

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON  
CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Lansing T. Smith House    Owner: Mrs. Emily Irene Cater  
Common name: Smith-Mallory-Cater House    531 Keith Avenue  
Anniston, Alabama 36201

Address: 531 Keith Avenue

Acreage: less than one acre    UTM: 16/607470/3723890

Verbal Boundary: Tyler Park Map, Block 11, Lots 1, 2, 3 and 4, except for a 20-foot alley off the south side of Lot 4, more particularly described as follows: Beginning at the intersection of the eastern property line of Keith Avenue with the southern property line of Sixth Street; thence south along the eastern property line of Keith Avenue two hundred two and one-tenth (202.1) feet; thence east one hundred thirty-nine and three-tenths (139.3) feet; thence north two hundred twenty-four (224) feet, more or less, to the southern property line of Sixth Street; thence west along the southern property line of Sixth Street one hundred forty-three and sixty-seven one hundredths (143.67) feet to the point of beginning.

Architectural Design: Victorian

Date of Construction: 1891

Statement of Significance:

Criterion B - Recreation:

The Smith-Mallory-Cater House is significant for its association with Lansing T. Smith who is known as the "Father of Golf" in Anniston and was a leader in the development of the sport in its early days in the south.

Description:

Located on a spacious, gently sloping lot close to the Anniston Country Club golf course in the area known as Tyler Hill, the two-story Victorian frame house is irregular in plan. It has a brick foundation, clapboard siding and a gabled roof with subordinate cross gable. Decorative butt-cut shingles give texture to the gable ends. A one-story wing with a lean-to attachment extends from the southern end of the house. The wide neo-classical front porch dating from the 1920s is supported by square wooden posts interspersed with a balustrade. Metal shingles cover the roof and there are three chimneys. The front door is framed with a beveled glass transom and side lights, and the double-hung windows have one-over-one sash. A large diamond-paned window is situated over the stairway landing.

A well-developed interior layout features a wide foyer with formal rooms to either side, the north living room entry flanked by Ionic columns, with mantels, crown molding, and hardwood floors in all rooms, and a closed stringer staircase with landing and rectangular newel posts. The south parlor leads into a six-sided bedroom with a corner fireplace. To the rear of the entrance hall, French doors lead to a glassed-in sun porch, while a kitchen, breakfast area and a screened porch are to the right, or south end. Ceilings on the first floor are 10½ feet high, while the

second floor has 10-foot ceilings. The upstairs essentially repeats the floor plan of the first floor, with a hall that serves as a sitting area and four bedrooms, all with mantels, and two baths.

Alterations to the house include the 1920 removal of the original porch from the north side and total remodeling of the porch along the front, or west side, replacing the sloping roof and slender turned support posts of the porch with the present neo-classical form. The first interior modifications took place after a fire in 1908 and included laying the hardwood floors, closing the attic stairs, and installing the Ionic columns in the foyer.

The only other structure on the lot that remains from the original estate is a small (about 8 by 8 feet) board-and-batten gabled roof yardman's house and tool shed known as "Uncle Ned's House" that has been used variously as a playhouse and office. There is also a modern detached garage. (See attached sketch map.)

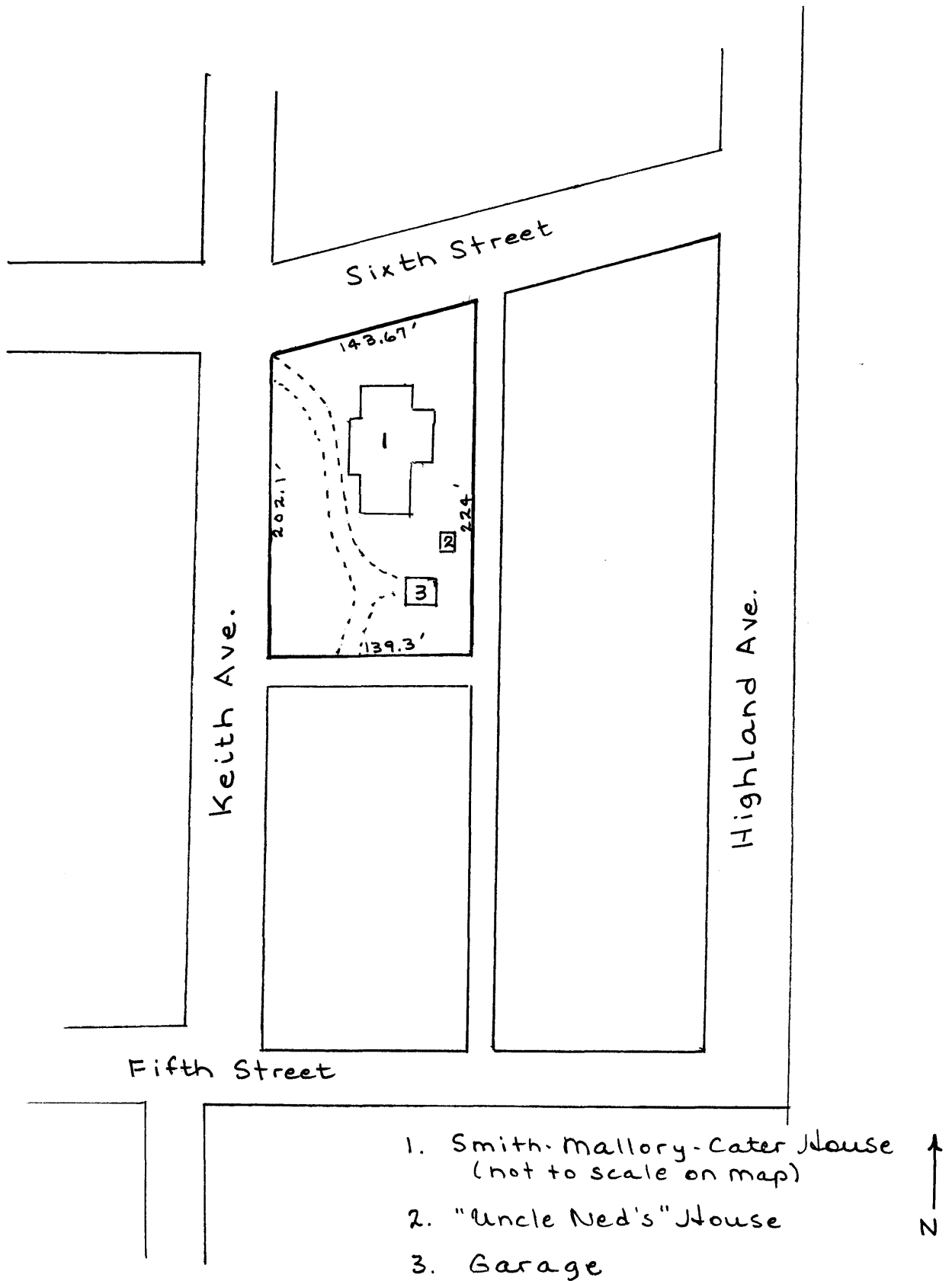
The grounds are landscaped with shrubs and tall magnolia and oak trees.

#### Historical Summary:

Architect John Henry Norris built the house for Lansing T. Smith who, at a time when golf was becoming popular in the north, introduced the game to Anniston. He laid out the first golf course in 1890 in a cow pasture bounding Highland Avenue; he owned the first set of golf clubs in town, and he brought in a professional to teach lessons to the 12 members of the newly-organized Highland Country Club. By 1898, new construction was beginning to encroach on the course, so the group bought 40 acres and changed their name to the Anniston Country Club. Theirs was the second golf course in the state of Alabama. Smith also laid out the Municipal Golf Course with WPA help in 1936. He was a founder and served as secretary of the Southern Golf Association.

In 1920 Smith sold the house to John William Mallory and built a house on another part of his acreage. Mallory, who undertook the porch renovation and added the sun room in the rear, was president and general manager of the Polar Ice and Coal Company. After the Mallorys left in 1932 the house was rented until Howard Cater, owner of a local furniture store, purchased the property in 1941. Mrs. Cater still resides in the home.

# Sketch Map of Smith-Mallory-Cater House





531 Keith Ave., Anniston, Ala. East side  
Greenhouses hide much of East porch. Before <sup>of house</sup> 1920



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East side of 531 Keith Ave. Residence  
of L.T. Smith (in foreground, making  
a putt. Before 1920.

Old pictures on Loan from L.T. Smith, Jr., Pensacola Fla.

Residence of  
L.T. Smith  
Tyler Park,  
Anniston,  
Alabama  
U.S.A.  
1900

Lansing  
Taylor Smith,  
Jr. in fore-  
ground

He was  
born in  
this house.



Residence of L. T. Smith, Jr., Anniston, Alabama



Wide Front Hall and staircase in Smith  
Home in early days.

Smith-Mallory-Cater House, 513 Keith, Anniston, Alabama



Smith-Mallory-Cater House, Anniston, Alabama, Living Room, NW corner



Smith-Mallory-Cater House

Anniston, Alabama

Living Room, NW Corner

