United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking “X” in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter “N/A” for “not applicable.” For functions, styles, materials and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property
   historic name  Addison Apartments
   other names/site number

2. Location
   street & number  831 East Morehead Street
   city, town  Charlotte
   state  North Carolina code NC county Mecklenburg code 119
   zip code 28203

3. Classification
   Ownership of Property
   □ private
   □ public-local
   □ public-State
   □ public-Federal
   Category of Property
   □ building(s)
   □ district
   □ site
   □ structure
   □ object
   Number of contributing resources within property
   Contributing  Noncontributing
   1  building(s)
   1  sites
   1  structures
   1  objects
   Total

   Name of related multiple property listing: N/A
   Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification
   As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination □ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.
   In my opinion, the property □ meets □ does not meet the National Register criteria. □ See continuation sheet.
   [Signature of certifying official] William S. [Signature]
   State or Federal agency and bureau
   [Date] 7-23-90

5. National Park Service Certification
   I, hereby, certify that this property is:
   □ entered in the National Register. □ See continuation sheet.
   □ determined eligible for the National Register. □ See continuation sheet.
   □ determined not eligible for the National Register.
   □ removed from the National Register.
   □ other, (explain:)
   [Signature of the Keeper of Action]
### 6. Function or Use

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling</td>
<td>DOMESTIC/multiple dwelling</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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### 7. Description

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)</th>
<th>Materials (enter categories from instructions)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Neo-Classical Revival</td>
<td>foundation: concrete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>walls: brick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>roof: asphalt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>other: wood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Describe present and historic physical appearance.
Physical Appearance

The Addison Apartments is located at the northwest corner of East Morehead and McDowell streets, at the northeastern edge of Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood. The principal facade faces south towards East Morehead Street, a major four-lane thoroughfare linking Dilworth with the Myers Park neighborhood to the east. East Morehead Street today contains an array of commercial establishments, smaller apartment buildings, substantial churches, and offices, some of which are former 1920s houses converted to office space in the 1970s and 1980s. Despite vigorous new construction in this area, the Addison Apartments continues to be the tallest and grandest building along the street.

Erected in 1926, the Addison Apartments is a refined and impressive example of Neo-Classical Revival highrise architecture in Charlotte. The nine-story building (including the full basement which is above ground on the sides and rear due to the slope of the lot) measures 55 x 56 feet, and has a steel frame with curtain walls of light-colored, wire-cut brick and smooth, cast stone. The original buff color of the exterior was painted a lighter shade of cream in the mid 1980s. The symmetrical main elevation includes three matching, slightly projecting sections, two bays wide, that accentuate the center and corners of the facade. Each section has two sets of paired windows with one-over-one sash indicating the building's floors. Other windows on the principal facade consist of evenly spaced triple and single windows also having one-over-one sash.

Following the classical "base, shaft, and capital" theory of skyscraper composition, the facade displays varying stylistic elements in each major division. The two stories at the base (the basement and main floor) are veneered with cast stone surmounted with a cornice, which is dentiled along the corner bays. The brick-veneered middle six stories feature bands of raised brick headers that delineate each bay from the second story to the seventh and accentuate the building's verticality. More refined cast stone pilasters crowned by engaged Corinthian capitals highlight the center two-bay section. Each of the three projecting sections also is embellished with brick quoins. The crowning eighth floor is accentuated at the projecting sections by decorative iron
balconets, dentiled and panelled cast stone trim, and heavy cornices topped by parapets treated with cast stone panels embellished by ornate swags. While the corner bays have simple flat-topped parapets, the facade's central section is capped by a distinctive stepped pediment.

The building's main entrance, located at the center of the facade, features an elaborate two-story portico with a deck. This portico has a wide entablature with a dentiled cornice and "Addison Apartments" engraved in the frieze. The entablature is supported by wide, cast stone panelled pilasters and a trio of heavy, stylized Tuscan columns and squared pillars with recessed panels at the two front corners. The portico's deck features urns on heavily molded bases joined by an iron railing. The front door is framed by a dentiled cornice, metal pilasters (painted white), which separate double doors with transom from wide sidelights. The transom and sidelights have ellipical leaded glass. The floor of the portico is covered with square ceramic tiles. Above the entrance is a pair of one-over-one windows with a decorative iron balcony supported by brackets at the second story. Centered directly over the deck is a cast stone scrolled pediment with an engaged urn that crowns two pairs of windows.

Reflecting the elements of style on the facade, the side (east and west) elevations have single, paired, and triple windows, and projecting corner bays accented by brick quoins, balconets, cast stone cornices, and swags. However, on these elevations, the symmetry of fenestration is partially sacrificed to utility, as the middle columns of windows are arranged off-center to accommodate elevator shafts. The east elevation includes a basement entrance sheltered by a flat-roofed canopy with a dentiled cornice, and secured to the cast stone base by two heavy chains.

The building's rear (north) elevation is strictly utilitarian. Devoid of decorative features and veneered entirely in brick, the rear includes two brick flues for the heating system and a pair of projecting two-bay sections indicating the locations of stairways and service elevators rising the full nine stories.

The interior plan comprises a center lobby and adjoining waiting room on the first floor, adjacent offices, and rows of suites and other rooms opening into long, narrow hallways.
running east-west along each floor. Shorter, north-south corridors near the east and west ends of each floor contain the passenger and smaller freight elevators and the stairways, which are situated at the northeast and northwest sides of the building. The basement (ground floor) contains the recreation room (originally the dining room), laundry room, office space, and storage areas. All of the other floors contain apartments.

The original suite plans include a basic two-room layout with a bedroom/living room and adjoining bathroom, and a larger plan with an additional room at the rear. While suites survive with such plans intact, units have also been expanded as well as subdivided in recent decades. The original 64 units increased to 90 (including two-bedroom suites) in the 1970s, and today the building holds 77 units. Moreover, kitchen facilities, including stoves and refrigerators, have been installed.

The lobby is the interior's elaborate centerpiece. This rectangular space has marble-veneered walls and square posts, as well as a striking plaster cornice featuring paired courses of egg-and-dart molding. A large window on the lobby's west wall reveals the (former) office, while the east side is partially open to expose the marble stairway to the basement. The smaller adjoining waiting room to the north of the lobby is also marble-veneered and abuts a windowed office to the east, but is simply decorated with a molded plaster cornice, chair rail, and baseboard.

The building's hallways contain ornate wrought-iron floor indicators above the passenger elevators, plaster walls (covered with replacement wallpaper), original asbestos tile floors laid in a checkerboard pattern, heavy plaster ceiling moldings, and simply molded plaster chair-rails and baseboards. Original one-panel wood doors with simple plaster surrounds lead into the suites.

The suites, which were designed quite plainly, retain much of their original finish. They typically contain one-panel wood doors with glass knobs and simply molded baseboards and window surrounds. Bathrooms characteristically have ceramic tile floors and walls, though other bathroom fixtures generally have been modernized. Carpeting in the principal rooms conceal hardwood floors.

Although the building's interior typically retains its
original fabric, the former dining room in the basement has been substantially remodelled. This room has a dropped acoustic tile ceiling, replacement doors, and a panelled press-board wainscot. The molded chair-rail may be original.

The grounds include a landscaped lawn, mature oak trees, and shrubbery, which borders a ceramic tile patio along the facade and east side of the property. A retaining wall of wire-cut brick runs along the southeast side of the property. A brick-trimmed concrete walkway featuring a pair of square, wire-cut brick pedestals extends from the Morehead Street sidewalk to the portico steps. Located directly to the rear (north) of the building are a concrete patio and a small parking area for service vehicles. A larger parking lot, set off by a metal fence and a lower grade, encompasses the remainder of the north side of the property. This parking area is not included in the nomination.
The Addison Apartments, constructed in 1926, stands as Charlotte's grandest apartment building of this period, as well as one of the city's finest surviving early twentieth-century highrises. Erected during a decade of tremendous local growth and attendant multi-family housing construction for both the middle and upper classes, the nine-story Addison arose as the city's tallest, largest and most architecturally sophisticated apartment building of this era. Although the great majority of duplexes, quadruplexes, and larger apartment buildings erected in the prosperous 1920s have well-executed designs (typically Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, or Craftsman), they rarely rival the Addison's use of materials or overall execution. Perhaps only the smaller, five-story, Tudor Revival Poplar Apartments in Charlotte's Fourth Ward can match the Addison's elegance. In scale and construction, materials and architectural treatment, the Addison Apartments reflects the office skyscrapers that were transforming the Charlotte skyline during the 1920s. The building today is one of the few surviving steel-framed highrises from this period. It was designed by local architect Willard G. Rogers, a onetime partner of Charlotte's preeminent architect, Charles Christian Hook, and constructed by the Charlotte firm, J. A. Jones Construction Company. Both Rogers and J. A. Jones played key roles in the erection of the city's impressive skyscrapers and other notable buildings of the early twentieth century.
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Architectural Context

The Addison Apartments was completed in the midst of unprecedented skyscraper and apartment building construction during the 1920s in Charlotte. This was a decade of tremendous local population growth fueled by the city's textile-related prosperity (Hanchett 1986). The federal census of 1930 recorded 82,357 residents of Charlotte—a 73% increase from 1920 (U.S. Bureau of the Census, Sixteenth Census). Downtown's rapid development and reconstruction in the 1920s was distinguished by a host of impressive steel-framed highrises. In 1923, Charlotte architect Louis Asbury designed the eight-story Professional Building in the center city. In 1924, the 10-story Hotel Charlotte (demolished) and the 17-story Johnston Building arose, both designed by New York architect William L. Stoddard. In 1926, Asbury's 20-story First National Bank building was completed. Also in 1926, Willard G. Rogers joined the select ranks of architects designing steel-framed skyscrapers in the center city. Rogers' 10-story Wilder Building (demolished) was erected in the summer of that year on South Tryon Street, in the heart of the business district (Manufacturers Record, September 23, 1925; Charlotte Observer, June 27, 1926). These buildings joined the 12-story Independence Building (demolished), erected in 1909 as Charlotte's first skyscraper, to create a new skyline symbolizing the city's remarkable growth and prosperity during the height of the textile boom (Hanchett 1986).

The emerging skyline also symbolized Charlotte's conservatism and sense of tradition. Like the Addison Apartments, each of these center-city skyscrapers represented the stately Neo-Classical Revival style. Each building had a light-color brick or limestone veneer and classically treated stone or terra cotta trim characteristic of the style as applied to commercial and public buildings. Rogers' Wilder Building, for example, featured a limestone-veneered ground floor and mezzanine, separated by a heavily molded cornice. Pilasters divided the banks of windows along these two floors. The mezzanine's corner windows were capped by stone pediments, and the building's facade was crowned by a broad, stone-trimmed pediment. The Addison Apartments clearly echoes the Neo-Classical Revival architecture of its highrise contemporaries. In particular, the facade's brick and cast stone veneer and centered panelled pilasters crowned by a pedimented parapet reflect Rogers' work on the Wilder Building. While the main entrances of downtown skyscrapers, such as the
First National Bank, characteristically were framed by classical pilasters, the Addison's columned two-story entrance portico boldly asserts the Neo-Classical style.

The Addison Apartments also appeared against a backdrop of intensive apartment building construction throughout Charlotte. The city's pressing demand for housing in the 1920s generated not only new single-family homes, but also a great number of multi-family accommodations for the large and mobile middle-class work force (Black 1988; Hanchett 1986). Whereas 45 "apartments and flats" were listed in Charlotte's 1920 city directory, by 1930 the number had soared to 164 (Charlotte City Directory, 1920, 1930). At least 30 apartment buildings were located in Dilworth by 1930, while Elizabeth, another burgeoning streetcar neighborhood southeast of Dilworth, contained about 100 (Oswald 1987; Black 1988). These apartments were typically two- or three-story, brick-veneer duplexes and quadruplexes decorated in the Colonial Revival, Tudor Revival, or Craftsman styles. A smaller number reflected the Neo-Classical Revival influence, but none with the Addison's elegance or sophistication. Typical is the 1928 Westmoreland Apartments in Elizabeth. This two-story, brick-veneered quadruplex has a parapet facade and an entrance bay crowned by a wooden pediment (Black 1988).

Charlotte's growing stock of multi-family housing also included a collection of larger facilities. In Elizabeth the Rutzler Apartments, ca. 1928, included 30 units in a three-story brick-veneered building, and the two-story Virginia Apartments, built in 1922, contained 12 units (Black 1988). In the Fourth Ward, the five-story Poplar Apartments was erected in 1929 to hold 39 plush suites for the city's well-to-do (Huffman 1984; Hanchett 1986). Designed by the mill engineering firm of Lockwood Greene Engineers, Inc., the Poplar Apartments is handsomely emblished with a crenelated roof, Flemish-bond brick veneer, and stone-trimmed, segmental-arch windows across the first story.

However, the massive nine-story Addison Apartments with 64 suites and 208 rooms, and erected at a cost of half a million dollars, surpassed them all in scale and architectural elegance (Manufacturers Record, February 4, 1926). It survives as one of the city's finest steel-framed, Neo-Classical Revival highrises of the 1920s, as well as Charlotte's most imposing--and one of the most exclusive--apartment buildings of its time.
Historical Background

In 1922, the Addison Apartment Company purchased a lot at the northwest corner of East Morehead and South Caldwell streets in Charlotte's Dilworth neighborhood on which to build a highrise apartment building (Mecklenburg County Registry of Deeds, Book 485, Page 397). Situated at the eastern edge of Dilworth, East Morehead Street included a streetcar line by the 1920s and was rapidly filling with handsome residences on broad, landscaped lots for the middle and upper classes (Oswald 1987; Hanchett 1986; Sanborn Map of Charlotte 1929). The Addison Apartment Company was formed specifically to develop this Dilworth site for a fashionable apartment building. The company was owned by Charlottean John Addison Jones, who also operated the J. A. Jones Construction Company, the contractor on the Addison Apartments project (Smith and Kluever 1989; Manufacturers Record, February 4, 1926). J. A. Jones Construction was the city's premier building contracting firm of the early twentieth century, constructing in the 1920s such important local properties as the Professional Building (1922-1923), the Hotel Charlotte (1924), the Carolina Theatre (1927), and the Charlotte City Hall (1925) (Smith and Kluever 1989).

The Addison Apartment Company awarded the contract for the design of the new building to local architect Willard G. Rogers. Rogers (1863-1947) was among Charlotte's major architects of the early twentieth century. A Cincinnati, Ohio native, he moved to Charlotte about 1900. Initially, Rogers was employed by Stuart W. Cramer, one of the region's prominent mill engineers (Charlotte City Directory 1902; Huffman 1983). In 1906, he left Cramer's firm for private practice in partnership with Charles Christian Hook, Charlotte's first architect and one of the city's leading architects of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (Charlotte City Directories 1906-1912; Hanchett 1986). The firm Hook and Rogers operated until 1916, when both went on their own. While in business together, Hook and Rogers designed the exceptional Egyptian Revival Masonic Temple (1914) on South Tryon Street in Charlotte. When, in 1937, a fire gutted the temple's interior, Rogers supervised the rebuilding of interior in keeping with the original Egyptian Revival motif (Little et al. 1987). A National Register property (1987) and one of North Carolina's rare Egyptian Revival Masonic Temples, the building was razed in 1988 (Little et al. 1987). Hook and
Rogers also designed a host of Colonial Revival and Dutch Colonial Revival houses in Dilworth, including the notable W. T. McCoy House (1910), a locally designated Historic Property, and the Z. V. Taylor House (1915) (Huffman 1984; Hanchett 1986). Presumably, Rogers also designed his own house in Dilworth, a Dutch Colonial residence erected in 1902 (Huffman 1983).

Rogers continued to practice in Charlotte until 1942, when, at the age of 79, he moved to Atlanta. Although there is little information about his professional career in Charlotte during this period, in addition to remodelling the Masonic Temple, the Manufacturers Record noted that Rogers remodelled the Latonia Building on Church Street in 1925, and designed the Wilder Building, which was completed in the summer of 1926, shortly before the Addison Apartments opened its doors (Manufacturers Record, September 23, 1925 and June 6, 1926; Charlotte Observer, June 27, 1926). Thus Rogers played a key role in Charlotte's construction boom of the 1920s, designing the city's first highrise apartment building while contributing to the rapid transformation of the downtown skyline.

The nine-story Addison Apartments was finished in the fall of 1926, with the first two floors accepting tenants in October and the remainder opening in early November. Erected at a cost of $500,000, the Addison provided its residents with auto garages, a filling station, and car wash at the rear (replaced by the present parking lot), room service, a beauty parlor, dining room, steam heat, two passenger elevators, radio attachments in each suite, and hot and cold running water (Manufacturers Record, February 4, 1926; Charlotte Observer, September 22, 1926). In a half-page newspaper advertisement, the J. A. Jones Construction Company promoted the Addison Apartments as "The South's Finest," and included a large illustration of the elegant new building, with well-dressed patrons and expensive automobiles announcing its exclusive clientele (Charlotte Observer, September 22, 1926).

Like the Poplar Apartments, the Addison Apartments was a prestigious address into the 1960s. In 1930, for example, the 64 tenants listed in the city directory included four physicians, six teachers at local Queens College, two Southern Railroad supervisors, and a host of other business executives (Charlotte City Directory, 1930). By the decade of the 1960s, however, East Morehead Street was being transformed into a
commercial corridor, and Charlotte's new middle and upper classes were living as well as working around the outskirts of the city. Over the course of the decade vacancies increased; the 1969 city directory recorded 20 empty suites (Charlotte City Directory, 1969).

In 1974, the apartment building was acquired by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Authority. The acquisition ensured the building's survival and its continued use as an apartment facility, though for a different clientele. Since 1974, the Addison Apartments has served as a major public housing facility for the city's low-income elderly. Plans for the building's rehabilitation are in progress.
Previous documentation on file (NPS):
☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
☐ previously listed in the National Register
☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings
Survey # ________________________________
☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering
Record # ________________________________

Primary location of additional data:
☐ State historic preservation office
☐ Other State agency
☐ Federal agency
☐ Local government
☐ University
☐ Other
Specify repository:
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Authority, 1301 South Boulevard
Charlotte, N.C. 28203

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of property approx. 1 acre

UTM References

A
Zone | Easting | Northing
| 1 | 7 | 5 | 14 | 1 | 30 | 3 | 89 | 6 | 5 | 80 |

B
Zone | Easting | Northing

C

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description
The nominated property is outlined in pencil on the enclosed Mecklenburg County Tax Map 125-17.

Boundary Justification
The boundary encompasses the Addison Apartments and immediate surroundings, including the landscaped portions of the property on the south, east, and west sides, and a small portion to the north of the building that is clearly defined by a metal fence. The part of the property north of this fence, which is today a parking lot, is omitted.

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By
name/title Richard Mattson and Suzanne Pickens
organization Historic Preservation Services
date 3-9-90
street & number 309 E. Park Ave. #3
telephone 919-332-5309
city or town Charlotte
state N.C., zip code 28203
Bibliography


Manufacturers Record. 1926.


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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IDENTIFICATION OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Addison Apartments
831 East Morehead Street
Charlotte, North Carolina
Mecklenburg County
Photographer: Richard Mattson
March 1990
North Carolina Division of Archives and History, Raleigh

1. Facade and east elevation, looking northwest
2. Facade and west elevation, looking northeast
3. Facade, center projecting section and portico detail, looking north
4. Portico, looking north
5. Portico entablature and deck, looking north
6. Main entrance, looking north
7. East elevation, looking southwest
8. East elevation, stories 7-9, looking west
9. Southeast corner of cast stone-veneered basement and first story, looking northwest
10. North (rear) elevation and parking lot, looking south
11. Main lobby, looking north
12. Main lobby, detail of egg-and-dart molding, looking northwest
13. Original doors in typical suite, looking west
14. Bathroom in typical suite, looking south
15. (former) dining room in basement, looking east
Note: E. Vance St., S.E. of E. Hill St. is not a Den.