

# RECOMMENDATIONS AND FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS

The development of this historic context statement involved extensive research, oral history interviews, and the creation of a preliminary inventory of LGBTQ+ associated properties, both extant, and non-extant, to assist individuals, organizations, local governments, and historians in understanding these resources through the lens of the NRHP. What this context statement revealed was that LGBTQ+ resources differ from a traditional historic property in many ways. The research involved the typical research of archival collections, but also relied on more non-traditional culling through social media LGBTQ+ history pages—the project historians simply needed to go where the history was located.

LGBTQ+ people have always lived in Atlanta, but the freedom to live openly in the city only really began evolving during the last 40 to 50 years. Therefore, the research approach needed to be flexible, sensitive, and understanding of this history. The places that became the home to LGBTQ+ social activities, religious and spiritual life, how individuals and groups of people took care of their medical and emotional health and advocated for their civil rights – it all evolved over time. Most of these places were not purpose built but used existing space wherever it could be found. For many buildings and locations, low visibility was a priority, so LGBTQ+ people would feel safe. Because this history is relatively recent and an evolving one that often required the consultation of non-traditional sources, there is much history left to be told, and additional significant places to discover.

Similarly, the approach to viewing these properties through the lens of the NRHP needs to account for how the property types are similar- many are similar in that they are all different. It is typical to find a bar or business under the Social Spaces theme that changed names and locations frequently. It is also typical to see LGBTQ+ associated places operate in an existing historic building and retrofit that building for different uses and needs. Additionally, many LGBTQ+ associated buildings, sites, and structures will need to be assessed as properties that are less than 50 years of age, simply because much of this important history is part of our recent past.

It is essential that this work continue and that significant LGBTQ+ places and spaces be recognized, interpreted, and preserved. The inventory research alone tells us that we have lost so many places already. To ensure documentation and preservation efforts continue, the following recommendations are suggested for the City of Atlanta, Historic Atlanta, Inc., and other community partners that are focused on history and historic preservation in the City of Atlanta:

- Undertake a comprehensive city-wide historic resources survey that is targeted at (but not limited to) the included Inventory in this report. The survey should include field work and engagement with community stakeholders to assist with the identification of properties and assessing National Register integrity. Community engagement will be crucial when documenting these properties in order to help inform each property's key character defining traits through historic photos and oral history interviews.
- Develop new nominations for listing in the National Register of Historic Places of the

following places and spaces in the City of Atlanta: Outwrite Bookstore and Coffeeshop (10th & Piedmont Building); Michael Hardwick Home (811 Ponce de Leon Place, NE); AIDS Research Consortium of Atlanta (965 Virginia Avenue, NE), ALFA House #1 & #2 (1190 Mansfield Avenue, NE); 1326 McLendon Avenue, NE); Atlanta Gay Center (931 Ponce de Leon Avenue); Bulldog's (893 Peachtree Street); Charis Bookstore (419 Moreland Avenue); Ansley Mall; Funtone World Headquarters (1714 Adolphus Street); Grady Memorial Hospital; Grady Ponce De Leon Center; Metropolitan Community Church (80 North Highland Avenue); Mrs. P's (551 Ponce de Leon Avenue); The Sweet Gum Head (2284 Cheshire Bridge Road); The Jerusalem House (831 Briarcliff Road); and The Strip (Between 10th & 11th on Peachtree Street).

- Amend existing listings in the NRHP in the City of Atlanta to include LGBTQ+ history as an area of significance. These include but are not limited to: the Wincoff Hotel (176 Peachtree Street), Piedmont Park, Midtown, Ansley Park, Candler Park and Virginia-Highland historic districts.
- Explore the creation of City of Atlanta Historic or Landmark Districts in areas of the City of Atlanta with high levels of LGBTQ+ significance, through the City of Atlanta's regular designation process contained in the City of Atlanta's Historic Preservation Ordinance including extensive community engagement, discussion, and consultation with the potentially affected property owners. These areas may include: Piedmont Park, Midtown, Ansley Park, Candler Park, Little 5 Points Community Business District and Virginia-Highland.

- Establish a prioritized list of significant places & spaces that would be potential candidates for designation as City of Atlanta Landmark Buildings/Sites. Their potential actual designation would follow the City of Atlanta's regular designation process contained in the City of Atlanta's Historic Preservation Ordinance and take into account extensive community engagement / discussion and consultation with the affected property owners. The list should prioritize those properties that are in perilous condition and in greatest need of preservation action, whether through neglect or if threatened by encroaching development. It is suggested the first prioritized list be generated within six (6) months of the release of this historic context statement report and subsequently updated as an addendum to this report no less than every two (2) years.
- Consider developing an LGBTQ+ history Interpretive Plan for the City of Atlanta (taking into account extensive community engagement and discussion) that would highlight LGBTQ+ places and spaces through interpretive signage including but not limited to: Georgia Historical Society markers, public exhibits, virtual / in person walking tours, social media campaigns, educational programs, and other means. The goal of the Interpretive Plan should be to raise public awareness of the importance of these places and spaces and the need to preserve them as a part of the City's future physical heritage.
- Consider creating a Legacy Business program for the City of Atlanta that recognizes and provides assistance to long-standing business in the City. In such a program, businesses serving the LGBTQ+ community for a period

of 20 years or more should be considered candidates for recognition and assistance.

- Incorporate the information and recommendations of this Historic Context Statement work into the initiatives and programs of the City of Atlanta’s Future Places Project and use recommendations of the Future Places Project’s “Call to Action ” to advance the understanding of LGBTQ+ history in the City of Atlanta.
- Incorporate the preservation of historic LGBTQ+ places and spaces into existing and future City of Atlanta master planning efforts.

## FUTURE RESEARCH NEEDS

Because the period of significance of this context ends in 2000 and the project scope generally limited the research and resource identification to those properties located within the City of Atlanta limits, it was clear from the outset that additional work would be needed to accurately and comprehensively capture the extensive breadth of LGBTQ+ history in the metropolitan area. With this understanding, the following topics are recommended for future research:

- Additional LGBTQ+ contextual histories are needed to identify the historic themes and significant historic resources in other parts of metropolitan Atlanta, particularly in the City of Decatur and other incorporated and unincorporated areas of the Clayton, Cobb, DeKalb, Fulton, and Gwinnett counties.
- Additional research and documentation of Black LGBTQ+ historic resources in Atlanta

are urgently needed. Archival materials of significant Black LGBTQ+ people, organizations, places, and events are still underrepresented in local repositories and at this time, much of this important information has only been recorded in oral histories, contemporaneous media, or in recent social media posts.

- More research is also required on the histories of other important ethnic LGBTQ+ groups in metropolitan Atlanta, particularly LGBTQ+ people in the Asian and Latin communities, which largely began to settle in surrounding areas outside the City of Atlanta during the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries.
- The history of Atlanta’s transgender community is another area of the larger LGBTQ+ story that requires additional research and documentation. As with some ethnic LGBTQ+ groups, many trans healthcare, political, and social organizations did not become active until the early twenty-first century and other metropolitan areas located beyond the Atlanta city limits.
- This historic context statement provides a strong foundation and context for LGBTQ+ history in the City of Atlanta. However, additional significant people, places, and events associated with LGBTQ+ history that are within the period of significance are likely to be identified, as well as new information gathered on previously identified places and spaces. As such, it is recommended that this additional information be included as an addendum to this report with updates no less than every five (5) years.