

PROPERTY INFORMATION FORM

Property Identification: This resource was previously documented in the Property Information Form for the Murphy Triangle Industrial District (Resource 12) for GDOT Project CSSTP-0009-00(396), P.I. No. 0009396, and HP No. 130926-002, Fulton County.

Location: The property is located at 1050 Murphy Avenue and is roughly bounded by Sylvan Road to the west, Murphy Avenue to the northwest, the former Louisville and Nashville Railroad corridor to the northeast, Biglin Street to the east, and Warner Street to the south.

Date(s) of Development: The period of significance for the property is 1941-1966. A date of construction for the resource was not provided in the Fulton County tax assessor's record. However, research on the property indicates that the resource was constructed as the Georgia State Farmers' Market in 1941, expanded circa 1950, expanded again between 1950 and 1955, altered circa 1960 when several buildings were demolished, a new warehouse was constructed, and open-air sheds were enclosed to accommodate a change in use, and altered again in the 1970s when most of the remaining buildings were once more extensively remodeled and large additions were constructed. The parcel has been subdivided in recent years and the extant buildings are either utilized by the Department of Corrections or are vacant and significantly deteriorated. Three buildings that were not originally part of the farmers' market have also been added to the State-owned property since 1960; however, since these buildings were not historically part of the farmers' market, they have been excluded from this Property Information Form (see Site Graphic).

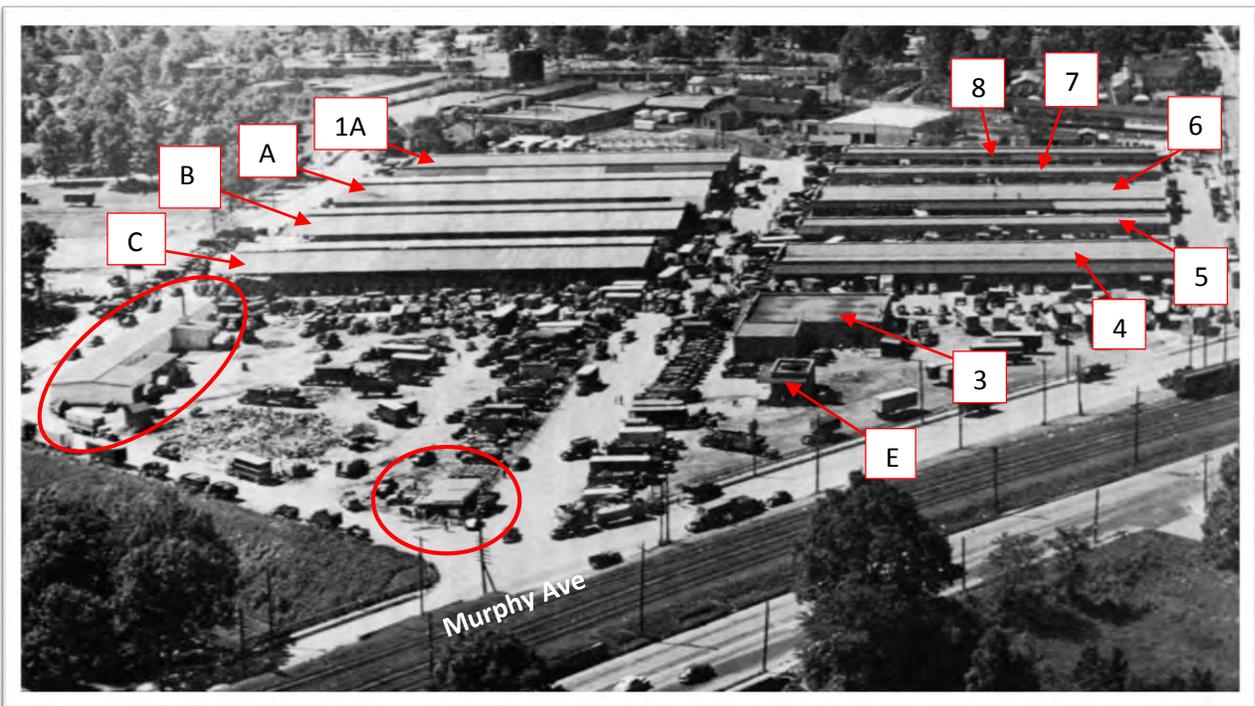


Figure 1: Birdseye view facing south toward the resource showing the original layout of the farmers' market, circa 1941-1949. Buildings in this photo are keyed to numbers as assigned by the State after the market closed; those identified by letter have been demolished; those circled are of unknown historic use and were demolished by 1950. Photo courtesy of Westview resident, Patrick Berry from *Food, Fairs and Farmers' Markets in Atlanta*, by Herbert T. Jenkins. Original photo source is unknown.



Buildings noted in yellow are keyed to the building numbers assigned by the state in the 1960s. The three buildings noted to the right of the farmers market property were independently owned and operated produce companies that later came under the ownership of the State of Georgia. The former locations of buildings that have been demolished are noted in red.

SITE GRAPHIC

GDOT Project CSSTP-0009-00(396),
 P.I. #0009396, Fulton County
 HP No. 130926-002

SOURCE: Google Earth



NOT TO SCALE



Date(s) of Development (continued):¹ In 1935, the Georgia General Assembly passed legislation providing for the establishment of several state owned, maintained, and managed farmers' markets with the Atlanta market as the top priority.² Before to that time, markets in Atlanta consisted of open-air curb markets and an indoor municipal market, both of which were quickly overcrowded according to *Food, Fairs and Farmers' Markets in Atlanta* by Herbert T. Jenkins.³ In addition to overcrowding, by the 1920s, these markets were wrought with prostitution, junk dealers, pawn shops, and unsafe or poor quality food products; a State-managed market was the proposed solution to the problems that plagued these early markets. The first Atlanta market constructed following the 1935 legislation opened in downtown at the intersection of Courtland, Gilmer and Piedmont Avenues in January 1936. Leased by the state, the market consisted of two sheds for truck farmers, a three-story brick building for 20 wholesale dealers, an administration building, and a three-story brick building for wholesale stores, restrooms, a restaurant, and a barbershop.⁴ By 1938, there were eight state-owned farm markets operating throughout Georgia and, due to the success and growth of the Atlanta market, state officials were already discussing construction of a new market in Atlanta that could better serve as a centralized clearing house for the other state-owned markets.⁵ According to an article published in June 1938 in *The Atlanta Constitution*, the growth was due to a surplus and variety of crops available for sale as a result of federal crop diversification programs, but because small Georgia farmers had nowhere to take those crops, a larger, regional and year-round market was needed.⁶ A 16-acre tract of land on Murphy Avenue and Sylvan Road was purchased for construction of the new farmers' market on June 10, 1938.⁷

By 1940, the state had obtained a grant from the Works Progress Administration (WPA) for \$1,000,000 and received another \$500,000 from the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to fund construction of the market.⁸ The project was anticipated to employ a large number of men through the WPA for nine to twelve months; however, the location of the proposed market was under question. Although the property along Murphy Avenue had been purchased by the state in 1938, a review of local newspaper articles between 1938 and 1940 indicates that property owners in the residential area surrounding the Murphy Avenue location objected to the market's proposed construction in their neighborhood due to the threat of "unsavory conditions," traffic congestion, and reduced property values that had plagued previous markets in Atlanta.⁹ Around this time, residents in the areas of Grant Park, Home Park/Peters Park, Brisbane Park (Mechanicsville), and southeast of the city near the Federal Prison on South Boulevard also objected to construction of the proposed new farmers' market in those locations. Opposition was so great that by early 1940, city leaders feared they might lose funding for the market, which had grown to an estimated

¹ Many of *The Atlanta Constitution* newspaper articles referenced in this text were provided to the consultant by Westview resident, Patrick Berry via emails received January 14-15, 2016.

² Herbert T. Jenkins, *Food, Fairs and Farmers' Markets in Atlanta*, Emory University, Atlanta, 1977.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Unknown, "New Farm Market Will Be Opened Soon," *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 5, 1936.

⁵ Unknown, "New Farm Market May Be Built Here," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 7, 1938.

⁶ Unknown, "State Buys Tract to Build Market Costing \$1,000,000," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 11, 1938.

⁷ Ibid.

⁸ Unknown, "Proposed \$1,500,000 State Market Would Put Agriculture In Georgia on the Soundest Basis in History, Experts Declare," *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 31, 1940.

⁹ Unknown, "Leaders Fear City May Lose Farm Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, April 26, 1940.

\$5,000,000.¹⁰ Despite local opposition, the Murphy Avenue location was ultimately selected and grading of the site began at the end of 1940.¹¹

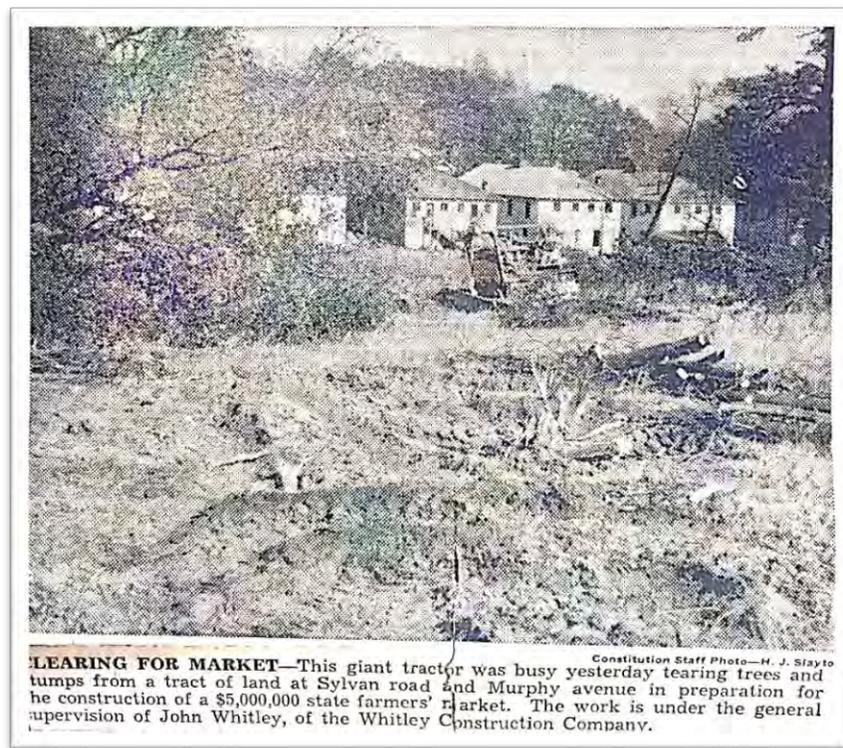


Figure 2: Future site of the farmers' market, showing the approximate future location of Building 11
The Atlanta Constitution, November 29, 1940

The lease for the Courtland Avenue market expired at midnight, December 31, 1940, temporarily leaving Atlanta without an official farmers' market, though a market appears to have continued to operate at the site until at least May of 1941.¹² In February of 1941, the Murphy Avenue construction site was toured by representatives from three neighboring states indicating that the Atlanta farmers' market was already becoming a model for proposed markets throughout the southern United States.¹³ The Atlanta farmers' market unofficially opened on May 10, 1941 when the first merchants began moving from the Courtland Avenue market, but the official dedication ceremony was not scheduled until June when construction of the administration building would be complete.¹⁴

Multiple attempts were made to locate original plans of the site. In addition to conducting extensive review of building permits, deed records, reports completed by the EPA, and archival records in the collection of the Atlanta History Center and the Georgia Archives, representatives from the Georgia Department of Agriculture and the Georgia State Building Authority were also contacted. It is believed that original plans of the site are no longer in existence, and according to files housed

¹⁰ Ibid.

¹¹ Unknown, "State Farmers' Project Will Be Built, He Says," *The Atlanta Constitution*, November 28, 1940.

¹² Unknown, "State's Lease Expires On Farmers' Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 3, 1941.

¹³ Unknown, "Leaders Laud New Farmer's Market Here," *The Atlanta Constitution*, February 7, 1941.

¹⁴ Unknown, "New Market For Farmers Opens Today," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 10, 1941.

at the Georgia Archives, plans of the site were reportedly missing by the early 1970s when renovations of the site were being proposed.¹⁵ However, newspaper articles from 1941 indicate that when opened, the market included six brick buildings that provided space for 110 merchants (the number of individual units in each building varied from source to source, and is therefore unknown). These units were equipped with gas, heat, lights, water, a concrete floor, and a glass door that could be raised or lowered as needed (see attached graphics).¹⁶ According to *The Atlanta Constitution*, all of these units were leased prior to the opening of the new market and there was a waiting list for space in new units which were anticipated to be constructed once additional funds were available.¹⁷ The market also included three open-air steel sheds that were to be utilized by the approximately 6,000 small-scale truck farmers that were anticipated per day.¹⁸ The sheds provided space for 117 market units that were rented for fifty cents per day. The site also included an administration building (still under construction at the time of the opening), concrete drives, nearby access to railroad facilities, and a teletype machine for staying up-to-date on current market prices throughout the state and country. In addition to more wholesale buildings, plans for the site also included the future construction of sewing, cooking, and canning facilities for housewives, as well as a theater for educational films.¹⁹



Figure 3: View of merchants'/wholesalers' buildings (Buildings 4-8) - *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 11, 1941
Although the image resolution is dark, the original fenestration pattern of the wholesalers' units is clear.

¹⁵ Bill Nichols and Max Poole, Old State Farmers' Market Recommendation Memo "State of Georgia Reorganization and Management Improvement Study," August 10, 1971, RCB 5124: Governor – Legal Division Subject Files – 1971-1975, Georgia Archives and History Department (C219472: Farmer's Market, Old (Transferred from the Dept. of Education)), Morrow, Georgia.

¹⁶ Unknown, "New Market For Farmers Opens Today," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 10, 1941.

¹⁷ Unknown, "State Farmer's Market Will Open Monday," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 7, 1941.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ "New Market"

Sales within the first five months the farmers' market was in operation reportedly exceeded \$500,000 and "approximately 800 to 1,000" produce-filled trucks arrived at the market each day.²⁰ Activity at the market increased drastically following the United States' entry into World War II in December of 1941, approximately six months after the opening of the new market. By June of the following year, articles began appearing in local papers encouraging Atlanta housewives to support the war effort by purchasing surplus produce and canning food items. The process of home-canning reportedly aided the war effort by conserving metal and preventing extreme food rationing; it helped the housewife by providing nutritious and out of season foods to her family during winter months; and it helped the local farmer by moving his surplus produce and providing him with the income necessary to improve the next year's crops.²¹ By the 1943 season, a cannery had been added to the farmers' market facility. Although plans of the site could not be located, newspaper articles and historic Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps indicate that the cannery was either constructed as an addition to the administration building (later identified as Building 3—see attached site graphics), or was constructed as a freestanding building that was demolished between 1950 and 1955 and then relocated to Building 3. By 1943, the war effort had threatened the United States with a severe food shortage and the construction of canneries at farmers' markets throughout the state was an attempt to avoid extreme rationing. According to an interview with Tom Linder, the state commissioner of agriculture, secondhand canning equipment had been purchased and was being installed in Atlanta in January 1943 to aid in the war effort.²² According to Linder, commercially-processed foods were needed for the military, so the cannery was being constructed to encourage women to come to the market, buy items in bulk, and take them to the cannery where they would be preserved, canned and bottled at no cost to the consumer; the cost was to be covered by the State. By canning food for their own families, commercially-processed foods could be saved for the troops and our allies.²³ By March of that year, the construction of the cannery was nearing completion and housewives were encouraged to can produce purchased at the farmers' market, or to bring their own produce grown from Victory Gardens.²⁴ According to the Smithsonian Institute, the government encouraged citizens to plant personal vegetable gardens, known as Victory Gardens, to "ensure an adequate food supply for civilians and troops".²⁵

The cannery consisted of a prep room, where the produce was washed and readied for canning, and a room for putting the produce into the cans.²⁶ Next the cans were heated and pre-sealed before being placed into retorts (pressure cookers), and finally placed in large cooling vats. The cannery included a staff to oversee and aid in the preparatory work, mark the cans, and complete the canning process for the customer.²⁷ The cannery was a huge success and was expanded almost

²⁰ Patricia Bronte, "Housewives Urged To Join U.S., Farmers In Drive To Defeat Axis by Canning Food," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 12, 1942.

²¹ Ibid.

²² Lamar Q. Ball, "State Market To Can Foods For Housewife," *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 3, 1943.

²³ Ibid.

²⁴ Unknown, "Non-Profit Cannery To Open at Market For Use of Public," *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 21, 1943.

²⁵ The Smithsonian Institute, "Within These Walls... Victory Garden," available from <http://amhistory.si.edu/house/yourvisit/victorygarden.asp>.

²⁶ The exact location of the original cannery is unknown because plans of the site could not be found and were reported to no longer exist by the 1970s; however, it is likely that the cannery was originally housed in the long building identified by a red circle in Figure 1, and was later relocated to Building 3 circa 1947.

²⁷ Ibid.

immediately as an expansion was already under construction by May 1943.²⁸ By the time the cannery opened, a five-cent charge had been added (three cents for the can and two cents for processing), and the customer had to sign a document promising that the canned items would not be sold.²⁹ The war-effort propaganda surrounding the cannery was so successful, that plans for a second expansion were already underway by June 1943, and a third expansion was complete by February 1944.³⁰ Less than one year after opening, the cannery had more than tripled in size.³¹

In October 1943, the farmers' market suffered the first of several fires to occur at the property. According to *The Atlanta Constitution*, the fire occurred in one of the "large operators' stalls," presumably in one of the wholesalers' buildings (later identified as Buildings 1A, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8), although the exact location of the fire is unknown.³² The damages were estimated at \$25,000. While the newspaper article only discussed the damage in terms of the produce lost, it is presumed that damages of such high cost must have resulted in significant damage to the building as well.

By the summer of 1945, nearly four years into World War II, food shortages were increasing as was the importance of the farmers' market. Because so many American men were at war, there was not enough labor to work in the agricultural fields, leading to a shortage of crops. The war years increased the necessity of Victory Gardens, of purchasing produce surplus, and of self-canning for personal consumption.³³ However, following the conclusion of World War II in September of 1945, the farmers' market was busier than ever. By June of 1946, expansion at the farmers' market was desperately needed and Agricultural Commissioner Tom Linder was campaigning for State appropriations to expand the market.³⁴ According to Linder, the market needed to at least double in size to accommodate the needs of the farmers and buyers.³⁵ There was not enough room to accommodate the vast truckloads of produce that was delivered to the market daily, and as a result of debilitating traffic congestion, produce often spoiled on trucks waiting for a space in one of the three pavilions. On average, 350 trucks per day were lined up outside the market waiting for a space to open.³⁶

By the 1947 summer season, Linder was still campaigning to expand the market by acquiring adjacent land.³⁷ Although several newspaper articles at the time indicate that the State had developed plans to expand onto an additional 12 acres through eminent domain, it appears as though the full 12 acres was not acquired until the 1970s-1990s, and the market was forced to expand within the confines of the existing parcel. By March of 1950, the farmers' market had been expanded significantly and was running 24 hours per day year round. The new construction included: two steel sheds (Buildings 2 and 11), an ice storage house (Building E), a weights and

²⁸ Al Sharp, "New State Cannery Already Is Proving a Super-Success," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 16, 1943.

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Unknown, "Atlanta State Cannery Is Now Being Enlarged," *The Atlanta Constitution*, February 29, 1944.

³¹ Unknown, "Another Expansion Planned For Cannery Early in July," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 30, 1943.

³² Unknown, "State Market Is Damaged by \$25,000 Fire," *The Atlanta Constitution*, October 3, 1943.

³³ Carolyn Carter, "Victory Gardens 'Must': Cut In Truck Farming May Hit Housewives," *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 11, 1945.

³⁴ Ann Wood, "Atlanta's Farmers' Market Sadly in Need of Space," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 25, 1946.

³⁵ Ibid.

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ Celestine Sibley, "Linder Urges Doubling In Space Of State Farmers' Market Here," *The Atlanta Constitution*, July 6, 1947.

measures building with scales (Building 15), a hamper (a building for the storage/sale of baskets and other packing materials) (Building F), a warehouse (Building D) a merchants' building (Building D), and an auction building (Building 10). The wholesalers' building later identified as Building 8 was expanded by the construction of a large addition across the entire south façade, and the new wholesalers' building identified as Building 9 joined Buildings 1A and 8 into one large structure. Improvements at this time also included paving, water lines, and a sewer system.³⁸

It appears as though these alterations still did not solve the needs of the farmers' market, because between 1950 and 1955, Buildings 13 and 14 were constructed. The original uses of these are not known because, as stated previously, plans of the site are not available. Multiple newspaper articles during this time indicate the necessity for additional space for wholesale units and the original expansion proposals included the construction of a refrigerated warehouse and a poultry and egg building; therefore, due to its substantial brick construction and location directly adjacent to the railroad line, it is believed that Buildings 13 and 14 likely housed a combination of these uses as well as offices for produce dealers.³⁹ City Directories of the time also indicate that a "Colored Grill" was located on the property, but additional information on the restaurant or its possible location on the site was is unknown.⁴⁰ However, because the resource was in operation during the era of racial segregation in the south, it is reasonable to assume that the farmers' market provided separate dining and restroom facilities for African American patrons and/or workers.



Figure 4: Birdseye view of the resource, facing northwest, taken circa 1950-1955. Photo courtesy of Westview resident, Patrick Berry from *Food, Fairs and Farmers' Markets in Atlanta* by Herbert T. Jenkins.

³⁸ W.L. Cathey, "Farmers' Market Doubles Capacity, Needs More Space," *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 28, 1950.

³⁹ Unknown, "Scale Model Market Is Rage at Exposition," *The Atlanta Constitution*, October 10, 1947.

⁴⁰ 1957 Atlanta City Directory from the collection of the Atlanta History Center.

As early as 1954, talks of moving the Atlanta farmers' market to a new facility began appearing in local newspapers and a new market site may have been a campaign platform for Agricultural Commissioner Elect, Phil Campbell. According to Linder's study of the Murphy Avenue site conducted in 1946, approximately 75 acres were necessary for the market to be successful, yet the site only contained 16 acres. The site had become overcrowded, traffic was congested, and because of a lack of loading docks, labor costs at the Murphy Avenue location were high.⁴¹ In the midst of these tumultuous times, a fire in January of 1955 damaged one of the steel farmers' sheds causing \$7,500 in damages.⁴² It appears as though this damage may have been captured in a 1955 aerial photograph of the site available at www.historicaerials.com (see attached).

In a situation similar to that of the 1930s, local residents initially opposed at least one proposed site for the relocation of the farmers' market before a site was selected and optioned by the State in July of 1955. That year, the state legislature created the State Farm Market Authority that issued bonds for the construction of the new market.⁴³ The 106-acre site was located in Clayton County, south of Atlanta, adjacent to a new expressway and would include a new railroad spur. The Department of Agriculture hoped to move to the new location by the 1957 summer season and anticipated that the sale of the Murphy Avenue location would cover the cost of the new market.⁴⁴ Newspaper articles from the era indicate that in February 1956, the state officially purchased 146 acres for the new market, construction was well underway by May 1957, and the new State Farmers' Market officially opened in January 1959.⁴⁵ The new market included 16 sheds exclusively for the use of Georgia farmers, as opposed to the one shed available at the Murphy Avenue location. It also included nine dealers' buildings with room for over 200 wholesalers, "two cafeterias, a hamper house, a filling station, a cannery...and an administration building."⁴⁶ The new market incorporated one significant design change: customers were no longer able to drive through the farmers' sheds. The Murphy Avenue market proved that the system of drive-through facilities did not work and customers at the new market were forced to park their cars and walk through the sheds to choose their produce, thus eliminating the traffic congestion that plagued the previous markets.⁴⁷

⁴¹ Unknown, "Campbell Asks New Site For Atlanta Farm Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, October 4, 1954.

⁴² Unknown, "Blaze Strickes Farmers Market; Damage \$7,500," *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 17, 1955.

⁴³ M. L. St. John, "Freeway Site Optioned for Farm Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, July 2, 1955.

⁴⁴ Ibid.

⁴⁵ *The Atlanta Constitution*, February-May, 1957.

⁴⁶ Celestine Sibley, "Elbow Room for Farmers At \$10,000,000 Mart," *The Atlanta Constitution*, August 24, 1958.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

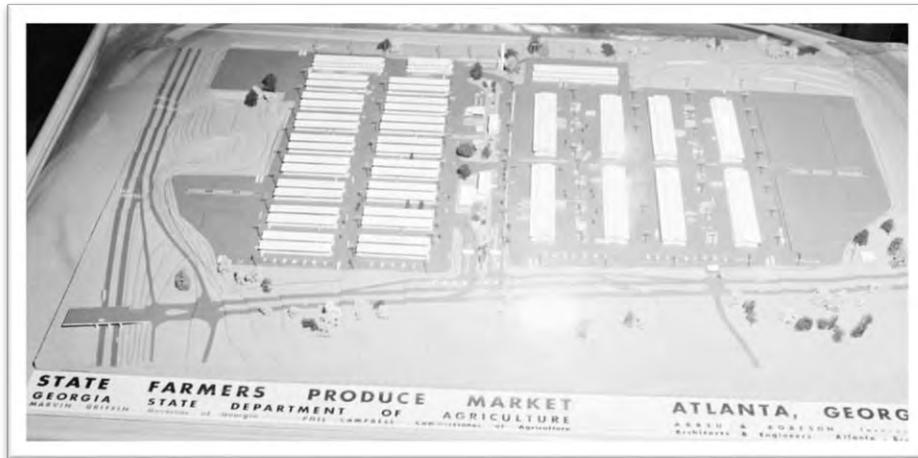


Figure 5: Georgia State Farmers' Produce Market model dated 12-06-1956 from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers

During the transition from the Murphy Avenue farmers' market to the Forest Park location, two fires occurred at the Murphy Avenue location, causing additional damage to the buildings there.⁴⁸ What immediately occurred at the site following the relocation of the farmers' market is unknown; however, by 1960, extensive alterations had been made. Documents at the Georgia State Archives indicate that the property stayed under the ownership of the State of Georgia, but was under the direction of the Department of Education who then leased buildings on the site to various other governmental agencies.⁴⁹ It was likely at this time that the buildings were assigned the numbers referenced in this report. By 1960, the three original farmers' sheds (Buildings A, B, and C) were demolished and a large, metal-clad storage building was constructed in their place. Most of the individual doors that once characterized the wholesalers' units were enclosed with brick and/or concrete block during this time, as were windows and doors on other buildings. Building 11, once an open-air shed, was completely enclosed with concrete block. Throughout the remainder of the 20th century, the property came under the ownership and management of the Department of Administrative Services and the Georgia Building Authority and much of the site functioned merely as warehouse space for a variety of governmental agencies. These include warehouses for the State Departments of Revenue Alcohol Division, Public Health, Education, Sanitation, Human Services, Human Resources, Geodetic Survey, Mines and Mining, Security, Emergency Health Service Radiological Maintenance, and Surplus War Property, as well as Fulton County Government.⁵⁰

During this time, the property also housed the Department of Education's Library for the Blind, the Bobby Dodd Workshop, and the A.P. Jarrell Center. A review of City Directories and files at the Georgia Archives indicate that the Library for the Blind appears to have been installed by 1961 at Building 3, though it later occupied Buildings 5, 6 and 7. As part of the Department of Education's facilities, the library was one of several in the state that provided braille and large-print books to young adults with visual impairments. Initially founded by the Atlanta Association

⁴⁸ Unknown, "Second Flash Fire Hits Old Farmers Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, January 20, 1959.

⁴⁹ Nichols and Poole, Old State Farmers' Market Recommendation Memo.

⁵⁰ 1961-2013 Atlanta City Directory from the collection of the Atlanta History Center.

for Retarded Children, the A.P. Jarrell Pre-Vocational Evaluation and Adjustment Center (the A.P. Jarrell Center) worked in conjunction with the Bobby Dodd Workshop to provide counseling, assessment, vocational training, and job placement services to intellectually disabled young adults.⁵¹ The facility eventually came under the direction of the state's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and occupied a number of various buildings on the property.

By 1971, the site was in a desperate state of disrepair and most of the buildings on the property were considered to be in "fair to poor" condition.⁵² A 1976 assessment of the property stated that the staff had been subjected to working in "demoralizing conditions associated with the physical plant and its incomplete refurbishing. The staff [was] to be commended on its continuing efforts to deliver effective services within the present physical environment...[and] there [was] understandable reluctance to deliberately invite public involvement or visitation in view of the facility's present physical condition"⁵³ According to city directories, the Department of Education Adult Education Warehouse (formerly known as the Bobby Dodd Workshop and the A.P. Jarrell Center) appears to have vacated the property by the early 1980s and the Library for the Blind left between 1986 and 1991.⁵⁴

By 1971, the property's boundaries had been expanded to include Building 12, a brick and stone "café, farm produce, etc." building completed in 1946 for Earl Wingo, according to building permits on file at the Atlanta History Center (Permit No. 5248). The property has since been expanded to include the former Fidelity Fruit Company and includes all land east of the original boundaries of the original farmers' market site roughly bounded by Biglin Street to the west, Warner Street to the south, Alene Street to the east, and Building 13 to the north. Because the buildings on these properties were not historically associated with the farmers' market, they have not been evaluated in this report.

Description: The resource is a former farmers' market and State-owned facility that currently consists of the following twelve buildings (see attached photographs).

Building 1A: This building is one of the original six wholesalers' buildings constructed in 1941. These brick buildings are long and low with flat roofs. They were originally constructed with multiple roll-top glass doors that created individual units for the wholesale dealers. The buildings were equipped with decorative lights inside and outside each unit, gas, heat, lights, running water, and a concrete floor. Several of these dealers constructed offices and unique spaces within their units. These buildings appear to have been historically topped with decorative urns at the corners of the roof; however, all but a few remaining on this building have been lost. This building appears to have been later used by the Bobby Dodd Workshop and the A.P. Jarrell Center. To accommodate this change, many of the individual units were removed and the interior of the building is now largely one open space. The building appears to have been altered again during

⁵¹ Frank S. Greenberg, A.P. Jarrell Pre-Vocational Evaluation and Training Center Survey for Accreditation, May 1975, RCB 23770: Vocational Rehabilitation – Director's Office – Director's Subject Files 1956-1973 A through W, Georgia Archives and History Department (C 344860: Bobby Dodd Workshop), Morrow, Georgia.

⁵² Nichols and Poole, Old State Farmers' Market Recommendation Memo.

⁵³ Frank S. Greenberg, A.P. Jarrell Pre-Vocational Evaluation and Training Center Survey for Accreditation, May 1975, RCB 23770: Vocational Rehabilitation – Director's Office – Director's Subject Files 1956-1973 A through W, Georgia Archives and History Department (C 344860: Bobby Dodd Workshop), Morrow, Georgia.

⁵⁴ 1957-1991 Atlanta City Directory from the collection of the Atlanta History Center.

the 1970s renovations as at least one office space is clad with wooden paneling indicative of the era. The building is in an advanced state of disrepair and decay. There are numerous large holes in the roof that have led to the structural failure of internal wooden support beams. The building is covered with extensive mold growth that has completely encompassed several rooms, remaining windows are broken, and a tree is growing through the eastern end of the building.

Building 1: This building is a large, triple barrel utility shed constructed in 1960 to house surplus war property. This building is clad in corrugated metal siding that is quite rusted. Access to the interior of this building was not granted during the field survey.

Building 2: This building is the last remaining open-air shed formerly associated with the farmers' market. It consists of a side-gabled roof, a steel truss system, and a central concrete form that was utilized by the truck farmers. This building was not one of the original sheds constructed on the property, and appears to have been constructed circa 1950.

Building 3: This building was constructed as the offices and administration of the farmers' market in 1941. It is a brick building with metal sash windows; however, many of the window and door openings have been enclosed with concrete block. The building was expanded circa 1950 and eventually housed offices, a cafeteria, and the cannery. The building was later used by the State of Georgia as the library for the blind and as the Georgia Building Authority. The building is in an advanced state of disrepair. The interior floor plan has been modified on multiple occasions, the ceiling is collapsing, there are large holes in the roof, broken windows, missing doors, and extensive water and mold damage.

Building 4: This building is one of the original six wholesalers' buildings constructed in 1941. To accommodate the change in use following 1959, the door and window openings have been enclosed with concrete block. The building is currently vacant and appears to have been vacant for quite some time. The building was evaluated by the State in 1974 as being in "fair to poor condition". It is not certain if the building has been utilized since that time.

Buildings 5, 6, and 7: These buildings are among the original six wholesalers' buildings constructed in 1941. Like other buildings on the property, the original door and window openings have been enclosed with concrete block and the interiors were significantly modified in the 1960s and again in the 1970s. Large additions were constructed between Buildings 5 and 6, and between Buildings 6 and 7 in the mid-1970s. These buildings were occupied by the A.P. Jarrell Center and the Bobby Dodd Workshop in the 1960s and 1970s, and are currently occupied by the Department of Corrections, but the department is in the process of vacating the buildings. These buildings are no longer on the same legal parcel as the other farmers' market buildings.

Building 8: This building is one of the original six wholesalers' buildings constructed in 1941. Like the other buildings, the original door and window openings have been enclosed with concrete block. A large addition was constructed across the south elevation of this building circa 1950. This building was connected to Building 1A by the construction of Building 9 circa 1950. This building is completely surrounded by security fencing and was not accessible during the field assessment. These buildings were occupied by the A.P. Jarrell Center and the Bobby Dodd Workshop in the 1960s and 1970s, and their interiors were significantly altered in the 1970s. They are currently occupied by the Department of Corrections, but the department is in the process of

vacating the buildings. This building is no longer on the same legal parcel as the other farmers' market buildings.

Building 9: This building was constructed circa 1950 to join two brick wholesale buildings, Building 1A and Building 8, to provide additional space for wholesale dealers. It is believed that the building was occupied by the A.P. Jarrell Center and the Bobby Dodd Workshop in the 1960s and 1970s and the interior was likely significantly altered at that time. It is currently occupied by the Department of Corrections, but the department is in the process of vacating the building. These buildings are no longer on the same legal parcel as the other farmers' market buildings.

Building 10: This brick building was constructed circa 1950 to function as an auction house. It has a gabled roof with overhanging eaves. Several original door and window openings have been enclosed with concrete block. By the 1970s, the building used for storage by the Department of Revenue as well as utilized by the Bobby Dodd Workshop; it was later used by the Library for the Blind. The building is in an advanced state of disrepair; there are large holes in the ceiling and extensive water and mold damage to the interior.

Building 11: This building was constructed in 1950 as an open-air shed of steel frame with a gabled roof. This building was reportedly the watermelon shed. It was enclosed with concrete block circa 1960 and used as storage for the Department of Revenue Alcohol Division. By 1971, this building was determined to have "some fairly extensive moisture and water problems" and was of "questionable value to bring up to condition for a good warehouse."⁵⁵ The rubble wall section west of the building wall at the northwest corner is observed to have advanced erosion that is undermining the building's structural integrity. There are also numerous large cracks along portions of the exterior CMU walls that stretch the entire height of the wall. Some of these cracks have been previously patched, but the patching shows evidence of separation. The existing concrete slab varies from 5 to 7 inches with no evidence of a deeper section at the columns and no evidence of reinforcing in the slab. As a result, the slab appears to have shifted unevenly as observed at one of the control joints that span the entire building. A crack in the slab that spans the entire building along the western CMU wall appears to be at a slightly lower elevation as the rest of the slab indicating settlement possibly caused by the undermining of the building. Additional cracks up to 3/4" wide were also observed in the slab.

Building 13: This three-story brick building follows the curve of the adjacent railroad bed. The building was constructed between 1950 and 1955 and was likely used as offices for wholesale dealers, for cold storage, as an egg building, or as a general shipping warehouse. Between 1960 and 1966, the building may have been used as a textbook warehouse or print shop by the Department of Education, but the use during this time is unknown. By 1971, the building was used by Fulton County for the USDA food program which distributed food to the poor. To accommodate large storage, the interior support structure was altered and the once-open interior space was divided into two.⁵⁶ Several window and door openings on this building have been enclosed with concrete block. Historic windows have been broken and the building is covered with overgrown vegetation. The building has been vacant for a number of years and is significantly deteriorated.

⁵⁵ Nichols and Poole, Old State Farmers' Market Recommendation Memo.

⁵⁶ Ibid.

Building 15: Was constructed circa 1950 as the weights and measures house for the farmers' market. The building was later leased to a private individual before returning to a state use as the Department of Education's scale house. The building is currently vacant and likely has been since the 1990s or earlier.

Three additional buildings located along the east side of Biglin Street eventually came under the ownership of the State of Georgia and are considered part of the 1050 Murphy Avenue tax parcel. However, they have been excluded from this PIF because they were constructed as independently owned and operated commercial produce companies and they do not appear to have been originally owned and operated by the Farmers' Market or the State of Georgia.

The resource is located adjacent SR 29 and the Atlanta Belt Line in an area characterized by historic industrial and residential use, as well as non-historic commercial properties and vacant lots. The buildings are located adjacent to concrete drives and very little vegetation is present on the property. A railroad spur, constructed circa 1960 is visible in the pavement north of Building 3 and south of Building 10; however, much of the track in this location has been covered by non-historic pavement.

National Register Recommendation: The property is considered **Not Eligible** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

National Register Criteria and Level of Significance: The resource was evaluated for eligibility for listing in the National Register using the National Register Criteria for Evaluation as outlined in 36 CFR Part 60.4. There are no known associations with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented with this property. No associations were indicated or suggested as a result of background research on the project area and deed research on the property, in any response to the Department's early consultation correspondence received from consulting parties, or in interviews with the current owners of the property. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion B. Also, there are no indications that the property is likely to yield information on important research questions in history or prehistory. This property does not appear to have the potential to be the principal source of important information. Therefore, there was no basis for evaluating the property under Criterion D.

The resource was evaluated under Criterion A for its historic use as a farmers' market from 1941 to 1959 and, although it was significant in the areas of commerce and agriculture, the resource no longer conveys that significance. The property was evaluated within the broader historical context of mid-20th century agricultural development in Georgia. The resource was evaluated in this context because by 1943, the market was touted in local newspapers as the biggest of its kind in the country, the only of its kind which provided free access to sellers (merchants, small farmers, and truckers), and the only of its kind to have a public cannery.⁵⁷ Although these claims were not entirely true, the resource did serve as a model for other, similar farmers' markets before construction was even completed,⁵⁸ and in 1945 the market became a model for Canadian markets as well.⁵⁹ However, the Atlanta farmers' market was not the only State-owned market in Georgia,

⁵⁷ Tom Linder, "State Market In Heart of Greater Atlanta: Georgia State Farmers' Market At Sylvan Road and Murphy Avenue Largest of Its Kind in U. S. A.," *The Atlanta Constitution*, June 30, 1943.

⁵⁸ Unknown, "Leaders Laud New Farmer's Market Here," *The Atlanta Constitution*, February 7, 1941.

⁵⁹ M.L. St. Joh, "Canadians To Copy Farm Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, March 18, 1945.

with at least eight others in operation throughout the state by 1941, three of which had canneries by 1945.⁶⁰ The Atlanta farmers' market and its associated cannery were considered to be essential to the war effort, according to Georgia State Commissioner of Agriculture, Tom Linder.⁶¹ According to Linder, "Food is the prime necessity of man at war as well as at peace. During the war it is essential that everyone should produce and save all the food possible," and the farmers' market helped make this a reality.⁶² Following the war, the Murphy Avenue market was said to supply produce to every retail grocery in Atlanta, but it had quickly outgrown its cramped location.⁶³ According to one article, the Murphy Avenue market was "the biggest market of its kind in the world and still too small for its trade."⁶⁴ Again, although the "biggest in the world" claims could not be substantiated, the market did outgrow its location almost immediately, thus suggesting that the Murphy Avenue site was clearly not adequate for the long-term viability of a state farmers market. The first expansions at the site began in 1943, only two years after opening, and continued until the market was finally forced to relocate to a significantly larger site with better automobile and railroad access in 1959. Since that time, the three original farmers' sheds have been demolished, numerous alterations have occurred, and all of the buildings are in an advanced state of disrepair. The last remaining buildings from the period of significance of the farmers' market are not enough on their own or collectively to convey the historic use of the property as a farmers' market. Although the significant role the farmers' market played in the agricultural development of Georgia is without question, the resource has been so drastically altered since the market closed that it no longer possesses the character-defining features necessary to convey its significance and association within its historic context as the Georgia State Farmers' Market during the years 1941 to 1959. Therefore, the farmers' market is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of commerce or agriculture.

The property was also evaluated within the broader historical context of mid-20th century institutional history in Atlanta because the property served as a warehouse for various government agencies and also provided a service to visually and mentally disabled youth in the city from 1955 to 1966. As storage facilities for a menagerie of state agencies, the resource does not appear to have played a significant role in the developmental history of the state or its government, nor was it the only facility in the city providing this service. The buildings do not appear to have functioned as sales or distribution centers as typically associated with an industrial complex, rather they appear to have merely housed surplus materials. Some of the buildings on the property offered other services to the community, such as Building 13 which housed the Fulton County food stamps program during the 1970s; however, these do not appear to have been historic uses, the buildings were heavily modified to accommodate these occupants, and the occupants quickly left because the buildings did not meet their needs.

Although the resource appears to have played an important role in early developments in establishing vocational training programs for disabled youth, there were other facilities available to the blind and disabled in Atlanta during the historic period, including several libraries for the

⁶⁰ Unknown, "Cannery To Open At Farm Market," *The Atlanta Constitution*, May 8, 1945.

⁶¹ Linder

⁶² Ibid.

⁶³ Ann Wood, "Atlanta's Farmers' Market Sadly in Need of Space."

⁶⁴ Celestine Sibley, "Linder Urges Doubling In Space Of State Farmers' Market Here," *The Atlanta Constitution*, July 6, 1947.

blind as well as other services for developmentally or mentally challenged youth. Furthermore, the buildings were altered to accommodate changes in use in the 1970s and later, and the rest have been left to deteriorate. While it is likely that the facility played an important role in the lives of the disabled youth in Atlanta during the 1960s, the non-historic changes and deteriorated condition of the buildings have altered the setting so that it no longer possesses the character-defining features necessary to convey its significance and association within its historic context as a state-owned property during the years 1960 to 1966. Therefore, the resource is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A in the areas of state history or education.

The resource was evaluated under Criterion C and does not appear to possess significance in the area of architecture as a farmers' market. Although property represents building types not identified in *Tilling the Earth: Georgia's Historic Agricultural Heritage—A Context* they do appear to represent a significant trend in Georgia's architectural history. Several farmers' markets were constructed across Georgia from 1935 until the 1950s, and all of them seem to have followed a similar pattern of wholesalers' buildings divided into individual units, open-air pavilions or sheds rented by truck farmers on a short-term basis for sale of various crops, and accessory buildings such as administration buildings and canneries. However, the character-defining features of these buildings have been lost as a result of historic changes that occurred after the period of significance associated with the farmers' market, 1941-1959. For example, with the exception of one remaining building, the open-air sheds have been demolished or enclosed so that their original use is no longer clearly evident. The large bays and historic windows have been enclosed on the wholesalers' buildings and the individual units of these have been removed so that each building functions as a single space. Several of these buildings have also been combined so their original footprints are no longer intact. Buildings 3, 10, and 13 have all been subjected to extensive interior alterations that have altered the original floorplans of the buildings and historic door and window openings have also been enclosed with concrete block altering the historic fenestration patterns. Finally, all of the remaining buildings have been subjected to decades of neglect and are exposed to the elements. Several have collapsed roofs, failing foundations, and severe structural deficiencies. As a result, some of the buildings, such as Building 13, were unsafe to enter during the field assessment. As a result of the material and design alterations coupled with the deteriorated conditions of the buildings, the property is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register as a farmers' market.

The resource was also does not appear to possess significance in the area of architecture for the modifications made after the property ceased functioning as a farmers' market. Evaluated within this context, the buildings associated with the property do not represent building types identified by the Georgia SHPO as significant in Georgia's architectural history. While the buildings associated with the resource are all historic and several alterations are also historic, most of the buildings on the site were significantly altered, updated and redesigned in the 1970s. These alterations included significant alterations to interior floor plans, additional alterations to historic fenestration patterns, and large additions that combined multiple buildings. According to files held at the Georgia Archives, those buildings that were not modified in the 1970s, were deemed at that time to be too deteriorated or not of an appropriate size or shape to be worthy of further investment as a warehouse or other building.⁶⁵ Buildings called out as being of "fair to poor" condition were Buildings 1A, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and 14 (demolished) Building 11 was called out as Nearly all of the buildings on the site were vacated in the 1990s and these have been left open to vandalism and

⁶⁵ Nichols and Poole, Old State Farmers' Market Recommendation Memo.

decay since that time. These buildings have collapsed roofs, crumbling structural systems, failing foundations, and extensive water and mold damage. The largest of these, Building 13, experienced extensive interior alterations in the 1970s and was deemed unsafe to enter during a recent field assessment. Buildings 4 through 9 were occupied by the Department of Corrections during the field assessment, and therefore the interiors of these buildings were not accessed during the field assessment. However, according to an interview with a representative with the Georgia Building Authority, this final occupant is in the process of vacating these buildings because of the deteriorated conditions of the buildings. Therefore, because of non-historic alterations, deteriorated conditions, and lack of architectural significance, the property is not considered eligible for inclusion in the National Register.

Integrity: When evaluated within the context of its former use as a farmers' market, the property has been determined to possess integrity in the area of location because the extant buildings remain on their original sites of construction. However, the resource has been determined not to possess integrity in the areas of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. Several of the historic buildings have been demolished, including the three original open-air pavilions, a railroad spur was constructed through the property, and a large warehouse has been constructed in place of Buildings A, B and C. Although these changes are historic, they occurred after the farmers' market relocated. The original design and fenestration pattern of Buildings 1A, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8 have been drastically altered through the enclosure of windows and large loading bays with concrete block, and Building 11, which was historically an open-air pavilion, has also been enclosed with concrete block. While these design and material alterations appear to be historic, they occurred after the period of significance of the farmers' market and are not reflective of the original use of the buildings. The designs of the wholesalers' buildings have been further altered through the construction of non-historic additions that have combined multiple and altered the original floor plans. Finally, the integrity of the resource has been compromised by the advanced state of deterioration present in all remaining buildings on the property, most of which feature gaping holes in ceilings, crumbling walls, structural damage, and extensive mold; therefore, there are few remaining physical features of workmanship evident that convey information about the construction methods or aesthetic principles associated with a particular architectural type or style. As a result of these changes, the resource is no longer reflective of its period of significance as a farmers' market and no longer retains integrity in the areas of setting or association.

When evaluated within the context of its former uses after the farmers' market left, the resource also appears to have retained integrity in the area of location because none of the buildings have been moved. However, the resource has been determined not to possess integrity in the areas of setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. The setting has been altered through the loss of several historic buildings on the property have been demolished since 1966. As a result, the overall character of the setting during its period of significance as a State-owned property is no longer evident. The buildings no longer retain their original form due to non-historic additions and alterations that have combined buildings, altered interior floorplans, and changed historic fenestration patterns. These non-historic alterations included the use of non-historic materials such as metal siding and concrete block that were added in the 1970s. Because all of the buildings are in such an advanced state of disrepair, including extensive mold damage, failing foundations, and collapsing roof systems, there are few physical features of workmanship evident that convey information about the construction methods or aesthetic principles associated with a particular architectural type or style. Because the resource no longer retains many of the original design and material features associated with its architectural type, style, and period of significance

from 1959 to 1966 when it historically functioned as a State-owned property, the resource also lacks sufficient integrity of feeling and association.

Proposed Boundary (Justification and Description): N/A

UTM Coordinates: 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map.
Southwest Atlanta Quadrangle Zone 16
Easting 739377
Northing 3734789

Prepared: Completed pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(c) in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act for GDOT Projects STP00-0002-00 (862), and STP00-0003-00 (681) (682), P.I. #0002862, 0003681, 0003682, Cherokee and Forsyth Counties, by:

Katheryn Graff, Historian
Edwards-Pitman Environmental, Inc.
1250 Winchester Parkway, Suite 200
Smyrna, Georgia 30080
(770) 333-9484

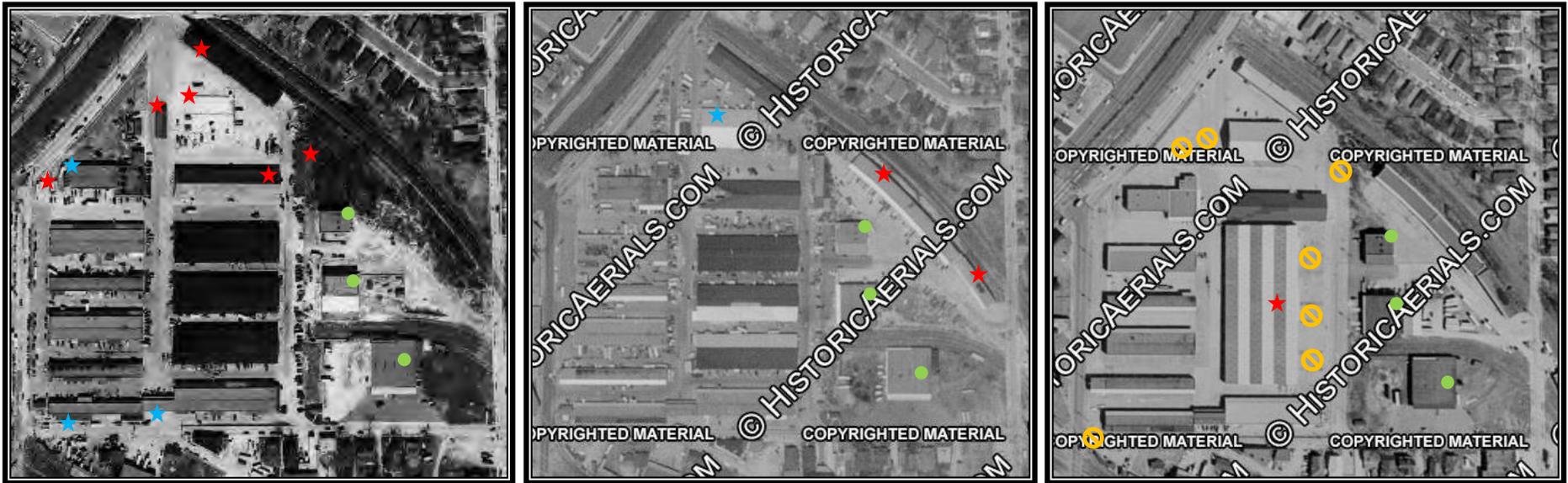


Figure 6: 1949 (left), 1955 (center), and 1960 (right). New buildings are noted in red, additions in blue, and demolitions in orange. Buildings noted in green were not originally part of the farmers' market, but were independently-owned produce companies that eventually came under the ownership of the State of Georgia.



Figure 7: 1978 (left), 1988 (center), and 1993 (right).

1949 photo from <http://digitalcollections.library.gsu.edu/cdm/ref/collection/atlaerial/id/182>

All other photos from www.historicaerials.com



Figure 8: Birdseye view of the market (facing south) after Building 11 and Building F had been constructed. Photo from *The Atlanta Constitution* February 24, 1950.



Figure 9: View of the original farmers' sheds (now demolished). Note the original fenestration pattern of the wholesalers' building visible in the distance. Photo from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers



Figure 10: View of the farmers' sheds (now demolished). Photo from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers



Figure 11: Interior of the original farmers' sheds. Several were occupied by merchants/dealers who created small storefronts within the sheds. Photo from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers



Figure 12: View of the small storefronts constructed within the original farmers' sheds. Photo from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers



Figure 13: View of the small storefronts constructed within the original farmers' sheds. Photo from the Georgia State University Library Special Collections, Lane Brothers Commercial Photographers



Photo 1: Facing northeast showing the southwest oblique of Building 1A



Photo 2: Facing southeast toward the northwest oblique of Building 1A



Photo 3: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 1A



Photo 4: Interior view of the damage within Building 1A



Photo 5: View of the damage at Building 1A



Photo 6: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 1.



Photo 7: Facing southeast toward the northwest oblique of Building 1



Photo 8: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 1



Photo 9: Facing southeast toward the northwest oblique of Building 2



Photo 10: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 2



Photo 11: Facing northeast toward Buildings 2 and 10



Photo 12: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 3



Photo 13: Facing southwest along the east elevation of Building 3



Photo 14: Interior view of Building 3



Photo 15: Interior view of the damage inside Building 3



Photo 16: Facing northeast toward the southwest oblique of Building 3 and Building 15.



Photo 17: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 4



Photo 18: Facing northeast toward the southwest oblique of Building 4



Photo 19: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 4



Photo 20: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 5



Photo 21: Facing southeast toward the northwest oblique of Building 5



Photo 22: Facing west toward the addition constructed between Buildings 5 and 6



Photo 23: Facing southwest toward the addition constructed between Buildings 5 and 6.



Photo 24: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 7



Photo 25: Facing southwest toward the northeast oblique of Building 8 and the east elevation of Building 7



Photo 26: Facing east along the south elevation of Building 8



Photo 27: Facing northeast toward the south façade of Buildings 9 and 1A



Photo 28: Facing south toward the north elevation of Building 9



Photo 29: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 10



Photo 30: Facing northeast toward the southwest oblique of Building 10

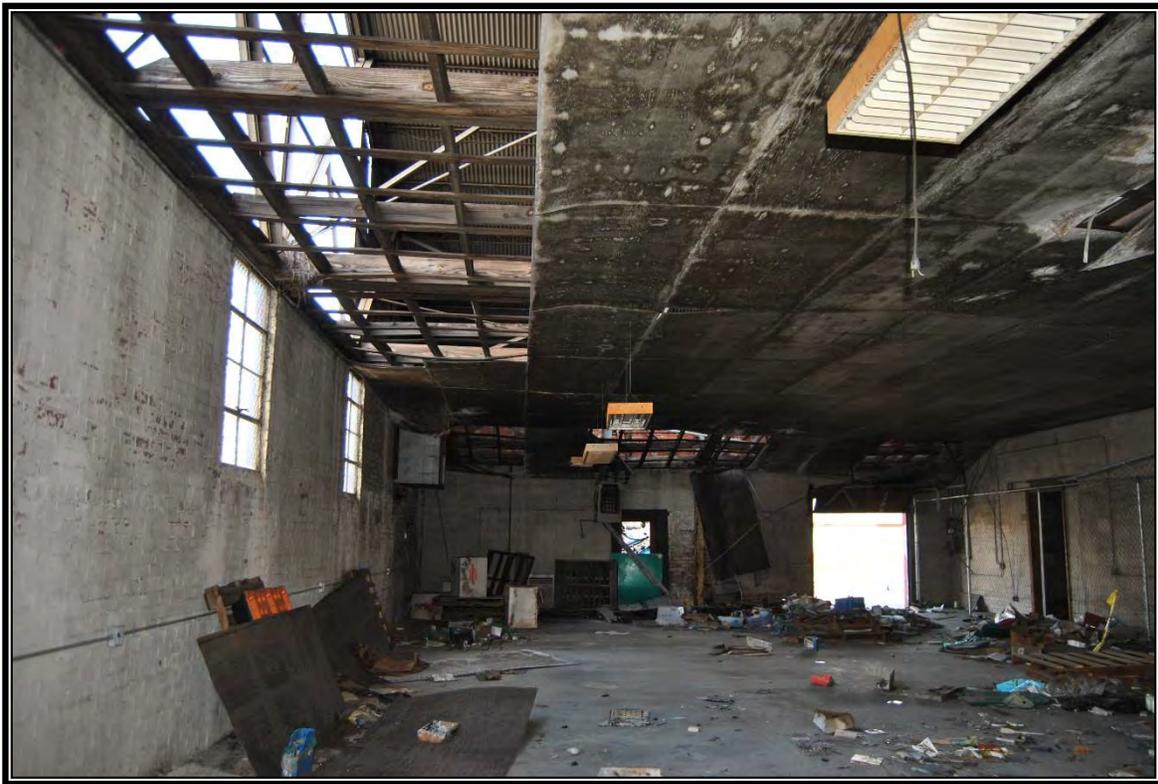


Photo 31: Interior view of the damage inside Building 10



Photo 32: Facing northeast toward the southwest elevation of Building 11



Photo 33: Facing northwest toward the southeast oblique of Building 11



Photo 34: Facing southeast along the northwest oblique of Building 11



Photo 35: Interior view of Building 11



Photo 36: Facing northwest along the east elevation of Building 13



Photo 37: Facing east toward the west elevation of Building 13



Photo 38: Facing north along the west elevation of Building 13