

SUMMARY OF PROPOSED NATIONAL REGISTER/GEORGIA REGISTER NOMINATION

1. Name: Collier Heights Historic District.
2. Location: In Atlanta, bounded by I-20 to the south, I-285 to the west, Hamilton E. Holmes Drive on the east, and Donald Lee Hollowell Parkway to the north. *USGS Quadrangle: Northwest Atlanta, GA.*
- 3a. Description: Collier Heights is a mid-20th-century residential suburb six miles west of downtown Atlanta consisting of nearly 2,000 houses in 55 small interrelated subdivisions developed between 1941 and 1966 along with a few earlier houses. The street layout is irregular reflecting incremental development and hilly terrain. The earliest houses are along Holmes Drive. Mid-century suburban development occurred from Holmes Drive westward and from I-285 eastward. The majority of houses are mid-20th-century ranch houses, along with a smaller number of split levels and a very few two-story houses; also included are a few early 20th-century Craftsman bungalows and some mid-century American Small Houses. Virtually every size and type of ranch house is represented, from small and compact to large and rambling, and from the simple linear to courtyard and other complex forms. Architectural styles include Colonial Revival and Contemporary with a few examples of Modern. Many house designs appear to be from period plan books such as those published in Atlanta by the Home Builders Plan Service and W. D. Farmer; others are custom designs. Most of the houses are wood-framed with brick veneer; many have a combination of brick, stone, and wood exteriors. Roofs are gabled and hipped. Windows are of varied types and sizes and include a wide range of picture windows. Many of the houses feature large chimneys; most have integral carports or garages. Landscaping is informal with open lawns, large pine and hardwood trees, and ornamental shrubbery; plantings around foundations and front terraced entries or rear patios are common. Streets are curvilinear in layout; most have concrete curbs, with a few in the older sections having granite curbstones. There are no sidewalks. One small park is nestled within one of the subdivisions; another large park is located at the southwest periphery of the district. Community landmark buildings are located on the edges of the district and include several churches and schools. Only about five percent of the properties in the district are non-contributing; most are later houses.
- 3b. Period of Significance: c.1915-1970.
- 3c. Acreage: Approximately 1,000 acres.
- 3d. Boundary Explanation: The boundary conforms to the historic development boundaries of the 55 subdivisions comprising the mid-20th-century Collier Heights residential suburb.
- 4a. National Register Criteria: A and C; Criteria Consideration G (less than 50 years).
- 4b. National Register Areas of Significance: Architecture, Community Planning and Development, Ethnic Heritage—Black; Social History.
- 4c. Statement of Significance: Collier Heights is among the foremost mid-20th-century African-American suburbs in Atlanta and the nation. In terms of community planning and development, ethnic heritage—black, and social history, it represents at the local level the culmination of westward African-American residential development from downtown Atlanta past Atlanta University Center and Washington Park to the western fringes of the city made possible by negotiation among private land-development organizations and public planning agencies during a period of strict residential segregation; nationally, it is unique in terms of its size, diversity of residents, and the principal role played by African Americans in its development. Its distinctive nature is attributed to a unique combination of factors in Atlanta including African-American population growth, political and civic leadership, financial institutions, available land, and land-development expertise. Collier Heights housed a broad spectrum of Atlanta's mid-century middle- and upper-class African-American populace. The neighborhood was highly promoted to a regional audience by the *Atlanta Daily World* as the mid-century African-American suburban neighborhood in Atlanta, and it was featured in national publications including *Ebony* magazine, *Time* magazine, and *The New York Times*. Recently it has been identified as the country's preeminent mid-century African-American-developed suburb in the book *Places of Their Own* by Columbia University professor Andrew Weise. In the area of architecture, the district is significant for its exceptionally intact collection of mid-20th-century houses including a wide variety of ranch houses along with representative examples of American Small Houses and Split Levels. Many of these houses were built from plans provided by the Atlanta Home Builders Plan Service and W. D. Farmer; others were custom-designed by several of Atlanta's earliest professional African-American architects.
- 4d. Suggested Level of Significance: The Collier Heights nomination is recommended at the national level of significance because of its preeminence nationally as a mid-20th-century African-American residential suburban development.
5. Sponsor: The nomination is sponsored by the Collier Heights Community Association. Nomination materials were compiled by graduate students in the Heritage Preservation Program at Georgia State University.