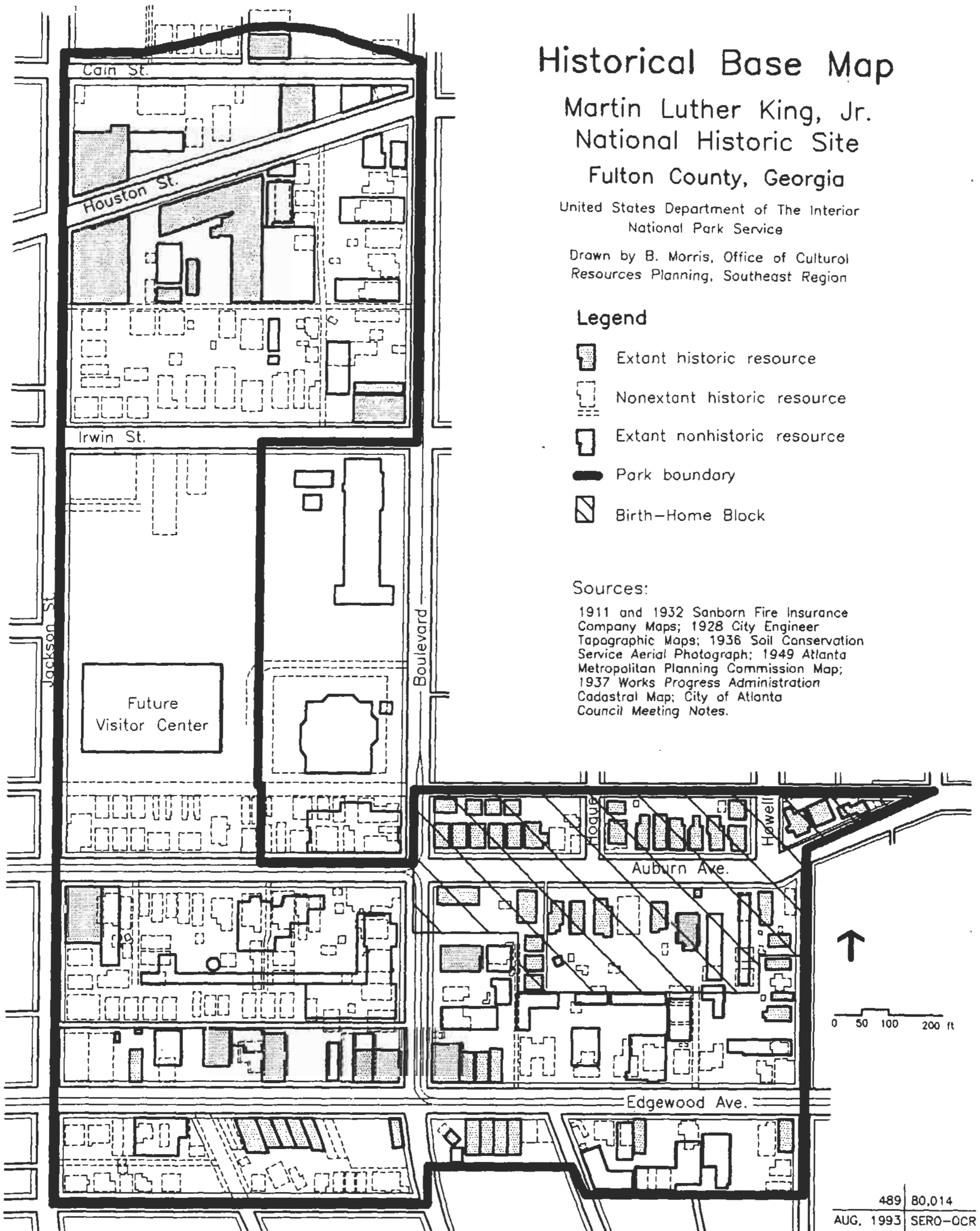


Fig. 2

ON MICROFILM

The ongoing rehabilitation of historic homes owned by the NPS on the Birth-Home Block has resulted in the adaptive use of nineteen structures to date. This includes the Birth Home, which has been restored, and is currently maintained and interpreted as a house museum by the NPS even though it is owned by the King Center. There has been one demolition of a structure since the NPS involvement. The building removed was a 1930s apartment building at 509 Auburn Avenue. Before it was torn down, this structure, along with the Birth Home and the residences at 514 and 526 Auburn Avenue was documented by HABS drawings. Prior to the NPS ownership, commercial buildings were removed at the northwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street, and a two-story brick commercial building was removed from the triangle at Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street. In addition to the grocery store, two residential structures are gone from the northwest corner of Auburn and Hogue as is another residence at the southwest corner of Auburn and Howell. At present, these all remain vacant lots.

The only modern intrusions on the Birth-Home Block are a pair of two-story apartment buildings at 531 Auburn Avenue. These apartment buildings replaced the four-building complex and open space that occupied the site throughout the period of significance.

Only three of the eleven single-family residences counted on the 1932 Sanborn map were still single-family residences when a real estate study was completed in 1988 in conjunction with the Marting Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site GMP. The rest of the residences were broken up into multi-family units. This represents an even smaller owner-occupied population in the neighborhood than was present during the historic period. In order to bring the buildings up to code and to remove any nonhistoric alterations, substantial renovation work was required by NPS. Of the buildings that are rehabilitated, only one has returned to single-family use (535 Auburn Avenue). The Birth Home is interpreted as a single-family dwelling, but has no occupant. 503 Auburn Avenue and the two historically single-family residences restored by NPS at 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue are currently used for offices with some limited interpretation space.

In order to reestablish the mandated period streetscape, restoration of the front facade has taken precedence over the rest of the building. NPS rehabilitation projects proceed after the completion of a "Historic Structure Assessment Report" by the Office of Historic Architecture, Southeast Regional Office. These reports are primarily concerned with the structure; they assess integrity and determine an adaptive use, which then in turn establishes a rehabilitation strategy. The goal of the CLR is to establish a comparable strategy for the landscape.

NOTES

1. Sub-agreement No. CA-5000-0-19033/11 to Cooperative Agreement No. CA-5000-5-8091.
2. Public Law 96-428, October 10, 1980.
3. The amount of federally owned acres is growing because of the requirement that NPS own the property before any federal monies can be spent for rehabilitation of the property.
4. H. G. Hastings and Company established two stores in Atlanta between 1901 and 1903 that were located downtown on Mitchell Street and Marietta Street. Both stores were easily accessible to residents of Auburn Avenue by streetcar. Hastings Seed Catalog was also widely distributed throughout the Atlanta Area for free through the mail.

CHAPTER 2

PHYSICAL HISTORY AND SITE ANALYSIS

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTA

In 1837, a spike was driven in at the terminal and junction point of the Western & Atlantic Railroad on land recently ceded by the Creek Indians. The location "was to be known, unofficially, for the next few years as 'The Terminus,' or simply 'Terminus.'"¹ Atlanta was established.

*From the beginning, Atlanta was in the South but not of the South. . . . antebellum Atlanta was a small, rough-and-ready railroad crossing. Its manners and mores were more like the frontier towns of the Old West than the mint julep-and-magnolia cities of the Old South. . . . from the beginning Atlanta attracted men and women of vision--opportunists who had the foresight to provide the facilities that would make Atlanta the most important city in the Southeast.*²

An industrial boom town constituted the city that General William Tecumseh Sherman besieged, then burnt, in 1864 on his long march to the sea. But the same entrepreneurial spirit that had put Atlanta on the map, raised a new city from its ashes, and promotion of the New South had its most ardent supporters in postbellum Atlanta. The city limits were initially circular, extending one mile from the railroad's zero milepost. By the 1870s, however, development was following the routes of the rail and streetcar lines that radiated from downtown. Growth was spurred on by a consolidation of ten rail lines in the 1890s which established Atlanta's dominance as the railroad center of the Southeast.³

Desiring to see the South reenter the economic mainstream, men like Henry Grady--owner of the *Atlanta Constitution* and "more famous and influential than his paper"--unabashedly promoted the South, and in particular, Atlanta.⁴

As a practical politician with the wires of a powerful machine in his hands, he [Grady] helped see to it that Georgia was governed by the new industrialists. As an orator of national fame he advertised opportunities for investment in his region, celebrated the self-made man, and preached "reconciliation" with the Northeast.⁵

Grady's boosterism succeeded. Atlanta in the 1880s and 1890s regained a growing industrial base that stood in marked contrast to the rest of the agrarian-oriented South.

During this same era of boosterism and growth the situation for the African American in Atlanta was in serious decline. The fierce retaliation of white supremacists at the end of reconstruction and Federal rule, followed by the disfranchisement of the African-American voter, spurred the rise of racial segregation. As race relations deteriorated, Booker T. Washington--president of Tuskegee Institute and an African-American proponent of the "New South"--was heard in Atlanta at the 1895 International Cotton States Exposition. Called the "Atlanta Compromise," his famous speech endorsed a new relationship between the races by successfully appealing to all interests; to white Southerners he gave assurance that African Americans were more interested in industrial education and economic opportunity than in political rights and privileges; to the Northern industrialists he appealed for economic investment in the region and continued philanthropic donations to the African-American cause; and to his own people he asked for "conservatism, patience, and material progress."⁶ From this success, Washington went on to establish the Negro Business League which, by 1906, met with one thousand delegates on Auburn Avenue. The "businessman's gospel of free enterprise, competition, and *laissez faire* never had a more loyal exponent than the master of Tuskegee."⁷

The grand result of Grady's regional boosterism and Washington's fight for African-American economic opportunity was a rapidly growing city that was dividing into two separate societies and economies on either side of the color line.

Excluded from participation in the white world, [African Americans] constructed a copy of it--of its churches, schools, and banks, theatres, professions, services and other institutions. Beginning as a largely undifferentiated class of former slaves, the race was soon sorted out into all the social and economic classes of the white capitalistic society upon which it was modeled. And as in the white society of the time, the businessman occupied a foremost rank of prestige. The Negro middle and upper class was caught in the curious dilemma of suffering from segregation and at the same time having a vested interest in it, since it provided what opportunity and protection from white competition the Negro did enjoy in the uphill struggle for the patronage and business of his own race.⁸

For Atlanta this meant the rise of "Sweet Auburn"--once called the "richest Negro street in the World."⁹

HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE BIRTH-HOME BLOCK

The layout of Auburn Avenue reflects Atlanta's commercial and residential growth beginning in the 1870s with the advance of the horse-drawn streetcar. The eastern end of Auburn Avenue was first developed as a residential area in the 1880s. By the mid-1890s, when the majority of the single-family residences on the Birth-Home Block were developed, the streetcar lines on Auburn and Edgewood Avenues were electrified, and commuters were provided direct access from their homes to downtown jobs and shopping. Today, the Birth-Home Block exists as one of the last remnants of the urban Victorian residential development that once characterized most of Auburn Avenue.

Research shows that the first homes along the Birth-Home Block were constructed for white, middle-income families who built or who moved into newly built houses beginning in 1886. It is important to note, however, that at the turn of the century the old Fourth Ward, of which Auburn Avenue was a part, had the highest degree of racial integration in the city. This situation lasted through 1910 when the city neighborhoods began to formally separate and segregate following the establishment of Jim Crow laws, and most especially after the 1906 race riots.¹⁰

As residential segregation increased, African-American businesses were forced out of downtown by rising rents and increased hostility. Due to more favorable conditions on Auburn Avenue, many of these establishments concentrated there between Courtland and Jackson streets. In this same period, as whites moved off the residential east end of Auburn Avenue, successful African Americans purchased the large single-family homes being sold. For example, the Birth Home was built c. 1894 and was occupied by whites until it was sold in 1909 to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s maternal grandfather, the Reverend A. D. Williams.

From 1910 to 1930, Auburn Avenue became the center of African-American business, institutional, and social life. Concurrent with this flowering of Auburn Avenue's commercial and institutional life, there was a shift of African-American residential development to the west side of Atlanta. This occurred for a number of reasons: 1) a tremendous fire swept across the old Fourth Ward north of Old Wheat Street in 1917 and destroyed much of the housing stock; 2) the growing influence of Atlanta University on the west side of Atlanta as an African-American institution of higher learning; 3) and the availability of expanded housing choices for African Americans in the West End district.

The significance of these events to Auburn Avenue, and in particular the Birth-Home Block, is that by 1930, the beginning of the Great Depression, the residential area was already in decline. Although significant African-American businesses and institutions, including major churches, continued to draw families back to Auburn

Avenue on a regular basis, the support of stable, single-family residential life was leaving the area.

This decline manifested itself in various ways. Several multiple-family dwellings were constructed on the Birth-Home Block and adjacent streets. Apartment houses were built at 509 Auburn and 506 Auburn in 1925 and 1933 respectively. Another quadraplex at 54 Howell Street was constructed in 1931, which subdivided an already crowded house lot. All in all, during the 1930s, Auburn Avenue and the Birth-Home Block witnessed the subdivision of many single-family dwellings, the deterioration of its existing housing stock, and increased tenancy.¹¹

The condition of the area is substantiated by the 1939 Works Progress Administration's *Real Property Survey of Atlanta*. This document shows that by the end of the 1930s, 100 percent of the Birth-Home Block was occupied by African Americans, while only 13.3 percent of the buildings were owner occupied, and that 67.4 percent of the buildings were "in need of major repairs or unfit for use."¹²

In addition to residential land use, there was always some commercial activity on the Birth-Home Block. At the turn of the century, a general goods store was located on the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street. This store was converted into residential space by 1911 and later incorporated into the adjoining single-family dwelling. During this same period, a commercial structure was built on the northwest corner of Hogue Street and was occupied by a grocery store. Although it changed hands four times during the study period, the store remained in operation until 1939, when it finally closed.

Another commercial site was a c. 1910 brick, flat-iron building at the east corner of the triangle formed by Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street. This building contained two stores, both of which remained in operation throughout the period of significance. In addition, one of the residents of the small frame duplexes (on the north side of Auburn Avenue near the corner of Boulevard) operated a beauty shop out of her home. The Minnie Dooley Beauty Shop--named for its owner--was located at 478 Auburn Avenue. It continued in operation from 1921-1945 and was frequented by many of the local residents.¹³

By catering to the neighborhood, these modest "corner" stores did not disturb the quiet residential character of Auburn Avenue's east end. Just two blocks west of Boulevard, however, stretched "Sweet Auburn," the thriving African-American commercial district that contained a variety of businesses owned and operated by black entrepreneurs.¹⁴ Nationally famous for the number and wealth of African-American business people who made their fortunes there, the business district of Auburn Avenue had the big-city hustle and bustle of commercial, office, and entertainment life. This was all quite different from the nearby quiet residential area where the King family lived. Thus it would seem that the residents of the Birth-Home Block had the best of both worlds within the limitations of a segregated society--a quiet, residential community with

easy access to a vibrant commercial area that catered to their needs. The success and pride of living on Auburn Avenue is reflected in the man that Martin Luther King, Jr., became. In a 1992 *New Yorker* article on Malcolm X, Marshall Frady compares his subject to Martin Luther King, Jr. In the article, Frady makes the point that the ideologies of these two, very different, civil rights leaders were shaped by their early environments:

To no small degree, Martin and Malcolm were projections of two separate black cultures. King, the son of an eminent minister, had grown up in the comfortable insulation of Atlanta's black gentility—part of that black establishment eager to join in a civil-rights coalition with the nation's white liberal community. Malcolm, on the other hand, arose from the lowest reaches of the black urban underclass.¹⁵

ARCHITECTURAL RESOURCES

The extant residential structures within the Birth-Home Block reflect period vernacular house types, and the various popular styles of ornamentation associated with them. With the exception of the double shotguns at the northwest corner of Auburn and Boulevard, none of the buildings along the Birth-Home Block had an architect involved with either their design or construction according to the building files at the Site and as verified by the City of Atlanta building permit records.¹⁶ The common regional vernacular element associated with all the residential structures is a front porch. Every residence present during the period of significance had a front porch or porches, including the double shotguns and apartment buildings.¹⁷

The oldest structure on the Birth-Home Block was built c. 1885 and is located at 521 Auburn Avenue. This residence is unique in that it sits on a large lot with a deep setback from Auburn Avenue and is the only one and one-half story Italianate style dwelling constructed in the area. A series of wood two-story dwellings constructed in the 1890s in the Queen Anne style gave the streetscape its character. The Birth Home (501 Auburn Avenue) is one of them, and the other extant examples are at 497, 503, 510, 514, 518, 522, 526, 530, 535, and 550 Auburn Avenue. Only two of the structures built during this last decade of the nineteenth century are one-story dwellings, and they are located at 515 and 546 Auburn Avenue. While all of these structures were originally built as single-family dwellings for middle-income residents, by the mid-1930s only a few were still occupied by one family.¹⁸

After the turn of the century, a duplex house type was established on the Birth-Home Block--the double shotgun. In 1905, the Empire State Investment Company purchased the land at the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard in order to build speculative rental housing. As a result, five double shotguns were erected that year.¹⁹ Although the shotguns originally housed white families, they were occupied entirely by African Americans by 1910.²⁰ The double shotguns had almost no property associated

with them, and they were significantly smaller and less elaborate than the large, single-family dwellings. As built, the double shotguns had hip roofs, weatherboard siding, and small individual front porches. This vernacular housing type was popular for inexpensive living quarters across the urban south, and by the 1930s a total of eighteen double shotguns were constructed throughout the Birth-Home Block.²¹ Twelve are extant.

It is interesting to note that any new construction built on the Birth-Home Block after 1900, with the exception of 515 Auburn Avenue, was either a double shotgun or multifamily structure. This is a reflection of the change in the socioeconomic makeup of Auburn Avenue residents. The 1913 Atlanta City Directory documents the presence of a new, two-story apartment building and a cluster of three double shotguns located at 491 and 493 Auburn Avenue.²² Between the late 1920s and the early 1930s, two of the original Queen Anne structures, at 506 and 509 Auburn Avenue, were destroyed. The lots were subsequently redeveloped as two-story, multi-unit buildings. Each of these new buildings had front porches on both stories and contained four, four- to six-room apartments.²³

An important feature noted in the AHA photographs was the standard use of roll roofing on residential structures (figure 3). Not only was this an inexpensive way to



Fig. 3. Street of duplexes all with roll roofing, 1940, AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

repair one's roof, but the material was sold as a fire-retardant measure. Several of the houses that have not been rehabilitated in the Birth-Home Block still have some or all of this roll roofing intact. Others that have been rehabilitated were documented with roll roofing in the layers of roofing, but it was not replaced in the rehabilitation process.

A significant change in character along the Birth-Home Block today is the lack of any corner or back yard stores. As previously noted, many of the missing structures were commercial buildings. The only extant "store" is in the front yard of 521 Auburn Avenue. The primary residence is still in private ownership and the "store" is abandoned. At present, there is no active commercial structure or interpretation of this once significant landscape feature within the Birth-Home Block.

THE EVOLUTION OF RACIAL AND SOCIOECONOMIC PATTERNS

The first residents of the Birth-Home Block were white middle-income families who moved onto Auburn Avenue in the late nineteenth century. This remained true through most of the first decade of the twentieth century. A major change occurred between 1909 and 1910 when all of the double shotguns changed from white to black tenants and several of the single-family residences were sold to African Americans. With this transition the Birth-Home Block became predominantly African American for the first time. The first African-American families who moved into the Birth-Home Block, like the first white families who preceded them, were educated middle-class people who purchased the single-family dwellings because of the desirability of living on Auburn Avenue. By 1910, all but two of the residents on Auburn Avenue were African American. One of these white families owned and operated the grocery store located at 502 Auburn Avenue through the 1930s.²⁴

No photographic images exist to document the range in socioeconomic status that is recorded on the Birth-Home Block. However, photographs exist from the earlier period, c. 1910, that record the range of living conditions of African-American homes in Atlanta. W. E. B. Du Bois, a professor at Atlanta University from 1897 to 1910, completed a series of sociological studies on the "negro." In a seminal work titled "The Negro American Family," Du Bois recorded the various types of residences and their contents owned and/or occupied by African Americans. Because the images available for the period of significance only depict the poorer sections of African-American neighborhoods, Du Bois's collection is invaluable for illustrating middle and upper-middle class homes (figure 4).²⁵

With the construction of the double shotgun houses on the remaining undeveloped lots, the block acquired a distinct mixture of African-American social classes--middle-class professionals living side-by-side with laborers, and all contributing to the character of the neighborhood. Given the diverse make-up of these African-American residents of Auburn Avenue, differences in length of residence could be expected. Because the Birth-Home Block provided large attractive homes for middle-class owners, these families



Fig. 4. Examples of housing types from *The Negro American Family*, 1909.





tended to stay in the neighborhood for many years and to form close relationships with one another. Even though these middle-class families by 1929 were in the minority among the total population of residents on the Birth-Home Block, they continued to provide the stability that was associated with the neighborhood. In several of the oral histories it was noted that during the period of significance, close relationships existed among the middle-class families. They frequently relied on one another for support, especially in the area of child care.²⁶ The Williams-King family members were among this group, as were their neighbors, the Shaw-Lightners at 514 Auburn Avenue, Charles and Annie B. Faison at 515 Auburn Avenue, the Reverend and Mrs. Alfred and Harriet Lawless at 518 Auburn Avenue, Antoine and Catherine Graves at 522 Auburn Avenue, Frank and Eula Kirk at 526 Auburn Avenue, and Charles L. Harper at 535 Auburn Avenue.²⁷

In contrast to the known long-term residents on the street, a significant number of short-term tenants lived mostly in the double shotguns. Since many of these people worked in unskilled trades, it was not uncommon for them to move frequently for better-paying jobs. Although it was noted in several of the oral histories that all of the children played together, the same social mix was not common among the adults. This could have been due to the fact that not only were the long-established relationships of the middle-class families hard to break into, but that working-class women were often employed outside of the home, whereas the middle-class women were not. During the period of significance the occupations of the Birth-Home Block residents ranged from textile worker and unskilled laborer to clergyman, realtor, high school principal, and chiropodist.²⁸

HISTORIC STREETScape CONDITIONS

Wheat Street was the original name of Auburn Avenue. Early in its development, however, white residents were concerned that their street might be confused with the adjacent, and less desirable, Old Wheat Street and petitioned to have Wheat Street's name changed. On April 17, 1893, the Atlanta City Council entertained a petition by the residents to make the change and bestowed the requested name of Auburn Avenue.²⁹ Early in the twentieth century, Howland Street became Howell Street, and in 1927 street address numbers along Auburn Avenue changed from 364-428 to 472-552. All of these changes occurred before the time of Martin Luther King Jr.'s birth. Therefore, the existing street names and addresses are the same that the young King knew growing up.

As Auburn Avenue continued to develop, it became a main east-west thoroughfare into and out of downtown. Granite curbs and brick sidewalks were established along both sides of Auburn Avenue as early as the 1890s, but the street, east of Boulevard, was not paved until later. To accommodate its commercial district origins, Auburn Avenue was designed with a forty-foot width, curb to curb, which it maintained through the Birth-Home Block. This allowed for a smooth flow of traffic in both directions.³⁰ Streetcar

service ran from downtown, east along Auburn Avenue and turned north at Boulevard (the western boundary of the study area).³¹ As a result, the Birth-Home Block was the beginning of a peaceful residential neighborhood, uninterrupted by the sound or sight of the streetcar line and its associated overhead wires.

The side streets intersecting Auburn Avenue within the Birth-Home Block were Howell and Hogue streets. Hogue Street was not a through street and dead-ended into Auburn Avenue from the north. Developed as a minor neighborhood street, Hogue was much narrower than Auburn Avenue, and measured only twenty-three feet curb to curb.³² Howell Street, like Boulevard, was a through street, and both had the same street widths as Auburn Avenue. All streets around the Birth-Home Block handled two-way traffic. All the streets had sidewalks along both sides with the exception of Old Wheat Street, which had no sidewalks at all.

A determination of historic street and sidewalk surfaces in the Birth-Home Block was made from a synthesis of information obtained from several sources including the minutes from the Atlanta City Council meetings, a 1937 Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, and various records from the Atlanta Department of Public Works (figure 5). It appears that Auburn Avenue was repaved with concrete in 1923 following a resolution and ordinance passed by the Atlanta City Council on November 18, 1922, to condemn "the old pavement on Auburn Avenue from Boulevard to Randolph Street (and) repave Auburn Avenue from Boulevard to Randolph Street with concrete." The 1937 Cadastral Survey Map substantiates this finding (figure 5).

In 1924, an ordinance calling for the paving of Howell Street NE was passed and specified the usage of "Extra Vibrolithic concrete, six inches thick."³³ There are no city council records that address street surfaces along Old Wheat Street or Hogue Street for the years checked in this research process. However, the 1937 Cadastral Survey Map shows them both to be paved with concrete.

Sidewalk surfaces in the Birth-Home Block were predominantly concrete during the period of significance. According to the minutes of the City Council meetings in 1925, resolutions were adopted calling 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, respectively.³⁴ There were no sidewalks documented on Old Wheat Street during the period of significance.

The 1937 Cadastral Survey Maps verified this information and further showed that all curbing on Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street was granite. The sidewalks on the segment of Auburn Avenue east of Howell Street and those on Howell Street itself were still paved in brick with granite curbing. An interview with an employee of the Atlanta Department of Public Works indicated that the sidewalks in the Birth-Home Block would have been paved with score lines six to ten feet apart, and that the type of aggregate used was probably "river stone."³⁵ This is substantiated by what appears to be the original

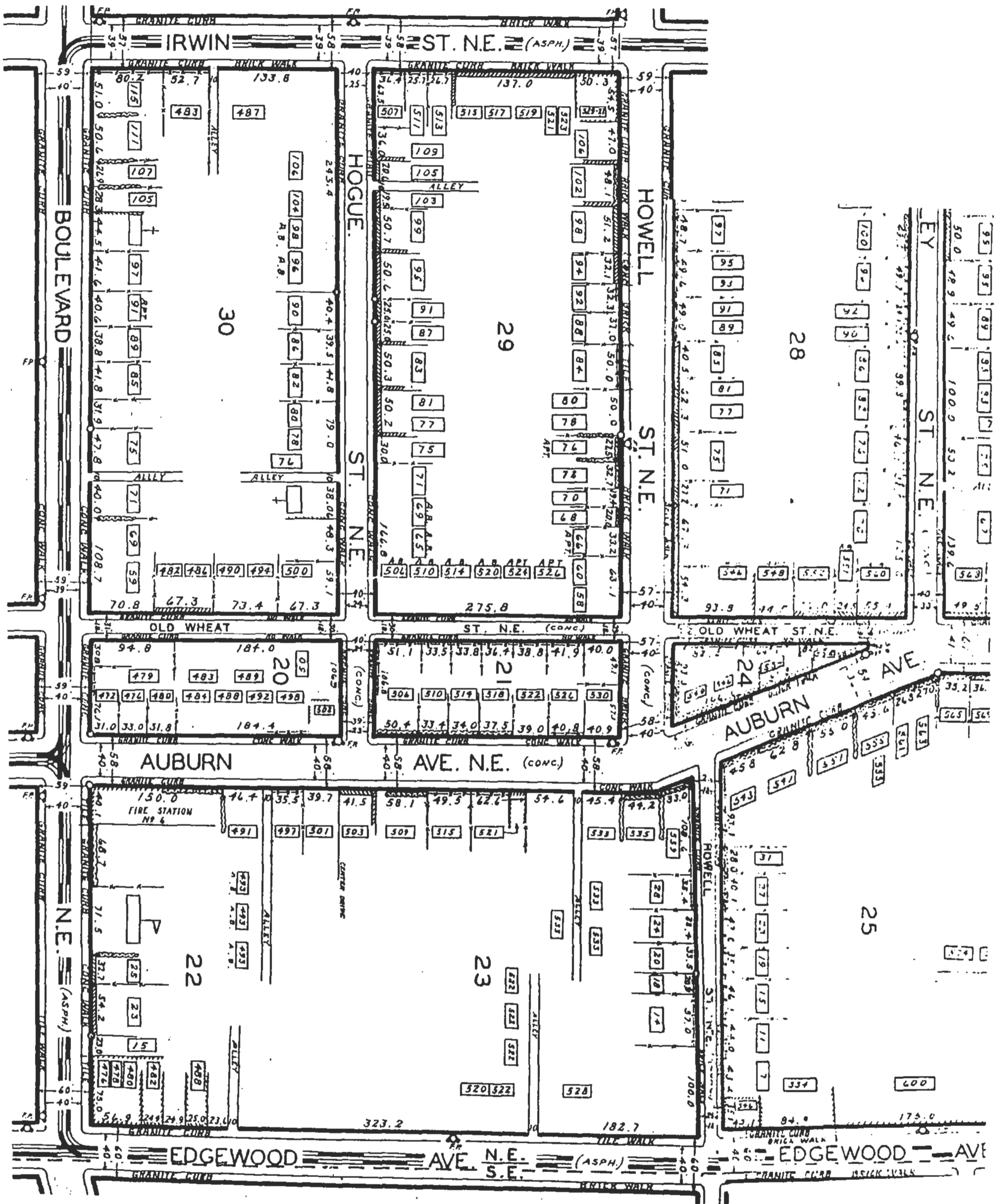


Fig. 5. Cadastral Survey Map, Works Progress Administration, Atlanta, 1937.

sidewalk along most of the north side of the Birth-Home Block and along both sides of Hogue Street between Auburn and Old Wheat Streets.

The width of the sidewalks during the period of significance measured nine feet on each side of Auburn Avenue. Sidewalks on Howell Street had the same dimension. On Hogue Street, although the street width was much narrower than either Auburn Avenue or Howell Street, the sidewalks were still eight feet wide on both sides of the street.³⁶

The presence of a few street trees on Auburn Avenue during the period of significance is verified by a 1949 aerial photograph of the area. It illustrates three street trees at the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. While the particular species present during the historic period is unclear, it is known that the State of Georgia undertook a program of planting street trees in several of its larger cities, including Atlanta, during the 1920s. Water oaks, willow oaks, and American elms were among the varieties planted in the Atlanta area.³⁷ Three pavement cut-outs for street tree plantings are apparent in the sidewalk today at locations that can be documented in the aerial photograph. Two of these locations have trees (*Ulmus pumila*, Siberian elm) that are assumed to be original. At the third cut-out, the tree, presumably the same species as the other two, is gone.

The location of fire hydrants in the Birth-Home Block is delineated on the 1928 Topographical Map of the City of Atlanta and the 1937 Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map. Both maps show the hydrants to be located on the northwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street, and the northwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street.³⁸

The 1928 Topographical Map of The City of Atlanta shows the location of the manhole covers at that time. The manhole covers in the Birth-Home Block were located on the sidewalks at the northeast corner of Boulevard and Auburn Avenue, the southeast corner of Boulevard and Auburn Avenue, the northeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street, and the southwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. One other manhole cover was located in the middle of Auburn Avenue at the intersection of Hogue Street.³⁹

The historic spacing of utility poles varied along the north and south sides of Auburn Avenue within the Birth-Home Block. The dark, treated-wood utility poles were spaced more consistently (approximately seventy feet apart) and more frequently on the south side than the north side according to the 1949 aerial photograph. Not every pole had a street light. Several people interviewed were able to describe the street lighting along Auburn Avenue during the historic period. What was referred to vernacularly as a "coolie hat" fixture was actually a large bulb topped by a flat, circular piece, of what is thought to be galvanized metal, set off on a metal arm from the wooden pole. Lights were mounted about twenty feet from the ground. Although no images documenting the residential section of Auburn Avenue were found, examples of the street lighting described on the Birth-Home Block are seen in the Atlanta Housing Authority (AHA)

photographic collection in similar neighborhoods.⁴⁰ The oral histories provide some descriptions of the street light locations during the study period. The lighting was described as very dim, and the lights were sparsely set along the street. It is believed that at a minimum, one street light was located at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Hogue Street and another at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street.⁴¹ This is substantiated by the infrequent spacing of the lighting fixtures noted in the AHA photographs (figure 6).

Information regarding the type of street signs that would have been found in the area during the study period was also incomplete. When the management of street signs was transferred from the City Planning Department to the Department of Public Works in the early 1960s, all historical information was lost. Street signs in the city of Atlanta in the 1930s were made of porcelain enamel on steel with raised letters and borders. However, the signs could have had white backgrounds with black letters or dark blue backgrounds with white letters. These signs began to be replaced in the 1950s because they chipped easily and were expensive to reproduce. No records documenting the use or location of these different colored signs exist. All signs were placed in metal frames and mounted on poles with clamps.⁴² One of the AHA photographs illustrates a typical street sign and stop sign c. 1940.

EXISTING STREETScape CONDITIONS

The Birth-Home Block streetscape 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, although somewhat intangible, are very important in defining the character of the block.

Some streetscape changes have occurred since the 1937 Cadastral Survey. Streets that were recorded as concrete are now paved over with asphalt. This is a radical change in color from the original street material. The sidewalks along Auburn Avenue are concrete, but exhibit a mix of scoring techniques, as well as various aggregate mixes. The original sidewalks still exist, for the most part, along the north side of the Birth-Home Block and along Hogue Street. They are distinguishable because of the exposed river gravel, which is brown and rounded, whereas the newer sidewalks have granite aggregate which is gray with sharp edges. Much of the older sidewalk is poorly patched with incompatible concrete that is a smooth white finish with no exposed aggregate and two sections of concrete have been replaced with hexagonal paving block in front of the Birth Home.

Most of the original granite curbs are in place along Auburn Avenue except where driveway curb cuts have removed or depressed them. Boulevard, however, has had its granite curbs replaced with concrete curbing integral with the new sidewalks (date unknown). Hogue Street still has original sidewalk material (brown river stone aggregate) and granite curbs along both sides of the block between Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue. Old Wheat Street's granite curbs, with no sidewalks, are mostly intact.

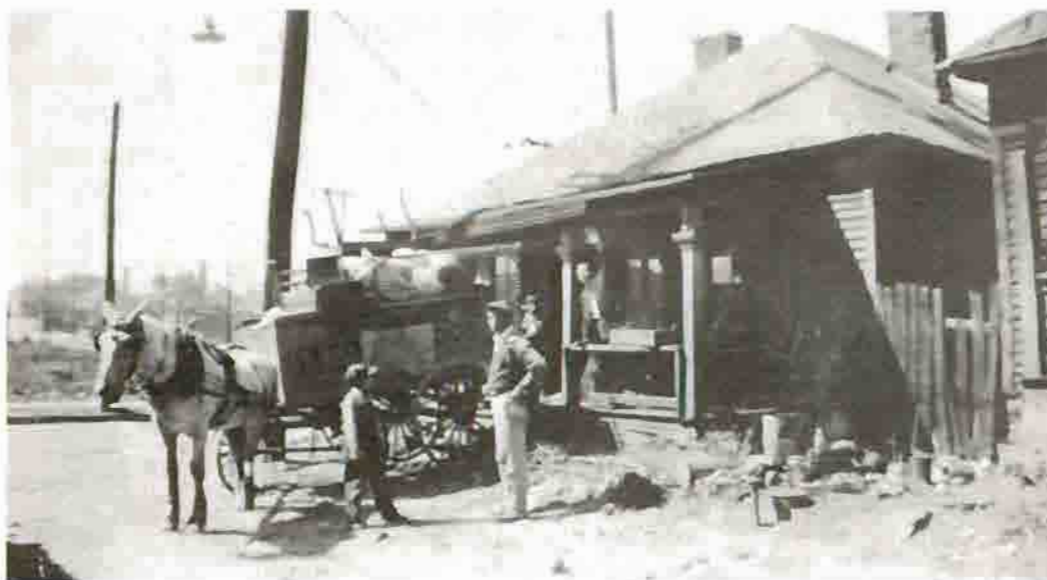


Fig. 6. Neighborhood photographs that include typical light fixtures. Note that only one lamp appears in either photograph although many poles are seen in the distance. Note also fence, porch with planter box, and miscellaneous street furnishings, c. 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

The other historic sidewalk material is brick. One original section of brick sidewalk with granite curb, although in poor condition, is extant along the west side of Howell Street from Auburn Avenue north to mid-block (figure 7). The other brick sidewalks



Fig. 7. Existing brick sidewalk on the northwest intersection of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street.

along the east and south sides of the triangle, although in their historic location, were reset and supplemented with new brick in the early 1980s as part of the rehabilitation work on the triangle. The radiating brick pattern on the corner is entirely of new brick and constitutes a nonhistoric detail. The historic brick sidewalk along the west side of Howell Street, south of Auburn Avenue, was replaced with concrete (date unknown) and is in very poor condition.

There are two existing street trees in the Birth-Home Block and both can be documented in the 1949 aerial photograph. They are approximately sixteen inches in diameter and are located in front of 526 Auburn Avenue, just west of Howell Street. They are assumed to be historic, although, since they are Siberian elms (*Ulmus pumila*), it is hard to know whether they are the original trees. They might be replacements for American elms planted at an earlier date that did not survive. One other sidewalk cut-out for a street tree exists approximately 10 feet west of the existing street trees. No other

street trees currently exist, and the available historic documentation indicates that there were no others on the Birth-Home Block.

The locations of the fire hydrants within the Birth-Home Block are the same as noted historically; however, none of the 1930s models are extant here. Except for the slight shifting of manhole locations on the south side of Auburn Avenue, manhole locations are the same. As previously noted, the historic manhole cover type was not identified, and all existing manhole covers are the current city standard.

The existing street lights are supplied by Georgia Power and are the aluminum "cobra-head" design, mounted approximately twenty feet above ground on every power pole. Most of the power poles are treated-wood poles. The exceptions are five high-voltage concrete poles on the south side of Auburn Avenue which begin at the corner of Boulevard and move east into the Birth-Home Block (figure 8). All the power poles are



Fig. 8. Concrete power poles along the southwest side of Auburn Avenue. Birth Home is second from left. Note contrast with wood poles along the north side of Auburn Avenue.

irregularly spaced from 200 to 360 feet apart with three or four pole locations per block. City standards for these lights are high pressure sodium bulbs. This type of light emits a yellowish glow.

HISTORIC CONDITION OF RESIDENTIAL YARDS - GENERAL

The appearance and condition of the residential yards along the Birth-Home Block made a significant contribution to the overall historic streetscape. However, the period residential landscape of the Birth-Home Block is not well documented in any resource.

A general description of the residential landscape during the period of significance is gleaned from the oral histories and available period maps--the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps; the 1928 City of Atlanta Topographic Maps; and the 1937 Cadastral Survey. The AHA photographs were used to corroborate typical conditions that were described, but for which there were no images. In general, the residential landscape of the 1930s would have been an overlay of the popular trends in plants and gardening styles on the hard straight lines of an 1890s urban neighborhood. A Georgia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) study, *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscape Settings*, notes that "landscaping trends and fashions tend to overlap and even merge, more so than architectural styles." The study identified ten major types or forms of historic residential landscapes in Georgia. Applying DNR's criteria, the landscape of the Birth-Home Block would best fit under the type "New South Landscaping," which began in the late nineteenth century and continued through the 1930s. In terms of sheer quantity, this era represents the heyday of Georgia's domestic landscaping.⁴³ DNR's definition of this landscape style is:

New South landscaping in Georgia, like the landscaping in much of the country at the time, can be described as a popular, mass-marketed version of the earlier Downingsque landscaping with elements of the horticultural landscape and the ornamental yard worked in for good measure Chief characteristics of the New South landscaping are its informal, almost casual quality and its great variety of landscape features Carpets of grass appearing for the first time in Georgia, create broad lawns that tie together various landscape elements. New fences, if they occur at all, are made nearly transparent by the use of cast iron and wire; frequently they are replaced by low retaining walls, curbs, and hedges. Flower beds highlight the predominantly green landscape. The landscape of work, if present at all is relegated to remote areas of the property and screened from view.

Within the urban environment--newly built houses with newly landscaped grounds--the New South landscape produced yet another new landscape form: that of the residential neighborhood. Created from the composite of individually landscaped yards and from the results of new community landscaping activities by local governments and civic organizations, the landscape of 19th-century neighborhoods took on many of the characteristics still associated with them today: tree-lined streets, bordered by curbs and sidewalks, with uniformly set-back houses, and spacious front yards informally landscaped and blended together, all creating the appearance of a large landscaped park. This streetscape distinguishes Georgia's late 19th-century neighborhoods from the residential landscaping which had preceded them and from the suburban landscaping which would follow.⁴⁴

The specific patterns and varieties of landscaping noted within the Birth-Home Block during the period of significance are also a reflection of the distinct mix of African-American economic and social classes present at the time. Although the Georgia DNR study did not specifically deal with the landscape traditions of African Americans, recent scholarly work completed by Professor Richard Westmacott at the University of Georgia on this subject is of great value in identifying this unique influence. He notes, however, the "difficulty of someone with an entirely different cultural background, to understand the meanings, beliefs, and values that African Americans associate with the garden."⁴⁵ Therefore, oral histories play a significant role in helping to interpret these unique values in the Birth-Home Block residential landscapes, and any examples of these traditions will be highlighted in the text.

The 1890s single-family dwellings, in general, were laid out on long narrow lots. This is most noticeable on the north side of the Birth-Home Block where a shallow front-yard setback was strictly adhered to, even by later development. Within these narrow lots, structures were set approximately ten feet apart. On the south side of the Birth-Home Block, front-yard setbacks varied, but in almost all cases, front yards were small, while the back yards tended to be twice as deep.⁴⁶

The Cadastral Survey is invaluable for the information recorded on landscape treatments along property lines. The maps include general types of yard edge treatments such as fences, walls, and hedges. These features are discussed in more detail as they relate to individual yard descriptions.

The Front Yard

The front yard and, 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 historic period had a front porch and a front walk that connected the porch (dwelling) to the street (figure 9). The porch functioned as an extension of the parlor in good weather and was fully furnished with chairs, swings, and gliders. Families regularly communicated from porch to porch because of the proximity of houses. Different households could socialize with neighbors without leaving their yards, and conversations between adjoining neighbors and those across the street were quite common especially on long summer evenings and on Sunday afternoons. Children also participated in these social gatherings by sitting on the porch railings, or playing on the porch, or in the front yard.⁴⁷

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 yard level. The materials of these walkways varied; however, concrete with a rolled curb edge was most commonly used at the c. 1900 dwellings. Some of these early walkways exhibited an interesting detail--as the walkway reached the porch it became integrated into a walk/gutter feature



Fig. 9. View looking west along the north side of Auburn Avenue, 1995.



Fig. 10. Historic walk and gutter at 518 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

that ran along the face of the porch, in both directions, to the side yard (figure 10). Frequently shrubbery and/or flowers were planted beside the front walkways.⁴⁸

As illustrated on the 1937 Cadastral Survey, single-family dwellings on Auburn Avenue had a small front yard that was generally bordered with a hedge or fence along the sidewalk. This treatment often continued along the side property lines to separate the yards into private spaces. Oral histories provide more detailed information on typical materials. Fencing made of thin wooden pickets, rolled wire, and in a few cases, ornamental iron were documented. Hedges were most commonly made up of privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Walls were also documented between properties or separating a property from the sidewalk. Concrete, brick, and stone masonry were common for the walls. At times, hedges or fences topped the walls.⁴⁹

The Side Yard

Side yards, in general, were 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. In addition, several of the side yards on the east end of the block had masonry (concrete or brick atop a stone base) retaining walls, often with integrated steps, that ran between front corners of adjacent structures in order to keep the front yard level with Auburn Avenue (figure 11). By absorbing the drop in elevation from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street, the



Fig. 11. Typical existing sideyard along the north side of Auburn Avenue. Note wall and steps in background (front corners of 530 and 526 Auburn Avenue), 1994.

wall allowed the front and back yards to be flat. Often the same materials were used to construct freestanding wall foundations for fencing along rear side-yard property lines. All sources concur that side property lines were delineated with fencing both to define property and to provide privacy. Walkways and/or stairs were generally located in this narrow space between houses, especially secondary, fire-escape stairways associated with the multi-unit structures. Because of its narrowness and the shade cast by adjacent buildings, limited planting, if any, occurred in the side yard.

The Back Yard

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. According to the Cadastral Survey Maps and oral histories, back yards were usually "fenced" from neighboring yards with materials that differed greatly from those found in the front yards (figure 12). Back yards were primarily used for utilitarian purposes (vegetable gardens, sheds, clotheslines, etc.) and not for show. Therefore, fences were often made of miscellaneous scraps--unpainted wood planks nailed together or combinations of wood and some type of wire fencing. These fences were not uniform in height, shape, or color because they were put together only to enclose and define a space, not for aesthetic purposes.⁵⁰



Fig. 12. "Houses in the Negro Quarter, Atlanta, Georgia, 1936." Walker Evans for the Farm Security Administration, 1936.

There were many features common to the back yards of the Birth-Home Block. Ash piles, from homes still being heated with coal stoves, were put in the back yard. Clotheslines were also typical. Attached to the house on one end, clotheslines ran across the yard to a post or tree. To prevent the clotheslines from sagging under the weight of wet laundry, the lines were propped up in the middle with a stick that was notched at the top. Most of the materials that are associated with clotheslines were scraps that had previously served other functions (Figure 13).⁵¹

Although typical in the AHA photographs, outdoor privies have not been documented as a back yard feature in the Birth-Home Block. Indoor plumbing seems to have been standard by the 1930s along Auburn Avenue.



Fig. 13. Back yard of home near Atlanta University, c. 1940. AU Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

In contrast to the large back yards of the single-family dwellings and the large multi-unit dwellings, the back yards of the double shotguns were small and sometimes almost nonexistent. Where space allowed, the same desire to define private space was noted in the use of side- and back-yard fencing, and space was used in much the same fashion as with the larger dwellings. Clotheslines were the predominant feature in the back yards of the shotguns because space was so limited. Ashes from the stoves were put in the back yards. Because of the small interior living spaces, the family's wash basin was frequently found on the back porch (figure 14). Only the size of these yards hindered the placement of a garden or other features.



Fig. 14. Women on the back porch "fixing Sunday dinner" 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

PERIOD PLANT MATERIAL - YARDS, GARDENS, AND PORCHES

The residents of the single-family dwellings on Auburn Avenue, including the King family, were, for the most part, educated middle-class professionals who owned their own homes and took pride in maintaining a neat and well-groomed yard.⁵² In the era of the New South landscape, it was becoming more popular for homeowners to beautify

their yards with new and different types of advertised plant materials. By the early 1920s, the local seed distributor, Hastings Seed Company, was regularly publicizing the newest varieties of plant materials in its bi-annual catalog. They even began offering sketches of garden designs for homeowners to follow in order to create their own fashionable landscapes. *Ladies Home Journal*, a popular national magazine of the day, also began promoting the sale of gardening manuals on such topics as "Annual Gardening," "Lawn Making," "Perennial Gardening," "Planting Your Grounds," and "Roses and Rose Gardens," and these could be obtained from the magazine for five cents a copy.⁵³

Information related in the oral histories revealed that various flowering herbaceous plants and flowering woody shrubs were popular choices among the residents. Plants such as petunias, hydrangea, dogwood, honeysuckle, and roses were among the varieties to be found in the Birth-Home Block. Other popular plants included English ivy and privet. Fruit trees such as peach and apple were noted to have been popular components of the period landscape. Most of the ornamental planting was done in the front yard because this was the public and social space of the home. Flower beds were located in front of the porch, lining the inside of hedges, or arranged in a small circle in the middle of the yard.⁵⁴ Where possible at the single-family homes, grass was the ground cover of choice. In spite of careful tending, few residents could boast of real "lawns." Grass was reseeded every year and was fairly sparse as described in the oral histories.

In addition to plantings in the ground, it was typical to find individual and small groups of plants that were set in boxes or pots. These containers were placed on the railings of the porch and on the steps, as well as in the yard (figure 15).⁵⁵ This appears



Fig. 15. Porch with planter boxes and pots, 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

to be one of the most important African-American traditions noted in the study and a landscape feature that distinguished African-American yards generally. In Richard Westmacott's research he notes this feature and suggests that "each plant is thought of and is treated as an individual and not as a material to be massed in groups."⁵⁶ Paralleling the interviews that Westmacott conducted, residents of the Birth-Home Block remembered many of the circumstances surrounding a particular plant's installation. Therefore, Westmacott's conclusions about the significance of plants in contemporary rural yards seem applicable to this situation as well. From the oral histories, plants remembered and discussed were acquired singly as gifts or purchases, and were often treated individually by the owner because of personal associations with the plant.

Whereas the front yard was a place for show, with the emphasis on flowering plant material reflecting that purpose, the back yards of the single-family dwellings had utilitarian functions only, and except for vegetable gardens, plants were not a special feature. 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 (figure 16). 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 yards of the double shotguns, typically occupied by short-term, working-class tenants, were given less attention and investment than the larger yards of single-family residences. Because of a tenant's economic constraints--lack of ownership, and short length of residence--the typical landscape of the shotgun was quite barren (figure 17). Generally the yards were very small and composed only of dirt. These yards were commonly referred to as "swept," a description noting that the tenants would care for them by sweeping the dirt with a switch broom to keep it smooth and free of vegetation. Interest in landscaping centered on decorating the porch with annual plants, mostly flowering, that sat on the railings in boxes or pots. Porch furniture was generally absent because of the small size of these porches and the economic constraints on the occupants. The residents of the shotguns used the porches for social gatherings but brought chairs out from the house or sat on the porch railings.⁵⁷

In conclusion, given the information obtained from the oral histories, the landscapes documented in the AHA photographs, as well as the extant features in the yards, it is clear that significant differences in the residential landscapes existed among the homes along the Birth-Home Block. Having greater financial resources and a concern for the appearance of the yard, the residents of the single-family dwellings spent more time and energy in the beautification of their properties. The yards were carefully tended and filled with a variety of plant materials. The residents of the shotguns, however, did not have the financial resources that their wealthier neighbors expended, and this was evident in their simple landscapes. While the shotgun yards were often barren, the residents of the

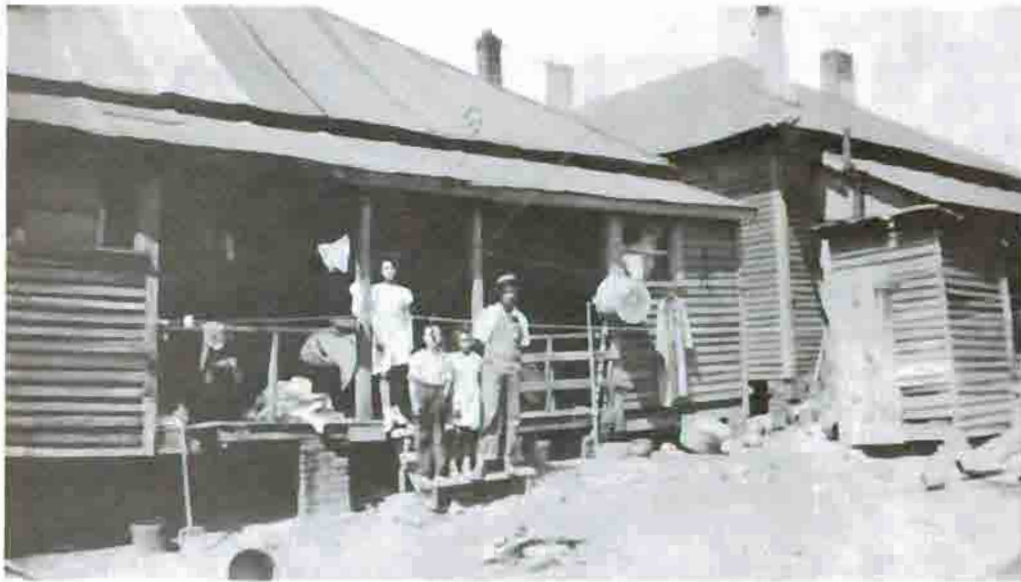


Fig. 16. Back porch and dirt yard. Note open foundation and lack of vertical porch supports, 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.



Fig. 17. Swept yards at double shotguns, 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

shotguns did what they could to make their homes attractive and comfortable.⁵⁸ Drawing on African-American landscape traditions, many of these shotgun residents used pots or containers of plants, preferably colorful flowering varieties, which made plants easily transportable when the tenants relocated.⁵⁹ Having a history of transience, less well-to-do African Americans knew of ways to keep beauty and color at their homeplaces despite their economic circumstances (see figure 3 for examples of ornamental plantings at duplexes, 1940).

Significant similarities were noted in the way residential landscapes were used even though there were differences in socioeconomic status among the residents of the Birth-Home Block. The use of the porch as an extension of the living space was a common characteristic among all residents. The utilitarian aspect of the back yard was also a shared feature. In addition, the make-do quality of much of the landscape material in the back yards was also noted as being typical throughout the neighborhood.

EXISTING CONDITION OF RESIDENTIAL YARDS - GENERAL

The existing conditions survey of the yards in the Birth-Home Block reflects actual field findings by the research team beginning in fall 1991 through spring 1995. This information is drawn as an overlay on base surveys compiled for the Site by Jackson Person & Associates, Inc., in the summer of 1993. The existing conditions of individual yards are illustrated with the historic conditions in the following chapter. The overall streetscape has remained basically intact since the establishment of the Site. However, the NPS is responsible for significant changes within certain yards and this is noted in individual yard descriptions. As a rule, the first time a plant is identified, the botanical name is listed in parentheses. Only the common name is used in subsequent references.

The individuality of the residential landscapes described in the oral histories is not readily apparent in the landscape today. Throughout the neighborhood, however, pieces of that landscape are to be found. Common features are addressed under the following general headings: the front yard, the side yard, and the back yard.

The Front Yard

The front yard includes the front walk, the ornamental enclosure (fences, walls, and/or hedges), and the front porch with its associated furniture and potted plants. These elements are consistently identified in the memories of past residents, as well as being extant features in most of the yards. Every house in the Birth-Home Block, including the double shotguns, still has a front porch (figure 18). Even the historic apartment buildings have front porches on both the first and second floors. Although most of the period porch furniture has been lost, hardware associated with porch swings still exists in some cases and is noted on the site plans where found. Any future architectural assessments should be careful to note hardware features, including original mailboxes, doorbells, etc., in surveys to assure their protection during renovation.



Fig. 18. Existing hedges and front porches along north side of Auburn Avenue, 1994.

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.

Throughout the neighborhood, the front yard is typically enclosed by either a fence and/or hedge which is maintained about three feet high. On the south side of Auburn Avenue, the hedge sits just behind the top of the retaining wall, creating something closer to a five-foot barrier to pedestrians on the sidewalk.

The Side Yard

Another common element in the Birth-Home Block, virtually unchanged since the period of significance, are the narrow side yards. On the north side, houses are approximately ten feet apart. On the south side, there is a little more variation, but most side yards are approximately fifteen feet apart. Property lines, which are typically down the center of the side yard, are delineated by hedges or fences that matches either the front or the back-yard fencing material. Front-yard hedges and fences are kept low enough so as not to be a communication barrier between front porches of adjacent houses.

The side yards are too narrow in most cases to be used as anything but as a pathway from front to back yard. On the north side of the Birth-Home Block, the side yard consistently has a retaining wall that runs perpendicular from house to house, usually at the front corners, to absorb a four- to five-foot grade change from Auburn Avenue to Old Wheat Street. Stairs are typically associated with this side-yard wall.

The Back Yard

Another important area in the residential landscape is the back yard. This was once the utilitarian space and the work area of the yard. The back yard was the location of the garden patches, storage buildings, clotheslines, ash piles, etc. Few of these features are extant in the back yards today, and the landscape of work once associated with these outdoor spaces has been replaced by modern indoor conveniences. Remnants of wall and fences show that the yards were enclosed and that the fences were generally higher in the back yard than than in the front yard (approximately five feet). Today, most fences are chain-link or board. From the mixed nature of extant foundation materials (brick, stone, concrete block, etc.), it is apparent that the rear-yard fences often sat on low walls that were not as well crafted as the extant front-yard walls. This fence/wall was meant to be functional and not ornamental. Edges of planting beds are still evident in a few back yards; for the most part, these beds parallel fence lines.

Residences along the north side of Auburn Avenue have back yards that run into Old Wheat Street. Fence and wall remnants define a consistent setback of five feet from the granite curb on Old Wheat Street where a fence ran (figure 19). Curb cuts are another important feature along Old Wheat Street. A depressed granite curb provided access to the back yards that otherwise was not available from the Auburn Avenue (front-yard) side because of the narrowness of the side yards, as well as the retaining walls that ran perpendicular between houses. The historic curb breaks do not always correspond to current driveway locations. These discrepancies are noted on the site plans where found.



Fig. 19. Existing rear property lines and unpaved rights-of-way along Old Wheat Street defined by granite curb and remnant walls and fences, 1994.



Fig. 20. Existing rear property line of a double shotgun defined by ailanthus trees and remnant fence.

Existing Vegetation

There is a limited amount, as well as a limited variety, of existing plant material. The few large shade trees (oaks, Chinese elms, or pecans) are, for the most part, located in the front yards. More detail on species and locations will be handled on an individual yard basis. Exotic trees, such as Chinese tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) and paper mulberry (*Brousonetia papyrifera*), are typically trees now found in back yards. These weedy species are fast growing and reseed easily. More than likely, they have escaped into neglected back-yard areas as opposed to having been planted by owners for shade or ornamental purposes. This is also evidenced by the fact that these trees are most often found along the property lines and low use areas and not in the middle of the back yards (figure 20).

Shrubs are most often associated with hedges. Hedges are a regular feature throughout the Birth-Home Block and, for the most part, are made up of common privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) is another common shrub. It is found in a variety of conditions such as part of the foundation planting, freestanding, and mixed in with privet in the hedge-row. Although originally planted for their ornamental characteristics, they easily reseed themselves and spread aggressively if left unattended. This is apparent from the numbers and locations of these two plants throughout the Birth-Home block.

Other ornamental shrubs appear occasionally in yards. The NPS has introduced a number of non-historic varieties of shrubs and trees in yards where previous rehabilitation has occurred. These, however, will be discussed in detail later on an individual yard basis.

The predominant ground cover is grass. Except for a few lawns that the NPS sodded with hybrid Bermuda (e.g., the Birth-Home front yard), grass is a mixed ground cover of different varieties of grass and common weedy herbaceous species. All of the yards are mowed regularly and grass is kept short (less than three inches tall).

Most flowers, by their ephemeral nature, do not survive for long without horticultural care. Therefore, it is not surprising that most species documented in the oral histories (petunias, gladioli, marigolds, etc.) are no longer extant. Also, because most of the flower species were annuals--the most readily available and affordable flowering seasonal plants--they required yearly replacement whether they were growing in pots or in beds. Therefore, only hardy bulbs (iris, day lily, lycoris, cannas, etc.) are lasting remnants of historic herbaceous flower species in the Birth-Home Block. The NPS has done some planting of flower beds at the Birth Home and the NPS offices, but again, this will be addressed in the description of individual yards. Other than these introduced plantings, a few hardy flowering shrubs (rose of Sharon, hydrangea, climbing roses, vitex, and crape myrtle) and bulbs, are all the ornamentals that remain extant throughout the Birth-Home Block.

NOTES

1. Franklin M. Garrett, *Atlanta and Environs, A Chronicle of Its People and Events*, vol. I, Athens: University of Georgia Press (facsimile reprint), 1969, 150.
2. *Atlanta's Lasting Landmarks*, Atlanta: Atlanta Urban Design Commission, 1987, 8.
3. *Ibid.*, 9.
4. C. Vann Woodward, *Origins of The New South, 1877-1913* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press, 1951; reprint, 1970), 147.
5. *Ibid.*, 147.
6. Woodward, 359.
7. *Ibid.*, 366.
8. *Ibid.*, 365-366.
9. Atlanta Urban Design Commission, 127.
10. Dana F. White, "The Black Sides of Atlanta: A Geography of Expansion and Containment, 1870-1975," *The Atlanta Historical Journal* 26 (Summer/Fall 1982), 208-9.
11. National Park Service, *Draft Historic Resource Study: Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site*, Atlanta, 1993, 61.
12. These numbers are averaged by the author from three areas that makeup the Birth-Home Block in the 1939 survey. Due to the detail of the survey, however, it is clear that even within this small area there were distinctly different conditions. An example of this is the north side of Auburn Avenue between Hogue and Howell Streets where 36.3 per cent of the homes were owner occupied and only 23.3 required major repairs. This is in stark contrast to the north side of Auburn Avenue one block west between Boulevard and Hogue--the block of double shotguns--which is shown as zero percent owner occupied with 92.2 per cent of structures in need of major repairs.
13. Atlanta City Directories, 1910-1945. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1899, 1911, 1932. The Minnie Dooley Beauty Shop was located at 478 Auburn Avenue after 1927.
14. Atlanta City Directories, 1929-1941. The City Directories show that this section of Auburn Avenue contained many different types of commercial establishments, including grocery stores, dry cleaners, a bakery, a beauty shop, and a watch repair shop. Alexa Henderson and Eugene Walker, *Sweet Auburn: The Thriving Hub of Black Atlanta 1900-1960* (United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1983). *Historic Resource Study, Auburn Avenue Community of Atlanta 1865-1930* (Collection, Southeast Region, National Park Service Office of Historic Architecture, 1982).
15. Frady, Marshall, "The Children of Malcolm X," *The New Yorker*, October 12, 1992, 64, 81.
16. Emil C. Seiz is listed as the architect of the double shotguns in the city building files. His name was checked with the Atlanta Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and they found no record of a local practitioner by that name.
17. The Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps distinguish porches in their delineation of buildings.

18. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1899 and National Park Service Records of Individual Properties in the Birth-Home Block, Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site.
19. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1911, and NPS records of individual properties in the Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site. These five structures were the first of a group of nine double shotguns that were built by the Empire State Investment Company. The four other double shotguns are located just behind the group on Auburn Avenue. Three of the structures front on Old Wheat Street, while one fronts on Boulevard at the corner of Old Wheat Street.
20. According to the City of Atlanta Directories, all the double shotguns in the Birth-Home Block were occupied by white families until 1909. In 1910, all of these units were occupied by African Americans. More research needs to be done to understand the cause of a complete turnover of residents in that one year.
21. Atlanta City Directories, 1906-1910. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1911 and 1932.
22. Atlanta City Directory, 1913. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1911, 1932.
23. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1932.
24. Atlanta City Directories, 1900-1941. During the period 1929-1941, this store had five different owners, all of whom were listed as white. The owners included Pauline Schacter, 1929-1931; Minnie Smith, 1932-1936; Isaac Goldstein, 1937; Ruth Bell, 1938; and John G. Harris, 1940-1941. The store was vacated in 1939.
25. *The Negro American Family*, Atlanta University Publications (1909; New York: Arno Press, 1968).
26. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 9, 1991. Each of these interviewees indicated that the long-time residents inhabiting the single-family dwellings established close relationships with one another, and frequently relied on one another for support, particularly for child care. It was common for children to be looked after by their adult neighbors and to be disciplined by them as well. Mrs. Lightner indicated that she gave her tacit approval for this practice. Mr. Buck also recalled frequently being disciplined by Reverend Martin Luther King, Sr., when he visited his boyhood friend, Martin, Jr.
27. Atlanta City Directories, 1929-1941.
28. *Ibid.*
29. Franklin Garrett, *Atlanta and Environs* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, Inc., 1954), Vol. 2, 702.
30. Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7.
31. *Ibid.*, 1937, 5-6.
32. *Ibid.*, 6-7.
33. Atlanta City Council Minutes, December 15, 1924.
34. *Ibid.*, September 7, 1925/ January 20, 1926.

35. Mr. Gerald Mason, Atlanta Department of Public Works, Telephone Interview by Mike Wing, Atlanta, Georgia, April 4, 1991.
36. Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7.
37. *Georgia's Living Places-Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* (Atlanta: Department of Natural Resources, 1991), III-15.
38. Information regarding the type of fire hydrants that would have been found in the area during the 1930s was obtained in a telephone interview on June 12, 1991, with an employee of the Atlanta Bureau of Water, Mr. Edward Moon. Mr. Moon indicated that there were still some fire hydrants in the city dating from the 1930s, and that these hydrants would be the same as those that were in the Birth-Home Block. These remaining fire hydrants of the 1930s are located at the corner of Marietta Street and Thurmond Street NE, the corner of Bradley Street and Decatur Street SE, and on Boulevard SE under the railroad bridge on the right side of the road and do not appear substantially different than the hydrants that are used today.
39. The type of manhole covers that would have been present in the Birth-Home Block during the 1930s is unknown. Sources at the Bureau of Highways and Streets, Sewer Operation Division, were contacted and were unable to provide any useful information.
40. The Atlanta Housing Authority photographic collection is in the Atlanta Historical Society's archives at the Atlanta History Center. These photographs were taken in 1940 to document several Atlanta neighborhoods that were slated for demolition prior to the construction of new housing projects. This collection is very valuable to this study because it contains the only period photographs found to date that document the condition of African-American neighborhoods in Atlanta during the period of significance. In addition, the photographs substantiate many of the descriptions in the oral histories.
41. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mr. Silas Lackey, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 15, 1991.
42. This information was provided in a telephone interview with Mr. Karl Bevins, a traffic engineer for the Atlanta Department of Public Works since 1949. Mr. Bevins stated that no documentation exists for the exact type of street signs that would have been found on Auburn Avenue and neighboring streets in the 1930s.
43. *Georgia's Living Places: Historic Houses in Their Landscaped Settings* (Atlanta: Georgia Department of Natural Resources), 1991, I-42.
44. *Ibid.*, I-43.
45. Richard Westmacott, "Pattern and Practice in Traditional African-American Gardens in Rural Georgia," *Landscape Journal*, , 104.
46. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1899, 1911, 1932.
47. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 9, 1991.
48. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia,

April 9, 1991.

49. Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7.

50. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 9, 1991.

51. Mr. Silas Lackey, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 15, 1991.

52. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Annie Johnson, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 9, 1991.

53. *Ladies Home Journal* was reviewed for the years 1920-1940 because in the 1912 Atlanta University study titled *The Negro American Family* led by W.E.B. Dubois (reprinted, Cambridge, Ma.: The M.I.T. Press, 1984) it was noted that *Ladies Home Journal* magazines were found in many of the homes of middle-class African Americans. Since all of the homes in the 1912 study were in Atlanta, it is therefore assumed that this same group would have been reading this same nationally popular magazine during the period of significance.

54. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991. Mrs. Annie Johnson, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 1991. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Ida McKennon, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 1991. Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, April 9, 1991.

55. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991. Mrs. Christine King Farris, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, July 9, 1991.

56. Westmacott, 102.

57. Mr. Silas Lackey, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 15, 1991.

58. Mr. Silas Lackey, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, April 15, 1991. Mrs. Lavata Lightner, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Los Angeles, California, June 28, 1991.

59. Sara Orton Glickman, *Historic Resources in African-American Neighborhoods of Piedmont Georgia* (Athens: University of Georgia Master's Thesis, 1986).

CHAPTER 3

PHYSICAL HISTORY AND EXISTING CONDITIONS OF INDIVIDUAL YARDS

This chapter is organized into two sections: residences for which there is an oral history and residences where no such documentation exists. The historic and existing condition of the properties with an oral history are recorded first, beginning with the Martin Luther King, Jr., Birth Home. The physical details of the Birth-Home Block provided in the oral histories describe a landscape alive with people, plants, color, noise, smells, and textures. Although many features are discernible from the historic maps and aerial photographs, these black-and-white images do nothing to interpret the use of the properties nor can they add life and dimension to the historic scene. It is a recommendation that the CLR be circulated to a wide audience in hopes that it will identify and inspire other former Birth-Home Block residents to come forward with details to complete the historic picture.

The order in which properties with an oral history are described begins with the Birth Home, followed by the residences that are owned by NPS, and lastly, the residences still in private ownership.

PROPERTIES WITH ORAL HISTORIES

501 Auburn Avenue, *Martin Luther King, Jr., Birth Home*

Historic Conditions

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 early years of his life were in part shaped by the experience of the neighborhood and yard in which he lived and played. Documentation of the historic landscape is important in order to understand these influences.

The information obtained for this portion of the project came from interviews with Dr. King's sister, Christine King Farris, and his boyhood friend, John Buck. A "memory map" was prepared based upon these interviews. Mr. Buck lived on Boulevard at the

corner of Old Wheat Street, and his grandparents, Frank and Eula Kirk, resided on the Birth-Home Block at 526 Auburn Avenue. Mr. Buck stated that he spent much of his time during his early years on Auburn Avenue. Mrs. Farris and Mr. Buck agreed on most of the general landscape features at the Birth Home; however, some important differences in the specific features that each remembered in their interpretations of the historic landscape were noted. Also, it is important to keep in mind that they were both children during the study period, and their recollections reflect that perspective.

The Birth Home is a c. 1895, two-story wood house with Queen-Anne-style detailing (figure 21). The original owner was a widow, Mrs. Nancy J. Holbrook, who lived in the house until 1907.¹ There were two other occupants of the house prior to Reverend A. D.



Fig. 21. 501 Auburn Avenue, the Birth Home, 1994.

Williams's purchase in 1909. The Williams/King family, like the other residents of the single-family dwellings on the block, were educated middle-class professionals who took much pride in maintaining an attractive home and yard. In the 1930s, the front yard was composed of grass that was bordered from the sidewalk and the neighboring property to the west by a privet hedge. Mrs. Farris described the grass as "crabgrass," which was groomed frequently by King's father. In front of the porch, along the foundation of the house, were some flowering shrubs that Mrs. Farris described as hydrangeas with blue and pink flowers. 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 that were described as "very colorful" and are thought to have been petunias.

As was customary in the neighborhood, the Williams/King family often sat on their porch to socialize with their neighbors. To accommodate family and friends, the porch had five tall rocking chairs and a porch swing. The swing, which was wood and hung from the porch ceiling by chains, was situated in the far east corner. This space was reserved for the children. Two of the rocking chairs sat near the swing, while the other three were on the west side of the porch. The rocking chairs were described as tall green-painted wooden chairs with slatted backs. Adding decoration and color to the porch were some wooden flower boxes that sat on the railings. It is believed that coleus was most often planted in these boxes.

While the adults in the Williams/King family appeared concerned with having a neat and attractive yard, the children viewed the landscape as a space for play. A favorite game among the three King children was to take their grandmother's fur piece, which was described as having a face like a fox with glass eyes, wrap it around the handle of a broom, and push it through a hole in the shrubbery near the sidewalk to frighten passersby. This game was played often until Mrs. Williams discovered what was being done with her fur.

The King children also 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.² It was described as 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. Mrs. Farris recalled that as children, Martin and his brother, A. D., liked to play in the car and managed once to drive the car through the back of the garage, leaving a large hole. Never repaired, it stood as a reminder of their mischief.

According to Mr. Buck, the young King had a penchant for leaving the house and the yard without permission. There was a tree near the window of his bedroom that he used to climb down as a way to get into the back yard.³ Behind the back yard was an open

field (an undeveloped lot along Edgewood Avenue) where King and his friends liked to play. Because the King's yard was separated from the neighboring properties by a board fence, and King was not permitted to leave the fenced-in area, he and his friends made a hole in the fence through which they could sneak to get into neighboring lots. When the family called to him, all he had to do was to crawl through the hole, and he was back where he was supposed to be.

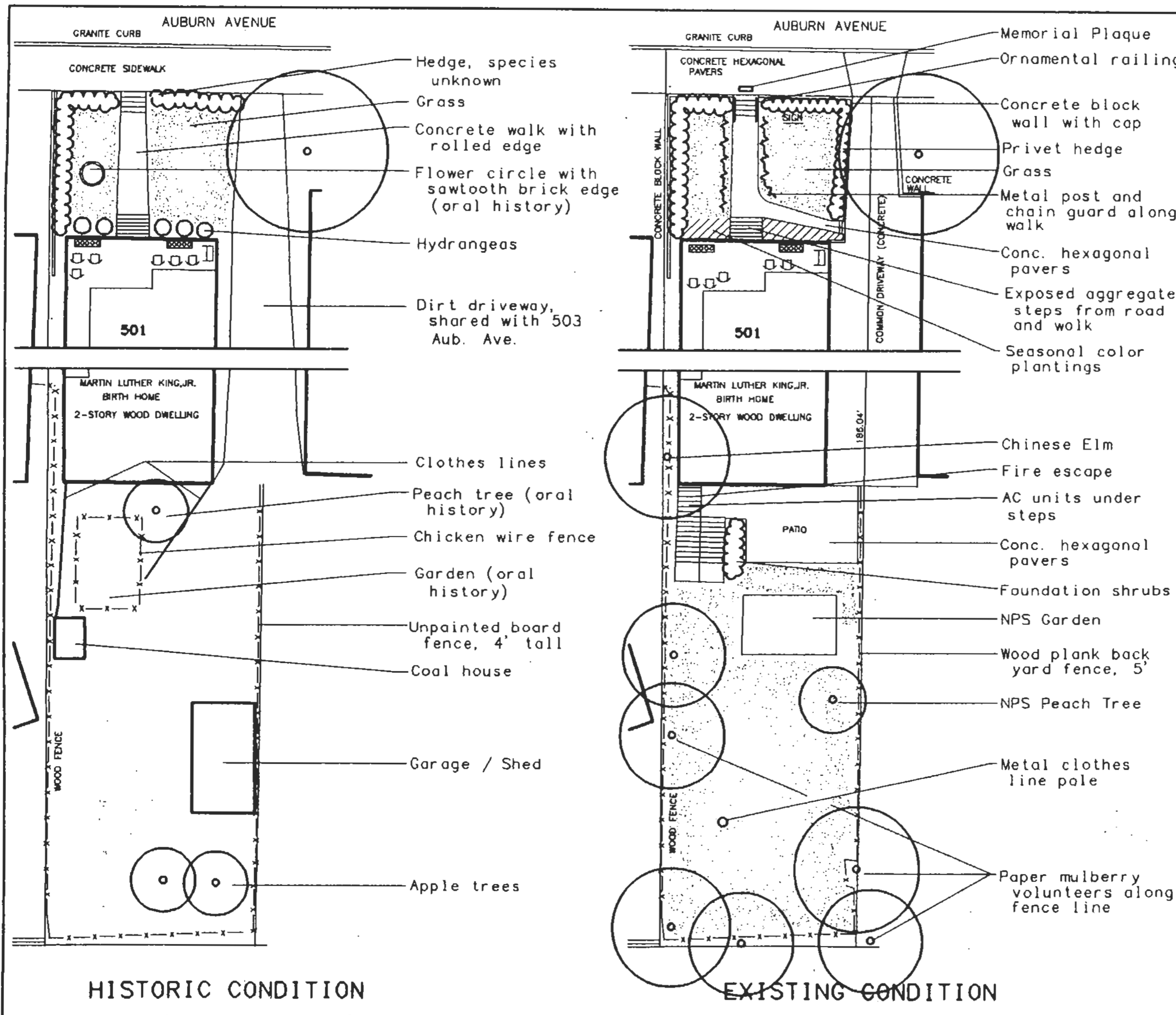
The King's back yard was quite large, measuring approximately 40 by 188 feet, and thus could accommodate many different features and activities.⁴ On the west side of the yard, just behind the house, Mrs. Williams had a vegetable garden. In this garden she grew turnip greens, tomatoes, beans, and collards. She was very meticulous about her garden and protected it 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.⁵ 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. The roofing was described as "roll" roofing. 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 (figure 22).

Existing Condition

Very little of the historic landscape remains at the Birth Home. The existing conditions are the result of stabilization and rehabilitation by NPS and the King Center; however, most of the historic landscape features described in the oral histories were gone prior to NPS involvement. This includes 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 have been made to accommodate visitors to the Birth Home and to satisfy fire and access codes. Examples of these types of changes include 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 (figure 23).

In the front yard, changes to the landscape include sodding the existing grass area and edging the lawn area with a low (twelve-inch-tall) post-and-chain detail to discourage people from walking on the grass (figure 24). The foundation shrubs were removed (varieties at the time of removal are unknown), and in their place, flower beds are maintained seasonally (red and white begonias were planted at the time of this survey). The porch furniture (wood rockers and swing) and plant boxes have been restored.



Notes:

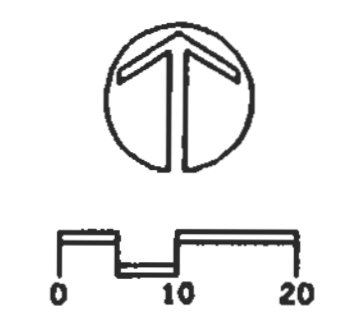
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (Farris, Buck)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| -x-x- Fence | ~ Hedge/Shrubs |
| □ Chair | ⊙ Water Meter |
| ⊞ Rocking Chair | ◁ Water Valve |
| — Clothes line | PP • Power Pole |
| ▨ Flower Box | ○ Tree (exlst.) |
| ▭ Porch Swing | |
| ● Flower Pot/Can | |

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
501 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS
 DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-1

ON MICROFILM



Fig. 23. Rear fire escape stairway, patio and edge of garden (top) and new concrete driveway between 501 and 503 Auburn Avenue (bottom), 1995.



Fig. 24. Existing front yard of the Birth Home, 1995.

To accommodate circulation, a secondary path from the front stoop to the driveway was added by NPS. This path was constructed of octagonal concrete pavers to match the front walk and sidewalk in front of the Birth Home.

In the back yard a five-foot-tall, one-foot-wide board fence completely encloses the space. The fence is evenly cut top and bottom and erected with no measurable space between boards. Access to the back yard is through a wood gate that matches the fence across the end of the driveway at the southeast corner of the house.⁶

Beginning at the gate and extending twenty feet along the back of the house, a fifteen-foot-wide octagonal-paver terrace has been installed by NPS. It provides a congregation area for groups visiting the Birth Home. Separated from the terrace by a three-foot-wide space planted with a double row of Japanese hollies (*Ilex japonica* var.) is a concrete pad for a two-story, painted metal staircase. Two air-conditioning units have been placed on the pad beneath the first flight of stairs.

Other features in the back yard include a fifteen by fifteen 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 casting dense shade across the back yard. A clothesline has been placed in the back yard along the west side supported by two metal posts. The back yard

is grassed. To date, the only archeological work done in the backyard of the Birth Home was monitoring during the installation of the staircase (figure 22).

514 Auburn Avenue, *Lightner Home*

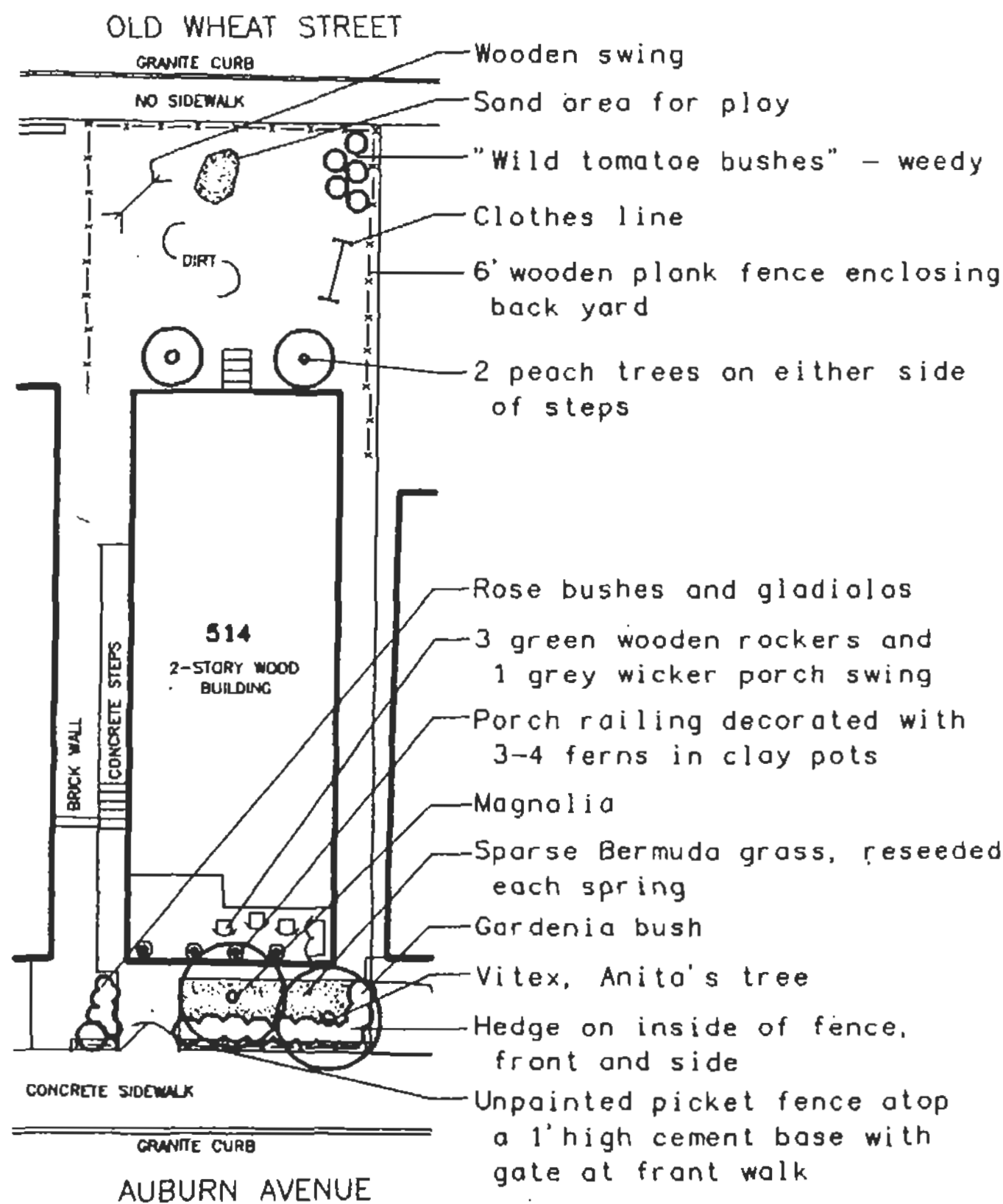
Historic Condition

This property was the home of Mrs. Lavata Shaw Lightner from 1923-1966. Mrs. Lightner was interviewed in her home in Los Angeles, California, on June 28, 1991. She was interviewed to obtain information regarding the type and location of plant material and other yard features that existed on her property during the 1930s.

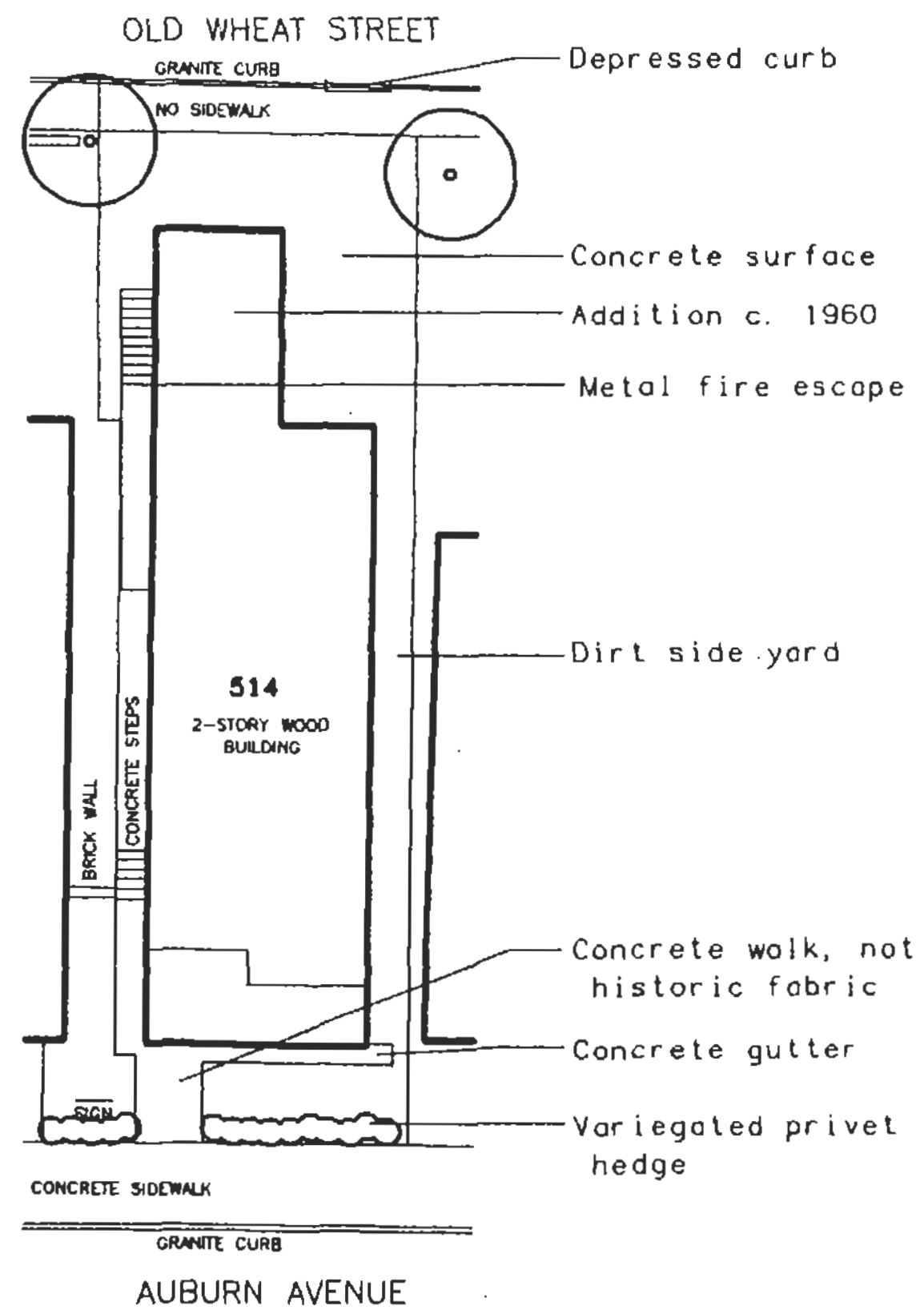
The Shaw-Lightner House was constructed as a single-family dwelling for F. Knox, one of the original white residents of the area.⁷ When Mrs. Lightner and her first husband, J. H. Shaw, purchased the house in 1923, the house had never been modified. However, the house was converted to a duplex in order to generate income for Mrs. Lightner and her three children following the death of her husband in 1930 (figure 25). Because of this traumatic event, Mrs. Lightner had a clear memory of what the landscape was like in the 1930s (figure 26).



Fig. 25. 514 Auburn Avenue, Lightner Home, 1995.



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

All the yard features illustrated in the Historic Condition are based on the oral history of the property.

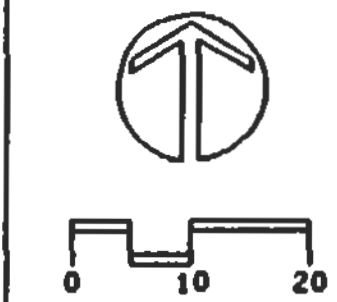
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (Shaw-Lightner)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - Fence
- ⊠ Chair
- ⊞ Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- ⊞ Flower Pot/Can
- ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊞ Water Meter
- ⊞ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- ⊞ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
514 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO. 489-80017-2
DATE: April 1995

The front yard was enclosed by a grey picket fence that sat on top of a one-foot cement base.⁸ The pickets were thin stakes about one 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. She described it as having purple flowers and a nice scent.⁹ This tree was planted by Mrs. Lightner's daughter, Anita, who was four at the time (late 1920s). The tree was fondly referred to as "Anita's Tree." Also on the right side of the yard, closer to the house, was a magnolia tree that Mrs. Lightner planted in 1936-37.

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. Also on the west side of the yard, closer to the house, was a metal water spout. It was described as resembling a candy cane with a little round wheel on it that one would turn to get water. It was situated in an iron casing to keep it from freezing during the winter. 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. In front of the gutter along the west side, however, Mrs. Lightner planted a rose bush and some gladiolus bulbs which bloomed year after year. Hedges separated the Lightners' front yard on both sides from the neighbors' yards.

The Lightner's porch was an extension of the living room. It was a place for family gatherings in the evenings and on Sunday afternoons after church. A grey wicker porch swing hung from the ceiling on chains on the far east end of the porch. The swing faced into the porch, where three large green wooden rockers sat. The porch was decorated with three to four ferns in round clay pots that sat on the porch railings.

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. The only other vegetation in the back yard were two peach trees planted either side of the back stairs. A six-foot fence made with "wide wooden planks" 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.¹⁰ In the play area there was a wooden swing set with two flat wooden seats hanging from ropes attached to the top of the frame and a wooden seesaw that was painted grey. Mrs. Lightner also brought in some sand in which the children could play.

Existing Condition

None of the historic landscape recorded in the oral history is extant at the Lightner home. The structure is owned by NPS and has been restored as a duplex. The small front yard has 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 a foot into the yard. NPS planted a hedge of variegated privet at this line. 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 one.

An two-story rear addition was constructed c. 1965, obliterating most of the back yard. An exterior stairway was added down the west side of this addition into the back yard. An eighteen-inch rubble wall defines the property line along the west side. Along the east property line only a piece of rolled wire fence is left. The surface of the back yard is entirely paved with concrete. This same paving continues halfway down the building along the east side where the concrete transitions into dirt. Stairs at the northeast corner of the house climb up to the front yard from the east side yard (figure 26).

526 Auburn Avenue, *The Kirk Home*

Historic Condition

Another property where an oral history was available is located at 526 Auburn Avenue, the home of Frank and Eula Kirk, 1920-1952 (figure 27).¹¹ Because the Kirks are deceased, their grandchildren, Virginia Buck Prather and John Buck, provided the information for this interview. During the 1930s the Bucks lived at 59 Boulevard--at the corner of Old Wheat Street--but spent much of their time visiting at their grandparents' home just two blocks east. Mrs. Prather and Mr. Buck are contemporaries of Martin Luther King, Jr., and they all played together as children.

According to the oral histories, the Kirks' front yard was surrounded by a black iron fence that was approximately four feet high.¹² A gate at the sidewalk provided entry into the Kirk's front yard. Within the yard itself, the Kirks maintained grass and a tree that was located in the middle of the west side of the yard (species unknown). 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 shrubs is not known; however it was evergreen and did not flower.

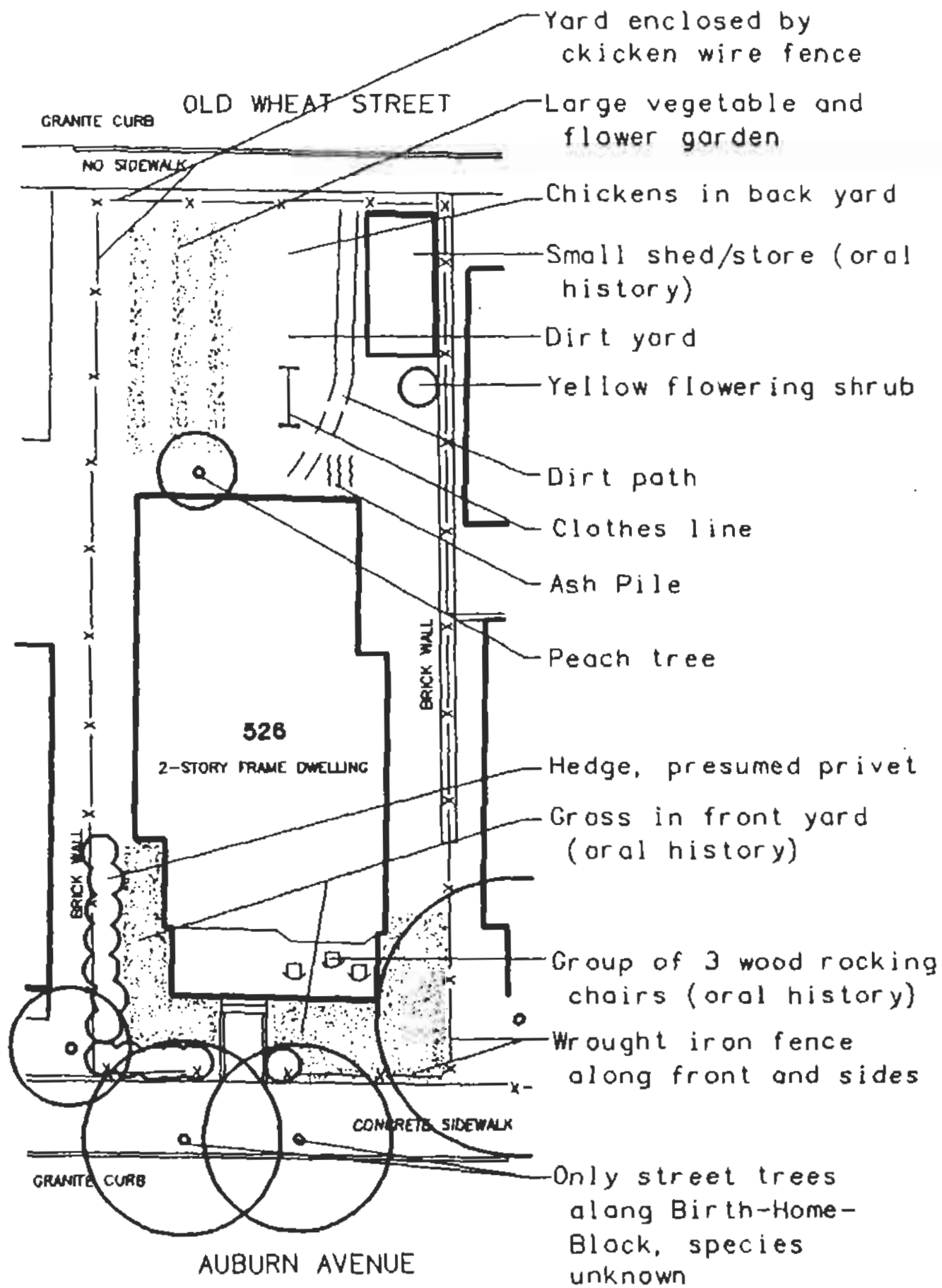
The Kirk's porch was typical of the single-family dwellings on Auburn Avenue and included the usual group of chairs. The Kirks had three rocking chairs. The large one was placed in the middle and was flanked on either side by two smaller rocking chairs. All the chairs were made of white-painted wood with cane seats and backs. There were no plants or flowers on this porch.



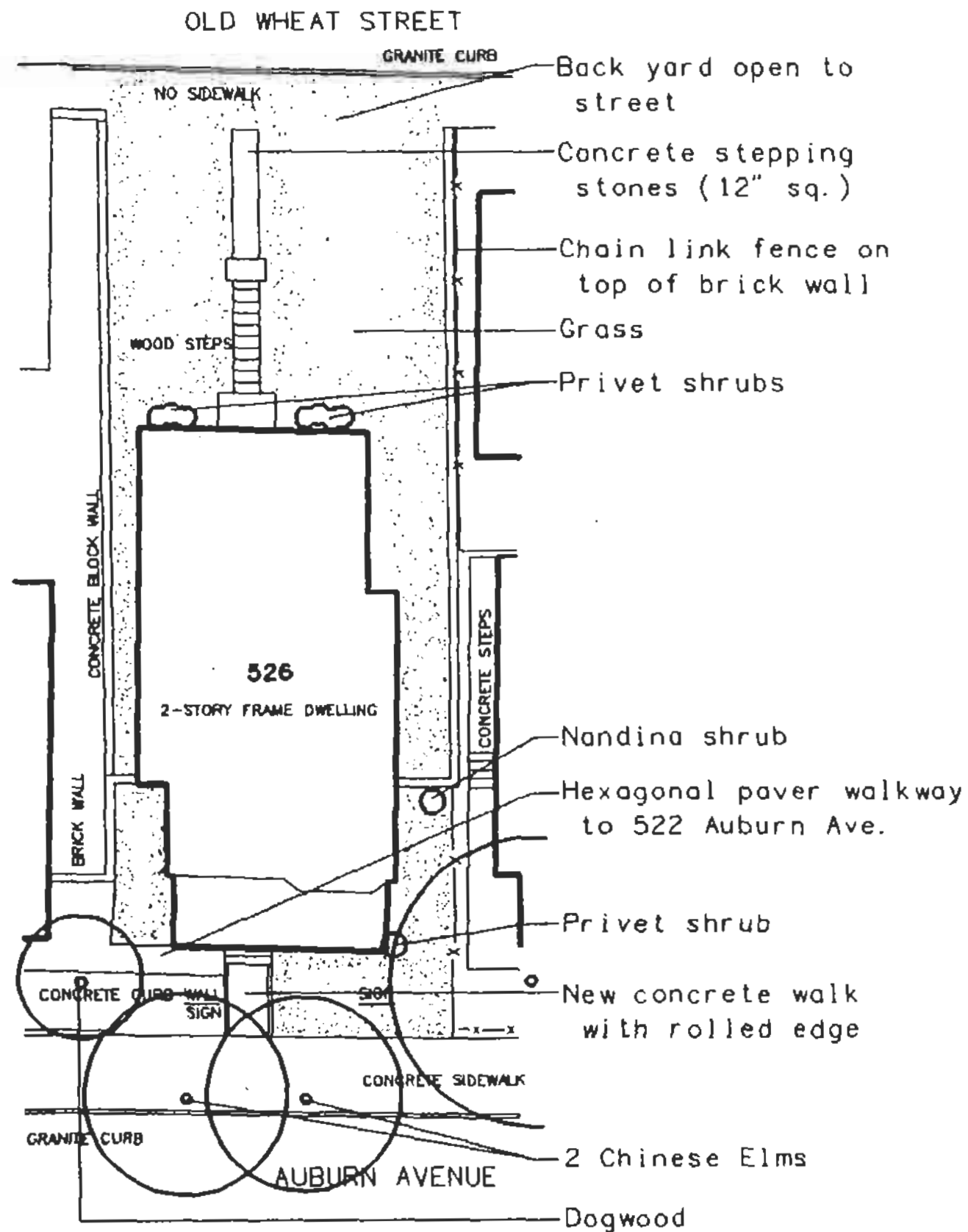
Fig. 27. 526 Auburn Avenue, the Kirk Home, 1995.

The Kirks' back yard, like all the others, was also a place of utility rather than display. The ashes from the stove were emptied onto a pile in the back yard, and the usual clothesline ran from the back of the house to a pole at the other end of the yard. However, the Kirk's yard contained some interesting features. In the far northeast corner was a small stable that Mr. Kirk, upon retirement, converted into a neighborhood store. He sold items such as peanuts, chips, candy, and soda, to neighborhood children.

The back yard also contained a large garden that covered most of the west side. Mrs. Kirk did the gardening herself and grew tomatoes, greens, okra, corn, and green beans. Her garden yielded more than she and her husband could use, so she also supplied the Buck family with vegetables. Mrs. Kirk also canned the vegetables to make them last through the winter. She reportedly collected seeds from her garden to replant each year and supplemented her stock, when necessary, with seeds purchased from a store on Broad Street called Cottongim's Seed Store.¹³



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (Prather and Buck)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| -x-x- Fence | ⊕ Water Meter |
| □ Chair | ◁ Water Valve |
| ⊞ Rocking Chair | PP • Power Pole |
| — — Clothes line | ○ Tree (exist.) |
| ▨ Flower Box | |
| ● Flower Pot/Can | |
| --- Hedge/Shrubs | |

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
526 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-3

ON MICROFILM

The Kirks' back yard was fenced in on two sides by a fairly high--four-to five-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. Because the Kirks had a nice garden and some chickens, it was necessary that their yard be enclosed. The Kirks also had 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 (figure 28).

Existing Condition

None of the historic landscape described in the oral histories has survived at the Kirk home. The structure has been restored by NPS and is currently used as NPS office space. There have been many changes in the front yard since the 1985 survey. All of the foundation shrubs (privet) have been removed as well as some shrubs on the east side of the porch (species unrecorded) and one nandina (*Nandina domestica*) on the west side of the porch. A walk was extended from 522 Auburn (another NPS-occupied structure) to the front walk of the Kirk Home. In addition, the front yard was sodded and a NPS identification sign was placed at the left side of the front walk near the edge of the sidewalk. A survey done by NPS in 1985 recorded "wood-framed, rolled wire fence" across the front property line. This fence is 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 (either side of the front porch) are sodded. Four foot high (from the low side) brick retaining walls cross the east and west side yards between houses. Below the wall the ground is dirt. In the back yard the groundcover is mixed species grass. The fence across the back property is gone. Collapsed pieces of a rubble retaining wall exist along the east property line.

The back elevation of the house is a raised one-story facade. The foundation of the rear elevation is planted with post-1985 privet shrubs. Wooden stairs come down from the center of the main floor and terminates in a wooden landing, out from which runs a narrow walk of paired stepping stones (1'-4" square pavers set in sand) to the rear property line. There are no significant plants in the back yard (figure 28).

472-488 Auburn Avenue, 53 Boulevard and 479-489 Old Wheat Street,

The Double Shotguns

Historic Condition

The information obtained regarding the type of landscaping typical of the shotgun dwellings on Auburn Avenue was from an interview with Mr. Silas Lackey on April 15, 1991. Mr. Lackey lived, beginning in the 1940s, at 490 Old Wheat Street, near the corner of Hogue Street. Mr. Lackey was a contemporary of Martin Luther King, Jr., and knew

him from the neighborhood during this period. The double shotgun represents a house type that existed throughout the study area, and thus Mr. Lackey's memories can serve as a model for understanding the historic landscape at the other shotguns, as well as substantiating other information (e.g., the AHA photographs) that have been gathered in the research process. In this group are the nine double shotguns that begin at the intersection of Boulevard with Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street (figures 29, 30, 31, 32).

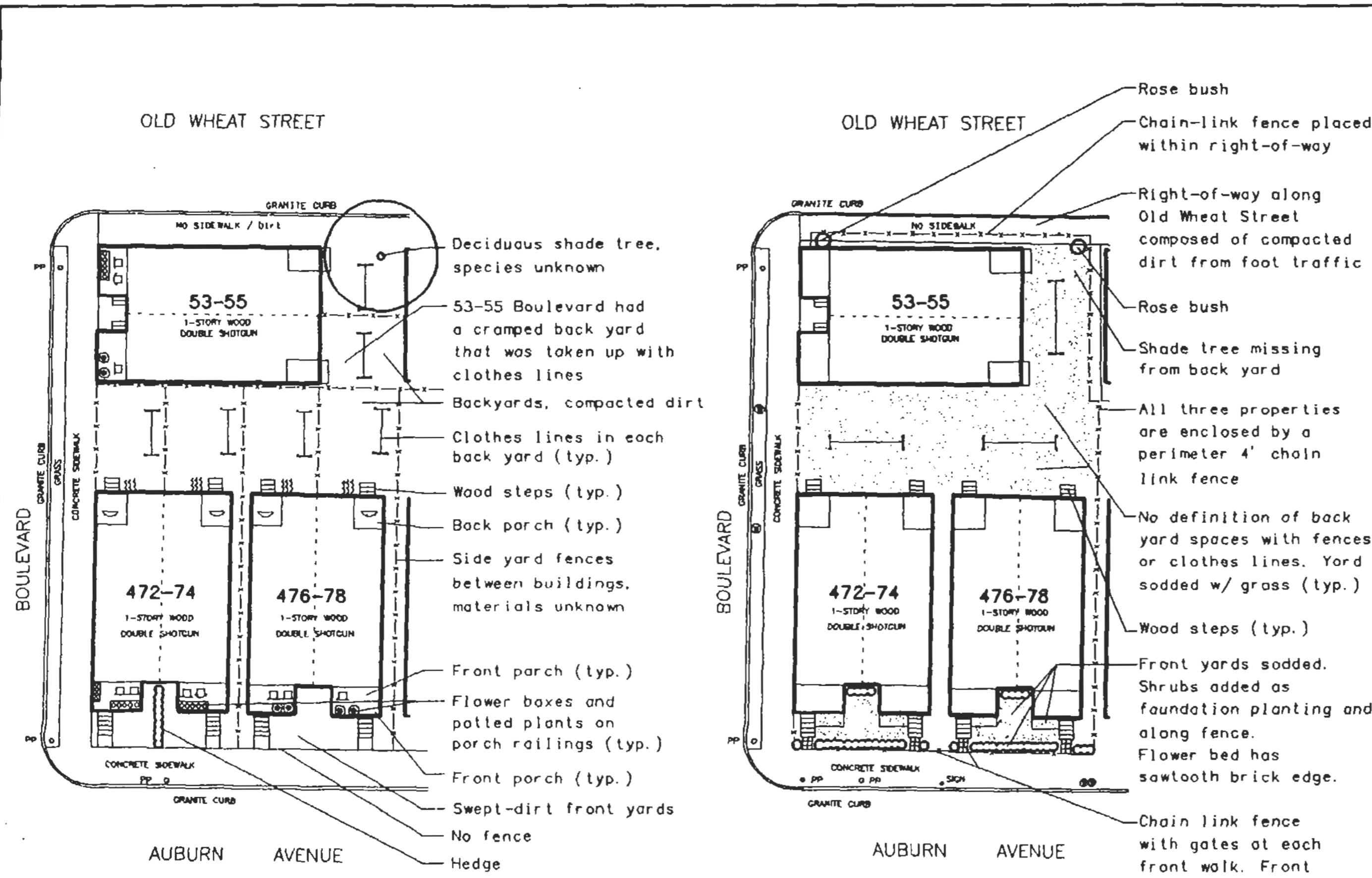
Typically, the shotgun yards were very small and composed of dirt. This type of yard was commonly referred to as a "swept yard," because tenants would maintain a tidy surface by sweeping the loose dirt and debris from the compacted sub-base with a switch broom. Typically the switch brooms were made of tree limbs with a fan of branches. Mr. Lackey recalled that his yard was swept quite often, because he and his friends needed a smooth and hard surface on which to play marbles.

Although individuals who had swept yards may have preferred to plant grass or other types of vegetation, they were hindered by finances, as well as the compacted state of the yards. Most of these yards were too small for mules to be used to till up the ground, and the dirt was too hard to till by hand. If residents wanted to make the yard more decorative, it was not uncommon 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 that were easily constructed from one-by-six boards. Plants such as pansies, coleus, or marigolds were often planted in these boxes because they were less expensive in that they were easily grown from seed and required little maintenance. Some individuals also grew collards in these planter boxes.

Other than flower pots or boxes, the small shotgun porches had no room for additional items. For social gatherings, chairs would be brought out from the house only for older family members, while younger people sat on banisters and steps.

The back-yard surface of the typical shotgun was also 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 had been gathered from the street or vacant lots. One end was attached to the house and the other to a pole at the end of the yard. Often the pole was an old railroad tie that resembled a two-by-four. The line was twisted around the pole to secure it and was propped in the middle by a stick cut from a tree at a "V" branch in order to have a notch in which the line would rest. The lines were always wiped with a wet rag prior to using in order to clean off the dust from the yard.

Other aspects of the typical back-yard landscape included the piles of ashes that people threw out from their stoves. The Lackey family also had a wood pile that was used for kindling. Mr. Lackey recalled that it was his job to go around the neighborhood collecting scraps of wood wherever he could find them, in order to maintain the wood pile.



HISTORIC CONDITION

EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

Illustration of clothes lines and porch furnishings in historic period are symbolic only and are not intended to indicate actual form or locations. Based on A.H.A photographs the clothes lines would have run haphazardly across the rear yards to corner trees or posts.

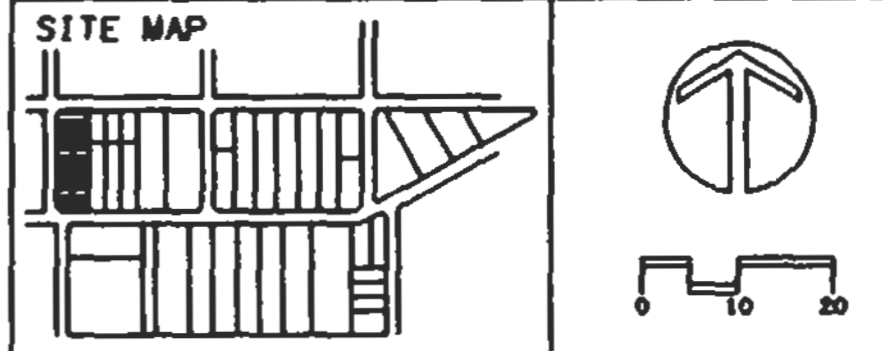
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (Lockey)
- 1993 MALU Survey by Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

--- Fence	⊙ Water Meter
□ Chair	PP • Power Pole - wood
⊞ Racking Chair	PP • Power Pole - conc.
— — Clothes line	⊙ Tree (Exist.)
⊞ Flower Box	⊕ Tree (Prop.)
• Flower Pot/Can	∪ Tin Tub
~ Hedge/Shrubs	≡ Wood Pile
◁ Water Valve	≡≡≡ Ash Pile

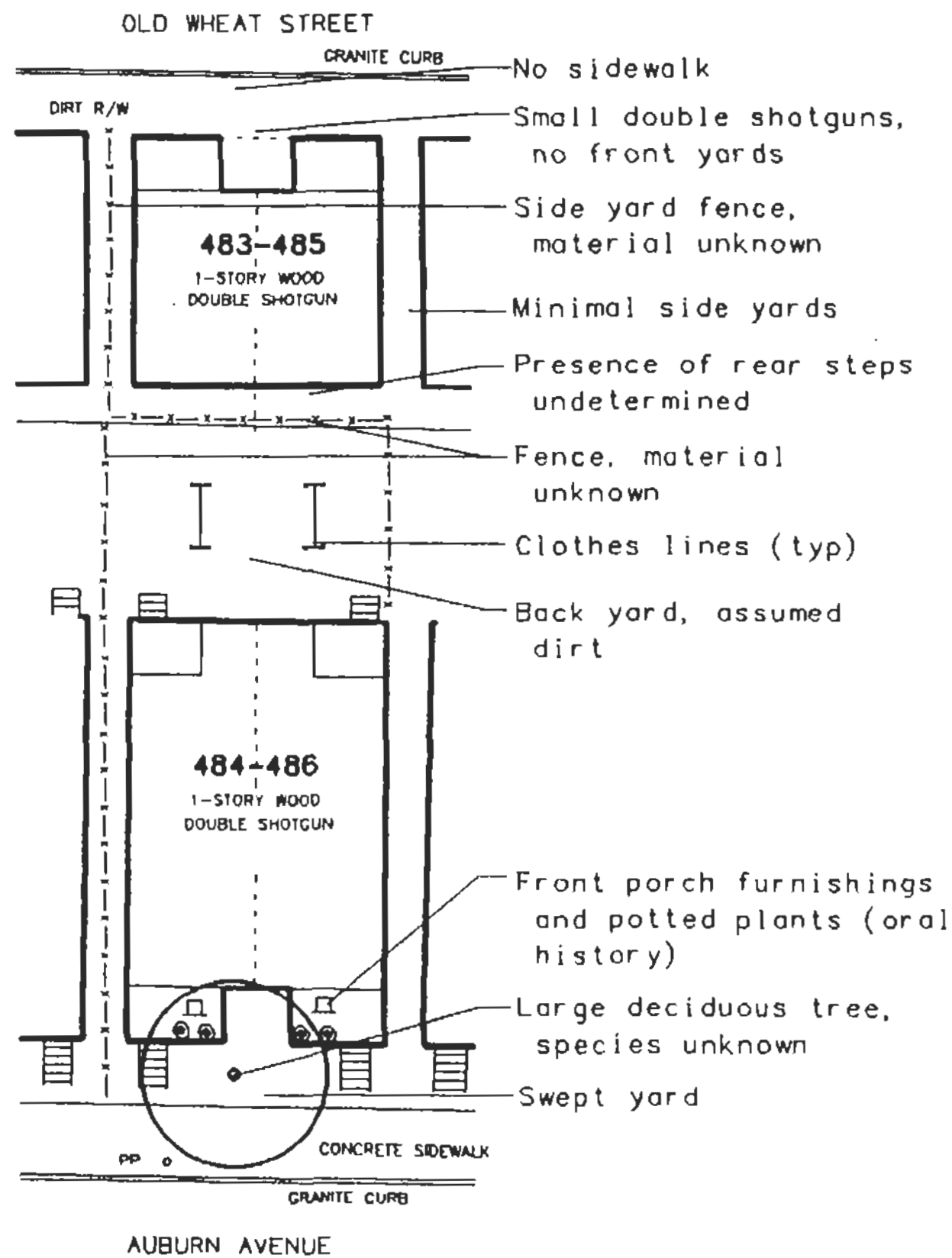
SITE MAP



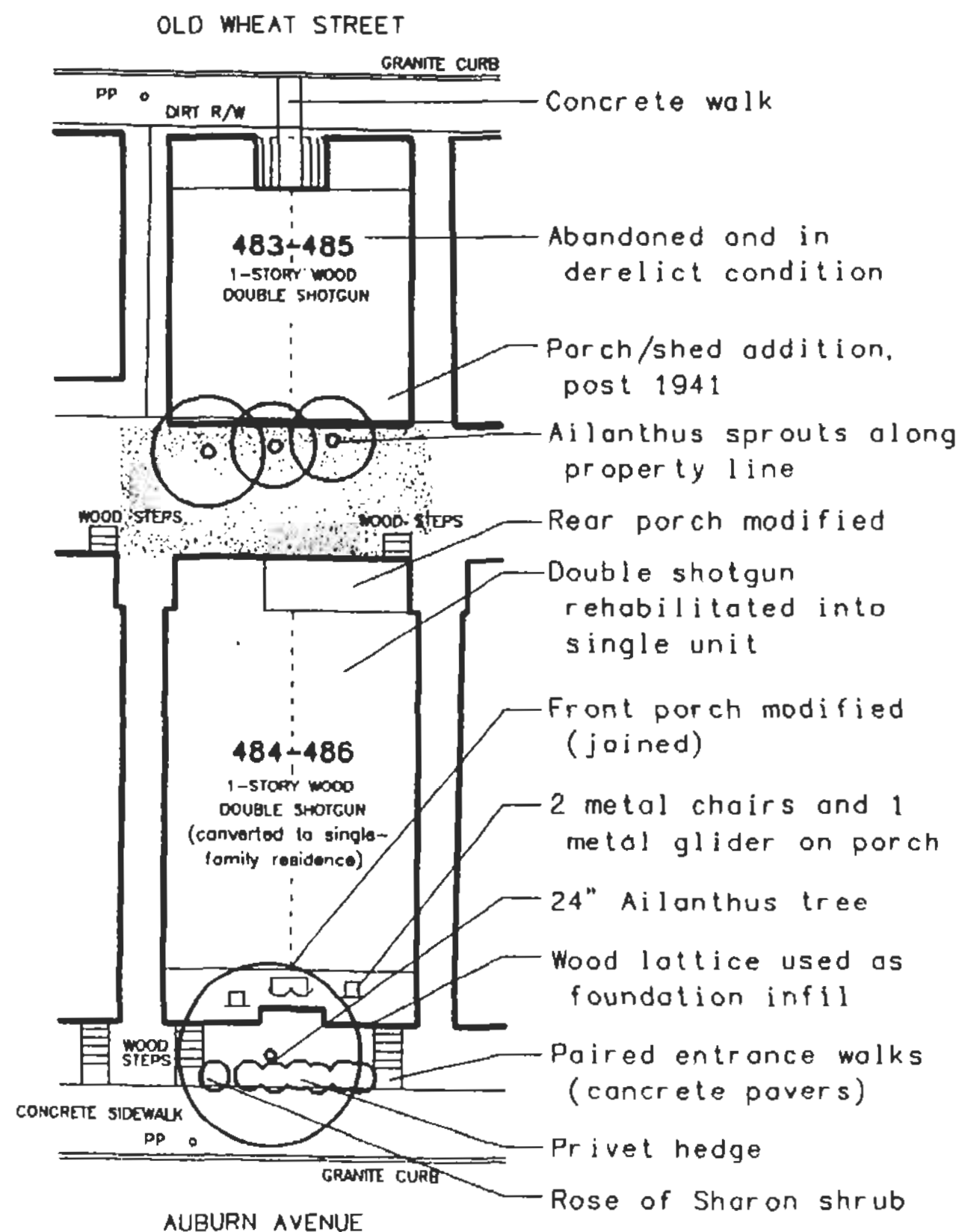
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
472-78 Auburn & 53-5 B' vard
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS
DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-4

ON MICROFILM



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

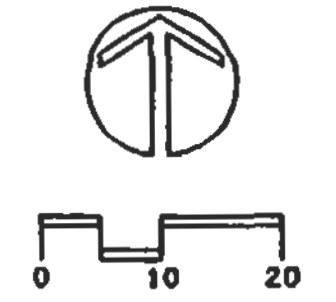
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral history
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Racking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)

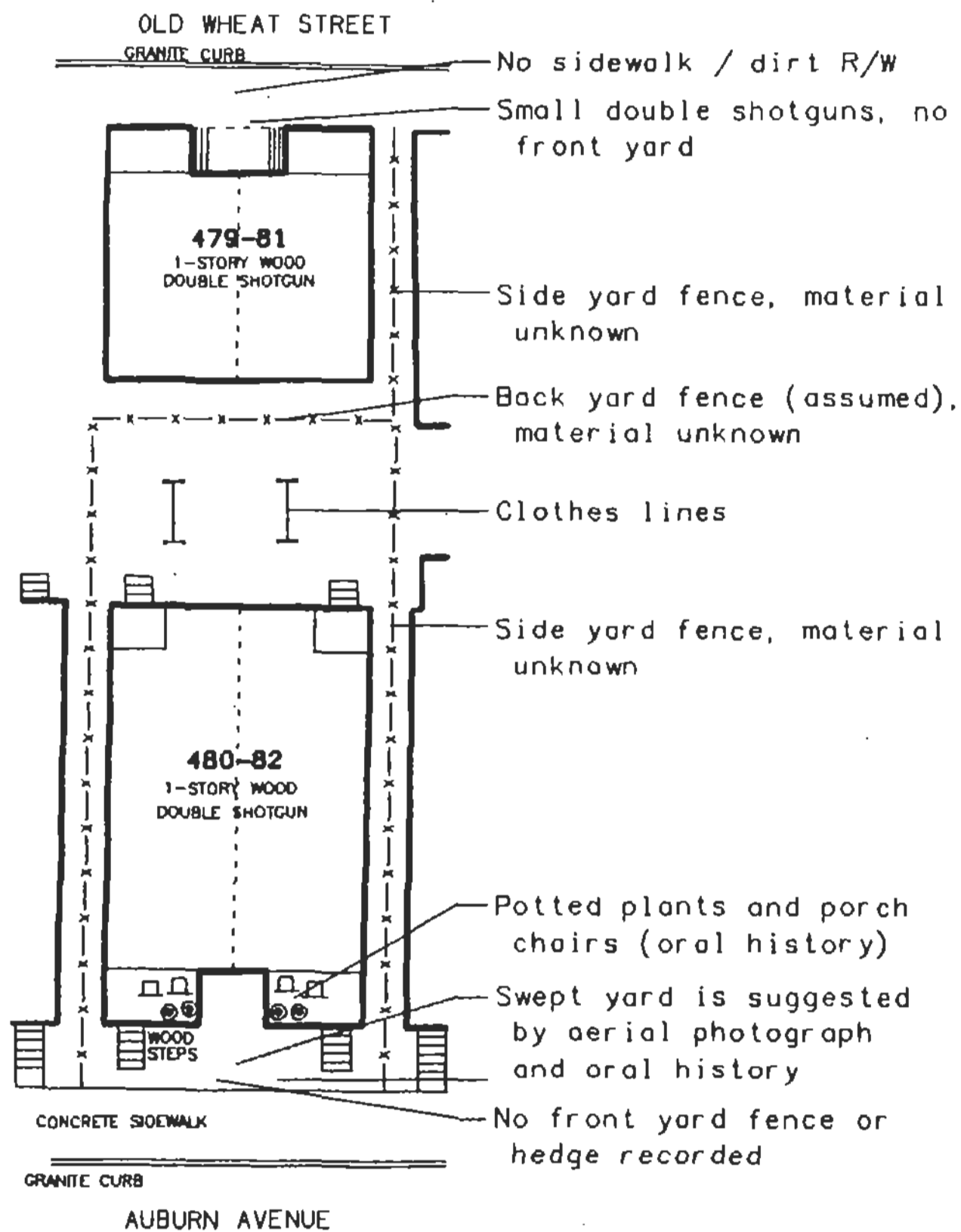
SITE MAP



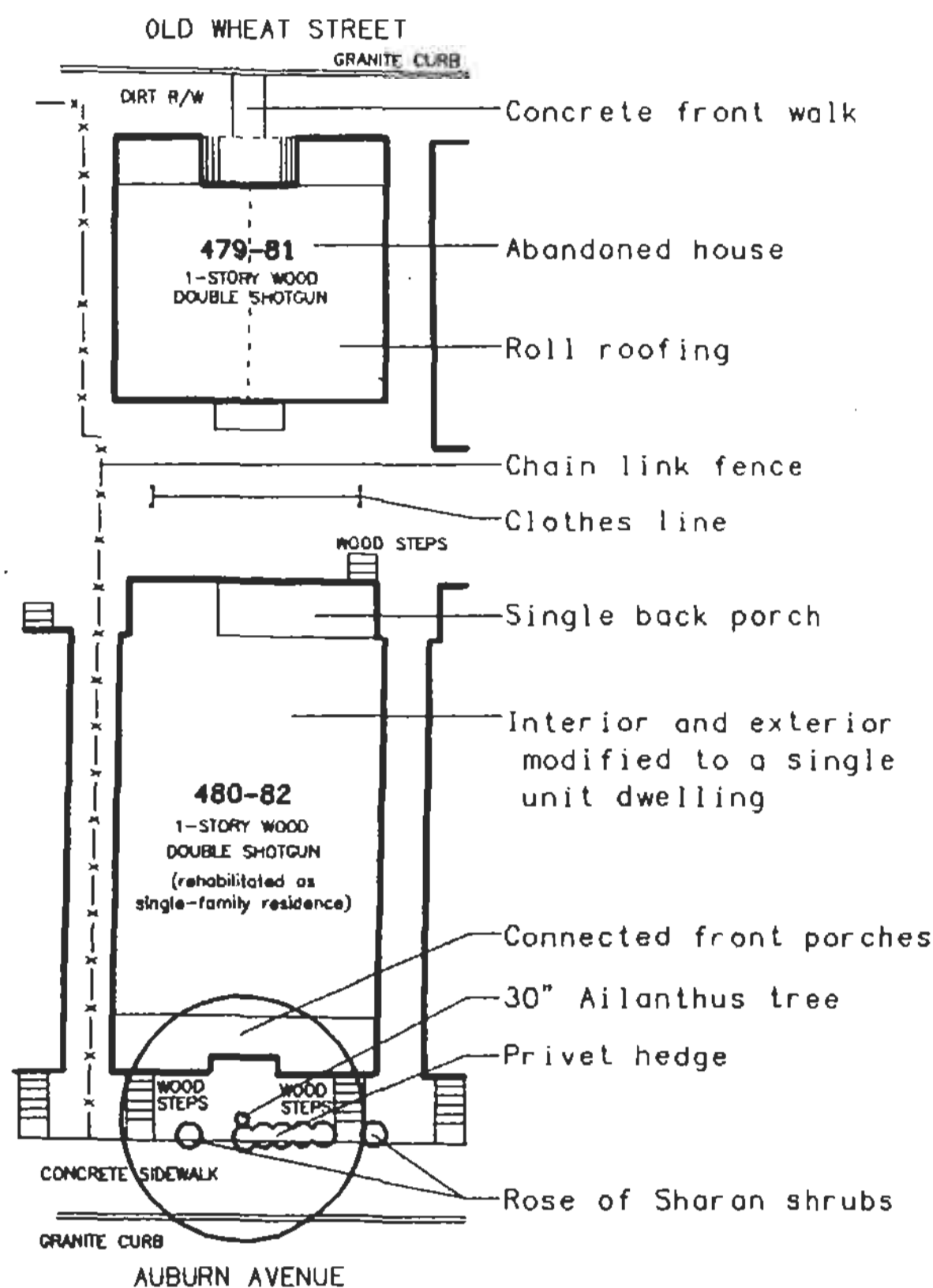
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
484-6 Aub. & 483-5 Old Wht.
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-6



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

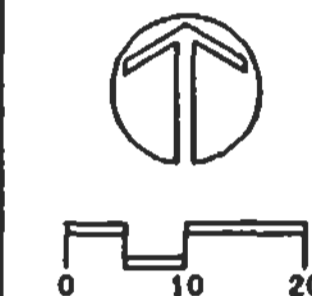
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral history (Lackey)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Persan, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree (exist.)

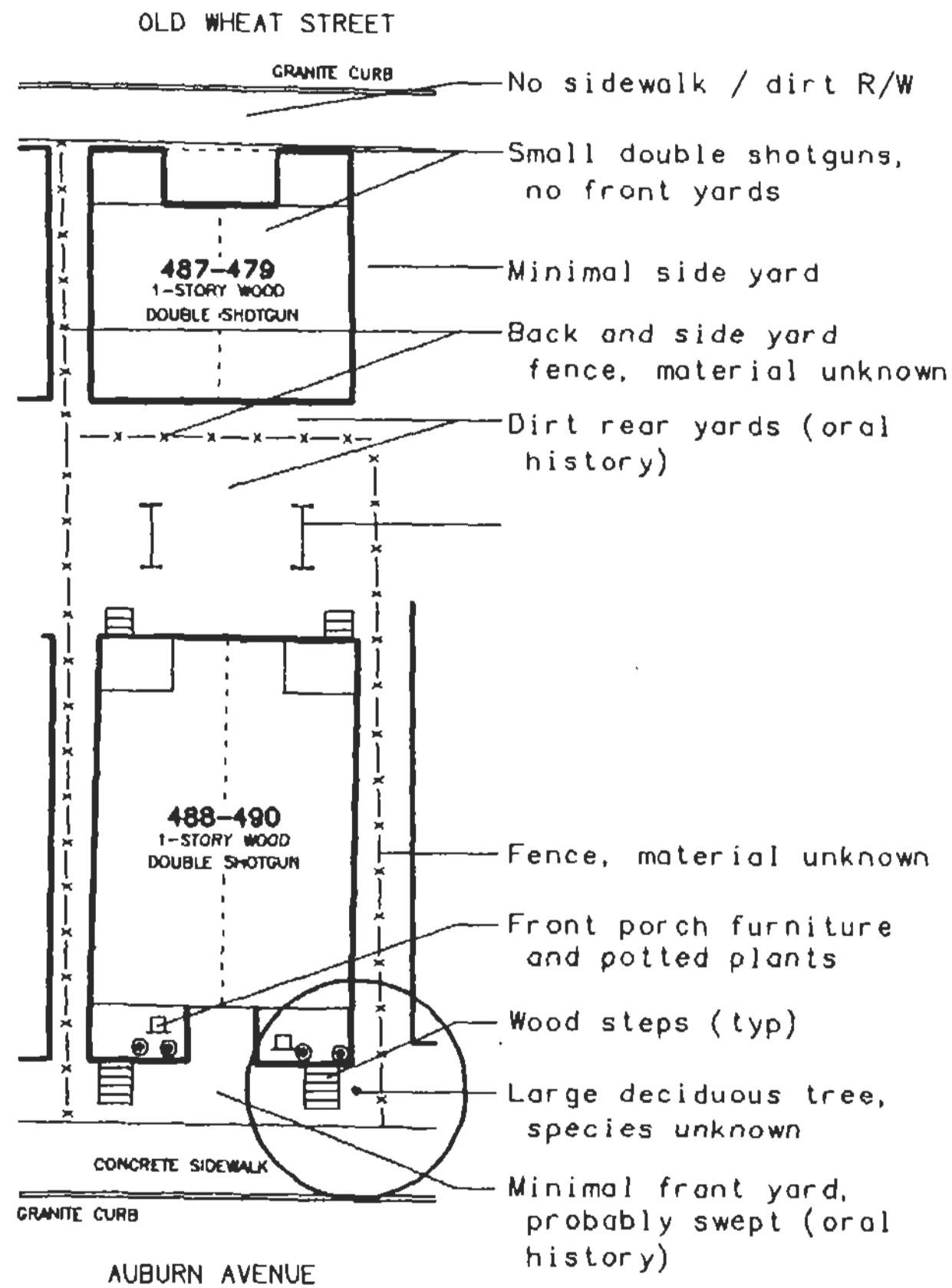
SITE MAP



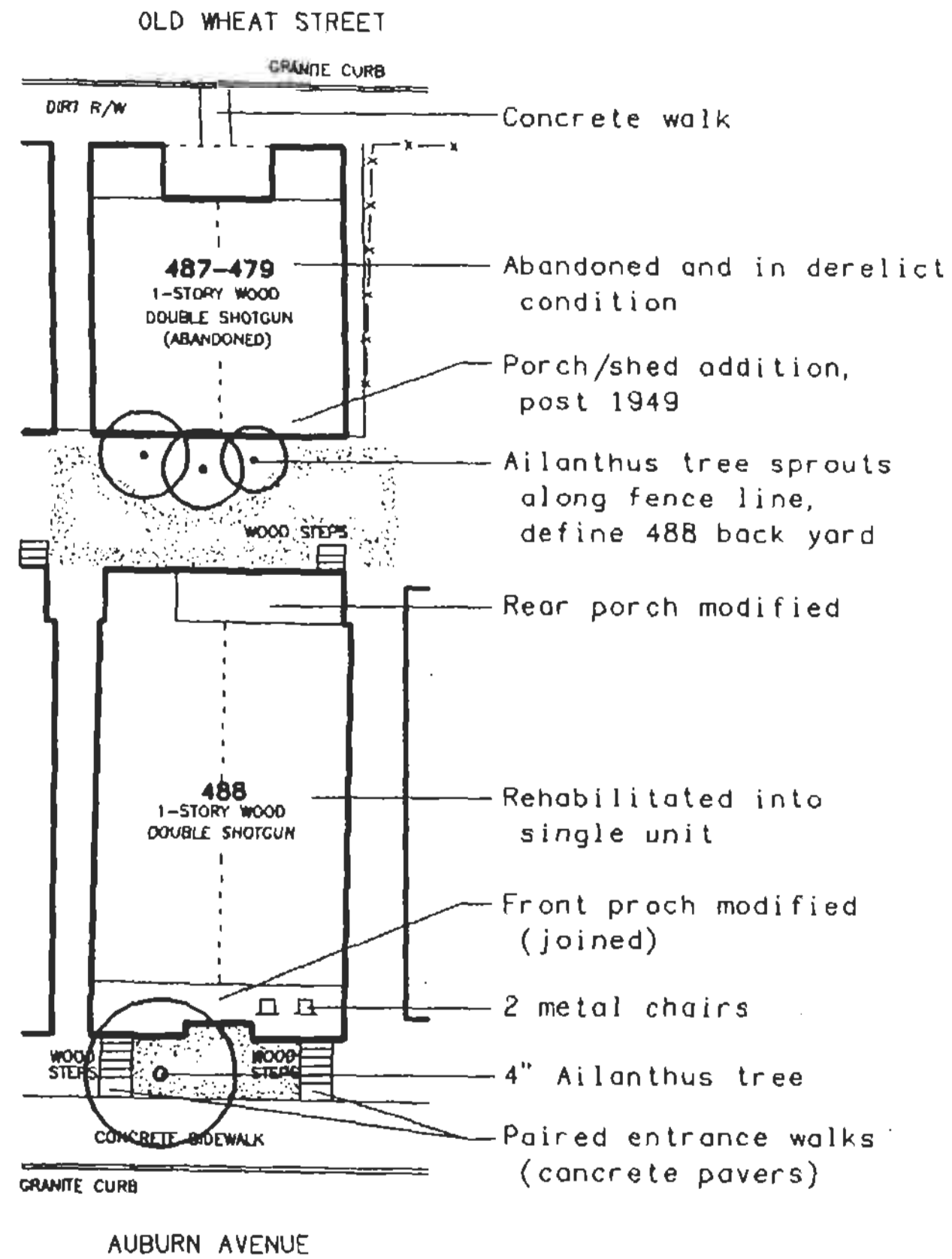
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE -
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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
480-2 Aub. & 479-81 Old Wht.
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-5



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

Oral history and AHA photograph are best sources for appearance of double shotguns during the period 1929-1941.

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral history (Lackey)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Racking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
488 Aub. & 487-9 Old Wht.
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

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DATE: April 1995 489-80017-7

In addition to the back yard, the back porch of the typical shotgun was a work place. Given the small sizes of the homes and their primitive construction, Mr. Lackey remembered that most back porches had a toilet and a tin tub in which the family bathed and the laundry was washed.

The three double shotguns that face Old Wheat Street were built c. 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 (only half as deep), no yard space, and shared front walks centered between units and with steps integrated into the front porch space. The front facades say on the Old Wheat Street five-foot setback line and the fifteen-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.

Existing Condition

There is a significant change from the historic setting of the double shotguns to the existing conditions (figure 33 & 34). The six that are owned by the NPS are in the process of major rehabilitation. Three are complete (53-55 Boulevard, 472-474 and 476-478 Auburn Avenue), and three are in process of restoration (480-482, 484-486, and 488 Auburn Avenue). The last three (479-481, 483-485, and 487-489 Old Wheat Street) are not currently owned by the NPS and are in a general state of disrepair. The 1994 historic resource study for the Site determined 479-481 noneligible for listing because of its lack of integrity (figures 29, 30, 31, 32).¹⁴

Because the NPS policy is to restore the shotguns to residential use, there has been an effort to upgrade the interiors and landscape to contemporary residential standards. This policy has resulted in many changes because in current thinking the historic size and condition of this house type is considered substandard. Therefore, many nonhistoric features have been added such as a four-foot chain link fence around the perimeter of the three corner properties, sodded lawn areas, and foundation and ornamental plantings (figure 35).

In the back yards, fences that historically defined the small size of individual yards have been removed and one large grassed area is maintained. Consequently, an important definition of space has been lost, especially between the shotguns on Old Wheat Street and the Auburn Avenue shotguns. Weed trees, such as the tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), that have grown up in the unmaintained yards of the Old Wheat Street shotguns are all that remain to define the narrow space that were the back yards. These trees suggest that all the rear yards of the Auburn Avenue shotguns were enclosed historically.

Three rehabilitated double shotguns--480-488 Auburn Avenue--have been interiorly 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.



Fig.s 33 & 34. (top) Historic setting of shotguns from *The Negro American Family* in contrast to the (bottom) existing conditions of the double shotguns at Boulevard and Auburn Avenue, 1995.

The three double shotguns on Old Wheat Street are in a serious state of disrepair. Their existence, however, adds 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 are some of the last structures left in the Birth-Home Block with roll roofing (something that would have been typical of every roof during the historic period). The yards were, and are, so small, that nothing much could have been grown here. The existing weed trees that have grown up all around the edges (mostly tree-of-heaven) are the result of years of neglect and are not considered historic. Neither is the wood planter box on the porch railing at 479-481 Old Wheat Street, although it is notable for its simple form and its resemblance to Mr. Lackey's description of planter boxes used in the 1940s. Also noteworthy is the open, semi-dilapidated condition of the porches, which would have been typical and character-defining features of these double shotguns during the period of significance.



Fig. 35. Existing condition of double shotguns at intersection of Boulevard and Auburn Avenue, 1995.

530 Auburn Avenue, *The Nowell Home****Historic Condition***

James and Jennie Nowell purchased this dwelling in 1934. One of their daughters, Annie Nowell Johnson, has continued to occupy the dwelling since the death of her parents.¹⁵ Mrs. Johnson provided the information for this property in an interview conducted at her home on December 12, 1991.

During the period of significance, Mrs. Johnson was a young woman who was raising a small child alone. She and her son lived with her parents for child care assistance and financial support. Because Mrs. Johnson was an adult at the time of the study, she was able to recollect many details of the Nowells' property.

The front yard of the Nowell home was enclosed by a three-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 (figure 36). 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. Every year, Mrs. Nowell planted flowers on the inside of the hedge, facing the house, to add variety and color to the yard. Mrs. Johnson recalled a five-and-ten-cent store on Edgewood Avenue where her mother would purchase the flower seeds.

Typical of the properties on the north side of Auburn Avenue, the Nowells' front yard was quite small. Mrs. Johnson recalled that originally there had been one tree on either side of the front walk; however, the tree on the east side had to be cut down because it got too big and was growing too close to the house. The yard did have fine thin grass that Mrs. Johnson believes to have been Bermuda grass. Mrs. Johnson also recalled that her mother would "cut it with a hoe."

The front porch of the Nowell home was also typical of the neighborhood. There was a porch swing that hung from the ceiling on the west end of the porch and four chairs that surrounded it. The swing and the chairs were metal and all were painted black. The porch was the favorite gathering place for the family, especially in warm weather.

The major difference noted between the landscape of the Nowells' house and the other single-family dwellings on the Birth-Home Block was the absence of a back yard. Whereas all the other dwellings of this type had large back yards, the Nowells had none due to the proximity of an apartment building that backed up on to the Nowells' lot. As a result, the Nowells used the space on the west side of the house to place their clothesline and store their garbage. Mrs. Johnson recalled that the yard was originally a flat dirt space wide enough to accommodate a work area (figure 37).

Existing Condition

The Nowell Home is still in private ownership and is occupied by Annie Nowell Johnson. There has been no major renovation of the structure or yard, and as a result, the landscape has retained much of its historic integrity according to the oral history. The most noticeable change results from the amount of shade cast by a forty-inch-diameter

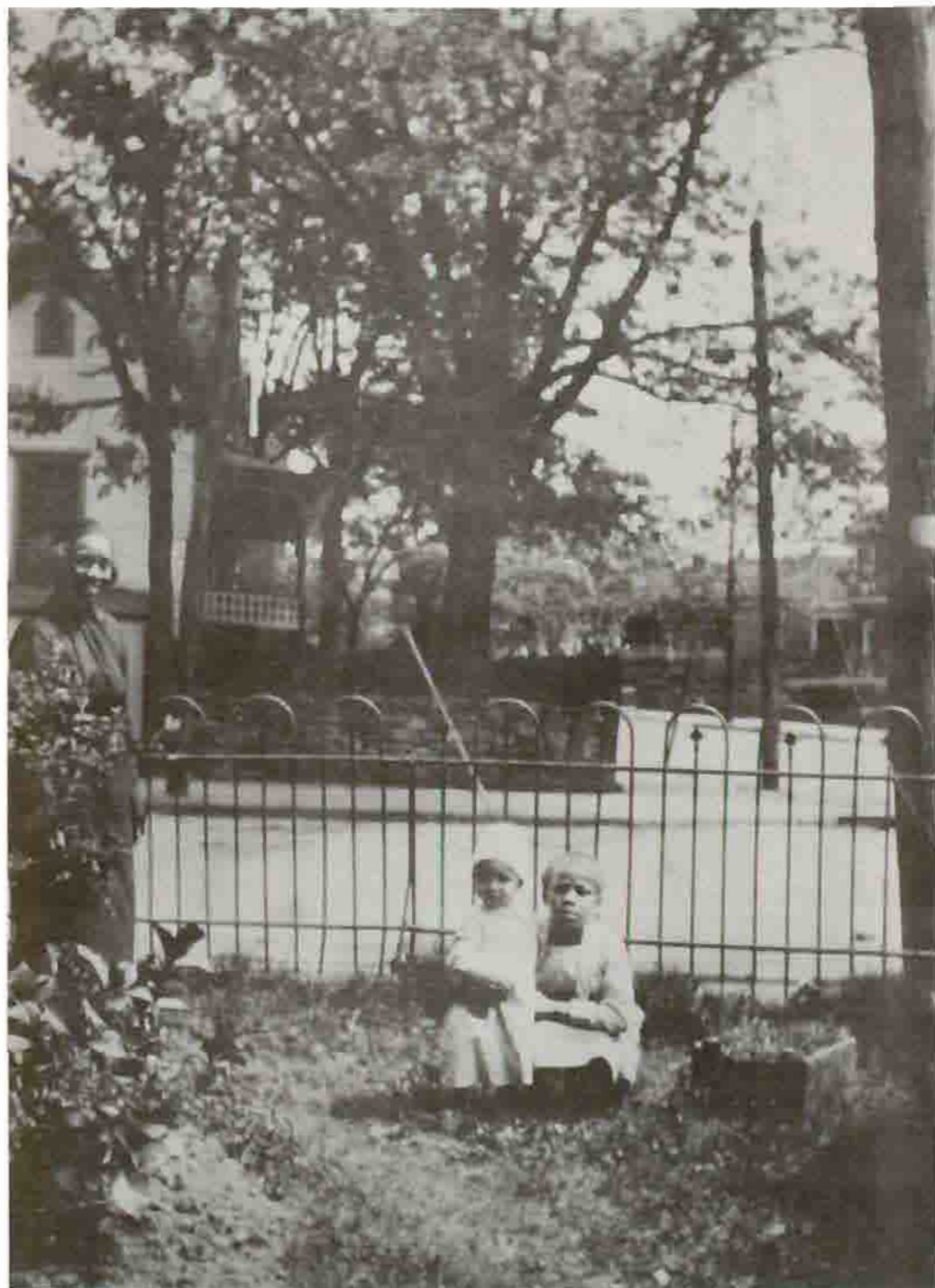
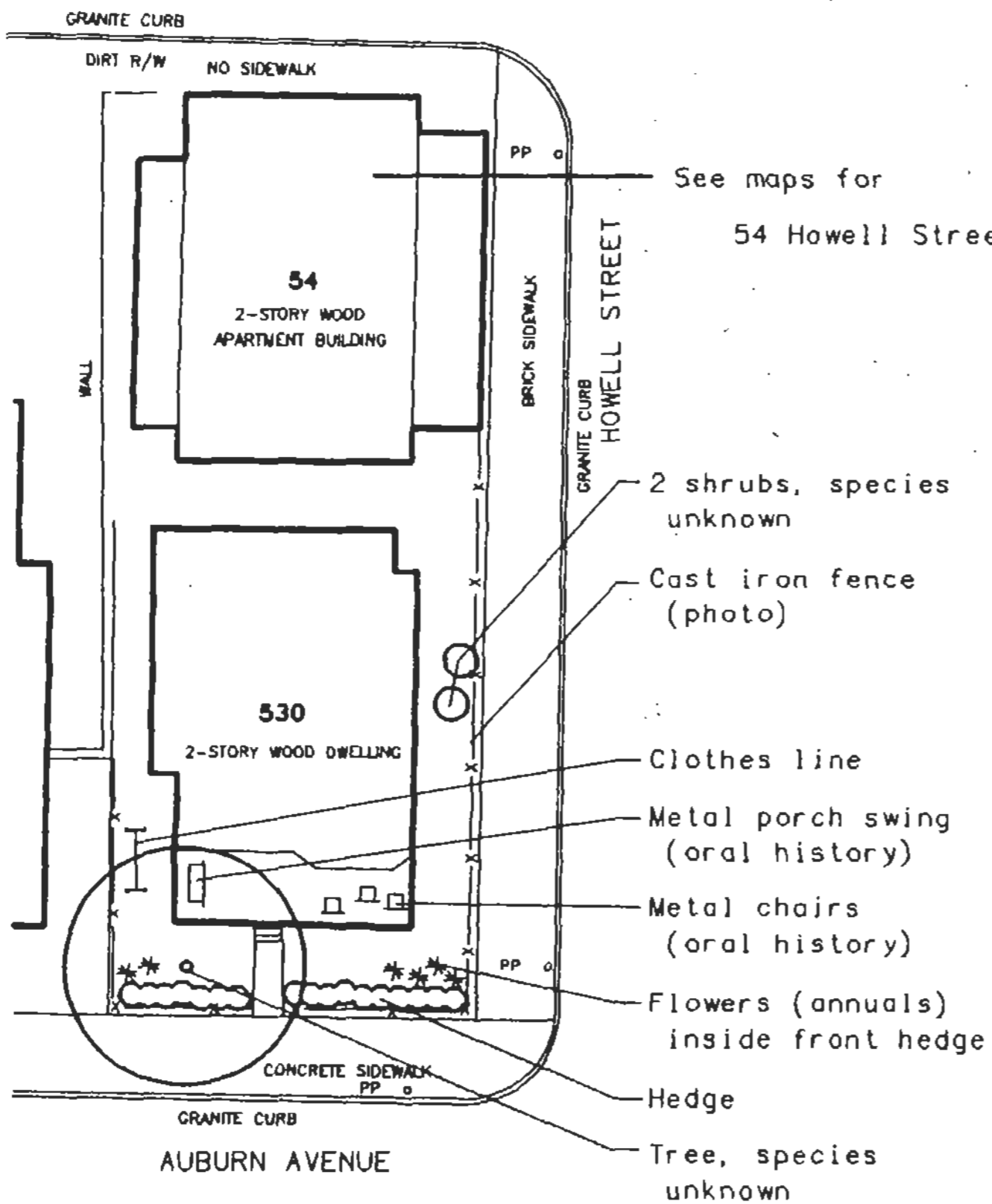


Fig. 36. Period photograph looking east from the front yard of 530 Auburn Avenue, date unknown.

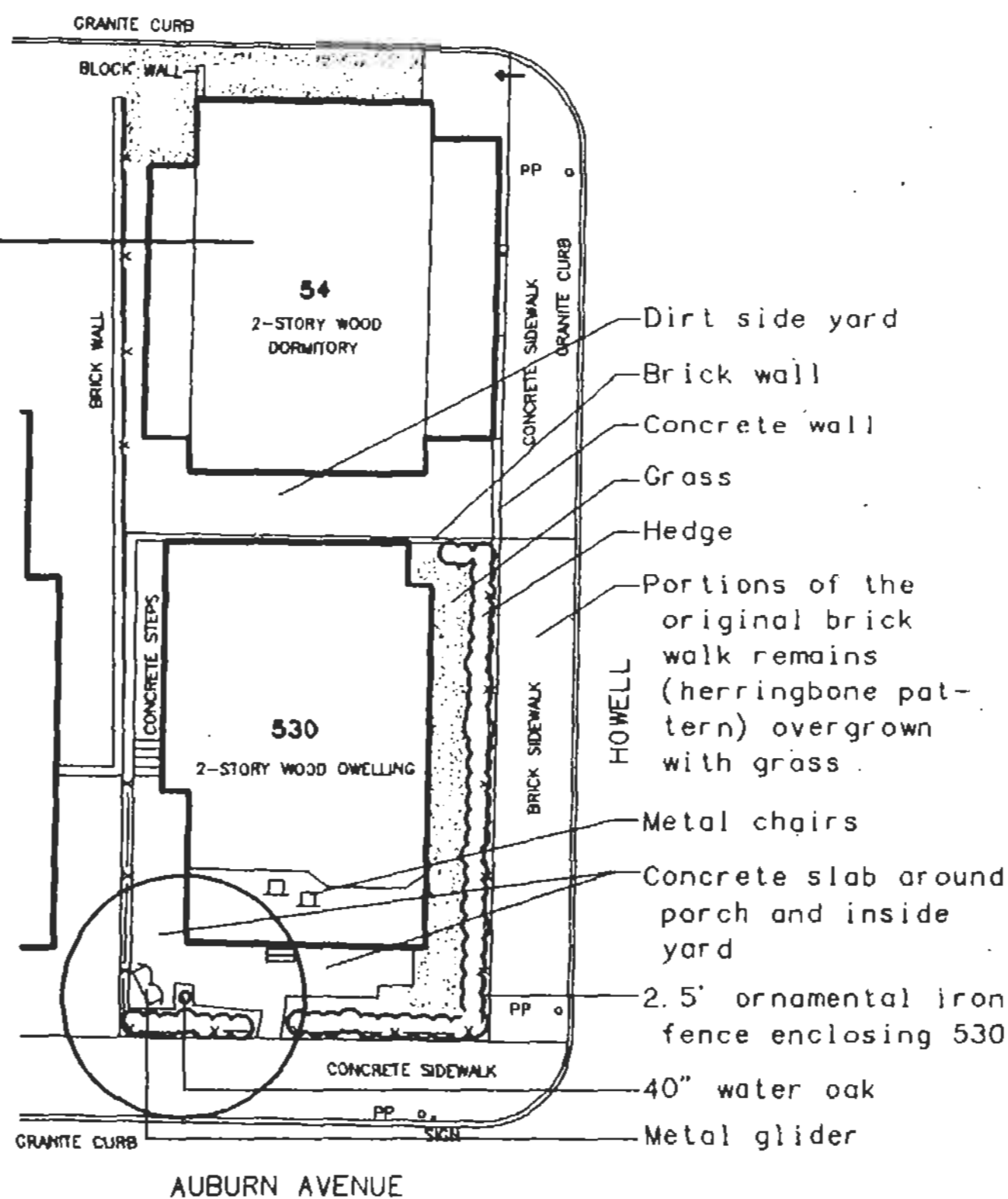
OLD WHEAT STREET

OLD WHEAT STREET



HISTORIC CONDITION

See maps for
54 Howell Street



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

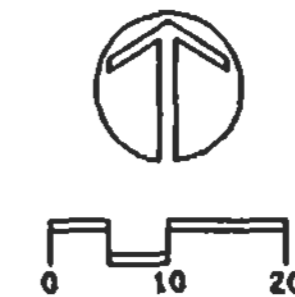
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (Nowell)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - Fence
- ⊗ Water Meter
- Chair
- ◁ Water Valve
- ⊙ Rocking Chair
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- Clothes line
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
530 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-8

ON MICROFILM

water oak (*Quercus nigra*) and the resulting lack of vegetation, especially grass, growing in the small front yard. The hedges have taken over the iron fence on two sides almost obscuring it from view. Along the west property line the fence is exposed.¹⁶ The Nowell home has no back yard because of the apartment building at the southwest corner of Howell and Old Wheat Streets (figure 37).

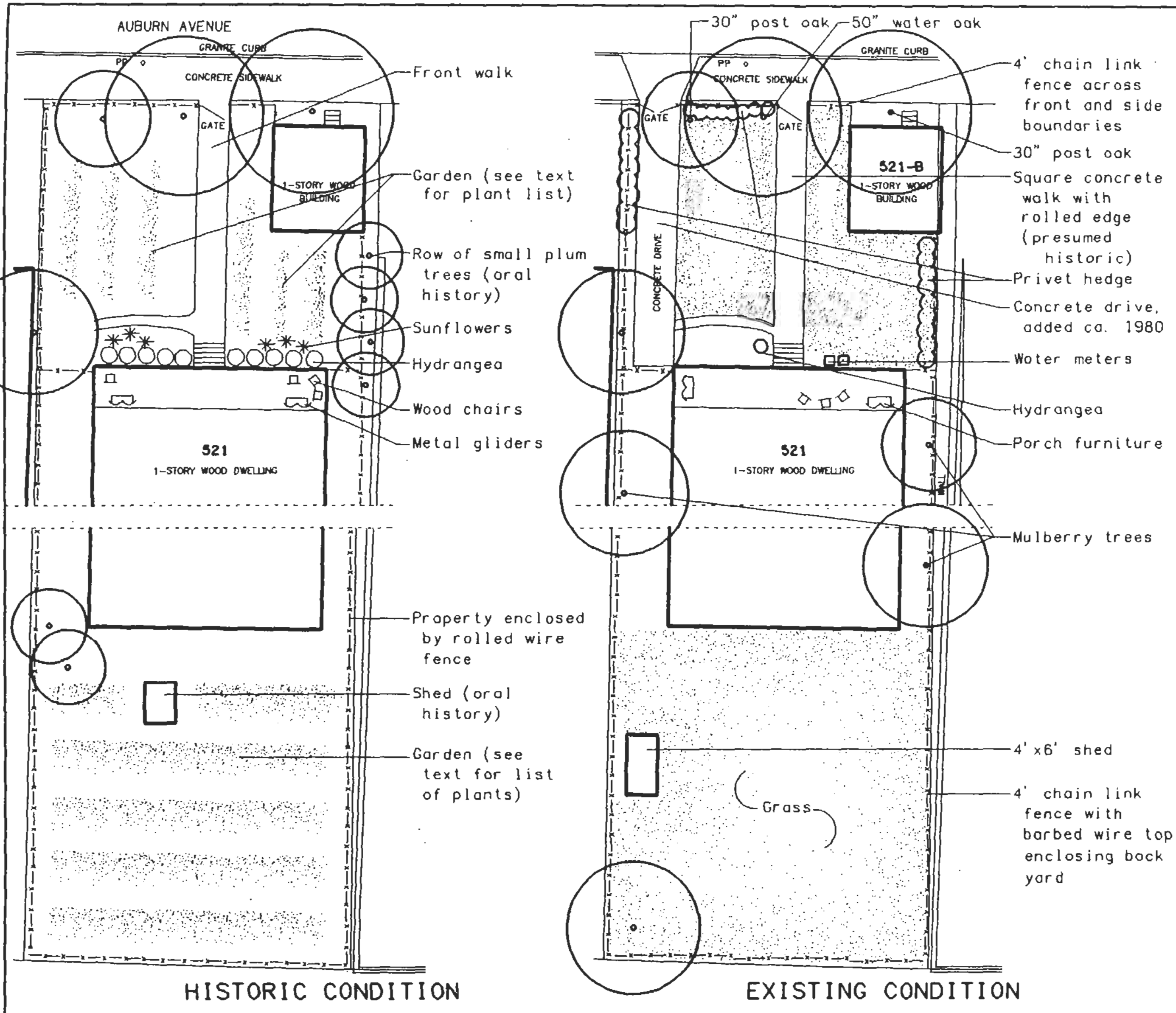
521 Auburn Avenue, *The Calhoun Home*

Historic Condition

The Calhoun Home is an Italianate style structure and is the oldest dwelling remaining on the Birth-Home Block (figure 38). It was purchased and occupied by Moses and Polly Mae Calhoun in 1913, who remained in this house until their deaths.¹⁷ Mrs. Calhoun's sister, Ida McKennon, came to live with the Calhouns in the 1940s and continues to reside there today. Mrs. McKennon provided information about the historic landscape of this property in an informal interview conducted on her front porch on December 12, 1991 (figure 39).



Fig. 38. 521 Auburn Avenue, the Calhoun Home, 1995.



Notes:

The one remaining store in the Birth-Home Block is in the front yard. It is critical to preserve this structure in order to interpret the variety and character of the neighborhood.

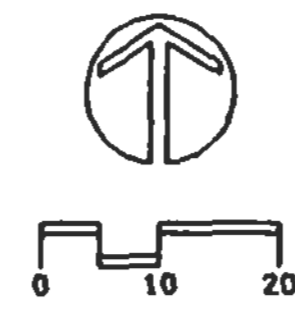
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1991 Oral History (McKennon)
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



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 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
521 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-9

ON MICROFILM



Fig. 40. "Store" at 521 1/2 Auburn Avenue, 1995.



Fig. 41. Front walk at 521 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

The Calhoun home was originally constructed as a single-family dwelling. However, consistent with changing socioeconomic patterns in the study area, it was converted to three apartments in 1931. The Calhouns lived on the premises and rented the other two apartments to a variety of tenants. 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 (figure 40).¹⁸ This structure was converted into a living space in 1936.

The historic landscape that Mrs. McKennon described was quite different than that of the other single-family dwellings. The space in the front yard was significantly larger and allowed the owners many more options as to how the space would be used. Because the Calhouns were farmers whose roots were in rural south Georgia, they chose to use the space for a large vegetable garden. Mrs. McKennon recalled that the entire west side of the front yard was taken up by a garden in which the Calhouns grew collard greens, cabbage, turnips, and onions. There was also a smaller garden on the east side of the yard where similar varieties of vegetables were grown. The entire front yard was fenced from the street and adjacent properties with rolled wire on wood supports.¹⁹ Mrs. McKennon recalled that there were hydrangeas and other bushes along the foundation of the house. Perennials, especially sunflowers, were planted in front of the shrubs to add variety and color to the yard. Plum trees were planted along the east side-yard fence, and a large oak tree was located on this same side (figure 41).

The front porch of the Calhoun residence was more typical of the block. Because the porch was rather large, the family had two gliders and four chairs, most of which were placed on the east side of the porch. All of the porch furniture was made of wood and painted dark green.

The Calhoun 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 including peas, okra, tomatoes, corn, squash, and watermelon. The Calhouns also had a small shed in the back yard where they kept their hoes, plows, and other garden tools. Mrs. McKennon noted that the family's clotheslines were also located in the back yard and were strung between trees .

Existing Condition

No access was granted NPS to do a detailed survey of the Calhoun landscape. Because it is the oldest house on the block and still privately owned, it has 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. Therefore, the survey of the back yard must be completed at a future date.

The most important feature in the yard, and to the overall streetscape, is the one-story outbuilding that is extant at the northeast corner of the lot, adjacent to the sidewalk. The

structure is resting on piers approximately eighteen inches off the ground. This structure, like the main house, is covered with siding and the original fabric and its condition could not be determined.

The front yard is enclosed by a nonhistoric four-foot chain-link fence. The front walk, however, is an interesting original detail. It is a smooth concrete walk that has a scored diamond pattern with a rolled-curb edge. This edge detail was typical of many of the old front walks, and this is one of the best surviving examples.²⁰

A concrete driveway was installed circa 1980 along the east property line into the back yard. A black iron gate was installed across the driveway (figure 39).

RESIDENTIAL YARDS WITHOUT ORAL HISTORIES

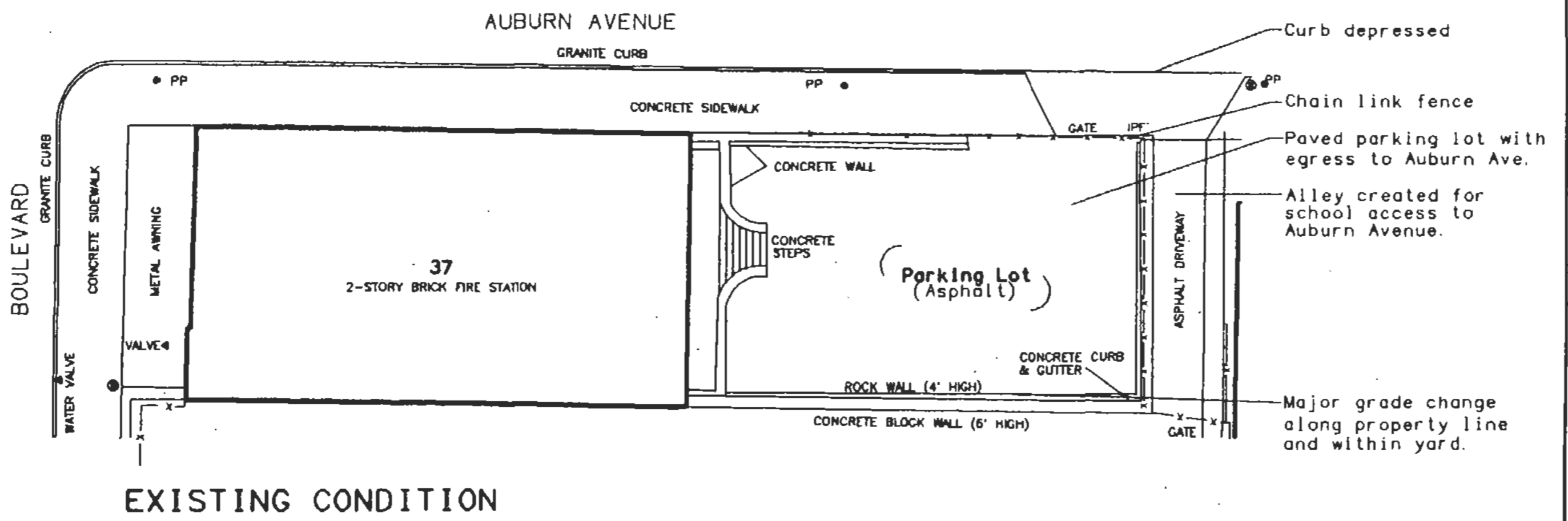
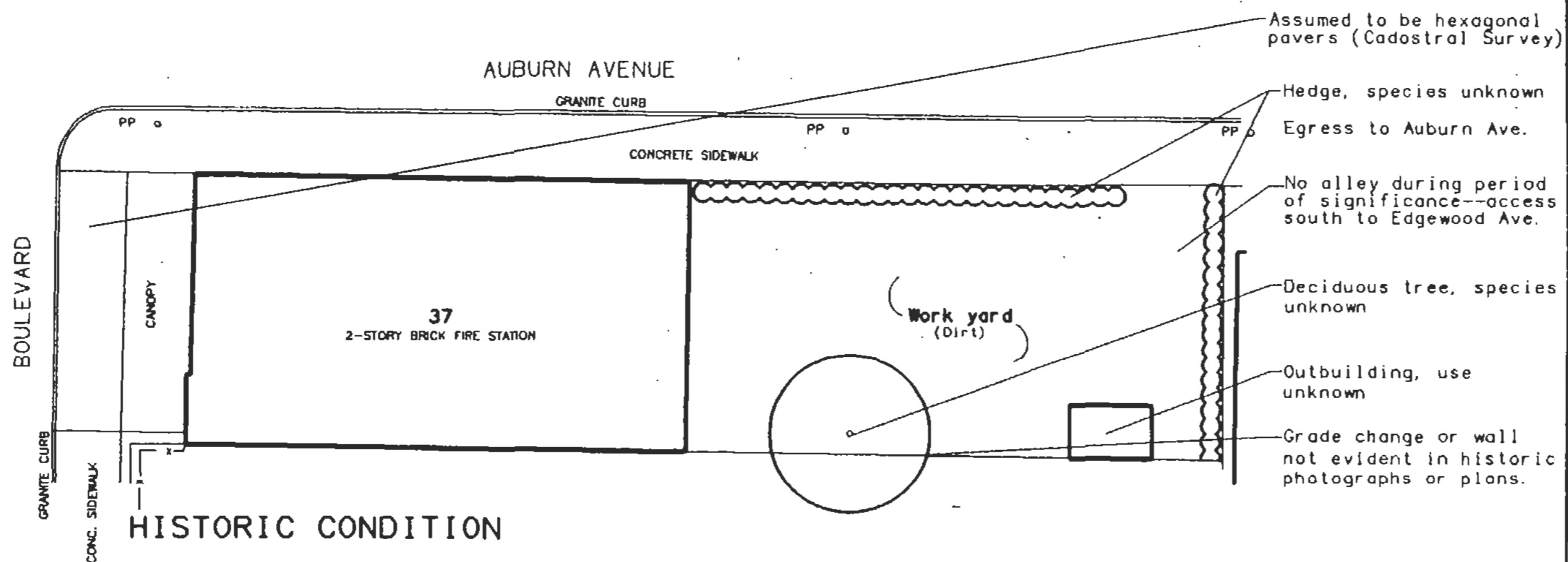
Descriptions of the pattern and function of private yards along the Birth-Home Block during the period of significance were available for only a limited number of residences. For the majority of the structures, however, no such historic documentation has been forthcoming. Although there is hope that former residents of the Birth-Home Block may still be found to interview, it is important at this time to determine treatment for all the yards where NPS is working on the structure or has immediate interest in the property. As previously stated, certain information can be ascertained about each yard from the historic maps (Sanborn Fire Insurance maps, 1937 Cadastral Survey, and 1928 City of Atlanta Topographic map) and photographs (1949 aerial photograph, and Atlanta Housing Authority Collection), as well as from the extant fabric that remains in the yards. The following descriptions are based on these sources.²¹ The residences are described in numerical sequence by address, starting at the southeast corner of Auburn Avenue and Boulevard and moving around the Birth-Home Block in a counter-clockwise fashion and ending with the double shotguns on Old Wheat Street. Names associated with certain properties are based on research completed by the Park and used where appropriate.

Unless otherwise noted, the Park does not own or have access to these sites without the owner's permission. In a few cases where access was not obtained by the Park, information on landscape features is limited to what could be seen from the street. This is noted where it affected the quality of information recorded.

37-39 Boulevard, *Fire Station No. 6*

Historic Condition

This 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 (figure 42). 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

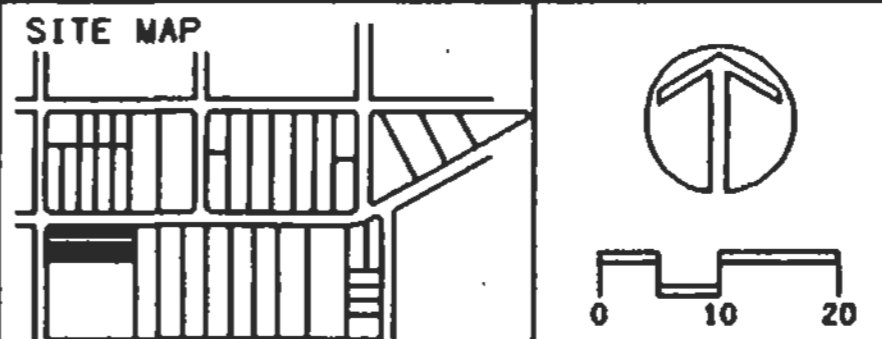


Notes:
 The 1949 aerial photograph shows considerable activity in the rear yard of the Fire Station.

Sources:
 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
 1949 Aerial photograph
 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

-x-x- Fence	⊗ Water Meter
□ Chair	◁ Water Valve
⊞ Rocking Chair	PP • Power Pole-wood
— — Clothes line	PP • Power Pole-Concrete
▨ Flower Box	○ Tree (exist.)
● Flower Pot/Can	
⋯ Hedge/Shrubs	



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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
37 Boulevard
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-10

line and was set back approximately ten feet from the rear (east) property line.²² 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.²³ Although the material of the hedge is not known, it is assumed to be privet. The 1949 aerial photograph documents an opening in the hedge allowing access onto Auburn at the northeast corner of the lot. This photograph also documents the existence of a large deciduous tree behind the fire station halfway down the south property line.

Existing Condition

The fire station is currently being rehabilitated by NPS for museum/office space. The building footprint is intact but there have been substantial changes to the back yard. Entirely paved with asphalt, the back yard grade has been raised approximately three feet above the finished ground floor of the station. This grade change begins four 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 eight-foot chain-link fence, with three strands of barbed wire across the top, and a gate at the driveway for vehicle access, encloses the site.²⁴ A ten-foot-wide strip has been taken off the back yard and paved with asphalt in order to provide access to Our Lady of Lourdes Church and School (figure 42).

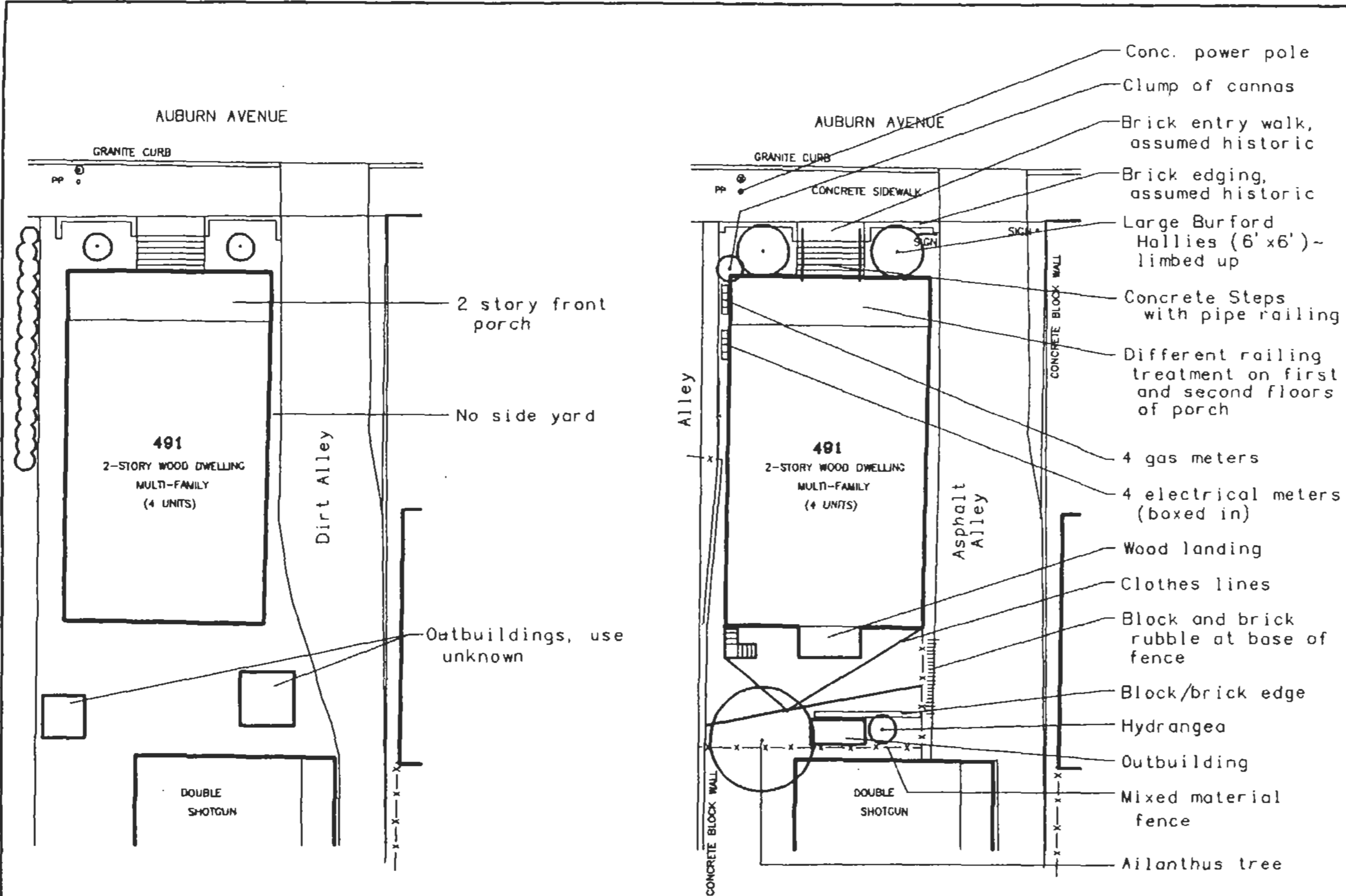
491 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

A four-unit apartment building (figure 43) with a two-story front porch was built in 1911



Fig. 43. 491 Auburn Avenue, 1995.



HISTORIC CONDITION

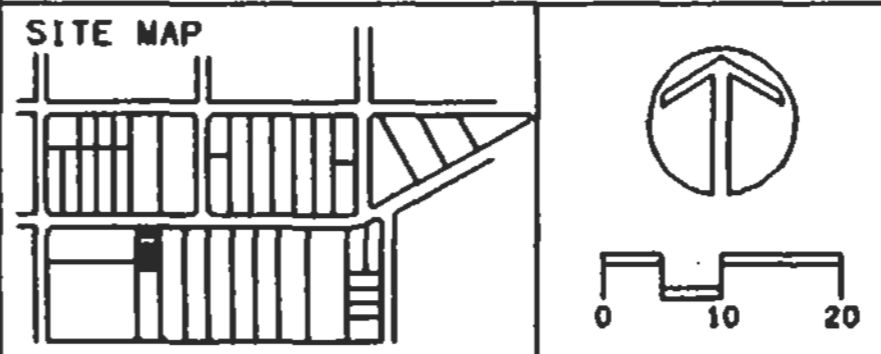
EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:
 This apartment building and the three infill double shotguns behind it were built by Alexander Hamilton, an African-American contractor, c 1911. His house is extant at 102 Howell St.

Sources:
 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
 1949 Aerial photograph
 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

-x-x Fence	⊙ Water Meter
□ Chair	◁ Water Valve
⊞ Rocking Chair	PP • Power Pole-wood
— Clothes line	PP • Power Pole-concrete
⊞ Flower Box	⊙ Tree (exist.)
⊙ Flower Pot/Can	
⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	



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 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
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BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
491 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-11

by Alexander Hamilton, "Atlanta's leading African-American contractor in the early twentieth century".²⁵ It was the first apartment building constructed on the Birth-Home Block. The building occupied 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 (approximately eleven feet) brick landing/walk, matched the width of the front steps. Two extant hollies, one each side of the walk, are assumed to be original because of their size (fourteen-inch-diameter trunks). A hedge existed between the fire station lot and the west front yard. A fifteen-foot-wide alley ran along the east property line providing access to three double shotguns immediately behind and oriented perpendicular to the apartment building. Although it is not illustrated on any map, the small back yard is assumed to have been fenced because of the closeness and diversity of the adjacent properties (fire station, double shotguns, and church/school). A small outbuilding is visible in the aerial photograph at the southwest corner of the back yard (figure 44).

Existing Condition

The four-unit apartment building is still in private ownership and the site is very much intact. An eleven-foot-wide brick landing separates the front steps from the sidewalk, and two burford hollies fill the ground space on either side of the landing because of the hollies' large sizes (seven feet tall by eight feet wide). The alley on the east side of the house is paved with asphalt.

The small back yard is enclosed by a fence of miscellaneous materials, parts of which may be historic. The outbuilding is gone. The only other feature of note is the two wire clotheslines which transverse the yard. Although the clotheslines are not considered original, their material and configuration are authentic to what has been described to have existed in yards where oral histories were available and are, therefore, significant (figure 44).

493A, B, and C Auburn Avenue, *Double Shotguns*

Historic Condition

Three small pyramidal-roof double shotguns (twenty-seven by twenty-eight 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, as the apartment building at 491 Auburn Avenue. 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 back yard 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.²⁶

In a minimum amount of space—five feet between structures, a ten-foot deep backyard 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 (figure 45). 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 (figure 46).



Fig. 45. Photograph of an Atlanta alley, 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

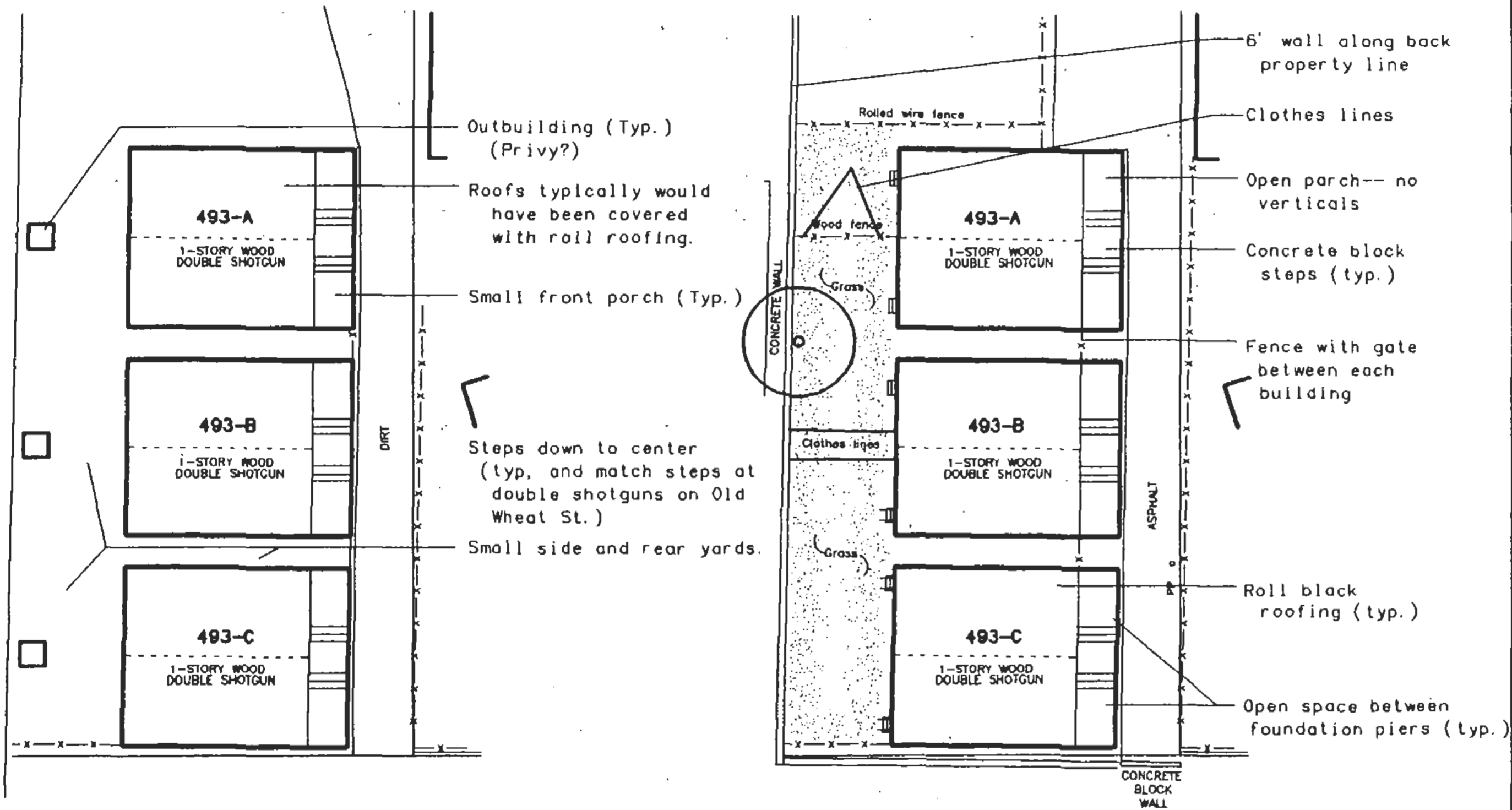
Existing Condition

The shotguns are in private ownership and their setting is remarkably intact. Although paved with asphalt, the alley still comprises the extent of the front yard, and the view across the alley to the back yard of 497 Auburn remains undisturbed. The integrity of the shotguns--double front porches, open foundations, missing balusters, and rolled roofing--contributes significantly to the space (figure 47).

The shallow back yards seem even smaller because of the nonhistoric retaining wall and school building (Our Lady of Lourdes School on Boulevard) that now defines the rear (west) property line. Chain-link fence gates, set between the front corners of the shotguns, prevent access to the back yards (figure 46).



Fig. 47. 493 A, B, & C Auburn Avenue--alley of double shotguns, 1995.



HISTORIC CONDITION

EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

The most important space on the Birth-Home Block both for its historic integrity and as the only alley of its kind remaining in the area.

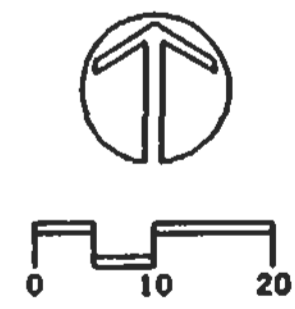
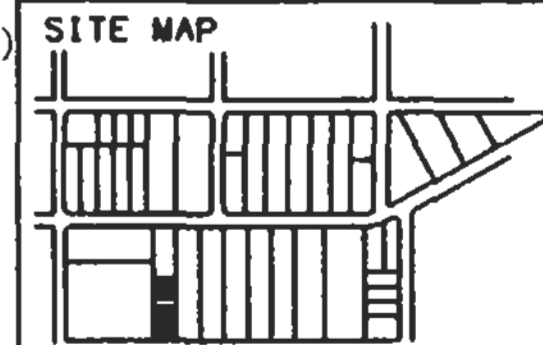
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Con
- ▨ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
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BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
493 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

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 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-12

497 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

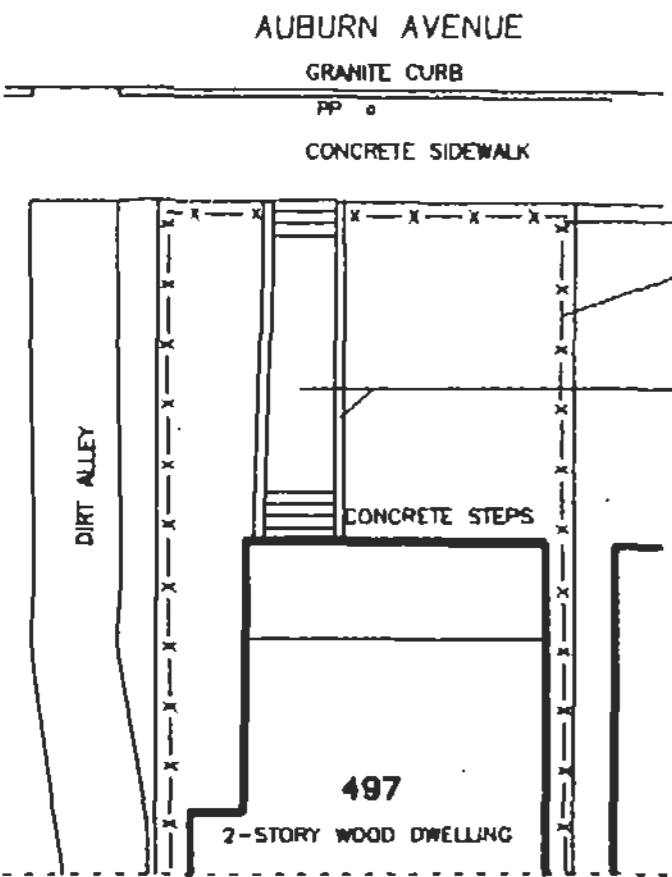
A large single-family residence built c. 1905 occupied this large deep lot. The house had a generous front yard (setback from the sidewalk was the same as the Birth Home next door), and a long narrow back yard ran the length of the three double shotguns that sat across the alley along the west property line. There was a narrow side yard, approximately five feet wide, between 497 and 501 Auburn Avenue with the property line splitting the space (figure 48).



Fig. 48. 497 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

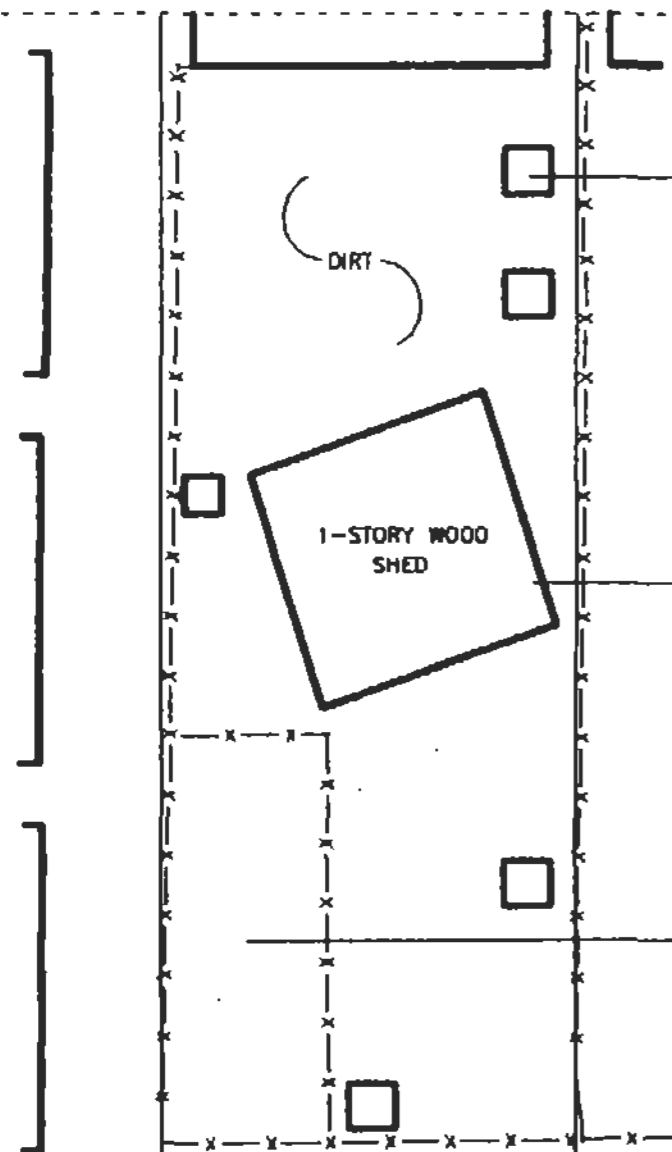
A low wall ran along the front property line raising the front yard approximately eighteen inches above the sidewalk. Off center to the west, three steps were built into the wall. At the top of the steps a herringbone-pattern brick walk, with a border of bricks on edge, ran straight to the porch steps, 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.

Fig. 49



Fence, material unknown
 Brick walk and edging (presumed historic)
 CONCRETE STEPS

497
 2-STORY WOOD DWELLING



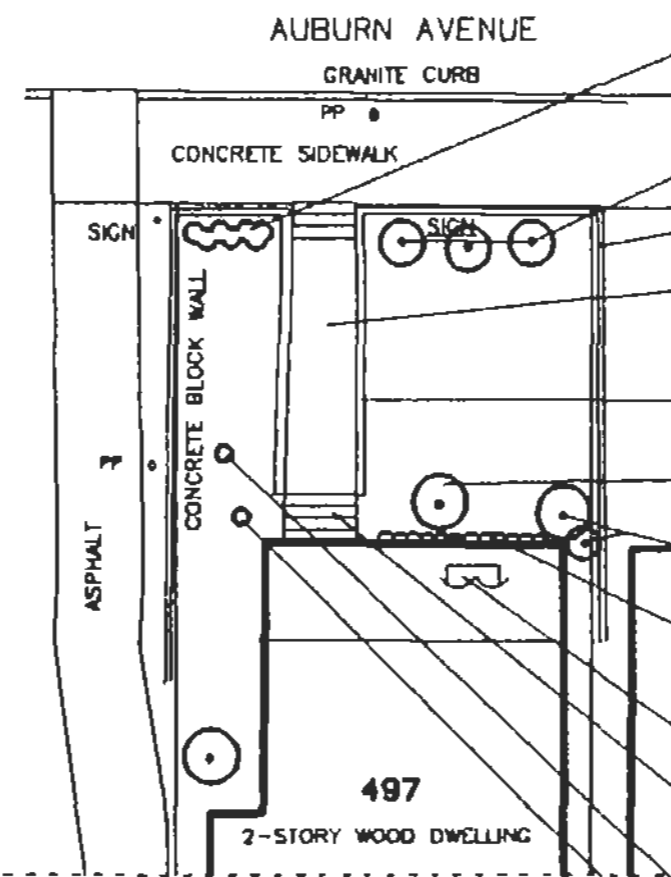
Miscellaneous outbuildings (Typ.), use unknown
 DIRT

1-STORY WOOD SHED

Garage/shed

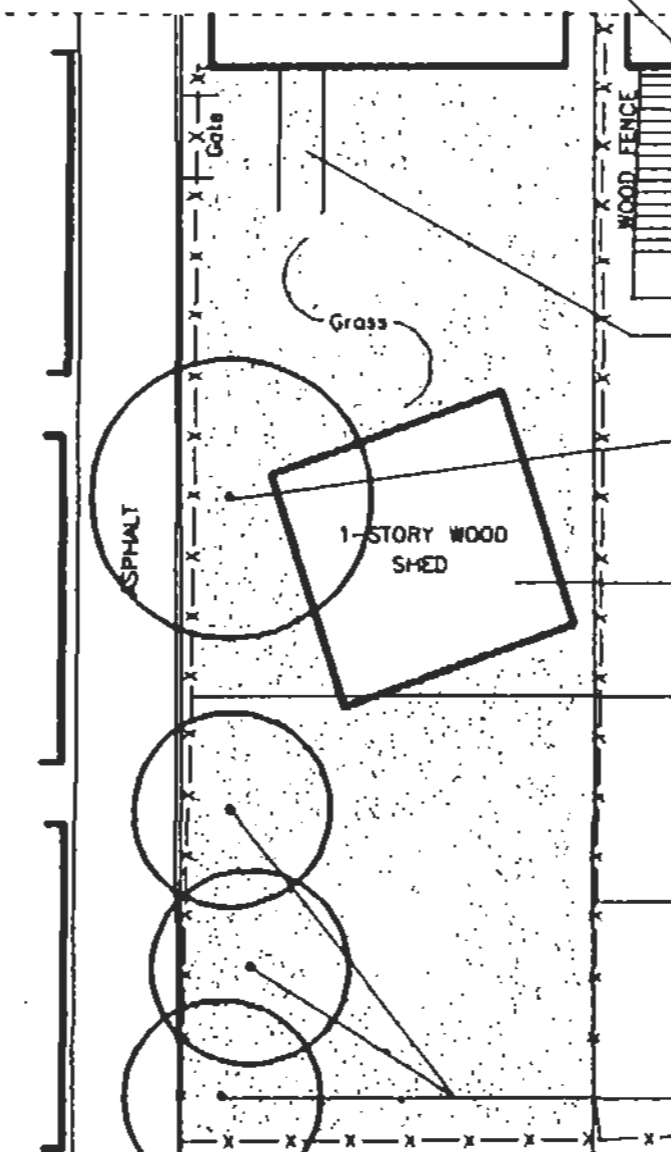
Fenced area - possibly garden

HISTORIC CONDITION



Mixed hedge- privet and Rose of Sharon
 Eleagnus shrubs
 Concrete block wall
 Brick walk - basket weave pattern
 Sawtooth brick edge
 Privet
 Rose of Sharon shrubs
 Ivy growing along foundation
 Metal glider
 Concrete block steps, not original
 Vent pipe

497
 2-STORY WOOD DWELLING



Hose bibb
 Path covered with carpet
 Pecan tree
 Garage/shed
 Fence of mixed materials, rolled wire and metal posts, possibly historic
 Birth-Home board fence, see 501 Aub. Ave.
 Paper mulberry trees

EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

As of spring 1995, this property is still privately owned. High degree of integrity and especially significant because it is next door to the Birth-Home.

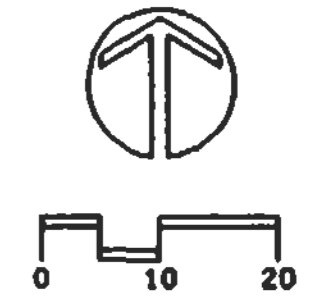
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊕ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole-wood
- PP • Power Pole-concrete
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
 497 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO. 489-80017-13
 DATE: April 1995

ON MICROFILM

The back yard was fenced in except for a break at the southwest corner of the house where an opening (approximately ten to twelve feet wide) allowed vehicle access to a shed/garage that was placed mid-back yard. The shed was skewed off perpendicular approximately thirty degrees in order to accommodate automobile maneuverability from the awkward corner entrance (figure 50).



Fig. 50. Shed behind 497 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

Existing Condition

Still privately owned, the house and setting of 497 Auburn Avenue retain a high degree of integrity. Concrete block front steps replace older--most likely wood--steps. A concrete block retaining wall (material similar to front steps) runs along the west front yard and along the sidewalk edge. The remnants of an overgrown privet hedge sits atop the wall. The other notable plant in the front yard is a rose of Sharon (*Hibiscus syriacus*) bush at the east corner of the front porch.

The back yard is a one-of-a-kind landscape remnant on the Birth-Home Block. The key feature of the historic yard, a garage/out-building set on a cockeyed angle, remains remarkably intact. The fence along the west property line is a mix of wire materials (rolled wire, chicken wire of different gauges, etc.) on wood and metal supports. It is assumed to be historic because it represents a type of fence that has been described at other locations. A gate of wire and wood exists in what would approximate the historic location of the opening to the back yard. The back yard is densely shaded by paper mulberries and water oaks growing along the property's edge (figure 49).

503 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

This structure was built c. 1895 at the same time as 501 Auburn Avenue (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.²⁷ 503 Auburn has the same front yard setback and deep back yard that characterized most of the houses along southside 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 (figure 51). 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 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 and that the back yard was fenced. These are distinguishable from the aerial photograph (figure 52).

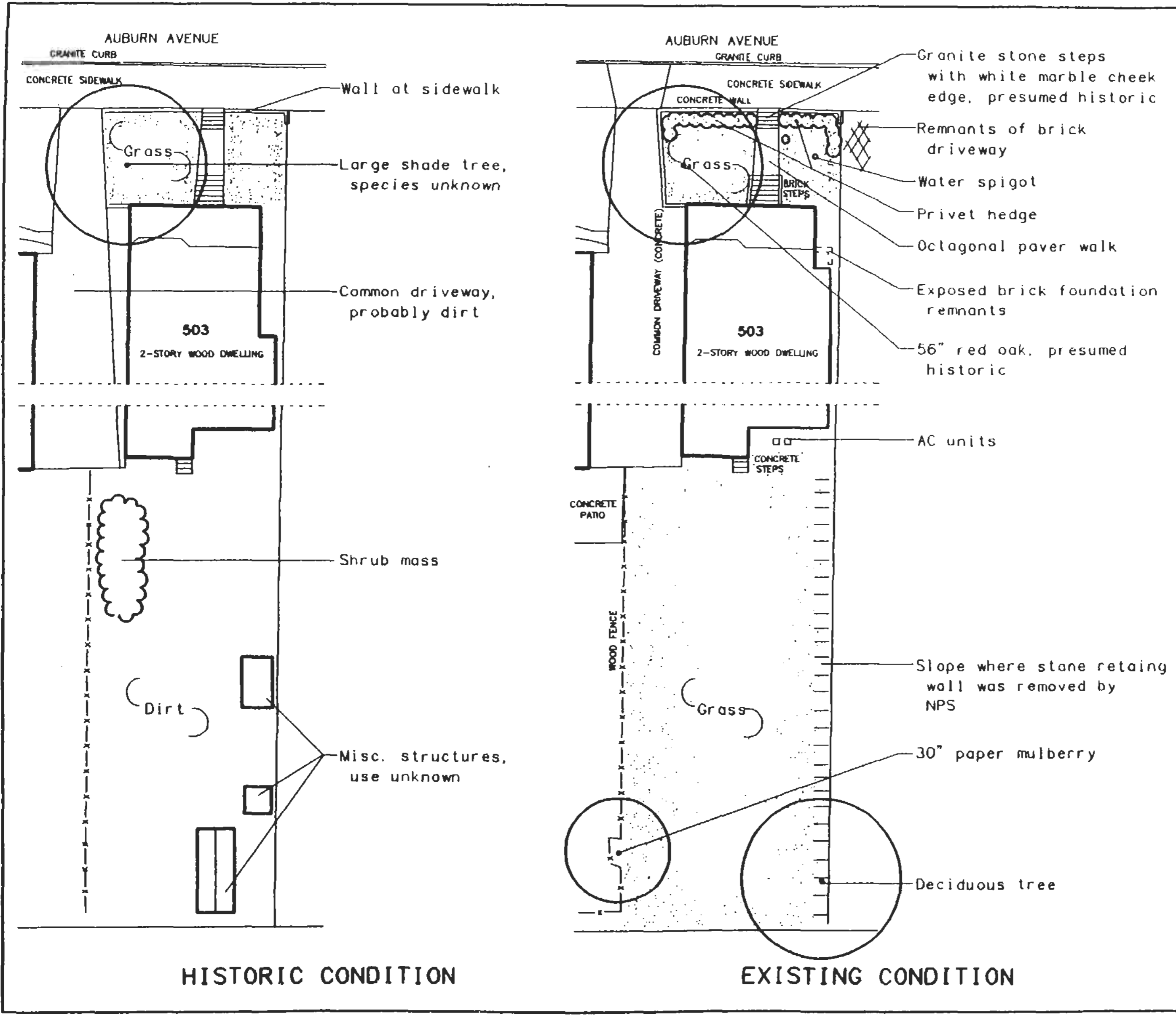


Fig. 51. Detail of front steps at 503 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

Existing Condition

This property is owned by the King Center. The existing front yard landscape of 503 Auburn Avenue approximates the historic setting. The fifty-six-inch diameter southern red oak (*Quercus falcata*) is, and was, the character-defining feature in the front yard. A hedge atop the low retaining wall defines the sidewalk from the front yard. The steps at the sidewalk up to the front yard--rough-faced granite with marble edging--are most likely original to the 1890s house. However, the octagonal-paver front walk and the revised porch with brick steps, cheek walls, and piers supporting the porch columns, are later changes. Because this work so closely resembles the porch treatment directly across the street at 506 Auburn Avenue (built 1933), it is assumed these changes at 503 Auburn date to within the period of significance. The only foundation shrubs are two wax-leaf ligustrum (*Ligustrum japonicum*). These, because of their species and small size, are not assumed to be historic.

Everything of historic value is gone from the back yard (date unknown). A thick stand of grass covers the yard. Two large, twenty-inch and thirty-inch diameter, paper mulberries grow along the west property line (Birth Home) fence. Because of their weedy and fast-growing nature, the mulberries are 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 c. 1980. A grassed bank is all that remains to define this line (figure 52).



Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - - - Fence	⊙ Water Meter
□ Chair	◁ Water Valve
◻ Rocking Chair	⊕ Power Pole
— Clothes line	⊙ Tree (exist.)
▨ Flower Box	
● Flower Pot/Can	
⋯ Hedge/Shrubs	

SITE MAP

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
503 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-14

ON MICROFILM

509 Auburn Avenue

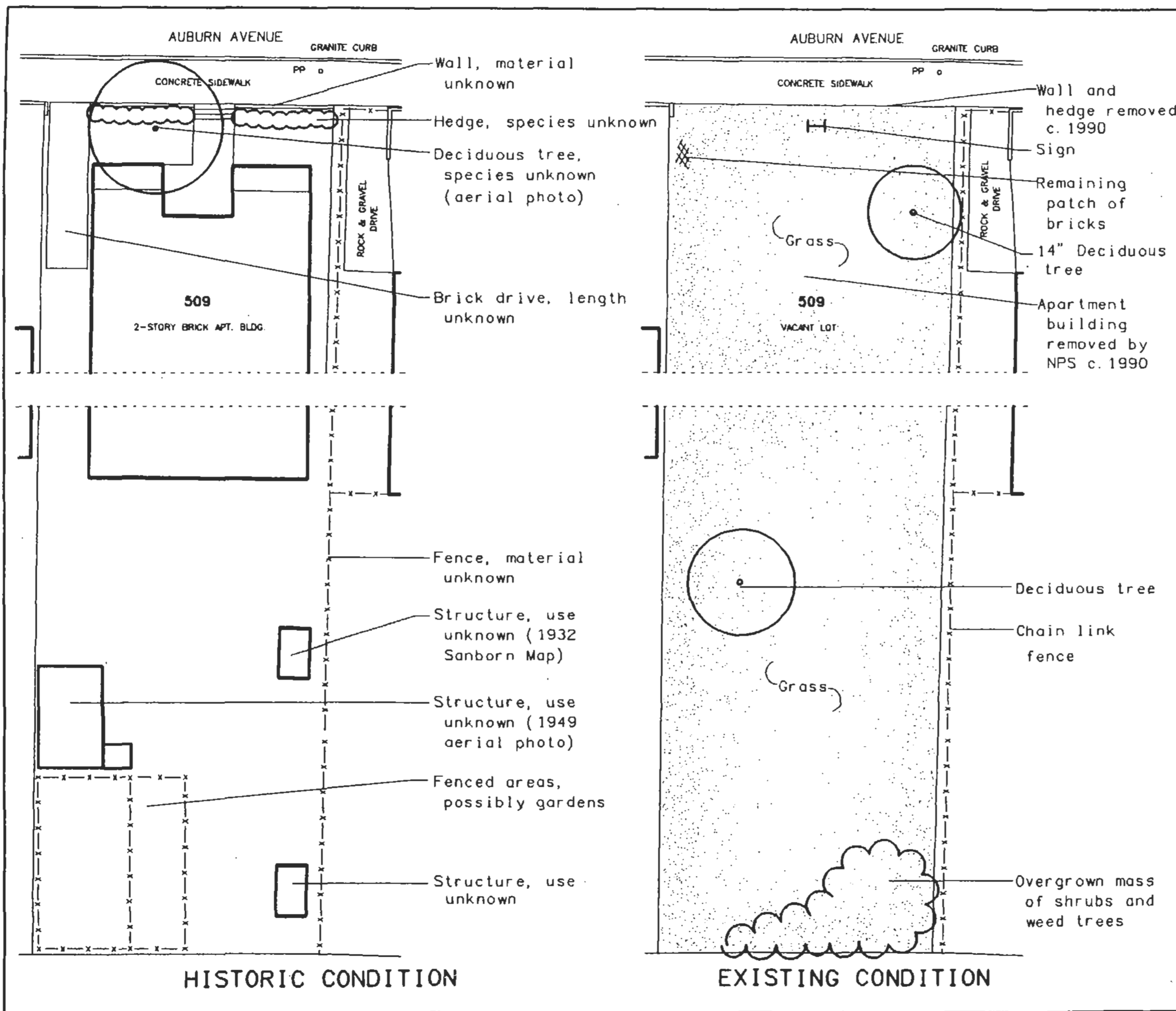
Historic Condition

The building at 509 Auburn Avenue was built c. 1930 as apartments for working-class blacks. 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 ten 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 (figure 53).

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 is a small outbuilding. On the Sanborn map the outbuilding is illustrated along the east property line, approximately a third of the way back, while in the aerial photograph a building of identical size is pictured in the same spot only along the west property line. Other features recorded on the aerial photograph are what seems to be a piece of fence running from the middle of the back of the building to a point approximately on line with the face of the outbuilding that divides the yard in half, and in the southwest corner, a square plot, beginning at the rear of the outbuilding, that appears to be a garden.

Existing Conditions

The 1930s apartment building was torn down and the site grassed by NPS c. 1990. Nothing has replaced it to date. 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, twenty-four-inch-diameter, pecan tree in the back west corner of the yard is assumed to date to the historic period (figure 53).



Notes:

NPS was allowed to remove the apartment building because of deteriorated condition with the stipulation that when a new building was constructed it would include elements from the historic structure.

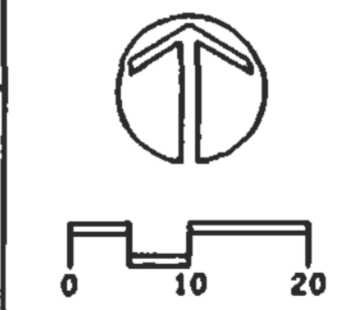
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- ⊠ Chair
- ⊞ Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP ○ Power Pole
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
509 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO. 489-80017-15
 DATE: April 1995

515 Auburn Avenue, *The Faison Home*

Historic Condition

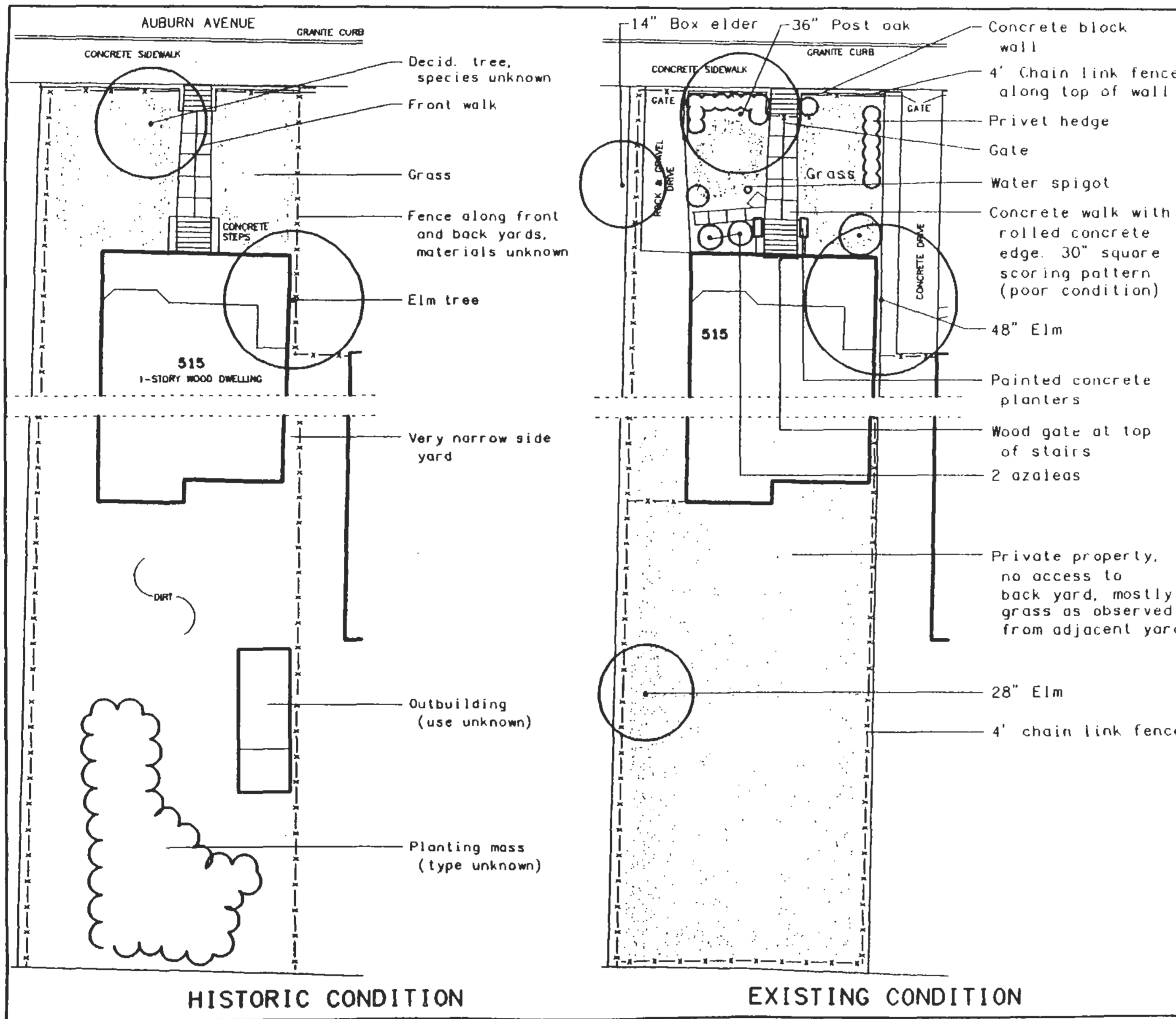
This was one of two, one-story raised cottages constructed on the Birth-Home Block. It was built c. 1909 and its original owner was an African American, Charles Faison, who lived here until 1940 (figure 54). The house sat on a large lot with a front setback fifteen



Fig. 54. 515 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

feet deeper than its western neighbor, 509 Auburn Avenue, but not as deep as 521 Auburn Avenue, its neighbor to the east which sat back an additional fifteen feet. A low wall ran along the front property line, although the 1937 Cadastral survey records 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 documents 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 (figure 55).



Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - - - Fence	⊙ Water Meter
□ Chair	◁ Water Valve
⊠ Rocking Chair	PP • Power Pole
— — Clothes line	⊙ Tree (exist.)
▨ Flower Box	● Flower Pot/Can
⊙ Flower Pot/Can	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs



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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
515 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-16

ON MICROFILM

Existing Condition

The existing conditions survey of this private property was done from the sidewalk and only for the front yard. Historic features in the front yard remain relatively intact. The same low wall that defines the front edge of the properties on the south side of the Birth-Home Block is extant here at 515 Auburn Avenue. A privet hedge tops the wall for most of the distance with one notable gap at the east end. A twenty-inch-diameter post oak (*Quercus stellata*) sits just behind the hedge on the west side of the front yard. Two azaleas are planted on the east side of the front porch. A thirty-inch-diameter water oak is growing on the east property line, midway along the side of the front porch. The front walk is the original concrete, scored with paired squares and a rolled-curb edge. A four-foot chain link fence encloses the yard.

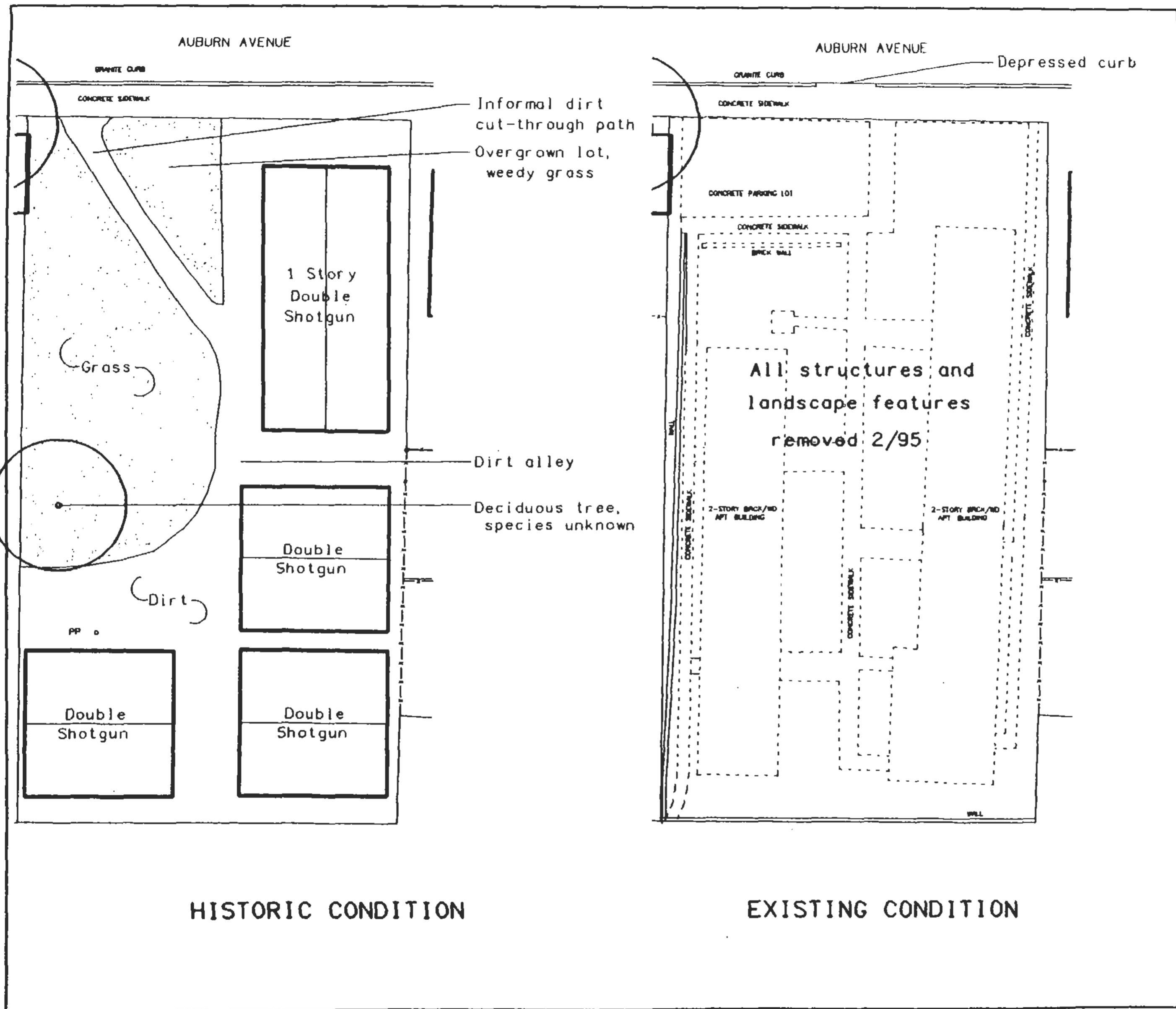
Because of dense growth of vegetation along the side-yard fence, a twenty-eight-inch elm (*Ulmus parviflora*) is the only back yard feature that was surveyed (figure 55).

531-533 Auburn Avenue***Historic Condition***

Two historic names for this property are illustrated on period maps. The 1928 City of Atlanta topographic map labels this complex of four buildings (three pyramidal roof double shotguns and one rectangular duplex) as the Baptist Memorial Institute School, while on the 1932 Sanborn map this same area is referred to as the Sylvia Bryant Baptist Sunday School and Dormitory. No records from either of these institutions have been found, however, and nothing remains of the historic structures or landscape. Two apartment buildings were built on this site in 1954 and demolished by the NPS in spring of 1995 (figure 56).

Existing Condition

The existing condition is a grassed site (figure 56).



Notes:

Many names appear on maps for this cluster that was used as living space for a theological institute. It is rumored that Daddy King lived here when met the future Mrs. King.

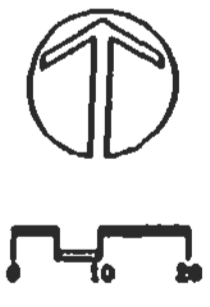
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - Fence
- ⊠ Chair
- ⊞ Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊞ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP o Power Pole - wood
- ⊞ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
531 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-17

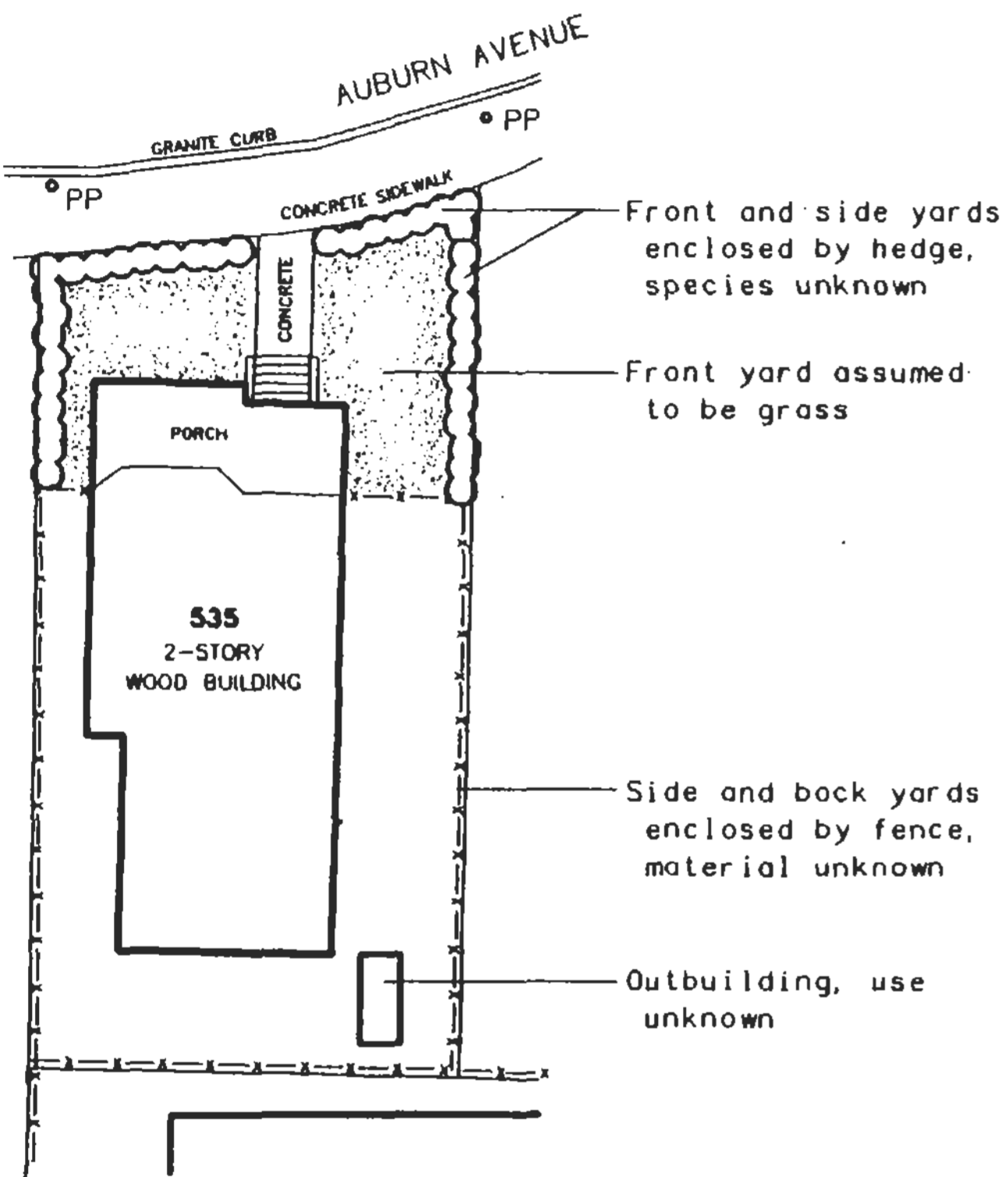
ON MICROFILM

535 Auburn Avenue, C. L. Harper Home***Historic Condition***

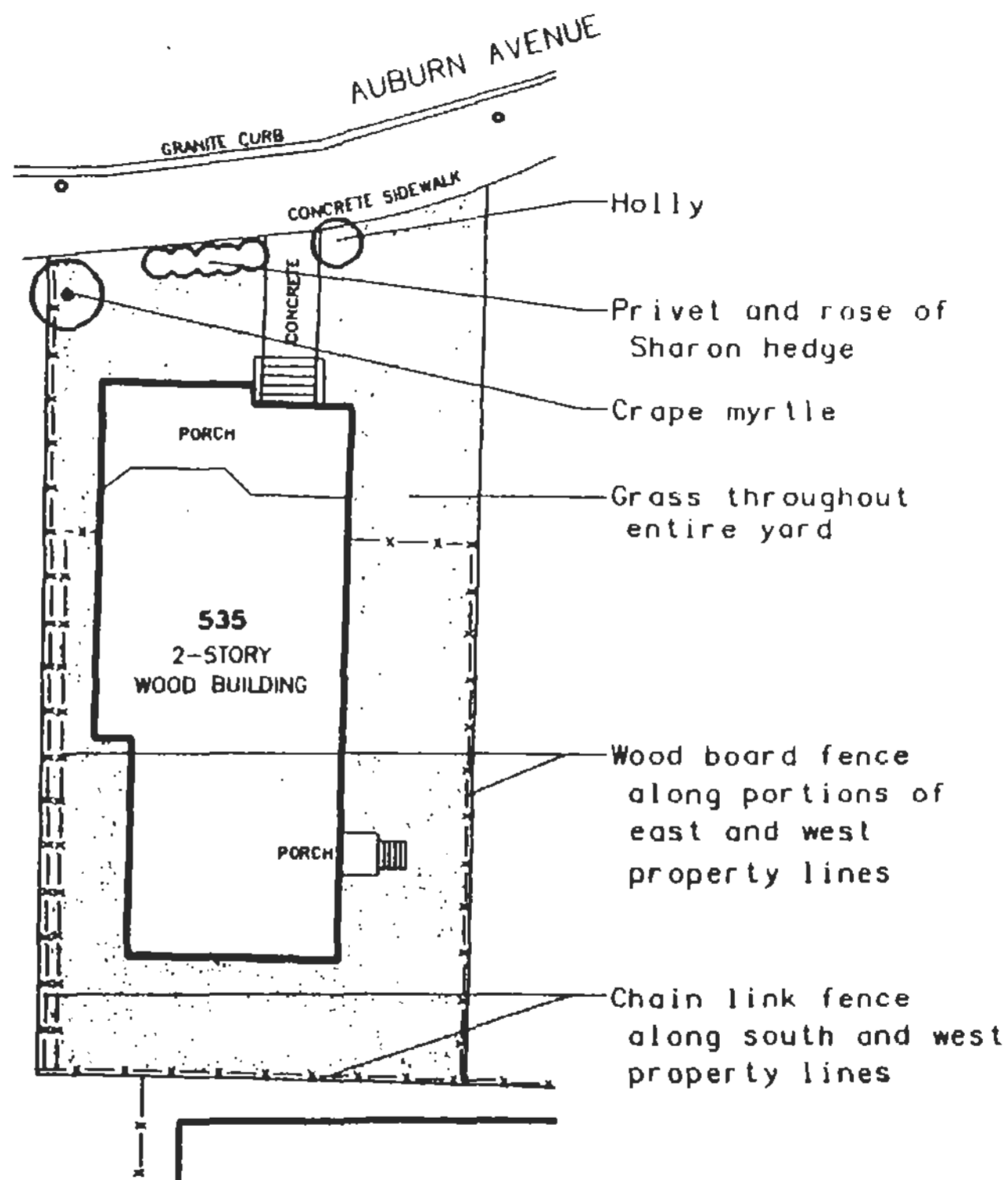
Charles L. Harper owned and occupied this c. 1895 house from 1910 to 1945. He was the first African-American high school principal in the city of Atlanta. The two-story house, with a one-story rear addition, occupied most of the small site. The remaining yard space was equally distributed around the house. The Cadastral survey documents a hedge across the front property line and halfway down the side property lines. The rear yard is assumed to have been fenced in, and a small outbuilding is documented on the Sanborn map in the back yard at the southeast corner. This outbuilding is not evident on the aerial photograph (figure 57).

Existing Condition

NPS completed the rehabilitation of this house in the fall of 1993. Except for the mixed hedge of abelia (*Abelia grandiflora*), privet, and rose of Sharon across the front property line, and a twenty-four-inch caliper crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*) that grows just behind the hedge on the west property line, no landscape features remain in the small yard of 535 Auburn Avenue (figure 57).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

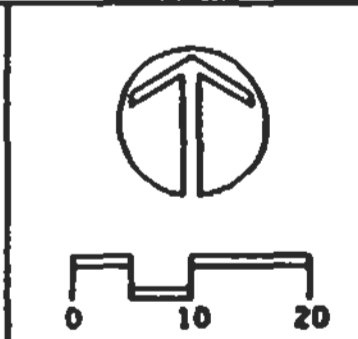
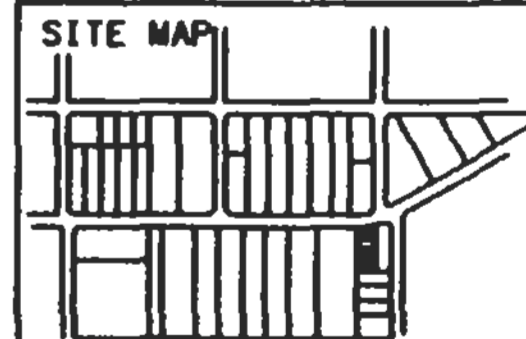
Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - - Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
535 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-18

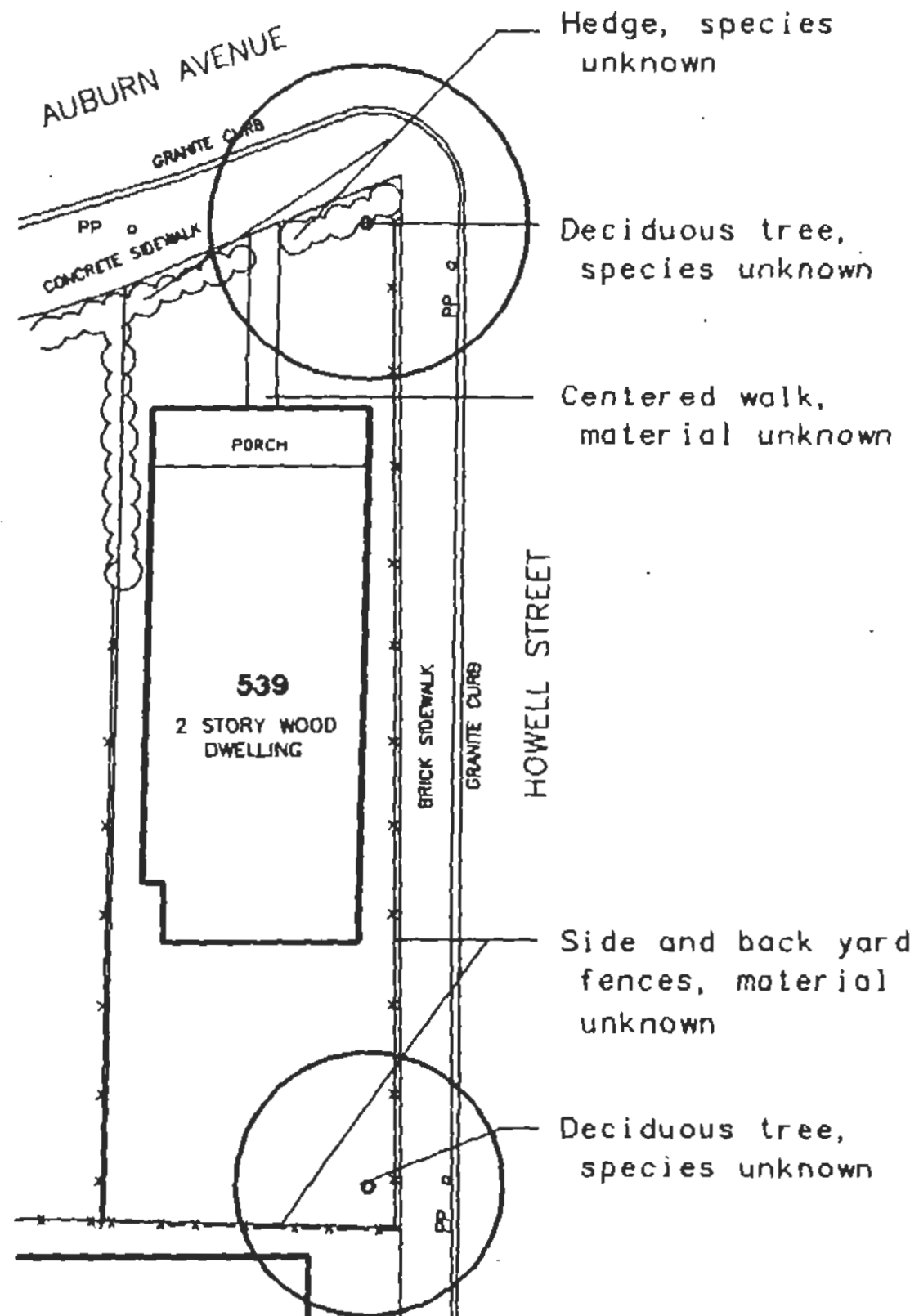
ON MICROFILM

539 Auburn Avenue***Historic Condition***

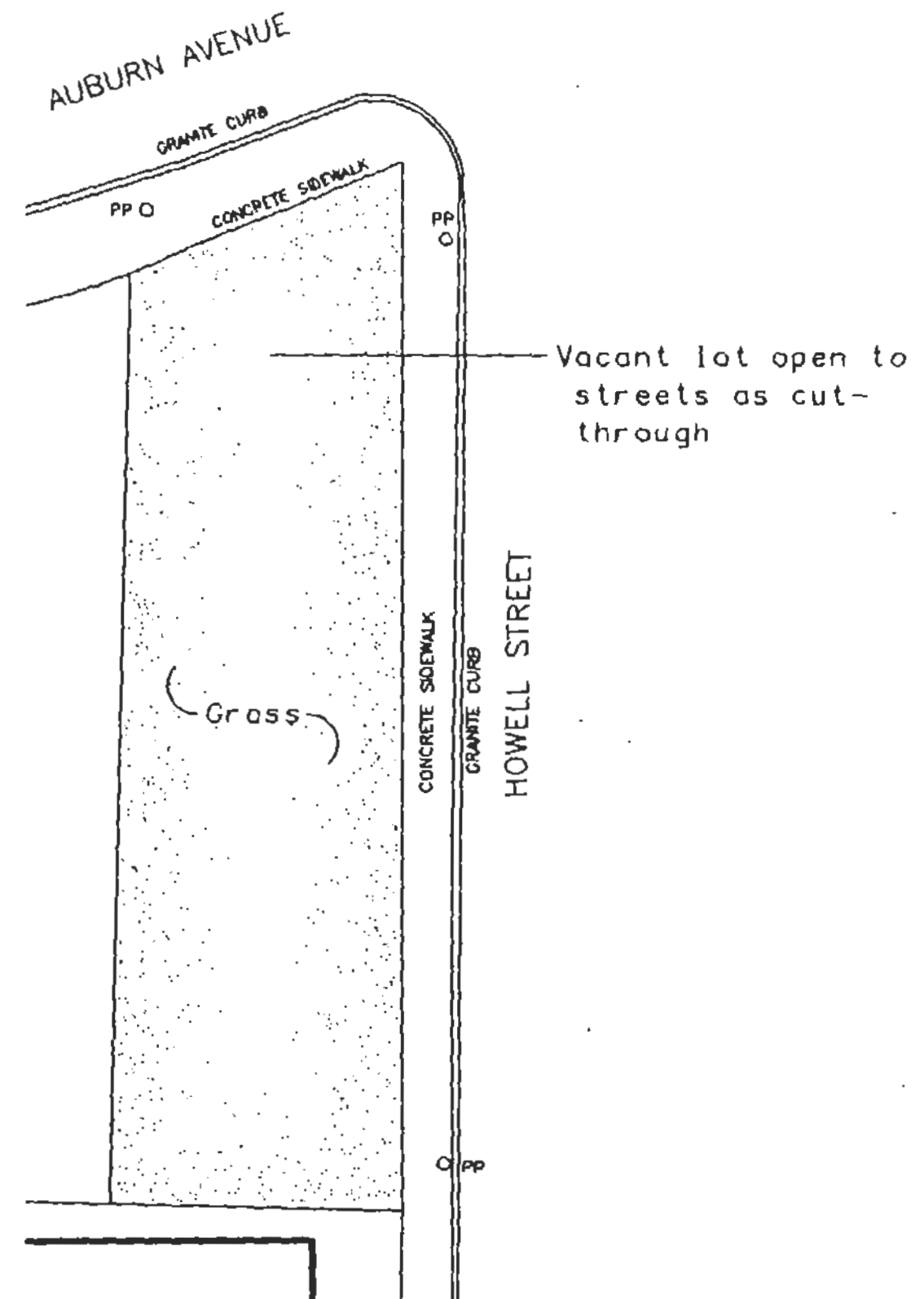
A two-story duplex is recorded on the 1932 Sanborn map and 1949 aerial photograph on this narrow lot at the southwest corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street. The Cadastral survey records a hedge across the front property line and a fence down the east (side) property line (material unknown). The shadow of a large deciduous tree is documented on the aerial photograph at the northeast property corner (figure 58).

Existing Condition

Nothing remains of the house or yard at this address. The site is a vacant, grassed lot (figure 58).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

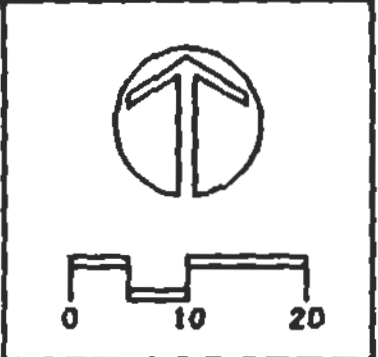
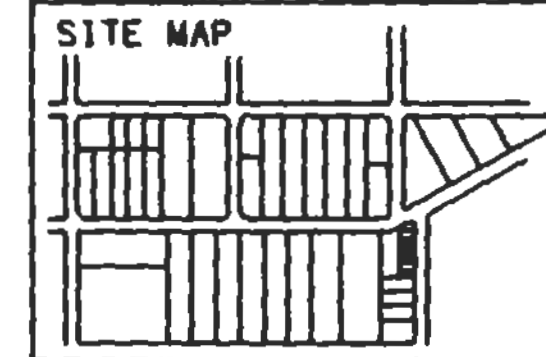
Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey by Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
539 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO. 489-80017-19
DATE: April 1995

ON MICROFILM

28, 24, 20, 18, and 14 Howell Street

Historic Condition

These five small houses were constructed at two periods: c. 1895 for 28, 24, and 20 Howell Street; and c. 1927 for 18 and 14 Howell. All were constructed on tiny lots with a shallow front yard set back from Howell Street.

The Cadastral survey records 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 records side-yard fences between every lot and a front fence at 28, 18, and 14 Howell Street. No hedges are recorded.

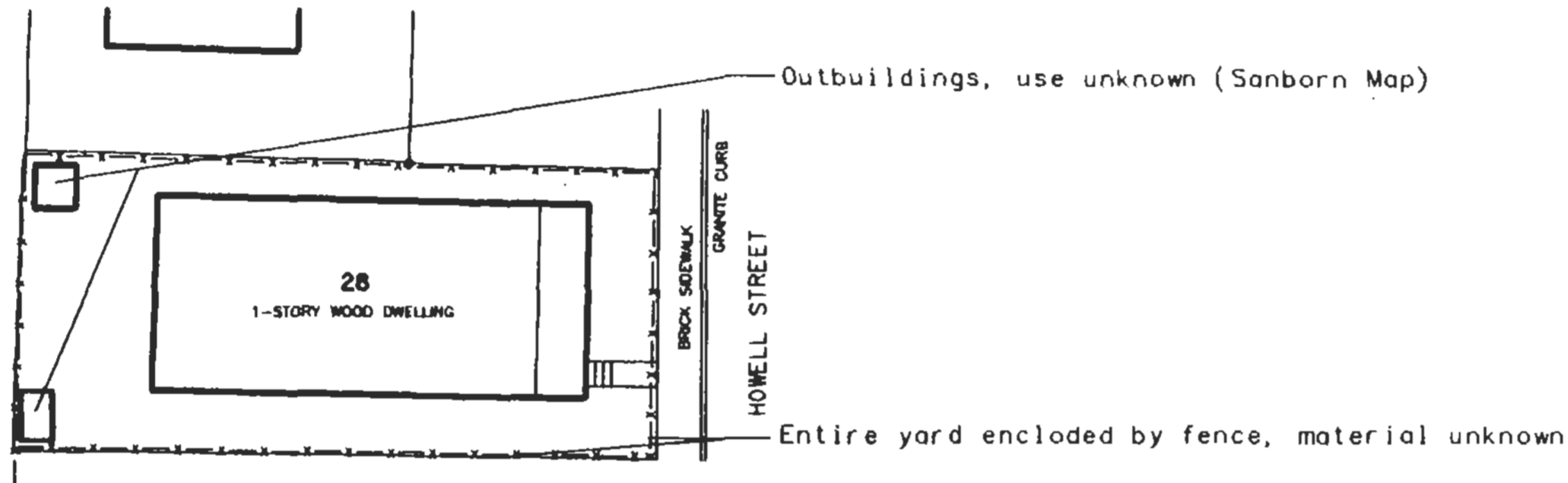
The aerial photograph does not yield much information about the yards because of the small size of the lots, the compactness of the development, and the way the house shadows obscure the ground plane. It does seem, however, that large deciduous trees grew in the front yards of 24, 20, and 18 Howell Street (figure 59).

*Existing Condition*²⁸

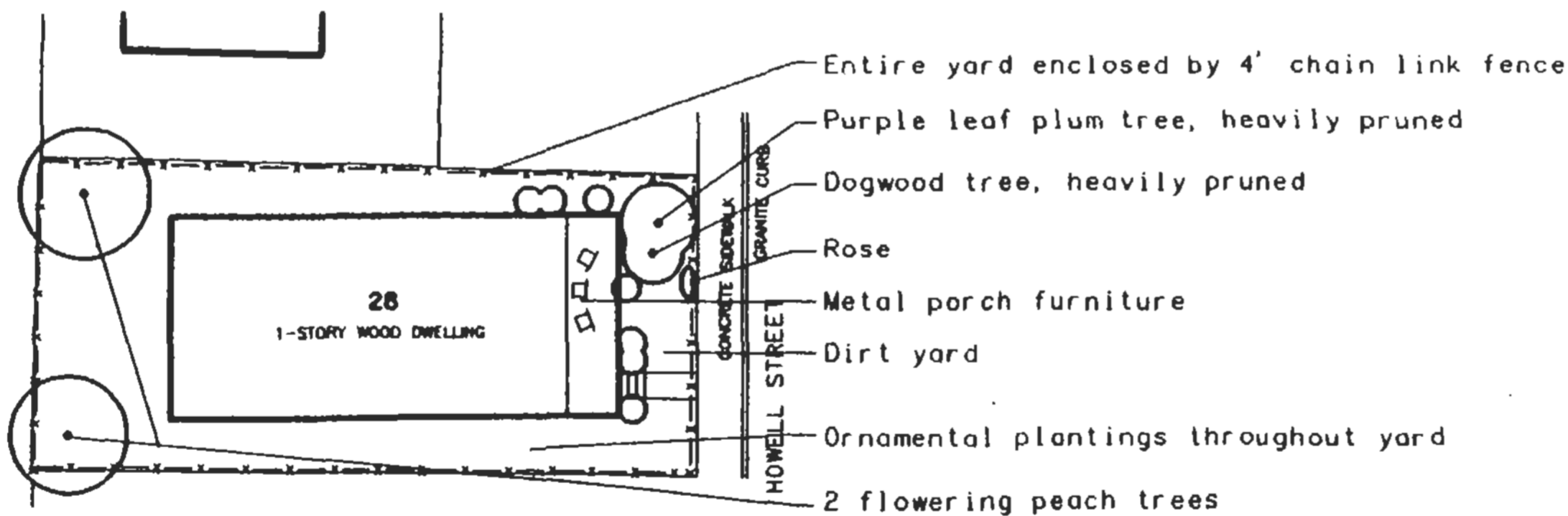
Four of the five houses and yards are extant. 28 Howell Street is included in the report because it forms an important edge to the Birth-Home Block and because the yard is noteworthy, it should be recognized as a contributing landscape (figure 60). Not only



Fig. 60. 28 Howell Street, 1995.



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

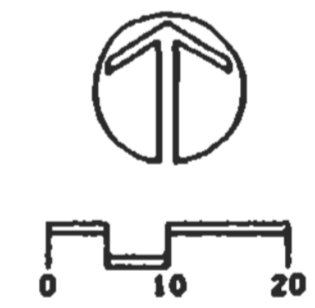
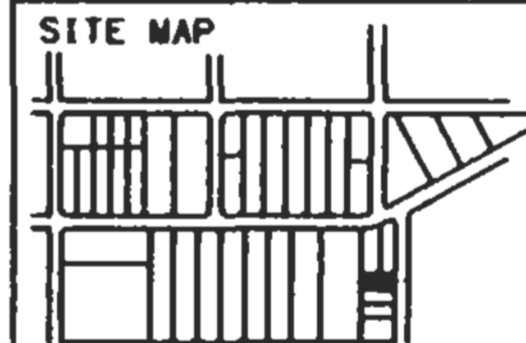
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ⋯ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊕ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree - Hardwood

SITE MAP



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ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
28 Howell Street
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-20

does this lot share a property line with 535 Auburn Avenue, but the long-time resident of this house (since 1960 according the *Catalog of Structures*) keeps a traditional garden of varied flowering plants, small trees, and bare (swept) ground. No access was gained to survey this yard in detail; however, every effort should be made to preserve this place as an authentic example and resource of African-American gardening techniques (figure 59).

The Triangle

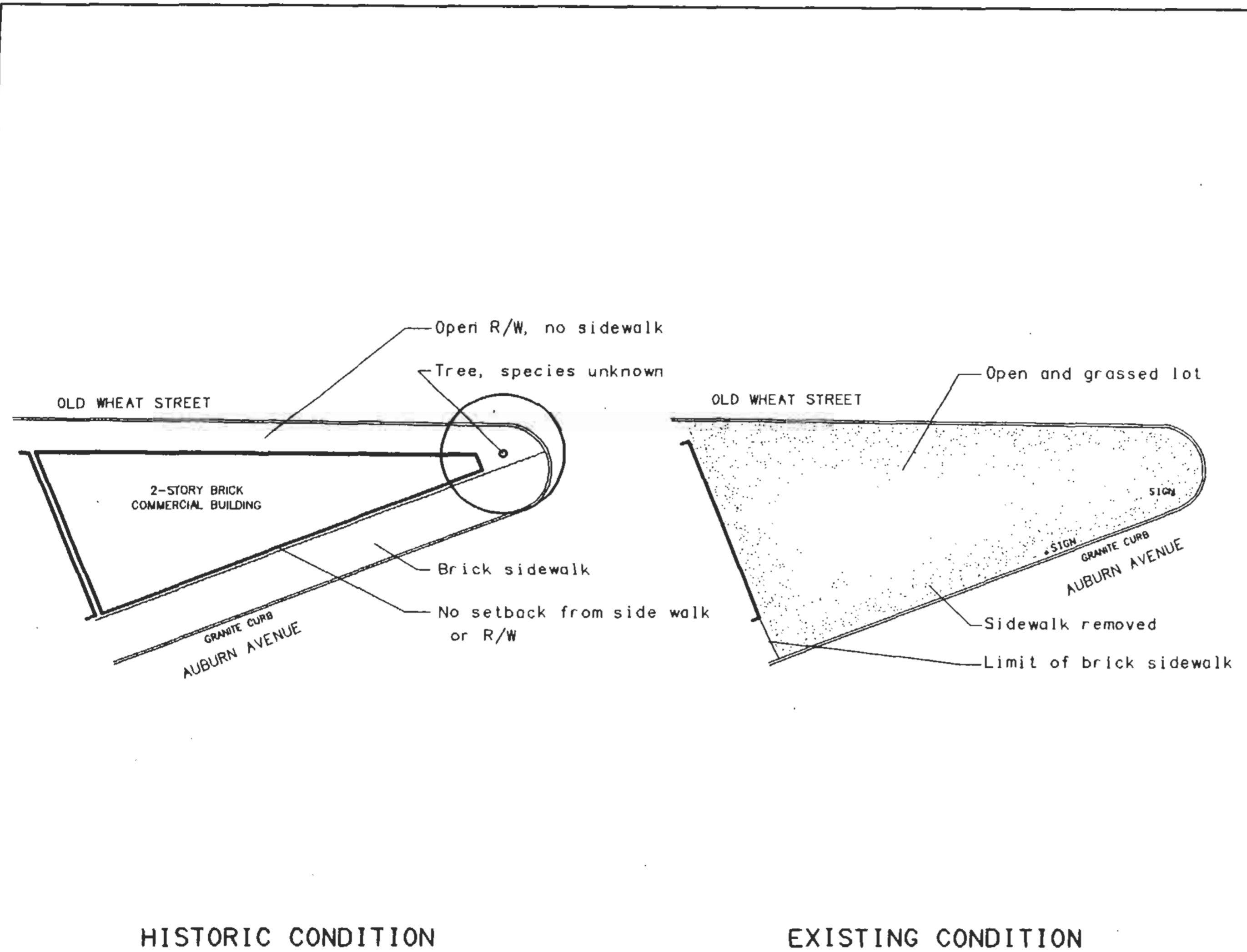
The triangular piece of property at the eastern end of the Birth-Home Block--defined by Auburn Avenue, Old Wheat Street, and Howell Street--is very significant to the streetscape of the Site. To create a level piece of ground, a granite retaining wall was constructed along Auburn Avenue and Howell Street (date unknown) which raised the ground level of the triangle on these two sides three to four feet above the sidewalk grade.

During the historic period, the triangle contained three residential structures and two commercial buildings. In the description of historic conditions, each of these buildings is treated separately because the amount of documentation warrants this effort. However, because of significant changes to the landscape--the loss of both commercial buildings and the rehabilitation of the residential properties--the individual character of each of the properties has been lost. Therefore, under existing conditions, the triangle is treated in its entirety without making distinctions among the yards. Treatment recommendations will address each property separately.

554-558 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

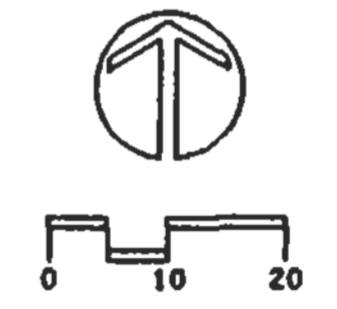
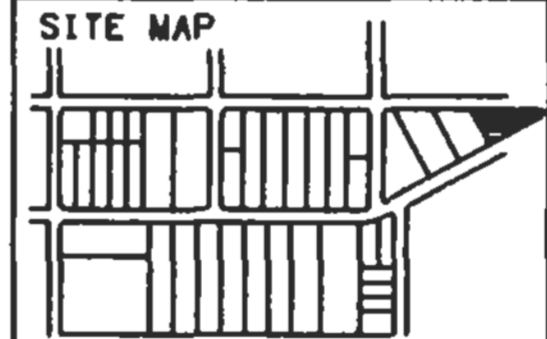
A brick flat-iron commercial building was built on the point of the triangle formed by Old Wheat Street and Auburn Avenue c. 1922.²⁹ The building was owned by a white family (Jenkins) and leased to grocers and butchers throughout the period of significance. The building footprint filled the point of the triangle from setback to setback and the eastern wall of the structure came up to the west wall of the adjacent apartment building. The original 1890s brick sidewalks remained on the triangle along Auburn Avenue and Old Wheat Street (figure 61).



Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.



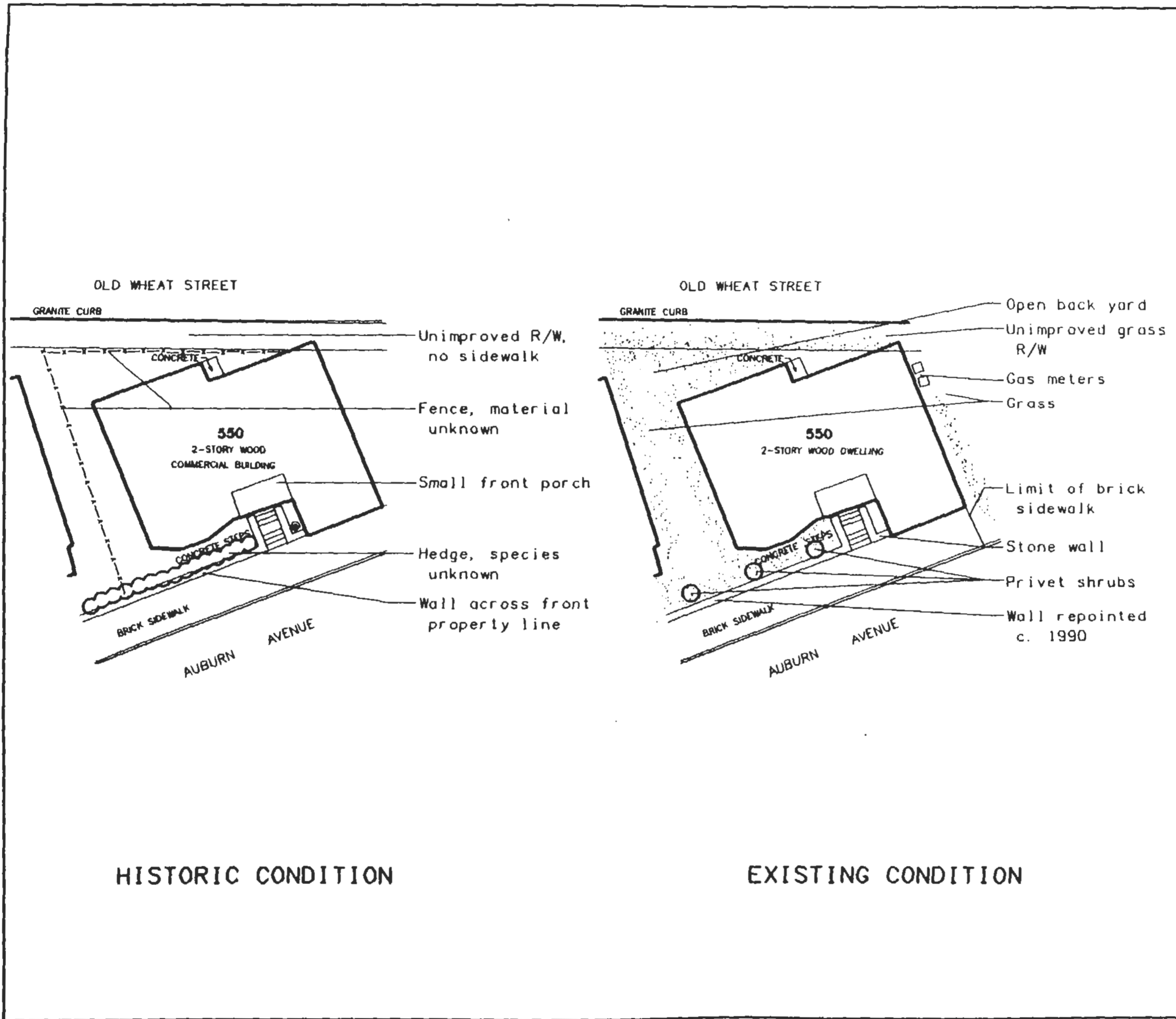
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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 CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
 554 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-21

550-552 Auburn Avenue***Historic Condition***

This building was originally constructed c. 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.³⁰ 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 rear, northwest corner of the back yard. According to the Cadastral Survey, the back yard was fenced in, although the material of the fence is unknown (figure 62).



Notes:

Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

--- Fence	⊕ Water Meter
□ Chair	◁ Water Valve
◻ Rocking Chair	PP • Power Pole
— — Clothes line	○ Tree (exist.)
▨ Flower Box	
● Flower Pot/Can	
--- Hedge/Shrubs	

SITE MAP

0 10 20

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

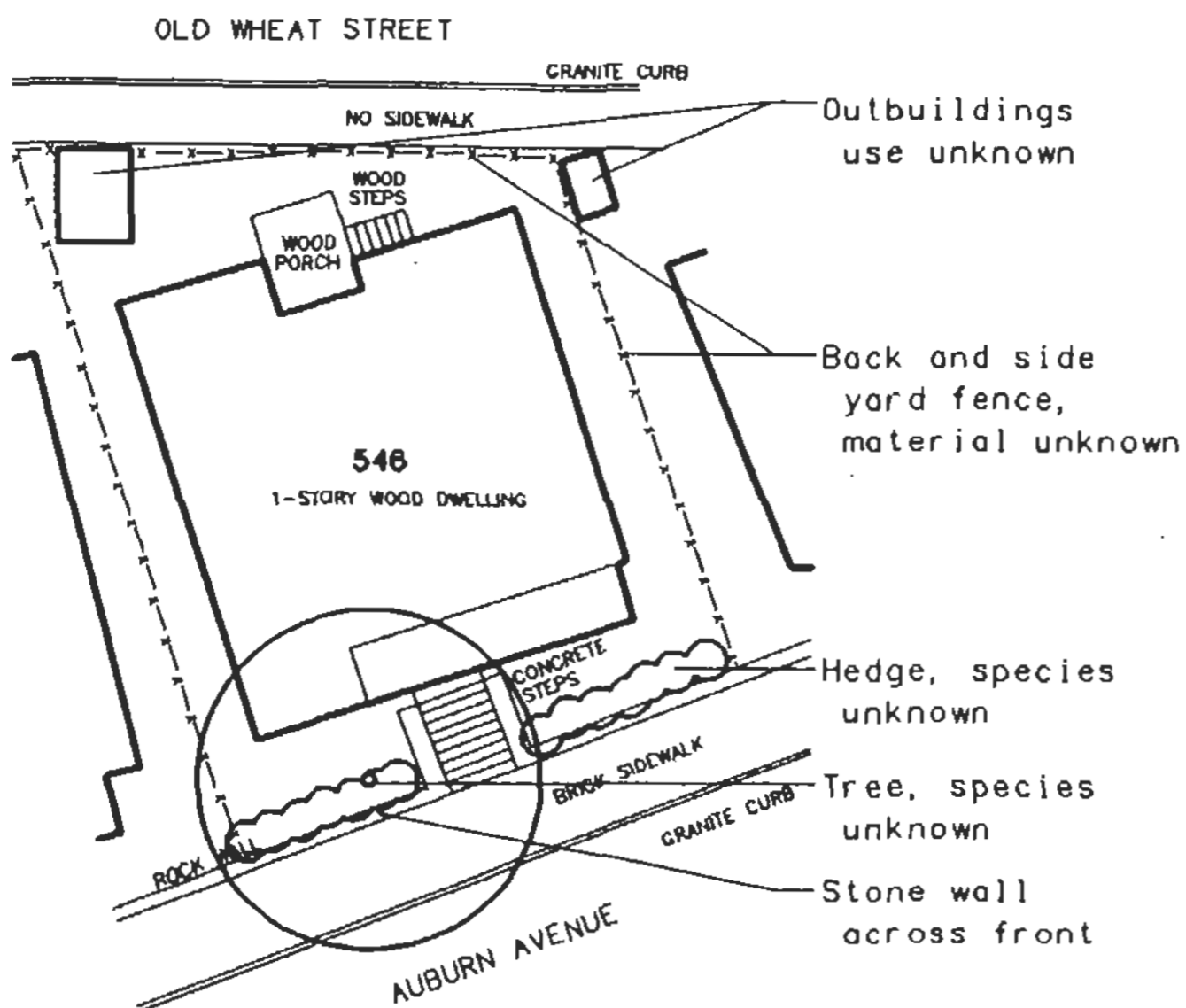
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
550 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO. 489-80017-22
DATE: April 1995

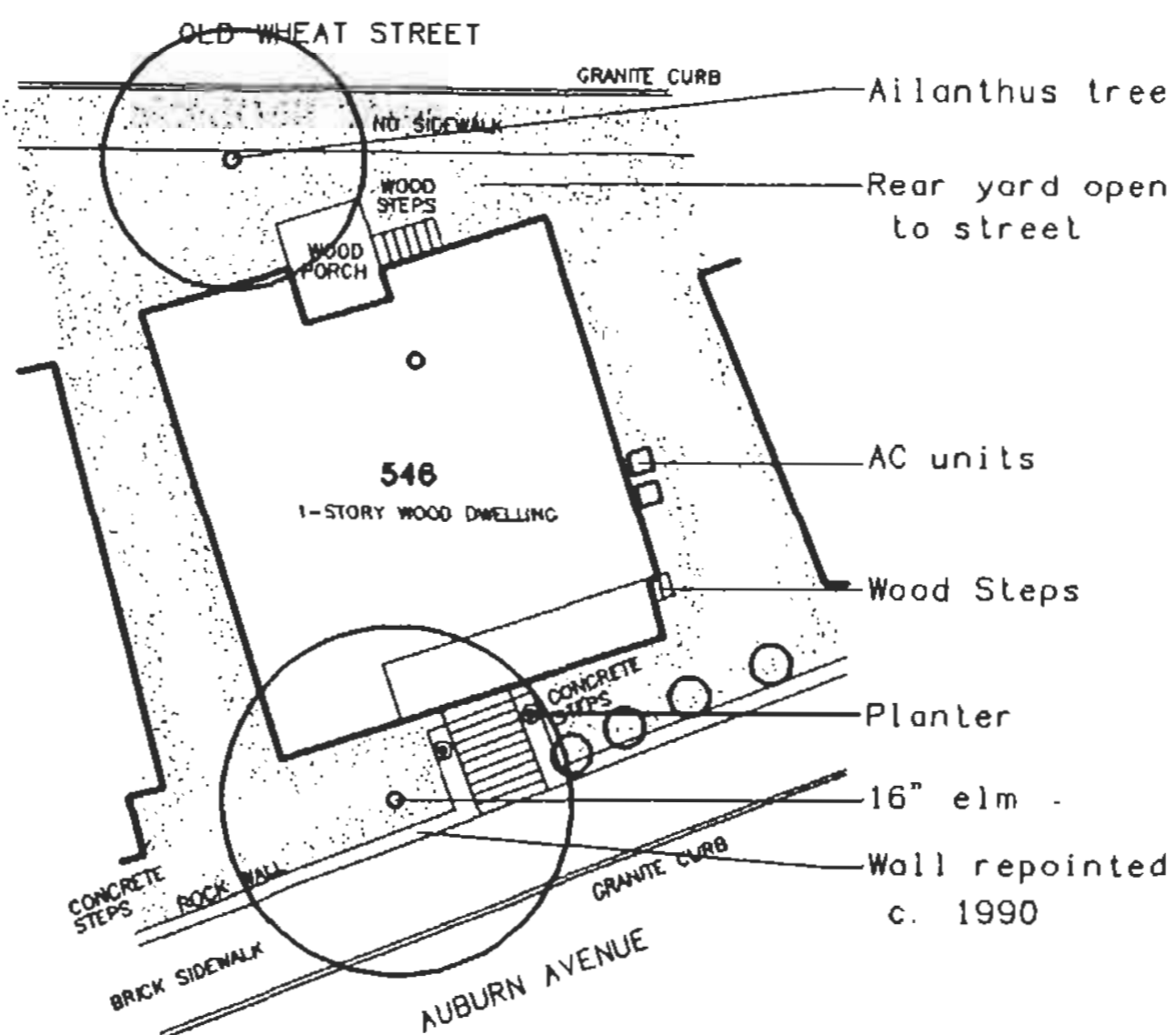
ON MICROFILM

546 Auburn Avenue***Historic Condition***

Built c. 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, 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 or fence is unknown (figure 63).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

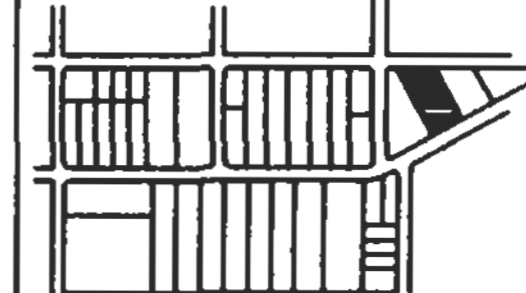
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊕ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
546 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

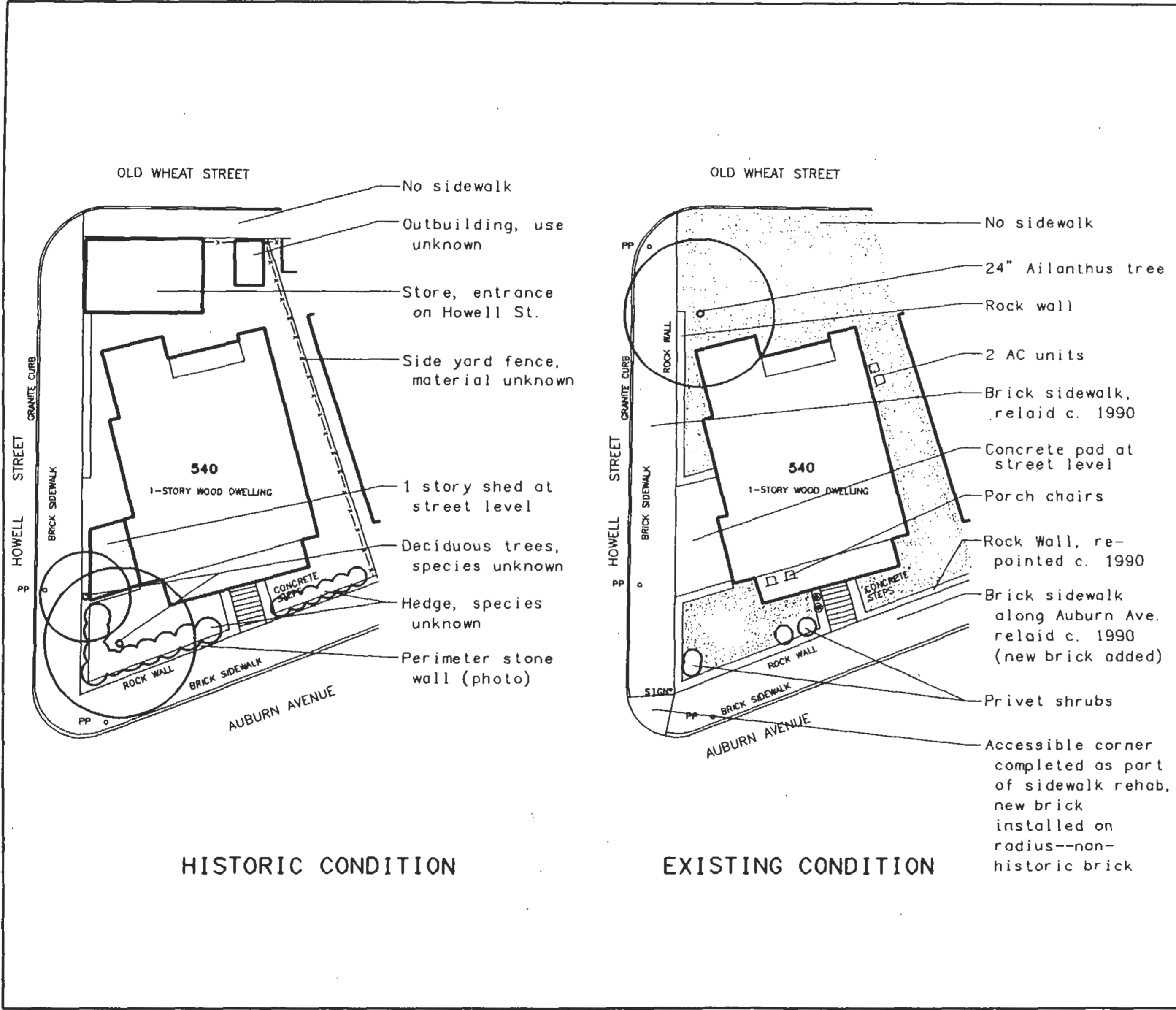
DRAWN BY: L. Lawlis and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-23

ON MICROFILM

540 Auburn Avenue and 57 Howell Street***Historic Condition***

Another wood residence was built at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street--western end of the triangle--c. 1890 and was converted to apartments at a later date. By the early 1910s, African-American tenants occupied the house.³¹ The distinguishable front feature was a large deciduous tree that occupied the west corner of the front yard.

A small store sat at the northwest corner of the lot facing Howell Street. It was recorded on the Sanborn map and the 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, although the material of the fence is unknown (figure 64).



Notes:

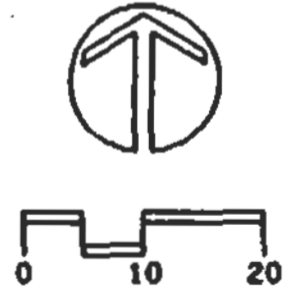
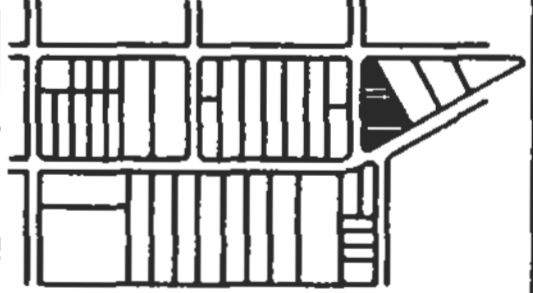
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊕ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP ○ Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
540 Auburn Avenue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-24

ON MICROFILM

540, 546, and 550 Auburn Avenue, *The Triangle*

Existing Condition

The brick flat-iron commercial building at 554-558 Auburn Avenue was removed in the 1970s. Today, grass covers the site. The three extant wood buildings were all rehabilitated prior to the Park obtaining them. In that process the top third of the wall around the site was rebuilt, and steps leading up to the buildings were widened and formed from concrete (figure 65). Nonhistoric foundation plants were placed across the fronts of the three buildings. One sixteen-inch-diameter tree (species unknown--go see assumed to be historic) remains in west front yard of 546 Auburn Avenue.

Along the Howell Street side of 540 Auburn Avenue (east side), the curb was broken and a driveway was constructed at the Howell Street level. A tree-of-heaven exists on the rear west corner of 540 Auburn Avenue. The rest of the site is grassed (figures 62-64).



Fig. 65. The triangle--the intersection of Auburn Avenue, Howell and Old Wheat Streets, 1995.

54 Howell Street

Historic Condition

Built in 1931 on the back half of 530 Auburn Avenue, 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 (figure 66).

Existing Condition

Rehabilitated in the summer of 1993 by NPS, the apartment building at 54 Howell Street is close to its original condition (figure 67). There was so little landscape associated with this site that it too has maintained a high degree of integrity. What has changed is the historic conditions outside the site, because the duplexes are gone from the northwest corner of Old Wheat Street and the small store that sat across the street at 57 Howell Street is also gone (figure 66).

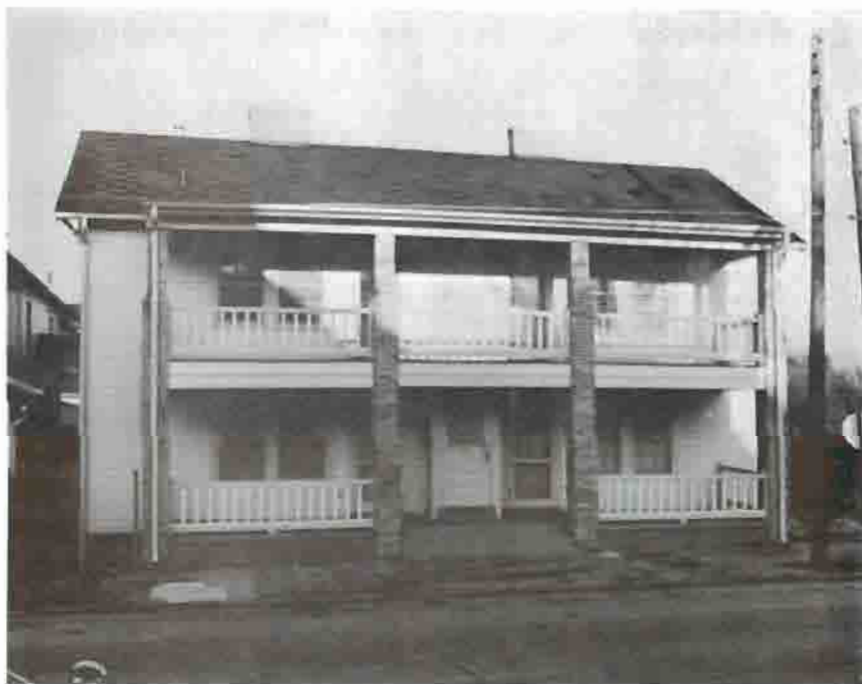
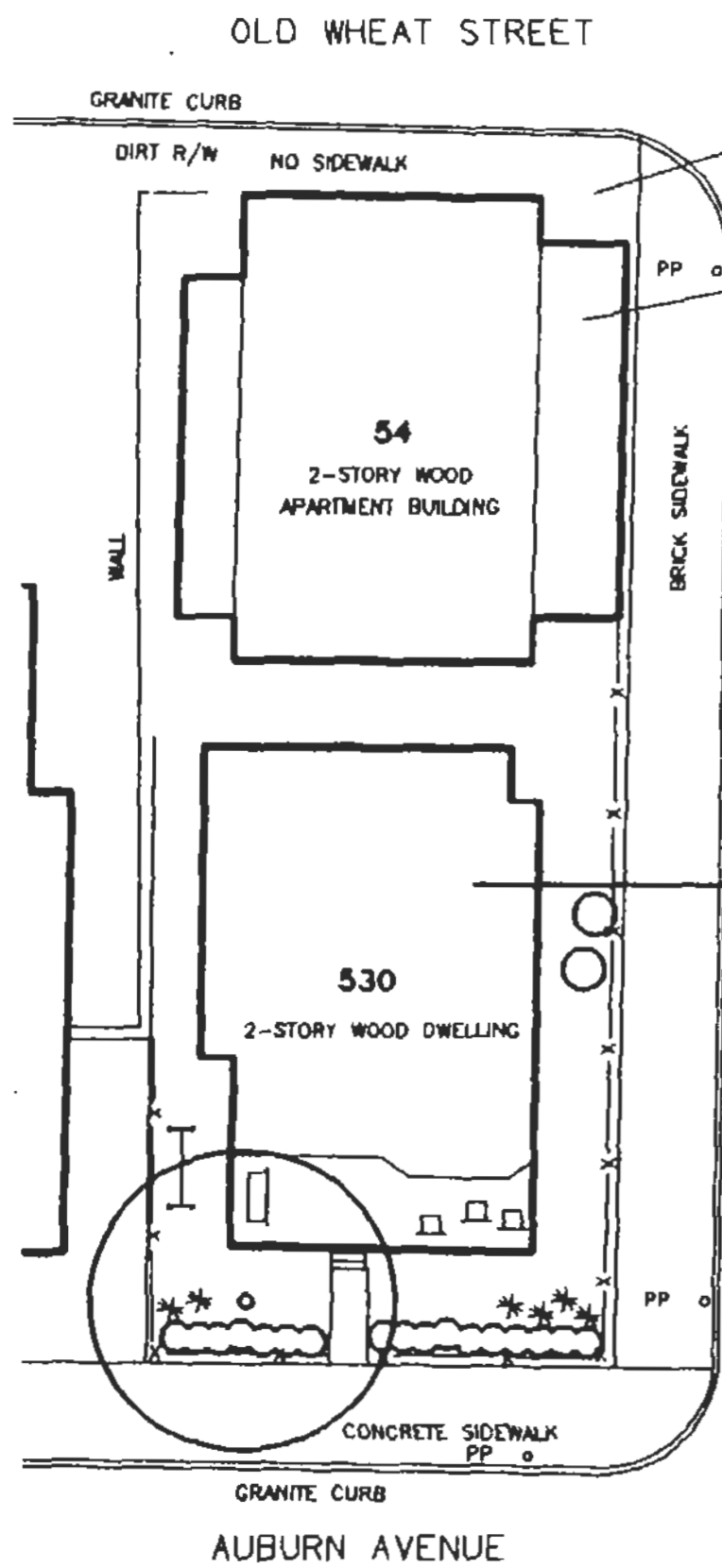


Fig. 67. 54 Howell Street, 1995.

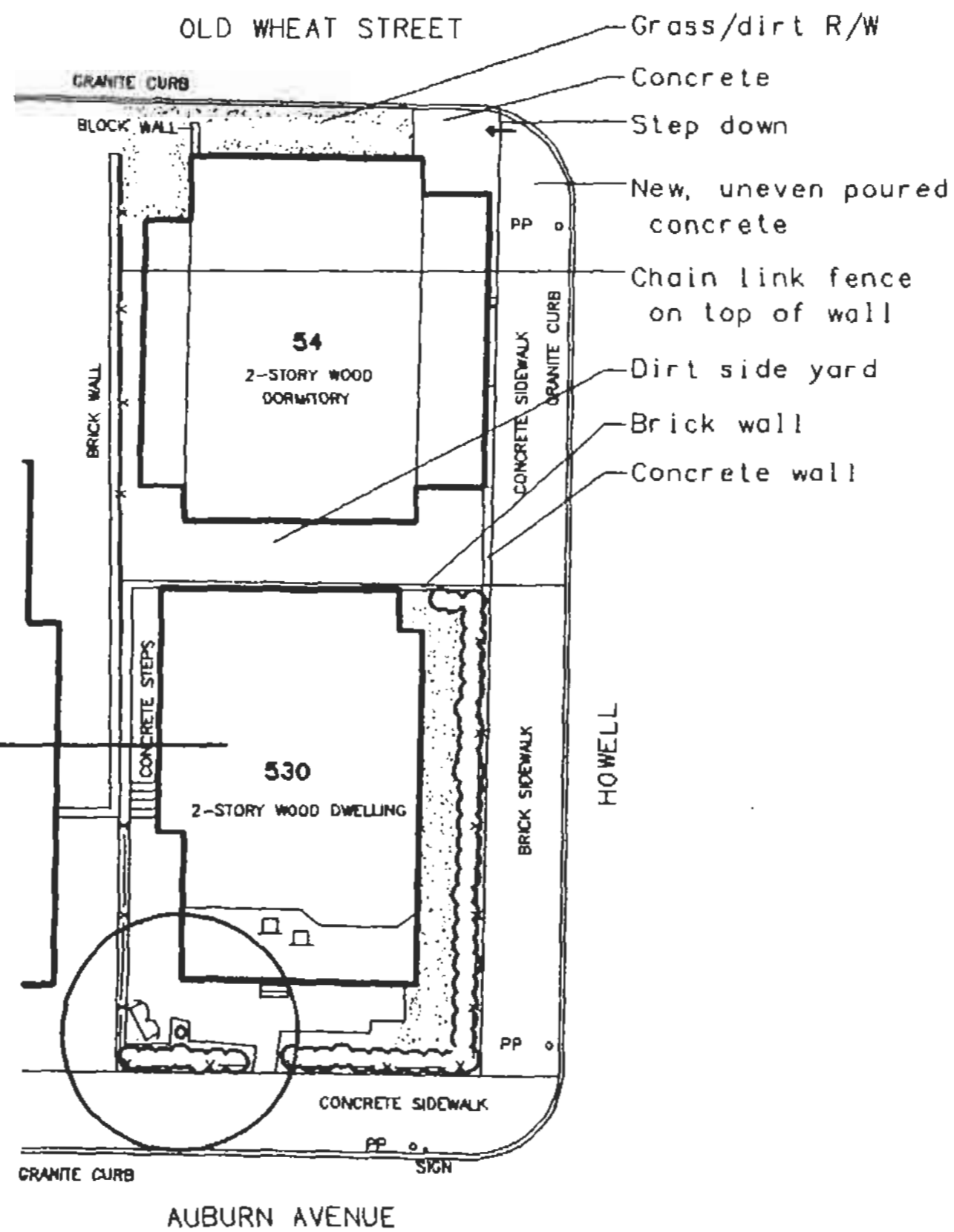


No yards associated with units

2 story front and back porch

See maps for 530 Auburn Avenue

HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

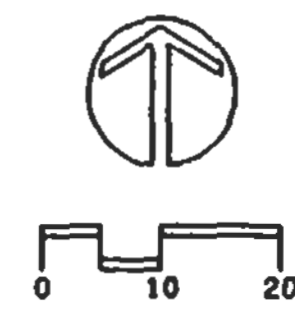
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- ⊠ Chair
- ⊞ Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



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SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
54 Howell Street
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

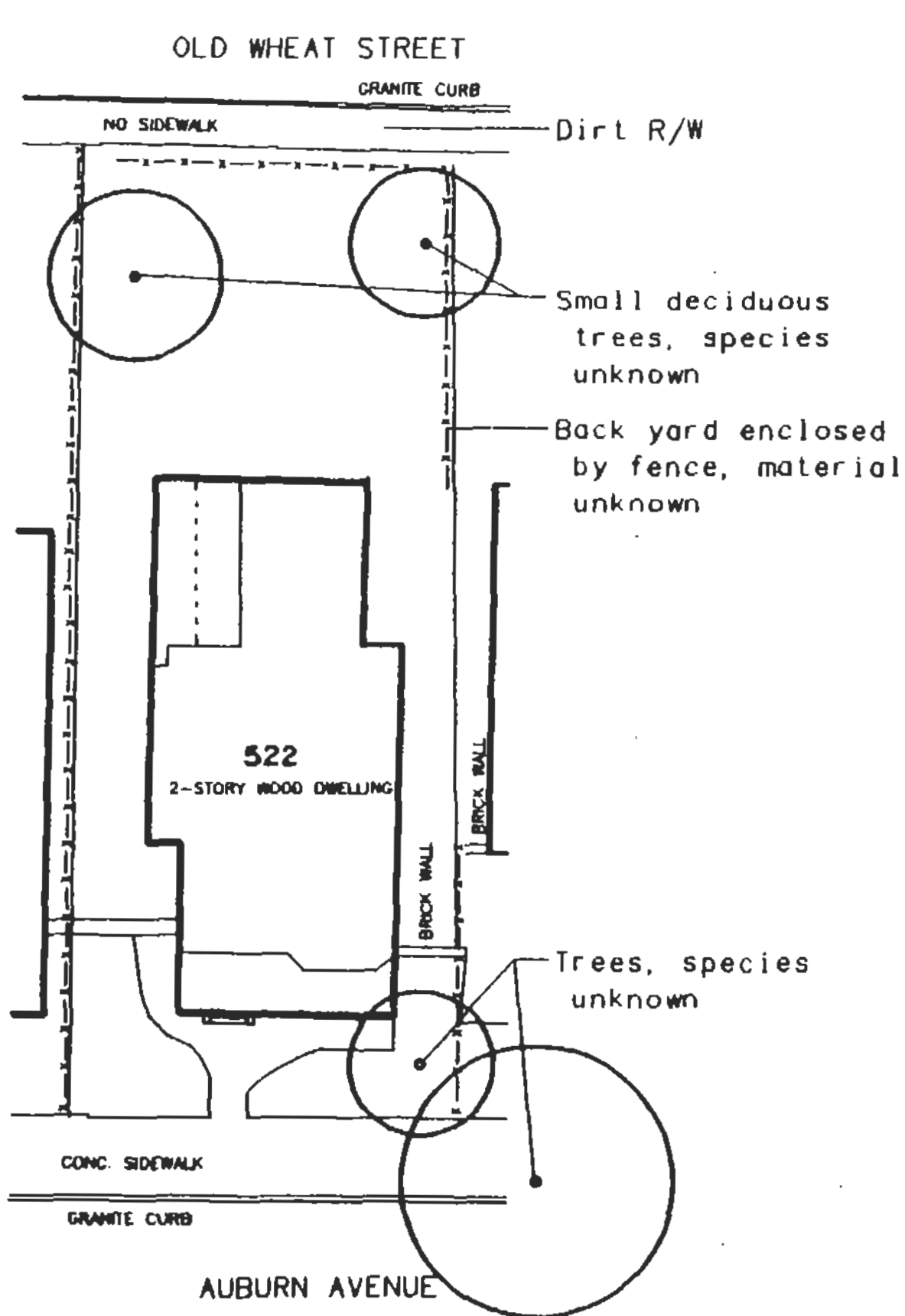
DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-25

ON MICROFILM

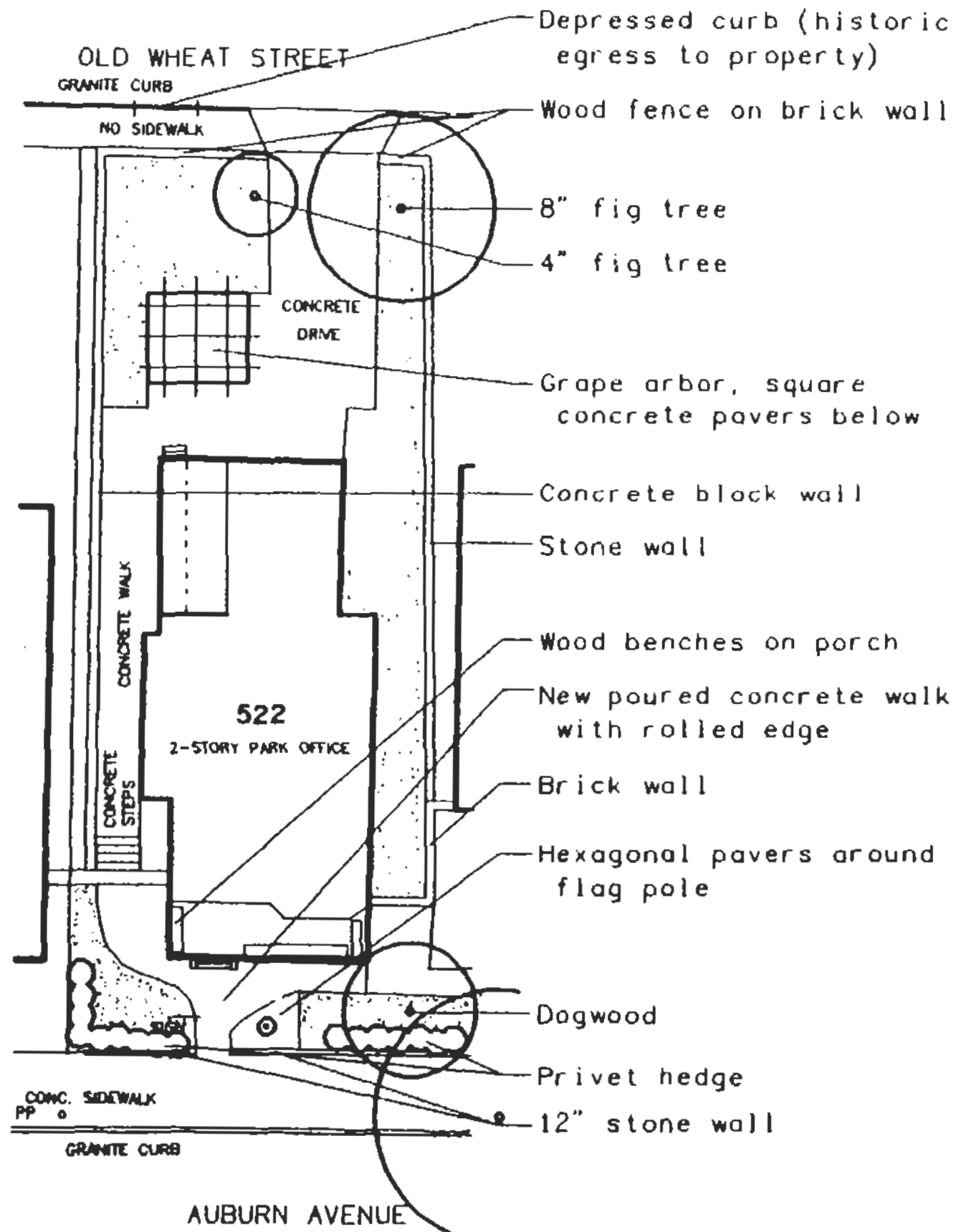
522, *The Bryant-Graves Home*, 518, and 510 Auburn Avenue***Historic Condition***

The historic conditions of these three houses 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 have small front yards (approximately eleven 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 line 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, and to the east at 510. Walks were concrete with a rolled curb-edge treatment. According to the aerial photograph, the walks at 522 and 518 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 the yards on this side of the block, fences enclose the back yard space. The materials of these fences are unknown (Figures 68, 69, 70).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

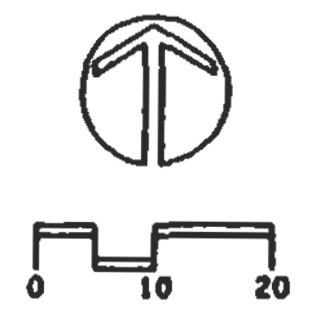
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- Clothes line
- Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
522 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-26

522 Auburn Avenue, *The Bryant-Graves Home*

Existing Condition

This is one of the first structures on Auburn Avenue to be purchased and rehabilitated by the NPS. The existing landscape reflects changes that the NPS made during this process. These changes include repouring the front walk with smaller radii at corners, and widening the walk/gutter detail to the width of a walk and extending it to the east to meet a new walk in the front yard of 526 Auburn Avenue.³² A patch of grass just east of the front walk, at the sidewalk, was replaced with octagonal pavers, into the middle of which a flagstaff was installed. A ten-inch dogwood (*Cornus florida*) in the east front corner may be the only remnant from the historic period.

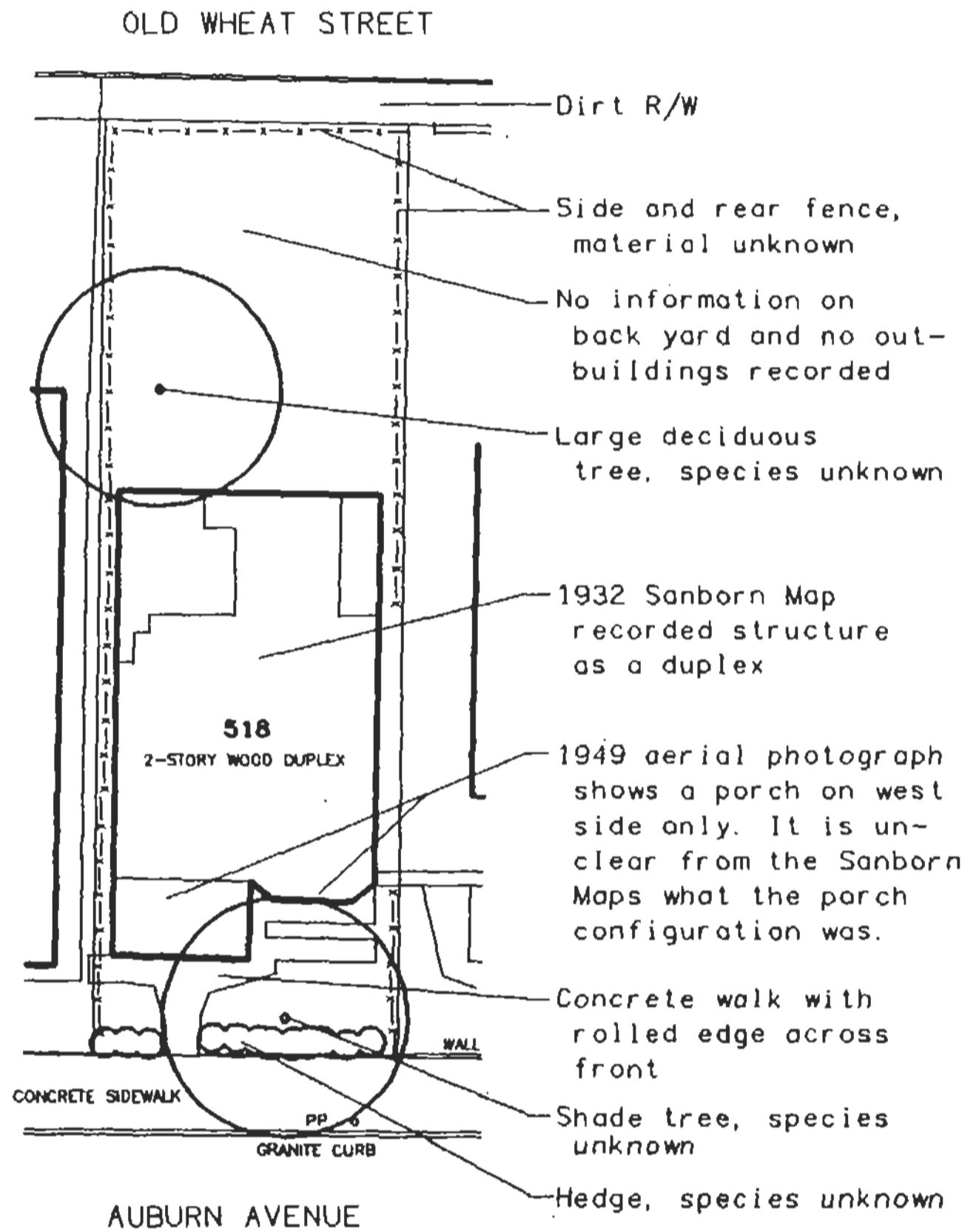
The back yard has been equally disturbed by the elimination of historic features and the addition of nonhistoric fabric. A twelve-foot-wide concrete drive was formed from Old Wheat Street to the house.³³ At the rear elevation of the house the drive narrows to six feet and continues as a walk around the house to the west and down the west side yard. An arbor, grown over with grape vines and including an eighteen-inch-square paver floor, has been installed just west of the driveway. A nonhistoric brick-pier and wood-picket fence was placed along the back-yard setback from Old Wheat Street (figure 68).

518 Auburn Avenue

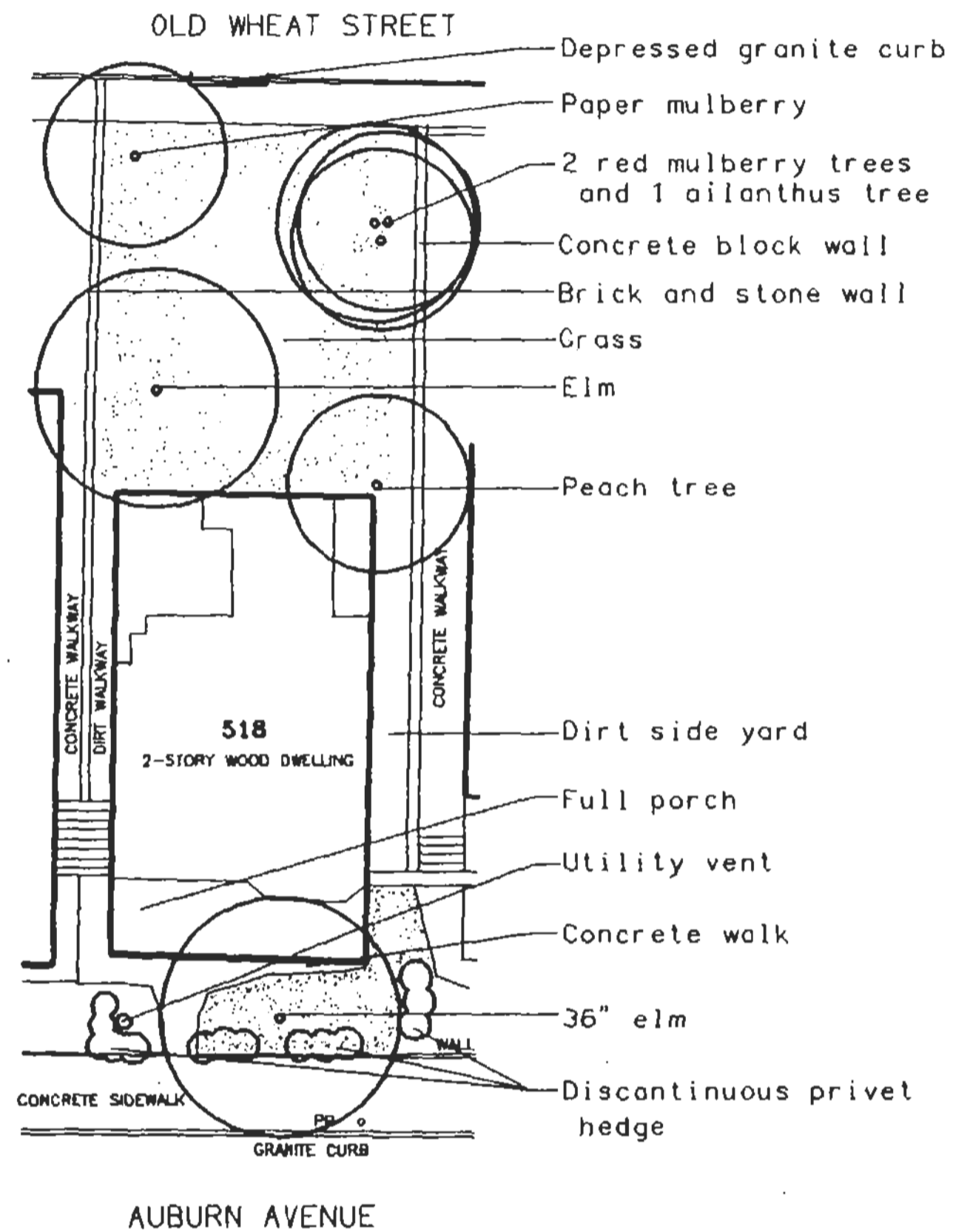
Existing Condition

Several of the historic landscape features are still evident at 518 Auburn Avenue. The original concrete walk, with a rolled-curb edge, is extant in the front yard. An eighteen-inch elm tree dominates the east side of the front yard, and pieces of a privet hedge are extant along the front property line.

The back yard has been released from maintenance and very little remains of the historic character. One large elm shades the space, along with a multi-trunk paper mulberry and a small peach tree (figure 69).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

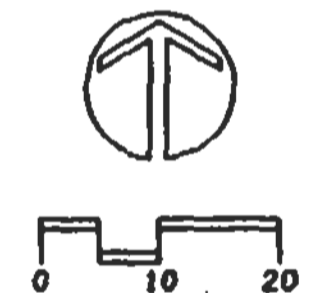
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| - - - Fence | ⊕ Water Meter |
| □ Chair | ◁ Water Valve |
| ◻ Rocking Chair | PP • Power Pole - wood |
| — Clothes line | ⊙ Tree (exist.) |
| ▨ Flower Box | |
| ⊙ Flower Pot/Con | |
| ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs | |

SITE MAP



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MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

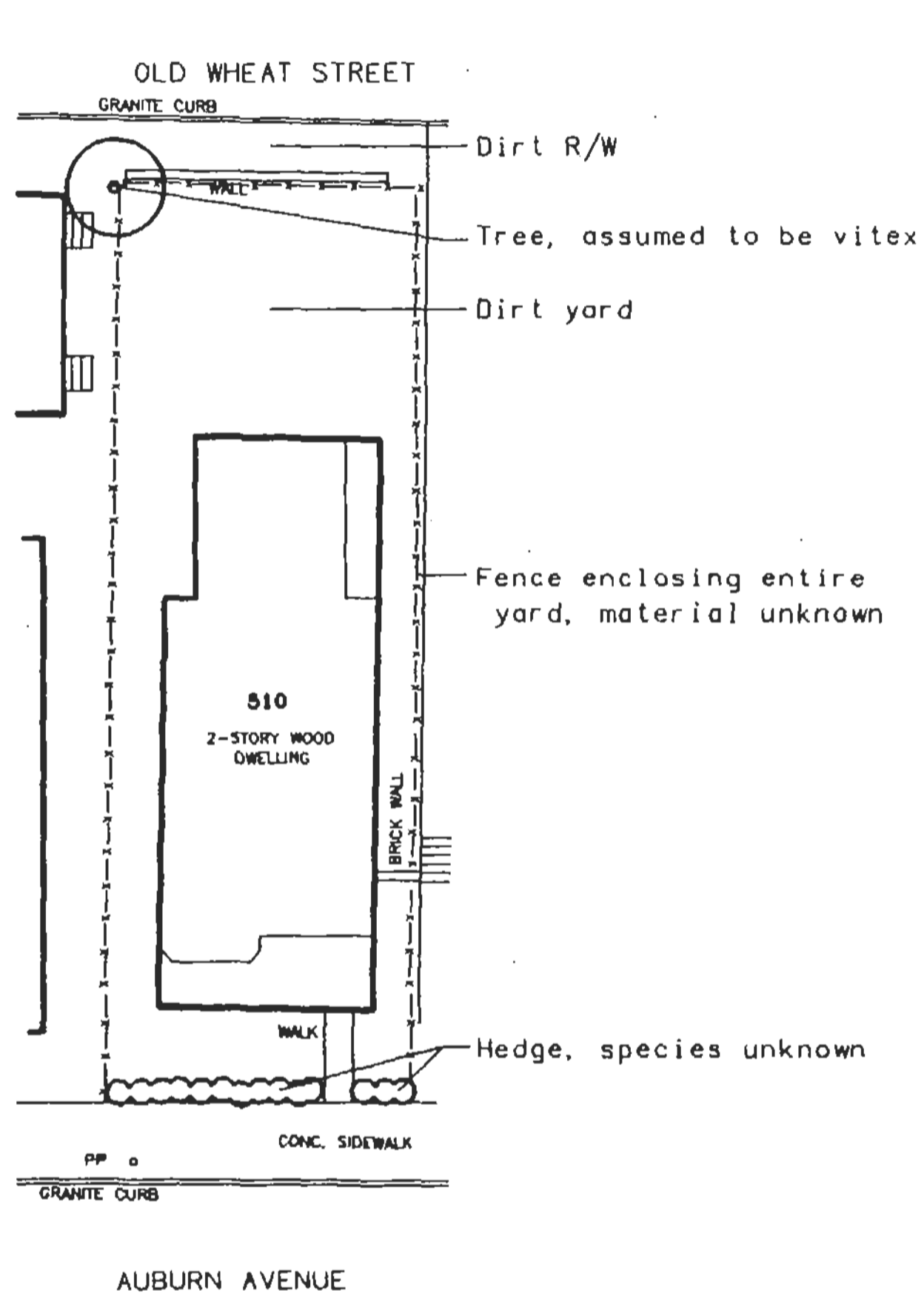
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
518 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-27

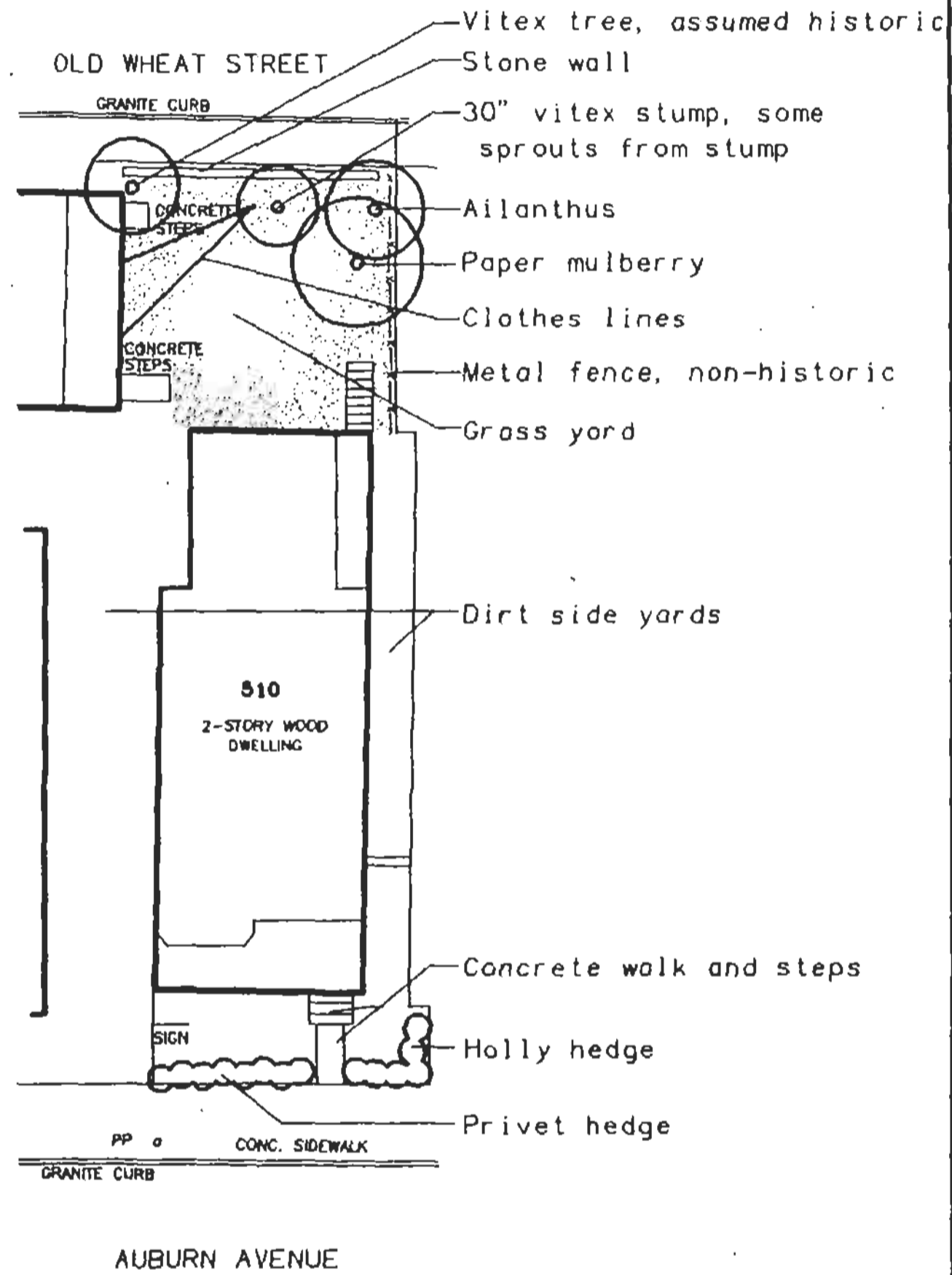
510 Auburn Avenue

Existing Condition

The privet hedge along the sidewalk is one of the few remaining features in the tiny front yard of 510 Auburn Avenue. In the back yard there are remnants of a rubble wall that defined the setback from Old Wheat Street. The most interesting feature of all, however, is the giant (twenty-inch-diameter) vitex (*Vitex agnus-castus*) just behind the wall remnants.³⁴ Because of its extremely large size, it is assumed that it dates to the period of significance and probably much earlier (figure 70).



HISTORIC CONDITION



EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

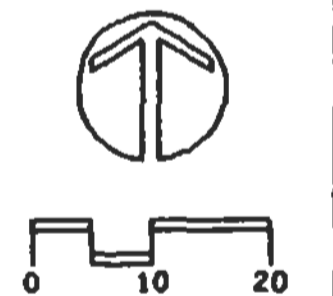
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Con
- ⋯ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP o Power Pole - wood
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
510 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-28

506 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

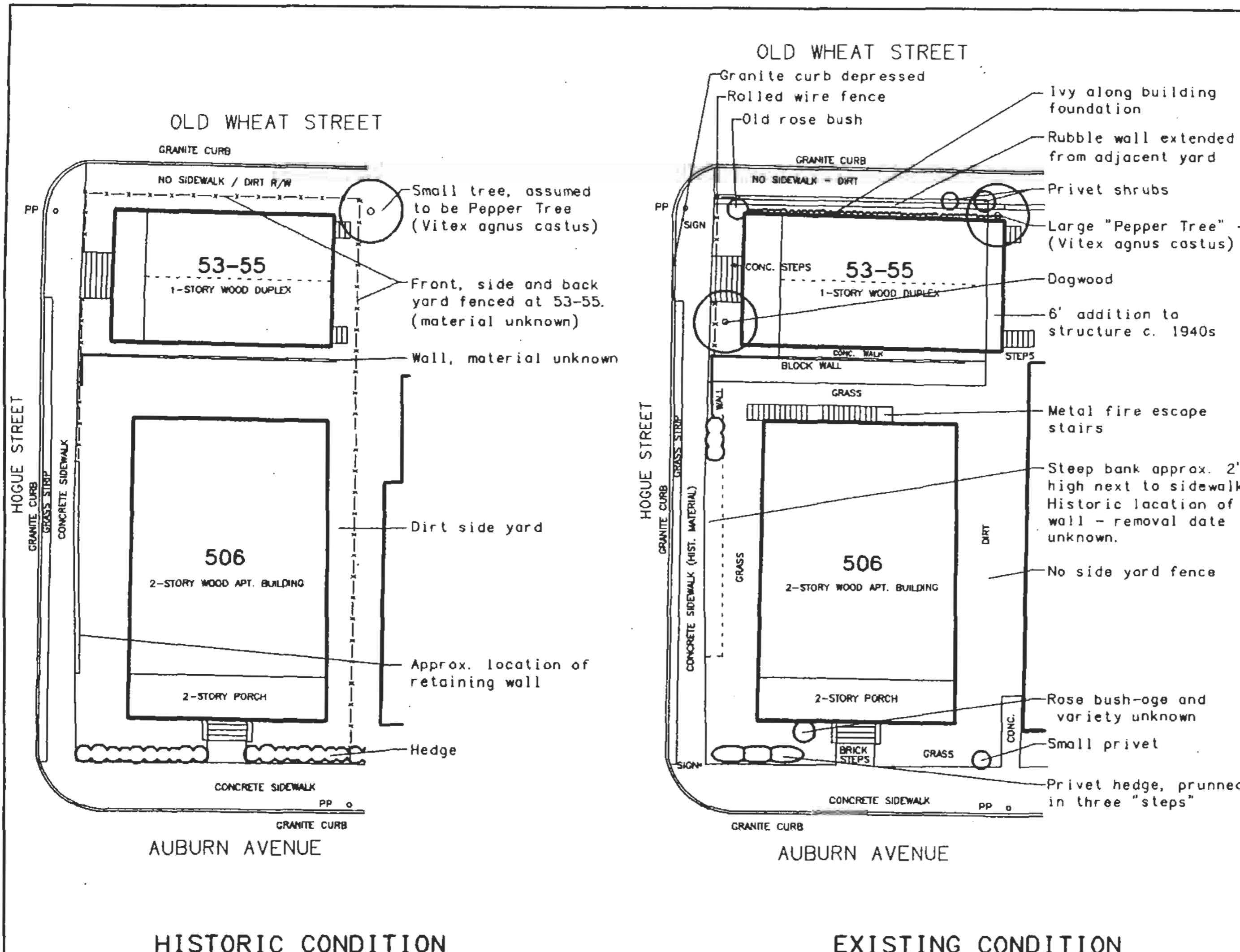
This two-story, four-unit apartment building was constructed in 1933 on the site of an earlier residence. At about this same time the back quarter of the lot was subdivided, and a duplex was developed directly behind the apartment building (53 Hogue Street) (Figure 71). The apartment building had a two-story 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 (figure 72).

Existing Condition

The existing landscape of 506 Auburn Avenue is limited to a concrete front walk (not historic), a shrub rose growing 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 are grassed (figure 72).



Fig. 71. 506 Auburn Avenue, 1995.



Notes:

The structure at 53-55 Hogue was constructed ca. 1937. Yard fencing appears on 1937 Cadastral Survey that extends from 506, and treats 53-55 Hogue house site as a back yard. Depressed curb provided access to pre-1937 yard.

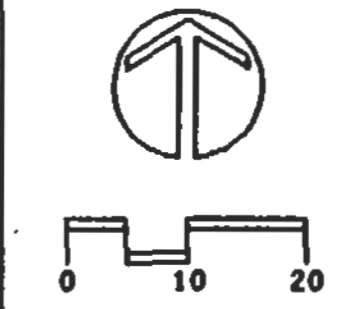
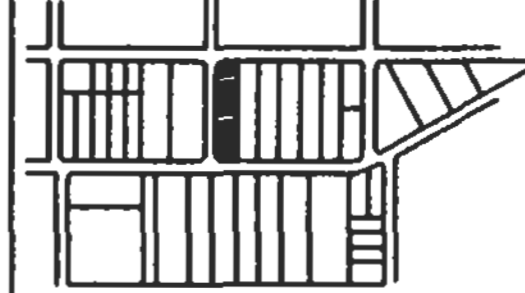
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey by Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- - - - Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Con
- Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
506 Auburn & 53 Hogue
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-29

ON MICROFILM

53 Hogue Street

Historic Condition

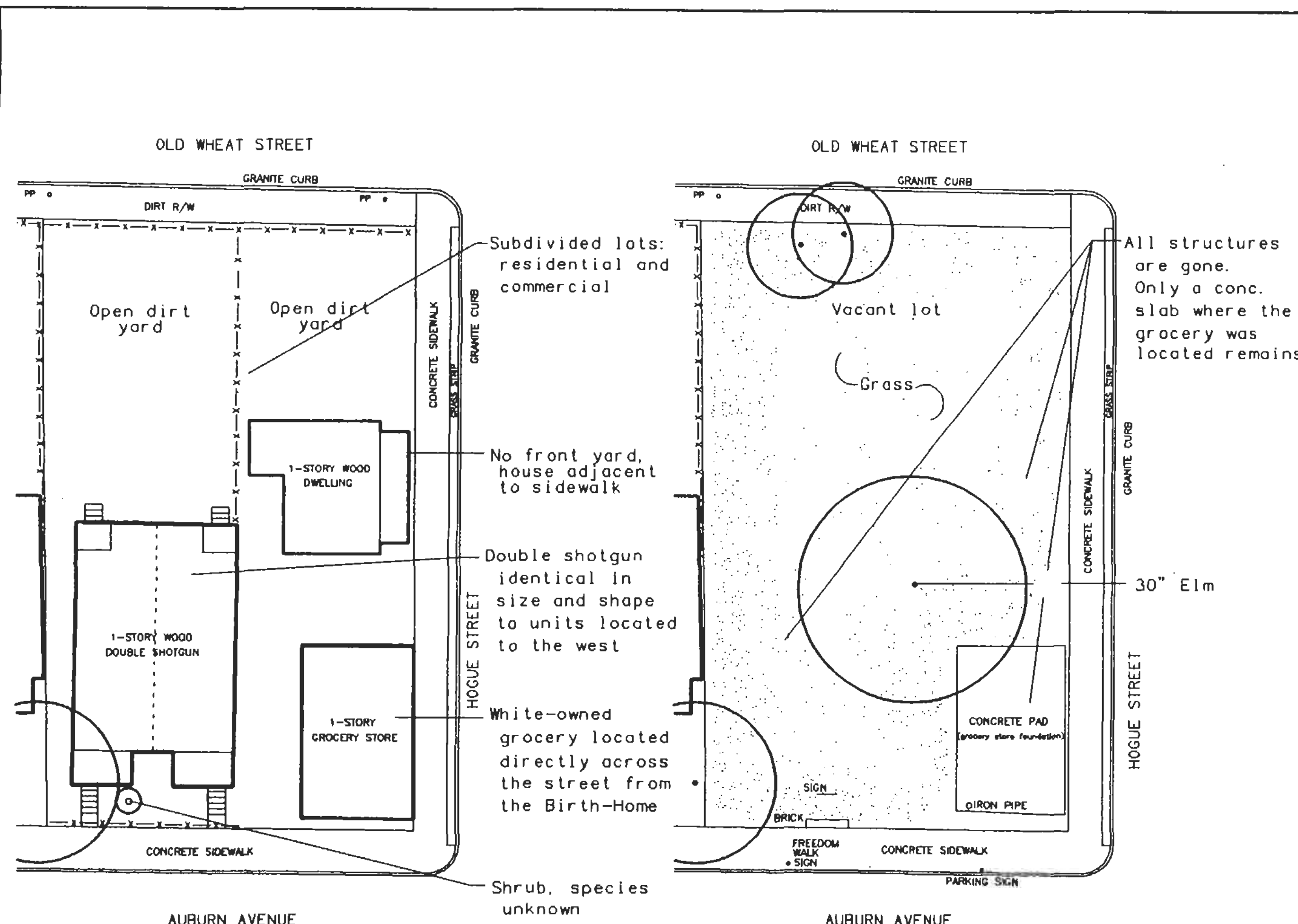
This duplex was developed on the back half of the lot of 506 Auburn Avenue c. 1930. It had a tiny front yard, approximately six feet deep, determined by the five steps required to reach the front porch from the sidewalk (figure 73). There was an equally narrow back yard, and according to the Cadastral survey, a fence separated it from the backyard of 510 Auburn Avenue. A low retaining wall defined a two-foot-wide side yard that was twelve to eighteen 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 that ran the length of the property on this north side (figure 74).

Existing Condition

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. The yard is enclosed by a rolled wire fence (one of the last examples of this once popular fence types in the Birth-Home Block). A narrow planting strip exists as the side yard along Old Wheat Street. This strip along Old Wheat Street is edged with a rubble wall and it appears to be a continuation of the wall along the rear setback line of 510 Auburn Avenue and, therefore, assumed to date to a period before the construction of 53 Hogue Street, c. 1930, when all this lot was the back yard of 506 Auburn Avenue (figure 72).



Fig. 73. 53 Hogue Street, 1995.



HISTORIC CONDITION

EXISTING CONDITION

Notes:

Little is known about this site. All structures were gone at time of NPS acquisition. Important site because it is located directly across from the Birth-Home.

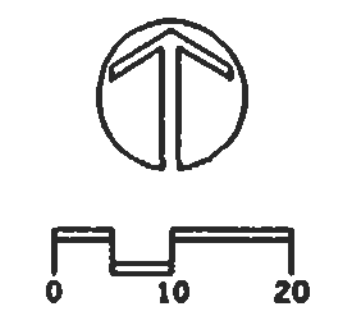
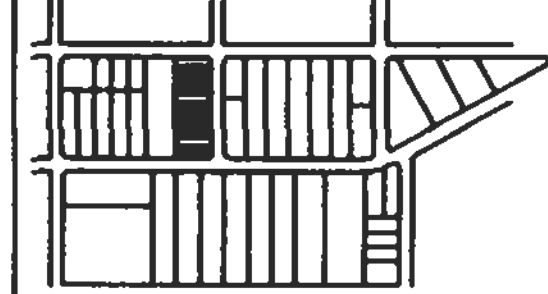
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ▨ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ~~~~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊕ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole-wood
- Tree (exlat.)
- Tree (prop.)

SITE MAP



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
502 Auburn Avenue
HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lowliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-30

ON MICROFILM

502, 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 has survived and little is known about them. From the Sanborn maps, 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. 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. This grocery was an important structure not only because it was directly across the street from the Birth Home, it was a store that was owned and operated by a white family throughout the period of significance and was a store that the young Martin Luther King, Jr., knew well.³⁵ A one-story single family residence, with an L-shape plan, occupied the site at 50 Howell Street. It had an almost full facade front porch that sat approximately two feet off the sidewalk edge leaving no room for a front yard. It had no back yard either because the rear ell went all the way up to the side yard fence of 500 Auburn. An open lot sat on the north side of the house and may have been used as a yard space because on the aerial photograph the yard seems to be fenced. The only fencing for these three buildings recorded on the Cadastral survey is a section along the front property line of 498-500 Auburn Avenue. The aerial photograph, however, shows the rear yard of 498-500 enclosed by a fence (figure 74).

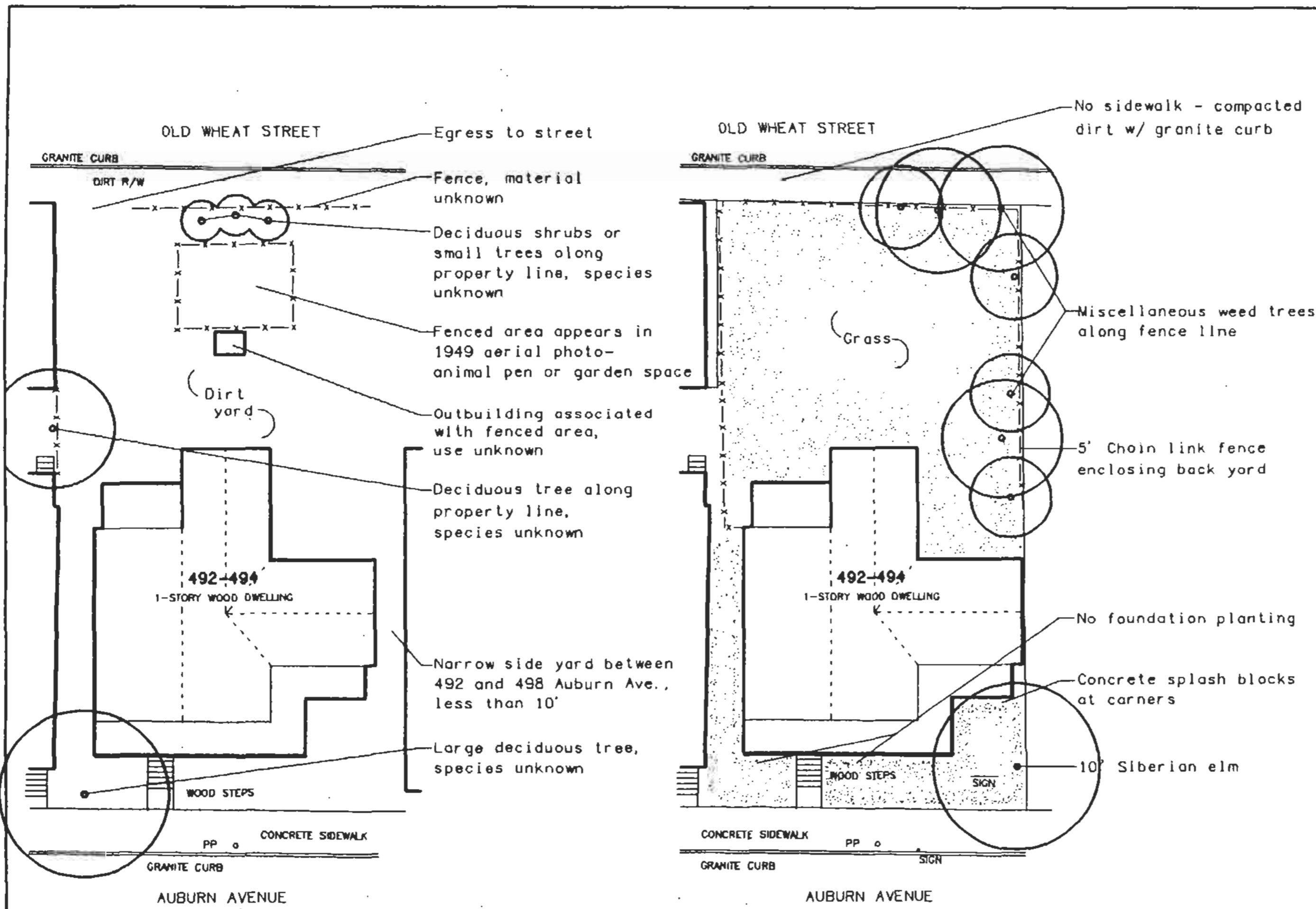
Existing Condition

The only remaining feature from this group of structures is the nineteen-by-thirty-foot concrete pad where the grocery store sat. The rest of the site is a vacant grassed lot with one significant tree, an elm (figure 74).

492-494 Auburn Avenue

Historic Condition

This duplex was larger and built earlier than any of the surrounding double shotguns (figure 75). Its estimated date of construction is c. 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 (figure 76). Several features can be distinguished from the aerial photograph. A large deciduous tree occupied the west side of the front yard, and in the back yard, vehicle access to the site was from Old Wheat Street in the west corner. There was a fenced-in area at the rear center of the back yard (use unknown). The Cadastral survey does not record any fencing on the site.



Notes:

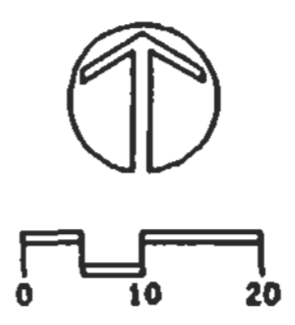
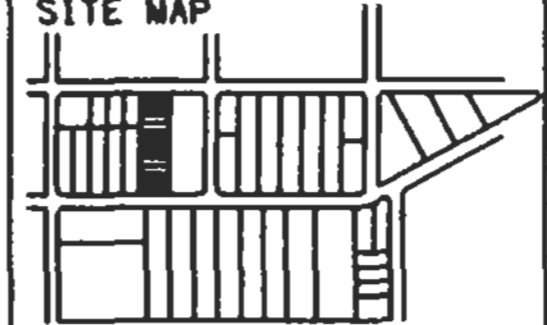
Sources:

- 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map
- 1937 City of Atlanta Cadastral Survey
- 1949 Aerial photograph
- 1993 MALU Survey, Jackson Person, Inc.

Legend

- x-x- Fence
- ⊠ Chair
- ⊞ Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- Flower Pot/Can
- ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP o Power Pole
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)

SITE MAP



HISTORIC CONDITION

EXISTING CONDITION

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
492-94 Auburn Ave
 HISTORIC and EXISTING CONDITIONS

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-31

ON MICROFILM



Fig. 76. 492-494 Auburn Avenue, 1995.

Existing Condition

This early duplex was rehabilitated c. 1990, and at the time all vestiges of an earlier landscape were removed. The back yard is enclosed by a five-foot chain-link fence (figure 75).

NOTES

1. Atlanta City Directories 1895-1910.
2. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1932. This map documents the location of the King's garage along the east property line.
3. This is the only account of this tree. There is no evidence on the ground or on the 1949 aerial photograph that a tree existed in this described location.
4. National Park Service Land Plat Map.
5. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1932. This map documents the location of the coal house.
6. Further research needs to be completed on the historic boundary line on the east side of the Birth Home. As delineated by the wood fence, an automobile would not have been able to get to the garage that has been documented in the historic landscape. It would seem by the layout that the fence line on the east has been moved toward the house for security and access reasons.

7. Atlanta City Directories, 1894-1924.
8. Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7 and Mrs. Lightner's memory. The cadastral map documents a fence only along the side property lines and a hedge across the front of the Lightner's property.
9. This tree has been more specifically identified as *Vitex agnus-castus* (common names are vitex or chaste tree). There are two surviving examples of this tree behind 510 Auburn Avenue.
10. According to Mrs. Lightner, the play area only lasted in the mid-1930s.
11. Atlanta City Directories, 1918-1953.
12. The Bucks' description does not jibe with the Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7. The map documents a fence across the front and along the west property line.
13. Atlanta City Directories, 1930-1940. Cottongim's Seed Store, owned and operated by the Cottongim family, was located at 93 Broad Street S.W. until 1940 when it moved to 97 Broad Street S.W.
14. *Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site: Historic Resource Study*, 89.
15. Atlanta City Directories, 1933-present. Mrs. Annie Johnson interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 1991.
16. An iron fence was described along the front property line in the oral history of the Kirk home. Although the fence no longer exists, there is reason to believe that the iron fence running down the west property line, between the Kirk and the Nowell homes, originally belonged to the Kirk residence. It seems possible that at some point the fence was turned on the existing hinge to become the side yard fence. The length of the side yard fence would reach the distance of the Kirk front property line, and there is a break in the fence that would line up, approximately, with the Kirk front walk.
17. Atlanta City Directories, 1912-1913. Mrs. Ida McKennon, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Atlanta, Georgia, December 12, 1991.
18. Sanborn Maps of Atlanta, Georgia, 1932, and City Directories. These resources document the location and use of a small store on the Calhoun property.
19. Works Progress Administration Cadastral Survey Map, 1937, 6-7. This map documents the presence and location of a historic fence that enclosed the Calhoun property from the sidewalk and neighboring properties on all sides.
20. The rolled-curb detail has been replaced at the Birth Home and at 526 Auburn Avenue. The imitations, however, lack the graceful shape of the original.
21. Most of the landscape features--walks, fences, plant materials, etc.--do not appear in the sources. However, when extant features are assumed to be historic because of their type, material, or condition, then those features will be described in the historic condition section.
22. 1932 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map and the 1937 Cadastral Survey.
23. 1937 Cadastral Survey.
24. The existing driveway is in the approximate location of the historic access.
25. *Catalog of Historic Structures: Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site and Preservation District*. Atlanta: National Park Service, 1983, 68 & 126. Alexander Hamilton's home was at 102 Howell Street.

26. W. E. Burghardt Du Bois, ed. *The Negro American Family* (Atlanta: The Atlanta University Press, 1908, reprinted Westport: Greenwood Press, Inc., 1969), 58.
27. 1949 aerial photograph.
28. Technically these five lots fall within the authorized boundary of the Site. However, there is no intention on the part of the NPS to purchase or rehabilitate these privately owned properties in the near future. For this reason, only the property at 28 Howell Street was surveyed for existing conditions, because it is a visible edge to properties on Auburn Avenue and the landscape appears to have a very authentic character.
29. The Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources has images (slides) of this building before it was removed c. 1978.
30. *Catalog of Historic Structures*, 78.
31. *Catalog of Historic Structures*, 76.
32. 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue are being used as office and/or exhibition space for the Site. This walk and a small, octagonal-paver terrace, which fills the side yard space next to the east end of the front porch, are used to accommodate visitor and staff traffic between the buildings.
33. The new concrete driveway installed by the Park does not match the historic location. The depressed granite curb section at the west rear corner of the yard marks the place where access was provided.
34. There are actually two vitex shrubs at this location--one is a healthy small tree and the other, a stump with root sprouts.
35. Historic Resource Study, 58.

CHAPTER 4

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations are made, first, to preserve the remnants of the documented character-defining features of the historic landscape, and, second, to propose treatment and management strategies that increase the public's experience and understanding of the landscape's significance and how it contributed to the development of Martin Luther King, Jr. Recommendations are based on the definition and standards established in the draft *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes*.¹ In applying these treatment standards to the Birth-Home Block landscape, it is clear that the overall preservation strategy is rehabilitation. By definition, the primary goal of rehabilitation is to retain and preserve those portions or features of the property that are significant to its historical or cultural value while allowing for improvements that make possible the efficient contemporary use of the Site.² This treatment standard has already been adopted for the structures which are to be leased or sold back to new residents, and, therefore, must accommodate modern needs and codes. No clear decision has been about the landscape. However, 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 make continual use of the historic properties, make rehabilitation of the landscape to meet contemporary needs a fact of management.

Another benefit of applying rehabilitation as the treatment standard is its recognition of the continuum of development within the historic landscape. Recognizing this development history in the Birth-Home Block attaches importance to features that cannot be accurately dated to the period of significance, but because they warrant preservation because they represent the landscape expression of the African-American cultural values of residents who continued to occupy the Site after 1941. The exceptions to this philosophy of preserving landscape changes that postdate 1941 are the yard improvements made by NPS or others that are clearly outside the cultural traditions documented in this report.

The chapter is organized so that recommendations concerning the overall streetscape precede general landscape treatment recommendations that apply to a number of residential yards. Specific recommendations for individual yards are addressed in the same order established in Chapter 3: residences with oral histories followed by residences without oral histories. All yards where the NPS currently manages, or has interest in managing the landscape, are addressed individually in this chapter.

STREETSCAPE RECOMMENDATIONS

Important features of the streetscape are, for the most part, not the responsibility of park maintenance. However, it is important to recognize the integrity of these features and to protect them from potential "improvement" projects. This will require good, and vigilant, coordination with the City of Atlanta and associated public utility companies (e.g., Georgia Power Company). Significant elements such as the lights, sidewalk material, and direction of traffic, are subject to change and repair. An example of city plans that potentially affect the Site are the winning plans in the Peachtree Street/Auburn Avenue design competition. These plans include recommendations for street tree plantings, changes in sidewalk material, suggestions for rerouting traffic, and creating pedestrian traffic zones. These types of improvements are appropriate for areas along Auburn Avenue that are not limited to a particular historic period for interpretation. However, within the Birth-Home Block, such changes would seriously affect the interpretation of the 1929-1941 historic character.³

The following general recommendations are made for rehabilitation of the Birth-Home Block streetscape:

1. Regular contact should be established between the appropriate City of Atlanta officials and the park in order to coordinate and set priorities for streetscape improvements. The following issues are to be addressed with the City:

- a. Reestablish type and location of historic lighting.
- b. Repair or replace the sections of nonhistoric sidewalks along the Birth-Home Block with appropriate river stone aggregate concrete. Work is to match existing conditions.
- c. Obtain historic fire hydrants, manhole covers, etc., as they are removed around the city and replace them in the Birth-Home Block where feasible.

2. Streetscape rehabilitation must rely on historical sources for the information they provide. The 1937 Cadastral Survey is one of the best sources of information on the period, city-regulated streetscape. It should be the reference for any proposed changes or improvements to the street environment. The 1949 aerial photograph should be used for power pole and street tree locations and as documentation of change from 1937 to 1949.

3. The park should work with Georgia Power Company to replace the five metal power poles on the south side of the Birth-Home Block with the same wood poles that are used throughout the neighborhood.

4. The Atlanta Housing Authority photographs provide the only images of the "coolie hat" lamp found to date. Its distinct quality would add significantly to the rehabilitation of the period streetscape, and these photographs can be used to help locate historic lamps or select a compatible fixture for the Birth-Home Block. The locations of the period lighting are available only through the oral histories. The two locations described should be given priority consideration. The park should also work with Georgia Power to find a suitable and less visually distracting replacement for the existing "cobra-head" lighting.

5. Two-way traffic is an important, and historic, element of the streetscape character of the Birth-Home Block. While it may be necessary, or desirable, to close the street for pedestrians during special events, in general, automobile traffic should be maintained in both directions along this section of the Birth-Home Block. For the special events that require street closing, 1930s antique cars could be displayed in the neighborhood to interpret automobile circulation, as well as provide an important visual link with a bygone era.

6. The 1932 Sanborn Insurance maps and the period aerial photographs should be used to guide development of the vacant lots on the Birth-Home Block. Design guidelines should encourage in-fill structures that have, at a minimum, the mass, footprint, and porches recorded in the historic documents. Where the park is interested in retaining the open space for visitor use, interpretation of the missing structures should be included in the open space design.

7. Some commercial activity should be reintroduced into the Birth-Home Block. Historic locations of stores should be considered for commercial in-fill projects. A priority should be to preserve the last "store" at 521 Auburn Avenue (Calhoun Residence). If the property is not to be a fee-simple purchase, perhaps the building could be leased and used for interpretation and/or visitor contact.

RESIDENTIAL YARD RECOMMENDATIONS-GENERAL

The primary goal of the management recommendations for yards is to rehabilitate the variety and diversity of the historic landscape. Stabilization and preservation of existing historic landscape features (identified in the text and/or noted on the site plans) are recommended as a maintenance priority. Features in this category include: walls and wall remnants, fences, hedges, walks, vegetation (trees and shrubs), and outbuildings.

Potential archeological sites identified from historic plans and photographs should also be preserved. General recommendations are noted in the text, while, more specific recommendations related to individual yards are noted on the plans.

Where there is an absence of historical information, no reconstructions or recreations of "typical" landscape features, except for period plant material, will be recommended. Emphasis is given to treating the streetscape and front-yard landscapes. Fewer restrictions are placed on the back yards, with the exception of the Birth Home, unless historical documentation or physical integrity warrants (e.g., the alley landscape at 491 and 493 Auburn Avenue). Future rehabilitation work on the landscape must be submitted to the regional office for Section 106 review. In addition to allowing the SHPO to comment, this process ensures that (a) work is carefully staged to protect existing archeological resources and landscape features, (b) no recommendations are proposed that will alter the documented historic landscape, and (c) landscape proposals are not made without first consulting the historical documentation and without a review by the historical landscape architect.

As a rule, the use of power landscape tools (leaf blowers, power mowers, power hedge clippers, etc.) is to be discouraged throughout the Birth-Home Block. Not only are they inconsistent with the period of significance, but their use creates a monotonous, park-maintenance effect from yard to yard. It is clear from all the documentation that there was a range and diversity of landscape maintenance practices among the residences, and that "yard work" was accomplished with simple hand tools and at varying intervals. In addition to the repetitious visual effects created by the use of power tools, a noise level is created that is both nonhistoric and objectionable. Limiting the use of power tools would mitigate these effects.

Most of the treatment recommendations require a reduction in current maintenance levels along the Birth-Home Block. It is a recommendation that a landscape interpretation program be developed along with the implemented changes to help the public and residents understand them. A successfully handled public education program provides many opportunities to interpret the historic diversity among the residents living in the neighborhood as evidenced in the landscape.

The following general recommendations relate to landscape features that are found throughout the neighborhood:

1. Hedges: Hedges should have a hand-cut look with rounded, not squared, tops. They should be maintained not to exceed four feet tall except where documented. Privet and abelia hedges should be cut back severely every three to five years to keep them full and from getting too leggy. Locations of historic hedges should be verified from the 1937 Cadastral Survey and the 1949 aerial photograph. Hedges that require replacement should be planted with common green privet unless documentation suggests another plant (see individual recommendation plans). There should be a variation of hedge

maintenance practices throughout the Birth-Home Block in order to more accurately interpret the historic character.

2. **Trees:** The two existing street trees should be maintained. A replacement tree for the third street-tree location (identified by the cut-out in the sidewalk) should be considered. Species to match existing trees. Other locations for trees can be documented from the 1949 aerial photograph, and these trees should be replanted where feasible. Selective removal of large, well-established weed trees (paper mulberries, trees-of-heaven, etc.) from yards should be considered when these trees interfere with replanting a historic tree species. The species of replacement trees where no documentation exists except for location is based on oral histories and existing historic tree species in the neighborhood (see plant list in Appendix A).

3. All new plant material selected shall be a species appropriate to the historic period. This is particularly true for ornamental shrubs and flowers. Hastings Seed Company's catalogue, because of its wide circulation and the fact that the company had a store in the downtown area, is a source for names of period plant varieties grown and available to the residents of Auburn Avenue during the historic period.⁴

4. **Grass and Swept Yards:** Grass should be rehabilitated in yards where it has been documented. Grass, however, should never be installed or maintained as a perfect lawn. As recorded in the oral histories, grass, where it was grown at all, required annual seeding and was thin enough, in some cases, to be "cut with scissors." Therefore, a much reduced maintenance program should be introduced at yards with sodded lawns, and opportunities should be found to interpret other historic landscape traditions.

One such tradition is the swept yard. Swept yards were common at shotguns and duplexes where the yards were small and trampled. Swept yards were documented in both the oral histories and in the period photographs. While the swept yard is not a feasible ground treatment for every double shotgun yard today, a few double shotgun yards should be designated and maintained in this important, and traditional, style (see individual plans for recommendations on yards to be swept).

5. All exterior hardware on the front porch should be documented as part of the structure's assessment. This is particularly important for establishing the location of porch swings, plant-pot hangers, mailboxes, etc.

6. Front-yard landscape features are to receive priority treatment. This includes hedges/fences, front walks, driveways, plant material, porch furniture, and porch plants.

7. Back yards do not have the same priority for preservation and rehabilitation treatment as the front yards. The exceptions are those yards that have the potential for

interpretation, such as at the Birth Home. Important features to be considered, however, in any back-yard preservation effort include fences, walls, outbuildings, clotheslines, and plant material (see plans for individual yards' recommendations).

8. Archeological testing should be considered to locate and size missing historic landscape features in the front and back yards of selected structures on the Birth-Home Block. The priority, of course, is the Birth Home. Delineation of missing features, such as the outbuildings, would add significantly to landscape interpretation efforts.

9. Existing landscape features and associated external building features or changes that are not original, but can not be accurately dated (e.g., concrete block steps at 497 Auburn Avenue, or missing balusters in porch railings), should be preserved as is unless otherwise noted. Materials subject to decay, especially wood, could easily have needed replacement by the 1930s, and in very few cases would finances have allowed owners to replace features in-kind. It is important, therefore, to preserve materials and/or changes that reflect the typical practice of "making do" rather than restore features original (pre-period of significance) to the property.

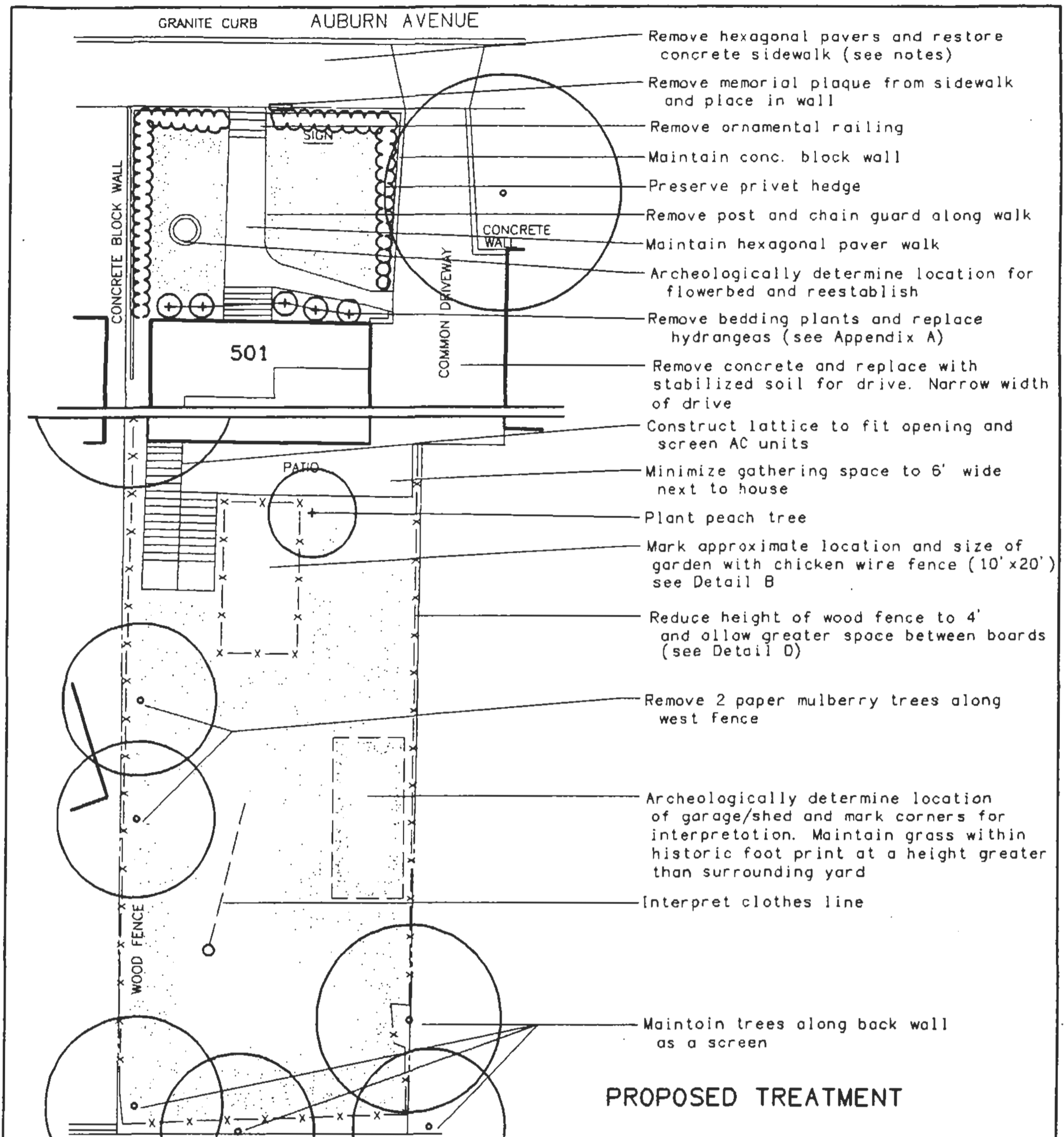
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL YARDS WITH ORAL HISTORIES

501 Auburn Avenue, *Martin Luther King, Jr., Birth Home*

Because of the lack of historic integrity in the landscape of the Birth Home, there are few preservation recommendations that can be made. The privet hedge is the only element that falls into the preservation category as an important historic element that should be maintained. In addition to the general recommendations for the treatment of hedges, the story of the King children using a hole in the front hedge to tease pedestrians is a unique feature. A hole in the described location (see interview with Mrs. Farris) would add to the interpretation. The front yard is, however, the one location that would warrant restoration of features if adequate documentation permitted. The following is a discussion of landscape elements to be considered (figure 77).

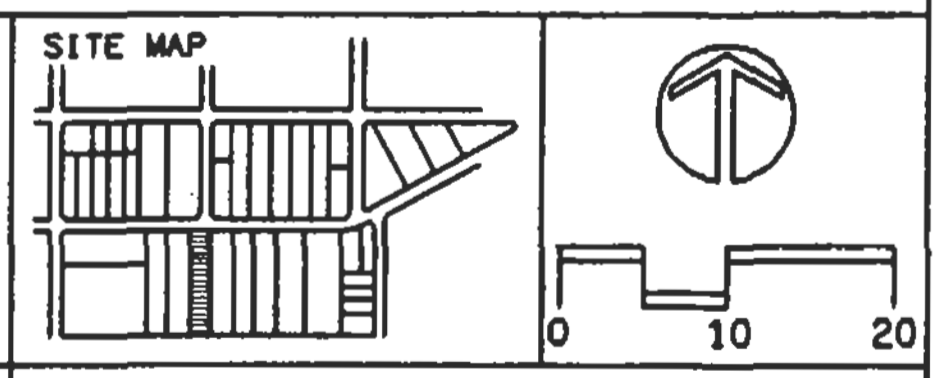
The Front Yard

The sidewalk along the Birth-Home side of the block (south side) should be replaced with the documented concrete sidewalk and scoring pattern used by the City of Atlanta during the historic period (see original sidewalk material on the north side of Auburn Avenue). The octagonal pavers are a non-historic element, and while they are effective in highlighting the Birth-Home property, the use of these pavers distorts the overall historic character. The existing brass memorial plaque could be reset in the restored sidewalk.



NOTES

1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
2. For treatment of sidewalks see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, City of Atlanta," Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Jack Patrick and Assoc., Inc., 2/6/1995.



LEGEND

-x-x Fence	⊙ Flower Pot/Can	⊙ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	⊕ Tree (prop.)
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	◁ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	PP ◻ Power Pole	

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
501 Auburn Avenue
PROPOSED TREATMENT

DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
DATE: April 1995 489-80017-32

Fig. 77

ON MICROFILM

The porch, with its furnishings and plants, is the most evocative historic landscape element in the front yard. In order to recapture the period landscape in the rest of the front yard, the majority of the work will involve removing the nonhistoric elements that detract from, or distort, the documented historic landscape. First, the front-walk octagonal pavers have not been documented as the period material and should be replaced with more appropriate material (e.g., smooth concrete with rolled curb).

The turf grass is another nonhistoric feature that warrants treatment. The sodded lawn projects an image that is out of keeping with a 1930s urban yard that was described in the oral histories as maintained "crab grass." It is not recommended to replace the grass, but rather to reduce the maintenance in order to have it look less manicured. Removing the post-and-chain edging from around the lawn area is also recommended. Because it was a yard where many children played and a lot of foot traffic went through, visitor traffic on the lawn would add to the historic character rather than detract from it.

The seasonal color beds planted in place of foundation shrubs are another nonhistoric feature. Mrs. Ferris described flowering shrubs (hydrangea) along the foundation of the house and these could be used in place of the present plantings to suggest the period landscape.

An archeological investigation is recommended in the front yard to determine whether any remnants of the circular flower bed remembered by Mrs. Ferris. Because of her detailed description, and especially if Mrs. Ferris could provide a photograph of the bed, there may be enough information to restore the flower bed.

The Side Yard

The east side yard has been completely altered with the recent installation of a house-to-house concrete drive. There was always a shared drive between the Birth Home and 503 Auburn Avenue. The scale and material of the present driveway are not historic. Because replacing this new driveway would be an unreasonable expense at this time, an intent to eventually remove and replace the driveway with one that is more in keeping with the character of the site should be acknowledged and phased into future work plans.

The Back Yard

As noted, none of the documented landscape features remain in the back yard. Changes in the back-yard landscape immediately around the house have been dramatic and do nothing to aid in the interpretation of how this area was used by the King family. These changes include the exterior, two-story staircase and the octagonal paver terrace. Of these two nonhistoric features, it is possible to propose only the removal of the terrace, because fire codes require a second egress from the upstairs of the Birth Home. The purpose of the terrace, as previously stated, is to provide a place for a group to congregate; however, given the size of the driveway that comes up to the back fence, a walk, along which people could stand, should be as efficient and much less of a

detraction. Along with the removal of the terrace, all the new plant material should be removed as well (i.e., the Japanese holly around the foundation of the stair).

An investigation to recover remnants of the historic outbuildings is the archeological investigation with the highest priority in the Birth-Home back yard. Delineating these important features on the ground would add tremendously to the understanding of how much of the back yard was used for utilitarian features and would improve interpretation of the young King's home environs.

The board fence enclosing the back yard is another feature that requires modification. Like the sodded lawn, its "too perfect" appearance is misleading for what was described in the oral histories as a utilitarian fence, widely spaced and uneven. The story of the young King slipping through the fence to play in the school yard would be a wonderful story to tell; however, the current fence makes this difficult to interpret. Historic aerial photographs and maps make it clear that the fence line has been moved into the King yard along the east property line. Archeological work should be able to recover the original fence post locations. With this information, the existing fence could be relocated so that the outbuilding/garage can be interpreted (from maps and photographs this structure sat right on the east property line).

Clotheslines are important historic features that were present in every yard documented. They could be successfully represented in the Birth-Home back yard from the descriptions given in the oral histories.

The current garden location is not substantiated by documentation. While this is an attempt to interpret a historic back-yard feature, the garden's size and location should reflect what was described in oral histories and what is visible in the aerial photograph. Also, the present location of the garden overlaps the shed/garage location and should be relocated in order to interpret the outbuilding.

The paper mulberries in the back yard are so large size, and so effective in screening the adjacent land use that their removal is not recommended. Any seedlings, however, should be removed as they sprout up in the yard. As for the replacement of other historic plant material, the fruit tree that the young King climbed out of his upstairs window into, in order to make his escape, would be important if the actual location could be determined from the period aerial photographs. However no such tree is apparent and replacement is not recommended.

More sources with information on the Birth Home landscape should continually be sought to supplement the documentation and descriptions retrieved in this research process. No family photographs were available at this time, but that does not mean they will not be forthcoming in the future. Therefore, any proposed changes to restore a landscape feature without sufficient historical documentation should be done with an understanding that future alteration may be necessary as more information comes to light.

514 Auburn Avenue, *The Lightner Home*

The tiny front yard of the Lightner home was filled with a variety of plants during the historic period. None of them remain. However, this is one of the few places where documentation identified a variety of plant material and, for that reason, it is a landscape that warrants some restoration treatment (figure 78).

Important landscape features in the front yard that require rehabilitation include the sidewalk (material and width), the front walk, the hedge, and the historic plant material. It is important to note that a hedge is documented on the 1937 Cadastral Survey. Even though a fence—stone base with grey pickets on top—and a hedge were described by Mrs. Lightner, the Cadastral survey does not show anything but a hedge. It is recommended only that the existing variegated privet hedge be replaced with green privet because not enough information exists to reconstruct the fence.

Plant material that can be considered for replacement are the vitex, roses, gardenia, and the gladioli near the porch. The enlargement of the porch after the historic period has created a very small front yard. Therefore, it is not recommended to replace the magnolia because a magnolia would dominate the space. The description of "thin Bermuda grass" that was seeded every year and could be "cut with a scissor" is very distinct. Park maintenance should be aware of this detail and not strive for a thick lawn effect. Two concrete planters were moved by park maintenance from next door (518 Auburn Avenue) into this front yard. The age of the planters is unknown. However they are very weathered and could date from the historic period. When rehabilitation of the front yard proceeds, these planters should be returned to their original location.

The porch furniture is another important feature to restore. The grey wicker swing and green wooden rockers described in the interview were an integral part of front-yard life. In addition, the clay pots with ferns growing in them placed along the front porch railing would add an important touch to the historic character.

The back yard has been changed too much to consider rehabilitation at this time. Although many details are known from the interview with Mrs. Lightner on the importance and detail of the back-yard space, later additions to the house and the complete paving of the ground surface with concrete preclude any interpretation of the back yard at present. However, if future renovation of the house considers removal of the last additions, and the proposed use warrants restoring the historic back-yard conditions, then the details from the oral history could be used to guide rehabilitation.

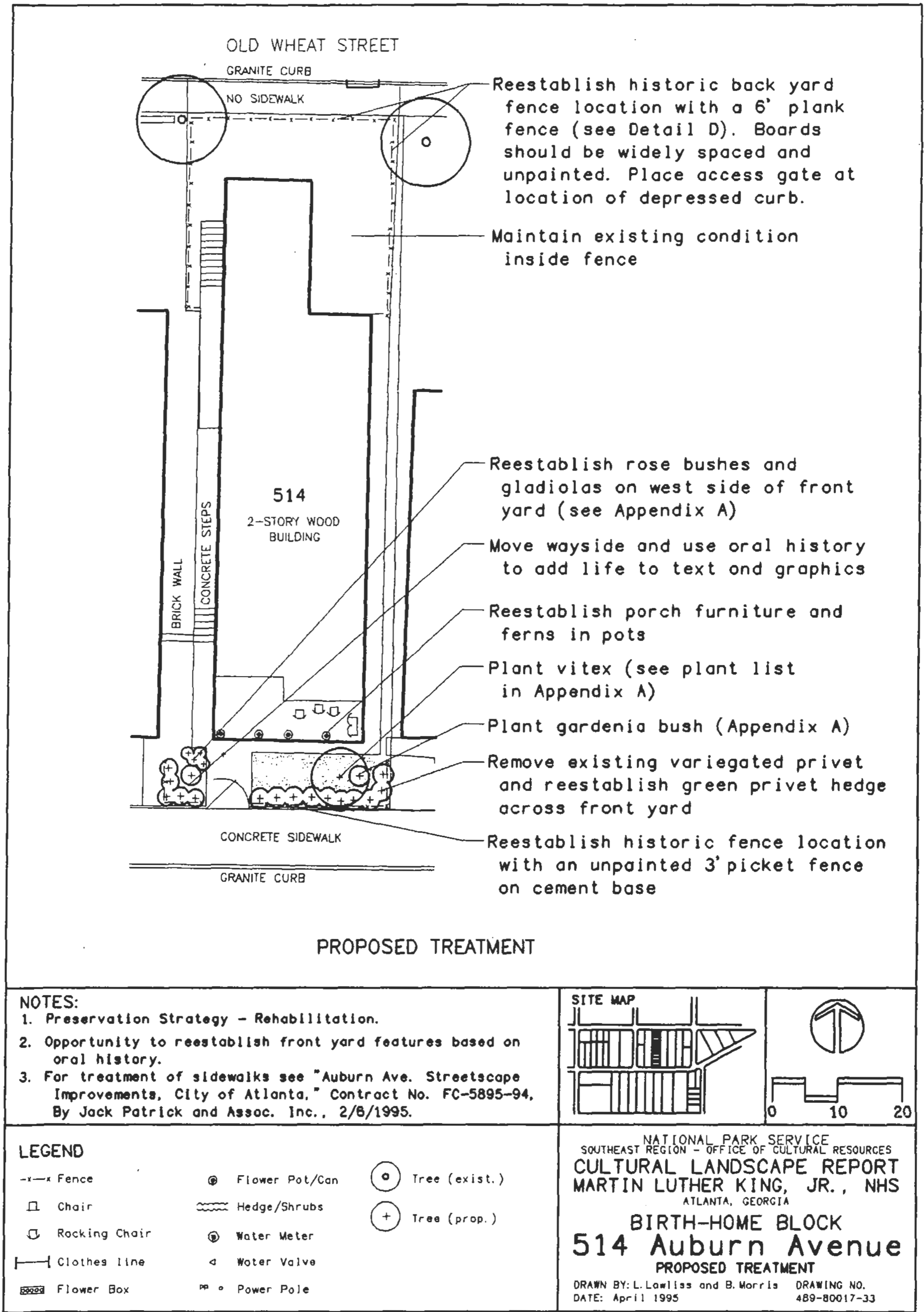


Fig. 78

ON MICROFILM

526 Auburn Avenue, *The Kirk Home*

There are no historic landscape features left to be preserved at 526 Auburn Avenue. From the oral histories, the front-yard landscape was very simple and could be interpreted by the rehabilitation of a few important features (figure 79). The most important features were the "black iron fence" that enclosed the front yard and the part of a hedge along the east front fence and the east property line. Because of its length and the way it fits the spacing of the front yard, the existing side-yard fence between 526 and 530 appears to have been removed from the 526 Auburn Avenue front yard. The Cadastral survey documents a fence in all three locations (both front yards and the side yard in between without specifying the type of fence). Because the effect of the fence is lost in the side yard, turning the fence across the front of 526 and placing an appropriate side yard fence between properties are recommended.

The species of the front-yard tree remembered in the oral history is not known. However, due to the existing location of a mature dogwood, just over the west property line at 522 Auburn Avenue, and its proximity to the recorded location, replacement of the historic tree is not recommended. Grass is appropriate to maintain in the front yard.

The historic description of the porch is of a very simple composition of three wooden rockers and two smaller chairs, all white with cane seats and backs. No flowers or plants were remembered on this porch. Restoration of the rockers and chairs is important.

Nothing remains of the back-yard landscape that was recorded in the oral history. Therefore, because no priority exists to interpret the back yard at this point, full restoration is not recommended. At a minimum, however, a fence along the rear property line should be restored. It is important to note that any action--renovation or rehabilitation--to alter the present back yard should be preceded by archeology in order to locate the primary features documented in this research: the shed/store and the extensive garden.

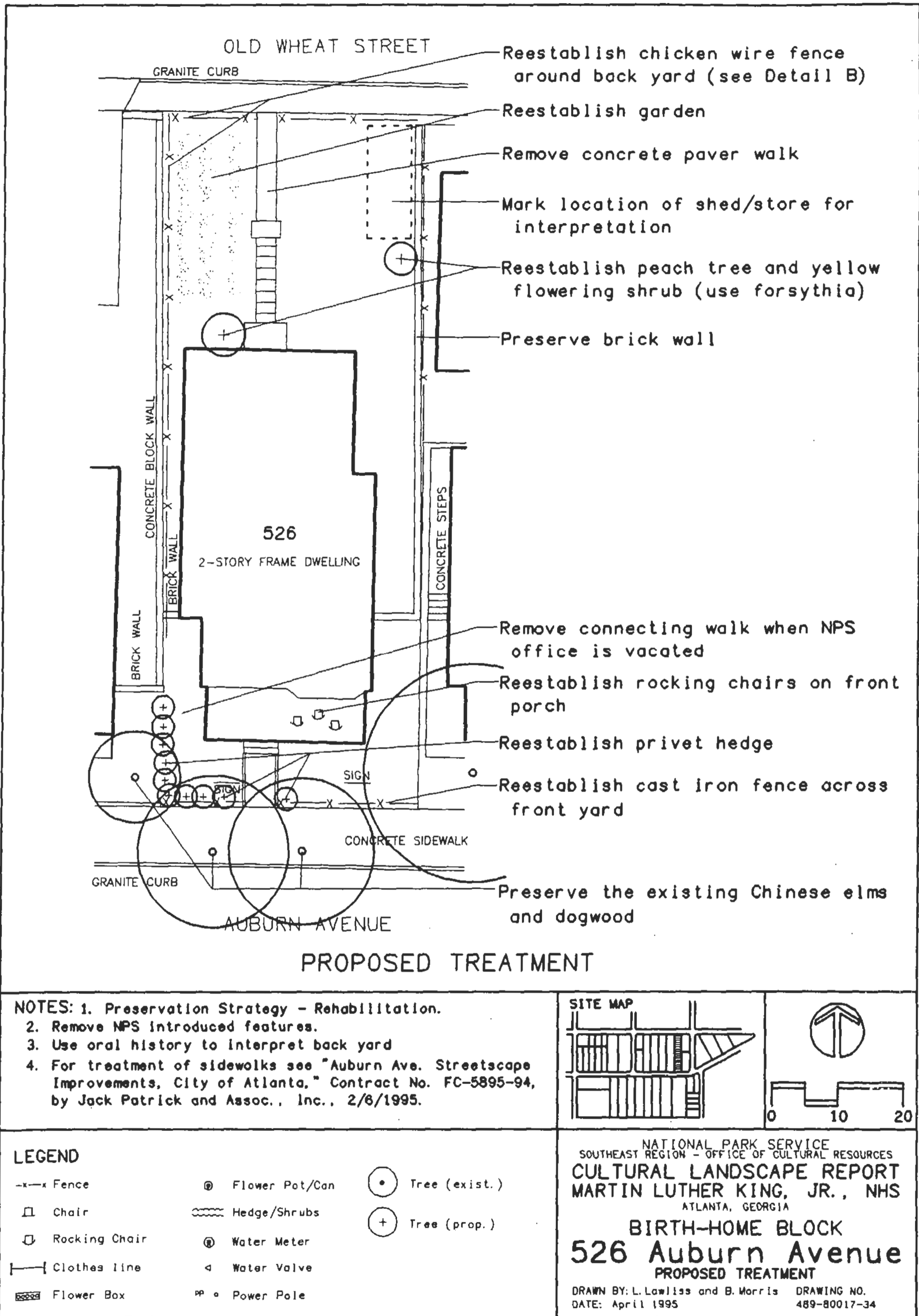


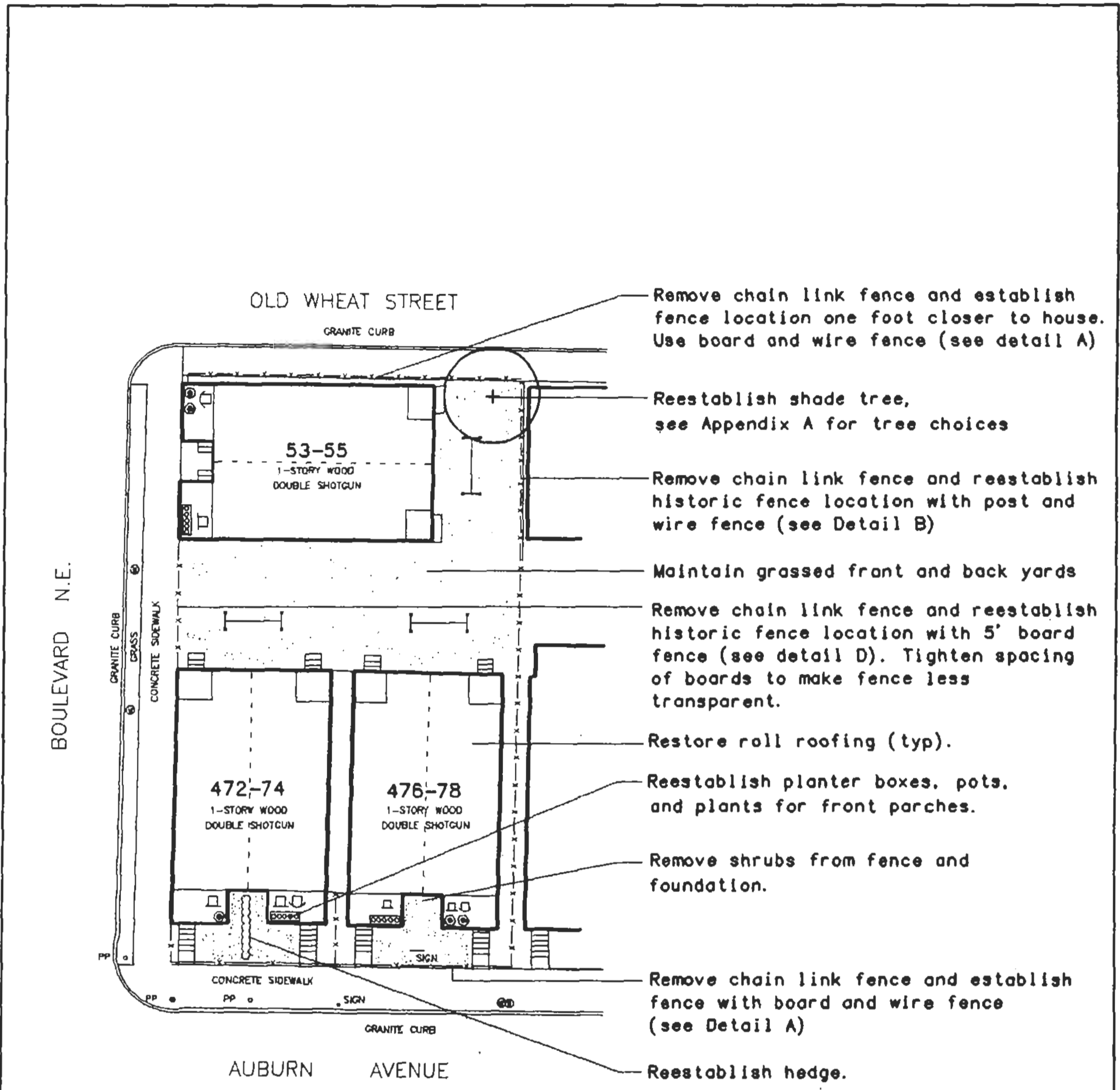
Fig. 79

ON MICROFILM

**472-488 Auburn Avenue, 53 Boulevard and 479-489 Old Wheat Street,
*The Double Shotguns***

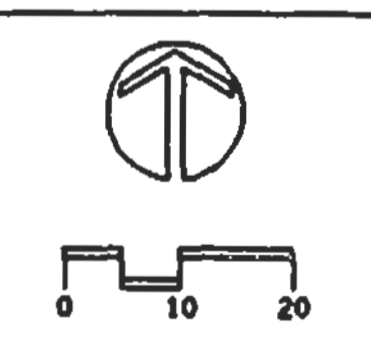
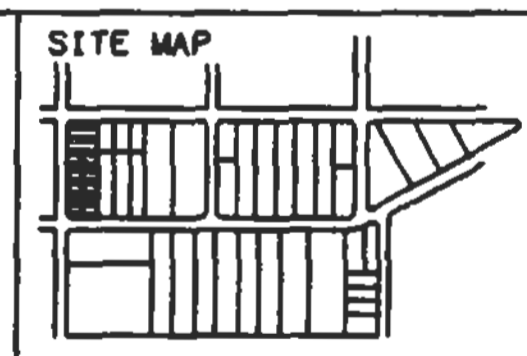
The nonhistoric improvements made by NPS to the yards of the rehabilitated double shotguns are noted under the description of existing conditions. Because these are key structures to interpret on the Birth-Home Block and they have a prominent place at the "entrance" to the Site, these landscapes should be rehabilitated (figures 80, 81, 82, 83). The chain-link fence should be removed and replaced with appropriate fence types as documented in the oral histories and AHA photographs of similar resources. The Cadastral survey should provide evidence of which double shotguns had a fence or hedge, the exceptions being the corner lots, which historically had no fence, but must have a fence today for security reasons. Where a hedge has been documented, it can be planted inside a low wire fence in order to prevent people from cutting through until the privet has grown together. As the privet grows, the hedge should be allowed to grow through the fence so that eventually the fence will disappear into the hedge. Planting the privet would require the removal of the holly bushes planted after the renovation inside the chain-link fence. The historic side yard fences, as well as the back yard fences, should be replaced.

The nonhistoric look of sodded lawns, foundation plantings, and a common, shiny-new chain-link fence (all introduced by the NPS since 1985) cannot be overemphasized. The contrast between these double shotgun yards and the larger, single-family-dwelling yards is one of the keys to interpreting the diversity of the Birth-Home Block. The contemporary landscaping of the shotguns blurs the economic and social distinctions that historically existed among these residents. It is important to interpret the moveable landscape of potted plants that also was typical in yards of these types of dwellings. Many details of "life in a shotgun" are recorded in the oral history and provide wonderful information for interpretation of this vanishing landscape type, which was such an important part of the Birth-Home Block.



PROPOSED TREATMENT

NOTES: 1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
 2. An unpainted fence is recommended along the opening at Boulevard.
 3. For treatment of sidewalks see Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, Contract No. FC-5895-94, City of Atlanta, by Jock Patrick and Assoc., Inc., 2/8/1995.



LEGEND		
-x-x Fence	⊙ Flower Pot/Can	⊙ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	⊕ Tree (prop.)
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	⊙ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	PP • Power Pole - wood	
	PP • Power Pole - conc.	

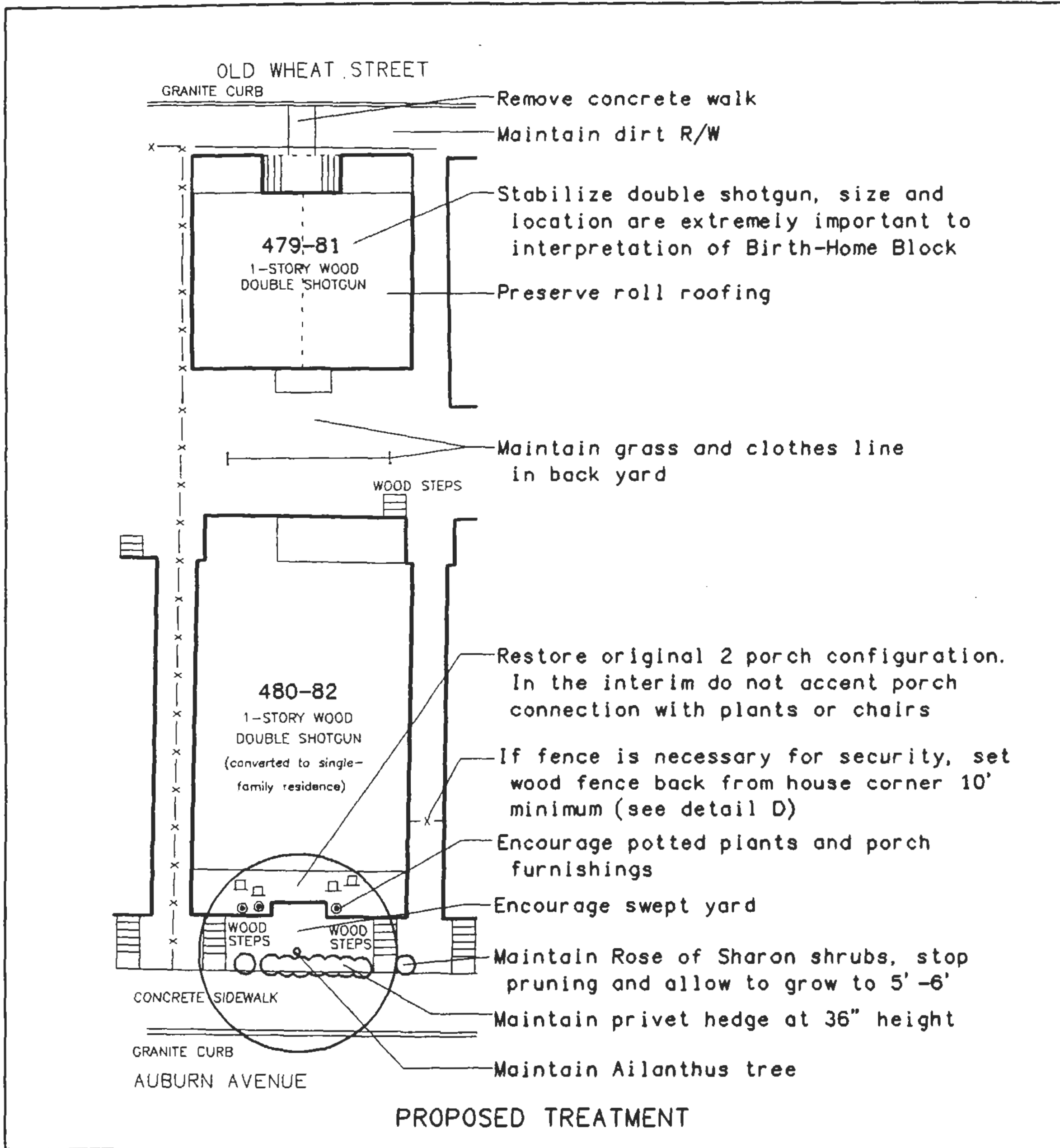
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA

BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
 472-78 Auburn & 53-5 B'vard
 PROPOSED TREATMENT

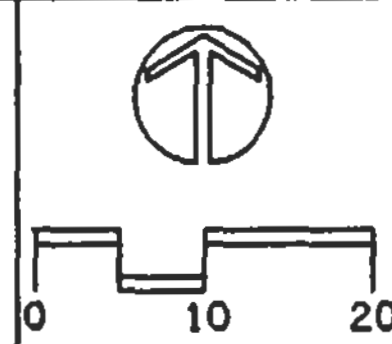
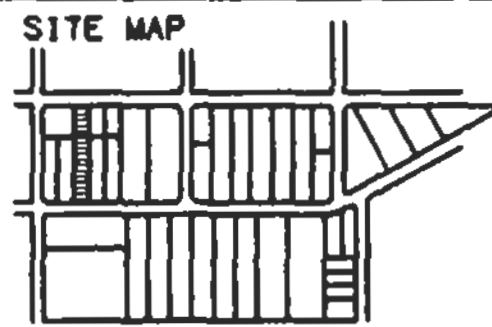
DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-35

Fig. 80

ON MICROFILM



NOTES: 1. Preservation Strategy (480-482) - Rehabilitation. Restore facade to historic appearance with 2 front porches.
2. Preservation Strategy (479-481) - Stabilization.
3. For treatment of sidewalks see Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, Contract No. FC-5895-94, City of Atlanta, by Jack Patrick and Assoc., Inc., 2/6/1995.



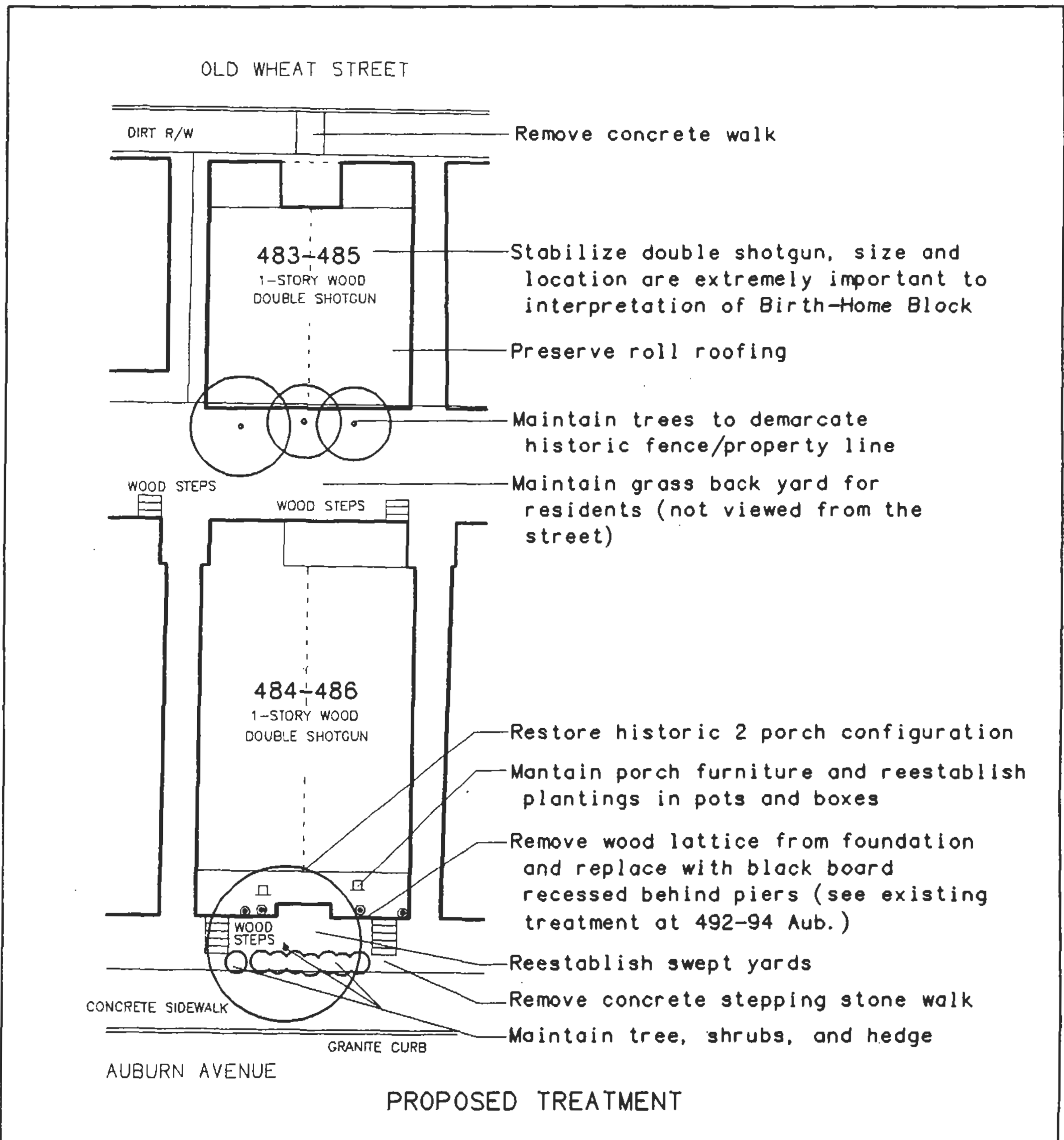
LEGEND

- x-x Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- Clothes line
- ⊞ Flower Box
- ⊙ Flower Pot/Can
- ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- ◁ Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)
- ⊕ Tree (prop.)

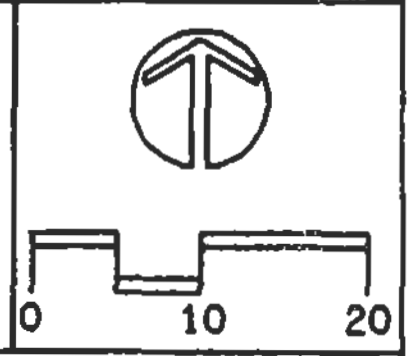
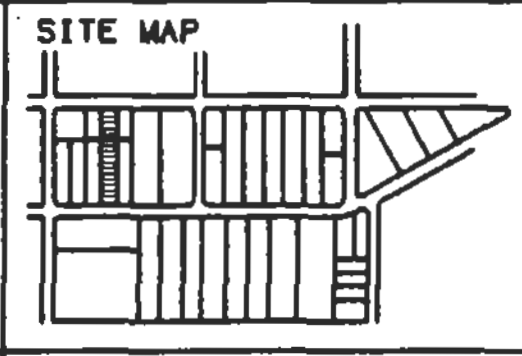
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
480-2 Aub. & 479-81 Old Wht.
PROPOSED TREATMENT
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DATE: April 1995 489-80017-36

Fig. 81

ON MICROFILM



NOTES: 1. Preservation strategy 484-86 Aub. - Rehabilitation. Restore facade to historic appearance with 2 front porches.
 2. Preservation Strategy 483-85 Aub. - Stabilization.
 3. For treatment of sidewalks see Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements. City of Atlanta, Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Jack Patrick & Assoc., 2/6/1995.



LEGEND

-x-x Fence	⊙ Flower Pot/Can	⊙ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	⊞ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	⊙ Power Pole	

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
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BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
 484-6 Aub. & 483-5 Old Wht.
 PROPOSED TREATMENT

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 DATE: April 1995

Fig. 82

ON MICROFILM

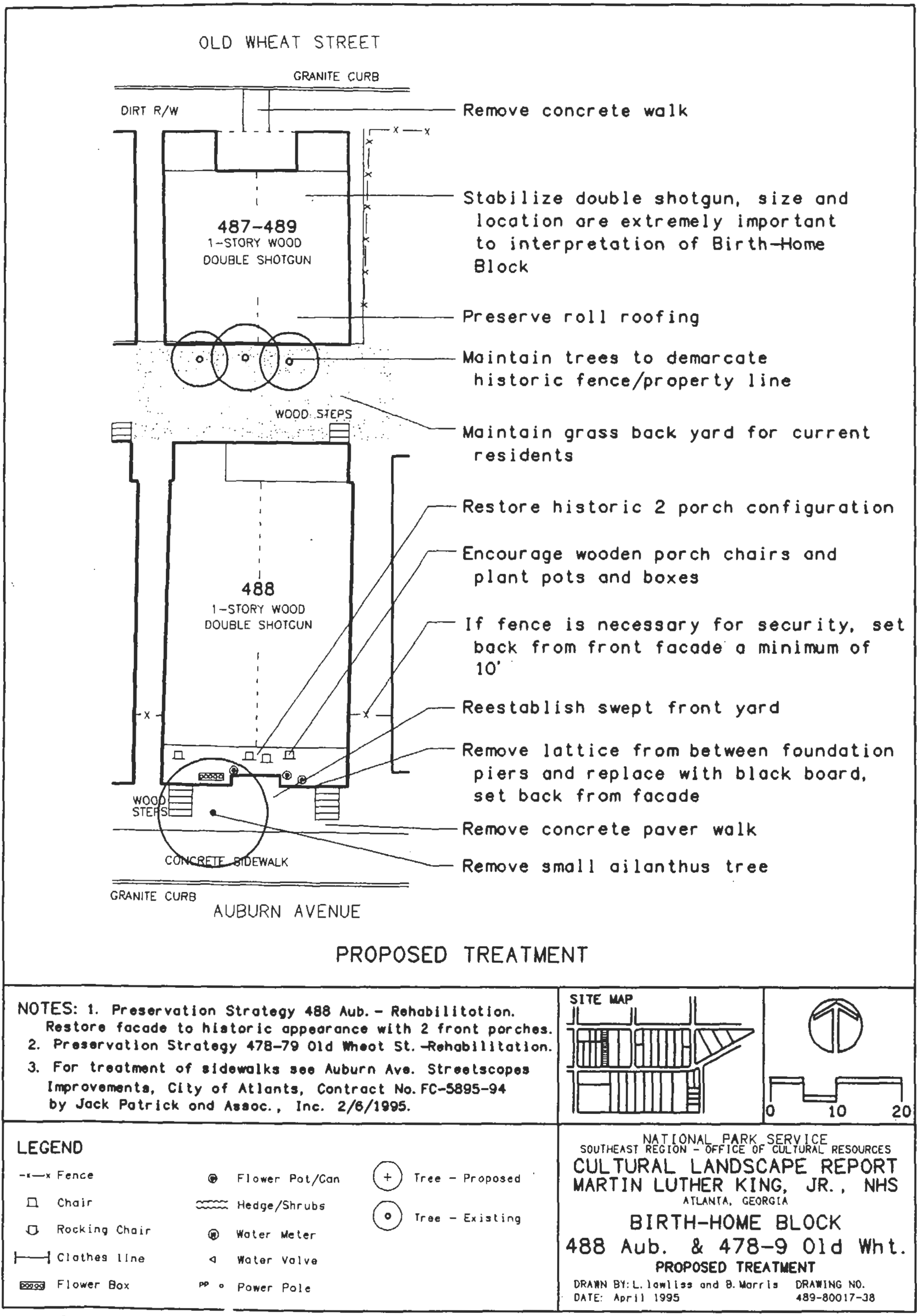


Fig. 83

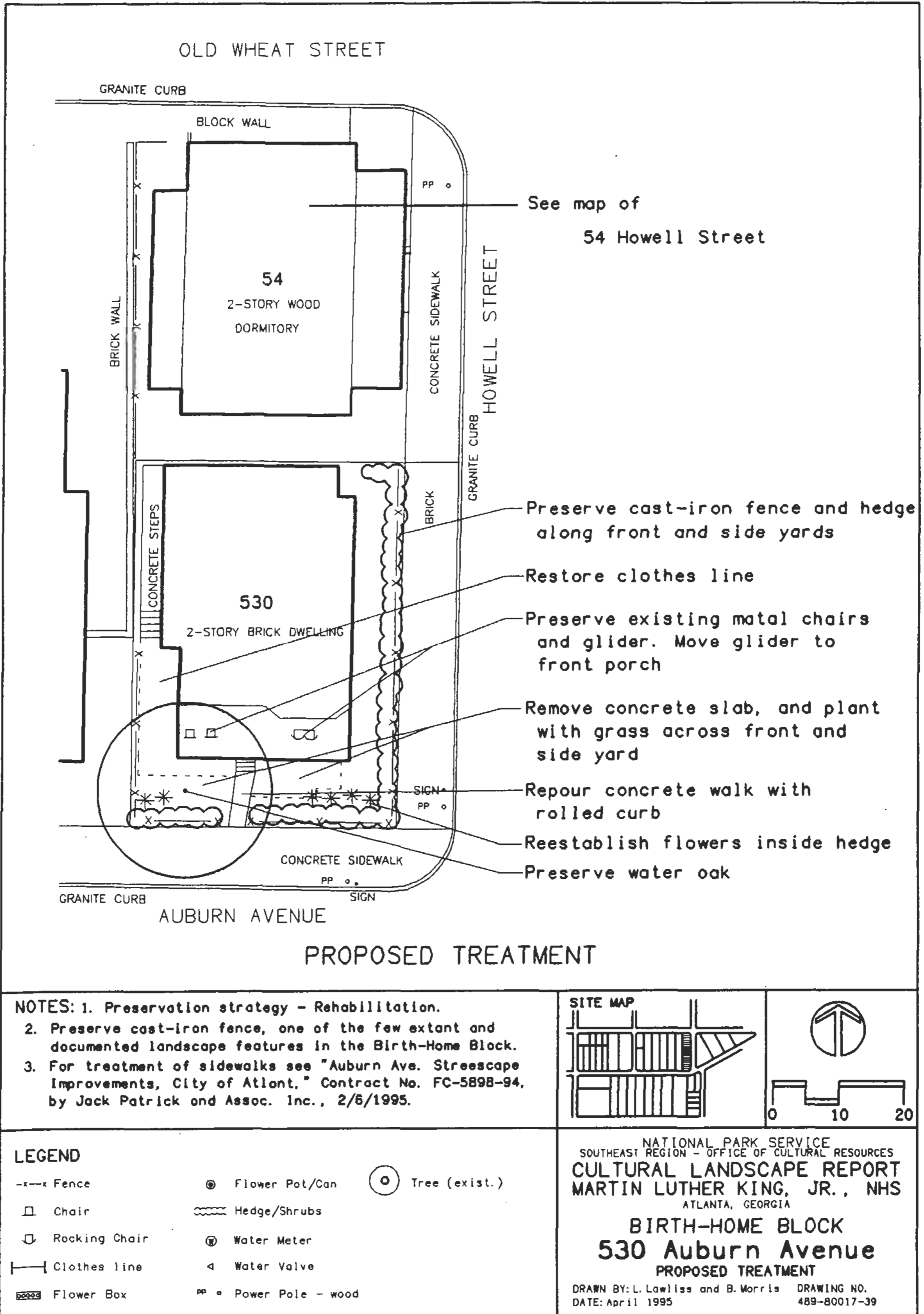


Fig. 84

ON MICROFILM

530 Auburn Avenue, *The Nowell Home*

This house, although slated for purchase by NPS, is not currently owned by the park. It is an example of a yard where little has changed since the historic period. When NPS obtains the right to rehabilitate the yard or house, care should be given to the existing historic landscape features (figure 84). This is especially true of the remnant cast-iron fence that exists inside the overgrown hedge along the front and side property lines.⁵ When the opportunity arises to make improvements in the yard, removing the concrete around the oak tree in the west front yard is a priority and so is removing the brick that has been placed in the east front yard near the hedge.

Porch features that are no longer extant are the metal porch swing and chairs, all noted to have been black.⁶ These are important historic features that the Park could restore, if the option became available.

521 Auburn Avenue, *The Calhoun Home*

This is another structure not currently owned by the NPS, although it is slated for stabilization and improvement in FY95. The landscape exhibits a continuity of ownership since the period of significance and a good description of historic conditions is available. It is important to note that this building was already being rented to three families as early as 1930 and that large vegetable gardens in the front and back yards support this fact. As previously noted, the most important historic landscape feature is the extant outbuilding at the front sidewalk. It could become an important interpretative tool if it were restored to its historic use (figure 85). The concrete drive that was added since the incorporation of the park should be removed and replaced with stabilized turf (e.g. Grass pave2, or equal) if and when NPS acquires the house.

Distinguishing landscape features described in the oral history but that have been lost over time include the following:

- a. Large vegetable garden in the front yard, larger vegetable garden in the back yard.
- b. Rolled wire fence enclosing the front and side yards.
- c. Hydrangeas along the foundation with a foreground of perennials.
- d. Plum trees along the east property line.
- e. Porch furniture - two gliders and four chairs, all wood, all green.
- f. Outbuildings.

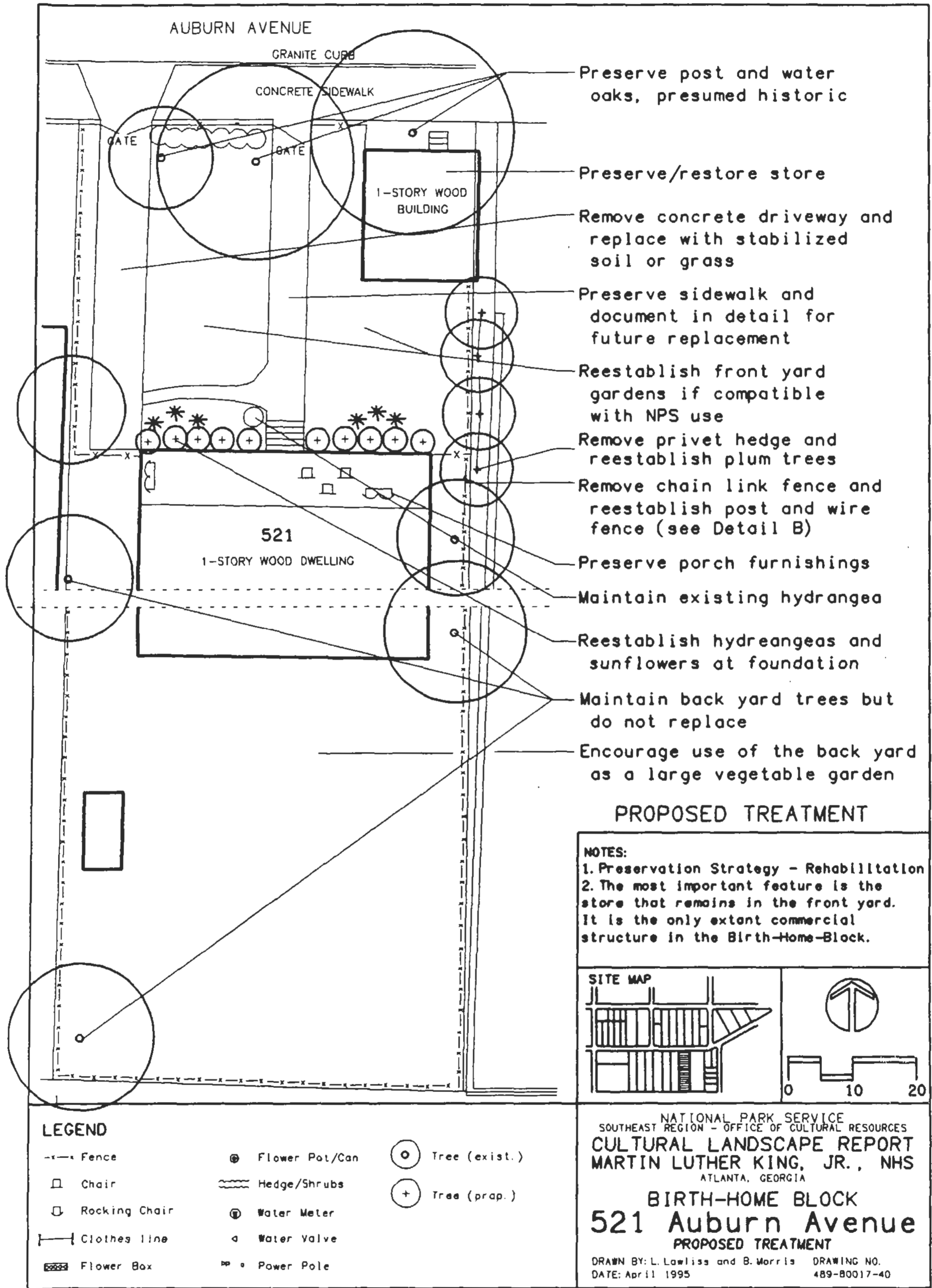
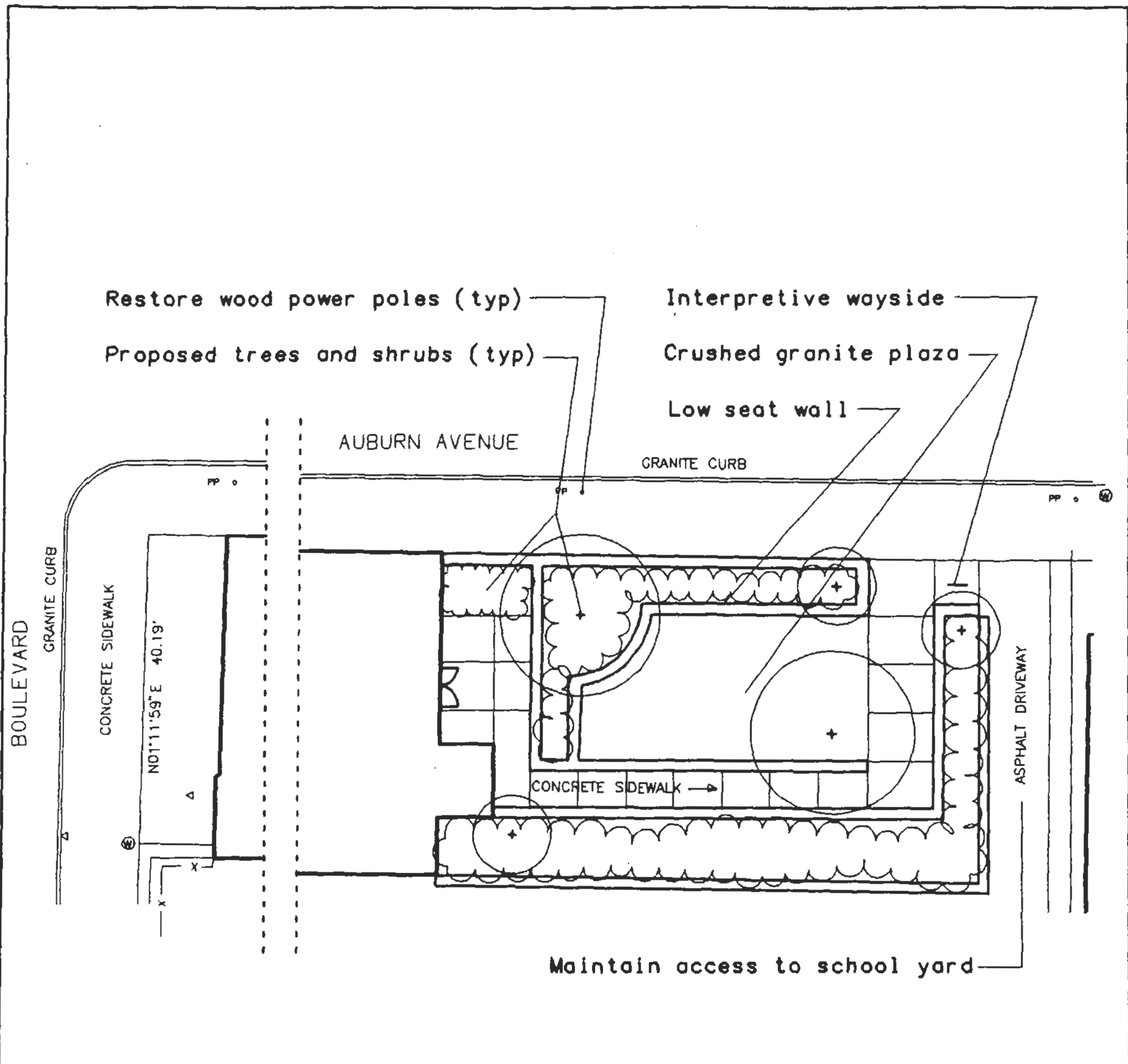


Fig. 85

ON MICROFILM

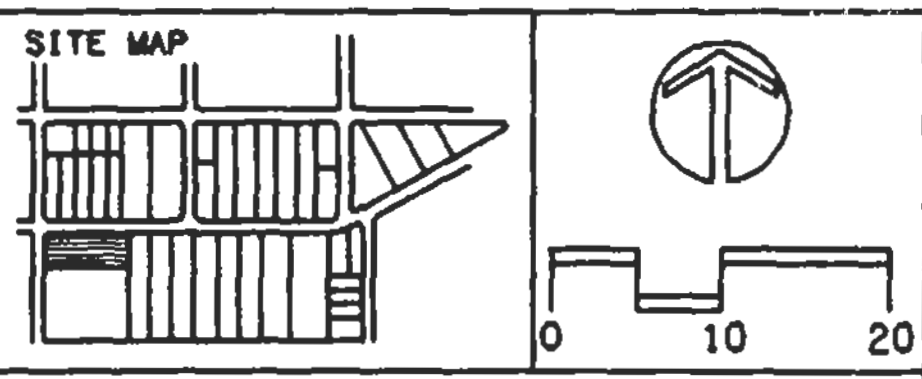
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR YARDS WITHOUT ORAL HISTORIES**37-39 Boulevard, *Fire Station No. 6***

There is a plan to use the open space behind the fire station as a gathering space for tours of the Birth-Home Block. The same A&E firm that is working on the detailed streetscape improvements is currently under contract to design this space. Recommendations for rehabilitating the historic landscape reestablish the hedge along the Auburn Avenue sidewalk with an egress ten-to-twelve-feet wide at the eastern corner, and continue the hedge along the rear property line (eastern edge along the alley) to the existing retaining wall. The eight-foot chain-link fence should be replaced with a more compatible fence. The attached plan illustrates the concept that has been approved by the NPS in Spring, 1995 (figure 86).



PROPOSED TREATMENT

NOTES: 1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
 2. The Fire Station is being rehabilitated to a museum space. The rear yard rehabilitation is being completed by an A&E firm in consultation with the park and regional office. The plan above approximates the final concept.



LEGEND

- - - Fence	⊗ Flower Pot/Can	⊙ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊕ Hedge/Shrubs	⊕ Tree (prop.)
⊙ Rocking Chair	⊕ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	◁ Water Valve	
⊠ Flower Box	⊕ Power Pole-wood	

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 BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
 37 Boulevard
 PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-41

Fig. 86

ON MICROFILM

491 Auburn Avenue

The landscape setting of the apartment building at 491 Auburn Avenue, while impossible to document as the original, is of an age and character that it warrants preservation when rehabilitation of the property proceeds. This includes the two large hollies, either side of the front walk, the front walk itself, and the canna lilies along the west property line. Because the building has not been renovated, the existing porch railing is an important character-defining detail to be preserved as well.

In the back yard the recommendation is to preserve as much of the material fabric as possible. This includes the miscellaneous materials that make up the fence, the location and material of the clotheslines, and the plant material (figure 87).

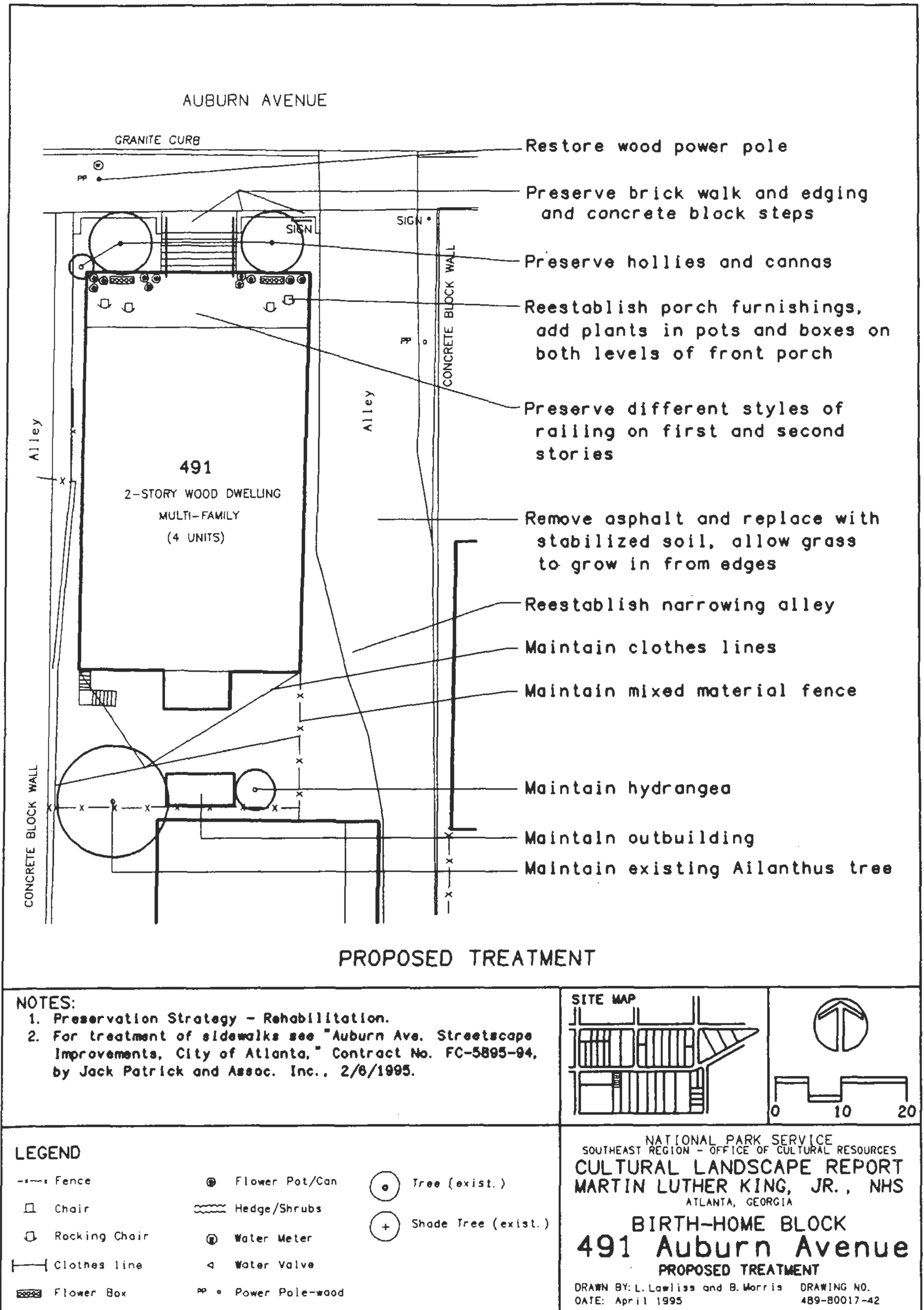


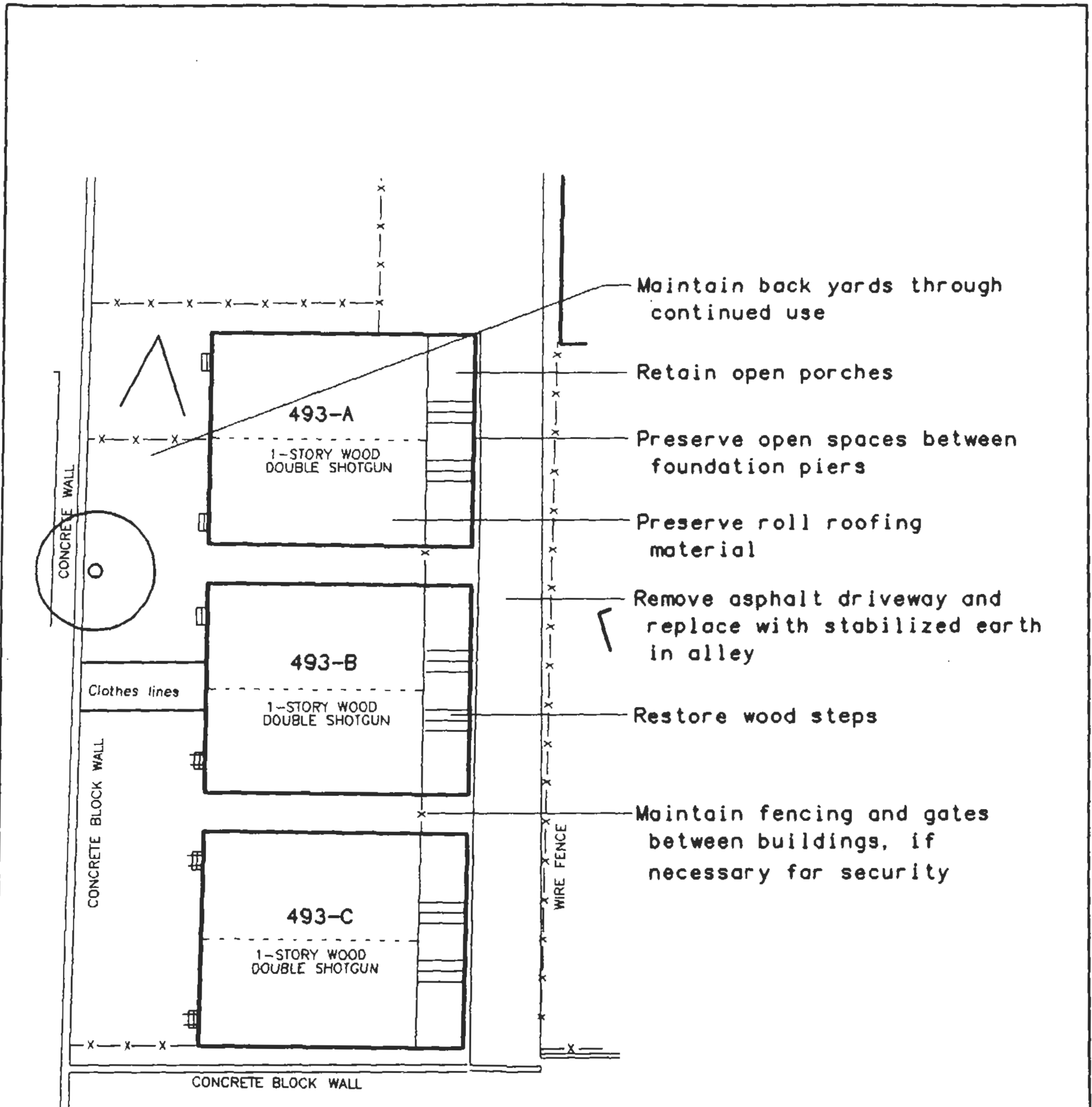
Fig. 87

ON MICROFILM

493 A, B, and C Auburn Avenue, *The Double Shotguns*

The alley landscape that is defined by the three double shotguns and the back yards of 491 and 493 Auburn Avenue is one of the most significant and intact historic spaces within the Birth-Home Block. This is the one place where a priority on preserving and interpreting the larger back yard landscape is important, if not essential, to the visitor's understanding of the cultural landscape of the Birth-Home Block. Special care should be taken to preserve the historic materials and setting that are extant here but that have been lost at most other locations. Although this could become a key opportunity for Park interpretation, it should be noted that because of the very small size of these double shotguns, as well as the lack of any open space associated with them, the presence of groups of visitors is an intrusion on residents. Therefore, the Park should consider a use for the double shotguns, if and when the Park rehabilitates them, that would allow for public interpretation (e.g., park housing or seasonal quarters, a "shotgun" exhibit).⁷ Another reason for allowing the visitor to have access to these double shotguns is that to understand the contrast of living conditions during the historic period, the visitor needs to have access to more than the interior of the Birth Home. With most of the other double shotguns rehabilitated to single-family use with new interiors, these are the last opportunities for providing that experience.

Recommendations for the preservation and rehabilitation of the landscape include removing the asphalt and restoring a dirt alley with stabilized soil; preserving the open brick pier foundations; preserving the open railings on the porch (do not restore vertical pieces); preserving these last examples of roll roofing on the double shotgun roofs. The location of the fence between shotguns should be preserved but a more appropriate fence type should be used (figure 88).



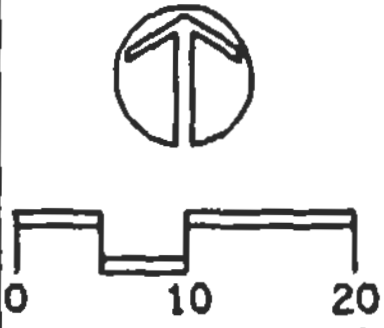
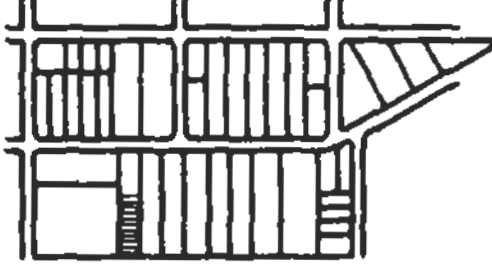
- Maintain back yards through continued use
- Retain open porches
- Preserve open spaces between foundation piers
- Preserve roll roofing material
- Remove asphalt driveway and replace with stabilized earth in alley
- Restore wood steps
- Maintain fencing and gates between buildings, if necessary for security

PROPOSED TREATMENT

NOTES:

1. Preservation Strategy - Preservation and Stabilization.
2. This is one of the most intact landscapes in the Birth-Home-Block. Stabilize existing condition as top priority. Maintain existing materials for the most part.

SITE MAP



LEGEND

- x-x Fence
- Chair
- Rocking Chair
- |— Clothes line
- Flower Box
- ⊙ Flower Pot/Can
- ~ Hedge/Shrubs
- ⊙ Water Meter
- 4 Water Valve
- PP • Power Pole
- ⊙ Tree (exist.)

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
493 Auburn Avenue
PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-43

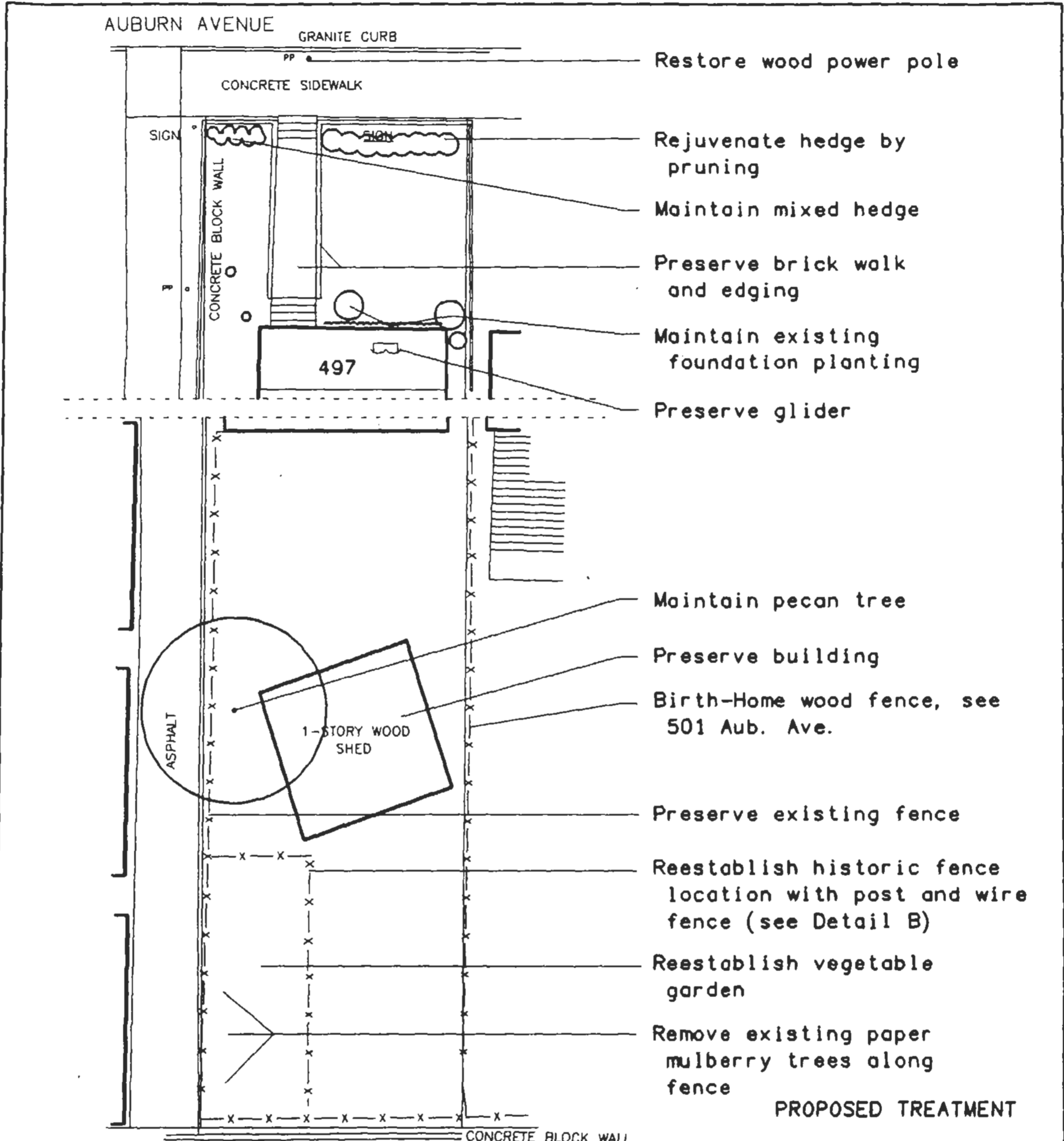
Fig. 88

ON MICROFILM

497 Auburn Avenue

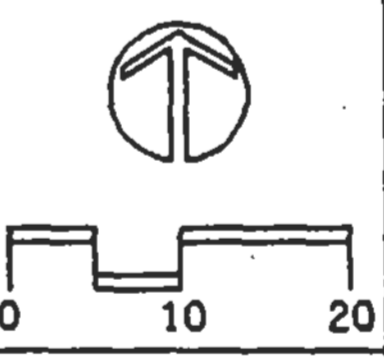
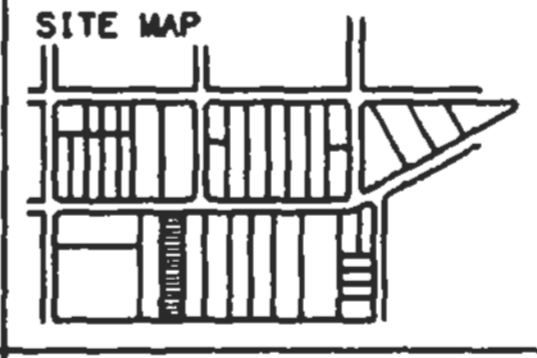
This is another landscape with a high degree of historic integrity and one that warrants special care during rehabilitation. As in the case of 491 Auburn Avenue where no historic documentation was found on the yard, it is the condition and character of the extant landscape that warrant preservation. Features to be preserved are the brick walk with its diagonally set brick edging; the mixed privet, rose of Sharon, and eleagnus hedge; and the large rose of Sharon shrub at the east corner of the porch, as well as the other foundation plants. The low block wall across the front yard and down the west side yard should be preserved, as well as the hose bib and ceramic vent in the west front yard. The missing length of hedge along the front west property line is to be restored. The concrete block front steps should be preserved.

All of the existing back-yard features should be preserved, especially the fence along the east property line and the raised outbuilding turned on an angle (figure 89).



PROPOSED TREATMENT

LEGEND 1. Preservation Strategy - Preservation. High degree of integrity; without better documentation all existing features are presumed historic.
 2. For treatment of sidewalks see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, City of Atlanta," Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Jack Patrick and Assoc. Inc., 2/8/1995.



-x-x Fence	⊗ Flower Pot/Can	PP • Power Pole-concrete
□ Chair	⊖ Hedge/Shrubs	○ Tree (exist.)
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊕ Water Meter	⊕ Tree (prop.)
— — Clothes line	◁ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	PP • Power Pole-wood	

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CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
497 Auburn Avenue
 PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-44

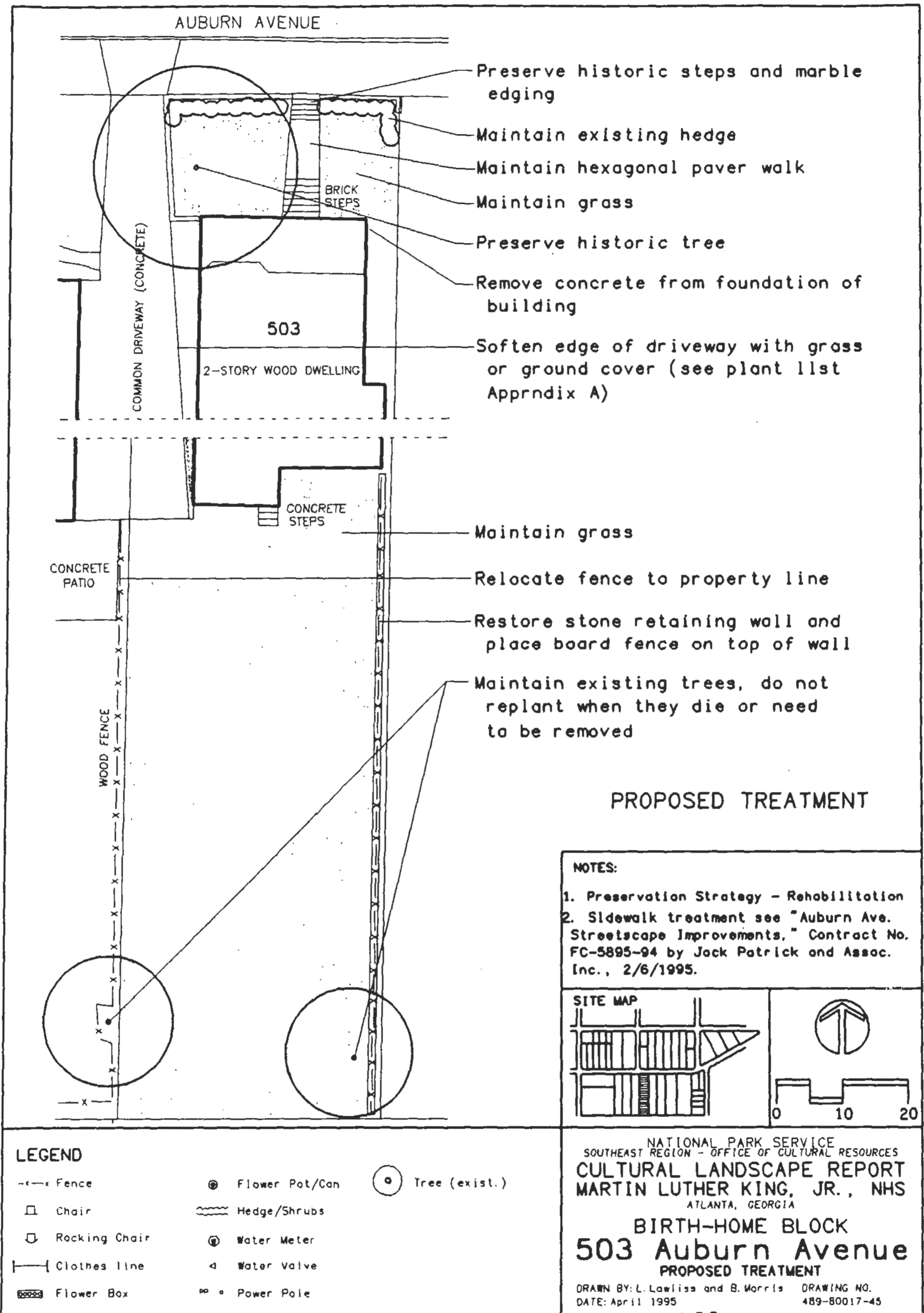
Fig. 89

ON MICROFILM

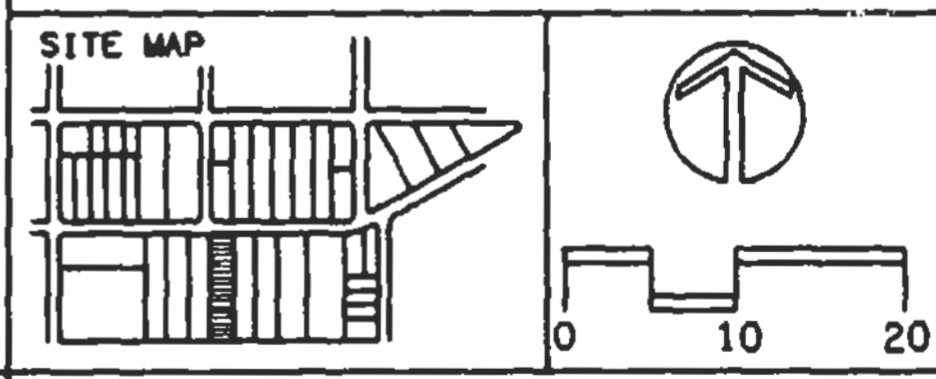
503 Auburn Avenue

Existing front-yard features to be maintained are the granite steps and associated marble edging, the giant southern red oak, and the hedge. The portion of the hedge that ran along the east property line to the porch should be rehabilitated with privet.

Nothing remains of the historic back-yard landscape. However, the existing trees should be maintained. When a structure is built to replace 509 Auburn Avenue, that project should include the reconstruction of the retaining wall that separated these two properties. See the discussion of the Birth-Home back yard for treatment of the fence along the east property line (figure 90).



NOTES:
 1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation
 2. Sidewalk treatment see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements," Contract No. FC-5895-94 by Jock Patrick and Assoc. Inc., 2/6/1995.



LEGEND		
-x-x Fence	⊙ Flower Pot/Can	○ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	⊞ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	⊙ Power Pole	

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 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
503 Auburn Avenue
 PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-45

Fig. 90

ON MICROFILM

509 Auburn Avenue

The new development for this site should replicate the mass, setback, and the front porches of the demolished apartment building. In order to restore the integrity of the streetscape, it is recommended that regardless of when a new building is scheduled for construction, at a minimum the two-foot retaining wall, hedge, and steps that existed adjacent to the sidewalk along the front property line should be replaced according to the HABS documentation that was done at the time of the building's removal (figure 91).

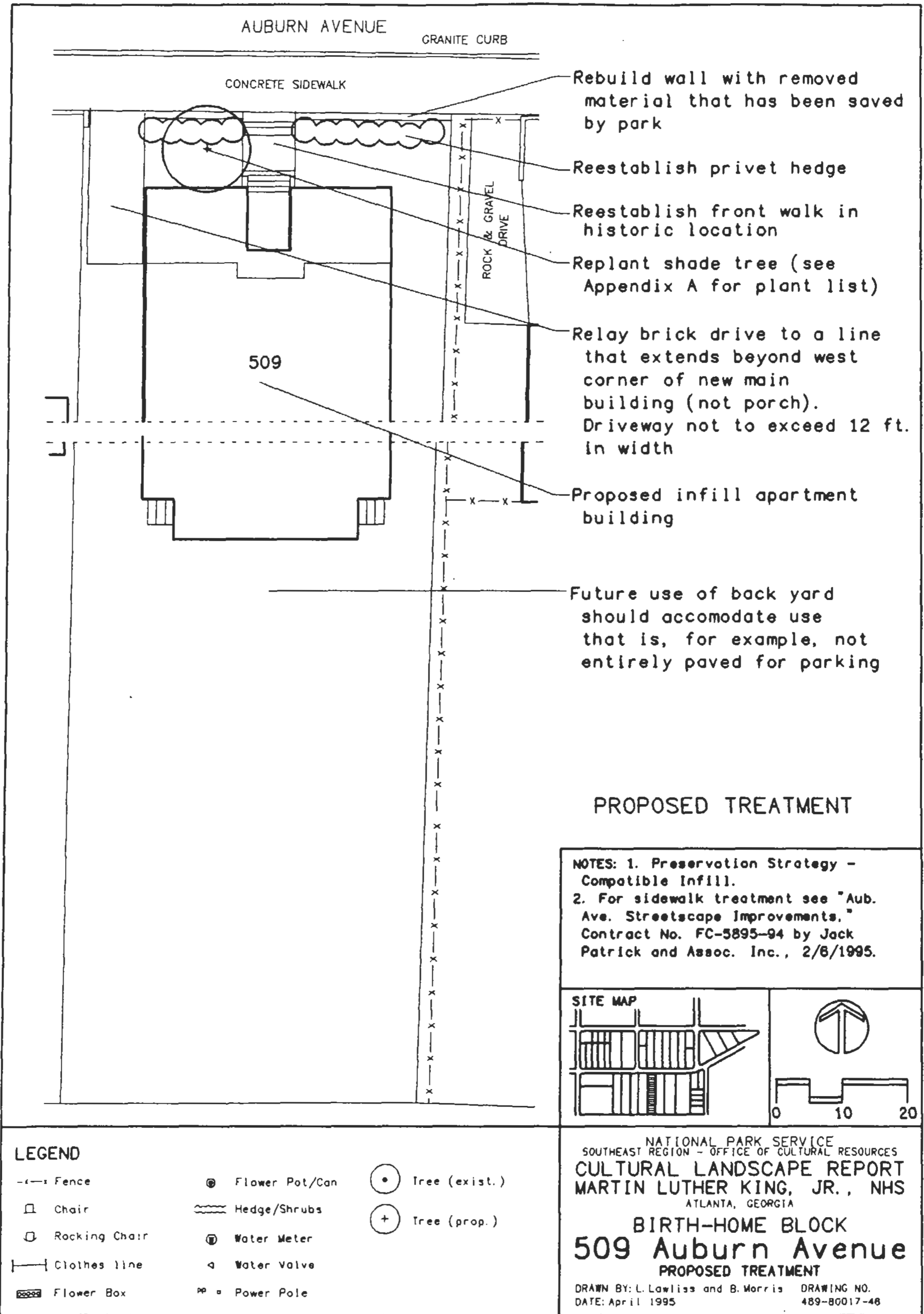


Fig. 91

ON MICROFILM

515 Auburn Avenue, *Faison Home*

Features to be preserved in the front yard of the house include the wall and hedge--the gap to be filled in with privet--along the front property line, the large trees, and as much of the front walk as possible. The rolled-curb edge should be repaired to match existing material. If by the time NPS acquires this house for rehabilitation the walk is too disintegrated to repair, it should be replaced in-kind. Because a fence enclosing the front yard was recorded on the cadastral map, it is recommended to replace the existing chain-link fence with a more appropriate treatment (figure 92).

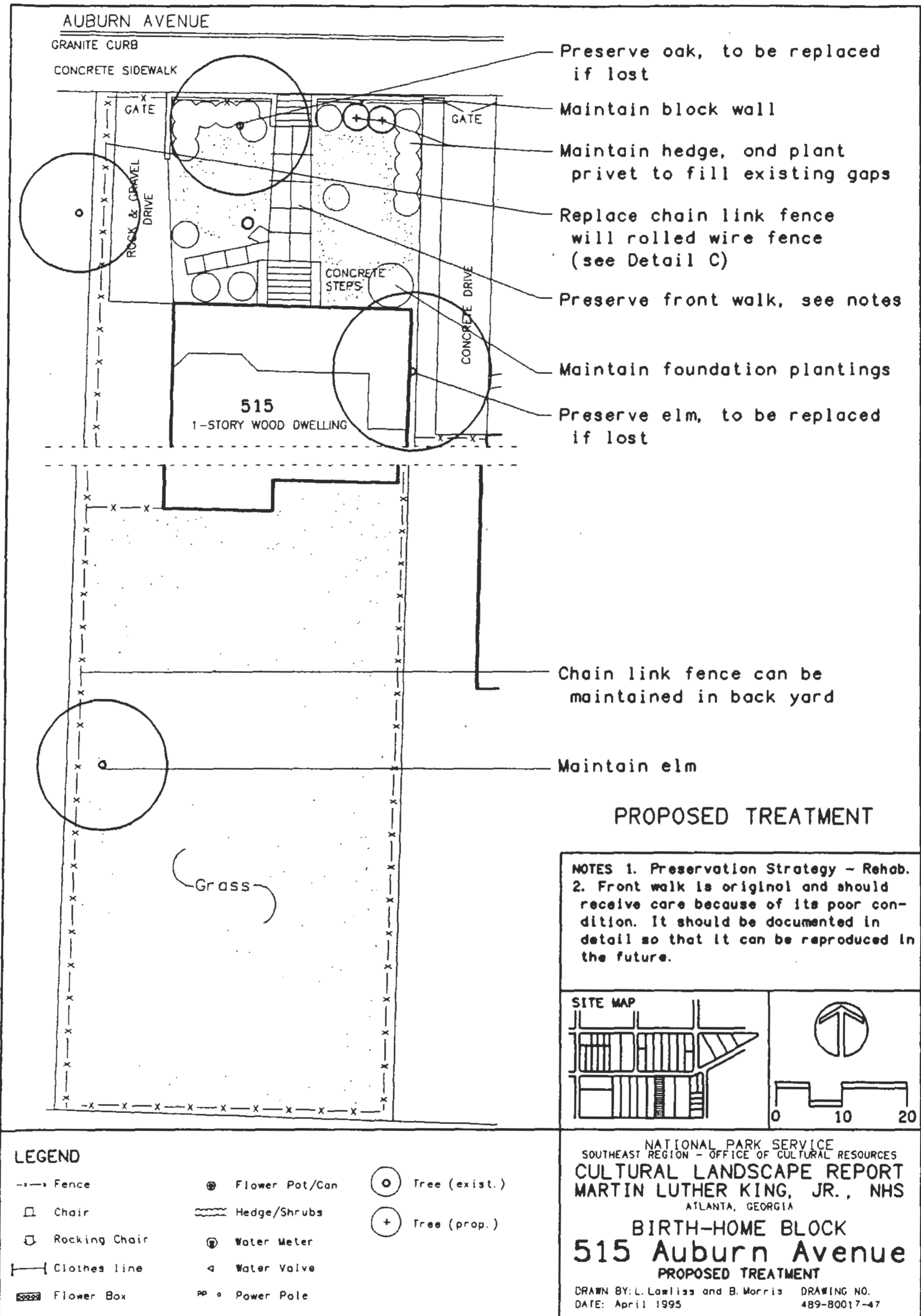


Fig. 92

ON MICROFILM

531-533 Auburn Avenue

NPS plans to demolish the nonhistoric apartment buildings on this site. A design for the open space is being developed by a private firm under contract with NPS. At a minimum the new plan should restore the streetscape of the historic landscape and interpret the complex of buildings that existed on the site. This would include the historic open space along the western half of the site, as well as the alley, two front walks to interpret the double shotgun, and the side-yard hedge that defined the house site. There was no front yard hedging or fencing across this site, and none is to be installed in any proposed treatment.

At some future date, NPS could explore the possibility of allowing an organization, such as Habitat for Humanity, to build infill houses on the sites of the historic homes. Guidelines for this type of project should require that the new houses match the location and footprint of the historic buildings (figure 93).

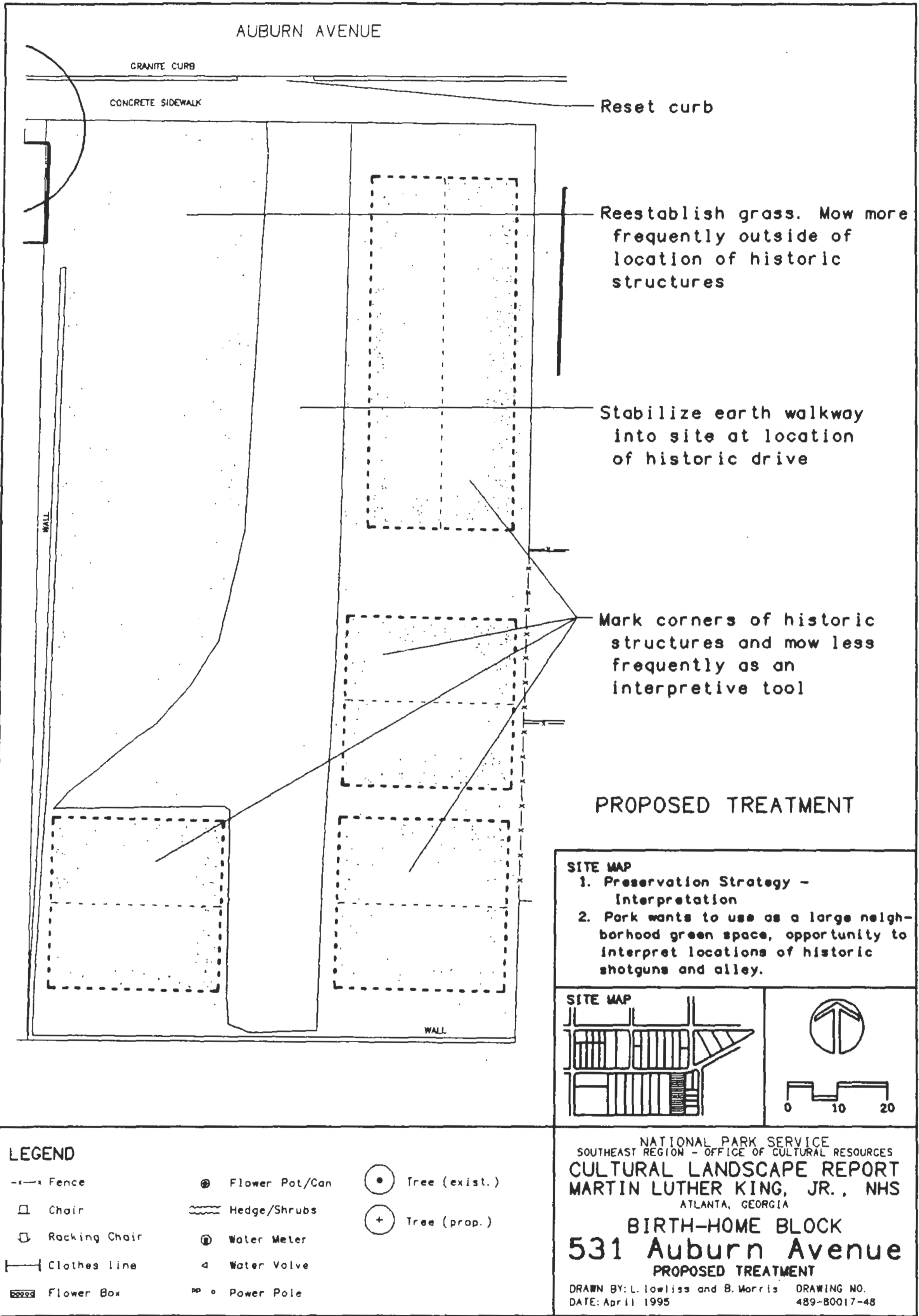


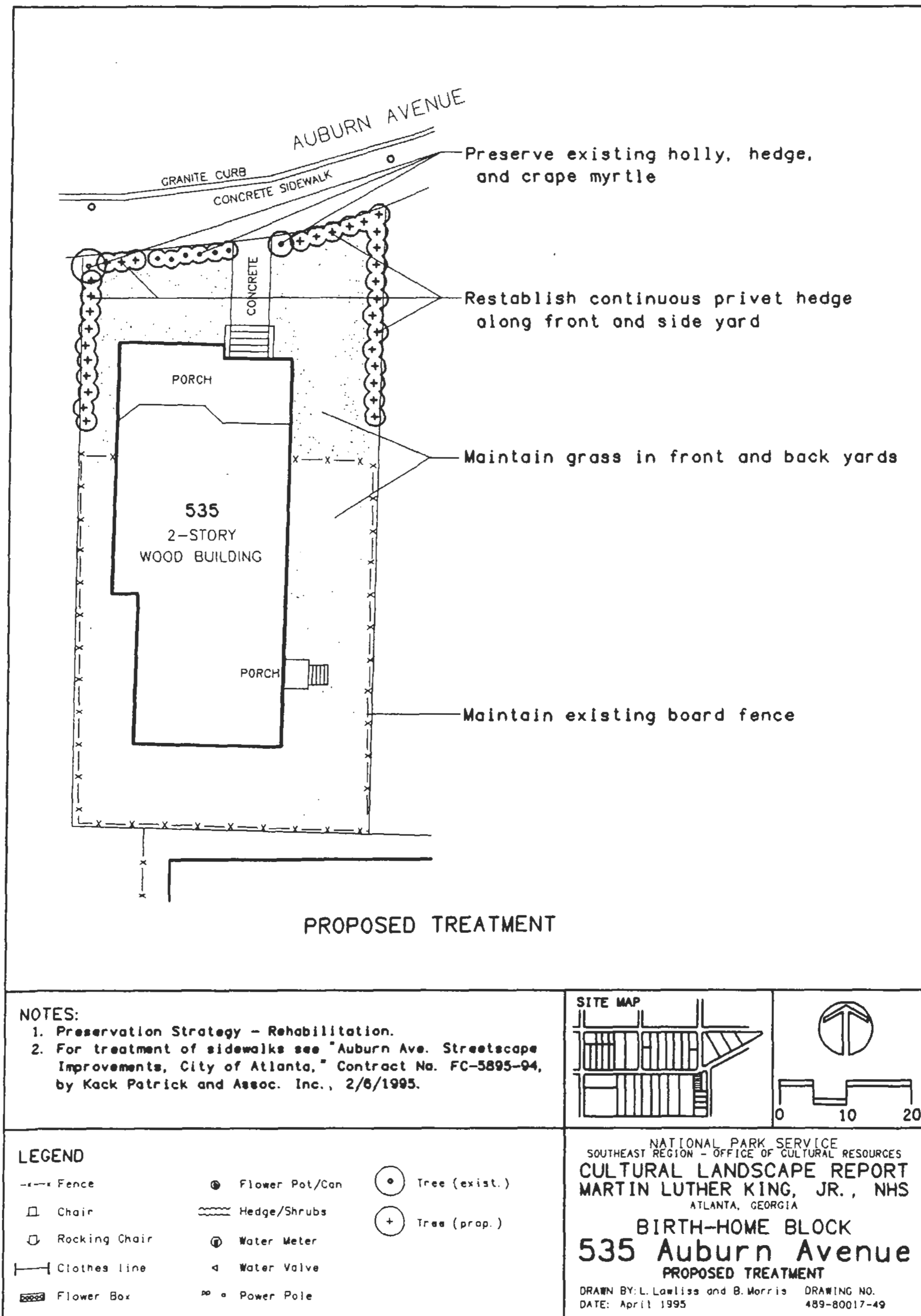
Fig. 93

ON MICROFILM

535 Auburn Avenue, *C.L. Harper Home*

The only extant historic landscape feature is the hedge along the west front property line and the one large burford holly on the east side of the front walk. This feature should be preserved and enhanced by replanting the rest of the historic hedge across the east front yard and down the side property lines with privet. The extant portion of the hedge has a very definite shape, with the end shrubs being kept taller. This shaping has been documented in the AHA photographs and should be maintained at this site (figure 94).

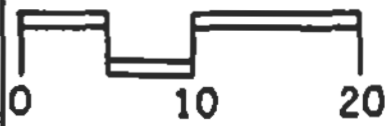
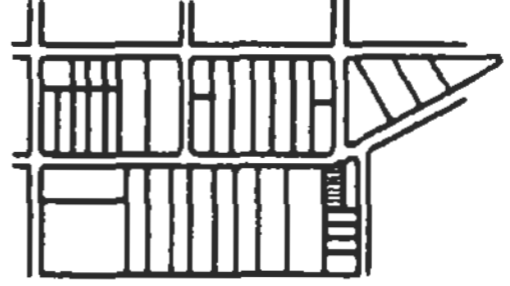
Because of the exposed condition of this lot, a back-yard fence is necessary for the protection of the family leasing the house. A five-foot board fence is proposed along the east property line, beginning at the end of the replanted hedge, and a six-foot board fence along the west property line.



NOTES:

1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
2. For treatment of sidewalks see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, City of Atlanta," Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Kack Patrick and Assoc. Inc., 2/6/1995.

SITE MAP



LEGEND

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| -x-x Fence | ● Flower Pot/Can | ○ Tree (exist.) |
| □ Chair | ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs | + Tree (prop.) |
| ⊞ Rocking Chair | ⊕ Water Meter | |
| — — Clothes line | ◁ Water Valve | |
| ⊞ Flower Box | ⊙ Power Pole | |

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 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
535 Auburn Avenue
PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-49

Fig. 94

ON MICROFILM

539 Auburn Avenue

This is a small vacant corner lot that has been graded and grassed. For now, NPS has no plans, or funds, to purchase this site. However, it is feasible to consider this as another possible site for an infill project (see treatment recommendation discussion for 531-533 Auburn Avenue). In order to interpret the streetscape of the Birth-Home Block, it is recommended that NPS obtain permission to restore the hedge across the front property line and a fence down the east property line, both of which are recorded on the Cadastral survey. A deciduous shade tree should be planted in the historic location at the corner of Auburn Avenue and Howell Street (figure 95).

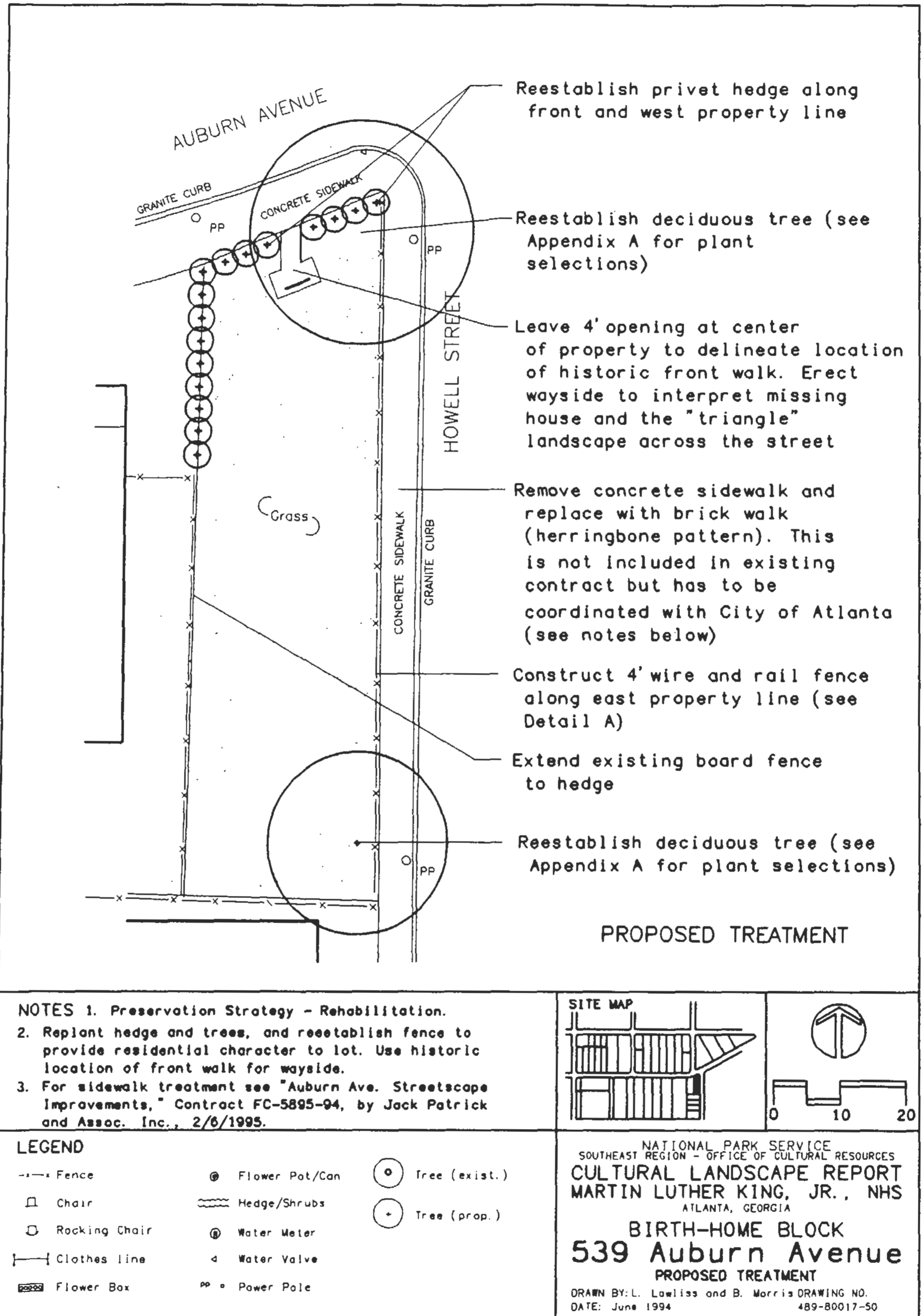
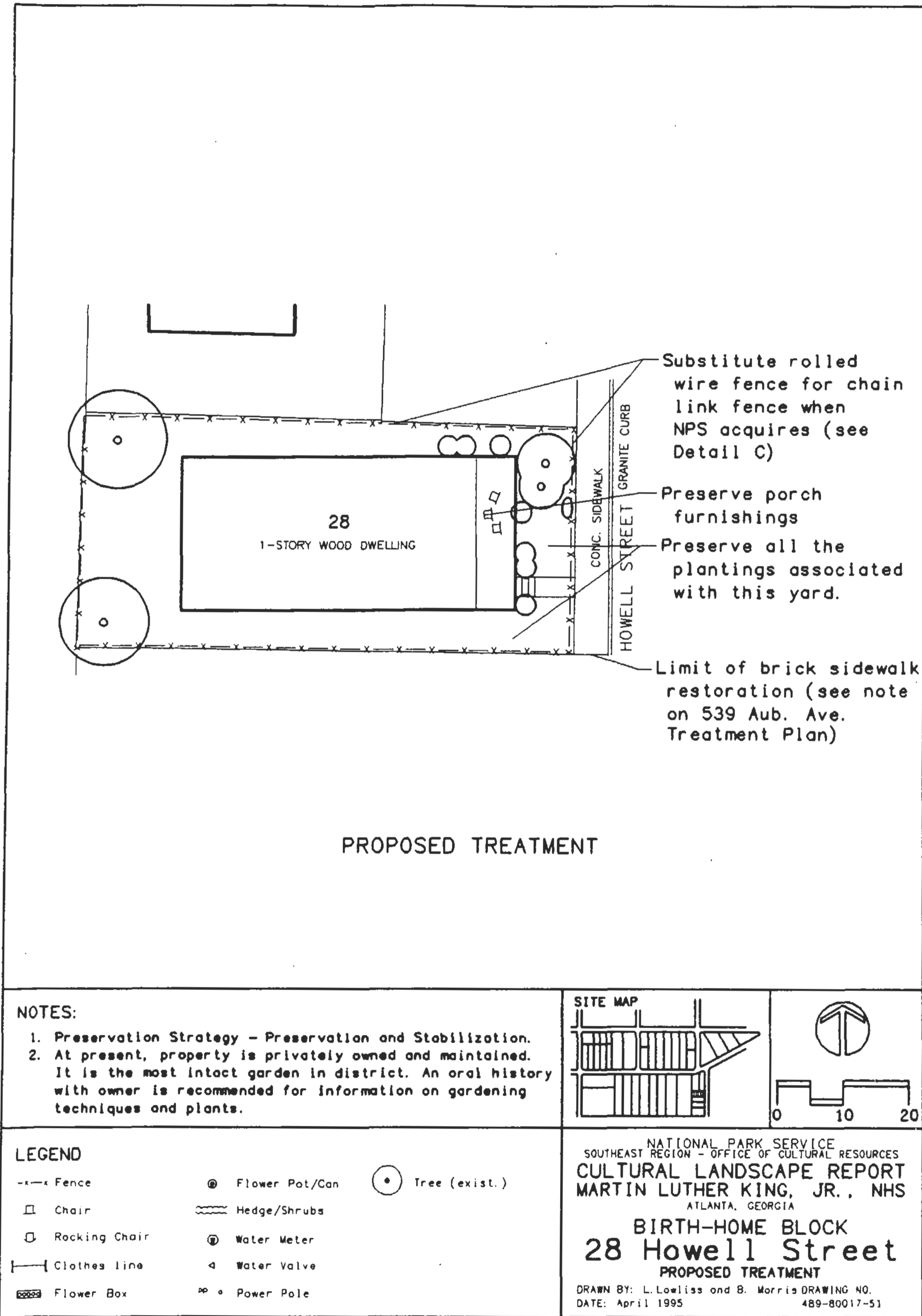


Fig. 95

ON MICROFILM

28 Howell Street

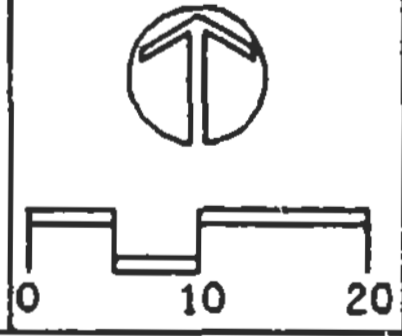
NPS does not intend to purchase or rehabilitate this structure in the near future. It is, however, important that the park establish a relationship with the elderly woman who lives here and attempt to record her gardening knowledge. This is one of the most detailed and authentic gardens remaining in the neighborhood (figure 96). The garden, and most especially the gardener, should be valued as unique resources that could provide a wealth of information to the park about materials and methods of traditional gardening. Because of the ephemeral nature of this type of resource, as well as the age of the owner, it is recommended that the park develop a contingency plan for when the owner is no longer able to care for her garden.



NOTES:

1. Preservation Strategy - Preservation and Stabilization.
2. At present, property is privately owned and maintained. It is the most intact garden in district. An oral history with owner is recommended for information on gardening techniques and plants.

SITE MAP



LEGEND

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| -x-x Fence | ⊙ Flower Pot/Can | ○ Tree (exist.) |
| □ Chair | ⊞ Hedge/Shrubs | |
| ⊞ Rocking Chair | ⊙ Water Meter | |
| — — Clothes line | ⊞ Water Valve | |
| ⊞ Flower Box | ⊙ Power Pole | |

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BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
28 Howell Street
PROPOSED TREATMENT

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DATE: April 1995 489-80017-51

Fig. 96

ON MICROFILM

554-558 Auburn Avenue

The recommendation for this grassed vacant lot is to replace the brick sidewalk to the eastern corner, as well as the large deciduous tree that grew on the point of the triangle. Because the brick building will not be reconstructed, it is important to define the building's footprint and interpret this significant commercial structure--the only one of its kind on the Birth-Home Block (figure 97). A sign to identify the park has been talked about for this site, and it might be appropriate to work the sign into the interpretation of the foundation of the building. Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Historic Preservation Section has photographs of the commercial building. The park should obtain copies and use them to develop the entrance and interpretive signs for the site.

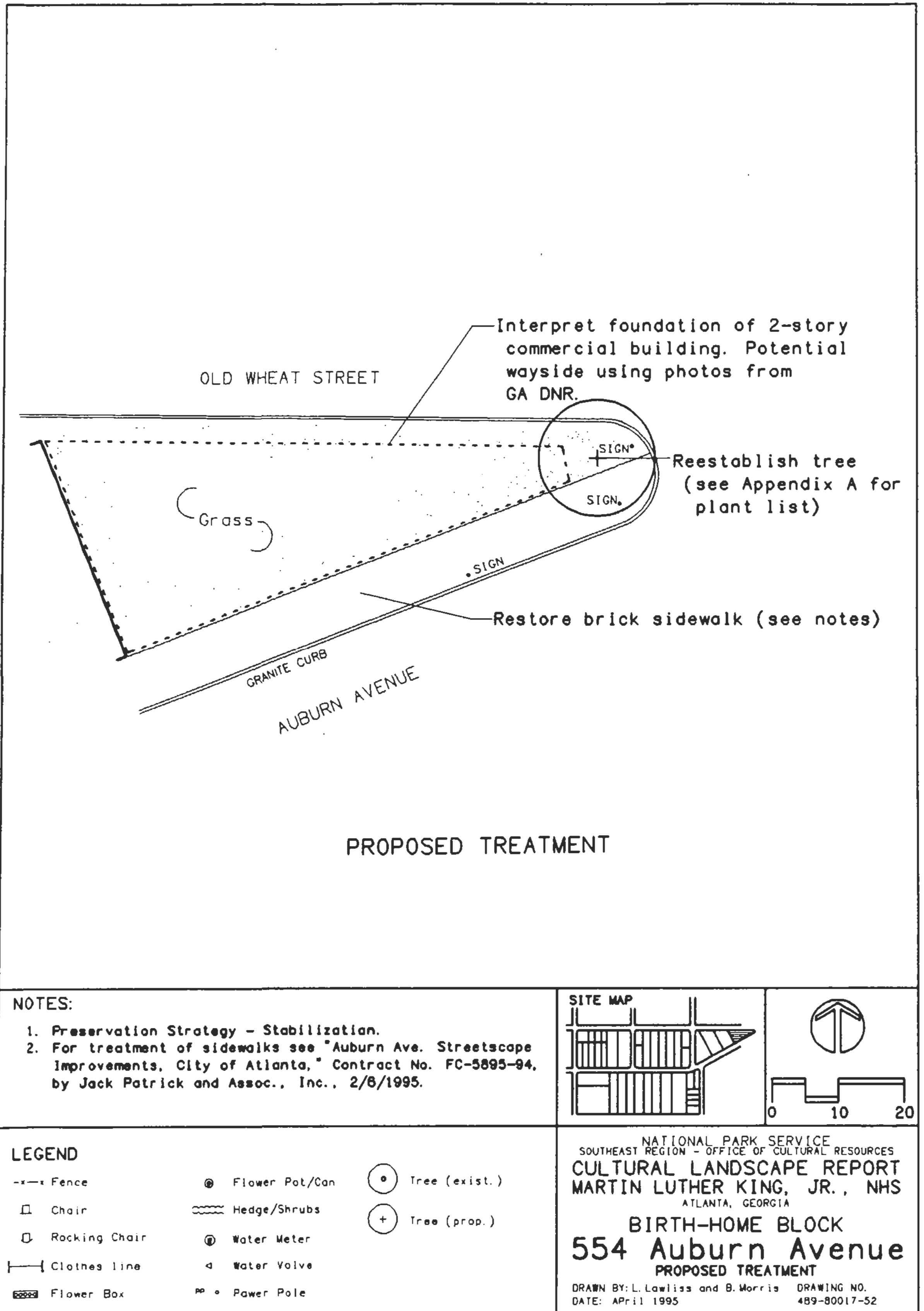


Fig. 97

ON MICROFILM

550-552 Auburn Avenue

There is very little landscape associated with this house, and except for the granite wall that begins at the east front corner, nothing of the historic landscape is extant. Recommendations for this site are to remove the foundation shrubs that were planted along the east side of the building when the building was rehabilitated (figure 98). Replace the hedge along the top of the wall with privet and replace the back yard by reerecting an appropriate fence.

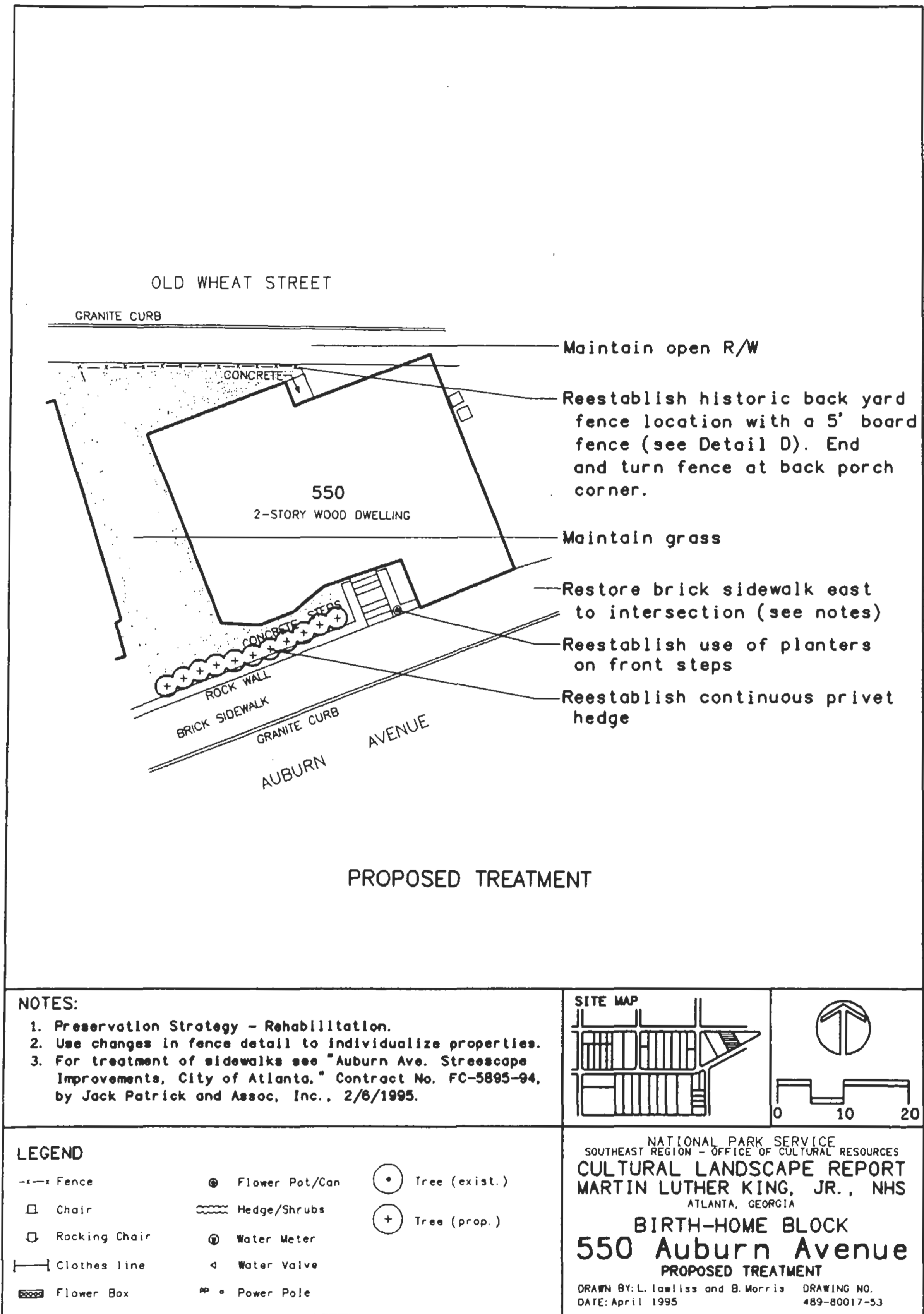
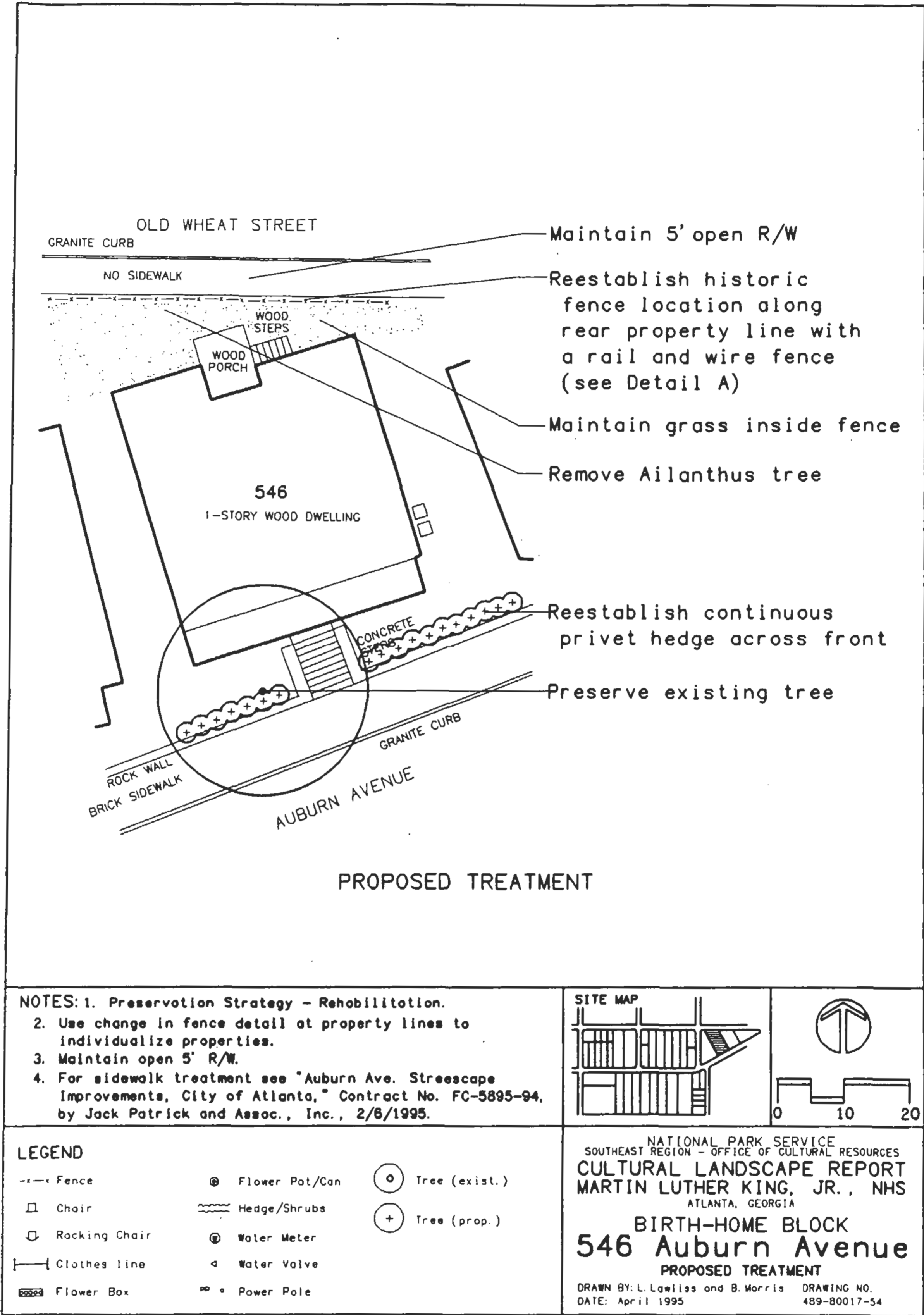


Fig. 98

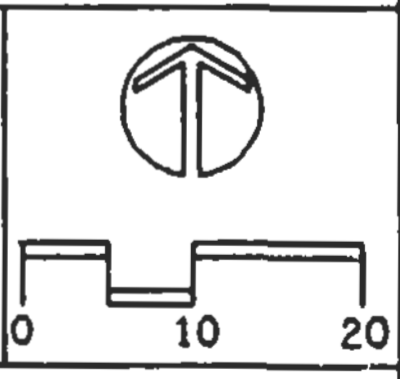
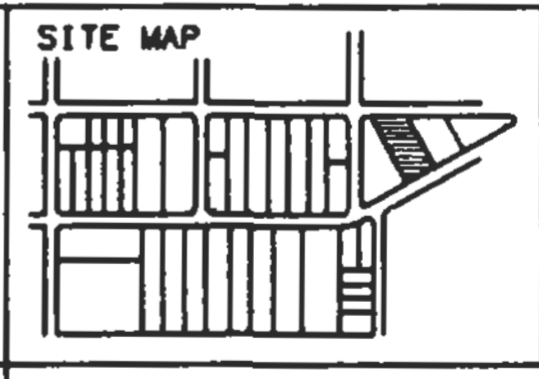
ON MICROFILM

546 Auburn Avenue

Historic landscape features to be preserved include the front wall and the tree in the west front yard. The juniper foundation plants are to be removed. Grind out the stump of the tree that was lost in the east front yard and replant an elm to match the other existing tree (*Ulmus parviflora*). Replace the hedge along the top of the wall and reestablish the back yard fence (figure 99).



NOTES: 1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
 2. Use change in fence detail at property lines to individualize properties.
 3. Maintain open 5' R/W.
 4. For sidewalk treatment see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, City of Atlanta," Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Jack Patrick and Assoc., Inc., 2/8/1995.



LEGEND

- - - Fence	⊗ Flower Pot/Can	○ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	⊕ Tree (prop.)
⊞ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— — Clothes line	◁ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	⊙ Power Pole	

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
 MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
546 Auburn Avenue
PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawless and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-54

Fig. 99

ON MICROFILM

540 Auburn Avenue

The recommendations for this yard are very much like the other two yards on the triangle (figure 100). In the front yard, except for the wall, nothing remains of the historic landscape. The recommendations for treatment include replanting the hedge along the top of the wall across the front and all the way down the side to the end of the wall. Remove the nonhistoric shrub in the center of the west front yard--the historic location of a tree--and replace with a tree that resembles the character and shape recorded in the period photograph (e.g., southern red oak-- *Quercus falcata*). Reestablish a back yard fence.

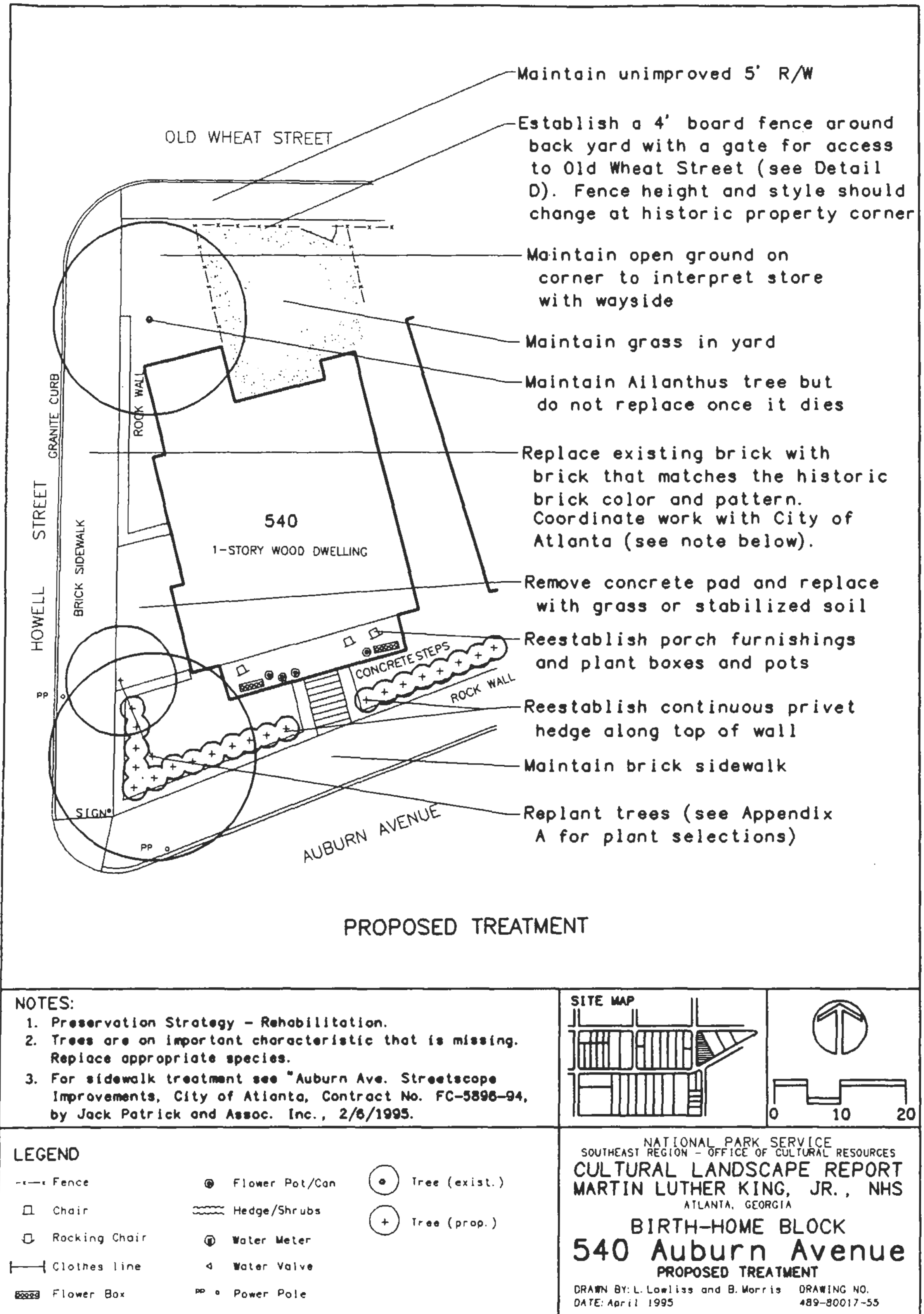


Fig. 100

ON MICROFILM

54 Howell Street

There is no yard associated with the historic building. The only recommendation is to remove the existing concrete sidewalk and rehabilitate the brick sidewalk as recorded on the Cadastral survey (figure 101).

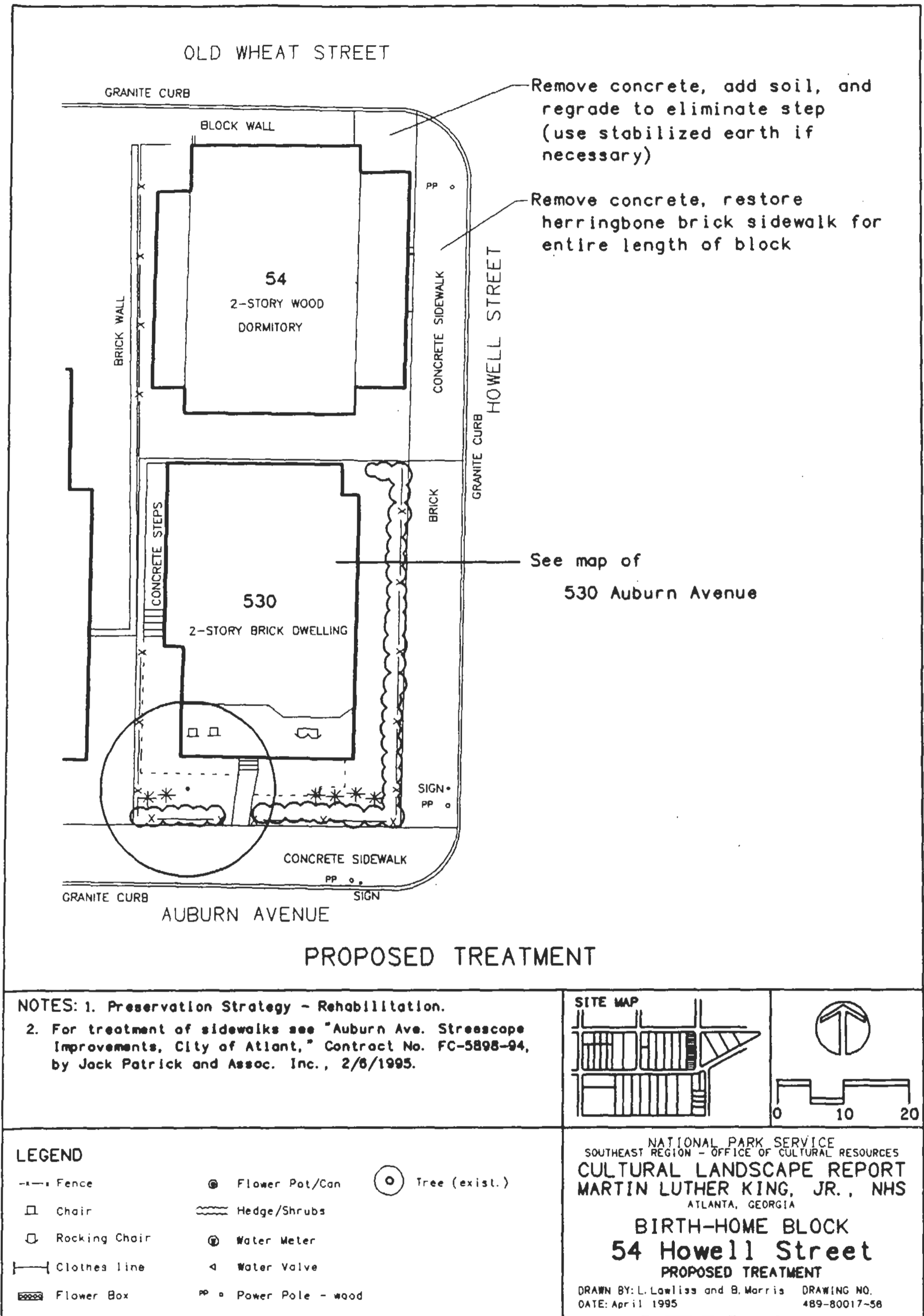


Fig. 101

ON MICROFILM

522 Auburn Avenue

The "improvements" made by NPS in the front and back yard of this home were not done with any research or interest in interpreting a historic landscape. For the most part, the changes have been made to accommodate the visitor and park staff traffic that travels in and out of the park service office and between the offices here and at 526 Auburn. While the widening and reshaping of the front walk is not a major change, the addition of octagonal pavers (like those used at the Birth Home) as a paved connection made between this house and 526 Auburn Avenue is inappropriate. These pavers are easily removed because they were not set in concrete. At present, the connection should be reduced to the width of a walk (two to three feet maximum). When the park service abandons these locations for another headquarters location, the side-yard separation between 522 and 526 Auburn Avenue and grass should be rehabilitated (figure 102).

The back yard has been significantly altered with the addition of a grape arbor, a concrete pad near the house, and a concrete driveway. These features essentially fill up the yard. In addition, a brick and picket fence has been erected across the back property line.

There is no reason to significantly alter the back yard landscape of this residence at this point. Within the back-yard environment, leeway has been granted when no historical information exists to document what the yard looked like. However, by all accounts the back yards were never enclosed with anything as nice as the fence that has been placed here. At the very least this fence/wall should be removed in favor of a more utilitarian fence that would have existed in this location.

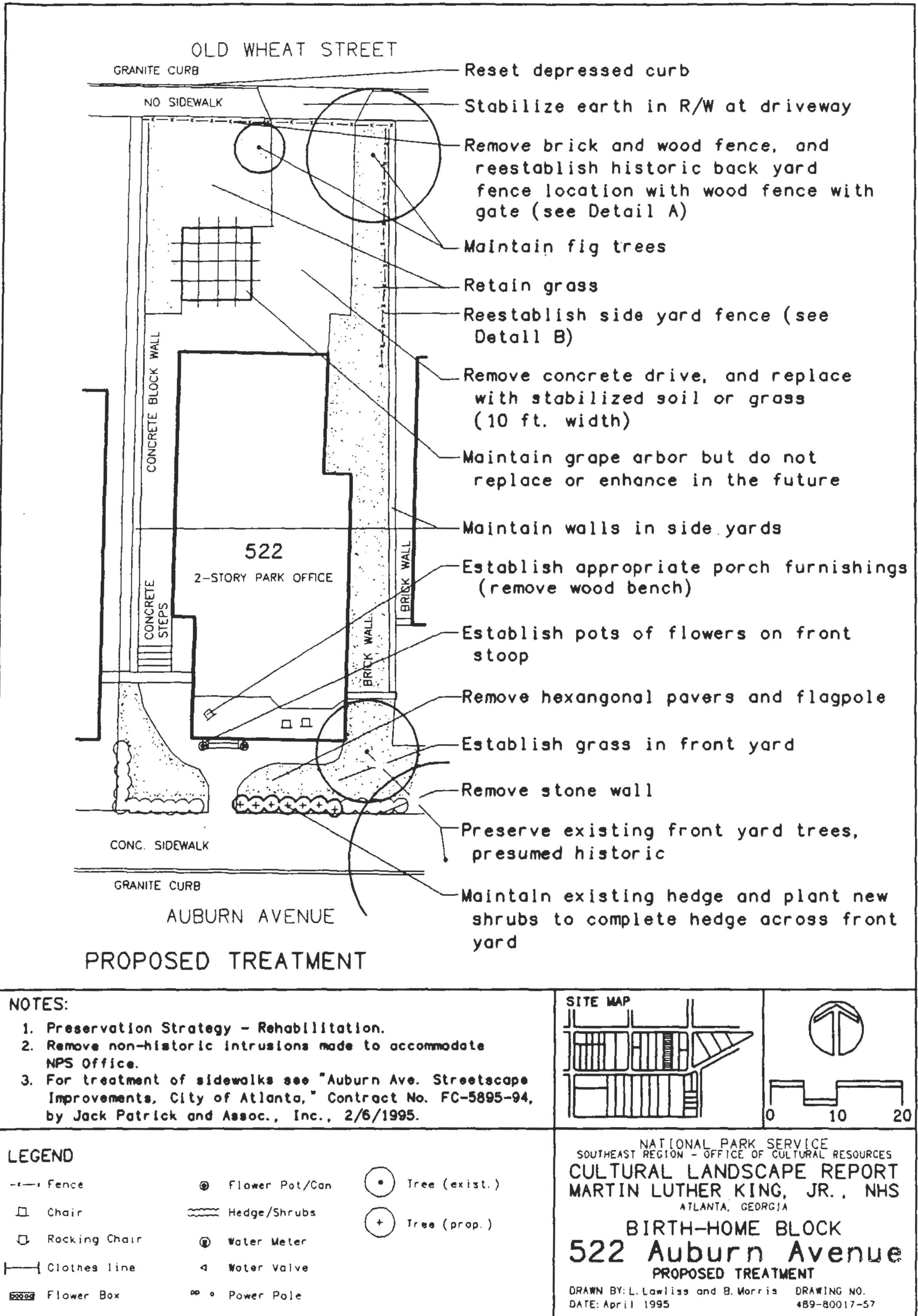


Fig. 102

ON MICROFILM

518 Auburn Avenue

Many of the historic landscape features are extant in this tiny front yard and should be preserved (figure 103). These include the original front walk, the hedge, and the thirty-six-inch elm tree. The rose-of-Sharon shrub that is currently trimmed as part of the hedge, immediately east of the front walk, should be left to grow taller as an accent shrub.

The steps and walls in the side yard are also features with historic integrity and are to be preserved. The back-yard landscape has been neglected for a long time and except for the large trees to be preserved--multi-trunk red mulberry and elm--no other features remain. There is an interesting, and old, piece of rolled wire fence along the west property line that is to be preserved. All of the back yards that faced onto Old Wheat Street were historically fenced, and if appropriate for the use of the house, a fence could be reestablished at the rear setback line and along the side property lines .

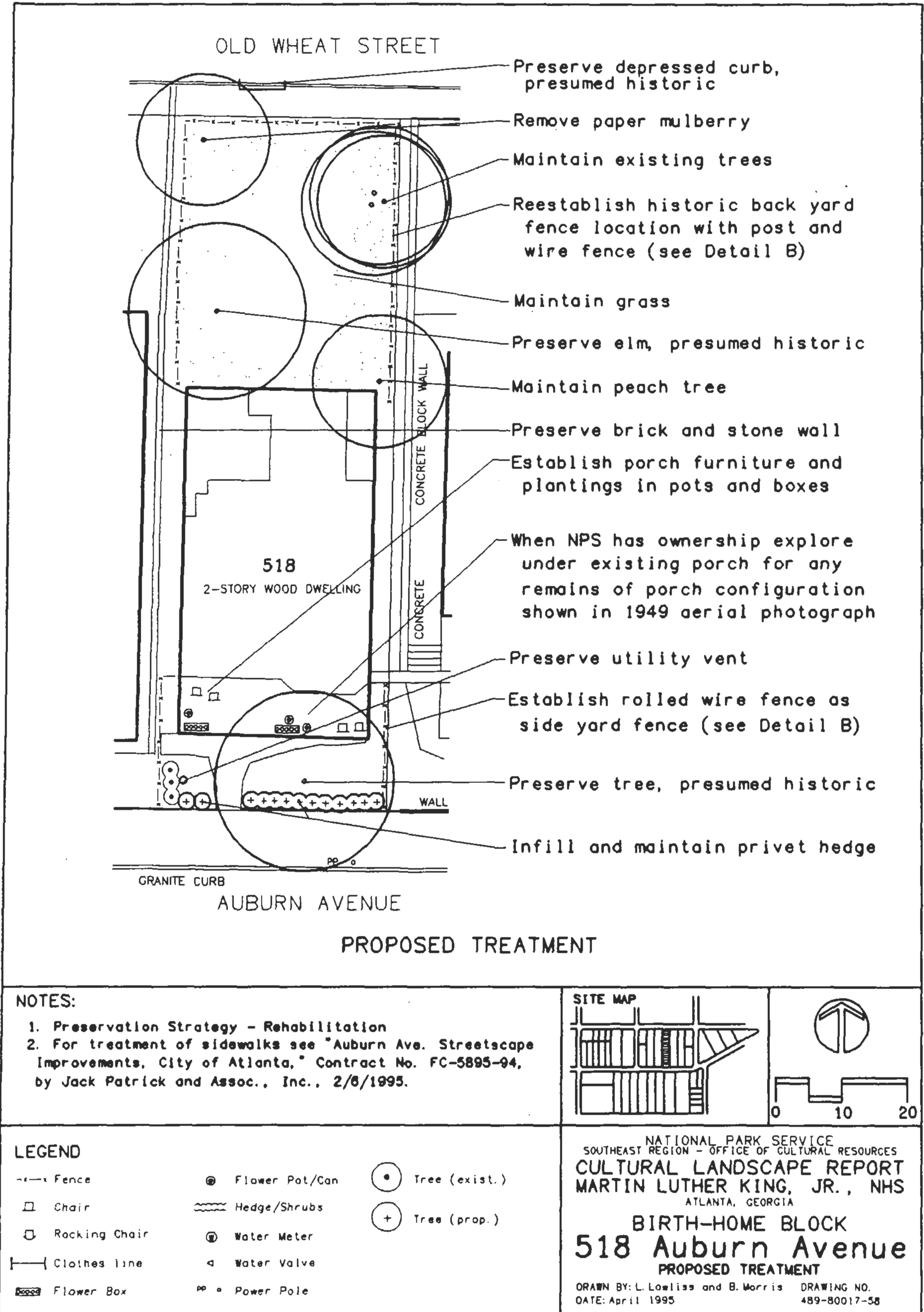


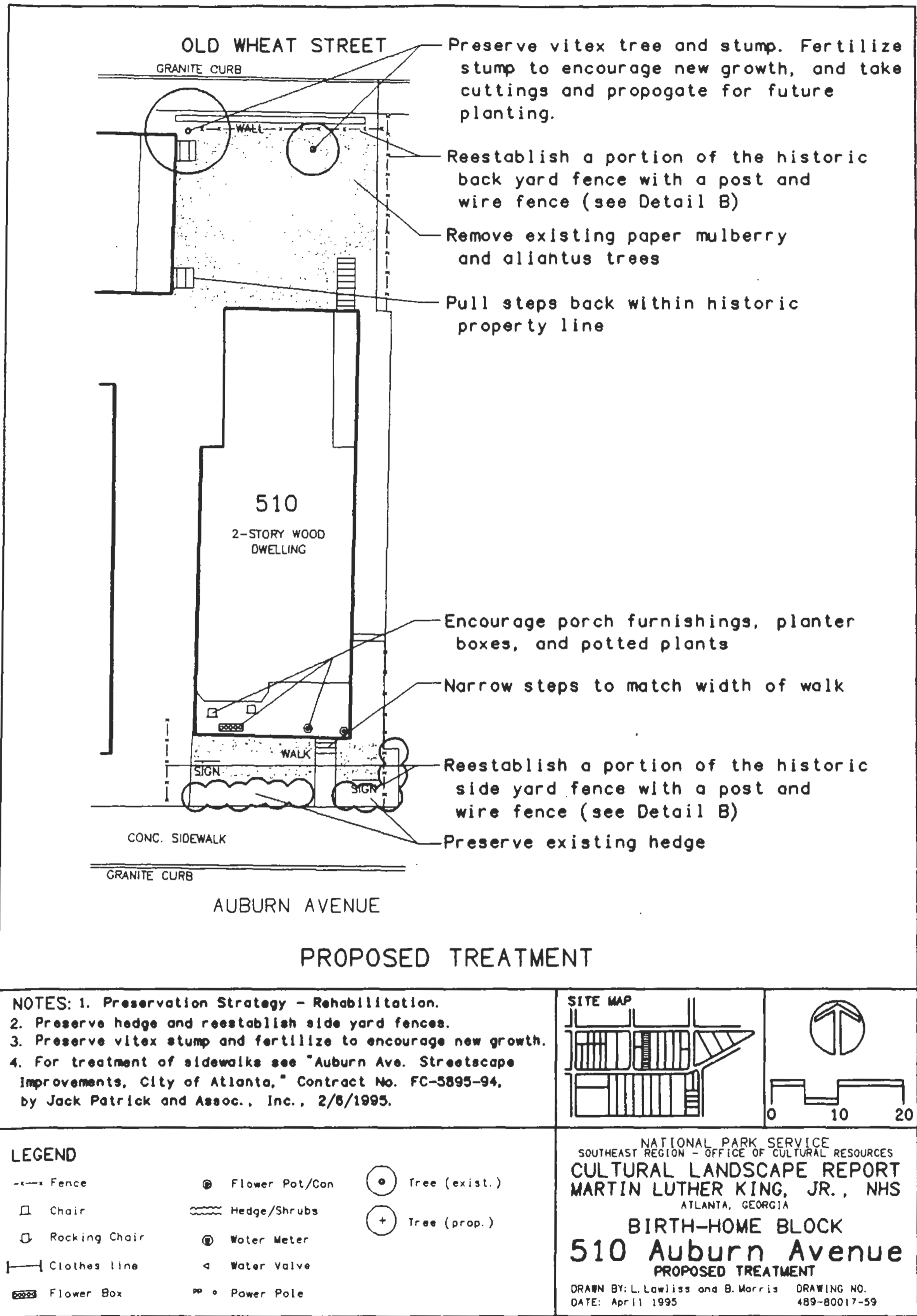
Fig. 103

ON MICROFILM

510 Auburn Avenue

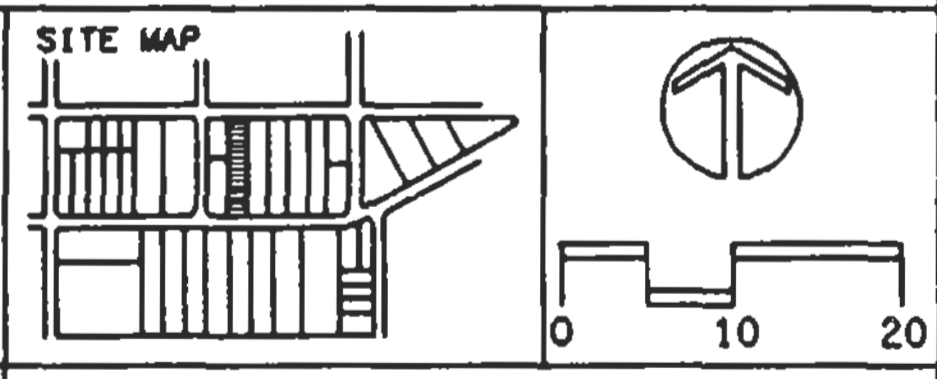
The hedge across the front yard is the only historic feature to be preserved. The new concrete walk formed by NPS in fall 1993 is to be removed and replaced as shown on the plan. Also to be removed is the nonhistoric section of concrete along the east edge of the property and privet is to be added to the front hedge to the side property line (figure 104).

The unusually large, and old, vitex shrubs in the back yard should be regarded as unique resources in the Birth-Home Block and maintained with special care. Because one is almost dead, the park should consider contacting Atlanta Botanical Garden, or a similar institution, to see if they would take cuttings and generate new stock for the park. The rubble wall along the property line should be preserved.



PROPOSED TREATMENT

NOTES: 1. Preservation Strategy - Rehabilitation.
 2. Preserve hedge and reestablish side yard fences.
 3. Preserve vitex stump and fertilize to encourage new growth.
 4. For treatment of sidewalks see "Auburn Ave. Streetscape Improvements, City of Atlanta," Contract No. FC-5895-94, by Jack Patrick and Assoc., Inc., 2/6/1995.



LEGEND

- - - Fence	⊙ Flower Pot/Con	⊙ Tree (exist.)
□ Chair	⊞ Hedge/Shrubs	⊕ Tree (prop.)
⊙ Rocking Chair	⊙ Water Meter	
— Clothes line	◁ Water Valve	
⊞ Flower Box	PP • Power Pole	

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 SOUTHEAST REGION - OFFICE OF CULTURAL RESOURCES
CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR., NHS
 ATLANTA, GEORGIA
BIRTH-HOME BLOCK
510 Auburn Avenue
PROPOSED TREATMENT
 DRAWN BY: L. Lawliss and B. Morris DRAWING NO.
 DATE: April 1995 489-80017-59

Fig. 104

ON MICROFILM

506 Auburn Avenue

Features to be preserved in the front yard are the remnants of the hedge--and its form--at the west end of the yard and the rambling rose bush growing at the base of the porch. Restore a privet hedge along the front property line and along the east side of the front yard. Maintain the dirt yard along the east side of the house and the grass on the west side and in the back yard (figure 105).

53 Hogue Street

All of the yard features associated with the tiny front and side yards, especially the rolled wire fence across the front yard should be preserved. Even those features that are not original, such as the small dogwood tree in the front yard, are significant because this house is still in private ownership and is representative of traditional patterns and uses. According to the Cadastral survey, a fence existed along the rear property line which would have defined a very narrow space. To benefit the interpretation of the various types and sizes of yards, the fence should be reestablished (figure 105).

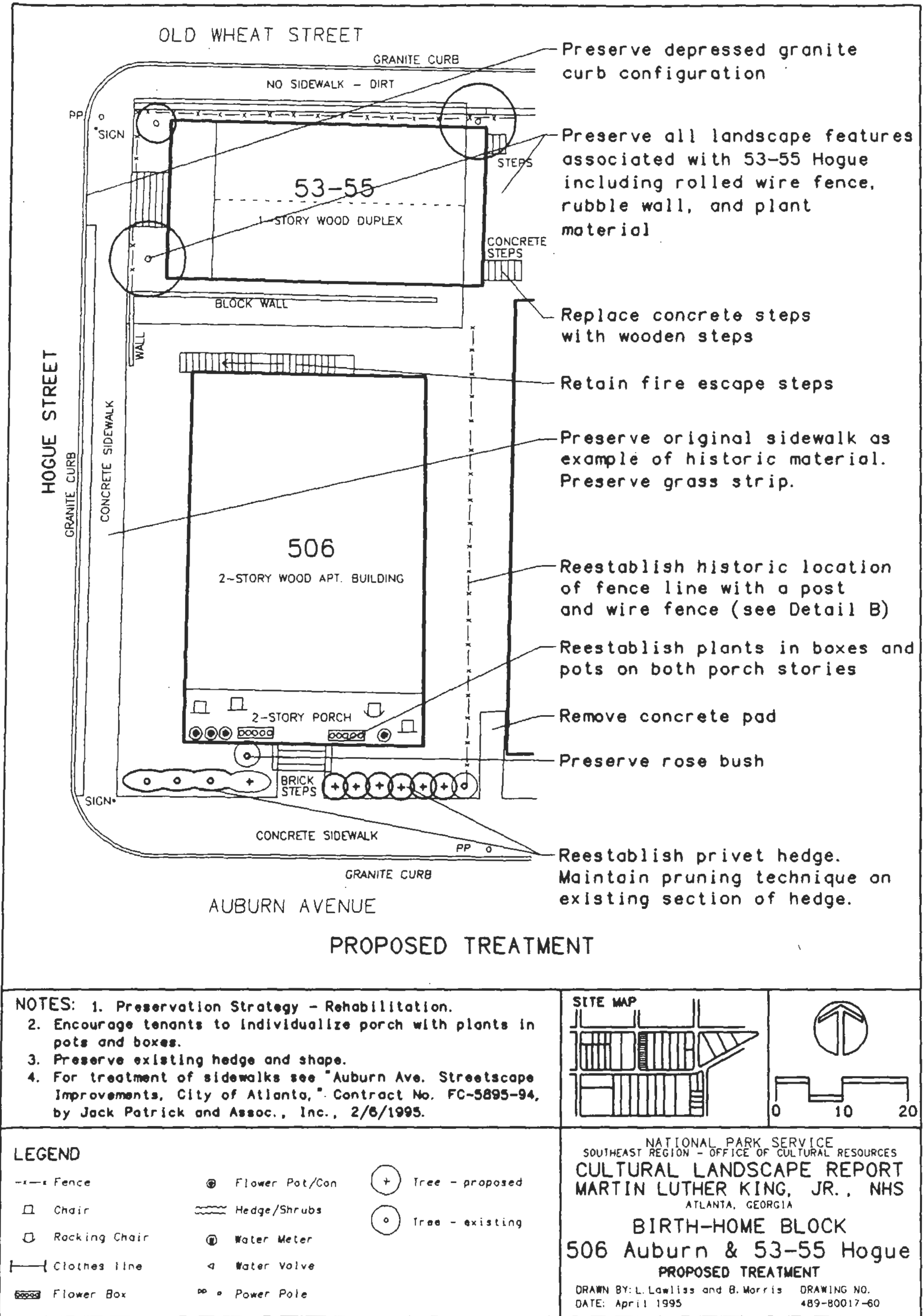


Fig. 105

ON MICROFILM

502, 498-500 Auburn Avenue and 50 Hogue Street

The open space that now exists at this site is another space being planned by a firm under contract to the NPS. Except for a concrete slab associated with the grocery store, all of the buildings associated with this site are gone. Yet, this is an important site because of its location directly across the street from the Birth Home. Some of the site could potentially be used as another infill project (see treatment recommendation discussion at 531-533 Auburn Avenue), but the immediate plans are to use it as a gathering space for visitors and a place from which to get a good view of the Birth Home. As a minimum, any plans for the site should include interpretation of the historic structures, especially the grocery store on the corner (figure 106).

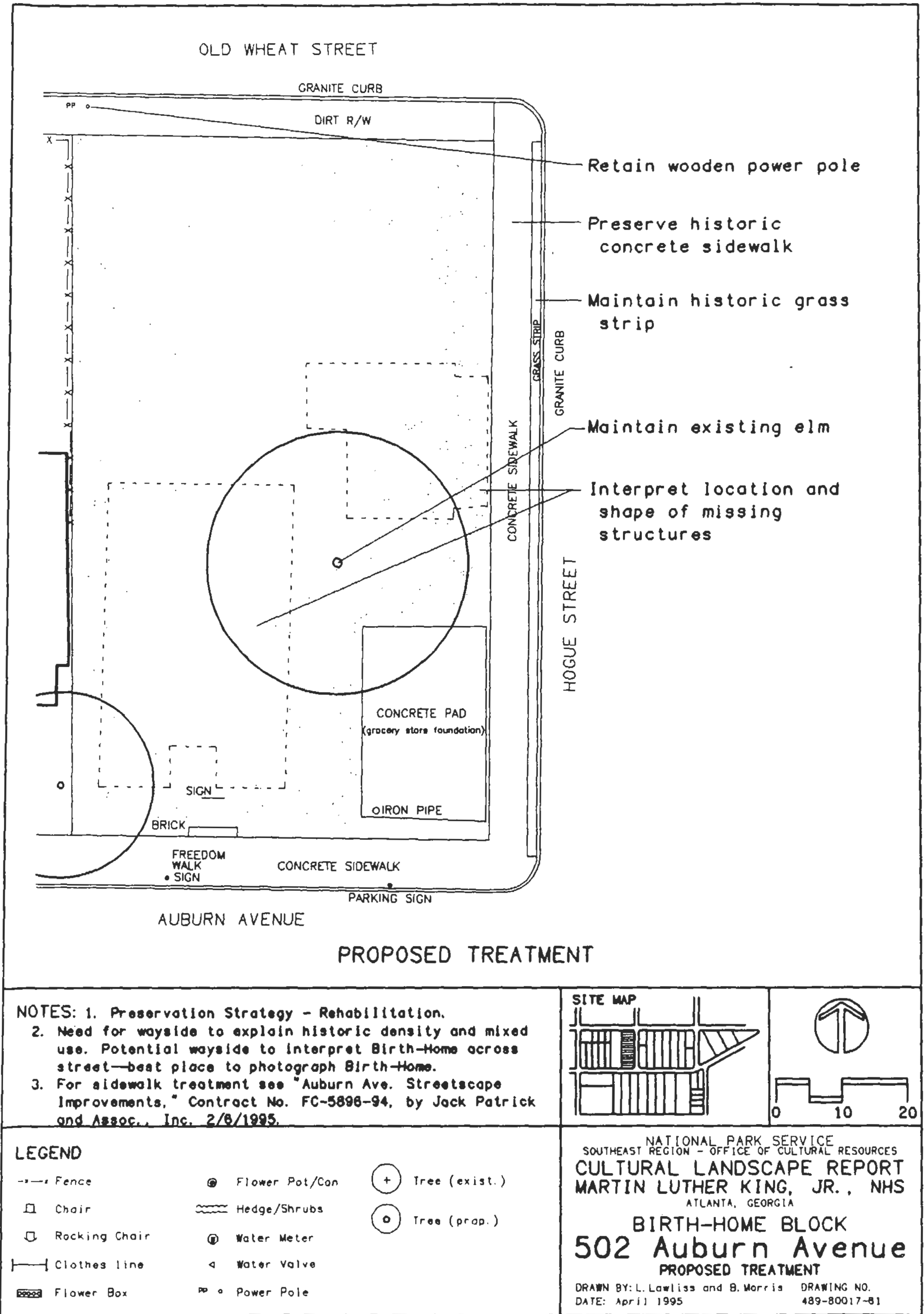


Fig. 106

ON MICROFILM

492-494 Auburn Avenue

Except for the back yard being enclosed by a fence, there is little known about the landscape of this duplex. Because it is a back yard that is exposed to the Birth-Home Block, the chain-link fence is to be replaced with a board fence. No hedge or front yard fence was recorded by the Cadastral survey and none is recommended. The existing elm in the east front yard is to be maintained (figure 107).

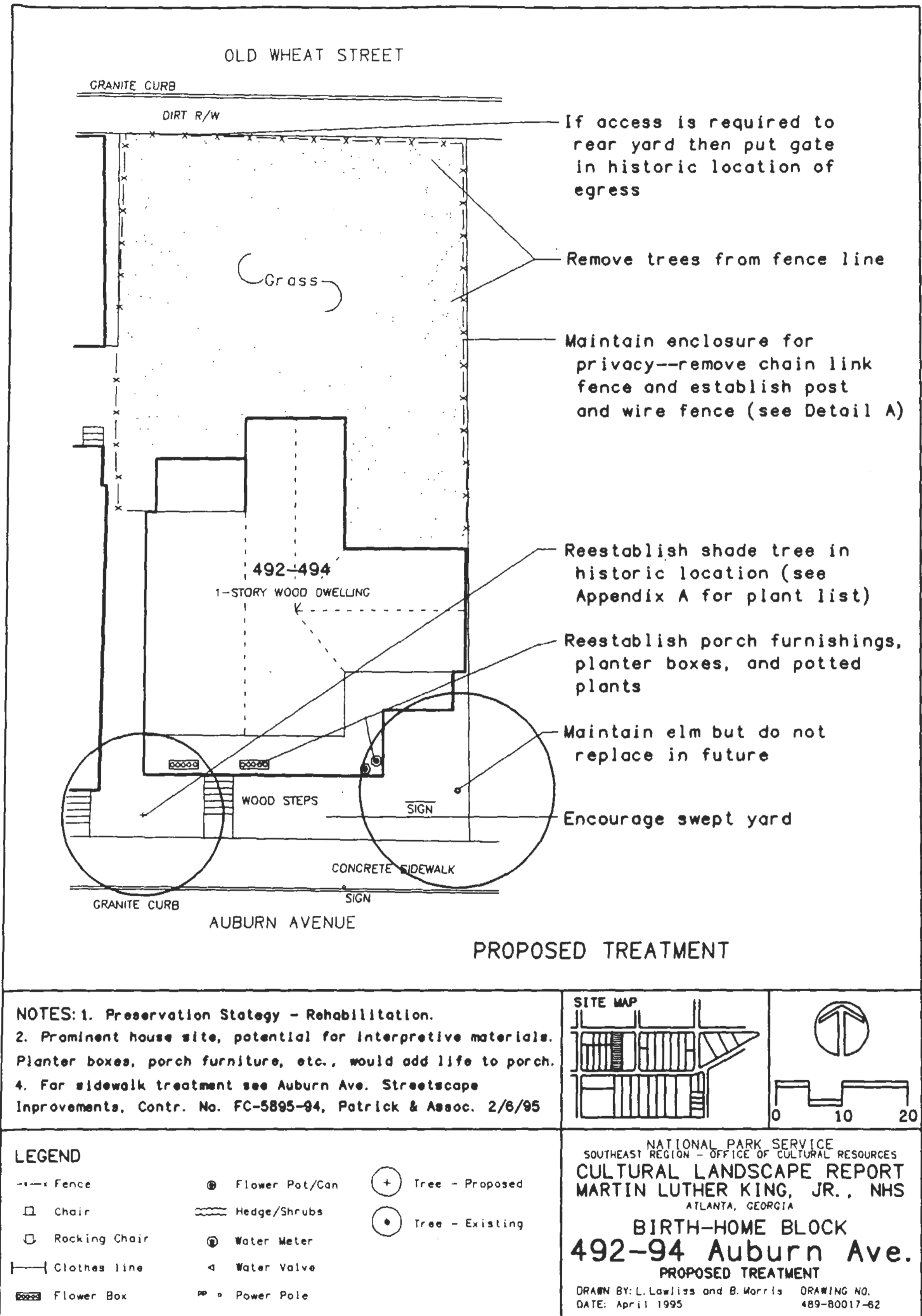


Fig. 107

ON MICROFILM

NOTES

1. *Guidelines for the Treatment of Historic Landscapes*, Draft, Technical Preservation Services Branch, Preservation Assistance Division, National Park Service, Washington, D.C., May 1992.
2. *Ibid.*, 45.
3. As of Spring, 1995, the City of Atlanta along with CODA (Corporation for Olympic Development in Atlanta) are receiving bids to accomplish an Auburn Avenue streetscape improvement plan designed by Jack Patrick and Associates. These plans have been coordinated with the NPS, and the CLR's recommended rehabilitation is to be incorporated into the construction drawings. These plans will be implemented if bids come in within the project's budget.
4. Hastings Seed Catalogues that date from the period of significance are available at the Atlanta History Center library. Hastings is still in business, and may be a potential source of period plant material.
5. The piece of fence along the west side is the one that may belong across the front of 526 Auburn Avenue.
6. An overturned green metal glider is abandoned in the front yard behind the oak tree. Restored and painted black, this would come close to the historic porch swing that has been described in the oral history.
7. The new Atlanta History Center contains a reconstructed shotgun that has been shortened by six feet to fit into the exhibition space. A full-size shotgun in its historic context would be a greater educational tool.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

The Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site is a unique resource, not only for its association with a great figure in American Civil Rights history, but for its mandate to interpret the place where Martin Luther King, Jr., was born, grew up, and returned to for a significant part of his professional life.

It is now a widely accepted theory that to understand the person, one must understand the child, and here within a few blocks' walk, a visitor can experience the place and conditions that shaped Dr. King's new vision of race relations in the United States. Published biographies can begin to explain why Martin Luther King, Jr., a child who was raised as part of an educated and elite African-American society, yet who lived peacefully among a range of social and economic classes, could envision a world where all people shared in a peacefully integrated society. What would be harder to understand if it were not for the existence and integrity of the Birth-Home Block, is the heart of his martyred life--the willingness to lose all, including social position, as well as personal and financial security--for people who had achieved none of those things. King's belief and actions become more comprehensible when visitors can see and experience the environment of his youth--the proximity of substantial middle-class homes and extremely modest shotgun cottages and the inevitable intertwining of the lives of the very diverse residents of the Birth-Home Block. Through careful rehabilitation of the landscape features and an educational program that uses the streetscape as a key resource to bring the figures of the neighborhood to life, visitors will be able to understand the whole man that was Martin Luther King, Jr.

In order to achieve these preservation and interpretation goals, the cultural landscape report must continue to evolve as additional information comes to light. Seeking new sources for oral histories, finding a way to reach beyond the limited boundaries of the Birth-Home Block in order to tell the story of the larger neighborhood, and identifying and protecting those resources with historic integrity must become priorities for creative partnerships between the park, the city, the state, and even private organizations. It is clear

that few secondary sources exist to guide rehabilitation of the landscape and that the primary source--the generation of men and women who lived and worked in the neighborhood--is passing away with the knowledge and techniques for authentically rehabilitating the landscape. No time should be lost in finding and recording this irreplaceable history.

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Mr. Silas Lackey, Interview by Lauren Cotton, Tape Recording, April 15, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia.

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Mr. Edward Moon, Atlanta Bureau of Water, Telephone Interview by Mike Wing, June 12, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mrs. Virginia Prather and Mr. John Buck, Interview by Lauren Cotton, April 9, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. James Walker, Bureau of Highways and Streets-Sewer Operation Division, Telephone Interview by Mike Wing, June 12, 1991, Atlanta, Georgia.

APPENDIX A
PLANT LIST

The list of plants for use in the rehabilitation of the Birth-Home Block landscape is derived from a number of sources. In addition to historic plants (either by size or condition) that were surveyed on the Birth-Home Block and in the immediate neighborhood, plants are suggested because they were named in the oral histories, identified in historic photographs or--in the case of flowers, some ground covers, and vegetables-- listed in the H. G. Hastings Company, seed catalogue list during the period of significance 1929-1941 (copies of 1939 catalog pages are included, A-4 through A-7). This list represents only suggestions and is in no way meant to be used as a complete list of available plants during the historic period.

LARGE TREES

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Acer plantanoides	Norway Maple
Acer rubrum	Red Maple
Carya illinoensis	Pecan
Celtis occidentalis	Hackberry
Fraxinum americana	White Ash
Gingko biloba	Gingko
Liquidambar styraciflua	Sweet Gum
Liriodendron tulipifera	Tulip Tree, Tulip Poplar
Platanus occidentalis	Sycamore
Quercus coccinea	Scarlet Oak
Quercus nigra	Water Oak
Quercus palustris	Pin Oak
Quercus rubra	Red Oak
Quercus stellata	Post Oak
Tilia americana	American Linden
Ulmus americana	American Elm
Ulmus parviflora	Siberian Elm

SMALL TREES

<i>Botanical Name</i>	<i>Common Name</i>
Cercis canadensis	Redbud
Cornus florida	Dogwood
Crataegus phaenopyrum	Washington Hawthorn
Ilex opaca	American Holly
Malus floribunda	Japanese Flowering Crab
Prunus caroliniana	Carolina Cherry Laurel

Prunus cerasifera 'Atropurpurea'
 Prunus persica
 Vitex agnus-castus

Purple Leaf Plum
 Peach
 Vitex, Pepper Tree

SHRUBS***Botanical Name***

Abelia grandiflora
 Aucuba japonica 'variegata'
 Berberis julianae nana
 Buxus sempervirens
 Euonymus japonicus
 Forsythia x intermedia
 Hibiscus syriacus
 Hydrangea macrophylla
 Ilex cornuta 'burfordi'
 Ilex crenata
 Jasminum nudiflorum
 Ligustrum amurense
 Ligustrum sinense
 Nandina domestica
 Prunus grandulosa
 Pyracantha coccinea
 Rosa sp.
 Spirea pruniflora
 Spirea vanhouttei
 Viburnum sp.

Common Name

Abelia
 Gold Dust Aucuba
 Dwarf Wintergreen Barberry
 Boxwood
 Euonymus
 Forsythia
 Rose of Sharon, Althea
 Hydrangea
 Burford Holly
 Japanese Box Holly
 Winter Jasmine
 Amur Privet
 Chinese Privet
 Nandina, Heavenly Bamboo
 Flowering Almond
 Firethorn
 Rose species
 Bridalwreath Spirea
 Vanhoutte Spirea
 Viburnum species

GROUND COVERS***Botanical Name***

Hedera helix
 Pachysandra terminalis
 Parthenocissus quinquefolia
 Vinca minor

Common Name

English Ivy
 Pachysandra, Japanese Spurge
 Virginia Creeper
 Vinca, Periwinkle

1939 FLOWER SEED PLANTING TABLE

This planting schedule is given to make planning a garden and keeping it producing—EASY. Naturally, planting time varies as one goes North or South. In the extreme South, most flower seeds may be planted through the winter months but this calendar is based on the middle South or Cotton Belt, about the latitude of Macon, Ga., Tuscaloosa, Ala., Greenville, Miss., Dallas, Texas. South of this latitude planting will be earlier and in the upper South of course later. New York-Chicago latitude averages about one month later; Ohio River territory about 15 days later.

This table is for middle South climate and conditions. Allowances must be made. It is only a general guide. Abbreviations: T, tender; H, hardy; H H, half-hardy; A, annual; B, biennial; P, perennial. Months are numbered: 1, January; 2, February, etc. *Following name denotes flowers suitable for rock gardens, which may be planted from seeds. Others may also be used.

Depth of planting may be slightly varied with soil density—that is, on light or sandy soils seeds are planted slightly deeper than on heavy or clay soils. The calendar is based on medium garden or medium loamy soils.

For earliest flowers for home or market, plants need protection from late frosts and grow off much faster in loamy, well fertilized and prepared soil. Granulated Peat Moss, spread lightly over the seed bed, flats or pans, protects young seedlings from sun and drying winds, conserves moisture and keeps the soil from crusting.

NAME	Height of Plant	Shape of Plant	Color of Flowers	Good Cut Flowers	Best Use	Location Sun-Shady	Months to Plant	Months to Transplant	Blooming Months
Abronia, HHA	6-9 in.	trailing	yellow, pink	no	edging	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Abutilon, TP	36-48 in.	bushy	many	no	potting	shady	3-4	4-5	5-11
Ageratum, HHA*	8-24 in.	bushy	blue, white	yes	bedding	sunny	1-4	4-5	6-11
Agrostemma, HP	18-24 in.	erect	several	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	6-11
Alyssum, HHA, HP*	2-12 in.	spreading	white	fair	edging	sunny	3-4	thin	5-11
Alonsoa, HHA	15-24 in.	bushy	salmon	no	bedding	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Amaranthus, T	24-60 in.	bushy	reds	fair	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-10
Anagallis, A	8-15 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	6-10
Anchusa, HA	18 in.	bushy	light blue	yes	border	sunny	3-5	thin	6-10
Anchusa, HP	3-5 ft.	bushy	blue	yes	border	shady	2-4, 9	3-5, 10-11	5-6
Anthemis, HP	15-24 in.	erect	yellow	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	5-9
Antirrhinum, HA*	1 1/2-5 ft.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	any	3-5	4-5	6-10
Aquilegia, HP	24-48 in.	branchy	several	yes	border	any	8-9	10-11	5-6
Arabis, HP*	6-10 in.	spreading	white	yes	rockery	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	4-5
Arctotis, HA	18-24 in.	bushy	blue-white	yes	border	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-11
Argemone, HHA	12-24 in.	branching	white	no	border	sunny	3-5	thin	6-11
Armeria, HP*	6-8 in.	clump	rosy pink	yes	edging	sunny	2-4, 9	3-5, 10-11	5-9
Asters, A	12-30 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	any	1-6	4-5	6-11
Balloon Vine, A	8-10 ft.	vine	white	no	shade	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Balsam, A	18-30 in.	erect	many	fair	border	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-10
Balsam Apple, A	15 ft.	vine	orange fr.	no	novelty	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Bartonia, HA*	10-12 in.	bushy	yellow	yes	border	sunny	3-4	thin	6-9
Brachycome, HHA*	12 in.	bushy	several	fair	edging	cool	3-5	4-5 or thin	5-7
Browallia, TA*	12 in.	branchy	blue-white	no	bedding	any	3-4	4-5	5-9
Cacalia, A	15-20 in.	bushy	reds	yes	border	sunny	3-4	thin	5-9
Cactus, TP	3-8 in.	erect	several	no	pots	sunny	2-5	5-6	ornamental
Calendula, HA	12-36 in.	bushy	yellows	yes	bedding	sunny	1-4	3-5	6-11
Calliopsis, HA	12-36 in.	bushy	yellows	yes	bedding	sunny	1-4	thin	6-10
Canary Bird Vine, HA	10 ft.	vine	yellow	no	windows	cool	3-4	5	6-7
Candytuft, HA	12-18 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-4	thin	6-9
Candytuft, HP*	10-12 in.	branchy	white	yes	edging	sunny	2-4, 9	3-5, 10-11	4-5
Canna, TP	30-72 in.	erect	many	no	bedding	sunny	2-3	4-5	7-11
Canterbury Bells, HA	24 in.	bushy	many	fair	border	sunny	2-3, 9	3-5, 10	8-10, 5
Canterbury Bells, HB, HP	18-42 in.	bushy	many	fair	border	sunny	3, 9	4-5	6-7
Cardinal Climber, HHA	25 ft.	vine	red	no	climbing	sunny	3-5	4-5 or thin	7-10
Carnation, HHP	15-36 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	2-3	4-5	6-10
Celosia, HHA	24-36 in.	bushy	red, yellow	fair	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	6-11
Centaurea, HA, HP	24-36 in.	erect	many	yes	bedding	sunny	2-5	thin	6-9
Cerastium, HP*	4-6 in.	creeping	white	no	rockery	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	4, 5
Cheiranthus, HB*	8-10 in.	bushy	orange	no	rockery	sunny	2-4, 9	4-5, 10	6-9
Chrysanthemum, HA	24-36 in.	bushy	several	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	7-11
Clarkia, HA	15-30 in.	bushy	several	yes	border	any	3-5	thin	6-10
Cleome, HA	36-48 in.	branchy	pink, white	yes	border	sunny	4-5	thin	7-11
Clove Pinks, HP*	12 in.	clump	many	yes	edging	sunny	2-4, 9	4-5, 10	4-6
Cobea Scandens, TA	15-30 ft.	vine	purple	no	climbing	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-8
Coleus, TA	12-24 in.	bushy	white	no	bedding	sunny	2-3	4-5	for lvs.
Coreopsis, HP	18-36 in.	bushy	yellows	yes	bedding	sunny	2-4, 9	4-5, 10	6-10
Cornflower, HA, HP	1-3 ft.	erect	many	yes	border	sunny	11, 12, 1	5, thin	6-9
Cosmidium, A	18-30 in.	bushy	yellow	yes	bedding	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Cosmos, TA	48-72 in.	bushy	several	yes	bedding	sunny	4-5	thin	7-11
Crepis, HA*	18 in.	bushy	rose	yes	rockery	sunny	2-5	thin	6-10
Crotalaria, TA	2-3 1/4 ft.	bushy	yellow	yes	border	sunny	3-5	4-6	6-9
Crotalaria, TP	4-8 ft.	branchy	yellow	yes	border	sunny	3-5, 7-9	4-6, 9-10	6-9
Cuphea, TA	10 in.	bushy	red	no	bedding	any	4-5	thin	7-10
Cynoglossum, HA, HHP	18-24 in.	bushy	blue, pink	yes	border	sunny	3, 9	4-5, 10	5-11
Cypress Vine, TA	10-18 ft.	vine	red, white	no	climbing	sunny	4-5	thin	6-11
Dahlia, TP	36-72 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	2-3	4-5	7-11
Daisy, HP*	10-30 in.	bushy	white, pink	yes	edging	any	2-3, 8	3-4, 10	5-10
Delphinium, HP	36-60 in.	tall	blues	yes	border	sunny	1-3, 8	3-4, 10	5-7, 10
Dianthus, HA, HP*	4-15 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	5-11
Didacus, TA	24-36 in.	slender	blue	yes	cutting	shady	2-3	4-5	6-11
Digitalis, HB, HP	30-48 in.	erect	many	yes	border	shady	2-3, 8	3-4, 10	5-7
Dimorphotheca, HA*	8-12 in.	clump	many	yes	border	sunny	3-5	4-6	6-10
Dolichos, TA	10 ft.	vine	several	no	climbing	sunny	4-5	thin	6-8
Dusty Miller, HP	18-24 in.	spreading	purple	no	edging	sunny	2-4	4-5	wh. leaves
Echinops, HP	3-4 ft.	erect	blue	yes	cutting	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	6-8
Echium, TA	12 in.	bushy	blue	no	bedding	sunny	4-5	thin	7-9
Erysimum, HA	12-18 in.	erect	orange	fair	bedding	sunny	3-4	4-5 or thin	7-8
Eschscholtzia, HA*	10-12 in.	bushy	several	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	6-9
Euphorbia, TA, HA	2-4 ft.	bushy	red, var. lvs	no	border	sunny	4-5, 2-4	thin	ornamental
Feverfew, HHP	18-24 in.	bushy	white, gold	yes	bedding	sunny	3-4	thin	7-11
Flax, HA, HP	12-30 in.	clump	red, blue	no	bedding	sunny	3-8, 7-9	thin, 4, 9	5-10
Forget-Me-Not, TP*	8-12 in.	bushy	bl. pk. wht	yes	edging	shady	3-4	thin	4-5, 10
Four O'Clock, HA	24-30 in.	bushy	many	no	border	sunny	3-4	4-5	8-11
Gaillardia, HP, HA	18-30 in.	bushy	red, gold	yes	bedding	sunny	2-4	4-5	6-11
Gerbera, HHP*	12-15 in.	tuft	red to yel.	grand	bedding	sunny	2-4, 7-8	4-5, 8-9	5-11
Geum, HP*	12-18 in.	tuft	red, yellow	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	4-7
Gilia, A	24-36 in.	bushy	blue	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	6-10
Globe Amaranth, TA*	12-18 in.	bushy	purple, wht.	yes	bedding	sunny	4-5	thin	7-10
Godetia, A	12-18 in.	erect	many	yes	border	any	3-5	thin	6-10

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Flower Seed Planting List, H. G. Hastings Seed Company, Seedsman, Atlanta, Georgia, 1939.
Hastings Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

NAME	Height of Plant	Shape of Plant	Color of Flowers	Good Out Flowers	Best Use	Location Sun-Shady	Months to Plant	Months to Transplant	Blooming Months
Gypsophila, HA*	18-24 in.	branchy	white	yes	border	sunny	4-5	thin	6 wks.
Gypsophila, HP	1/2-3/4 ft.	branchy	white, pink	yes	border	sunny	3-4, 9	4-5, 10	6-8
Helichrysum, HA	24-36 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	2-4	4-5	6-10
Heliotropis, HP	4-6 ft.	bushy	yellow	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	6-9
Heliotropis, TP	18-24 in.	bushy	several	fair	bedding	shady	2-5	4-5	5-11
Heuchera, HP*	12-18 in.	tufty	red, pink	yes	border	any	2-4, 7-9	2-5, 9-10	6-8
Hibiscus, TP	24-60 in.	branchy	several	fair	specimen	sunny	3-4	thin	6-9
Hollyhock, HP	5-8 ft.	slender	many	yes	border	sunny	2-3, 8	3-4, 10	6-9
Honesty, HA	18 in.	branchy	purple	yes	border	sunny	2-4	4-5 or thin	seed pods
Hop, Japanese, HHA	10-20 ft.	vine	var. lvs.	no	shade	sunny	4-5	thin	var. lvs.
Hunnemania, TA	24 in.	bushy	yellow	yes	border	sunny	4-5	thin	9-10
Ice Plant, TA	24-36 in.	trailer	several	no	edging	sunny	4-5	thin	5-11
Ivy, Kenilworth, HP	36 in.	trailer	lilac	no	trailing	any	3, 8	4, 10	various
Job's Tears, HA	2-3 ft.	erect	seed beads	no	novelty	sunny	4-5	thin	seed beads
Kochia, TA	36 in.	bushy	red	no	border	sunny	3-4	thin	9-11
Kudzu, HP	50 ft.	vine	purple	no	shade	any	3-4	4-5	4-5
Lantana, HA	24-36 in.	branchy	several	yes	bedding	sunny	2-4	4-5	6-11
Larkspur, HA	36-48 in.	call	many	yes	bedding	sunny	10-4	thin	6-10
Lathyrus, HP	6-12 ft.	vine	pink, white	yes	blanket	sunny	1-4	3-4	6-10
Lily, Regal, HP	3-6 ft.	erect	blend	yes	border	either	2-4, 8-10	11-4, 2nd yr	6-7
Linaria Maroccana, HA*	12-18 in.	bushy	several	yes	rockery	sunny	3-5	thin	6-10
Linum, HA, HP*	12-30 in.	clump	red, blue	no	bedding	sunny	2-8, 7-9	thin, 4, 9	5-10
Lobelia, TA*	6-8 in.	bushy	blue	fair	edging	shady	3-4	3-5	6-10
Lupine, HA, HP	24-30 in.	erect	several	yes	border	shady	4-5	thin	6-9
Lychnis, HP	24-36 in.	clump	red	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	5-8
Marigold, HA*	8-48 in.	bushy	yellow	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-11
Matthiola, HA	15-24 in.	bushy	lavender	no	border	sunny	3-5	thin	5-9
Mignonette, TA*	10-12 in.	erect	several	yes	edging	sunny	4-5	thin	6-8
Mimulus, TP*	12 in.	trailing	many	no	border	shady	3-4	4-5	6-8
Mina Lobata, HHA	15-20 ft.	vine	white	no	climbing	sunny	2-4	4-5	7-10
Moonflower, TA	20-30 ft.	vine	several	no	for shade	sunny	5-5	4-6	6-11
Morning Glory, TA, P	20-50 ft.	vine	many	no	for shade	sunny	3-5	thin	6-11
Nasturtium, TA*	12 in. 8 ft.	bush, vine	many	yes	edging	sunny	4-6	thin	5-11
Nemesia, HHA*	12-15 in.	bushy	many	fair	bedding	cool	1-3	3-4	5-6
Nemophila, HA*	6-10 in.	erect	blue, white	no	massing	pt. shady	3-5	thin	6-7
Nicotiana, TA	30-42 in.	branchy	several	yes	border	sunny	3-5	5	6-8
Nigella, HA	18-24 in.	bushy	blue, wht.	yes	border	sunny	3-5	thin	6-8
Oenothera, TB as TA	24-36 in.	bushy	yellow	no	border	sunny	3-4	thin	5-9
Oxalis, TP	4-6 in.	spreading	several	no	edging	sunny	3-5	thin	6-11
Pansy, HHP*	4-6 in.	clump	many	yes	edging	any	1-3, 9	3-4, 10	4-6, 10
Passion Flower, TP	15 ft.	vine	blue	no	climbing	any	2-3	4-5	6-10
Pentstemon, HHP	18-30 in.	erect	many	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	6-9
Petunia, HA-TP	9-24 in.	bushy	many	fair	bedding	any	2-5	4-6	5-11
Phacelia, HA*	12-18 in.	tufty	blue	no	edging	sunny	2-5	thin	5-10
Phlox, HHA, HP*	12-36 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	thin	6-9
Physalis, HP	18-24 in.	branchy	red pods	yes	drying	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	2nd yr.
Physostegia, HP	3-4 ft.	erect	lilac	yes	border	any	2-4, 9	3-5, 10	6-9
Platycodon, HP	18-30 in.	bushy	blue, white	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	6-7
Poppy, HA, HP	24-60 in.	erect	many	yes	bedding	sunny	1-4	thin	6-9
Portulaca, TA	4-6 in.	creeping	many	no	edging	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Pyrethrum, HP*	12-24 in.	erect	several	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	4-5, 9-10	5-6
Ricinus, TA	5-10 ft.	branchy	bronze lvs.	no	massing	sunny	4-5	thin	big leaves
Rudbeckia, HA	2-3 ft.	bushy	gold	yes	border	sunny	3-5	thin	6-11
Rudbeckia, HP	3-4 ft.	bushy	purple	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 9	3-5, 10	6-11
Salpiglossis, HHA	18-30 in.	bushy	many	yes	border	any	3-5	4-5	6-11
Salvia, TA, HP	24-42 in.	bushy	red, blue	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-11
Sanvitalia, TA*	4-6 in.	creeping	yellow	yes	edging	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Saponaria, HA	24-30 in.	bushy	pink	yes	bedding	sunny	4-7	6-9	6-9
Scabiosa, HA-HP	24-30 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-11
Scarlet Runner, A	10-12 ft.	vine	red	no	climbing	sunny	4-5	thin	6-10
Schizanthus, TA*	12-18 in.	bushy	many	yes	pot. bed	cool	2-3	3-4	4-6
Silene, HP	18-30 in.	bushy	several	yes	border	any	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	5-10
Statice, HA, HP	18-30 in.	bushy	several	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-6	6-10
Stocks, HA	24-30 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-8
Stokesia, HP	18-24 in.	branchy	blue, white	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	5-10
Sunflower, HHA	48-72 in.	erect	yellow	yes	borders	sunny	4-5	thin	7-8
Sweet Pea, HA	4-8 ft.	vine	many	yes	cutting	sunny	12-3	thin	3-6
Sweet Sultan, HA	24-36 in.	bushy	many	yes	border	sunny	11, 12, 1-5	thin	5-7
Sweet William, HP	12-24 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	1-4	3-4	5-6
Tagetes, TA, P*	8, 18 in.	bushy	yellow	yes	edging	sunny	3-5, 7-9	thin	6-11
Thunbergia, HHA	4-5 ft.	vine	several	no	climbing	sunny	4-5	thin	6-11
Tithonia, TA	4-6 ft.	branchy	tangerine	yes	cutting	sunny	4-6	thin	7-11
Torenia, TA*	10-12 in.	bushy	blue	no	bedding	shady	2-5	4-6	5-11
Tritoma, HHP	3-4 ft.	erect	orange red	yes	bedding	sunny	2-4, 9	4-5, 10	8-11
Ursinia, TA*	10 in.	tufty	orange	no	bedding	sunny	2-4	4-5	5-10
Veridium, HHA	24-36 in.	bushy	orange	yes	border	sunny	3-4	4-5 or thin	6-10
Verbena, HHP*	6-10 in.	creeping	many	yes	edging	sunny	2-5	3-5	6-10
Veronica, HP	10-36 in.	erect	blue	yes	border	sunny	2-4, 7-9	3-5, 9-10	6-9
Vinca, TP as TA	15-18 in.	bushy	pink, wht.	fair	bedding	sunny	2-5	4-5	6-11
Viola, HA, HP*	6 in.	tufty	many	yes	bedding	any	2-4, 8-9	3-5, 10-11	4-10
Virginian Stocks, HA*	6-8 in.	bushy	several	yes	edging	sunny	3-4	thin	5-7
Wallflower, HA*	12-18 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-5	6-7
Xeranthemum, HHA	2-3 ft.	bushy	several	yes	border	sunny	4-5	thin	6-11
Zinnia, HHA	24-36 in.	bushy	many	yes	bedding	sunny	3-5	4-6	6-11

HASTINGS' FRESH DATED SEEDS ACCLIMATED FOR SOUTHERN GARDENS

In looking through these tables and descriptions and in choosing the flowers that will give the color effects, harmony, and balance for your garden you may know that the strains and varieties listed are the ones that are best suited to the generality of our own Southern soil and seasonal conditions. From a long study involving thousands of miles of inspection and checking trips, with our own trial and experimental gardens, giving practical experience for many years, Hastings' is in a better

position to serve your needs than ever before and with the many new and interesting flowers you can depend on being up to date with the finest seeds available anywhere in the seed world. Hastings' Seeds are all pre-tested in our own laboratories and are dated as well for your garden's protection. Whether you choose the old favorites or the new All-America selections, you get the best strains for Southern climate directly from Hastings.

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VEGETABLE PLANTING CALENDAR

This planting schedule is given to make planning a garden and keeping it producing—EASY. Naturally, planting time varies as one goes north or south. In the extreme South, most vegetables may be planted through the winter months but this calendar is based on the middle South or Cotton Belt, about the latitude of Macon, Ga., Tuscaloosa Ala., Greenville, Miss., Dallas, Tex. South

of this latitude planting will be earlier and in the upper South of course later. New York-Chicago latitude averages about one month later; Ohio River territory about 15 days later than this calendar.

Depth of planting is for medium loamy soils. In sandy soils, plant seed a little deeper, less deeply in heavy soils.

NAME OF VEGETABLE	Seed for 50 feet of row	How usually planted	Lbs. Seed to sow an acre	Distance between rows	Plants apart in row	Depth to plant	Time to Plant	Ready to Use
Artichoke, Tubers	2 lbs.	Drills	400 lbs.	3 1/2 ft.	1 ft.	2 in.	Feb. to Apr.	6 mos.
Asparagus	1/2 oz.	Drills	4-6 lbs.	14-18 in.	3-6 in.	1 in.	Mar., Apr.	3 yrs.
Asparagus Roots	25 rts.	In Beds	10,000 rts.	2 ft.	2 ft.	3 in.	Dec. to Apr.	2 yrs.
Beans, Bush	1 lb.	Drills	60 lbs.	2 ft.	3 in.	1 in.	Mar. to Aug. 15th	6-9 wks.
Beans, Pole	1/2 lb.	Drills	30 lbs.	3-4 ft.	8 in.	1 in.	Apr. to Aug. 1st	8-13 wks.
Beets	1/2 oz.	Drills	6-8 lbs.	14-24 in.	2-3 in.	1 in.	Mar. to Sept. 1st	8-11 wks.
Broccoli	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	2-3 ft.	1 1/2-2 ft.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Apr.	3 mos.
Brussels Sprouts	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	2-3 ft.	2 ft.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Apr., July to Sep.	4 mos.
Cabbage Seed	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	2-3 ft.	14-24 in.	1/2 in.	Dec. to Mar.	4 mos.
Cabbage Plants	50	In Rows	10,000 pls	2-3 ft.	14-24 in.	3 in.	Feb.-Apr., July, Aug.	3-4 mos.
Cantaloupe	1 pkt.	In Hills	1 lb.	5-6 ft.	4 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3 mos.
Carrot	1 pkt.	Drills	3-5 lbs.	1-2 ft.	2 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Sept.	8-10 wks.
Cauliflower	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2-1 lb.	3 ft.	2 ft.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Apr.	3 mos.
Celery	1 pkt.	Drills	1/2-1 lb.	2 ft.	6 in.	1/2 in.	Mar., Aug.	4 mos.
Celery	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	2-3 ft.	4-6 in.	1/2 in.	Mar., Aug.	4-5 mos.
Chard, Swiss	1 oz.	Drills	8-10 lbs.	2 ft.	2-4 in.	1 in.	Mar. to Sept. 1st	8-11 wks.
Citron	1 pkt.	In Hills	1 lb.	4-6 ft.	3 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3 mos.
Collard Plants	50	In Rows	10,000 pls	3 ft.	18 in.	3 in.	Feb.-Apr., July, Aug.	3-4 mos.
Collard Seed	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2-1 lb.	2-3 ft.	18 in.	1/2 in.	Feb.-Apr., July, Aug.	3-4 mos.
Chrn. Garden, Pop.	1 pkt.	Drills	14 lbs.	3-4 ft.	6 in.	1 in.	Apr. to July	3 mos.
Cos Lettuce	1/2 oz.	Transplant	1 lb.	2 ft.	10 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Sept.	2-3 mos.
Cress	1 oz.	Drills	10 lbs.	18 in.	3 in.	1/2 in.	Feb., Mar., Sept.	5 wks.
Cucumbers	1 pkt.	In Hills	1-2 lbs.	4-5 ft.	3-4 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3 mos.
Eggplant Seed	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2-1 lb.	3-3 1/2 ft.	18-24 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to May	3-4 mos.
Eggplant Plants	24	In Rows	7,500 pls.	3-3 1/2 ft.	18-24 in.	3 in.	May, June	2 mos.
Endive	1/2 oz.	Drills	4-5 lbs.	18 in.	12 in.	3 in.	Aug.	10 wks.
Fetticus, Corn Salad	2 oz.	Drills	10-12 lbs.	18 in.	4 in.	1/2 in.	Feb., Mar., Sept., Oct.	6 wks.
Gherkins	1 pkt.	In Hills	1-2 lbs.	4 ft.	3 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3 mos.
Gourds	1 pkt.	In Hills	4 ft.	4 ft.	4 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3-4 mos.
Herbs	2 pkts.	Drills	1-3 ft.	6 in.	1/2 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to May	1-4 mos.
Horseradish Roots	50	In Rows	20,000 pls	3 ft.	1 ft.	4 in.	Feb., Mar.	6-12 mos.
Kale or Borecole	1/2 oz.	Transplant	4-5 lbs.	2 ft.	18 in.	1/2 in.	Feb. to Oct.	3-4 mos.
Kohl Rabi	2 pkts.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	18 in.	6 in.	1/2 in.	Mar., Apr.	8-10 wks.
Leek	1/2 oz.	Drills	3-4 lbs.	1-2 ft.	2 in.	1/2 in.	Mar., Apr., Sept.	4-5 mos.
Lettuce	1 pkt.	Transplant	3-4 lbs.	12-24 in.	4-8 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Sept.	2-3 mos.
Mustard	1/2 oz.	Drills	4-5 lbs.	18 in.	4-6 in.	1/2 in.	Mar. to Oct.	4-6 wks.
Okra	1 oz.	Drills	10-12 lbs.	3-4 ft.	1 ft.	1 in.	Apr., May	3-4 mos.
Onion	1 pkt.	Drills	3-4 lbs.	1-2 ft.	3 in.	1/2 in.	Sept., Oct., Mar., Apr.	3-5 mos.
Onion Plants	100	In Rows	60,000 pls	1-2 ft.	3 in.	2 in.	Dec. to Apr.	3 mos.
Onion Sets	1 lb.	In Rows	8-12 bu.	1-2 ft.	3 in.	1 1/2 in.	Sept. to Apr.	3-4 mos.
Parsley	2 pkts.	Drills	3 lbs.	12-18 in.	4-6 in.	1/2 in.	Mar., Apr., Aug.	3-4 mos.
Parsnips	2 pkts.	Drills	5 lbs.	2 ft.	4 in.	1 in.	Mar., Apr.	4-5 mos.
Peas, Garden	1 lb.	Drills	60-120 lbs.	1-3 ft.	2 in.	1 in.	Mar. to May	7-9 wks.
Peas, Cow or Field	1/2 lb.	Drills	30-60 lbs.	3 ft.	2 in.	2 in.	May to Aug.	3 mos.
Pepper	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	3 ft.	2 ft.	1/2 in.	Apr. to June	3-4 mos.
Pe Tsai, Chinese Cabbage	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2-1 lb.	3 ft.	2 ft.	1/2 in.	Feb., Mar.	3-4 mos.
Potatoes, Irish, Tubers	7 1/4 lbs.	In Rows	500 lbs.	3 ft.	1 ft.	2 in.	Mar., Apr., July, Aug.	3 mos.
Potatoes, Sweet, Plants	25	In Rows	6,000 pls.	4 ft.	2 ft.	3 in.	Apr., May	5 mos.
Pumpkin	1 pkt.	In Hills	1-2 lbs.	8-10 ft.	4-6 ft.	3 in.	May, June	3-4 mos.
Radish	1/2 oz.	Drills	8-10 lbs.	1 ft.	2 in.	1/2 in.	Feb. to Sept.	3-6 wks.
Rape	1 oz.	Drills	4-10 lbs.	1-2 ft.	1 in.	1/2 in.	Feb. to Sept.	6-8 wks.
Rhubarb or Pie Plant	25 roots	Bed, Row	4,800 rts.	3 ft.	2 ft.	tips out	Feb., April	1-2 yrs.
Rutabaga	1 oz.	Drills	2-4 lbs.	3 ft.	4 in.	1/2 in.	Feb.-Aug.	10-14 wks.
Salsify	1 oz.	Drills	6-8 lbs.	18 in.	3 in.	1/2 in.	Feb.-May	4-5 mos.
Spinach	1/2 oz.	Drills	10-15 lbs.	1-3 ft.	3 in.	1 in.	Feb.-May; Sept., Oct.	4-7 wks.
Spinach, New Zealand	1/2 oz.	Drills	8-10 lbs.	2-3 ft.	3 in.	1 in.	Apr.-July	2 mos.
Squash, Summer	1/2 oz.	In Hills	3-4 lbs.	4 ft.	3 1/2 ft.	1 in.	Apr.-June	2-5 mos.
Tomato	1 pkt.	Transplant	1/2 lb.	3-4 ft.	3 ft.	1/2 in.	Mar.-Aug.	3-4 mos.
Tomato Plants	24	In Rows	6,000 pls.	3-4 ft.	3 ft.	3 in.	May, June, Aug.	3 mos.
Turnips	1 oz.	Drills	2-4 lbs.	1-2 ft.	3 in.	1/2 in.	Feb.-Sept.	8-10 wks.
Turnip Greens	1 oz.	Broadcast	4-6 lbs.			1/2 in.	Feb.-Sept.	4-6 wks.
Watermelon	1 oz.	In Hills	1 lb.	8-10 ft.	4-6 ft.	1 in.	May, June	3-4 mos.
Grass, Lawn, 1,000 sq. ft.	5 lbs.	Broadcast	150 lbs.			1/16 in.	Sept.-Mar.	1-2 mos.

FIELD SEED PLANTING CALENDAR — WRITE FOR LATEST QUANTITY PRICES

CROP	Wt. Bu.	Seed Acre	Time to Plant	CROP	Wt. Bu.	Seed Acre	Time to Plant
Alfalfa	60 lbs.	20-25 lbs.	Feb., Sept.	Corn, Field, Roasting	56 lbs.	7-14 lbs.	Mar.-June
Artichokes	50 lbs.	400 lbs.	Mar.-Apr.	Corn, Kaffir	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Mar.-July
Beans, Mung	60 lbs.	4-15 lbs.	May-July	Corn, Milo Maize	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Apr.-June
Beans, Mam. Soy	60 lbs.	30-60 lbs.	Apr.-June	Cowpeas	60 lbs.	60 lbs.	Apr.-July
Beans, Small Soy	60 lbs.	10-15 lbs.	Apr.-June	Crotalaria		10 lbs.	Apr.-June
Beans, Velvet	60 lbs.	15-30 lbs.	Apr.-June	Feterita	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Apr.-June
Bene	1 oz.	5-10 lbs.	Mar.-May	Grass, Sudan	40 lbs.	25 lbs.	Apr.-June
Buckwheat	52 lbs.	50-60 lbs.	Mar.-Apr.	Grass, Bermuda (Hulled)		10-20 lbs.	Apr.-July
Cane, Sorghum	50 lbs.	50 lbs.	Apr.-June	Grass, Pasture		50 lbs.	Oct.-Mar.
Cane, Syrup	50 lbs.	12-16 lbs.	Apr.-June	Hegari, in drills	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Apr.-June
Chufas	44 lbs.	11-16 lbs.	Apr.-June	Lespedeza		15-30 lbs.	Mar.-Apr.
Clovers, Most	60 lbs.	10-25 lbs.	Feb.-Oct.	Millet, Golden	50 lbs.	50 lbs.	Apr.-June
Corn, Broom	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Apr.-June	Millet, Pearl	50 lbs.	10 lbs.	Apr.-June
Corn, Chicken	50 lbs.	8-10 lbs.	Apr.-June	Peanuts	24 lbs.	24-48 lbs.	Apr.-June
				Rape	50 lbs.	4-10 lbs.	Aug.-June

Save Money With These Jubilee Offers
OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY BARGAINS!

Although we have offered similar collections of vegetable and flower seed as well as plants and bulbs, never have there been such fine new acclimated strains and varieties to fulfill the fondest desires of you Southern gardeners. Each collection is chosen for its well-balanced value and then priced to fit even the most closely budgeted pocketbook. Pick your bargains now and be sure of your garden's success in 1939.

15 Pkts. Vegetable Seed 50c

1/4 Lb. Stringless Green Pod Beans.....\$0.10	1 Pkt. Perkins Mammoth Okra.....\$0.05
1 Pkt. Asgrow Wonder Beet......10	1 Pkt. Prizetaker Onion......10
1 Pkt. Emperor Carrot......10	1 Pkt. Rosy Gem Radish......05
1 Pkt. Hastings' White Spine Cucumber......10	1 Pkt. Worldbeater Pepper......10
1 Pkt. Rockyford Cantaloupe......05	1 Pkt. Yellow Crookneck Squash......10
1 Pkt. Hastings' Iceberg Lettuce......10	1 Pkt. Everbearing Scarlet Globe Tomato......10
1 Pkt. Giant Sou. Curled Mustard......05	
1 Pkt. Georgia Cabbage-Collard......10	
1 Pkt. Stone Mountain Watermelon......05	
	Total Value \$1.25

For 50 cents we will send the above 15 full sized packets of seed by mail, postpaid. No changes will be allowed in this collection.

A Garden Full of Tomatoes for—25c

One packet each of the best new wilt-resistant tomato varieties. Scarlet Dawn, Hastings' Everbearing Scarlet Globe and Super Marglobe—Early, medium and late—just 25c.

5-Ounce Melon Collection—35c

For 35 cents we will send you one ounce each of Improved Kleckley Sweet, Tom Watson, New Dixie Queen, Honey Rock Cantaloupe and our famous Stone Mountain Watermelon. All Described p. 22-25.

Hastings' Dollar Collection

1/4 Lb. Stringless Green Pod Beans.....\$0.10	1 Pkt. Perkins Mammoth Okra.....\$0.05
1/4 Lb. McCaslan Pole Beans......10	1 Pkt. Prizetaker Onion......10
1 Oz. Asgrow Wonder Beet......15	1/4 Lb. John L. Extra Early Pea......10
1 Pkt. L. I. Wakefield Cabbage......10	1 Pkt. Worldbeater Pepper......10
1 Pkt. Eden Gem Cantaloupe......10	1 Pkt. Rosy Gem Radish......05
1 Pkt. Emperor Carrot......10	1 Pkt. Yellow Crookneck Squash......10
1 Pkt. Georgia Cabbage-Collard......10	1 Pkt. Everbearing Scarlet Globe Tomato......10
1 Pkt. Hastings' White Spine Cucumber......10	1 Oz. Shogoin Turnip......10
1 Pkt. Hastings' Iceberg Lettuce......10	
1 Pkt. Stone Mountain Watermelon......05	
	Total Value \$1.70

This will be the big home garden year. For \$1.00 we will send the Hastings' Dollar Collection (18 varieties) postpaid. No changes will be allowed in this collection.

Big 4 Cabbage Collection—25c

Stein's Early Flat Dutch, Long Island Wakefield, Copenhagen Market and Centennial L. te Flat Dutch. An all season's supply of cabbage. These four packets, Postpaid for 25c.

\$2 Home Garden Collection

1 Oz. Improved Blood Turnip Beet.....\$0.15	1 Oz. Perkins Mammoth Okra.....\$0.10
1 Lb. Stringless Green Pod Beans......30	1 Pkt. Prizetaker Onion......10
1/4 Lb. McCaslan Pole Beans......20	1 Pkt. Bermuda Onion......10
1/4 Lb. Henderson Bush Lima Beans......20	1 Pkt. California Wonder Pepper......10
1 Pkt. Emperor Carrot......10	1/4 Lb. Bliss Everbearing Garden Peas......20
1 Pkt. Surehead Cabbage......10	1/4 Lb. Sugar Crowder Table Pea......20
1 Pkt. Georgia Cabbage-Collard......10	1 Pkt. Ey. Long Scarlet Radish......05
1 Pkt. Hastings' White Spine Cucumber......10	1 Oz. Rosy Gem Radish......10
1 Pkt. Iceberg Lettuce......10	1 Oz. Yellow Crookneck Squash......15
1 Pkt. Eden Gem Cantaloupe......10	1 Pkt. Super Marglobe Tomato......10
1 Pkt. Stone Mountain Watermelon......05	1 Oz. Tendergreen, Mustard-Spinach......10
1 Oz. Imp. Kleckley Sweet Watermelon......10	1 Oz. Japanese Shogoin Turnip......10
1 Pkt. Giant Southern Curled Mustard......05	
	\$3.05

For \$2.00 we will send the above splendid "Home Garden Collection," postpaid. No changes will be allowed in this collection.

Best 4 Beans—30c

One large 1/4-pound packet each of Hastings' Stringless Green Pod, Sure Crop Stringless Wax, McCaslan Pole and also Henderson Bush Lima Beans. Postpaid, only 30c.

SOUTHERN WINTER FLOWER SEED COLLECTION—55c

1 Pkt. Ageratum, Blue Mexican.....\$0.10	1 Pkt. Larkspur, Giant Imperial Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Calliopsis, Golden Wave......10	1 Pkt. Poppy, Shirley Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Cleome, Giant Purple......10	1 Pkt. Poppy, Carnation Fld. Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Centaurea, Mixed Cornflower......10	1 Pkt. Sweet Pea, Gt. Spencer Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Cynoglossum, Blue Forget-Me-Not......10	
1 Pkt. Eschscholtzia, California Poppy......10	
	\$1.00

For 55 cents we will send one full size packet each of the above 10 varieties, postpaid. No changes allowed in this collection.

Good Luck Collection Southern Roses

Twelve wonderful varieties, strong, hardy 2-year, well-rooted, outdoor. Nursery grown Roses—the finest plants and varieties in America. All shown in full color on rear cover page, described on Pages 90 to 95. 12 for just \$3.95, 6 for \$2.25.

2 SUMMER FLOWER COLLECTIONS—\$1.25

10 Easiest Flowers to Grow—65c

1 Pkt. Ageratum, Blue Mexican.....\$0.10
1 Pkt. Alyssum, Sweet......10
1 Pkt. Balsam, Mixed Touch-Me-Not......10
1 Pkt. Celosia, Plumosa Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Cleome, Giant Purple......10
1 Pkt. Cosmos, Early Orange Flame......15
1 Pkt. Cynoglossum, Blue Forget-Me-Not......10
1 Pkt. Four O'Clocks, Mixed......10
1 Pkt. Nasturtium, Double Golden Gleam......10
1 Pkt. Zinnia, Dahlia—Fld. Mixed......10
\$1.05

1 Packet Each of Above 10 Easiest to Grow Summer Flowers.....65c

10 Finest Popular Flowers—75c

1 Pkt. Calliopsis, Golden Wave.....\$0.10
1 Pkt. Chrysanthemum, Tricolor......10
1 Pkt. Dianthus Sweet Wiveisfield Pinks......10
1 Pkt. Helichrysum, Mixed Strawflowers......10
1 Pkt. Marigold, Dixie Sunshine......15
1 Pkt. Petunia DeLuxe Bedding Mixture......15
1 Pkt. Portulaca, Mixed Sun Plant......10
1 Pkt. Salvia, Globe of Fire......10
1 Pkt. Tithonia, Mexican Sunflower......15
1 Pkt. Verbena, Gigantea Mixed......15
\$1.20

1 Packet Each of Above Favorite and Popular New Flowers.....75c

For \$1.25 we will send, postpaid, the above 20 full size packets (Both Collections—Value \$2.25) of Flower Seed. No changes will be allowed in these collections. No others will be sold at these prices.

Home Orchard Fruit Tree Collection—\$2.85

Finest varieties of fruit trees for a real home supply—4 Peaches, 3 Apples, 2 Pears, a Plum, Cherry, and Fig. 12 Strong Trees delivered, \$2.85.

Hardy Perennial Plants Rock Garden Offer

\$1.95 One strong plant each of twelve flowering rockery plants, well balanced color selection for all-season bloom and easily grown subjects. Mostly low, spreading growth to make a delightful view from all sides. Collection described on Page 73. \$3.00 worth for \$1.95.

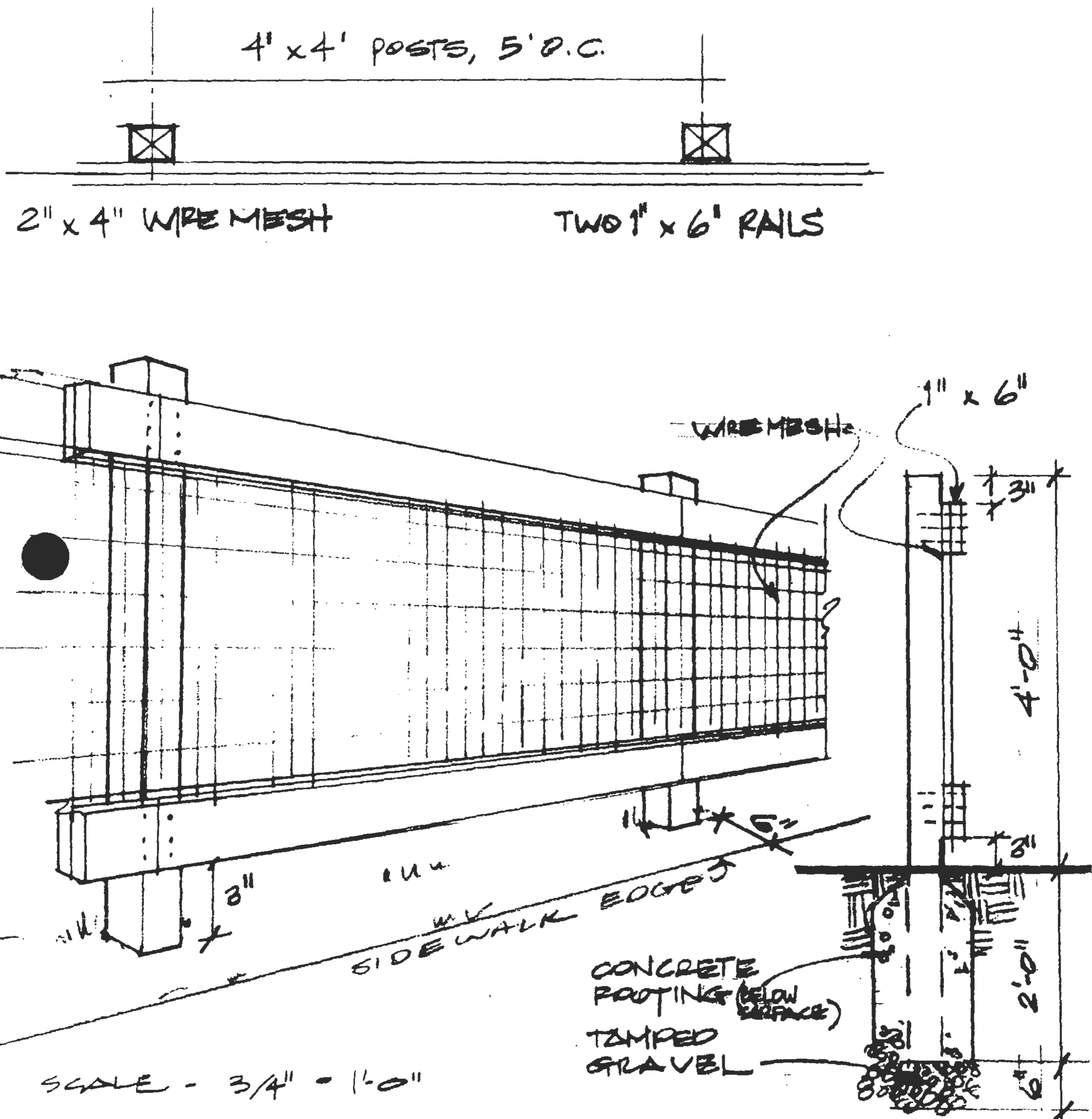
APPENDIX B FENCE DETAILS





William Josey, standing in yard, 1909. Anti-tuberculosis Association Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

Detail A - Photographic reference



Detail A - Wire and Rail Fence

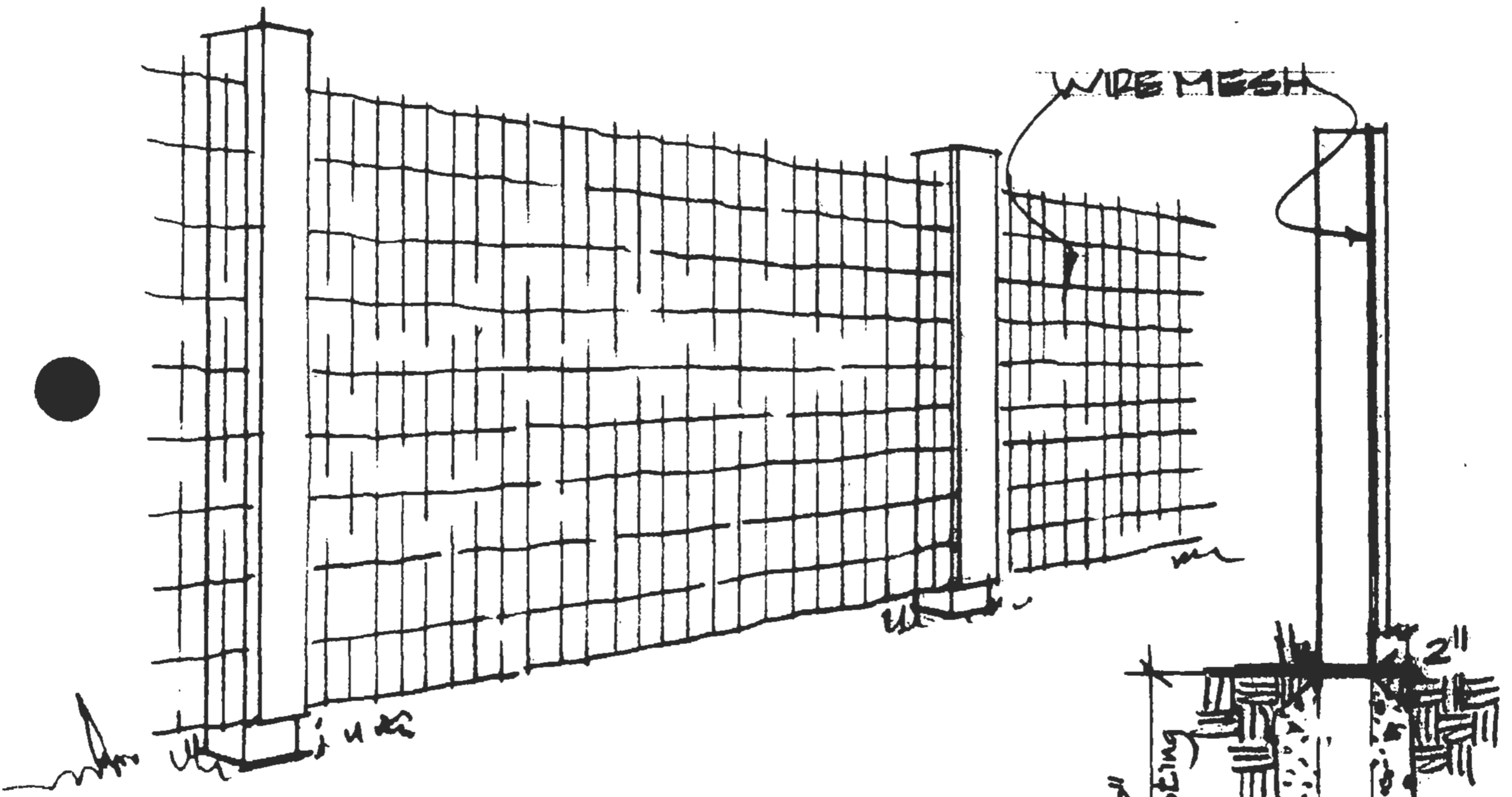
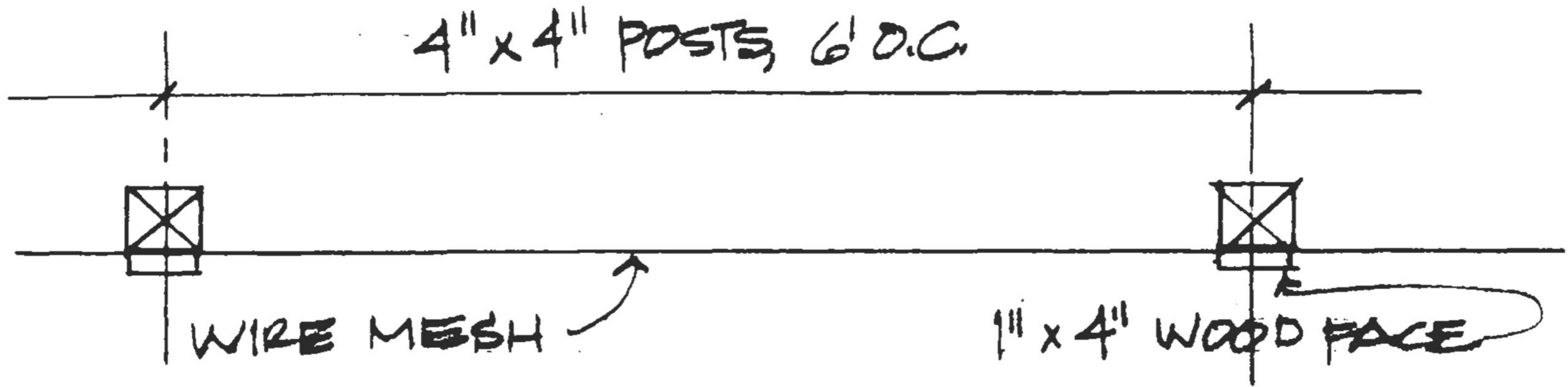


53 Hogue Street. Note rolled wire fence across front yard.



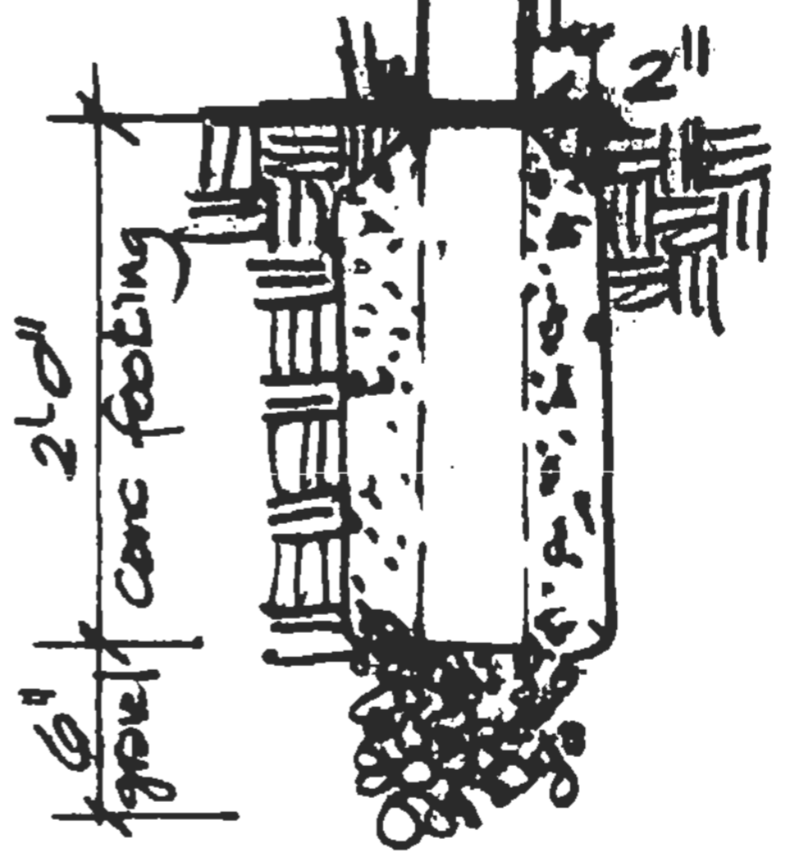
Rolled wire fence at 497 Auburn Avenue.

Detail B & C - Photographic reference

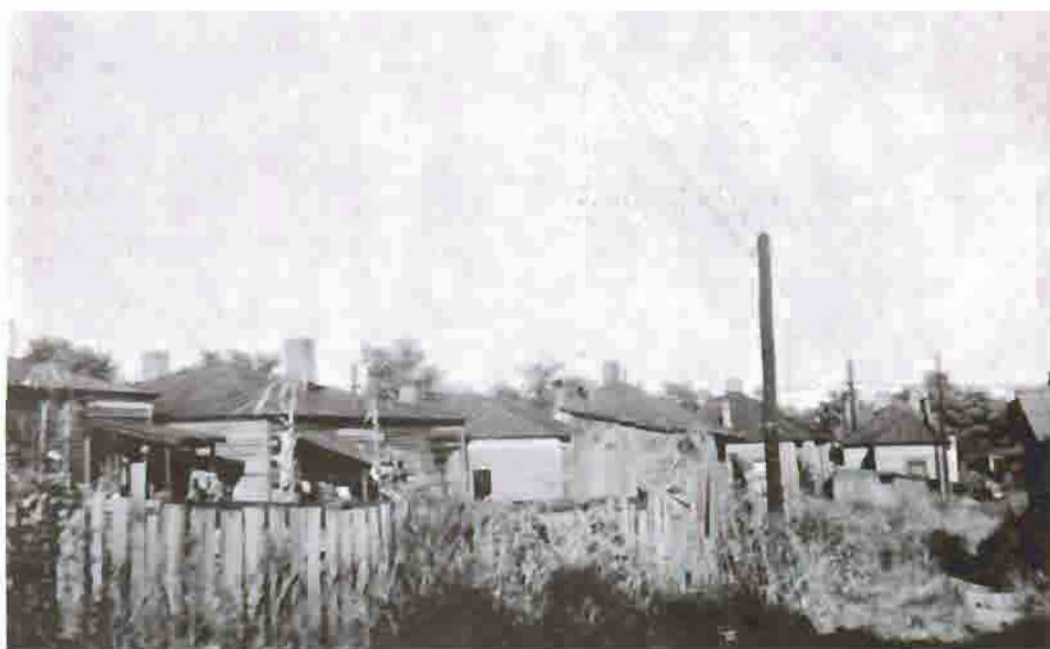


SCALE - 3/4" = 1'-0"

Note: Detail C - Rolled Wire Fence is wire material as seen in the photographs (previous page) attached to a metal post. Extant examples at 497 Auburn Avenue and 53 Hogue Street.

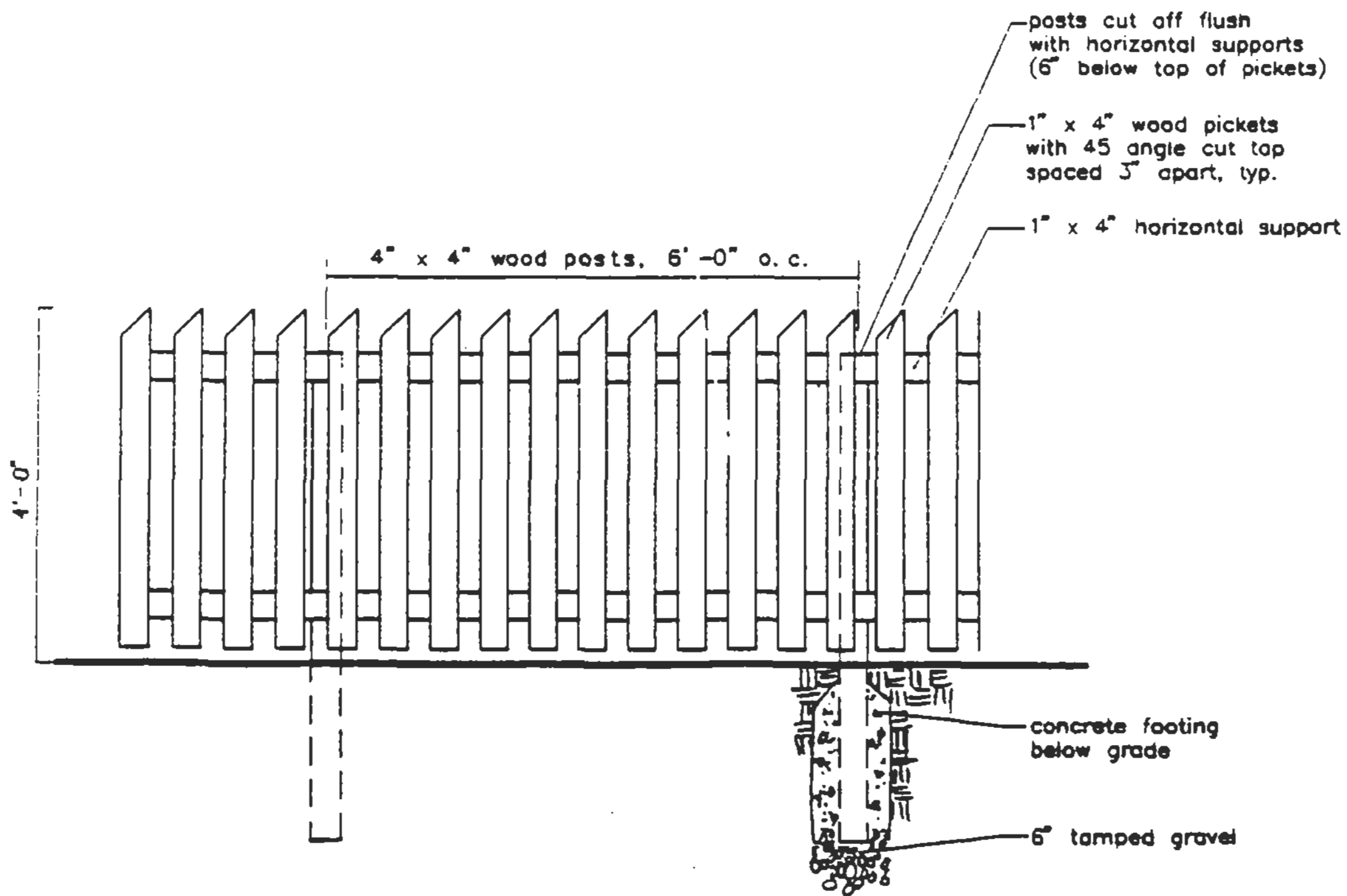
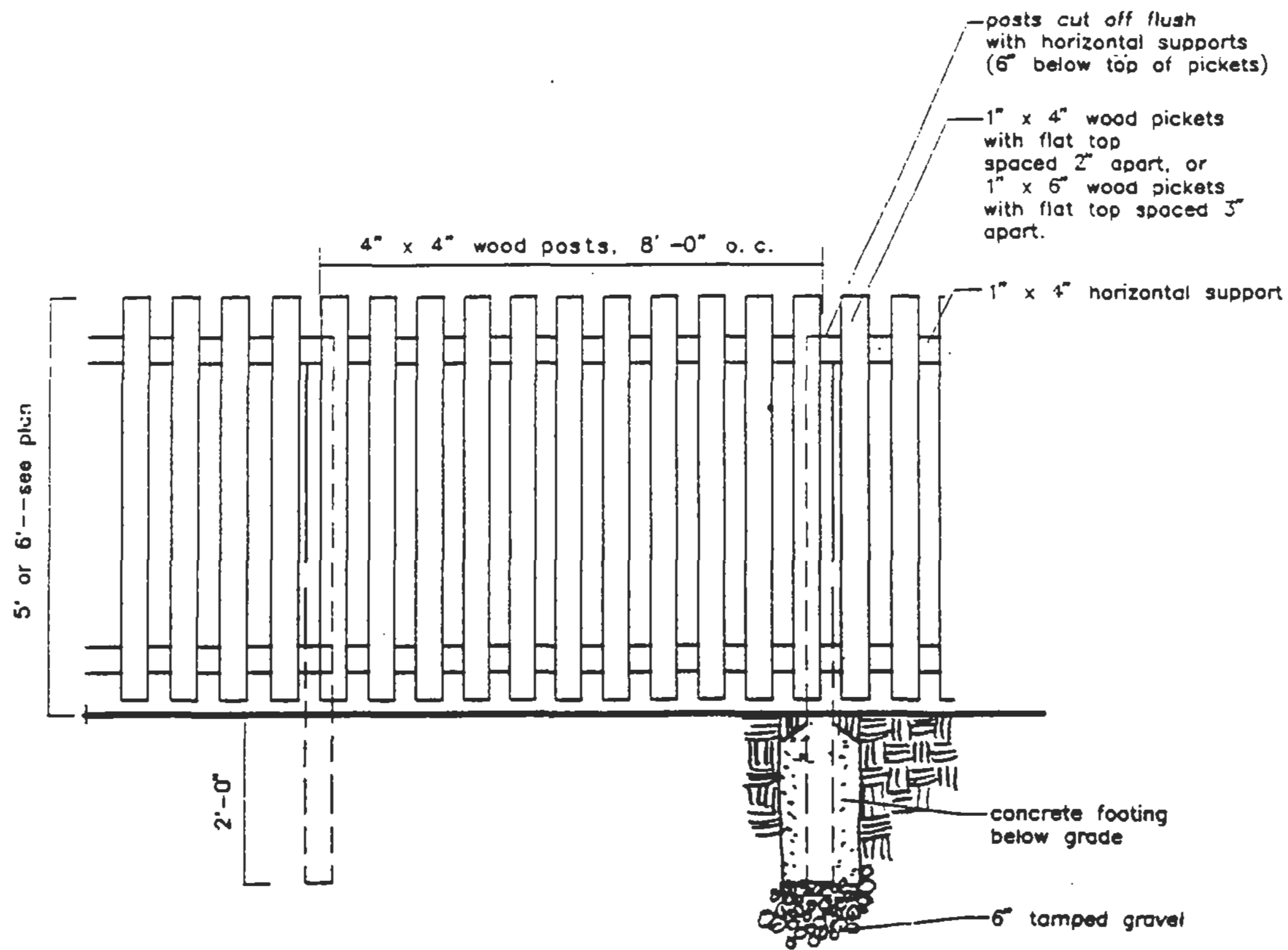


Detail B & C - Wire on Post and Rolled Wire Fence



Board fence examples, 1940. AHA Collection, Atlanta Historical Society.

Detail D - Photographic reference



Detail D - Board and Picket Fence

APPENDIX C
ADDITIONAL HISTORIC PHOTOGRAPHS



Additional examples of residences and landscapes from *The Negro American Home*







