

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

Name: Stewart Avenue Industrial Historic District

Location: A multi-block area centered on Metropolitan Parkway and Northside Drive (historically Stewart Avenue) and bounded by I-20 to the north, railroads to the east and west, and Shelton Avenue to the south, Atlanta, Fulton County

Description: The Stewart Avenue Industrial Historic District is located about 1.5 miles southwest of Atlanta city hall and comprises an intact collection of approximately 50 early-to-mid-twentieth century industrial and commercial buildings along with important transportation-related resources associated with the city's historic development. The district features an irregular street grid shaped by railroads and their spurs, which dictated building orientation and site placement and bound the district to the east and west. Stewart Avenue (now Northside Drive and Metropolitan Parkway) is the district's main thoroughfare and runs north to south, bisecting it. The area is defined by utilitarian buildings constructed primarily with masonry, using "mill" or "slow-burning" methods, and later incorporating reinforced concrete and steel. These buildings, including warehouses and factories, exhibit simple, functional designs with minimal ornamentation and large windows and reflect the evolution of industrial construction techniques over time. Landmark buildings include the Candler Warehouses, the Western Union Supply Building, the Ruralist Press complex, the Johnson-Fluker Company building, and the previously NR-listed General Electric Repair Shop & Warehouse and Buildings at 523–549 Stewart Avenue.

Acres & Boundary Explanation: 74.36 acres, includes the contiguous, intact historic resources associated with the industrial resources in this area

Period of Significance: 1915-1975

NR Criteria & Areas of Significance: Criterion A, Industry and Transportation

Statement of Significance: The Stewart Avenue Industrial Historic District is significant under Criterion A in the area of industry as a representation of Atlanta's small- and large-scale commercialization and industrialization and is among the most impactful twentieth century industrial districts in Atlanta. It played a significant role in the transformation of Atlanta from an agrarian-based economy to a more industrial- and commercial-based economy and reflects the diversification of Atlanta's economic base through large-scale industrial complexes such as cotton warehouses, textile mills, and printing plants, which commandeered the urban landscape of the fledgling Stewart Avenue district, to smaller, custom-built facilities, which attracted out-of-state industries to invest in the area. The district is also locally significant under Criterion A in the area of transportation for the impact and changing roles of the railroad and trucking on its industries. Atlanta relied on transportation infrastructure to spur industrial and commercial growth, and with three historic rail lines and the city naming Stewart Avenue an "Official Truck Route," the district seamlessly transitioned from rail-dominated to truck-dominated transport and continued to thrive into the 1970s.

Suggested Level of Significance: Local

Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by Braden Fellman, and nomination materials were prepared by Verity Works and WLA Studio.

