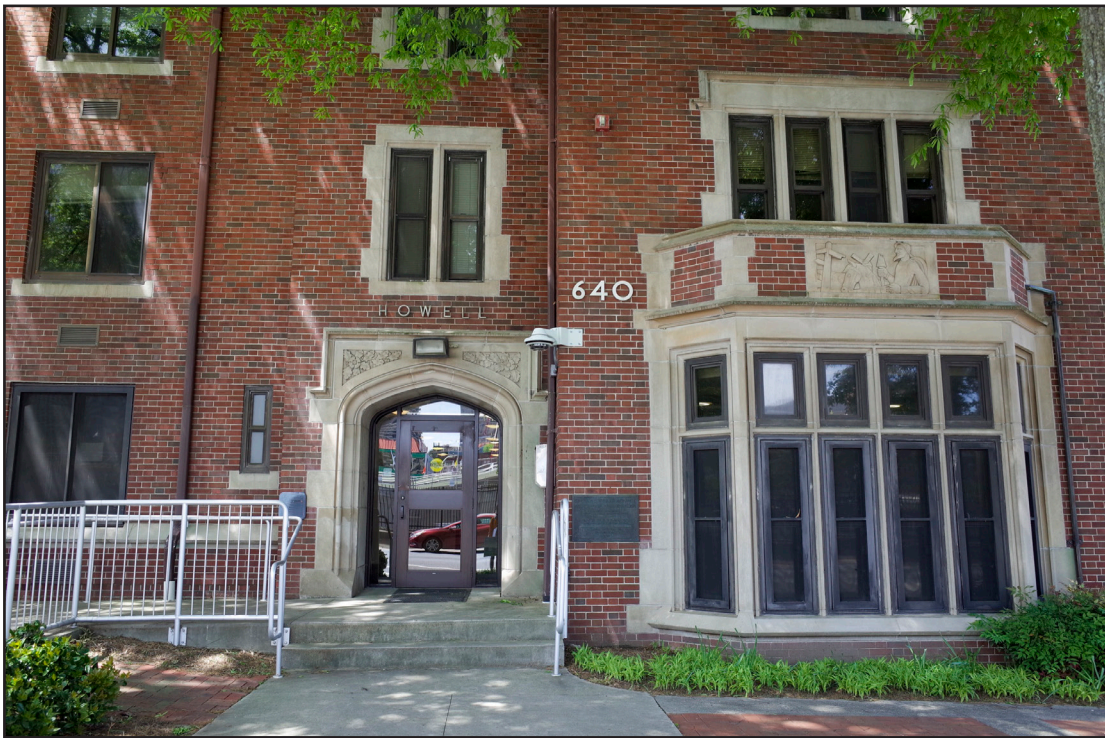


# HISTORIC STRUCTURE REPORT

## Clark Howell Residence Hall

GT #010

640 Williams Street NW  
Georgia Institute of Technology



*prepared by*  
Ray, Ellis & LaBrie Consulting, LLC

November 2020







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## INTRODUCTION

A Historic Structure Report provides documentary, graphic, and physical information about a building's history and existing conditions. In the field of historic preservation and architecture it is used as a planning tool, guiding management decisions concerning the use or re-use of a building, identifying an appropriate treatment approach to be taken during the building's rehabilitation, providing design professionals with an understanding of the historically and/or architecturally significant space, features and finishes of a building, and directing future maintenance activities.

This historic structure report will document the history of Howell Residence Hall on the Georgia Tech campus. Using photographs, maps and drawings to graphically illustrate points made in the text, this report includes the following information:

- a history of Georgia Tech and campus development up to World War II and including the influence of the New Deal programs on campus.
- a history of residential life at Georgia Tech through the completion of the East Campus Residential Quadrangle (Area 1).
- an introduction to Harold Bush-Brown and James H. Gailey, architecture professors at Georgia Tech and the architects of Howell Hall and Griffin Construction Company, the contractors for the building.
- an introduction to Clark Howell.
- an architectural description of the exterior, interior and landscape of the buildings.
- an assessment of the changes to the buildings.
- determination of the significance of the buildings.
- photographic documentation of the building showing the current condition.
- current and historic drawings of the building.



## **Chapter 1: HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY 1888-1930s**

Howell Residence Hall (GT #010), named after Atlanta businessman Clark Howell, was constructed in 1938-39 in conjunction with neighboring Harrison Hall. Howell Residence Hall was originally known as the “South Dormitory.” Howell and Harrison Halls are mirror images. *Throughout this document, GT #010 will be referred to as Howell Hall.*

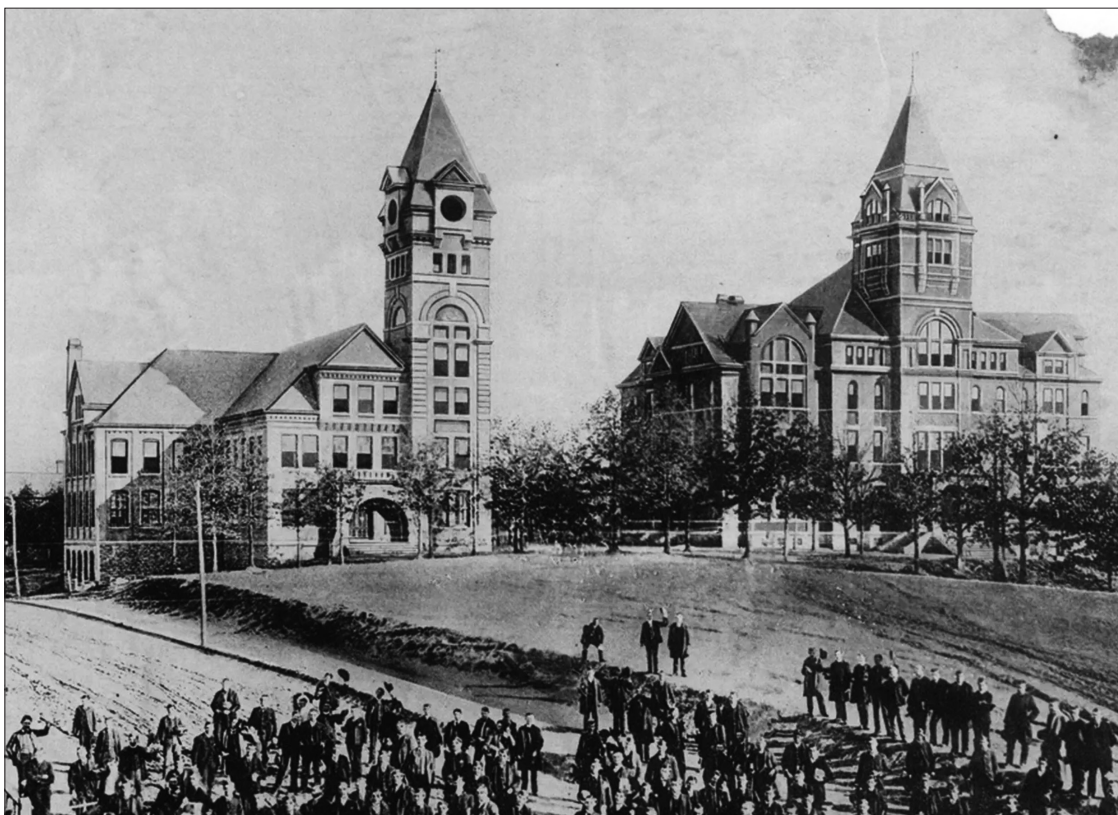
Howell Hall, located at 640 Williams Street, is part of the Georgia Institute of Technology’s East Campus Housing Community, Area 1. It is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places but would be eligible as part of the East Campus Residential Historic District which was proposed in the 2009 Georgia Tech Campus Historic Preservation Plan Update. This proposed historic district comprises eight dormitories forming the east campus residential quadrangle around Brittain Dining Hall. This area is bound by North Avenue, Techwood Drive, Third Street, and Williams Street. This block was purchased in 1922 and was developed from 1924 to 1947. Harrison and Howell Halls are unique in that they were New Deal projects during the Great Depression, funded by the Public Works Administration.

Howell Hall was designed by Matt L. Jorgensen with the architectural firm Bush-Brown and Gailey. All of these men were part of the Georgia Tech Department of Architecture faculty. At the time Howell Hall was constructed, it was standard practice for faculty in the Department of Architecture to receive commissions for campus buildings. It was considered beneficial for the Department of Architecture to design and oversee the construction of new campus buildings with the idea that this would keep professors and students involved in realistic projects. Harold Bush-Brown and a succession of partners and associates (who were also on the Department of Architecture faculty) were responsible for designing a significant number of campus buildings constructed from 1925 into the 1940s.

### **EARLY GEORGIA TECH HISTORY AND CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT**

Toward the end of the 19th century, two Confederate veterans of the Civil War, Major John F. Hanson and Colonel Nathaniel E. Harris, initiated the drive to open a technical school in Georgia. Hanson was publisher and industrialist who later became president of a railroad. Harris was a Macon attorney and state legislator who eventually became governor of Georgia. During the summer session of the Georgia Legislature in 1882, Harris introduced





**Figure 1.1.** Georgia Tech (then the Georgia School of Technology), original two campus buildings, c. 1888, designed by Bruce and Morgan.

a bill to establish a school of technology as part of the state's university system. A bill was passed in the summer of 1885, and \$65,000 was appropriated to establish the Georgia School of Technology.

Harris was elected chairman of the commission to organize and run the school. The commission, which also included Samuel M. Inman of Atlanta, Oliver S. Porter of Newton County, Judge Columbus Heard of Greene County, and Edward R. Hodgson of Clarke County, later became the school's first board of trustees.<sup>1</sup> The commission's first task was to select a site for the school. Five bids for the school's location were considered: Athens and the University of Georgia, the City of Atlanta, the City of Macon, the City of Milledgeville, and the old Mercer University campus in the town of Penfield. Each of the committee members supported one of the sites on the committee's first ballot to select the school's location. It took 24 ballots for the committee to achieve the majority vote that selected Atlanta's bid for the new school. The Atlanta bid included \$70,000 from the city and its citizens and a guarantee of \$2,500 annually for 20 years.<sup>2</sup>

Once Atlanta was selected, three sites in the city were considered to build the school: a site on Boulevard, a lot near the end of Capital Avenue, and Peters Park.<sup>3</sup> The Peters Park site was selected, as Edward C. Peters, son of Richard Peters, had committed to donate four acres of the land and sell some of the adjacent land at \$2,000 per acre (see Figure 1.12).<sup>4</sup>

### ***Campus Development Phase 1: 1888-1920***

In April 1888, the board elected Dr. Isaac Hopkins, then-president of Emory College in Oxford, Georgia, as the first president of the Georgia Tech. Under the tutelage of Hopkins, the first two buildings of the campus were erected in 1888, paid for with state funds. The main building, also known as the academic building, now the Lettie Pate Evans Administration Building (GT #035, Tech Tower), and the shop building (not extant) were designed by Thomas H. Morgan of the architectural firm Bruce & Morgan. With their prominent twin towers, these buildings reflected the philosophy of Tech's educational system in the early years with equality between the shop and academic curricula.

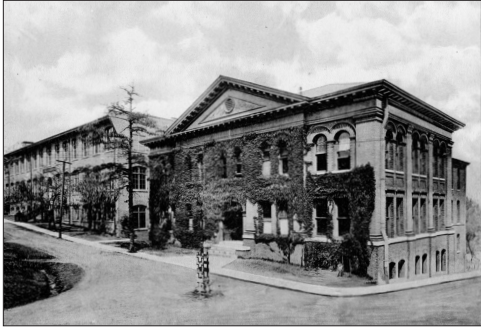
In 1892, the shop building was destroyed in a fire. As was customary at the time, insurance only covered about half of the losses. When the shop building was rebuilt the same year, the tower from the original building was eliminated from the project owing to the smaller budget. This ended up being symbolic of the already-diminishing emphasis on the school's shop culture. The contract shop program, which had initially been established as a source of revenue for the school, was ended just four years after the shop building was rebuilt. Shop curriculum remained part of the school's culture for several more decades, but the building

<sup>1</sup> Robert B. Wallace, Jr. *Dress her in White and Gold: a biography of Georgia Tech*. (Atlanta, Ga: Georgia Tech Foundation, 1969), 8.

<sup>2</sup> Robert B. Wallace, Jr. *Dress her in White and Gold: a biography of Georgia Tech*. (Atlanta, Ga: Georgia Tech Foundation, 1969), 11.

<sup>3</sup> Multiple authors. *Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech, 1885-1985*. (Athens: Univ. of Georgia Press, 1985), 32.

<sup>4</sup> "Edward C. Peters Dies at Residence." *The Atlanta Constitution*. February 2, 1937.



**Figure 1.2.** The A. French Textile School Building (left) and Lyman Hall Laboratory of Chemistry Building (right) c.1913. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.



**Figure 1.3.** Old Campus c. 1900 looking across North Ave at Swann Dormitory and the Electrical Engineering building. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.



**Figure 1.4.** Carnegie Building, c. 1910, which served as the university library from 1907-1953. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

itself was repurposed and remained in use until it was demolished in the 1960s.

The second president of Georgia Tech was mathematics professor Dr. Lyman Hall, who remained in that office until his death in August 1905. Dr. Hall's presidency was marked by rapid growth in both enrollment and the size of the campus. During his presidency, Hall added two temporary dormitory buildings and the first permanent dormitory, Knowles Hall, to the campus. The construction of the A. French Textile Building (c.1897, GT #030) was partially funded by Aaron French, a textile manufacturer from Pennsylvania for whom the building was named. The remainder of the funds were contributed by the State of Georgia and a number of textile manufacturers from Georgia. By 1901, the Swann Dormitory (GT #039) and the Electrical Engineering/Savant Building (GT #038) had been added to the campus. The Savant Building was the last structure built during Hall's tenure.

After Dr. Hall's death, Dr. Kenneth G. Matheson became chairman of the faculty on August 23, 1905, and was named president less than a year later. The new president's first move was toward the construction of a library building. Tech's first library started as a shelf in Matheson's office and was moved to a room in the administration building in 1899 while President Hall lobbied unsuccessfully for the funds for a library building. The library subsisted solely on gifts of both money and books until receiving a small appropriation of funds in 1901, which was used to hire a librarian. On March 12, 1906, Andrew Carnegie gave \$20,000 for the construction of a library building, provided the school guarantee an "appropriation of at least \$2,000 a year to support the library."<sup>5</sup> This goal was achieved, and the Carnegie Library Building (GT #036) opened in September 1907. This was the first of many improvements to the campus under what Matheson dubbed the Greater Georgia Tech campaign.

The next building constructed was the Whitehead Memorial Hospital, which was completed in 1910. In August 1910, the Georgia Legislature approved \$35,000 for a mechanical engineering building under the provision that the school would also raise \$15,000. Through the aid of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, \$22,000 was raised within two months. The first two units of this building were completed in 1912. Replacing the old shop building, the new

<sup>5</sup> Robert B. Wallace, Jr. *Dress her in White and Gold: a biography of Georgia Tech*. (Atlanta, Ga: Georgia Tech Foundation, 1969), 63.

structure was called the Mechanical Engineering Building or the New Shop Building. Following the death of Dr. John Saylor Coon in 1938, the building was officially named the J. S. Coon Building (GT #045), in honor of the first head of the mechanical engineering department. The Rockefeller YMCA Building (GT #003), designed by Morgan & Dillon, the successor firm to Bruce & Morgan, was dedicated in June 1912 and functioned as Tech's first student center. It housed recreation facilities, student publications offices, meeting spaces for the band and other student organizations, an auditorium, and rooms for student and faculty.



**Figure 1.5.** Rockefeller YMCA, now the L.W. Roberts Jr. Alumni House. Blueprint 1918.

An appropriation of \$17,500 from the Georgia Legislature in 1906, along with \$2,000 donated by friends of the school, was used to purchase land to the south and west of the existing campus. This purchase included two-thirds of what eventually became Grant Field. In 1913, the school made an agreement to purchase the remaining third of the Grant Field site from the Peters Land Company, amounting to about four acres located north of the existing athletic fields. The concrete stands for the dual-purpose football and baseball field were constructed in 1914 and 1915.

The school purchased an additional three acres of land north of the campus from the Peters Land Company in December 1911. Charles W. Leavitt was commissioned to design a campus landscape plan (Figure 1.17). Leavitt was a nationally known civil and landscape engineer with a business in New York City established in 1897. His commissions varied from eclectic private estates for New York millionaires, to public spaces, to campus plans. Leavitt's Georgia Tech campus plan was completed in April 1912 and included all of the land bounded by Techwood Drive, Third Street, Cherry Street, and North Avenue. The plan established a system for drives and regular tree plantings on the existing campus. It recommended the demolition of the old shop building and the two temporary dormitories. The sites for unassigned future buildings had a uniform setback from all major streets. The Carnegie Physics Building (later renamed after mathematics professor D.M. Smith, GT# 024) was eventually built on one of these spaces. Leavitt also attempted to use the topography of the area by creating a series of small terraces between the hospital and Third Street. However, the improvement of the site and location of buildings for the football/baseball field was considered the strongest point of his plan.

In its first 25 years, the school had grown rapidly in both physical size and enrollment. An inventory published in a booklet entitled "A Quarter Century of Progress" states the initial enrollment of 95 men had grown to 857 by 1913. From its beginning in 1888, with five acres and two buildings, the school had grown to 25 acres and 15 buildings. When Georgia Tech was founded, there was only one department, known today as the School of Mechanical Engineering. By the end of Matheson's presidency, the school had added degree programs in mining engineering, textile engineering, electrical engineering, civil engineering, chemistry, architecture, and commerce. When the school was founded, academic curriculum and



shop classes were given equal importance. The students and faculty initially worked under a contract system, participating in local competitions with other contractors. This method was one of the main sources of revenue for the school and gave the students a chance to compete with other manufacturers. The iron columns for the Grant Theater and the gates for Oakland Cemetery were both manufactured under contract in the Georgia Tech foundry. However, in its final years, the contract shop stopped turning a profit for the school. Combined with the Hall and Matheson administration's desire to diminish Tech's reputation as a vocational school and establish it as a legitimate technical institute, academic curriculum became the emphasis.

The next few years saw continuous growth for the university. Phinehas V. Stephens designed a power plant in 1913. Francis P. Smith, head of the Department of Architecture, greatly enhanced Stephens' plans, and this second version of the Holland Power Plant (GT #026), was erected between 1915 and 1918. When the nation became involved in World War I, Georgia Tech became the site for the U.S. Army's Ground Flight Training School. In a six-week program, pilots were trained in a number of technical disciplines. In 1918, the ground school's mission abruptly changed to train aviation supply officers, the only program like it in the United States. Georgia Tech's ROTC program was also established during this time.

### ***Campus Development Phase 2: 1921-1942***

After World War I, Georgia Tech took on a mission of retraining war veterans for technical civilian jobs. This resulted in a significant increase in the number of both students and faculty. Faced with an increase in student body numbers, President Matheson pressed for the completion of the third phase of the mechanical engineering building. A movement also began in 1920 to transform Georgia Tech from a trade school into a research institute. Matheson believed the fundraising necessary to accomplish that change could not be achieved without at least a tentative master plan. Professors Warren Laird and Paul Cret of the University of Pennsylvania and Francis P. Smith of Georgia Tech were commissioned to survey the existing campus and other possible locations in Atlanta for a new campus design. Laird was considered at the time to be the leading professor of architecture in the United States. Under his care, and with the help of Cret, an Ecole des Beaux-Arts graduate, the University of Pennsylvania's architecture program became one of the best in the nation. Smith was a graduate of this program and had studied under both professors before he came to Tech.

The study developed by Laird, Cret, and Smith recommended keeping the school at its present site and enlarging the campus by purchasing surrounding properties. They followed up with a master plan in 1921 that identified Collegiate Gothic as the desired campus architecture (see Figure 1.19). The plan recommended the demolition of all buildings that did not comply with this style with the exception of the old Mechanical Engineering Building (J.S. Coon Building, GT #045), the Holland Power Plant, and the Rockefeller YMCA Building. Collegiate Gothic/late Jacobean architecture defined the Georgia Tech campus from 1922 through the 1930s.

In 1921, Lawrence Wood (Chip) Robert, Jr., at that time a member of both the Board of Trustees and the Athletic Association, lobbied for the appointment of Robert and Company



as supervising engineers and architects for the campus. He was successful in his efforts, and his firm entered into a contract with Georgia Tech as its official campus architects. The contract specified their fees (six percent of a building's cost) and gave them responsibility for all campus building and planning. As part of this agreement, Professors Laird and Cret would be employed as consulting architects with their fees paid by Robert and Company. This agreement fell under official scrutiny, and a decision by Georgia's attorney general declared "such dealings between a Trustee of the Georgia School of Technology, and a corporation in which he is a stockholder and officer" were illegal. The agreement was voided but remained in effect for the duration of construction work on the new academic building. Instead of Laird and Cret, Francis P. Smith was hired as associate architect.

Matheson resigned as president of Georgia Tech in 1922 and was succeeded by Dr. Marion L. Brittain. Matheson cited the "humiliating burden" of constantly having to lobby the state legislature for funding to keep the school running, let alone expand it, as his primary reason for stepping down. He expressed regret for leaving before his vision for a Greater Georgia Tech was realized, but President Brittain would come to oversee some of the most significant development in the campus' history.

The Carnegie Physics Building (now the D.M. Smith Building, GT #024), the final building to be approved and funded under Matheson, was completed in 1923. This building plays an important role in Georgia Tech's history for two main reasons: it was the first building to be constructed in the Collegiate Gothic/late Jacobean style, in accordance with the 1921 master plan, and it was funded almost entirely by a \$150,000 donation from the Carnegie Foundation. Francis P. Smith's first two proposals for the new building's purpose were rejected. The third, a physics laboratory, was accepted as a fitting use for the foundation's proposed donation. In order to assure they would have the most up-to-date facility possible, Smith went on a tour of modern physics laboratories in the eastern United States to collect information for the design of the building.

In 1923, shortly before Francis P. Smith left Georgia Tech, he started a nationwide search for his replacement. Smith contacted Professor Laird at the University of Pennsylvania who subsequently suggested four men who had trained under him, two of whom were Smith's classmates. None of these men were hired. Instead, James L. Skinner was appointed as head of the Department of Architecture in the summer of 1923. Skinner had received a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Toronto and his Masters in Architecture from Harvard. While at Harvard, he became friends with Harold Bush-Brown. Under Skinner, with Bush-Brown as assistant director, the Architecture department maintained the curricular approach that Smith had developed. The highly competitive program was consistently recognized in nationwide design competitions. In 1924, Tech's Department of Architecture was ranked first in the south and fifth in the nation. In 1925, the Architecture department was elected to the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Tech was the only southern member and was admitted because of its "well balanced curriculum and thorough professional course and high order of student attainment."



**Figure 1.6.** Originally known as the Carnegie Physics building, the D.M. Smith Building was the first collegiate gothic building on campus, constructed in 1923. Photo 2019.

Under the direction of the fourth president of the school, Dr. Marion L. Brittain, several new buildings were constructed on the Georgia Tech campus. Between 1924 and 1929, a ceramics building, an addition to the Lyman Hall Chemistry Laboratory, and concrete stands for Grant Field were built.

The 1921 campus plan had also envisioned dormitories along Techwood Drive. In November 1922, the Board of Trustees purchased a tract of land east of Grant Field (bounded by North Avenue, Third Street, Williams Street, and Techwood Drive) that would enable that vision to be fulfilled. Rather than aligning buildings along Techwood Drive as proposed in the plan, a new

quadrangle project envisioned a square to be sited on the full block.<sup>6</sup> In 1924, the architectural team of Skinner, Bush-Brown, and Stowell designed the Julius Brown Dormitory (GT #007). This dorm housed both students and faculty members and was built using funds secured from the estate of Julius L. Brown, a prominent Atlanta lawyer and businessman and a generous supporter of Georgia Tech. A second dormitory, the N.E. Harris Dormitory (GT #011) was designed by Professors Bush-Brown and Stowell with James Herbert Gaily as associate.

Between 1922 and 1925, the student population increased by 20 percent, and several fraternities were established to house a portion of the student body. The Beta Theta Pi house was Skinner's final design for the Georgia Tech campus. In June of 1925, Skinner resigned his position as head of the Department of Architecture to go into private practice. Bush-Brown replaced Skinner in the fall of 1925 and served as the head of the Architecture department until his retirement in 1956. James Herbert Gailey, who had served as an associate architect on several campus projects, was selected as assistant director. Several new professors with excellent records were hired from all over the country.

Many of the older faculty members remained committed to the Ecole de Beaux-Arts method of design that had been in use for many years by the major architecture schools in the United States. However, in the 1930s, the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture criticized the design of a sophomore year project that used the classical order as being unrelated to the functional problems of the day. The influence of the Bauhaus and European modernists was becoming more evident in architecture curriculum and designs throughout the country. However, the Gothic style remained popular for campus architecture, and the broader trend toward modernism was not yet seen in the designs for new buildings on the Georgia Tech campus. Brittain Dining Hall (GT #012), constructed in 1928 to resemble a Gothic cathedral, is the most prominent evidence of the endurance of the Collegiate Gothic style on campus.

Architecture professors were encouraged stay up-to-date on architectural movements and continue practicing as professional architects as long as teaching remained their first priority.

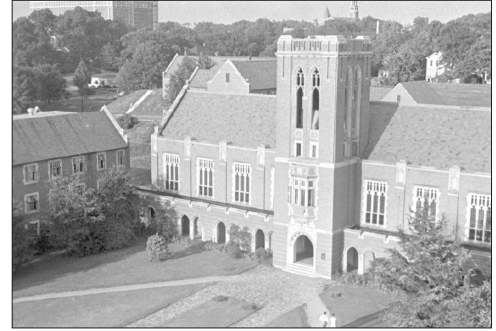
<sup>6</sup> Robert M. Craig. *The Architecture of Francis Palmer Smith, Atlanta's Scholar-Architect*. (Univ. of Georgia Press: Athens, 2012), 29.

This followed a national trend that kept professors of architecture active in the design of buildings on campus. For instance, Bush-Brown and Gailey, an architecture firm run by Georgia Tech architecture faculty, designed Brittain Hall. This practice provided an additional benefit to students by allowing them to contribute to real-world projects, and Brittain Hall, in particular, was a showcase of the work of students and faculty from several Georgia Tech departments. In addition to the building's design itself coming from students and faculty in the Architecture department, the ceramics department manufactured the floor tiles; the mechanical engineering department made the wrought-iron light fixtures; and the textile department created the curtains and tapestries for the president's dining room. Brittain Dining Hall cost \$125,000 to build, and the financing came from the Greater Georgia Tech Fund with a substantial contribution from the Athletic Association.

As the economy slowed and faltered with the onset of the Great Depression, it became more and more difficult for Brittain to raise money from private or state funds to continue his ambitious building program. He began searching for public funding and grants, in particular, a grant from the Guggenheim Fund to establish a school of aeronautical engineering. Brittain had been pursuing this grant since at least 1926, the same year Tech began offering aeronautics courses as electives in the machine design curriculum. In 1927, the Guggenheim Fund paid for Charles Lindbergh to speak at Tech and fly over Grant Field in the "Spirit of St. Louis" in order to further public interest in aeronautics, and aeronautics courses were added to the night school's offerings in 1928. Finally, in 1930, Georgia Tech was one of six universities in the nation, and the only university in the south, to receive a Guggenheim Grant. The school received \$300,000 to establish a school of aeronautical engineering and to construct a building for the new department.

The plans for the Daniel F. Guggenheim Building (GT #040) were drawn by professors Bush-Brown and Gailey. Again, the Collegiate Gothic style endured as their choice for the design, echoing other recent buildings on campus and the vision of the 1921 master plan. The contractors for this project were Brazel, Miller, and Newbanks at a cost of \$100,000.

Also in 1930, the school received \$80,000 from the estate of Mrs. Josephine Cloudman in memory of her late husband, Josiah, for construction of a dormitory designed specifically for



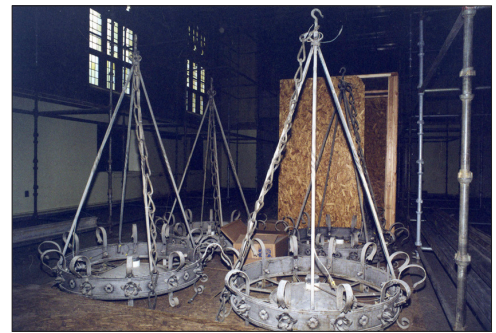
**Figure 1.7.** Brittain Dining Hall, constructed 1928, anchored the East Campus Residential Quadrangle. Photo 1939-43, Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.



*The construction of Brittain Dining Hall represents a special collaboration between multiple departments of Georgia Tech.*

**Figure 1.8.** (above) Tile floors were manufactured by the ceramics department.

**Figure 1.9.** (below) Iron chandeliers were manufactured by the mechanical engineering department. Photos c.2001, Ray & Associates.



the unique needs of co-op students. The firm Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Associates designed Cloudman Hall (GT #013) as an L-shaped building, again in the Collegiate Gothic style, complimenting Harris Hall and Brittain Dining Hall and completing the Brittain Quad.

## THE NEW DEAL ERA AND FEDERAL FUNDING IN THE 1930s

*From Old Civil Engineering Building Historic Structure Report.*

Howell and Harrison Residence Halls were among the buildings at Georgia Tech constructed at the height of the Great Depression, using Public Works Administration (PWA) money. The Depression was a time of great suffering, and at its worst left a quarter of the entire workforce unemployed. The PWA was created by the National Industrial Recovery Act on June 16, 1933. Its initial budget was several billion dollars to be spent on the construction of public works as a means of providing employment, stabilizing purchasing power, improving public welfare, and contributing to a revival of American industry. The PWA was headed by Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes. Between July 1933 and March 1939, the PWA spent \$6 billion on 34,000 construction projects including airports, electricity generating dams and aircraft carriers. This outlay also funded 70% of new school buildings, 33% of new hospitals, and 10% of the roads, streets and bridges built across the United States over this period. The South alone received over \$500 million between 1933 and 1938.

In 1935, Congress passed the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act and created the Works Progress Administration (WPA), the largest and most comprehensive New Deal agency. This program was similar to (but more powerful than) the PWA, which continued as a separate entity. In addition to hiring people from traditionally working-class backgrounds, the WPA also created programs for academics, actors, and artists. The Federal Writers Project hired people to compile histories of communities across the United States. The Federal Actors Project hired actors and directors to bring live theater to towns and cities throughout the United States. A Federal Artists program hired painters to create murals on public buildings and sculptors to create park and battlefield monuments. The PWA and WPA were only two of several programs created. Others were the Civil Works Administration (CWA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), and the National Recovery Administration.

Funding for the programs was cut in 1939, and the Public Works Administration was shut down. Once the United States involvement in World War II began, unemployment figures fell fast, and the WPA was shut down on December 4, 1943.

Almost every community in the United States had a park, bridge, or school constructed by one of these agencies. Because of Roosevelt's connection to Atlanta and his frequent stays in Warm Springs, he was said to have favored Georgia in financing many of the public programs. Techwood Homes, constructed just south of North Avenue, was the first public housing project in the nation. Roosevelt approved Techwood Homes for whites and University



Homes for blacks in October 1933. The largest project in the entire south at that time was the Atlanta sewer system.

On the Georgia Tech campus, Brittain took advantage of many of Roosevelt's New Deal programs to continue his ambitious building program. Over his 22-year career, Brittain was responsible for 22 new buildings, 10 of which were funded at least partly by New Deal-era programs. The fact that Robert MacDougall, a Georgia Tech-educated engineer, directed construction projects as head of the WPA Operations Division in Georgia probably helped Brittain's case. During this period, several building projects were ongoing at the same time, causing quite a strain on the Architecture department. The paperwork needed to secure the approval of federal funds was overwhelming. The school had to submit a complete set of drawings and an estimated cost for each project. The money from the agencies was given as a grant, and the matching funds had to be secured through the Board of Regents or financed through private companies and bond sales. The PWA was responsible for the Civil Engineering Building and the Mechanical Engineering Drawing Building, the Harrison and Howell Dormitories, the Daniels Chemical Building addition, and the Engineering Experiment Station Building. The grant that financed the last four buildings was \$144,000. Approved in 1938, it was the largest grant ever given by the PWA to any division of the University System of Georgia. The WPA financed the Auditorium/Gym Building, the Athletic Association Building, the Chemical Engineering Building, and the addition to the Lyman Hall Chemistry Building. The Armory and the Techwood Dormitory (McDaniel Dormitory) were constructed under the Civil Works Administration.

Some of the New Deal-era building on campus reflect modern or early-modern architecture but Georgia Tech still identified architecturally with the Collegiate Gothic style, and many of the PWA- and WPA-funded buildings constructed on campus reflect a more restrained approach to Collegiate Gothic that still compliments the older, more ornate buildings. These buildings, designed by Department of Architecture faculty, included a three-story L-shaped addition to the Lyman Hall Chemistry Building (1936, GT #029C), the Mechanical Engineering Building (1937), the Civil Engineering Building (1938, GT #058), and Harrison and Howell Residence Halls (1939, GT #014 and GT #010). The 1939 Engineering Experiment Station (today the Hinman Research Building, GT#051), however, is the most significant PWA-funded project. The Streamline Moderne building is the earliest remaining example of modern architectural styles on campus.<sup>7</sup> It was designed by Georgia Tech professor Paul Heffernan who had just joined Bush-Brown and Gailey. The project was jointly financed by the Board of Regents and the PWA.

Brittain's ability to find funding, along with the Architecture department's ability to rise to the occasion by providing appropriate designs, resulted in a major growth period for the school, much of which still exists today.

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<sup>7</sup> Robert M. Craig. *The Architecture of Francis Palmer Smith, Atlanta's Scholar-Architect*. (Univ. of Georgia Press: Athens, 2012), 116.





**Figure 1.10.** Naval Armory, Georgia Tech 1934-35. Photo courtesy Navy ROTC, Georgia Tech.



**Figure 1.11.** Heisman Gymnasium and Auditorium, constructed 1936-37. Photo 1953, Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

### *Modern Architecture on Campus*

Changes in taste that were already underway collided with frugal sensibilities brought on by the Great Depression. As a result, decorative elements on federally-supported building projects were labeled as decadent. Architecture and design followed these trends away from more elaborate historical styles to produce an American style of Modernism known as Streamlined Moderne.<sup>8</sup>

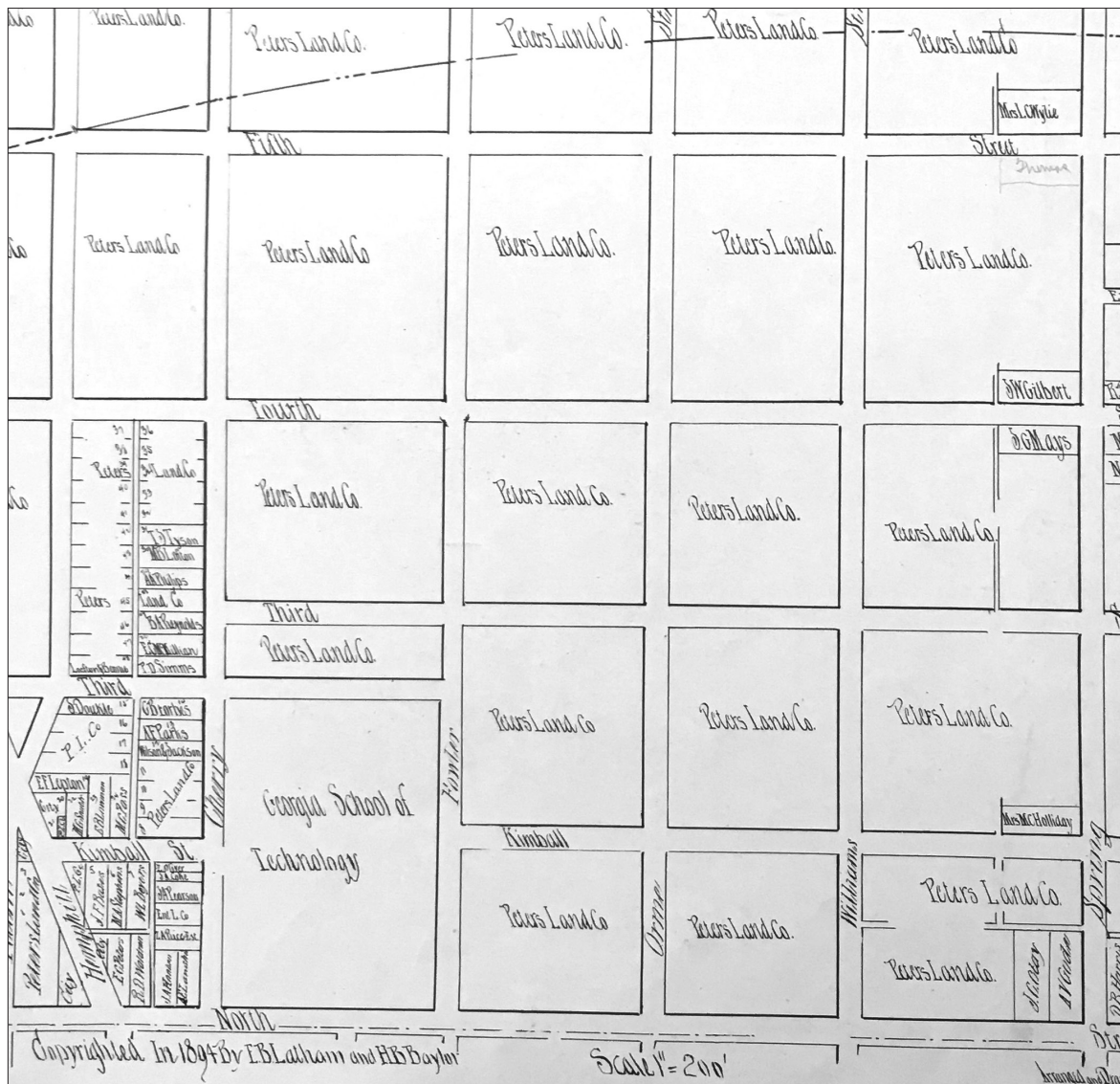
Modernism entered campus architecture in the 1930s with three New Deal-funded buildings in the earlier Modern Classic style. The money for construction partially came from outright grants with the remainder being loaned at a moderate rate of interest. Tech's eligibility for these funds allowed the building program on campus to escalate. The first building, the Naval Armory, was constructed under the CWA.<sup>9</sup> The building was designed by Bush-Brown and Gailey and was completed in 1935. Georgia Tech's Heisman Gymnasium and Auditorium Building, the centerpiece of the three Modern Classic buildings, was initially designed in 1934 but not constructed until 1936-1937. It was the first reinforced concrete building on campus. It was designed by Matt L. Jorgensen, another Department of Architecture faculty member, with Bush-Brown and Gailey again overseeing the project. Funding came from the PWA and the WPA.

The third building in this group was the Bush-Brown and Gailey-designed Athletic Association Building, funded by the WPA and completed in 1941. According to Georgia Tech professor and architectural historian, Robert Craig, these three buildings on Third Street near Techwood Drive, "composed a rare streetscape of New Deal-era Modern Classic edifices, simplified Modernistic structures that represented Georgia Tech's earliest gestures to architectural forms considered distinctly of the twentieth century." Unfortunately, none of these Modern Classic buildings remain.

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<sup>8</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. "Architectural Development of Georgia Tech." (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 160-161.

<sup>9</sup> Robert M. Craig. *Atlanta Architecture: Art Deco to Modernism 1929-1959*. (Pelican Publishing Co. Gretna, La. 1995), 112.



**Figure 1.12.** Area of Georgia School of Technology in 1894. Land Lot 80 from 1894 Atlas of Atlanta by E.B. Latham and H.B. Baylor.

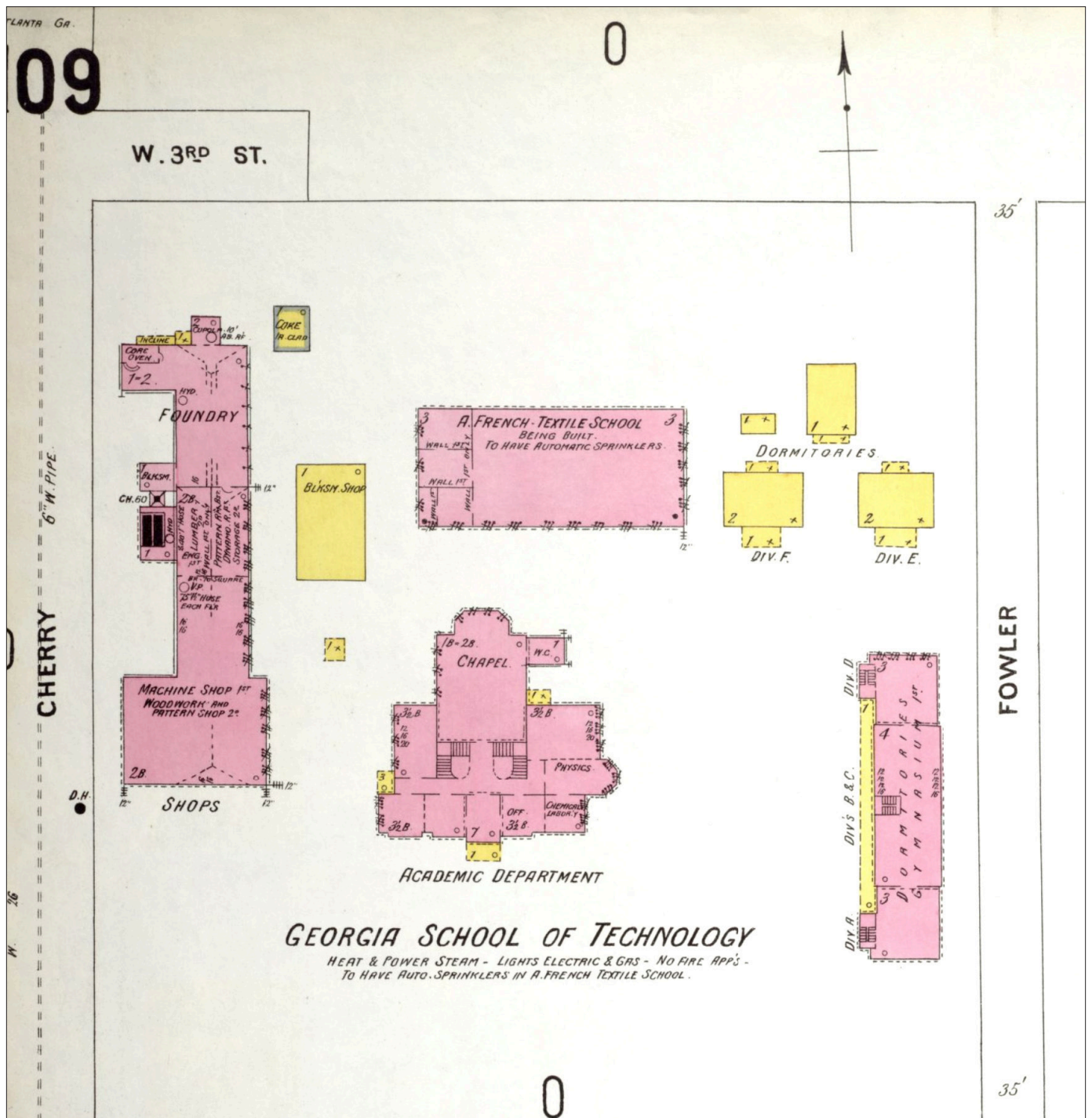
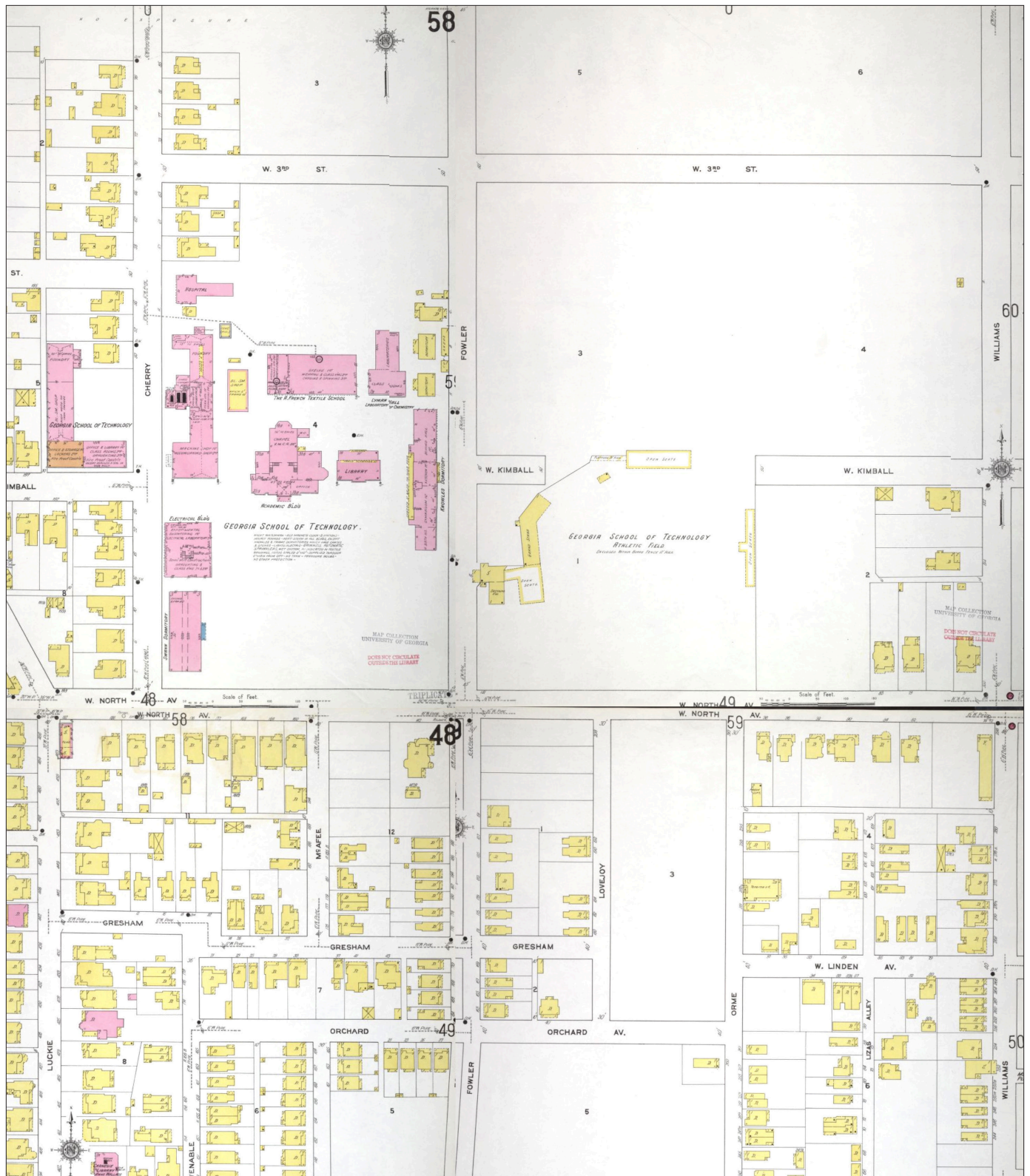


Figure 1.13. Georgia Tech campus c. 1899. 1899 Sanborn Map, Atlanta, Ga.



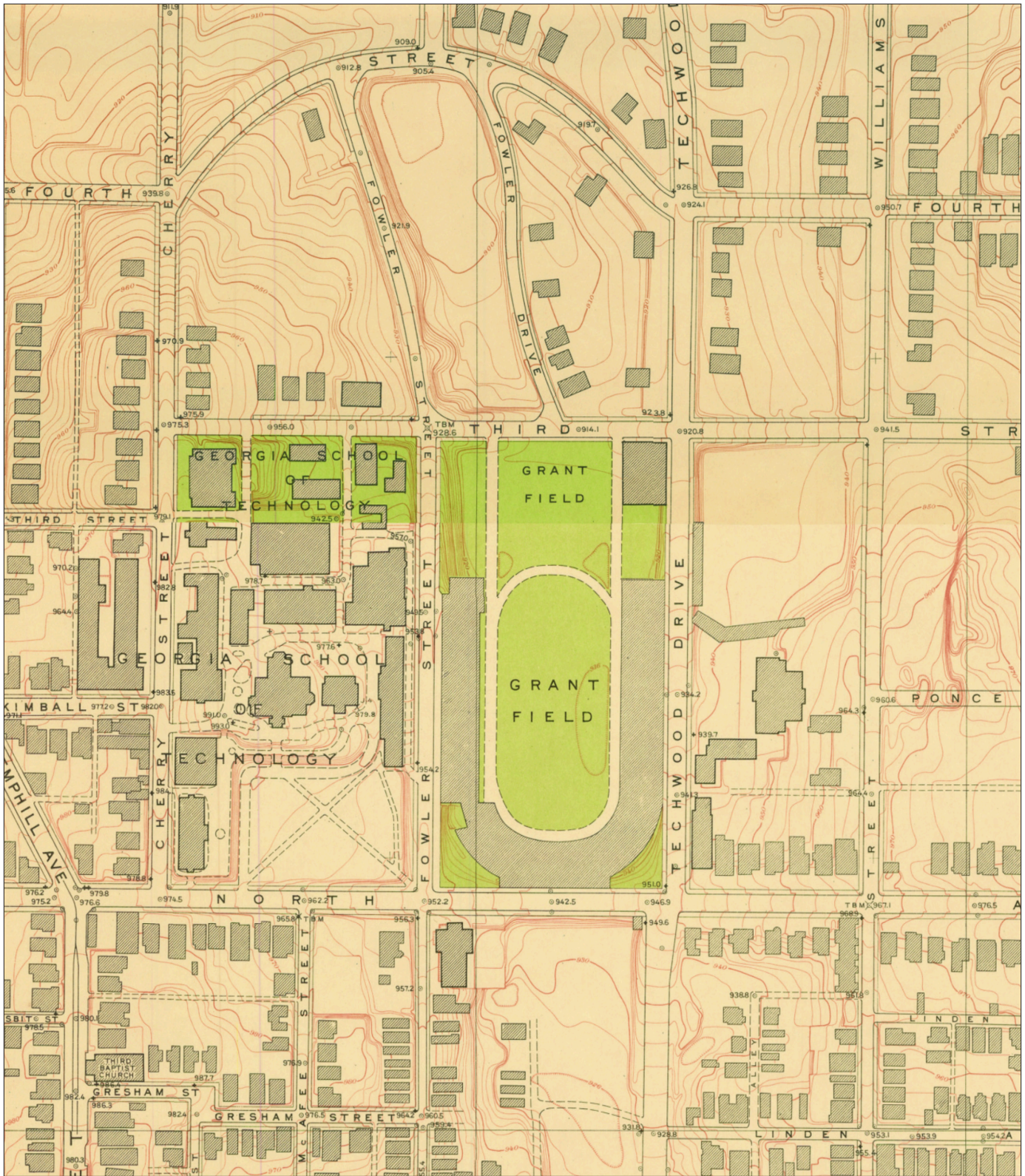
Clark Howell Residence Hall: Historic Structure Report





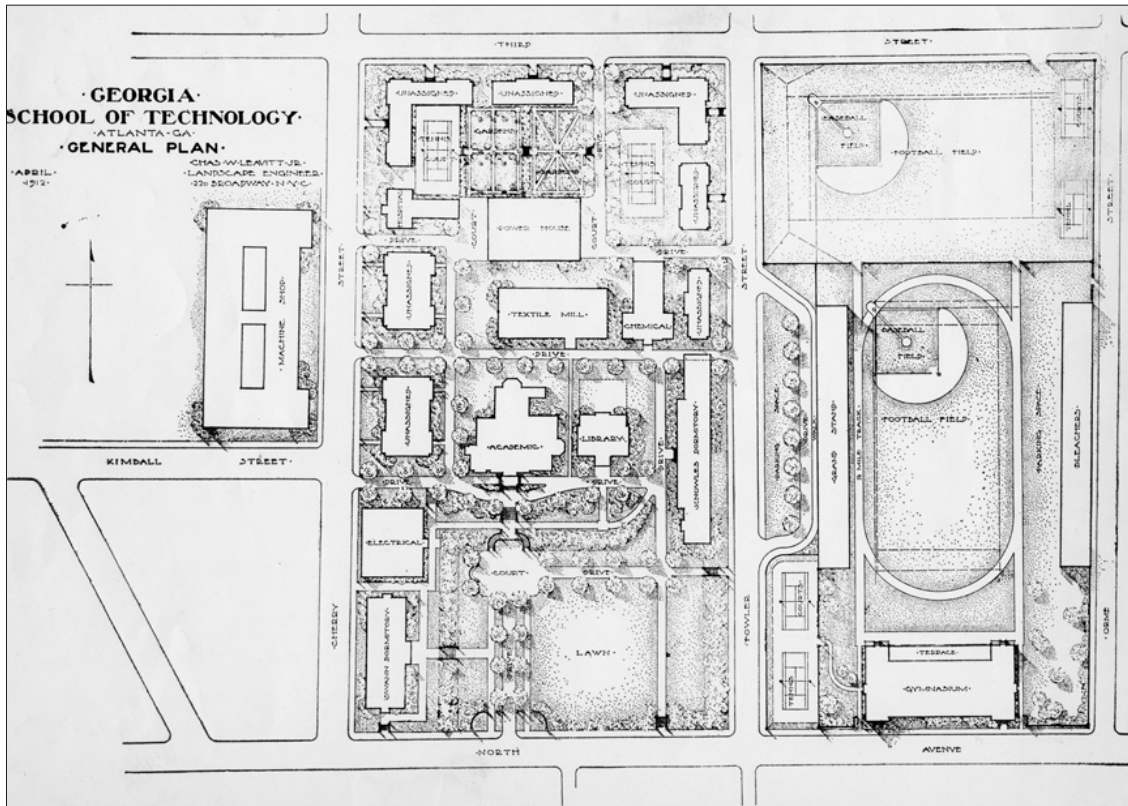
**Figure 1.15.** Area of Georgia Tech campus c. 1911. Techwood Drive is not yet mapped between Fowler and Williams Streets. 1911 Sanborn Map, Atlanta, Ga.



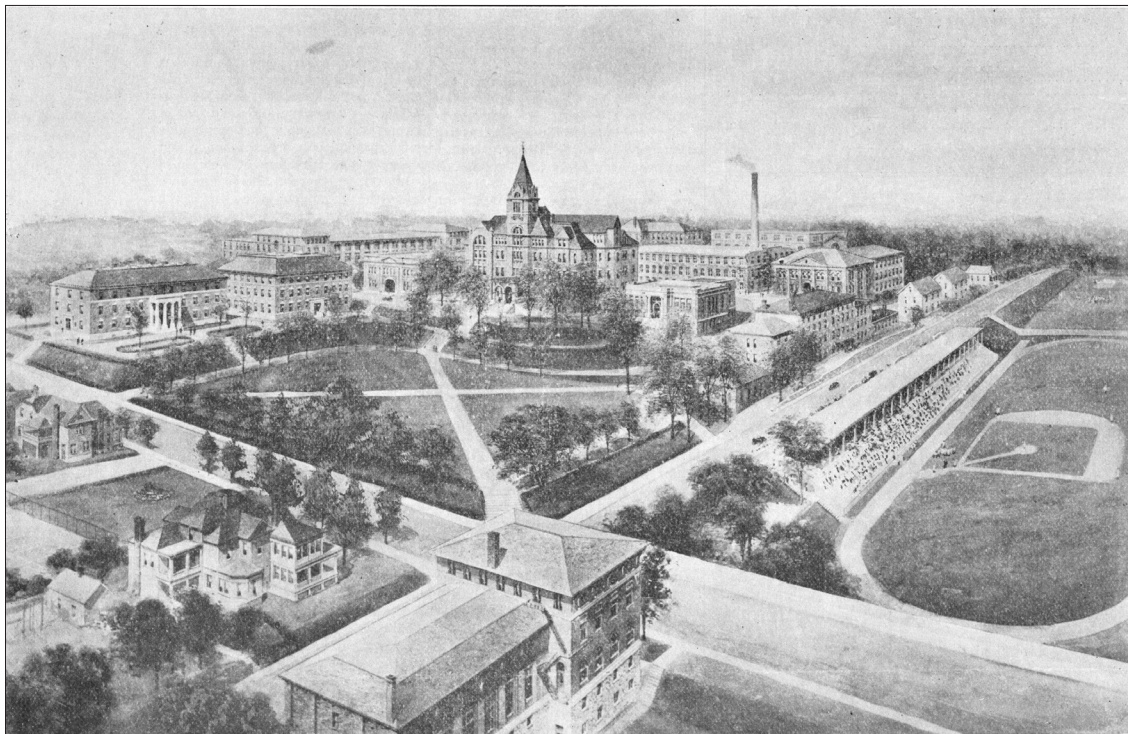


**Figure 1.16.** Georgia Tech campus and surrounding area c. 1928. Note construction of Brown and Harris Residence Halls, and Brittain Dining Hall are complete just east of Techwood Drive and Grant Field. Baseball stands are on the site of what is now Cloudman, Glenn and Towers Halls. Emory University. 1928 Map of the City of Atlanta.

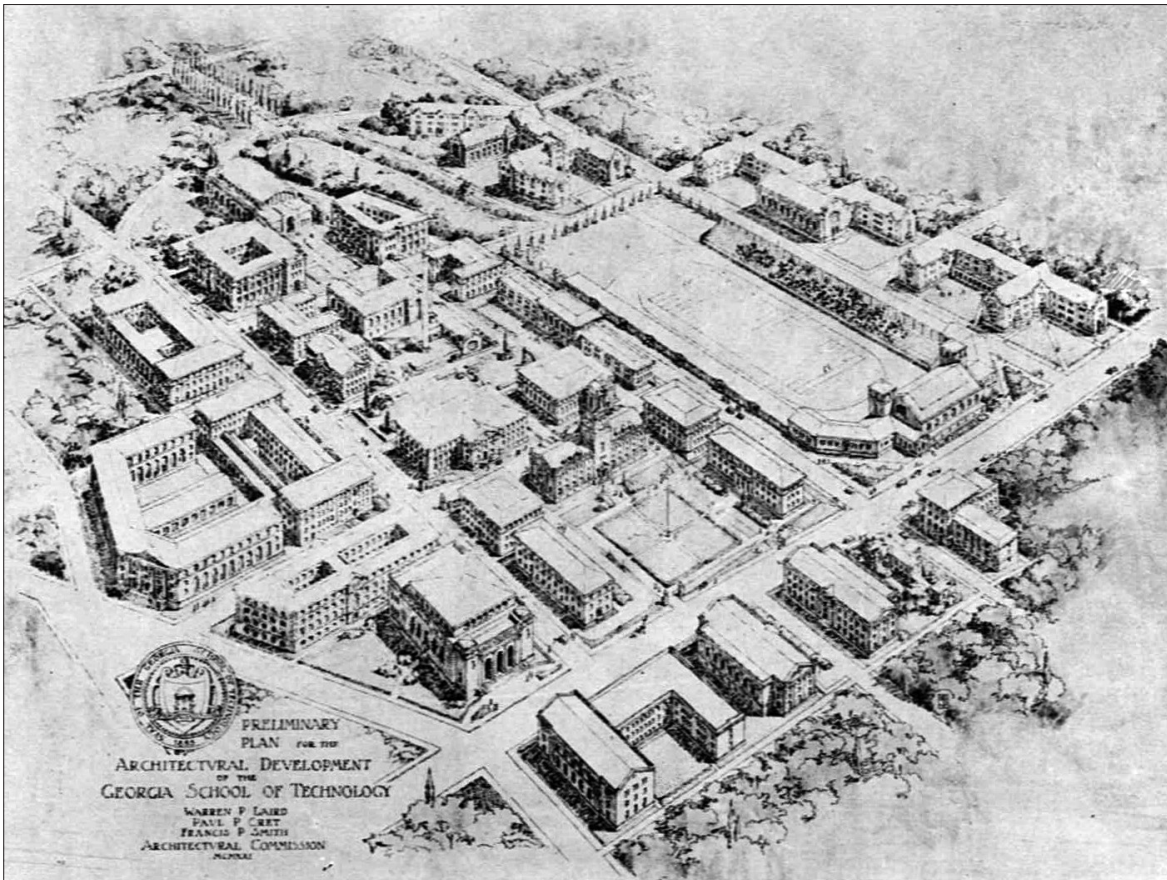




**Figure 1.17.** Georgia Tech Campus Plan by Charles Leavitt, Jr., April 1912. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.



**Figure 1.18.** Illustration of Georgia Tech's campus c. 1920 looking northwest over the roof of the Rockefeller YMCA. Image from *The Technique*, February 12, 1918, used to illustrate the "Greater Georgia Tech Campaign."



**Figure 1.19.** “Greater Tech Plan” c.1921 preliminary plan by Warren Laird, Paul Cret and Francis P. Smith. This plan was promoted with the Greater Georgia Tech Campaign, a fundraising campaign begun under President Matheson for building programs at the college. The Plan above proposes a number of new buildings including those for Chemistry, Physics, Architecture, Ceramics, Armory, Auditorium, Gymnasium, Student and Faculty Dormitories as well as “improvement” to numerous existing campus buildings primarily to bring them into line with the architectural vision of the creators which included promoting the use of Collegiate Gothic as the architectural style of choice.





**Figure 1.20.** Aerial of Georgia Tech campus around 1947-48. Note the East Campus Residence block is complete (to the right of Grant Field at center) are complete but construction has not yet begun on the North Expressway, I-75/85. Georgia State Special Collections.

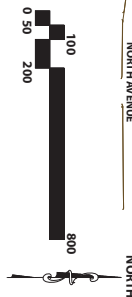




**Figure 1.21.** A view south along Techwood from Georgia Tech's campus in the early- to mid-1940s before construction began on I-75/85. Grant Field and North Avenue at the bottom, Techwood Drive is the prominent street running from the bottom left. Atlanta Journal Constitution Photographic Archives, Special Collections, Georgia State University.



**Figure 1.22.** A view of the east side of Georgia Tech's campus (at left) in 1949 as construction began on I-75/85, the North Expressway. Photographer facing northeast. East Campus Housing Area I and Grant Field visible on the lower left.





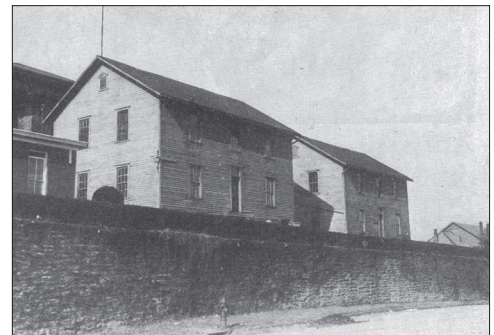
## Chapter 2: HISTORY OF DORMITORIES AND STUDENT APARTMENTS AT GEORGIA TECH

When the Georgia School of Technology opened its doors in 1888 to 129 students, there were no residence halls. Students who came from outside of Atlanta boarded off campus with “good families” who charged between \$12.50 and \$20.00 per month for room and board. Laundry was extra, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per month, as were coal or wood for heating and kerosene for light. At this time, out-of-state tuition was \$150 per year. Students from Georgia paid only \$20 for contingency expenses and put another \$5 on deposit with the treasurer to cover any damage to college buildings or furniture.

In 1896, President Lyman Hall had two small buildings, officially designated as Buildings E and F, built for use as dormitories. They were better known as “The Shacks” (not extant). The total cost, including furniture, was \$4,000. The architect and contractor are not known. The buildings had neither running water nor electricity. Rent was \$10 per month, “exclusive of washing, fuel, and lights.” These two dormitories had eight rooms each and afforded accommodations for thirty students. They were presided over by a Mrs. Capers, who came to the school “with the highest recommendation for her efficiency in dealing with the students, caring for the sick, and exerting a refining and beneficial influence over all who have been associated with her work as a matron.”

A few details from the specifications for The Shacks’ construction:

- Each room was 14 feet x 16 feet with four rooms per floor.
- Each floor was laid out with two rooms on each side of a central hall.
- Each room had a closet that ran the 14-foot length of the room.
- Each room had a fireplace and two windows.
- All interior walls and ceilings were plastered with two coats of lime and hair mortar.



**Figure 2.1.** The Shacks viewed from Fowler Street c. 1925, shortly before the buildings were demolished. This shows the second location of the Shacks which had been re-sited around 1905 to make way for the construction of the Lyman Hall Laboratory building. *Georgia Tech Alumnus*, February 1925.



**Figure 2.2.** Interior view of Shack #1, Room #3 with bunk beds, dresser, and trunk, c. 1922. John T. Barrett Photographic Collection, Georgia Tech, Archives and Records Management.



**Figure 2.3.** Photo of the annual Field Day races c.1904-05. Georgia Tech campus, with Knowles Dormitory, the "Shacks" dormitories and the A. French Textile Engineering Building visible right to left and in the background. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.



The Shacks were located northeast of the Administration Building in line with the Aaron French Building. Eventually, one was moved behind the other to make room for the Emerson wing of Lyman Hall. In late 1924, the administration decided to tear them down. Freshmen residents of The Shacks, known as a rather rowdy crowd, protested the move by dyeing their shirts “a pinkish tint.” The buildings were torn down anyway in January 1925.

At the same time he built The Shacks, President Hall petitioned the state legislature for funding for two permanent dormitories, noting that only 25 out of the 157 students then enrolled were from Atlanta. He suggested that parents preferred to have students in dormitories with “wholesome regulations” under the “continual Guardianship and protection of the authorities.” The Atlanta Constitution editorialized that boarding houses might be fine for students in smaller towns where “temptations are not as great,” but in Atlanta students were being “literally turned loose upon the city” without restraints, and therefore it was the “moral duty” of the state to provide dormitories.

Receiving only limited funds, the trustees spent \$13,000 to build the first dormitory, which opened in September 1897. Named for Clarence Knowles, an Atlanta businessman and Fulton County representative who pushed through the funding legislation, it also had neither steam heat nor electricity. Knowles Dormitory (not extant) had 36 two-person rooms, a gymnasium, shower facilities, and a dining room. Within a year, enrollment had jumped from 180 to 267, and the school packed three students into each room. Some students considered the \$10 rent at Knowles too high, and 16 students were allowed to convert the old mess hall into housing for \$5.50 per month. This brought the total number of students residing in dormitories to 160. Knowles was retired as a dormitory in 1947. It was renovated and reopened as the business office in the same year. In 1992, the building was demolished.

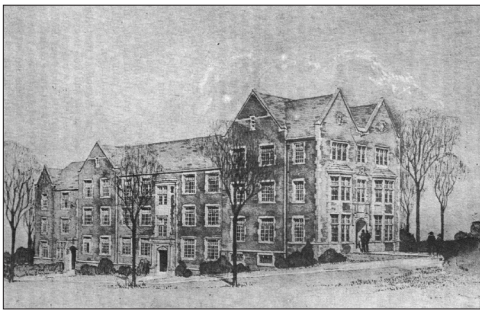


**Figure 2.4.** Knowles Dormitory, with dormitories E and F, “the Shacks,” in the background, c. 1899. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

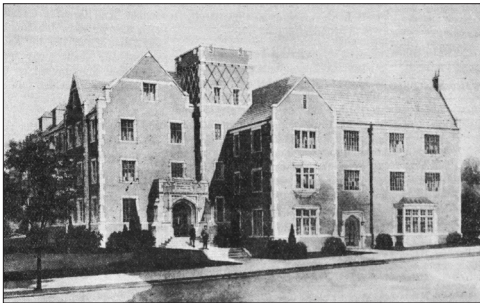
The 1899 catalog urged parents to require their sons to live in the dormitory because its regulations would protect students “from the evil influence of a great city.” President Hall was a graduate of West Point; he liked to compare the dormitory life to that in army barracks. He inspected the dorms personally every Saturday. A “rising bell” rang at 6:30 a.m., and the breakfast bell rang at 7. A bell a half hour after supper signaled “call to quarters,” and students were required to study until the “bell for retiring” at 10:15 p.m. Lights out was at 10:30. In 1899, the *Atlanta Constitution* reported that 230 applications to live in dormitories had already been received. Hall advised future applicants to seek lodging in the city. The report mentioned that only 109 students could be seated in the dormitory mess. This made it necessary to have two seatings for each meal. A month later the *Constitution* reported that 400 students were crowded into the school, and 400 more were waiting. Expansion was needed.



**Figure 2.5.** Swann Dormitory c. 1910-20. Georgia Tech, Archives and Records Management.



**Figure 2.6.** Illustration of Julius L. Brown Memorial Hall, the first dormitory on the East Campus Residential block and the first Collegiate Gothic style residence hall. From Georgia Tech Alumnus March 1925.



**Figure 2.7.** N.E. Harris Hall, c. 1926, the second dormitory on the East Campus Residential block.

Co-founder and former trustee Samuel M. Inman introduced President Hall to James Swann, a New York businessman and president of the Atlanta National Bank. In March 1900, following a campus visit, Swann offered to give \$20,000 to Georgia Tech if the school would raise an additional \$15,000. All of the money had to be raised before Swann's gift would become effective. Hall appointed a committee composed of James Swann, Walter T. Downing (the proposed architect), and himself to find a location for the building. Downing was hired to design both the electrical building (the Savant Building GT #038) and the Swann Dormitory (GT #039) in January 1901.

The building was completed and opened in the fall of 1901 and was named the Janie Austell Swann Dormitories in honor of Swann's wife. Swann Dormitory initially housed 100 students. Rent was \$15 per month since it had electric light and central heating, thus saving the students the cost of kerosene and coal. The 1906-1907 catalog stated that beginning with the next session, only two students would occupy a room. It also included a word to the parents: "See that your son has a Bible. See that he has two dollars with which to join the Y.M.C.A."

During World War I, the military took over Knowles and Swann Dormitories from October 1917 until May 1918 to house a ground flight training school for the Army Air Corps. The Swann dormitory was eventually remodeled in 1924, and in the fall of 1926, the building housed classrooms for the School of Commerce. The building was renovated in 1964 and again in 2006. The continuing education department shared the building with the School of Modern Languages until the summer of 2003 when it relocated to the newly-built Technology Square. The Swann Building now solely houses the modern languages department.

In September 1910, Julius L. Brown, a prominent Atlanta lawyer and businessman, left two-thirds of his estate to Georgia Tech in his will. In the 1920s, a portion of the proceeds from the sale of several pieces of that land was used to build two dormitories, Julius Brown Hall (1925, GT #007) and Nathaniel Edward Harris Hall (1926, GT #011). Nathaniel E. Harris (1846-1929) was essential in the passing of legislation creating the Georgia School of Technology in 1885. The Brown dormitory was designed by James L. Skinner, Harold Bush-Brown, and Kenneth Kingsley Stowell, all faculty members in the Department of Architecture. The department head, Francis P. Smith was the consulting architect. The N.E. Harris Dormitory was designed by



**Figure 2.8.** East Campus Residential block seen over the stands of Grant Field, c. 1947. Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers Collection, Georgia State University Library.

Bush-Brown, Stowell, and Gailey.<sup>10</sup> Both dormitories were built in the Collegiate Gothic style with classical ornamentation. Originally, it was designated that one-third of the rooms were assigned to faculty members and two-thirds were to be occupied by students. Brittain Dining Hall was constructed in 1928, off the northeast corner of Harris Hall. Its location was clearly positioned for the expansion of housing on East Campus, and by 1939, the dining hall was surrounded by four similar dorms off each corner: Harris, Cloudman, Harrison, and Howell Halls.

With the growth of the Co-operative program, in which students alternated semesters of full-time study with semesters of full-time work, a need was seen for the grouping of all co-operative students in one residence hall in order to promote a better unification of the department. Traditional students were already accommodated by Harris, Brown, and Knowles dormitories, “but the co-ops had been living haphazardly in frame houses and wherever they might find lodging.”<sup>11</sup> With this in mind, the Josiah D. Cloudman Dormitory (GT#013) was constructed in 1931 as a result of a bequest from Josephine Lander Cloudman. She requested construction of a dormitory to be named for her husband, who died in 1917. Originally, Cloudman was constructed specifically for co-operative students and thus bears the inscription “labor and study” over the vestibule. The dormitory’s basement was “fitted with trunk and heavy luggage racks for the storage of students’ equipment while going to and from school” and had “the latest bath facilities, water coolers, and other facilities which make it one of the finest college dormitories.”<sup>12</sup> The building was designed by Architecture depart-

<sup>10</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 147.

<sup>11</sup> “Research Reveals Interesting Facts About Cloudman Hall.” *The Technique*, May 10, 1935, 7.

<sup>12</sup> “Research Reveals Interesting Facts About Cloudman Hall.” *The Technique*, May 10, 1935, 7.





**Figure 2.9.** Techwood Dormitory in the 1930s, later known as McDaniel Residence Hall. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

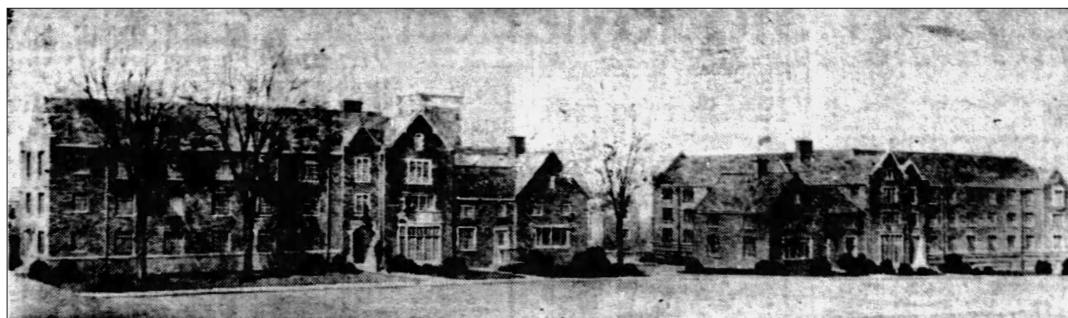
ment professors Bush-Brown and James Herbert Gailey in the Collegiate Gothic style.

By 1935, however, the co-op students had outgrown Cloudman and the rest were placed in 636 and 646 Williams Street, frame houses on the same Tech-owned block as the dormitories just east of Brittain. These former homes were under the dormitory system according to *The Technique*.

The McDaniel (Techwood) Dormitory was the first unit completed by the Public Works Administration as part of Techwood Homes. Brittain was concerned with the quality of living accommodations for students and the presence of a slum area known

as Tanyard Bottom or Tech Flats adjacent to the campus on the south. A committee to study the need for housing was formed, and described the area as “a retched district, crowded with run-down, unsanitary frame shanties and an eye sore.” The committee successfully convinced the housing division of the Public Works Administration (PWA) to sponsor an extensive urban renewal and low-rent housing program for the Tech Flats area. The architectural firm of Burge & Stevens (both of whom had studied at Tech) was selected to design 43 housing units plus a dormitory. The entire Techwood Project was dedicated November 19, 1935, by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The dormitory had 189 rooms to house 350 students. Tech rented the dormitory from 1935 until 1956, when the school purchased it from the government. At that time, the building’s name was officially changed from Techwood to McDaniel Dormitory, in honor of the man who had headed Georgia Tech’s co-op division since 1925 and was credited with giving it a national reputation.

Residence Halls named for George W. Harrison, Jr. and Clark Howell, Sr., opened in 1939. They were designed by Professor Matt L. Jorgensen with Harold Bush-Brown in charge of construction. The state furnished 55 percent of the building’s \$338,000 cost, and the Public Works Administration provided the rest. Harrison, a graduate of the class of 1908, formed the Harrison Company of Atlanta, a publishing company that became known for law books, the year of his graduation. He became known as an early benefactor of the school. Clark



**Figure 2.10.** Architect’s drawing for proposed Howell (left) and Harrison (right) dormitories, printed in the *Atlanta Constitution*, November 20, 1938.

Howell, Sr. was president and editor in chief of the *Atlanta Constitution* and was known to use the paper's editorial column to support Georgia Tech.

The East Campus Residential Quadrangle as it stands today was completed in 1947 with the construction of Smith, Glenn and Towers. These dormitories were completed and occupied between September 15 and December 15, 1947. The total overall cost of the three dormitories was \$1,632,500. They were built as part of a \$4,000,000 bond issue of self-liquidating bonds. They are all three of a similar minimal collegiate gothic style designed to complement the rest of the East Campus Quadrangle as it was envisioned in the 1921 plan. The dormitories have a reinforced concrete frame, brick veneer with 8" hollow tile backup, slate and sheet copper roofs, steel casement windows, asphalt tile floors, wood doors to rooms, and steel doors to stairwells. They were equipped with toilets and showers in the communal bathrooms and low-pressure steam heat supplied from the school boiler plant.

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**Figure 2.11.** Glenn Residence Hall seen from Harrison Hall. The construction of Towers, Glenn and Smith Halls (below) completed the East Housing Residential block. Georgia Tech, Archives and Records Management.



**Figure 2.12.** Smith Residence Hall. Georgia Tech, Archives and Records Management.





**Figure 2.13.** A view of East Campus Housing at Georgia Tech, looking southwest. East Campus Residential Housing Quad in the foreground. Photo 1960s or 1970s. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

## Chapter 3: ARCHITECTS and CONTRACTOR

### **BUSH-BROWN AND GAILEY, ARCHITECTS, DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE DESIGNER: MATT L. JORGENSEN**

Howell Hall was designed by Matt Jorgensen with Bush-Brown and Gailey, Architects. Harold Bush-Brown, James Herbert Gailey, and Matt Jorgensen were all members of the Georgia Tech Department of Architecture faculty.

At this time, it was standard practice and considered beneficial for the Department of Architecture to design and oversee the construction of new campus buildings with the idea that this would keep professors and students involved in realistic projects. The professors, who typically had their own architectural firms in addition to their university work, would charge reduced design fees to the school. This practice was contested by other firms, but the practice was not abandoned until the 1950s. In 1947, criticism came from the Georgia legislature regarding the involvement of Architecture department professors, and Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Heffernan's firm in particular, in both the campus master plan and the design of several campus buildings, and it was deemed a conflict of interest. In the mid-1950s, Thomas A. Bradbury, another Atlanta architect and Georgia Tech graduate, put pressure on state and school officials to establish a more equitable process for selecting architects to design campus buildings at Georgia Tech. The Board of Regents ruled that any firm related to the department or to the school could no longer provide professional services to Georgia Tech—"the linkage of teacher, practitioner and campus designer was broken."<sup>13</sup> As a result, the firm run by Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Heffernan, which was composed entirely of Georgia Tech Department of Architecture faculty, immediately shut down.

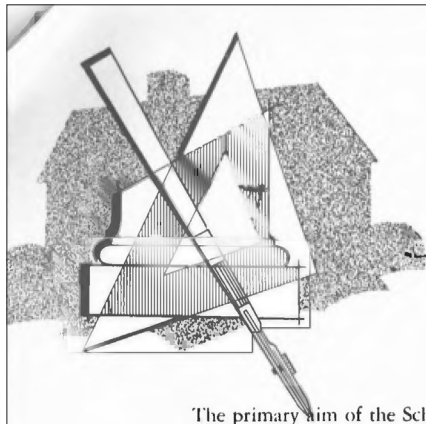
#### ***Matthew Lawrence Jorgensen***

Matt L. Jorgensen was born in San Francisco in 1905. He graduated from the University of California at Berkeley (class of 1927) and received a masters from the Harvard School of Architecture (1929).<sup>14</sup> He also did work in city planning at the Cranbrook School of Fine Arts in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan. He came to Atlanta in 1929 as a professor in the Department of Architecture at Georgia Tech. He taught rendering, sketching, and working drawings classes and also worked with colleagues Bush-Brown and Gailey on campus

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<sup>14</sup> American Institute of Architects. *American Architects Directory*. (R.R. Bowker, 1970), 465



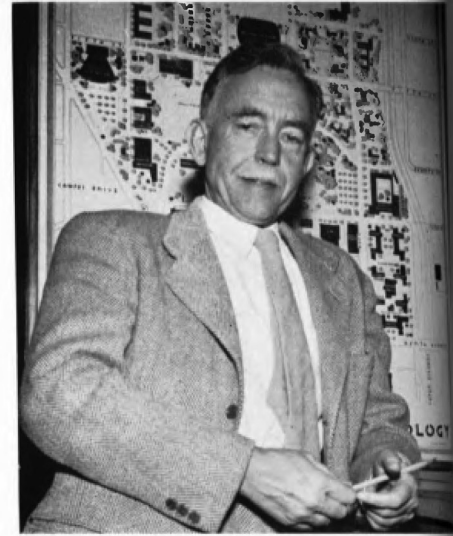


# Architecture

## DEPARTMENT

The primary aim of the School of Architecture is to provide a broad and thorough preparation for future architects through the course designated Architectural Design. Architectural Engineering is offered as a second option for those who may wish to engage in the practice of architecture or allied fields as specialists in construction.

With the advent of industry in the South, a need has been seen for a course in Industrial Design to give adequate preparation, with a technological background, for men entering this new profession. While this course was inaugurated before the war, a full offering of courses awaits a new building.



H. BUSH-BROWN



FIRST ROW, LEFT TO RIGHT: Harris, Edwards, Bush-Brown, Boguslavsky, Gailey. . . . SECOND ROW: Wilson, Alexander, Randall, Saporta, Smith. . . . THIRD ROW: Shipley, Pretz, Grady, Lin. . . . FOURTH ROW: Edwards, Heffernan.

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN, A.B., M.Arch.	Professor
Director of School	
B. W. BOGUSLAVSKY, B.S., M.S., D.S.	Professor
JAMES HERBERT GAILEY, B.S., M.S.	Professor
PAUL MALCOLM HEFFERNAN, B.S., M.S., M.Arch.	Professor
J. H. GRADY, B.Arch.	Associate Professor
I. E. SAPORTA, Diplom-Ingenieur	Associate Professor
DAVID J. EDWARDS, B.A., B.Arch.	Assistant Professor
JULIAN H. HARRIS, B.S.	Assistant Professor
RICHARD WILSON, AA Diploma	Assistant Professor
RALPH R. RANDALL, B.S., B.Arch.	Instructor
VERNON H. SHIPLEY, B.S., B.Arch.	Instructor
H. GRIFFITH EDWARDS, B.S.	Lecturer
RUSSELL A. SMITH, B.S.	Lecturer
LEVY R. TINDAL, B.S.	Lecturer



Figure 3.1. The Architecture Department, page from 1949 Blueprint, Georgia Tech.

buildings. In 1942 he left Georgia Tech to join the firm Abreu and Robeson, a prominent architectural firm in Atlanta.<sup>15</sup> At the time of his death in 1978, he was executive vice president at Abreu and Robeson.

He was a member and a Fellow of the American Institute of Architects, National Society of Professional Engineers, and American Hospital Association, among others. Jorgensen was an artist at heart and was responsible for a number of the drawings and watercolors of buildings on campus that both he and other architects designed.

### ***Harold Bush-Brown***

Harold Bush-Brown was born on November 3, 1888, in Paris, France. He was the son of Henry Kirk and Margaret (Lesley) Bush-Brown, both artists. He attended Milton Academy in Massachusetts and Newburgh Academy in upstate New York. He received his bachelor's degree in 1911 and his master's degree in 1915, both from Harvard. He worked at various architectural firms in between earning his degrees. In 1910, he was employed at the prestigious firm of McKim, Meade, and White in New York and then with Cram and Ferguson in Boston (1911-1912 and 1916).<sup>16</sup>

While at Harvard, he became associated with John L. Skinner. Skinner traveled to Europe with Bush-Brown in 1922. During this trip, Skinner received a request to direct the Georgia Tech Architecture program, and he convinced Bush-Brown to join him in Atlanta as an associate professor in architecture.<sup>17</sup> He succeeded Skinner in 1925 as head of the Department of Architecture.

In addition to his duties at Georgia Tech, Bush-Brown continued his work as a professional architect. As the senior member of the architectural firm Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Associates (later Bush-Brown, Gailey and Heffernan), he planned and designed Brittain Dining Hall, the textile building, the west stands of the stadium, the Architecture building, the highway building, and several fraternity houses and dormitories.

During Bush-Brown's tenure, the Department of Architecture (School of Architecture after 1948) grew in reputation and gained international recognition, including the School's receipt of the Medal of the *Societe des Architectes Diplomes par le Gouvernement Francais* in 1939. Bush-Brown always believed architectural design needed to be viewed as a form of art and not just an engineering problem. He once expressed his philosophy about teaching architecture thus:



**Figure 3.2.** Prof. Matt L. Jorgensen. 1940 Blueprint, Georgia Tech.



**Figure 3.3.** Prof. Harold Bush-Brown, in the 1930s. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.

<sup>15</sup> "Matt L. Jorgensen, Architect, is dead." Atlanta Constitution. April 19, 1978. p.26

<sup>16</sup> Biography of Harold Bush-Brown, "Harold Bush-Brown Papers." Archives and Special Collections, Library, Georgia Institute of Technology. [finding-aids.library.gatech.edu/repositories/2/resources/223](https://finding-aids.library.gatech.edu/repositories/2/resources/223) accessed June 10, 2020.

<sup>17</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. "Architectural Development of Georgia Tech." (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 268.

*“We are trying to give our students those intangibles, which they don’t get during an internship in architects’ offices or in architectural mechanical practice. They must develop a philosophy for their work and recognize the importance of their profession as an art.”*

In 1943, Harold Bush-Brown became president of the Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. In 1976, he published a book titled: “Beaux-Arts to Bauhaus and Beyond: An Architect’s Perspective.”

His wife, Marjorie Bush-Brown (nee Conant), was an artist and portrait painter. They married in 1924 in Paris and had one son, Richard Lyman Bush-Brown, who was active in the Greenwich Village poetry scene in the 1960s and 1970s.<sup>18</sup> Marjorie Bush-Brown was commissioned by the senior class of 1936 to paint a portrait of Dr. Lyman Hall, the second President of Georgia Tech.

In 1956, after 31 years of service, Bush-Brown retired from his position at Georgia Tech. Paul Heffernan succeeded Bush-Brown as head of the School of Architecture. At the time of his retirement, Bush-Brown lived at 426 Golf View Road in a contemporary, long, low home designed by one of his students, William Finch. Bush-Brown died February 27, 1983, in Duxbury, Massachusetts, at the age of 94.



**Figure 3.4.** Prof. James Herbert Gailey. 1940 Blueprint, Georgia Tech.

### ***James Herbert Gailey***

James Herbert Gailey was born in Philadelphia. He earned his Master of Science degree in Architecture at the University of Pennsylvania in 1910. In 1912, he became the first full-time architecture instructor under the administration of Francis P. Smith, four years after the Department of Architecture was established. Smith and Gailey were both Pennsylvania graduates and both studied under Warren Laird and Paul Cret. In Gailey’s nearly 50 years at Georgia Tech, he would come to be affectionately known as “Doc” Gailey.<sup>19</sup>

In 1923 and 1924, Gailey studied in England, France, Italy, and Greece for thirteen months as a Henry Gillette Woodman Fellow of the University of Pennsylvania. Upon his return to Georgia Tech in 1925, he was promoted to full professor. During his tenure, Gailey was a partner in the architectural firm Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Associates (later Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Heffernan)

In addition to Cloudman Hall, he contributed to the design of buildings such as Harris Hall, Brittain Dining Hall, the Guggenheim School of Aeronautics, the Engineering Mechanics Building, and the old gym, swimming pool and athletic office building. He devised Tech’s first campus plans for 1944-1954 and contributed to the design and construction of a number of post-World War II buildings including Smith Tower, the Grant Field

<sup>18</sup> Richard Lyman. *In the Silence of Scorpions*. 2nd edition. (The Poet’s Press, Pittsburgh, Pa. 2019), 39.

<sup>19</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), endnotes.



West Stands, the Textile Engineering Building, the Architecture building, the Price Gilbert Memorial Library, the State Highway Laboratories, and several dormitories.

Gailey was a member of the North Georgia Chapter of the American Institute of Architects and served as treasurer from 1926 to 1953. He became a fellow of the AIA in 1952 at their convention in New York City where he was honored with a citation in education. He was also a member of the Georgia Engineering Society. Gailey was married to Edna Bryan and had three sons.

He retired from Georgia Tech in 1958. Gailey died June 1, 1966. At the time of his death, he still resided in Atlanta, Georgia.

## **CONTRACTOR: GRIFFIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY**

Griffin Construction Company was founded in Atlanta in 1906 by W. W. Griffin who served as its chief executive. In 1915, his son, Carroll Griffin, was made vice president of the company after graduating from Georgia Tech. W.W. Griffin graduated from Emory college at Oxford and came to Atlanta when the city “was struggling for its present eminent position among the cities of the south.”<sup>20</sup>

W.W. Griffin was born in Carrollton, Ga., he attended Emory College in Oxford and came to Atlanta where he entered the construction business possibly around 1890. The Griffin Construction Company was “responsible for much of the Atlanta skyline” and worked on a number of Atlanta building and infrastructure projects including the Nelson Street Bridge in 1906 (demolished 2019), Roosevelt High School in 1924-25, and the Coca-Cola Bottling Plant on Edgewood. They were also contractors for the Southern Ruralist and Ruralist Press building on Glenn Street in 1925, Ten Pryor Street Building, the Capital City Club, the Jewish Temple, First Baptist Church, the East Atlanta Christian Church, and the Cathedral of Christ the King, and of course, Harrison and Howell Dormitories at Georgia Tech.<sup>21</sup> They worked in a number of other Southeastern cities as well including Augusta, Georgia, Greenwood, South Carolina, and Jacksonville, Florida.

W. W. Griffin’s son, Carroll Griffin was very involved in the company, becoming vice president in 1915 after he graduated from Georgia Tech with the class of 1914. The Griffin Construction Company was considered the largest and most successful construction companies in Atlanta in the early 20th century. W.W. Griffin died in 1943 and Carroll Griffin died in 1948, they are both buried at Westview Cemetery.

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<sup>20</sup> “The Oldest Construction Co. in Atlanta is going strong,” Atlanta Constitution, Nov. 2, 1925

<sup>21</sup> Georgia Tech Alumnus, January-February 1948, p.14



Figure 3.4. Clippings from the Atlanta Constitution in 1925 and 1926 illustrate a high point in the Griffin Construction Company.

## Chapter 4: NAMESAKE

### CLARK HOWELL, SR.

Clark Howell (1863-1936) was a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and prominent Atlanta politician. Born in Erwinton, South Carolina, in 1863, Howell moved to Atlanta with his parents following the end of the American Civil War. Howell's father, Evan P. Howell, served as editor-in-chief of the *Atlanta Constitution* and was a co-owner with future Atlanta mayor William A. Hemphill.<sup>22</sup> The younger Howell worked for his father as a novice reporter at the *Constitution* while he was a student at the University of Georgia. In 1879, he interviewed General William T. Sherman and notably asked why he had burned Atlanta 15 years prior.<sup>23</sup>

After graduating in 1883, Howell moved to New York where he began working as a journalist for *The New York Times* and a night telegraph editor for *The Philadelphia Press*. He returned to Atlanta in 1884 and started working as a reporter and night editor for the *Atlanta Constitution*.

### Political Career

Not long after returning to Atlanta, Howell was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives and served three terms from 1887 to 1893, including one term as Speaker of the House. He was also elected to two terms in the Georgia State Senate from 1901 to 1905, serving as President of the Senate in his second term. In 1906, Howell ran for governor against Hoke Smith, owner of the *Constitution's* rival newspaper, the *Atlanta Journal*.<sup>24</sup>

The race between the two newspapermen became increasingly acrimonious with each man using his newspaper as a platform to attack his opponent by playing on existing fears regarding the rights and political power of Atlanta's black population. Smith ultimately defeated Howell for the Democratic party's nomination. However, the racially-charged manner in which the election played out across Atlanta's news media only served to further stoke the tensions that ultimately resulted in the 1906 Race Massacre.<sup>25</sup>

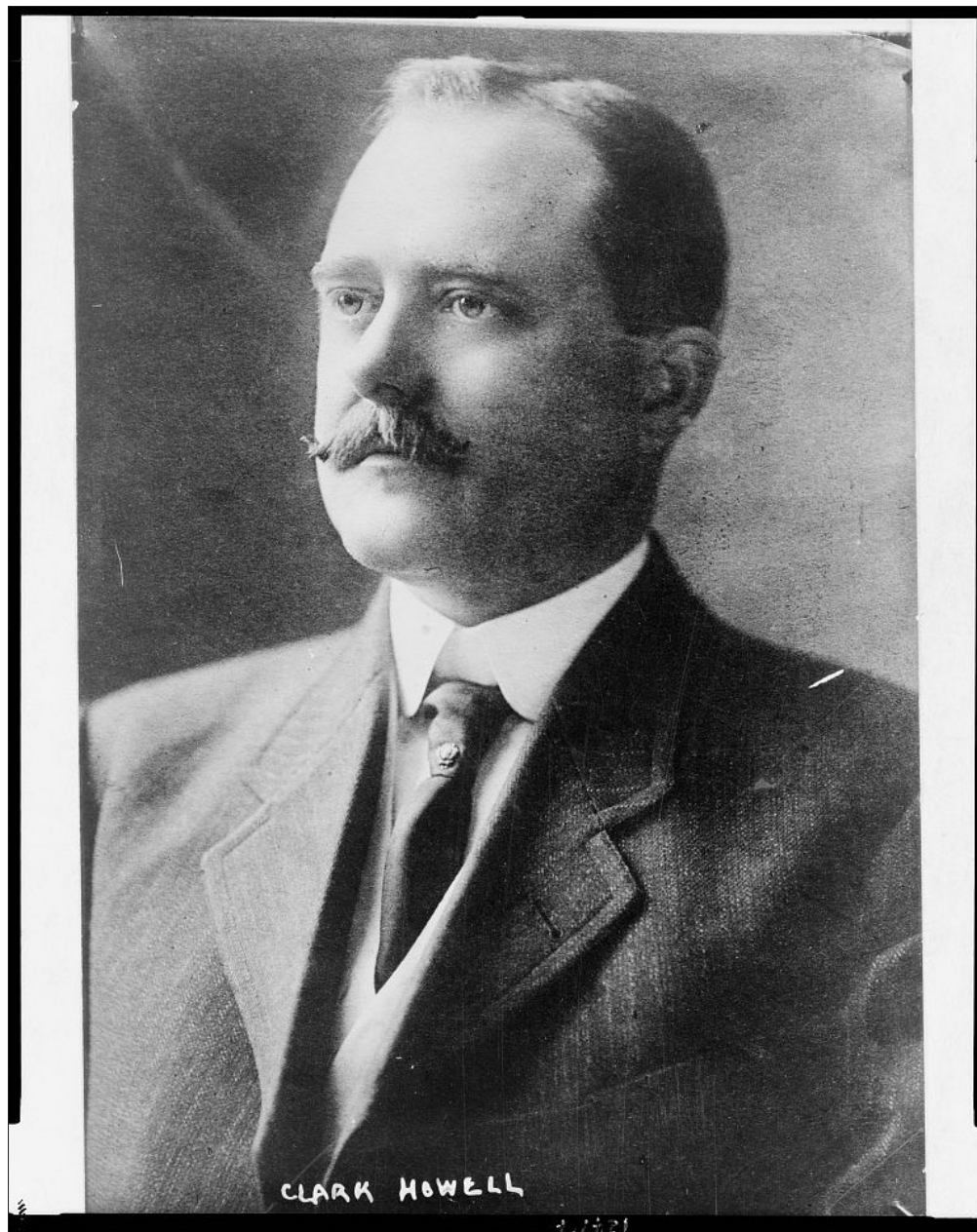
<sup>22</sup> "Clark Howell," *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. Published online September 2019, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/clark-howell-1863-1936>, accessed March 13, 2020

<sup>23</sup> Pomerantz, Gary M. *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*, (New York, N.Y.: Scribner, 1996), 54.

<sup>24</sup> "Clark Howell," *New Georgia Encyclopedia*. Published online September 2019, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/clark-howell-1863-1936>, accessed March 13, 2020.

<sup>25</sup> Pomerantz, Gary M. *Where Peachtree Meets Sweet Auburn*, (New York, N.Y.: Scribner, 1996), 73.





**Figure 4.1.** Clark Howell, Sr. editor of the Atlanta Constitution, February 1914. Library of Congress.



Though his gubernatorial campaign would be his last run for public office, Howell's political involvement continued throughout his life. He served as Georgia's Democratic committeeman from 1896 to 1924 and again in 1936 prior to his death. He also served on two presidential commissions, once on a special coal mining commission for Warren G. Harding in 1922 and again on a transportation commission for Herbert Hoover in 1932. Howell's involvement in the campaign to elect Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1932 resulted in several ambassadorship offers and an eventual appointment as chair of the Federal Aviation Commission in 1934.<sup>26</sup>

After Howell's death, the Atlanta Housing Authority chose to name its first project in honor of the late Clark Howell, Sr., for the role he played in Atlanta's early involvement in public housing construction under the PWA. The site for Clark Howell Homes encompassed over 21 blocks just south of Georgia Tech and directly adjacent to Techwood Homes, extending west to Luckie Street.<sup>27</sup> The housing project was completed in 1941.

### Journalist and Editor

When the *Constitution's* managing editor, Henry W. Grady, died in 1889, Howell took over his position. During his tenure, Howell used his platform as managing editor to oppose Georgia's convict leasing program. Outbreaks of yellow fever throughout the South in the 1870s and 1880s had resulted in large migrations and evacuations of people from other southern states to Atlanta. Howell advocated support for and acceptance of the evacuees. Howell also supported Governor William Yates Atkinson when he vetoed a bill that would have banned collegiate football in the state following a University of Georgia player's death in 1897.<sup>28</sup>

Upon his father's retirement, Howell became the editor-in-chief of the *Atlanta Constitution* in 1897 and purchased the controlling shares of the newspaper from Hemphill in 1901. Howell was also elected as one of the original directors of the Associated Press in 1900. He held this position and remained editor-in-chief and owner of the *Constitution* until his death in 1936.<sup>1</sup>

### Pulitzer Prize

In 1931, the *Constitution* was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in the public service category "for a successful municipal graft exposure and consequent convictions."<sup>29</sup> During a November 1929 Atlanta City Council meeting, Fourth Ward Alderman Ben T. Huie mentioned hearing



**Figure 4.2.** Clark Howell Homes pictured in the 1940s. Historic American Building Survey, Library of Congress.

<sup>26</sup> "Clark Howell," New Georgia Encyclopedia. Published online September 2019, <https://www.georgiaencyclopedia.org/articles/arts-culture/clark-howell-1863-1936>, accessed March 13, 2020.

<sup>27</sup> Clark Howell Homes (Public Housing) HABS No. GA-2309, p.6

<sup>28</sup> "Clark Howell," New Georgia Encyclopedia. Published online September 2019.

<sup>29</sup> "1931 Pulitzer Prizes: Journalism," The Pulitzer Prizes. Published online: <https://www.pulitzer.org/prize-winners-by-year/1931>, accessed March 17, 2020

that a council member had asked for \$3,500 in exchange for approving the electrical wiring that was installed in the new city hall building, which was then under construction. Shortly after, Howell wrote and published an editorial calling for an investigation.<sup>30</sup>

The foreman of the grand jury that investigated Huie's claims asked Howell for any information that he or the *Constitution's* reporters had obtained regarding the allegations. After speaking to Huie and then-Mayor I.N. Ragsdale, the grand jury called over a thousand witnesses. Ultimately, 26 people in the Ragsdale administration and city government were indicted, 15 were convicted, and seven received prison sentences in what became known as the Atlanta Graft Scandal.<sup>31</sup>

Howell's initial editorial along with the *Constitution's* continued involvement in the investigation and coverage of the scandal were considered by the Pulitzer board as being instrumental in the convictions of the involved government officials. The 1931 award was the first won by the *Constitution*.

### **Georgia Tech Student Radio**

The *Atlanta Constitution* briefly operated an AM radio news service, WGM from 1922 to 1923. WGM shared a broadcast frequency with the *Atlanta Journal's* radio service, WSB. Radio news was a new medium, and the fierce competition quickly pushed many players out of the market, including WGM. Just over a year after it first broadcast, the *Constitution* shut down its radio station. Howell donated the newspaper's broadcasting equipment to Georgia Tech, helping the school establish its first radio station, WBBF (later WGST) in 1924.<sup>32</sup>

Georgia Tech operated WGST until 1930 when the school made an agreement with Southern Broadcasting, Inc., to operate it as a commercial station.<sup>33</sup> Georgia Tech continued to oversee WGST until 1974 when the Board of Regents sold the station to Meredith Corporation, considering it "surplus property." The proceeds from the sale went to upgrade WREK, an FM radio station operated by Georgia Tech students that went on air in 1968.<sup>34</sup> WREK remains student run and is one of the top ten most powerful student radio stations in the United States (by broadcasting power).

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<sup>30</sup> Garrett, Franklin M. *Atlanta and Environs: A Chronicle of Its People and Events, 1880s-1930s*, (Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 2011), 867-8.

## Chapter 5: PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

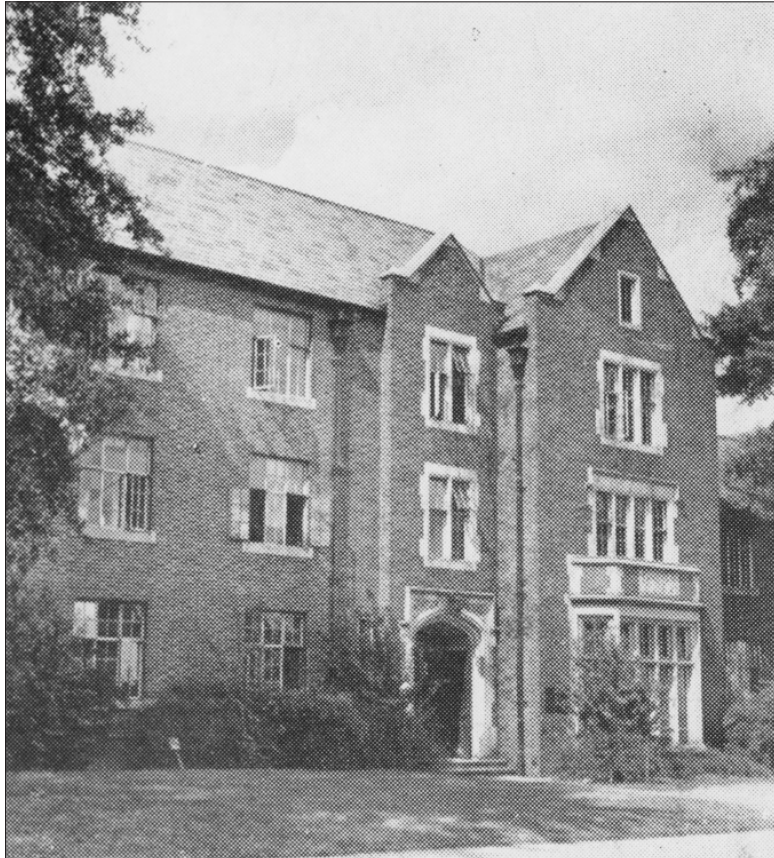
The Clark Howell Residence Hall (GT# 010) is paired with Harrison Residence Hall (GT #014) on the Williams Street side of the East Campus Residential block purchased by Georgia Tech in 1922. Howell and Harrison Halls are mirror images of one another. They were constructed in the Collegiate Gothic style, the same style used on the previous dormitories—Julius Brown Memorial Hall, N.E. Harris Hall, Cloudman Hall and Brittain Dining Hall—and recommended by the Laird, Crete and Smith 1921 Campus Plan. However, as a product of the modern era, the stylistic details are significantly more restrained than on the earlier Collegiate Gothic buildings.

The building cost was \$163,000 according to Georgia Tech Space and Facilities Management. It was funded in part by the Public Works Administration (PWA), a New Deal-era program. Initially known as the “South Dormitory” (Harrison was the “North Dormitory”), it was designed by professor Matt L. Jorgensen working with Bush-Brown and Gailey, the firm of Georgia Tech architecture professors Harold Bush-Brown and James Gailey.

### EXTERIOR

Howell Hall is a T-shaped building with two three-story wings extending to the west and south and a smaller two-story wing extending to the north. The expression of the Collegiate Gothic style overall is evidenced in the building’s form (pitched roofs, gable ends, and a picturesque asymmetry) and materials (variegated red brick, contrasting limestone trim, and a slate roof). Around the building, ornamentation is sparse except for the main entrance. The main entrance is on the east facade at the juncture of the wings and is marked with two front-facing gables above the third floor. Here, windows are accented with limestone surrounds, projecting limestone label molding, a large bay window with a parapet around a false balcony above, and a carved Tudor arch around the recessed main entrance marked with further label molding and carvings.<sup>35</sup> A carved panel of Don Quixote, executed by Georgia Tech graduate Julian Hoke Harris is centered in the parapet over the bay window.

The roofs are steeply pitched and covered with slate shingles. Parapetted gable ends, a Jacobethan feature, are capped with limestone coping, however, the gable ends on the diminutive north wing are plain with no parapets. The brick facades exhibit a Flemish bond pattern on all elevations, in keeping with nearby Cloudman, Harris, and Brown Residence Halls.



**Figure 5.1.** *Howell Hall in 1948. Georgia Tech History Digital Portal.*



An angled limestone water table runs around the entire exterior of the building separating the basement from the first floor. The basement level is additionally marked by horizontal rows of inset brick, approximately every 1½ feet. Except for the entrance bays, windows are set within a plain rectangular opening with a limestone sill. The windows themselves are non-historic bronze anodized aluminum set within the original window openings. Most windows are two sashes, paired horizontally like casement windows. The windows reflect the basic style of the historic steel casement windows but do not have the definition or complexity of the original window patterns. The exterior doors are single bronze anodized metal doors with glass panels and are also not original to the building. All of the window and door openings are square.

The main entrance is recessed within a carved limestone Tudor arch. The entrance is at the first floor level on the east facade and opens onto a small brick and concrete patio shaded by mature water oak trees. Within the arched opening, the non-historic single entry door and sidelights are set in a rectangular opening. Besides the main entrance, there are four other original entrances that each open onto one of the four staircases in the building. One of these secondary entrances is also on the east facade and leads to the stairs in the north wing. It features a simple, molded rectangular limestone surround, clearly secondary to the main entrance nearby. The entrance at the end of the south wing is recessed to provide shelter and is marked by a limestone surround with a simplified Tudor arch under the label mold drip cap. The entrances to the center staircase (inside northwest corner) and the west staircase are both at the basement level and are recessed within plain brick openings. A sixth, non-historic entrance on the north facade of the west wing opens directly into the basement common room and lounge (Photo 12 and 15).

Of particular interest are the patterns in the rectangular brick inset panels at the end of the west wing. The patterns here are decidedly modern, repeating patterns of squares and zig-zags articulated in brick (Photo 11).

### ***Landscape***

Howell Hall is level with Williams Street on the east side, and the topography slopes downhill to the west allowing for the exposed basement of the west wing. The building backs up to the back side of Brittain Dining Hall and Harris Hall beyond a screen of vegetation. Landscaping around Howell includes evergreen plantings close to the building and a mix of small ornamental trees and mature shade trees—water oaks. A non-historic patio in the northwest corner of the building is shaded by trees in the center and at the perimeter above a brick retaining wall and includes benches and bike racks near the entrance on this side (Photos 13-14). In the southwest corner of the building, a curved low granite retaining wall (non-historic) outlines a small open lawn. There is a small patio and non-historic sidewalks at the front of the building. A non-historic handicap ramp with brushed aluminum rails leads to the front door (Photos 5, 9-10).

Access to the east side of Howell Hall was dramatically altered around 1950 with the construction of I-75/85 and an exit ramp that merges with Williams Street. Instead of a typical circulating street, Williams Street primarily provides access to Brittain Dining Hall, Harrison, and Howell Residence Halls.

## INTERIOR

On the interior, the west and south wings have three floors; the north wing has two floors and an attic. The only finished basement is in the west wing. The first through third floors of the west and south wings feature double-loaded corridors lined with two-person dorm rooms (doubles) except at the ends of the corridors where there are four-person rooms beside the stairwells. The north wing only has dorm rooms on its second floor in the same double-loaded layout as the other wings. Historically, the first floor in the north wing had dorm rooms in the same configuration on the first floor, as well, but it has since been converted to common study space connected to the original lounge just north of the main entrance (bay window location). Most dorm rooms are 11 feet wide by about 16 feet deep. Each dorm room has one centrally-located, non-historic metal entrance door and a window in the opposite wall, except for corner rooms which have windows in the two exterior walls.

A communal bathroom with showers, toilets, and sinks is located in the inside southwest corner on each floor. Bathrooms have doors opening both into the west and south wing corridors.

The interior walls and ceilings are plaster or drywall and painted. Where walls are plaster there is a textured finish. Corridors and dorm rooms include non-historic boxed chases to accommodate new mechanical systems including HVAC and wiring. These may run either horizontally or vertically in rooms. The non-historic drop ceiling in the first floor lounge has been lowered significantly and partially covers the bay windows in the east wall. Floors are carpeted in the corridors and lounges with vinyl tile in dorm rooms and ceramic tile in the bathrooms and kitchens. The first floor entrance hall has non-historic ceramic floor tile (Photo 18). Window sills are simple wood sills painted to match the wall color and may be historic. Other interior trim includes wood baseboards with a simple cap mold that appears to be historic, as it is stylistically similar to the original plans. The use of reverse baseboard and cap trim at the top of dorm room walls may also be historic. Non-historic rubber baseboards are used in the corridors. The corridor trim also includes three rows of rounded plastic wall guards/bumpers which are non-historic.

The building has four interior stairs which are original to the building. The dog-leg stairs feature non-historic unpainted aluminum rails. The stairs have exposed concrete risers and precast terrazzo treads and landing floors which have all been painted and are now covered with rubber treads and vinyl tile. The staircase at the center of the building is wider than the stairs at the ends of the north and west wings but is otherwise the same.

## CHANGES

Major changes to the residence hall over the years have included window and door replacement and a number of layout changes to the first floor of the north wing. However, the typical layouts of double-loaded corridors, the bathrooms, the dorm rooms, and the stairs are very much intact as they were originally designed.

Window replacement is a common alteration throughout all campus buildings. The current exterior windows and doors are tinted insulated glass and bronze anodized aluminum frames. Historic photos show the original windows were steel casement windows with rectangular panes and hopper windows above (Figure 7.3). It is unknown when the windows were replaced at Howell, but it was likely around the same time as other nearby residence halls: the late 1970s to 1980s. The original front doors were replaced in 1968 according to plans, although they may have been replaced again since then.

Other interior renovations occurring over the years have been typical of regular maintenance and repair. These include painting and replacing interior floor finishes, plumbing, bathroom fixtures, and interior doors and installing new heaters and HVAC systems. The floors are covered with non-historic carpet, ceramic tiles, and vinyl tiles. The terrazzo in the stairwells has been covered with a rubber non-slip floor covering. The wood baseboards and door surrounds in the dorm rooms may or may not be historic, but they are similar to what would have been in place originally.

Ceilings in the corridors have been lowered, and chases have been built out to accommodate new mechanical systems including HVAC and wiring. These changes were likely made in 1999 when the University Housing and Residence Life website states Howell Residence Hall was last renovated.

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**HOWELL****Charities Benefit from Many Hall Fundraising Activities**

IDENTIFICATION PAGE 550

Howell Residence Hall, named for the man who gave radio station WGST to what was then The Georgia School of Technology, was constructed in 1939 as a male dormitory. From these beginnings, it has evolved into a residence hall for Tech coeds where they are offered many diversions from academia. These activities ranged from purely social events such as parties and trick-or-treating on Halloween, to participation in several intramural teams, to fund-raising projects for charities.

The residents celebrated what can be deemed a very successful fall quarter with a Christmas party during dead week. This allowed everyone to get together and enjoy a break before preparing to take final exams.

Spring quarter proved a very active one as the hall sponsored two RHA Week events, the Howell Wiener Bite and the Howell Biscuit Eating Contest. Howell took second place overall in female residence halls with wins received in the female division of the Freemont Bicycle Race, female division of Towers Tug of War, and the Roommate Game which was based on the Newlywed Game T.V. show. In addition, Howell III received the award for aesthetically best in the Best Room Contest.

Intramurals also kept the residents busy this year as everyone had a chance to participate in a variety of sports. Women's as well as some co-rec teams participated in volleyball, basketball, and flag football.



Howell / 221

**Figure 5.2.** Scenes from Howell Hall. Blueprint 1985, Georgia Tech.



## Chapter 6: SIGNIFICANCE and RECOMMENDATIONS

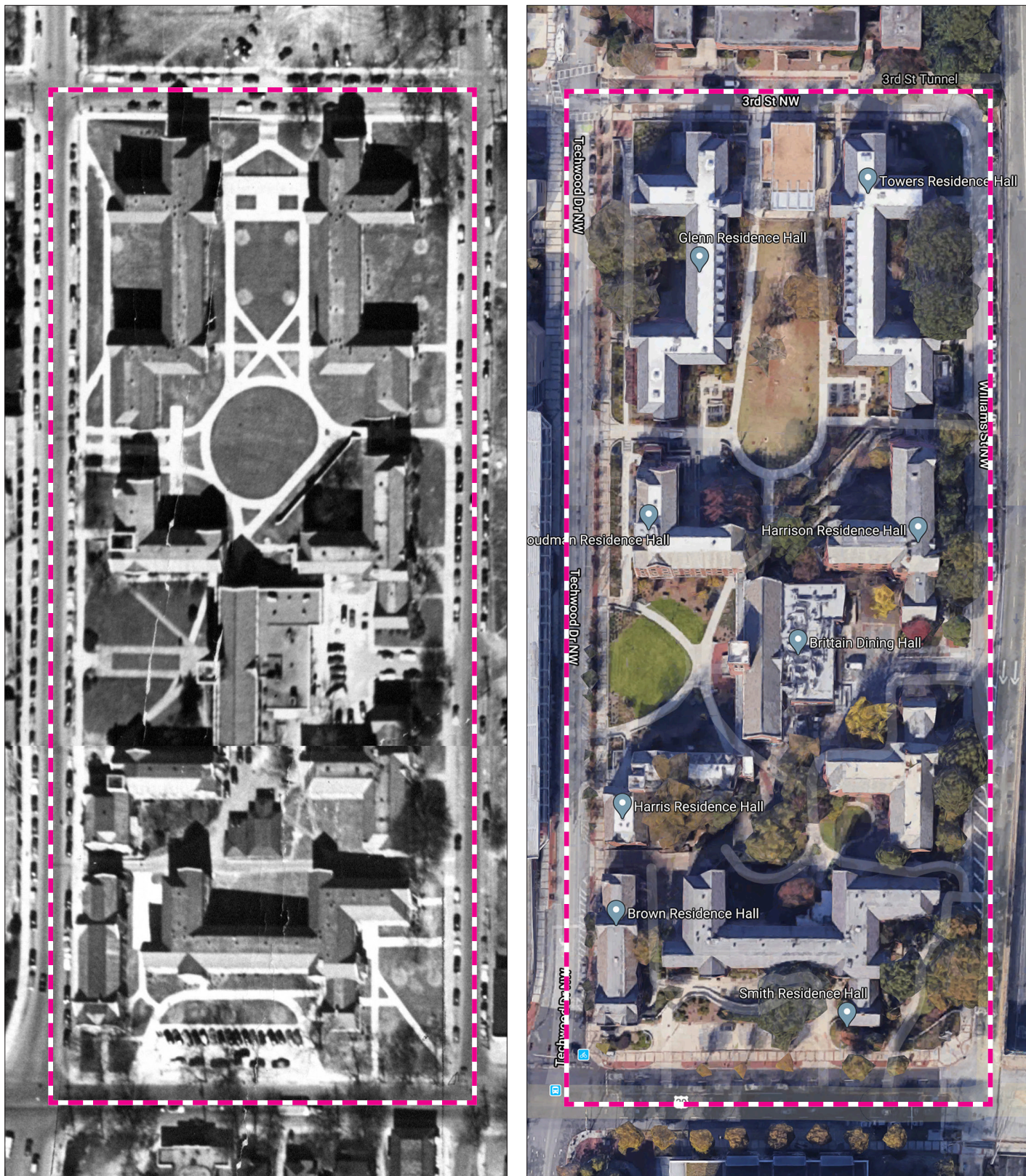
Howell Hall is not listed on the National Register of Historic Places but would contribute to the East Campus Residential Historic District that was proposed in the 2009 Georgia Tech Campus Historic Preservation Plan Update. This proposed historic district comprises eight dormitories that form the east campus residential quadrangle around Brittain Dining Hall and is also known as Area I. This historic district is significant under Criterion A for Architecture and Campus Planning, as it represents the evolution of both college dormitories and the use of the Collegiate Gothic architectural style. The proposed district would also represent the transition from early Collegiate Gothic to the later streamlined Collegiate Gothic style with diminishing stylistic ornamentation under Criterion C for Architecture.

The primary benefit of establishing the East Campus Residential Historic District would be that rehabilitation and alterations to the buildings of the district would be evaluated as they affect the district as a whole. Within a district, an individual building may undergo more interior alteration as long as the main primary features are retained, and any exterior additions are placed in such a way that the main vistas of the individual building and significant vistas of the district as a whole are minimally impacted.

As part of a district, Howell Hall is significant under Criterion A for its association with the trend in campus architecture and planning at Georgia Tech and across the US for construction of residence halls, also known as dormitories. According to Justin Owens in his 2010 dissertation entitled “The Impact of University Housing Construction Type on Psychosocial Development of First-Year Students,” the evolution of dormitories in the United States has evolved greatly since the establishment of Harvard in 1636.<sup>36</sup> Early American colleges were initially intended to serve the communities they were constructed in, and only later did they begin to attract students from outside of the community. At first, housing was provided in rooming houses within these communities, but with the influx of student enrollment, there was not always an adequate supply of rooming houses, and colleges began constructing student housing on campus. These early dormitories were typically crude with small rooms shared by multiple students. Most dormitories had few, if any, amenities beyond what was needed to provide shelter to the students. After the Civil War and into the early 20<sup>th</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Justin Owens. “The Impact of University Housing Construction Type on Psychosocial Development of first-year Students.” 2010. pp. 19-20.



**Figure 6.1.** East Campus Residential Quadrangle outlined in 1947 and today. Aerial of Georgia Tech campus around 1947-48 (Georgia State Special Collections) compared with a GoogleMaps aerial image in 2020.



century, colleges and universities focused their money on a quality educational experience and neglected dormitories. This left students to make their own arrangements for room and board. Due to this, chapter houses for fraternities and sororities were built to help with the need for student housing. After the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, colleges and universities determined that dormitories were important to improve campus life. Construction of residential campuses occurred at a faster pace during this era than at any previous time in history. “Since many state institutions were more interested in allocations for academic endeavors,” public funding was limited for residence halls, and they tended to be funded through private gifts.<sup>37</sup> This limited public financial support remained the case at Georgia Tech and around the nation until the involvement of the federal government in the 1930s.

As American universities experienced great expansion and change after World War I. Large, purpose-built buildings were undertaken, and the use of quadrangles and courtyards to create an inviting environment around buildings were built at nearly every major American university. At Georgia Tech, this vision was laid out in the 1921 Laird, Cret, and Smith master plan, and realized in the subsequent residential campus construction on East Campus. Universities turned to master planning to elicit private funding for guided expansion and to provide a “unified style that epitomized a university’s symbolic aspirations.”<sup>38</sup> It is at this time that universities began to provide the required furnishings in dormitories, and students living in the dormitories were provided with amenities such as common areas and access to recreation facilities on campus. At Georgia Tech, this is evidenced by the outdoor quadrangles and courtyards that provide gathering space around the dormitories and the convenient access to Brittain Dining Hall. This evolution of providing for student life outside of academics allowed the universities to help build student character and intellect. The residential environments facilitated student learning by immersing the student in the university, allowing them to focus on their studies.<sup>39</sup>

Howell Hall is significant under Criterion C in the area of architecture as an excellent example of the restrained Collegiate Gothic architecture of the 1930s. As stated in the 2009 Georgia Tech Campus Historic Preservation Plan Update:

*“As an early-to-mid- twentieth century building, [Howell] represents the second stage of campus development and is a product of the New Deal, Public Works Administration (PWA) program. The building was designed by institute architecture faculty, and is an excellent example of the [restrained] Collegiate Gothic style on campus.*

*“The eight dormitories comprising the east campus residential quadrangle around the Brittain Dining Hall (known as Area 1) represent the evolution*

<sup>37</sup> Justin Owens. “The Impact of University Housing Construction Type on Psychosocial Development of first-year Students.” 2010. pp. 19-20.

<sup>38</sup> Paul Hardin Kapp. “The University Campus in the United States—As a Designed Work to Produce Knowledge; and as an Artefact of Cultural Heritage.” 2018. p. 58.

<sup>39</sup> Gregory S. Blimling “College and University Residence Halls.” education.stateuniversity.com, accessed June 30, 2020.



*of architectural style from the highly ornamented Collegiate Gothic through a more refined version of the style to the later streamlined Collegiate Gothic style with diminishing stylistic ornamentation. Howell Hall is recommended eligible as part of a proposed East Campus Residential National Register of Historic Places District.”*

Collegiate Gothic was the style chosen in the 1921 Master Plan by Warren Laird, Paul Cret, and Francis P. Smith as an “appropriate vocabulary of building form” for the type of research institute that Tech envisioned itself becoming.<sup>40</sup>

This Collegiate Gothic style, a “restrained Collegiate Gothic,” contains elements of the late Jacobean (or Jacobethan) architecture.<sup>41</sup> It was no accident that the architects of Georgia Tech’s 1921 Master Plan chose the Collegiate Gothic style for the campus. Inspiration likely came from the University of Pennsylvania campus, where Francis P. Smith studied architecture under Laird and Cret. The University of Pennsylvania was one of the first American campuses to broadly adopt Collegiate Gothic forms.<sup>42</sup> In turn, Collegiate Gothic, an American style, was inspired by the leading English universities, Oxford and Cambridge, which were well-established and utterly respectable research institutions. Marion L. Brittain, Georgia Tech President from 1922-1944, was also said to be an admirer of the “English collegiate style of architecture,” thereby encouraging the continued use of the style of campus.<sup>43</sup>

### ***Collegiate Gothic Style:***

The Collegiate Gothic style is an American style that was inspired by the Medieval, Gothic, and Jacobean architecture of the great English research universities, Oxford and Cambridge. It is an adaptation of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothic Revival style designed to specifically serve educational architecture and was popular in the US from 1890 to 1940.

The Collegiate Gothic style is characterized by Tudor arch window and door openings, masonry construction, bas relief panels and plaques, porticos and recessed entryways, buttresses, tracery windows, and crenellated parapets and towers.<sup>44</sup> Contrasting ashlar stone is used to accent architectural features such as towers, window frames, parapets, copings, and quoins.<sup>45</sup> Projecting bays surmounted by small balconies are common as are bay and oriole windows. Steel casement windows are typical. Jacobean elements such as steeply pitched roofs with parapetted gable ends, are a particularly common feature on the Georgia Tech campus.

<sup>40</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 113.

<sup>41</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984); and Robert M. Craig. *The Architecture of Francis Palmer Smith, Atlanta’s Scholar-Architect*. (Univ. of Georgia Press: Athens, 2012)

<sup>42</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 113

<sup>43</sup> Multiple authors. *Engineering the New South: Georgia Tech 1885-1985*. (U. of Georgia Press: Athens, 1985), 164-165

<sup>44</sup> “Collegiate Gothic Style 1890-1940.” Pennsylvania Historic & Museum Commission Architectural Field Guide. [www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/collegiate-gothic.html](http://www.phmc.state.pa.us/portal/communities/architecture/styles/collegiate-gothic.html), accessed June 20, 2020.

<sup>45</sup> Stephen C. Gordon. *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory*. (Ohio Historic Preservation Office. Columbus, Ohio, 1992), 106.

The Collegiate Gothic movement began in the late 1880s when Philadelphia architects Walter Cope and John Stewardson expanded the campus of Bryn Mawr College in an understated English Gothic style inspired by the architecture of Oxford and Cambridge universities. A number of commissions followed for buildings at the University of Pennsylvania (1895-1911), Princeton University (1896-1902), and Washington University in St. Louis (1899-1909), marking the beginnings of a movement that transformed college campuses across the country.

At Georgia Tech, Collegiate Gothic and late Jacobean architecture defined the Georgia Tech campus from 1922 through the 1930s. In 1947, Smith, Glenn, and Towers Dormitories were the last restrained Collegiate Gothic structures built on the campus. Other buildings designed and constructed around this time were already being pulled toward Modern architectural styles. Smith, Glenn, and Tower were exceptions and retained the Collegiate Gothic style because they completed the vision of the East Housing quad which already consisted of traditional Collegiate Gothic buildings.

Additionally, the East Campus Housing District embraces the traditional principles of residential colleges. As stated in a 1925 report from Yale titled “The Quadrangle Plan,” “The English Quadrangle came to be regarded by many people as the most appropriate embodiment of the principles of the residential college.”<sup>46</sup> Although it was built over a period of time, the overall concept of a residential quadrangle centered on Brittain Dining Hall was part of the early plan, and each addition to the district contributed to the completion of the quadrangle. Upon the completion of Cloudman, Harris, Brittain, and Howell, the buildings formed a complete and focused sub-quadrangle of the larger yet-to-be-developed district. The compactness of the quadrangle plan “seemed to provide a natural setting for a college community that valued intimacy and fellowship.”<sup>47</sup> The system of on-site professors and deans as part of the student support systems at Yale, Cambridge, and Oxford was also emulated at Georgia Tech in the earliest dorms which originally contained Master’s or Director’s Suites.

Both the source of funding and the restrained, streamlined Collegiate Gothic style make Howell Hall a representative of the New Deal era of campus construction. This era was a turning point in architecture and funding on campus. “While the Depression severely curtailed the planned growth of the campus, it also considerably changed the way in which architects thought of design.”<sup>48</sup> Excessive decoration on federally-supported building projects was viewed as unnecessary, and architecture trended away from historic styles to produce an American style of Modernism. Harrison and Howell Residence Halls are seen as a bridge between the earlier historic design trends and the already-arriving era of Modern architecture.

<sup>46</sup> Carla Yanni. *Living on Campus: an Architectural History of the American Dormitory*. (Univ. of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, Minn., 2019).

<sup>47</sup> Carla Yanni. *Living on Campus: an Architectural History of the American Dormitory*. (Univ. of Minnesota Press: Minneapolis, Minn., 2019).

<sup>48</sup> Warren E. Drury, III. “Architectural Development of Georgia Tech.” (Masters thesis, Georgia Institute of Technology, June 1984), 160.

As noted earlier, decorative architectural elements on Howell Hall are limited primarily to the main entrance bay on the east facade and other primary and secondary entrances around the building. Of particular interest are the patterns in the rectangular brick inset panels at the end of the west wing. The patterns here are decidedly modern, repeating patterns of squares and zigzags articulated in brick.

### ***The New Deal on Campus***

On the Georgia Tech campus, then-President Dr. M.L. Brittain took advantage of many of Roosevelt's New Deal programs to continue his ambitious building program. Over his 22-year career he was responsible for 22 new buildings in large part thanks to the New Deal era funding. The fact that Robert MacDougall, a Georgia Tech-educated engineer directed construction projects as head of the WPA Operations Division in Georgia probably helped Brittain's case. During this period several building projects were ongoing at the same time, which caused quite a strain on the architecture department. The paperwork needed to secure approval of the federal funds was overwhelming. The school had to submit a complete set of drawings and an estimated cost for each project. The money from the agencies was given as a grant, and the matching funds had to be secured through the Board of Regents or financed through private companies and bond sales. The PWA was responsible for the Civil Engineering Building and the Mechanical Engineering Drawing Building, the Howell and Harris Dormitories, the Daniels Chemical Building addition and the Engineering Experiment Station Building. The grant that financed the last four buildings was \$144,000. Made in 1938, it was the largest ever given by the PWA to any division of the University System of Georgia.

Howell Hall retains integrity of location and setting within the East Campus Residential Historic District, as it still fronts on Williams Street, presenting a time-honored first glimpse of campus for many visitors arriving off the interstate. While non-historic redevelopment of the neighborhood has been undertaken to the south, there is minimal infill on the block of the East Campus Residential Historic District allowing retention of its immediate setting. The design of Howell Hall by Jorgensen, Bush-Brown, and Gailey is largely intact with the original pattern of window and door openings, historic materials, and decorative masonry features. Although non-historic alterations to Howell Hall have been undertaken, including replacement of historic windows and exterior doors and alterations to the first floor layout of the north wing, the workmanship expressed in the original materials is largely intact. The retention of location, setting, design, materials, and their inherent workmanship allows Howell Hall to convey the feeling and association of an early 20<sup>th</sup>-century dormitory designed by Bush-Brown, Gailey, and Associates.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

When determining when and where to alter interiors and exteriors of buildings, it is important to understand that there are primary and secondary features of building. Primary features are those that are important in defining the historic character of a building and should be



retained or only minimally altered. Secondary features are less critical to the building's historic character and may be able to undergo greater change without substantially impacting that historic character overall. Generally, primary features can be categorized as one of the following:

The building's **plan**

The individual interior **spaces** or sequences of spaces

Architectural **features, finishes, or materials** that retain historic integrity

Secondary spaces may include back-of-house space, closets, secondary office spaces, laundry, and bathrooms. These may have significantly more alteration than primary features. Should alterations of primary features, like dorm rooms, be undertaken, it should be done in a way that allows for some retention of the original dorm room rhythm. For example, if a room larger than a typical dorm room is needed, a cased opening could be placed between two rooms to enlarge the space while maintaining the original sense of division.

The primary character-defining features of Howell Hall include architectural features of the Collegiate Gothic style such as the bay window, carved entrance surrounds, Tudor arches, red brick and contrasting limestone masonry exteriors, bas relief panels, and other carvings. Additionally, the modern brick patterns in the end of the west wing is particularly unique to this transitional era, when parts of campus were moving toward the Modern era while the school still identified with the Collegiate Gothic architecture of earlier buildings. The five original entrances and window fenestration patterns should be retained.

The windows were likely replaced in the late 1970s or 1980s and are not a historic replica. Should it become necessary to replace windows again, a more historically-correct replacement window that mimics the visibility of the original pattern is recommended, and should match as closely as possible to historic plans on file (Figures 7.3). The historic windows were originally steel casement windows with rectangular panes. The windows were not meant to be a dominant feature, but their framing patterns add to the intent of the overall design.

Primary features on the interior include the double-loaded corridors and the location and configuration of the stairwells. These layout features should be retained to the greatest extent possible.

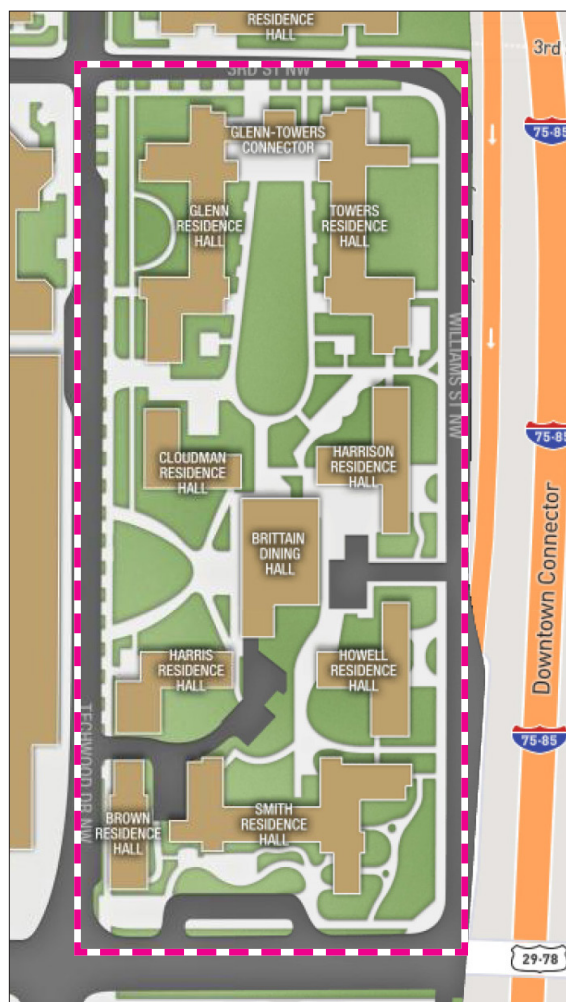
The wood trim on the interior is likely historic based on the similarity to that in the original drawings (see Figure 7.1). It would be appropriate to utilize the existing drawings to restore the original interior trimwork. If not, any new interior trim should not be more elaborate than the original patterns.

No hardscape features of the landscape around Howell Hall appear be original or historic. No modern structures should be introduced in the landscape on the primary elevations. These elevations are the east elevation along Williams Street and the north and south ends of the building visible from Williams Street. Any additional intrusions for mechanical reasons, additions, or other purposes should not infill or otherwise protrude into these primary spaces.

If the opportunity to alter the wood privacy fencing screening the HVAC and other mechanical units arises, low profile fences or screening is recommended in a dark color that recedes into the landscape. Taking into consideration Howell Hall as a part of the proposed East Campus Residential Historic District, an addition to the east elevation, while not completely appropriate to Howell Hall, could be given consideration if it does not impact the overall integrity of the historic district. To retain integrity of the historic district would require retention of significant vistas, as well as significant features of the individual buildings so that they will continue to have association with the district's significance under Criteria A and C.

Should demolition be considered during the physical master planning process for Area 1, Georgia Tech must consult with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and demonstrate due diligence in exploring alternative solutions that minimize or avoid adversely impacting historic resources under the Georgia Environmental Policy Act (GEPA). In the event that retention of the building is not feasible, Georgia Tech must develop a plan for mitigating the effects of demolition. Such mitigation may include a Permanent Archival Record, Historic American Building Survey drawings, and/or other interpretive elements.

Again, while looking at Area 1 as a district does allow more flexibility for rehabilitation, significant alteration to or demolition of the building that introduces a significant loss of historic district fabric or obscures or significant views and vistas would compromise the integrity of the proposed district.



**Figure 6.2.** The eight dormitories comprising the East Campus Residential Quadrangle around Brittain Dining Hall (known as Area 1) represent the evolution of architectural style from the highly ornamented Collegiate Gothic through a more refined version of the style to a later streamlined Collegiate Gothic style with diminishing stylistic ornamentation. This block, outlined here, is the proposed East Campus Residential National Register Historic District. (Georgia Tech, 2009 Campus Historic Preservation Plan Update)

## Chapter 7: HISTORIC PLANS

**Note:** Not all existing and historic drawings and plans are shown. The selected plans represent the earliest plans available for each building and representative plans available for any major changes to the building. Plans herein have been organized by date.

*Plans provided by Capitol Planning and Space Management, Georgia Institute of Technology.*

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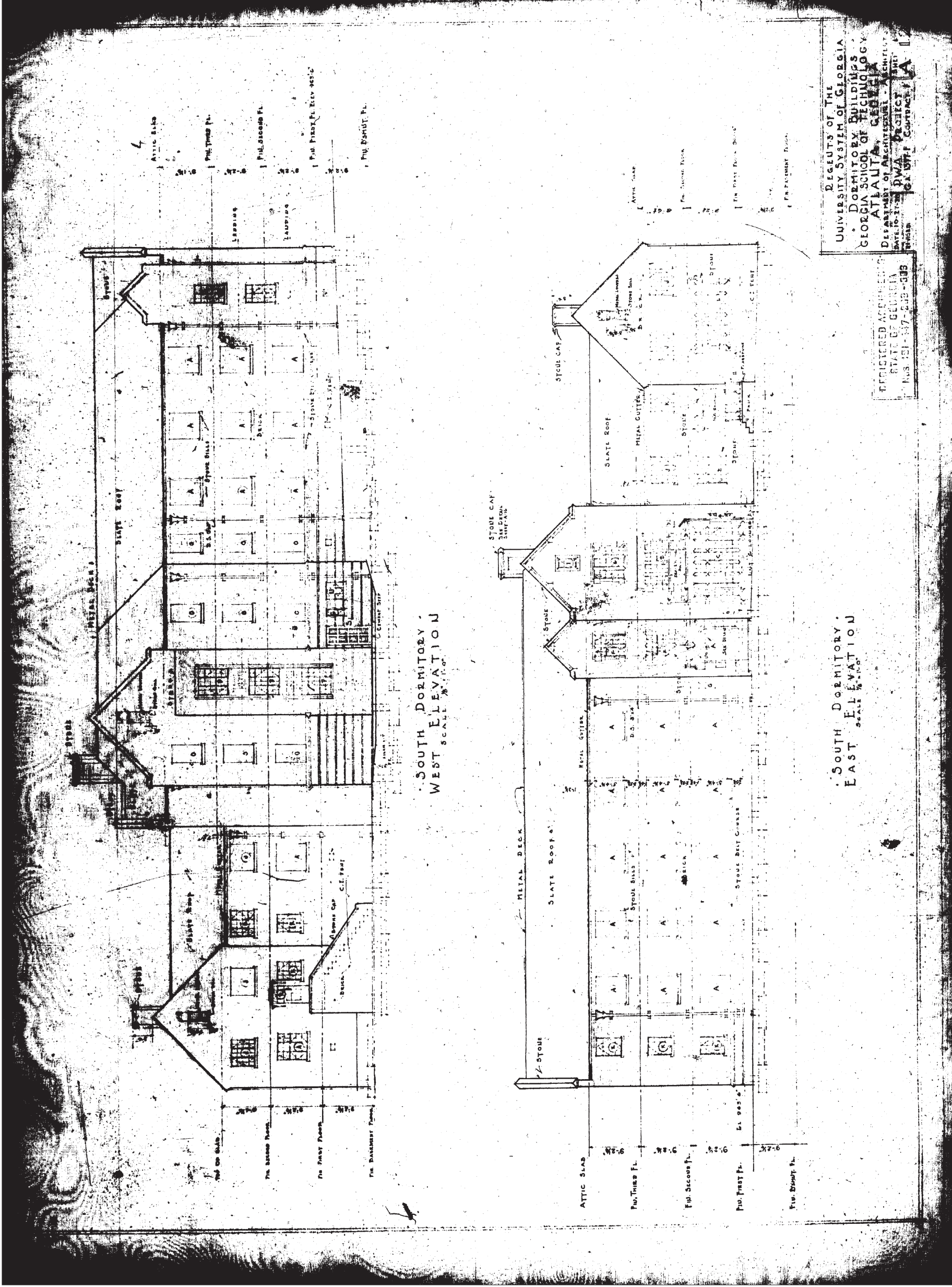


Figure 7.2. Original 1938 elevation plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.



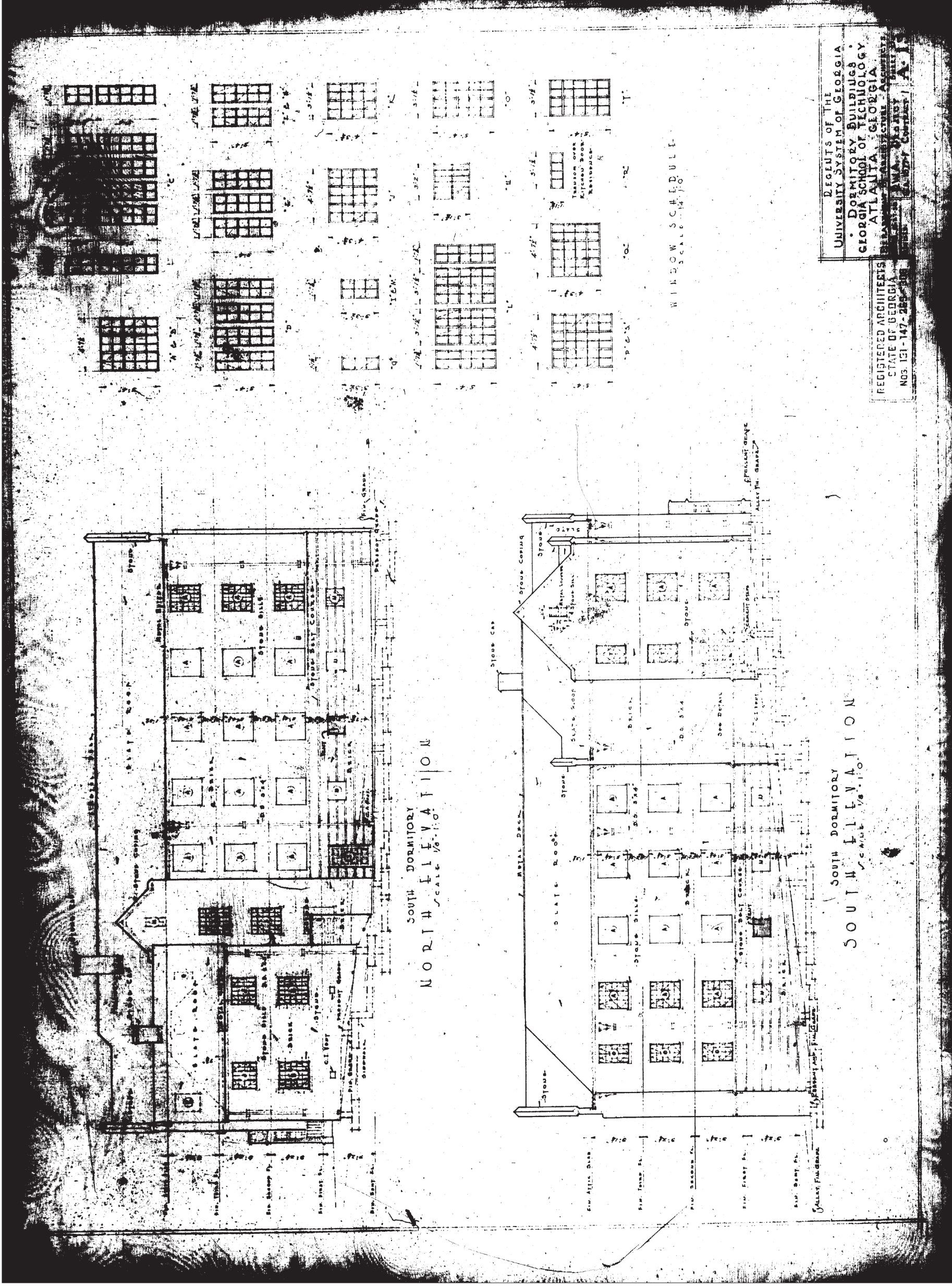


Figure 7.3. Original 1938 elevation plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.



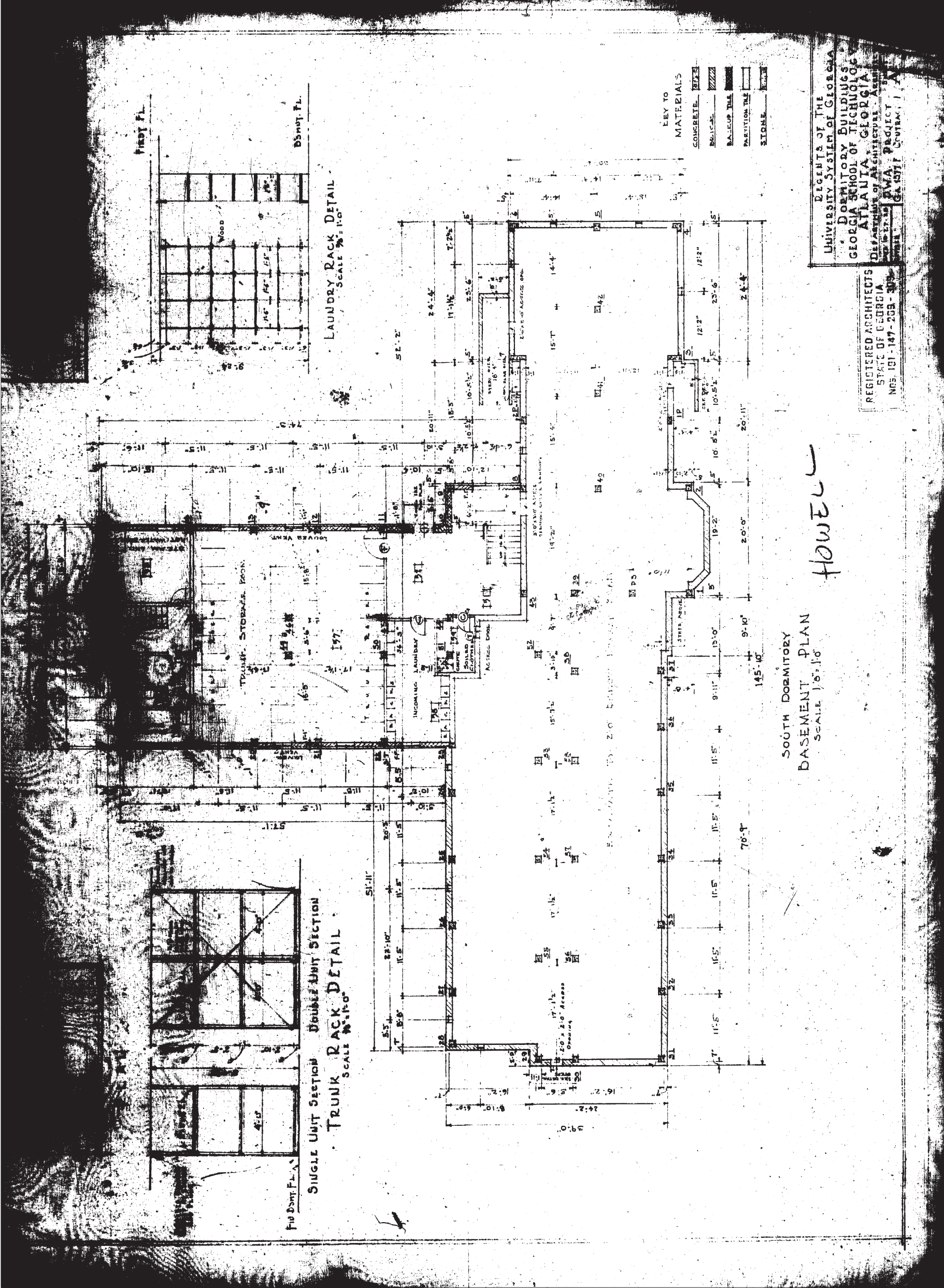


Figure 7.4. Original 1938 plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.



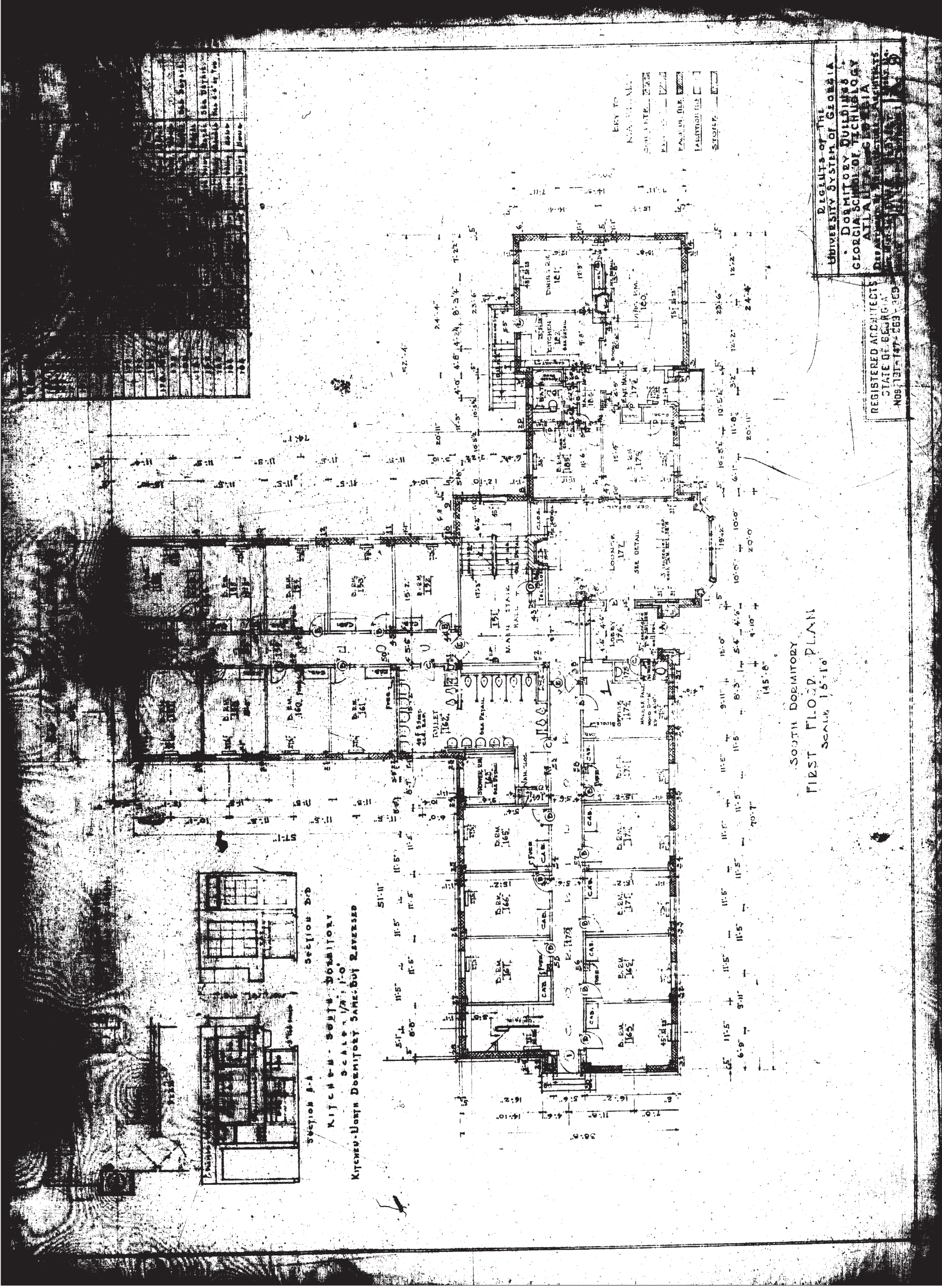
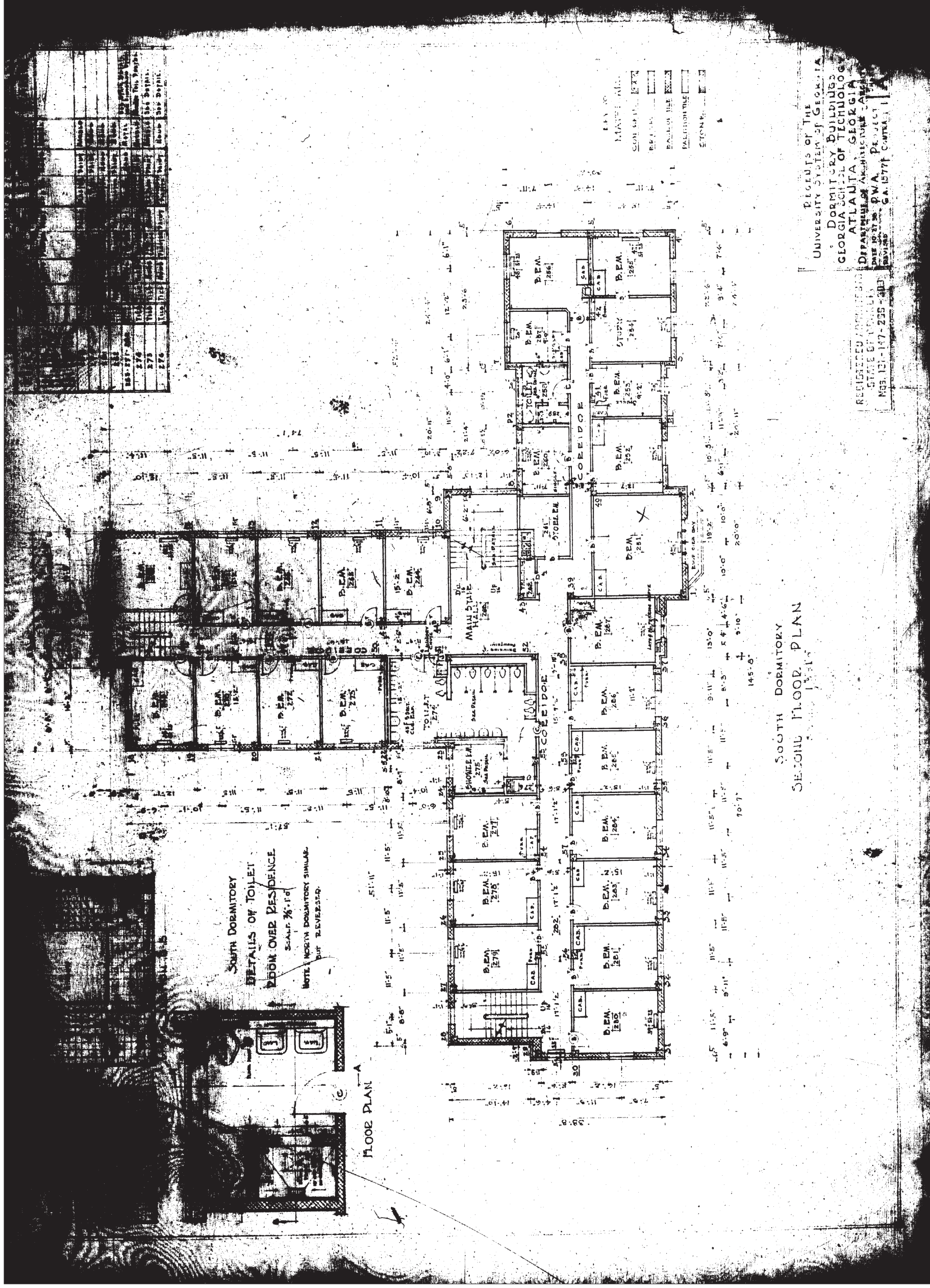


Figure 7.5. Original 1938 plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.

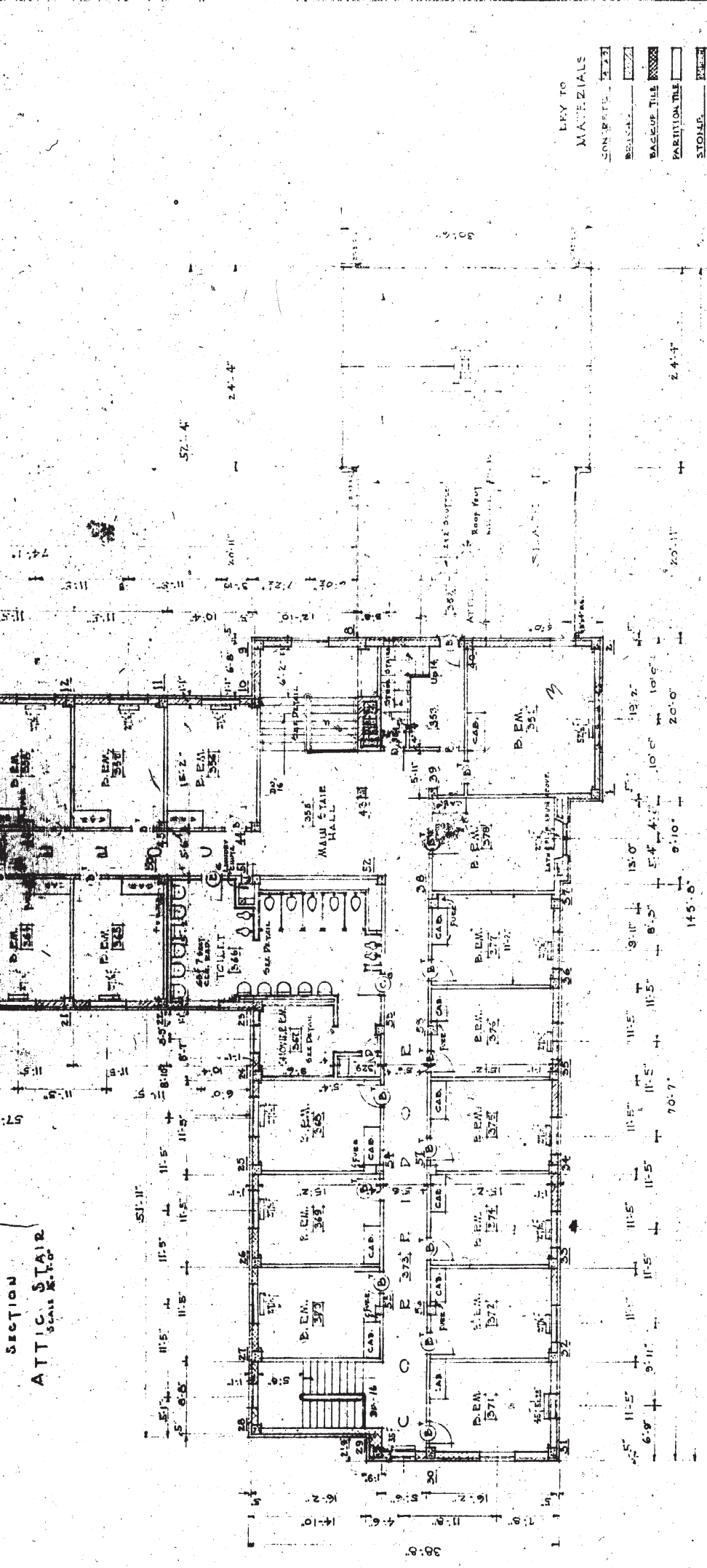
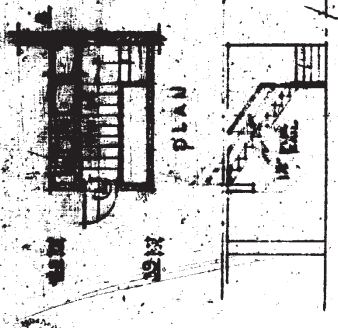




**Figure 7.6.** Original 1938 plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.



Room No.	Room Name	Area	Notes
301	Room	11.5' x 11.5'	
302	Room	11.5' x 11.5'	
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398	Room	11.5' x 11.5'	
399	Room	11.5' x 11.5'	
400	Room	11.5' x 11.5'	



- KEY TO MATERIALS
- CONCRETE
  - BRICK
  - BACKUP TILE
  - PARTITION TILE
  - STONEL

SOUTH DORMITORY  
THIRD FLOOR PLAN  
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"

RECEIVED ARCHITECTS  
5110 10th AVENUE  
N.W. ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
NSA 100-117-233-303

REGENTS OF THE  
UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF GEORGIA  
DORMITORY BUILDINGS  
ATLANTA, GEORGIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ARCHITECTURE  
1000 10th AVENUE  
N.W. ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Figure 7.7. Original 1938 plans for Howell Residence Hall, then known as the South Dormitory.

## Chapter 8: CURRENT PHOTOS and PHOTO KEYS

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Exterior Photos . . . . . <i>numbers 1-14</i> . . . . .	.66
Interior Photos . . . . . <i>numbers 15-56</i> . . . . .	.74
Photo Keys . . . . .	.95

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Photo 001 Exterior



Photo 002 Exterior



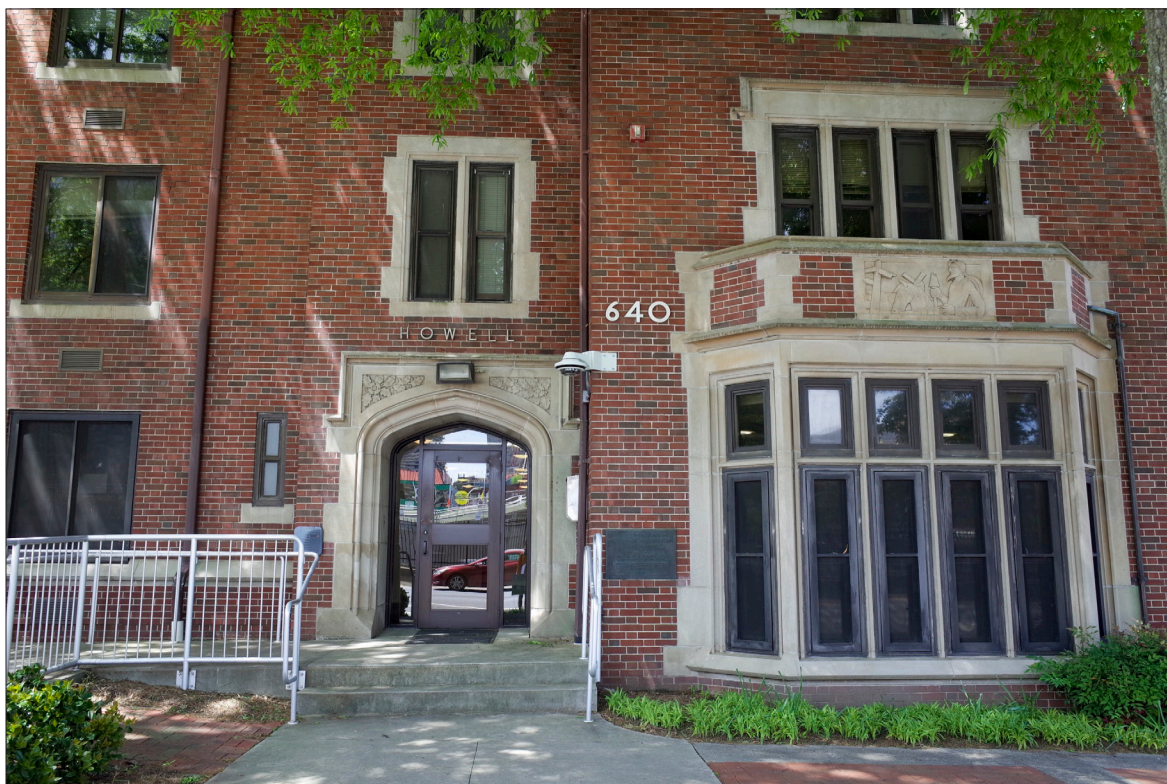


Photo 003 Main entrance



Photo 004 Exterior





Photo 005 Exterior



Photo 006 Exterior





Photo 007      Exterior





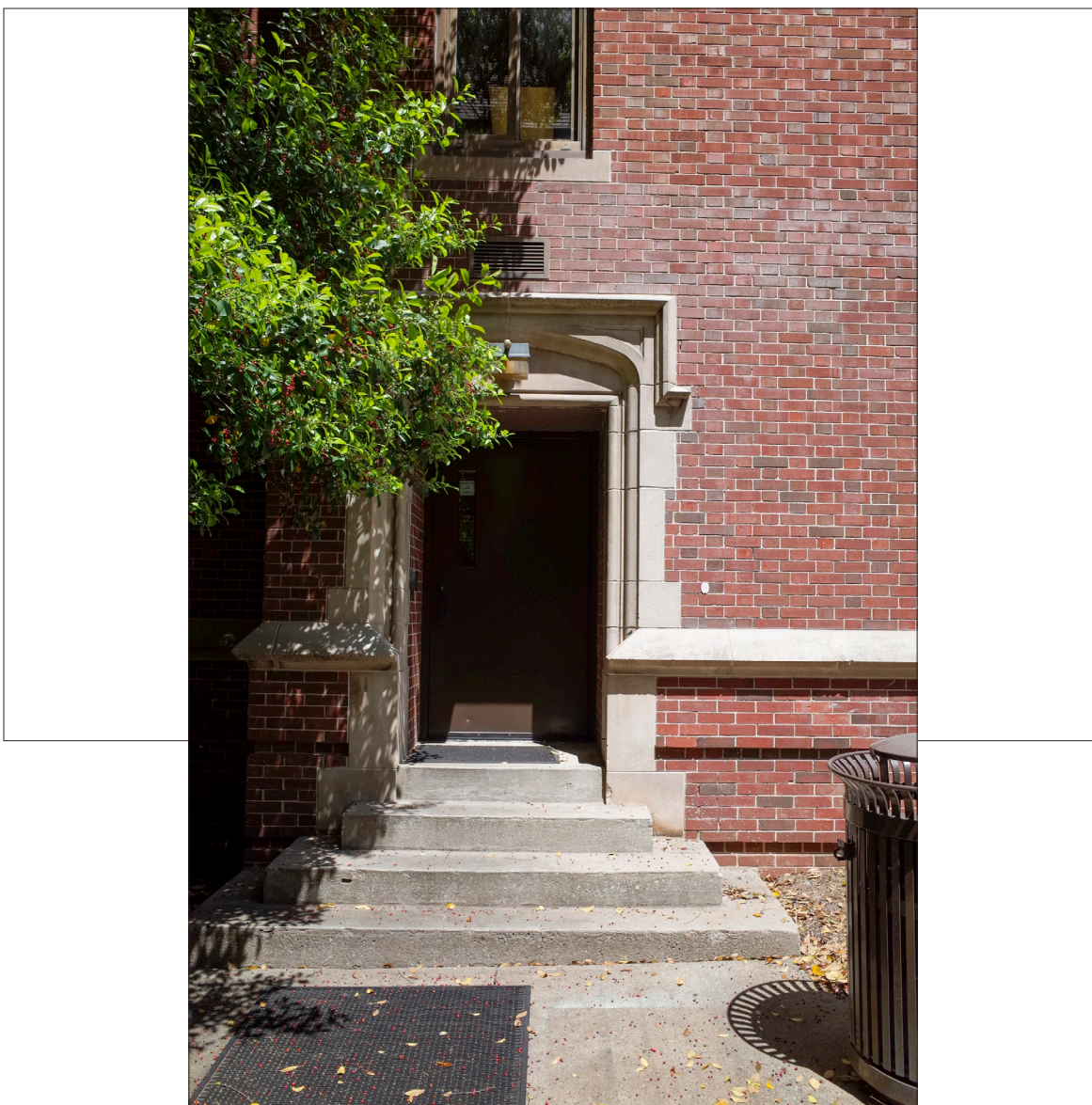


Photo 008      Exterior





Photo 009 Exterior



Photo 010 Exterior





Photo 011 Exterior



Photo 012 Exterior





Photo 013 Exterior



Photo 014 Exterior





Photo 015      Basement Level

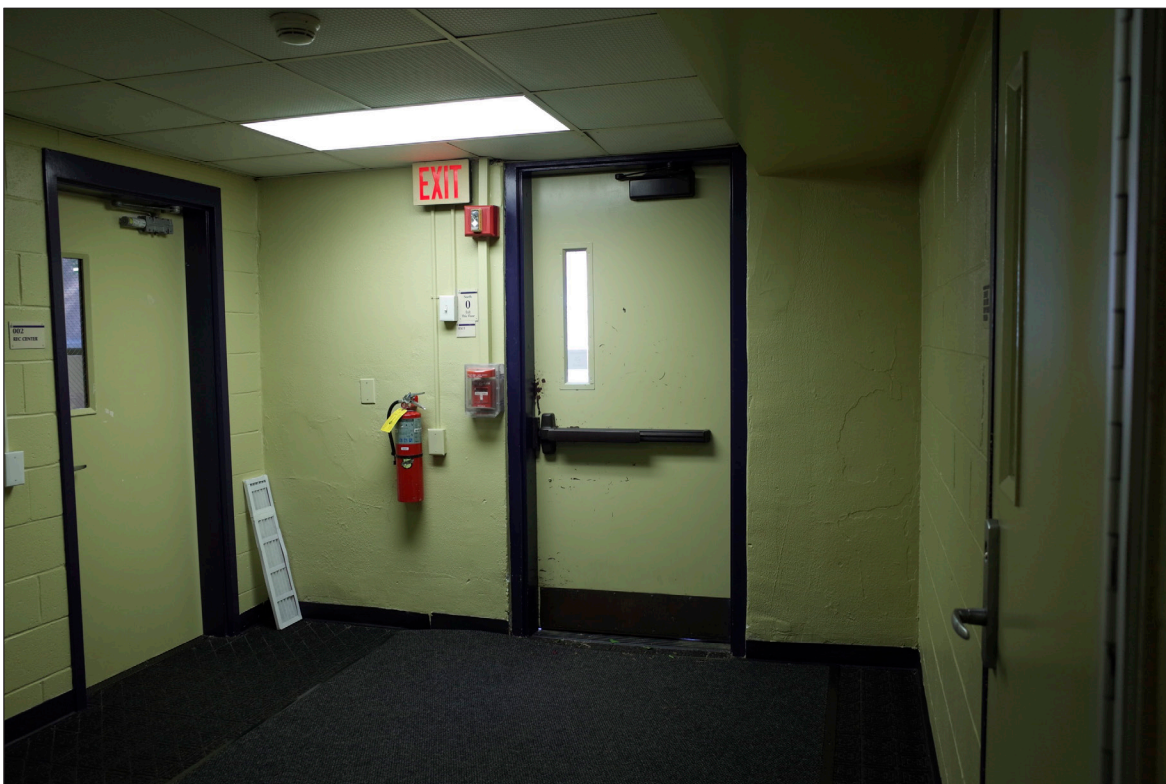


Photo 016      Basement Level





Photo 017     Basement Level



Photo 018     1st Floor



Photo 019 1st Floor



Photo 020 1st Floor





Photo 021 1st Floor



Photo 022 1st Floor



Photo 023 1st Floor



Photo 024 1st Floor





Photo 025 1st Floor



Photo 026 1st Floor



Photo 027 1st Floor



Photo 028 1st Floor





Photo 029 1st Floor



Photo 030 2nd Floor

## 7: PHOTOGRAPHS



Photo 031      2nd Floor



Photo 032      2nd Floor





Photo 033 2nd Floor



Photo 034 2nd Floor





Photo 035 2nd Floor



Photo 036 2nd Floor





Photo 037 2nd Floor



Photo 038 2nd Floor



Photo 039 2nd Floor



Photo 040 2nd Floor





Photo 041 2nd Floor



Photo 042 2nd Floor



Photo 043 2nd Floor

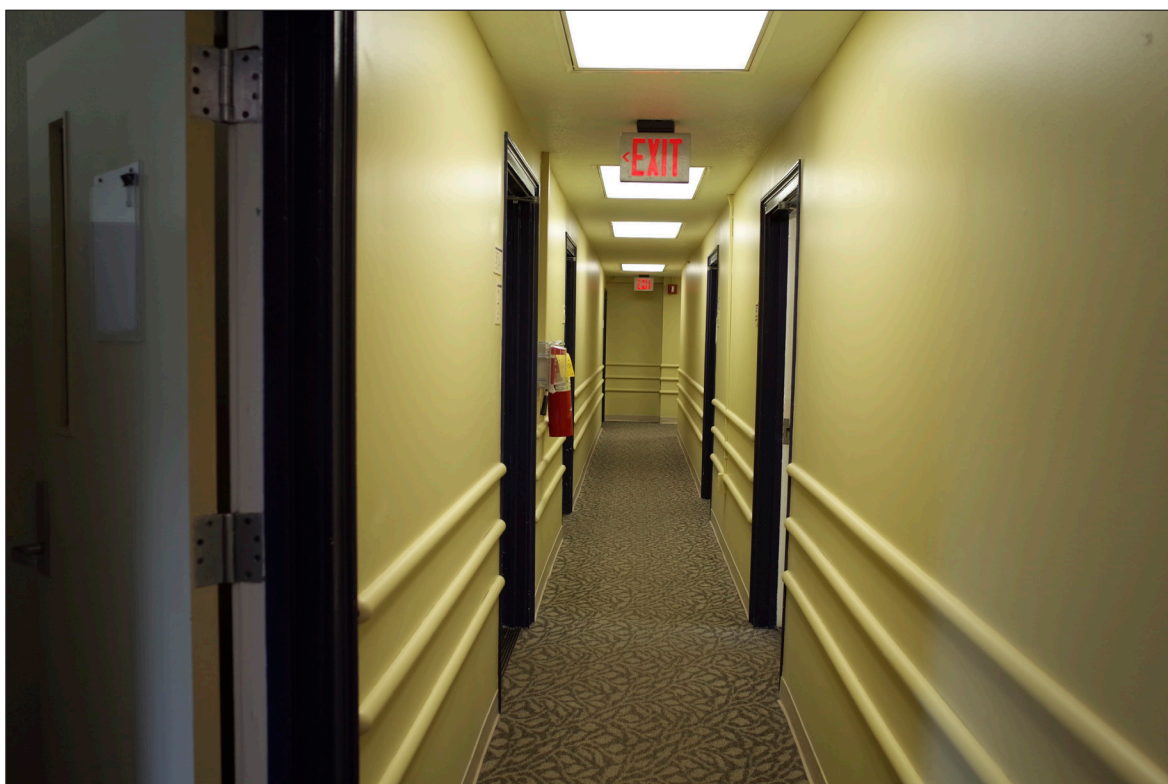


Photo 044 2nd Floor





Photo 045 3rd Floor



Photo 046 3rd Floor





Photo 047 3rd Floor



Photo 048 3rd Floor





Photo 049 3rd Floor



Photo 050 3rd Floor



Photo 051 3rd Floor



Photo 052 3rd Floor





Photo 053 3rd Floor



Photo 054 3rd Floor

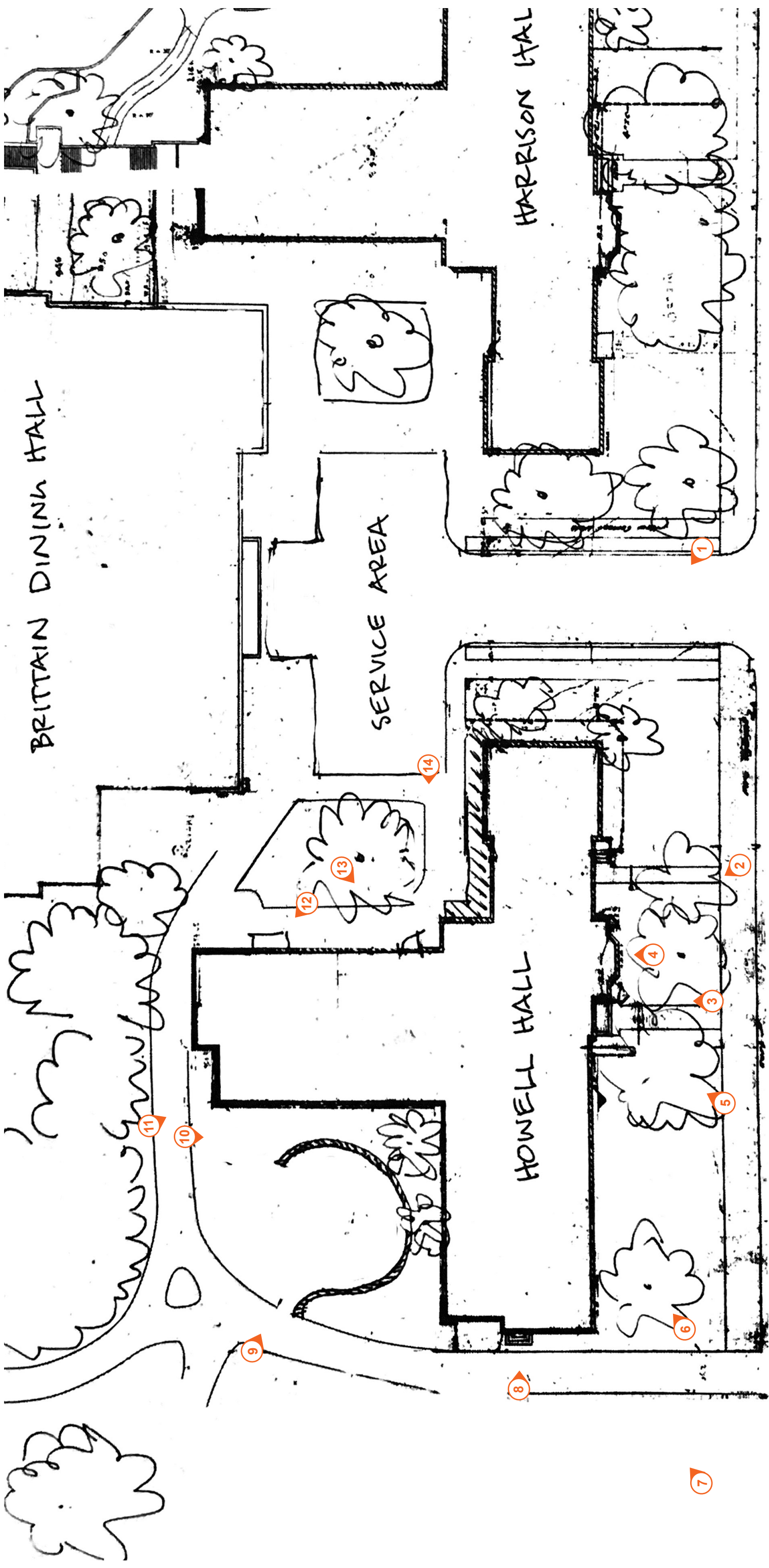


Photo 055 3rd Floor



Photo 056 3rd Floor

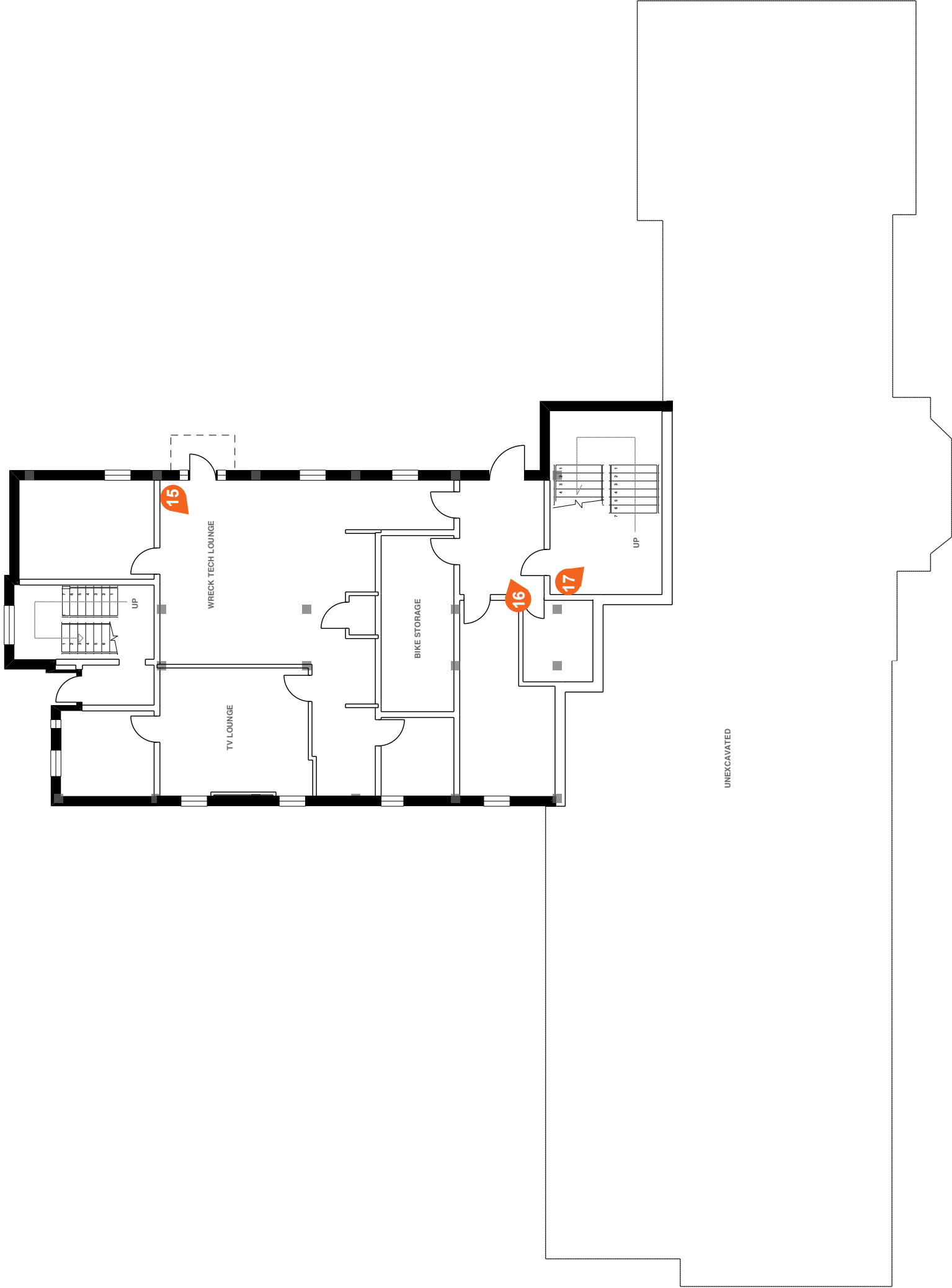




WILLIAMS STREET

EXIT RAMP

SITE PLAN / EXTERIOR  
PHOTO KEY



**BASEMENT LEVEL  
PHOTO KEY**



**NORTH**

**Basement Floor**





1ST FLOOR  
PHOTO KEY



NORTH

First Floor



NORTH

2ND FLOOR  
PHOTO KEY

Second Floor





Third Floor

3RD FLOOR  
PHOTO KEY



NORTH





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