

*A Stroll Through the Trees
at Agnes Scott College*



Certainly trees,
*creatures living alongside us
on a scale so different from our own,
embody whole histories.*

—BILL BANGHAM,
FROM THE FALL 1994
AGNES SCOTT ALUMNAE MAGAZINE

The Seed of a Good Idea

The trees of Agnes Scott College hold a special place in the hearts and minds of the Agnes Scott community. Because the College was founded in 1889, many of the trees on the campus have been protected for well over a century. Their contribution to the beauty of the campus and quality of life at Agnes Scott is immeasurable.

Mapping Out the Path

This booklet serves as a self-guided tree tour of the campus which will allow you to experience a selection of Agnes Scott's special tree heritage. Please open this booklet to the center spread for a map of campus and tree locations. Among those included are not only some of ASC's biggest and oldest trees, but also some recently planted specimens which emphasize the importance of planning for replacements of older trees as they mature and decline.

Branching Out Across Campus

As you exit the Alston Center, you will turn to your right and proceed to South Candler Street for your first stop on the self-guided tree tour of Agnes Scott's urban forest. You will notice the hustle and bustle of city traffic, MARTA buses, trucks and automobiles as you walk along the sidewalk towards the Incense Cedar.

The best classrooms are those
without walls, doors, or windows.
Having classes outside, under the shade
of leafy oaks and dogwoods,
opened our minds to the world
we were seeking to understand.

- MELANIE MORTIMER '91
TOKYO, JAPAN

INCENSE - CEDAR *LIBROCEDRUS DECURRENS*

1

A striking feature of this unusual tree is its handsomely furrowed red-brown bark. It is native to the western United States, but tolerates periods of heat and drought here in the South.



SAWTOOTH OAK *QUERCUS ACUTISSIMA*

2

The “urban” aspect of Agnes Scott’s urban forest becomes quite obvious on the sidewalk along S. Candler Street, with city traffic rushing by. These five sawtooth oaks display lustrous dark green serrated leaves, distinctive acorns peeking out of thick caps, and yellow catkins in the spring.



WHITE ASH *FRAXINUS AMERICANA*

3

Predating the Civil War, this magnificent tree is approximately 141 years old (1854). It sports early fall color ranging from yellow to pink to maroon, and is easily identified by its diamond patterned bark.

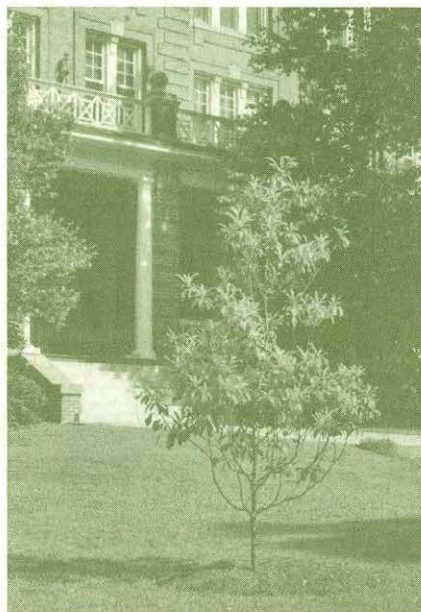


FRANKLINIA *FRANKLINIA ALATAMAHA*

4

Discovered in Georgia by John Bartram in 1770, and named for Benjamin Franklin, this delightful small tree (to 25 feet high) has fragrant late summer blossoms.

Believed extinct in the wild since around 1800, all franklinias today are descended from Bartram's collection.



GOLDEN RAINTREE *KOELREUTERIA PANICULATA*

5

Another good choice for a small specimen tree, the raintree has cheerful yellow summer flowers. The paper-like seed pods hang in clusters even after leaves fall, and sound like a gentle rain as the wind rustles through the branches.



The shape of the tree,
with its location,
has a presence
that's significant
beyond the tree itself.

— TERRY MCGEHEE,
FROM THE FALL 1994
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SOUTHERN MAGNOLIAS *MAGNOLIA GRANDIFLORA*

6

Considered by some the definitive southern tree, the magnolia has glossy evergreen leaves, bright red seeds in autumn, and intoxicatingly fragrant spring blossoms. The ASC campus boasts 72 magnolias. This one has been recognized as the second largest in DeKalb County.



CUCUMBERTREE *MAGNOLIA ACUMINATA*

7

The 1992 Arbor Day tree, this fast growing native quadrupled in size in two years. Its soft deciduous leaves grow up to 10 inches long, and its small flowers are yellow-green. The fruits, when young, slightly resemble cucumbers.



AMERICAN BASSWOOD *TILIA AMERICANA*

8

Basswoods need room. They can grow to 100 feet or more, with wide-reaching branches. This shady giant has flowers whose nectar is prized by bee-keepers.



BLACK CHERRY *PRUNUS SEROTINA*

9

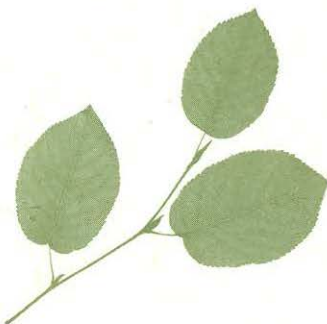
An increment borer was used to determine that this tree is approximately 77 years old (1918). Black cherry trees are common in the eastern United States. The fruit flavors cordials and jam, while the wood is cherished by cabinet makers.

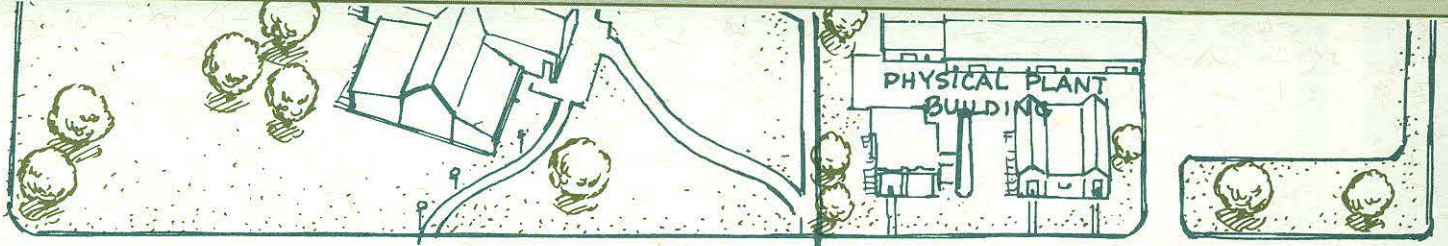


DOWNY SERVICEBERRY *AMELANCHIER ARBOREA*

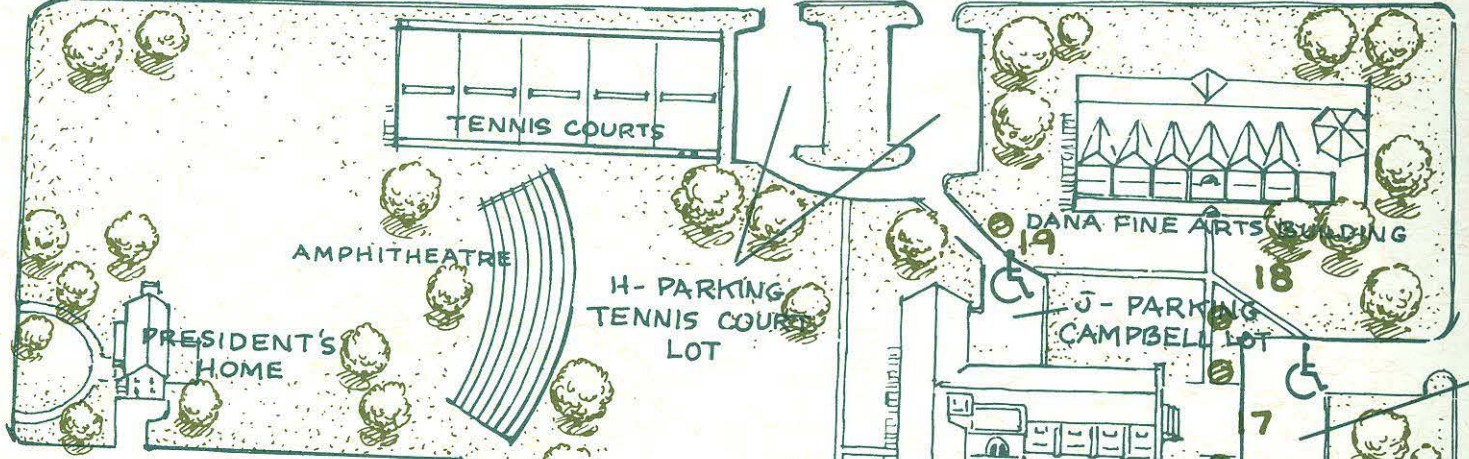
10

Native to this area, the versatile serviceberry is a welcome addition to a shrub border. It offers year-round interest to the landscape: springtime white flowers; summer berries for the birds; brilliant fall color; and multi-stems with reddish bark in winter.

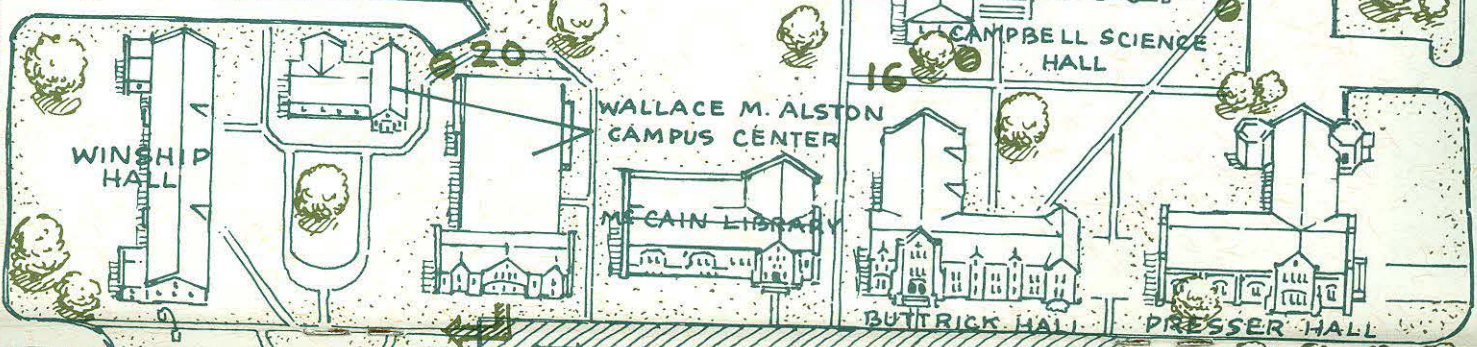




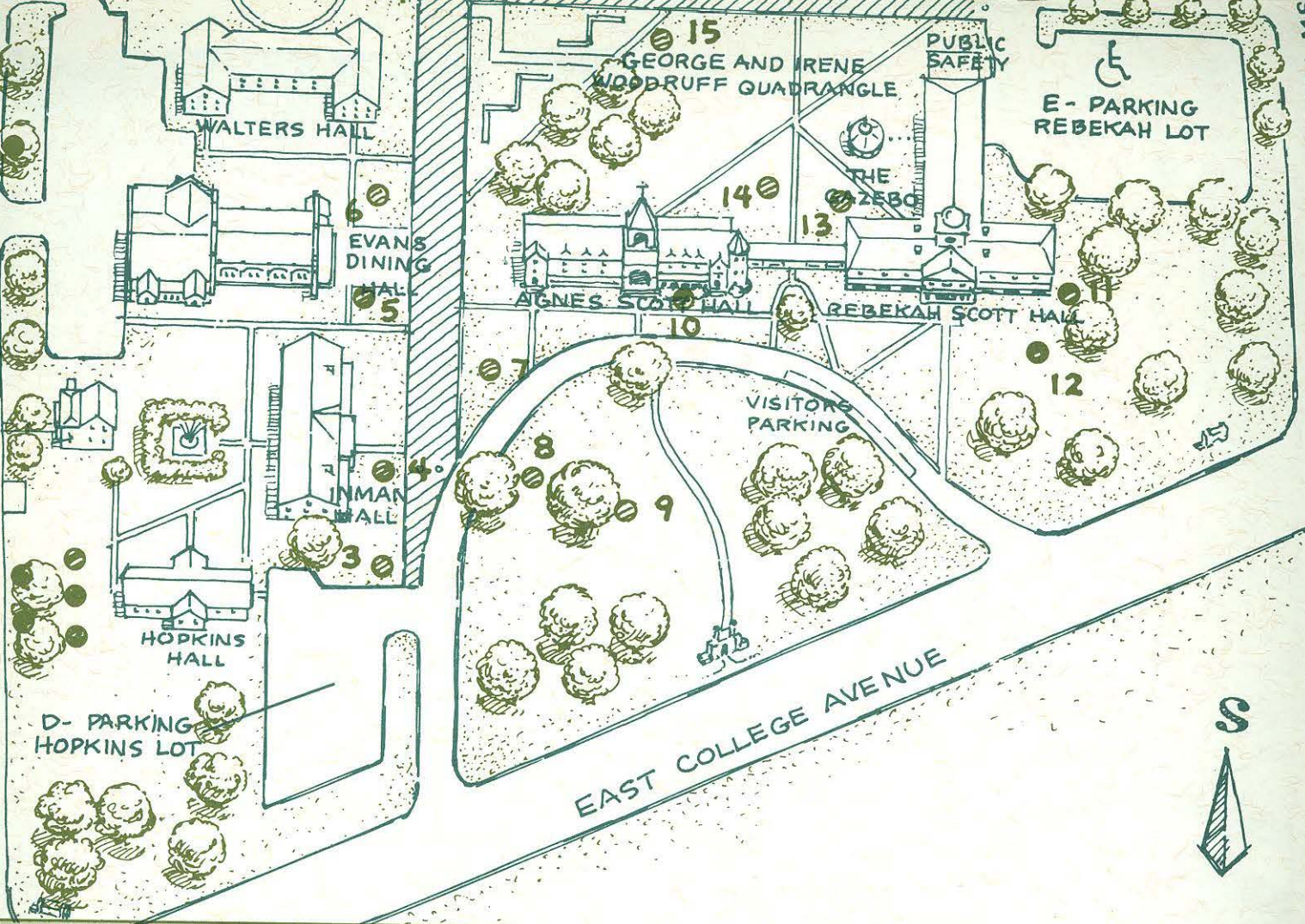
EAST DOUGHERTY STREET



SOUTH CANDLER STREET



SOUTH MEDONOUGH STREET



EAST COLLEGE AVENUE



When I first saw Agnes Scott back in 1981,
it was in the spring time.

*The dogwoods and all the other trees
and foliage were in full bloom and
you could barely see the brick buildings
that were set back from the street.*

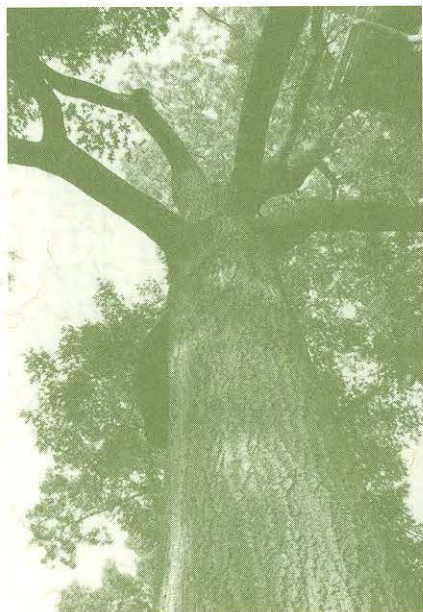
I wondered what lay beneath that veil of green.

— MARY ALMA DURRETT,
EDITOR MAIN EVENTS

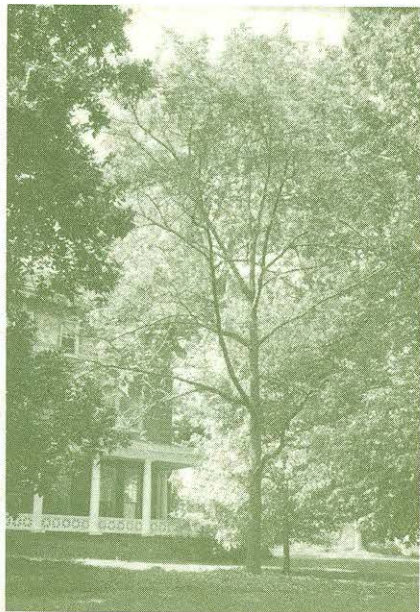
SCARLET OAK *QUERCUS COCCINEA*

11

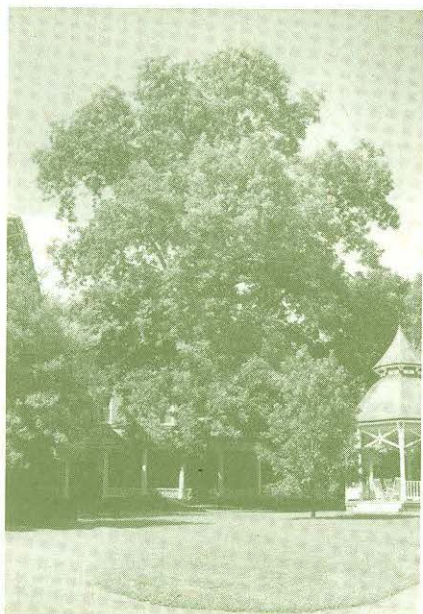
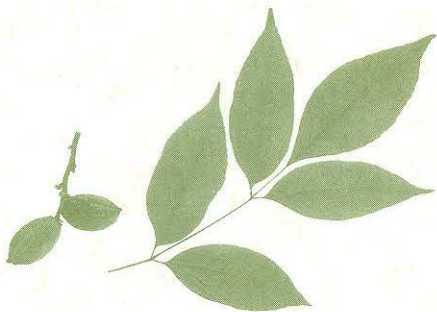
At the western end of the porch of Rebekah Scott Hall stands the “Senior Oak.” The reason for its name has become hazy over the years, but the tree itself lives on. Unfortunately, it is in decline. At approximately 111 years old (1884), it has a large hollow inside, and a storm in 1991 caused major limb loss.



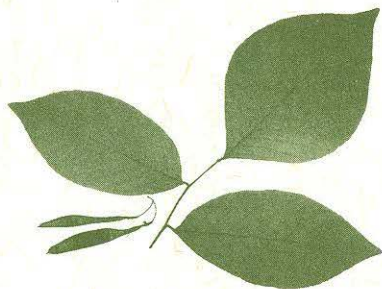
When grown in open spaces, black walnuts can develop fully rounded crowns of about 75 feet, and reach over 100 feet in height. This native tree produces nuts favored by southern cooks for cakes and ice cream.



Occupying a prominent spot in the Woodruff Quadrangle is another familiar Georgia native. The graceful and symmetrical branches of the pecan tree provide food and shelter for scores of Agnes Scott's squirrel population.



Planted on Arbor Day, 1990, during a thunderstorm and tornado watch, this tree has flourished. It is breath-taking in the late spring, draped with fragrant clusters of pendulous white flowers. The foliage is lush and dark green, turning gold in the fall.



This unusually old loblolly pine has lived well over 100 years. Loblollies have a distinctive shape and name. A loblolly is a "moist depression" or a "mud hole"... the preferred site for this tree.



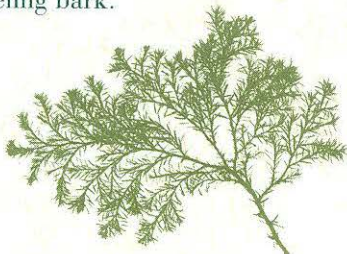
How often Karle Wilson's words —
“Today I have grown taller from
walking under the trees” — came to life
when I walked under Agnes Scott's
towering oaks, magnolias and pines.

- MELANIE MORTIMER '91
TOKYO, JAPAN

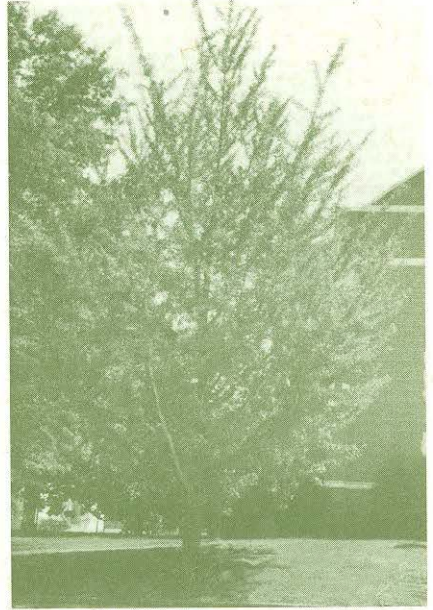
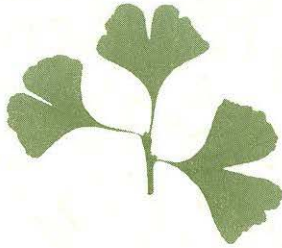
FALSE-CYPRESS *CHAMAECYPARIS PISIFERA*

16

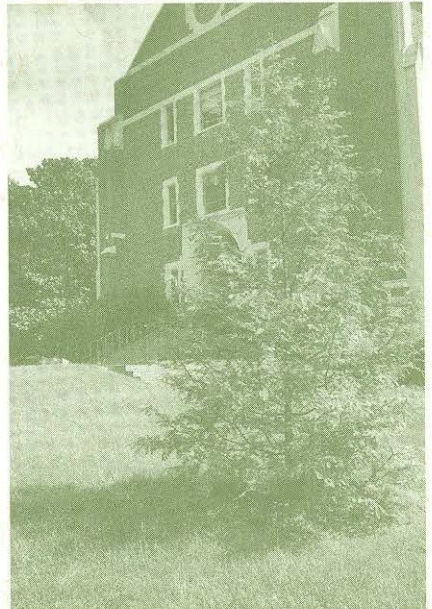
Mary Stuart McDougall, who taught biology at Agnes Scott 1921-1954, rooted a sprig from a Christmas arrangement, and planted it by Campbell Science Hall. Today Professor McDougall's "sprig" stands about 38 feet tall. The false-cypress is an evergreen, native to Japan, and has interesting peeling bark.



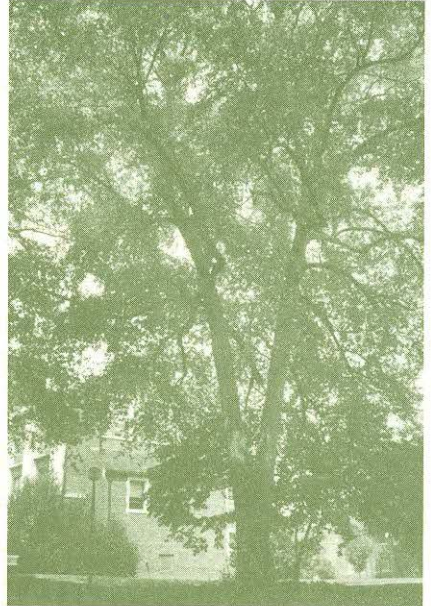
In the 1960's, a spectacular pair of ginkgoes was added by biology professor S. Leonard Doerpinghaus, who planted a total of about 30 trees around campus. An ancient species, the ginkgo has existed on earth for 150 million years. Today, the fan shape, the unusual texture of its leaves, and its dramatic fall color make the ginkgo a memorable tree.



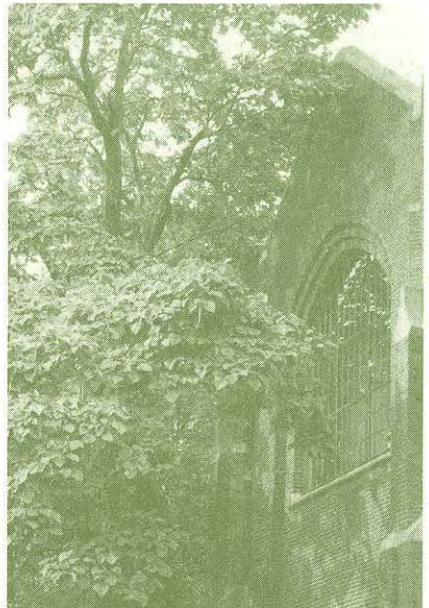
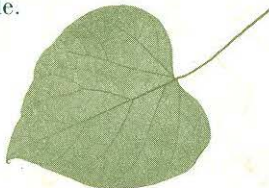
A fast-growing deciduous conifer, this is an offspring of a dawn redwood belonging to ASC alumna Mrs. William Schley Howard. It was 12 inches tall in 1991, and grew 6 feet in one year. Another prehistoric species, this one goes back 50 million years.



Named DeKalb County's champion black gum tree in 1987, this lovely native tree is one of the first to display fall color. It can grow to 100 feet tall, and is well worth considering for the home landscape.



Towering at the SE corner of the Alston Campus Center is the Georgia state champion catalpa tree and was named such in January 1995. It has sensational white flowers with yellow and purple specks, and bean-like fruit pods. The manner in which this last tree appears to hug the corner of the building might be said to symbolize the unity existing between Agnes Scott's trees, architecture and people.



Agnes Scott College, founded in 1889, is one of the few areas in Decatur where the trees have remained relatively undisturbed for over a century. Agnes Scott's trees help create the distinctive character of the campus. They blend with and frame the Victorian and Gothic structures, and make the beautiful 55-acre campus what it is.

The College recognizes these trees as valuable landmarks, and deserving of proper attention and care. In 1986, Agnes Scott undertook its first tree inventory with each tree being assigned a number, located on a map, and having its vital statistics recorded: species, diameter, vigor, etc. This inventory is updated periodically, and information gathered is used to guide the reforestation and management efforts.

Many of Agnes Scott's trees are over-mature and in decline. Replanting, inspecting and pruning are all part of Agnes Scott's urban forestry management.

Everyone recognizes that trees provide a pleasant and shady place in which to study, work, live and play. However, the benefits of an urban forest go much farther:

- ❁ Trees can be a haven of wildlife and plant diversity in the midst of a bustling city.
- ❁ Trees absorb and block urban noise.
- ❁ Trees conserve precious water resources by reducing water runoff and help to prevent soil erosion.
- ❁ In one year, an acre of trees absorbs the amount of carbon dioxide produced by an automobile being driven 26,000 miles.

Agnes Scott College gratefully acknowledges funds provided by the 1994 Urban and Community Forestry Assistance Program Grant, through the auspices of the Georgia Forestry Commission.

— A. Victoria Lambert, manager of campus services

Thanks to all of Agnes Scott's tree planters and tree lovers throughout the years, and thanks to:

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To arrange a guided group tour, call 638-LEAF (638-5323).



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