

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Atlanta has been a location of notable LGBTQ+ events and communities in the Southeast since at least the mid-20th century. As an underrepresented group, a historic context and historic resources associated with the LGBTQ+ community in Atlanta have yet to be adequately identified and documented. To date, there has not been a property in Georgia listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) with a focus on LGBTQ+ significance. As extant resources associated with this theme are identified as potentially eligible for the NRHP, the need for informed analysis of Atlanta's LGBTQ+ significant historic resources sufficient to pursue NRHP nomination, becomes increasingly imperative.

The purpose of the proposed historic context statement is to develop a framework for identifying and evaluating historic resources associated with Atlanta's LGBTQ+ community within the incorporated city limits and provide essential information that will facilitate analysis of associated resources for potential nomination to the NRHP. As such, the historic context statement explores the impact these events and broad themes of history had on the built environment within the city limits of Atlanta, and identifies historic resources, both extant and not extant, associated with the LGBTQ+ community, along with significant historic associations, events, patterns, and themes.

The *Atlanta LGBTQ+ Historic Context Statement* defines nine historic themes that can be used to

better understand the history of Atlanta's LGBTQ+ places and spaces. These themes provide context on areas of Atlanta history that proved pivotal for the LGBTQ+ communities. From early anti-lesbian and gay state laws, municipal ordinances, and police harassment, to the origins of the city's LGBTQ+ Rights Movement and growing political activism among its residents; from religion to healthcare; from arts and culture to community life; these themes provide a context for understanding the physical places associated with Atlanta's LGBTQ+ community. The study provides guidance on how to evaluate these resources for nomination to the NRHP. It also includes brief case studies that illustrate how the NRHP evaluative framework and the nine identified themes can be used to evaluate and nominate historic LGBTQ+-associated resources to the NRHP. This historic context statement may be used as a model for other communities as they seek to understand the history and significance of LGBTQ+ resources in their communities, and further, how to begin listing these resources in the NRHP. The themes included in this context reflect notable trends in LGBTQ+ history that transcend geography and can be applied elsewhere. The NRHP guidance following each theme can further assist Georgians to identify and evaluate their LGBTQ+ resources. Furthermore, this study outlines several specific research strategies and challenges that may prove useful to communities outside of Atlanta. Although this story is about Atlanta, the study may have relevance to communities throughout the state. These types of resources and history can be found statewide.

(Opposite) Cover of *Etcetera*, June 25, 1993 (Source: *Etcetera Magazine*, Volume 9, Number 26. Atlanta Lesbian and Gay History Thing papers and publications. Kenan Research Center at the Atlanta History Center.)