

419

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Chambers, Judson G. and Mary F., House

Other name/site number: Robinson, Dora, and Charles, House; Chambers/Robinson House (preferred)

2. Location

Street & number: 910 Montgomery Avenue

City/town: Sheffield

not for publication: N/A
vicinity: N/A

State: AL county: Colbert

code: 033

zip code: 35660

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private

Category of Property: building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Handwritten Signature]

4-5-93

Signature of certifying official

Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

~~Entered in the~~
National Register

 Entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.

Delores Zyeu 5/14/93

 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 Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: DOMESTIC

Sub: single dwelling

Current : WORK IN PROGRESS

Sub:

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

Late Victorian

Other Description: Queen Anne

Materials: foundation _____ roof metal
 walls frame other _____
 weatherboard

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: local

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : N/A

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1890

Significant Dates : 1890

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Unknown

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

X See continuation sheet.

=====

9. Major Bibliographical References

=====

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): N/A

- 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: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: less than one acre

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>16</u>	<u>436100</u>	<u>3847190</u>	B	_____	_____	_____
C	_____	_____	_____	D	_____	_____	_____

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ____ See continuation sheet.

Lots numbered 1 and 2, Block 17 (100` X 200`).

Boundary Justification: ____ See continuation sheet.

The boundaries of the property were delineated by the legal description.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: <u>Chloe S. Mercer/National Register Intern; (Melanie Betz, AHC Register Reviewer</u>	National
Organization: <u>Alabama Historical Commission</u>	Date: <u>February 8, 1993</u>
Street & Number: <u>725 Monroe Street</u>	Telephone: <u>(205)242-3184</u>
City or Town: <u>Montgomery</u>	State: <u>AL</u> ZIP: <u>36130-5101</u>

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 7 Description Chambers/Robinson House Page #1
=====

The Chambers/Robinson House, 910 Montgomery Ave., Sheffield is a good and intact example of the Queen Anne style that was popular during the late 19th century. Built in 1890, this house has many features that distinguish it from other houses built during that time. The skill of the craftsmanship is reflected in the decorative details throughout the house.

The two story, frame house rests on a brick foundation and is sheathed in novelty drop-siding. The steeply pitched, standing seam hipped roof is pierced by three brick chimneys with corbelled shafts and decorative caps. Several wall dormers complicate the roofline.

The asymmetrical facade features a one story wrap-around porch on the left, a bay window on the right, and a second level projecting wall dormer on the right. Windows on both levels have 1/1 sashes and vary between single and paired. Decorative elements on the porch include elaborate sawnwork, brackets, and closed lattice type woodwork on the projecting entrance pediment. The house features several other interesting elements including gable trim, exterior wainscotting, a concave entablature with fitting brackets, and imbrication on the front dormer and the mansard skirt at the first level.

The house has an irregular, asymmetrical plan and includes two interior stairways. The entrance hall with chimney corner is the room into which most other rooms open. The plan includes a library with pocket doors, dining room, kitchen, five bedrooms, and several baths. The centerpiece of the house is the Eastlake staircase located in the entrance hall. The oak newel post, newel cap, and balustrade are beautifully carved in the Eastlake fashion and compliment the oak floors, doors, and trim. There are eight mantels in the house including four oak mantels downstairs and four upstairs with marbelized cast iron and marbelized slate.

Alterations to the house were executed in the 1950s when it was converted into an apartment house. Bathrooms were added, ceilings were lowered in some rooms, and the Eastlake stairwell was enclosed behind a wall. Stairs were also constructed on the exterior to access the second level.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Significance Chambers/Robinson House Page #2

=====

CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

The Chambers/Robinson House, 910 Montgomery Ave., Sheffield, is a good and intact example of the Late Victorian Queen Anne style. Built in 1890, this house still retains its elaborate exterior sawnwork and interior details such as the Eastlake stairwell, pocket doors, and decorative mantels. The Chambers/Robinson House is one of the best examples of the Queen Anne style in the area.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY:

In 1890, Judson G. Chambers and his wife Mary F., built the house at 910 Montgomery Avenue. (1) They resided here for eight years.

The Chambers sold the property to Dora and Charles Robinson in April for 1898. For 64 years, the Robinsons and their heirs (-three generations-) owned the house. One of their three daughters, Caroline, married Samuel Cooke. Caroline and Samuel Cooke resided with the Robinsons until they built their own house at 1000 N. Montgomery in 1923. (2)

Caroline Cooke's mother, Dora Robinson, also moved into the new Cooke House. Mrs. Robinson decided to convert 910 N. Montgomery into apartments. For awhile, there were no occupants on the first floor of the house. In 1924, Caroline Cooke's sister, Lola, Lola's husband, Charles Francis Hogue, and their two children, Caroline (-born February 6, 1912-) and Wilson, moved into the top floor of 910 N. Montgomery. Tragically, Wilson died in 1925 followed three years later by Charles' death by suicide. (3)

Caroline Hogue married Goerge Morris in 1934. While her husband was at War, Caroline lived with her mother, Lola, until Lola purchased another house at 801 Nashville during the mid-1940's. The house at 910 Montgomery, which had been converted into apartments around 1925, continued to be rented out. During World War II, Courtland Air Base couples resided in the upstairs of the building. (4)

Samuel and Caroline Cooke sold their house at 1000 North Montgomery to Charles L. and Therese A. Beard in the winter of 1940. They moved back to 910 Montgomery, living out their lives on the bottom floor while Air Force couples rented out rooms on the top floor (outside stairs and separate entranceways were constructed). In 1947, Samuel Cooke died of cancer; 14 years later, Caroline died of a stroke at the age of 90. (5)

Caroline Hogue sold 910 Montgomery Avenue in 1962 to Irvin and Lillie Mae Kimbrough. The Kimbroughs owned the house for 29 years. (6) The house was then purchased in August 1991 by Roger and Christine Tomberlin who rented it out for one-year. In December 1992, the Tomberlins sold it to Robert G. and Donna G. Brown, who plan to restore the house to its former grandeur.

QUEEN ANNE STYLE:

The Chambers/Robinson House is a good representation of the Queen Anne style that was the dominant domestic style from 1880 to 1910. The name was coined by Richard Norman Shaw and other 19th century English architects who popularized the style. Although they used the name Queen

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Significance Chambers/Robinson House Page #3
=====

Anne, they used elements from the late Medieval era rather than those popular during Queen Anne's reign. The early interpretation of Queen Anne included Shaw's use of half-timbered and patterned masonry; however, today the fewest examples of this type are found. (7) The earliest examples in America were of this type and were found in places like Boston, Newport, and Chicago. (8) The American interpretation of spindlework soon became dominant. Pattern books and architectural magazines like American Architect and Building News caused the popularity of the style to spread throughout the country. The railroad also allowed nation-wide exposure and acceptance with their transport of pre-cut architectural details. Examples of the Queen Anne style was seen from the southeast to the western coast. (9)

Queen Anne is characterized by its irregular shape, asymmetrical facade, and distinct detailing. Houses of this style frequently have hipped roofs with cross gables, wrap-around porches, and single pane window sashes. Spindlework or sawnwork embellish the house with everything from gable trim to brackets to turned porch posts. Many devices are used to add texture to the walls including bay windows, imbrication, towers, and dormers. (10)

The most popular phase of the Queen Anne period occurred during Alabama's boom years of the late 1880s through the early 1890s. The style overwhelmingly emerged in new industrial towns like Anniston, Birmingham, Bessemer, and Sheffield.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 8 Historical Summary Chambers/Robinson House Page #4

=====

1
The Daily Enterprise. Sept. 14, 1890.

2
Interview, Carolyn Hogue Morris, Fall 1992 (from personal files of
Christine Tomberlin).

3
Interview, Carolyn Hogue Morris, Fall 1992.

4
Interview, Carolyn Hogue Morris, Fall 1992.

5
Information from Christine Tomberlin, owner of 910 Montgomery from August 1991 until
December 1992.

6
Information from Christine Tomberlin.

7
McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf,
Inc., 1984, pp. 268.

8
Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog.(Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the
Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987, pp. 121-122.

9
McAlester, pp. 268.

10
McAlester, pp. 263-267.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section number 9 Bibliographical Ref. Chambers/Robinson House Page #5
=====

The Daily Enterprise. Sept. 14, 1890.

Information from Christine Tomberlin, owner of 910 Montgomery from August 1991 until December 1992.

Interviews with Caroline Hogue Morris, Fall 1992.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog. (Historic American Buildings Survey). A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa: The University of Alabama Press, 1987.

McAlester, Virginia and Lee. A Field Guide to American Houses. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Inc., 1984.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

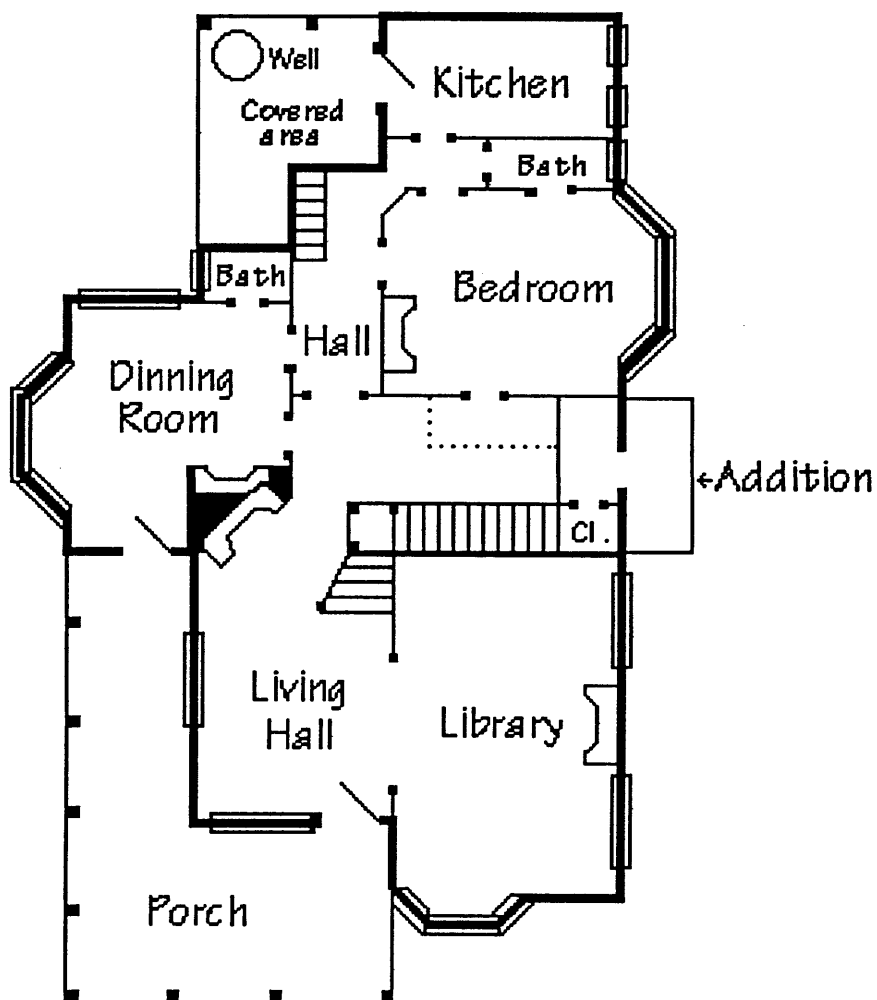
Section number (Photographs) Chambers/Robinson House Page #6
=====

Chambers/Robinson House
910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, AL (Colbert County)
Millie Wright, Photographer
March 1993
Negatives: Alabama Historical Commission

- Photo #1: Front Facade, Looking East
- Photo #2: Side Facade Looking South
- Photo #3: Front and Side Facades, Looking Northeast
- Photo #4: Side and Rear Facades, Looking Southwest
- Photo #5: Detail of Porch
- Photo #6: Detail of Porch
- Photo #7: Detail of Second Floor Gable

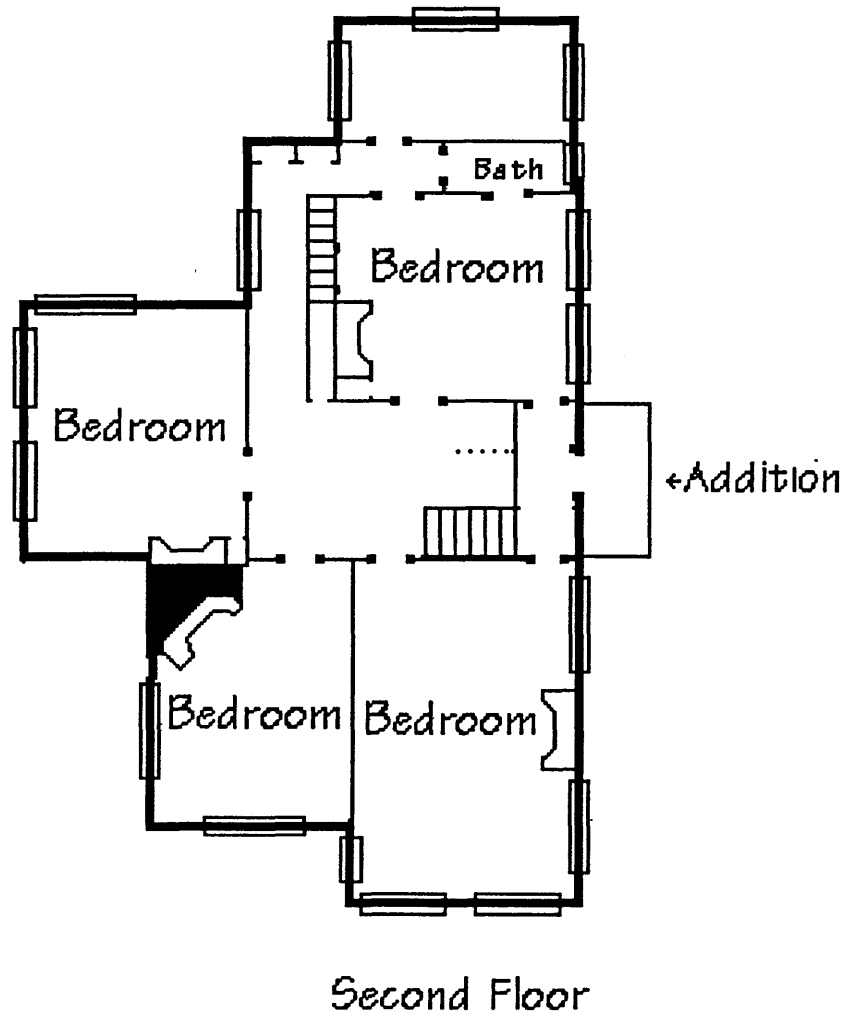
Chambers / Robinson House

910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, Alabama



Chambers / Robinson House

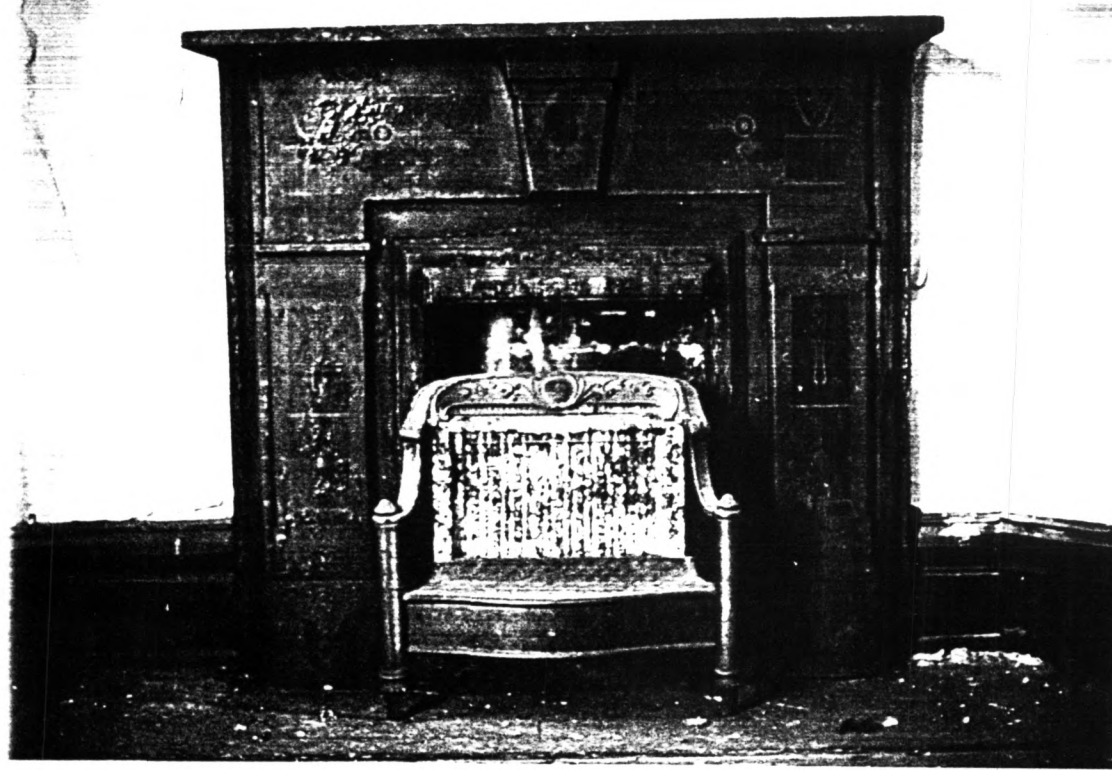
910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, Alabama



CHAMBERS/ROBINSON HOUSE
910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, Colbert County, AL



CHAMBERS/ROBINSON HOUSE
910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, Colbert Co. AL



CHAMBERS/ROBINSON HOUSE
910 Montgomery Avenue
Sheffield, Colbert County, AL

