

AUG 23 1985

#7

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Noble-McCaa-Butler House Owner: Mrs. Addie M. Butler
Common name: Noble-McCaa-Butler House 1025 Fairmont Avenue
Anniston, Alabama 36201

Address: 1025 Fairmont Avenue

Acreage: 1 acre UTM: 16/609440/3724650

Verbal Boundary: As described on the Anniston Land Company Addition Map, part of the north 1/2 of Block 56 beginning at the NW intersection of 11th and Fairmont, east 220 feet, south 200 feet, west 220 feet, and north 200 feet to the point of beginning.

Architectural Design: Queen Anne

Date of Construction: 1887

Statement of Significance:

Criterion B - Industry:

The Noble-McCaa-Butler House is significant for its close association with the family of Samuel Noble, Anniston's founder, and is the only house in Anniston continuously occupied by Noble descendants.

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Noble-McCaa-Butler House is significant as one of Anniston's best remaining examples of the eclectic Queen Anne style and one of the few remaining examples of that type that was constructed during Anniston's boom year of 1887.

Description:

Originally, the Noble-McCaa-Butler House was situated on a gently sloping site between 10th and 11th Streets that stretched from Highland Avenue to Christine Avenue almost equidistant between the estates of Samuel Noble and Daniel Tyler. (See rough sketch from 1890 map.) The surrounding property has now been reduced to a lot 200 by 220 feet. The irregularly-shaped, two-story house has varied surface textures: a brick foundation, clapboard first story, and a shingle second story, with rows of fishscale shingles alternating with coursed shingles; and irregular massing of roofs, with projecting gables from a central pyramidal roof. There is also irregular massing of elevations. A two-tiered covered porch on the front or west side has a shingled pediment and, at both levels, turned supports and elaborate spool friezes that form a screen between the upper portion of the supports. The lower level of that porch wraps around the north side of the house. At the northwest corner, it becomes almost circular in plan, capped by a flared tent roof and finial. This section of the porch also retains its original balustrade and turned posts. There are six exterior doors.

The interior layout features a large entry hall with an inglenook and quarter-turn stairs with a landing and closed-stringer balustrade. The original portrait of Samuel Noble from which his statue was made hangs in the foyer. Four formal rooms radiate from the hall: to the left are the formal parlor and dining room, separated

by heavy sliding doors with etched brass hinges, while a sitting room and a bedroom are to the right, all with elaborate, heavy mantels with bas-relief tile hearths and mirrors, crystal chandeliers, and 12-foot ceilings.

The butler's pantry to the rear of the dining room has been converted to a modern kitchen. The original kitchen, now a storage room, was connected by a breezeway, now screened. The second floor essentially repeats the layout of the first level. The basement, with brick pillars and heart-of-pine beams, originally housed a coke furnace.

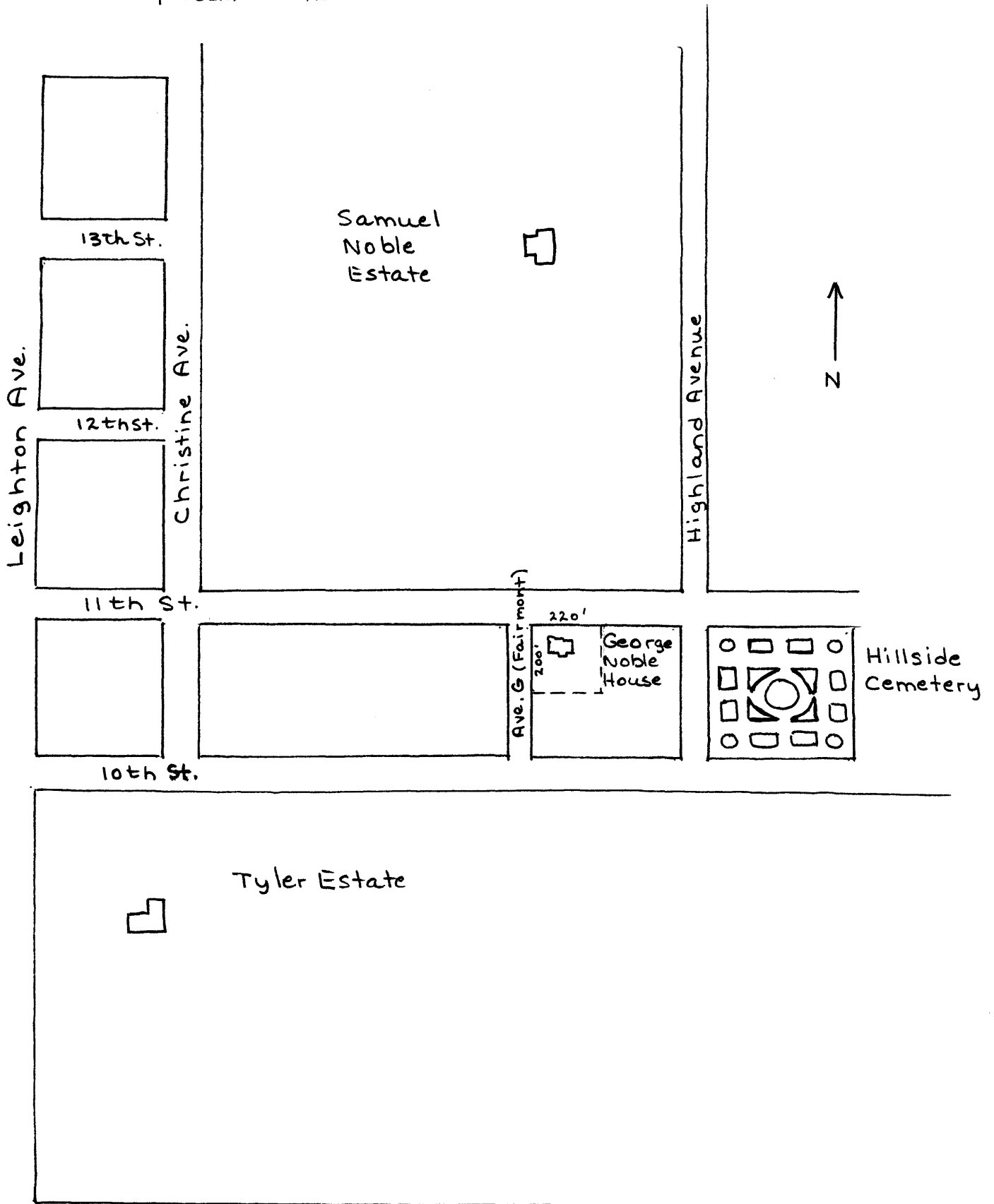
The house is remarkably unaltered. After decades of white exterior walls, the house has now even been painted its original brick-red color.

Historical Summary:

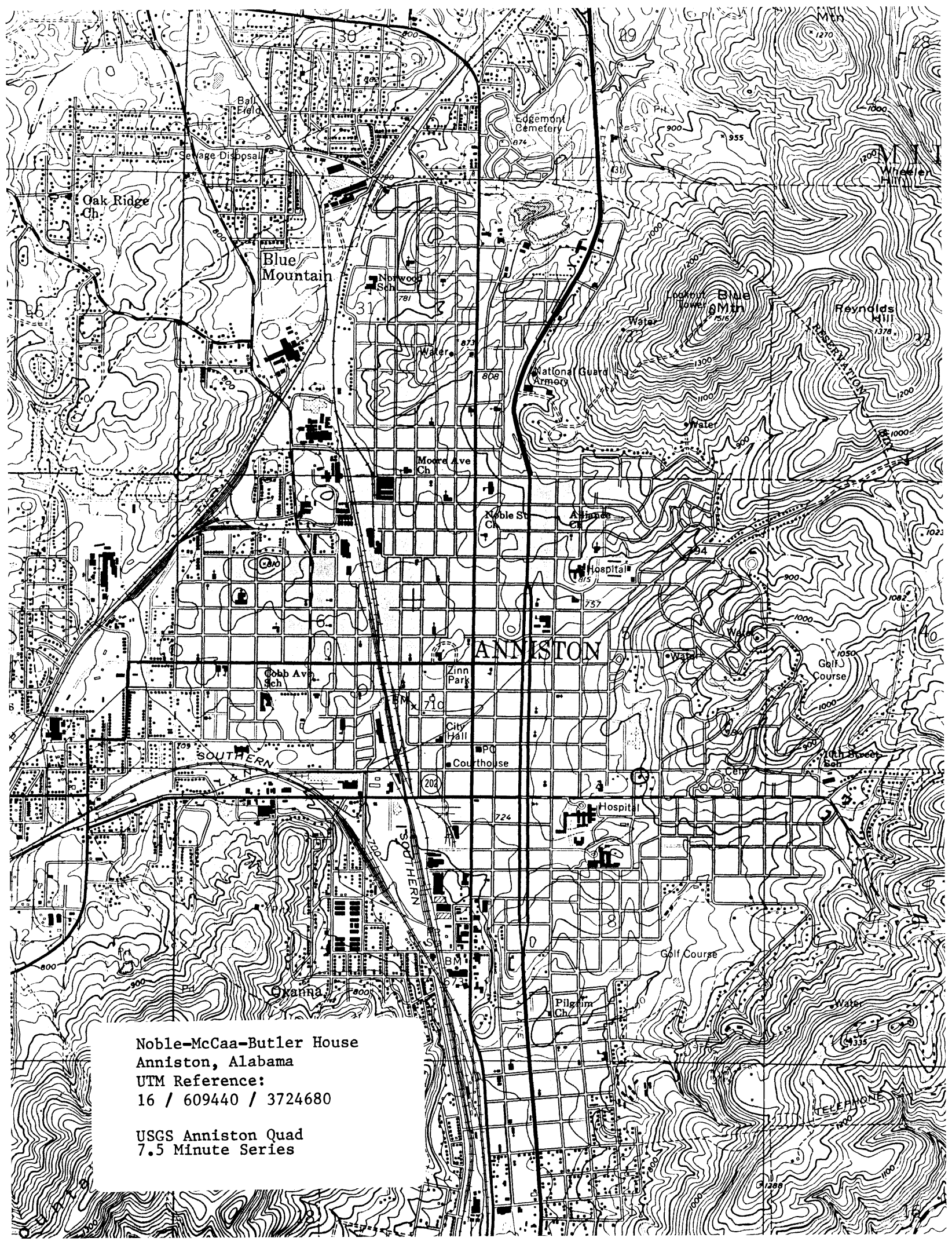
The Noble-McCaa-Butler House attracted attention during the late 1880s through the inventive genius of its builder, George A. Noble, brother of Samuel Noble. Some of his original devices, in the house, included one to produce gas for lighting and another for water power to run a sewing machine, churn butter and operate a pipe organ. George Noble was the mechanic of the family and was an active member of the family's firm in Rome, Georgia. He participated in the founding of the Woodstock Iron Company and laid out the streets of Anniston in the 1870s. He headed the town's first telephone company in 1884, the Noble Pan Electric Company, which lost an 1888 patent battle with the Bell System. Noble was director of the town's first savings bank, the Savings Bank and Safety Deposit Company. After residing in the house for six years, Noble transferred it to his niece, Samuel's daughter Addie, in 1893, and built a smaller house next door. The second house was razed in the 1970s. Addie's husband, Lowndes McCaa, had been brought to Anniston from Mobile in 1883 by Duncan Parker to be a cashier in the first bank. Samuel Noble's widow lived in the house with her daughter during the last years of her life. The street that had been cut through the property in front of the house, Avenue G, was renamed Fairmont after a park in Philadelphia where Mrs. Samuel Noble had once lived. After the McCaas' deaths, their daughter Addie Butler inherited the house (Addie was born in the house in 1897) and continues to reside there.

Anniston, Alabama
From 1890 Map

--- present lot line



Roughly to scale
400 feet = 1 inch



Noble-McCaa-Butler House
Anniston, Alabama
UTM Reference:
16 / 609440 / 3724680

USGS Anniston Quad
7.5 Minute Series