

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections



1. Name

historic George Coulter House

and/or common Mapleton, McFarland House, Coulter-McFarland House

2. Location

street & number 420 S. Pine St. (NW corner Limestone & Pine Sts., facing Limestone)
not for publication

city, town Florence _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district 5 IV

state Alabama code 01 county Lauderdale code 077

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Mrs. Henry Campbell

street & number 420 South Pine Street

city, town Florence _____ vicinity of _____ state Alabama

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Probate Office, Lauderdale County Courthouse

street & number Court St.

city, town Florence _____ state Alabama

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Historic American Buildings Survey has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1934 federal state county local

depository for survey records Division of Prints and Photographs, Library of Congress

city, town Washington _____ state D.C., 20540

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

This house stands on one of the highest points in the city of Florence, overlooking the main business district to the east and the Tennessee River to the south. Despite its proximity to a commercial area, both the house and grounds have remained well maintained for many years. The lot on which the house is situated falls away to the north, forming at the rear an expansive lawn surrounded by a tall hedge.

The frame, rectangular, two-and-a-half story structure rests upon a brick foundation which encloses a full basement. The main block itself measures fifty-two feet across the front and rear elevations, and thirty-six feet deep. Narrow, two-tiered pedimented porches both front and rear, which may have been original, were replaced in the 1940's by the present tall, distyle porticoes with square piers that carry a second-floor gallery. Each of the original porches was composed of four slender, superimposed supports at each level: the south porch being the more ornate with Tuscan-order colonnettes, while simpler square supports distinguished the north porch. A pair of large brick chimneys buttress the east and west gable-ends of the house, the east pair being especially noteworthy in that the chimneys are flush with the frame walls of the house, being encased by the clapboard exterior sheathing. A not uncommon treatment in the upper South, it is seldom found in Alabama.

Extending from the west side of the house, on axis with the south elevation, is the original one-story gabled brick kitchen, which measures approximately 18 feet square and was formerly separated from the main structure by a six-foot wide covered breezeway, since enclosed.

From both the north and south porches, identical fanlight doorways open into the central hall. Paneled double doors are flanked by geometrically patterned sidelights and surmounted by a semielliptical transom describing a long diameter of nearly eight feet. At the juncture of the radiating muntins, there is a carved eagle--a typical Federal-period decorative motif. Two high-ceilinged en suite rooms lie to either side of the main hall, the visual focal point of each room being a large, delicately executed Adamesque mantelpiece. The 12-over-16 light windows found in all the lower rooms are paneled beneath, while each pair of rooms is connected by four-leaf, folding paneled doors. A molded chairrail and baseboard runs throughout, while the more formal east rooms are further embellished with a paneled dado. In these rooms also, the richly molded breakfront entablature above the folding doors features McIntire-like festoons and rosettes, with a centerpiece comprised of an urn flanked by entwined grapeleaf clusters.

Along the west side of the hall, a broad stair with a molded handrail terminating in a scrolled volute rises in two straightrun flights to the second and third floors. The upper floors conform in plan to the floor below. For the most part, the house retains its 19th-century hardware, as well as the louvered exterior blinds.

Changes have been minimal. During the late 1800's, the gable-ends of the roof were extended and lightly bracketed. The most extensive changes were those of the 1940's when, besides replacement of the porches, and construction of a medical-office wing, a narrow one-story bath/utility addition was built from the reentrant angle of the kitchen wing to the northwest corner of the house. The original interiors are relatively untouched.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/ humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates ca. 1825-30 **Builder/Architect** unknown

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The George Coulter house, more recently known as Mapleton, is probably unexcelled in Alabama as an example of Federal-period craftsmanship and architecture. The delicate Adamesque woodwork of the interior, especially that of the double drawingrooms, is, in fact, the most elaborate of its era surviving anywhere in the state today. The overall form and detail of the house, moreover, express the close link between the early 19th-century architecture of extreme northern Alabama and that of neighboring Middle Tennessee and Kentucky, with which the region maintained close social and economic ties.

* * * * *

George Coulter (also spelled Coalter) for whom Mapleton was built, presumably in the 1820's, had himself come to Florence from Middle Tennessee and, before that, Kentucky. He was a planter, lawyer, and military officer. Local tradition has long asserted that the fine woodwork of the house was executed by slave artisans from Kentucky, under the guidance of a "South American" overseer. No evidence, however, has come to light to substantiate this tradition. But it is clear that the decorative motifs employed in mantelpieces, fanlights, and consoles, as well as the bas-relief festoons, urns, and grapeleaf clusters applied to the friezes of the drawingroom doors, owe much to the standard carpenters' handbooks of the period, such as Owen Biddle's Young Carpenter's Assistant, and Asher Benjamin's The American Builder's Companion. The curvature of the leaded fanlight doorways at each end of the main hall is repeated inside by a broad elliptical arch, springing from scrolled consoles and enframed by a beaded architrave with keystone, that rises above the main stair. The Adamesque theme continues throughout, with a Palladian or "Venetian" window piercing the east gable-end of the house to light one of the third-floor rooms.

Known as "Todd's Hill" after coming into the possession of Dr. Levi Todd in the late 1850's, the house was commandeered for provost marshal headquarters by Federal troops during the Civil War. On another occasion, in June of 1862, it was occupied by Col. John Marshall Harlan of the 10th (U.S.) Kentucky Regiment, afterward an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Following the War, the house was purchased by Major Robert McFarland, born in Londonderry (Northern Ireland), a graduate of Washington and Lee University, and an ex-Confederate Officer who chose to practice law in Florence. In 1943, the heirs of the McFarland estate sold the house to Dr. and Mrs. W. W. Slaton. It was Mrs. Slaton who named the house Mapleton, after her own family home near Louisville, Kentucky.

Renovations made by the Slatons during the late 1940's, including the addition of a medical-office wing on the east side, adhered insofar as possible to the original lines of the house. Since that time, no major changes have occurred. Inherited by Dr. and Mrs. Henry W. Campbell, the house was sold to the present owner in 1980.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Gamble, Robert S., Manuscript architectural notes. In private possession.
 Owen, Thomas McAdory. History of Alabama and Dictionary of Alabama Biography,
 Vol. IV. Chicago: S.J. Clarke Publishing Co., 1921.
 Tennessee Valley Historical Society. Historic Muscle Shoals. Florence: No publisher listed,
 1976.

10. Geographical Data

ACREAGE NOT VERIFIED
 UTM NOT VERIFIED

Acreeage of nominated property 0.94 acres
 Quadrangle name Florence Quadrangle scale 7.5 minute

UMT References

A	1,6	4,3,8	2,2,0	3,8	5,0	4,2,0	B						
	Zone	Easting		Northing				Zone	Easting		Northing		
C							D						
E							F						
G							H						

Verbal boundary description and justification

The property nominated is a lot 200' square, bounded on the east by Pine St., on the south by Limestone St., and on the west by the bisecting alley between Pine and Cedar Sts.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
state	code	county	code

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Robert S. Gamble for
 organization Alabama Historical Commission date October 6, 1981
 street & number 725 Monroe Street telephone (205) 832-6621
 city or town Montgomery state Alabama

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Orlo B. Howard Jr. date 10/6/81

title 54PO Alabama

For HCRS use only	
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register	
<u>Delores Byer</u>	Entered in the National Register date <u>1/24/82</u>
Keeper of the National Register	
Attest:	date
Chief of Registration	

MEASURED 8.18.80

COULTER, GEORGE, HOUSE
421 S. PINE ST.
FLORENCE, AL.

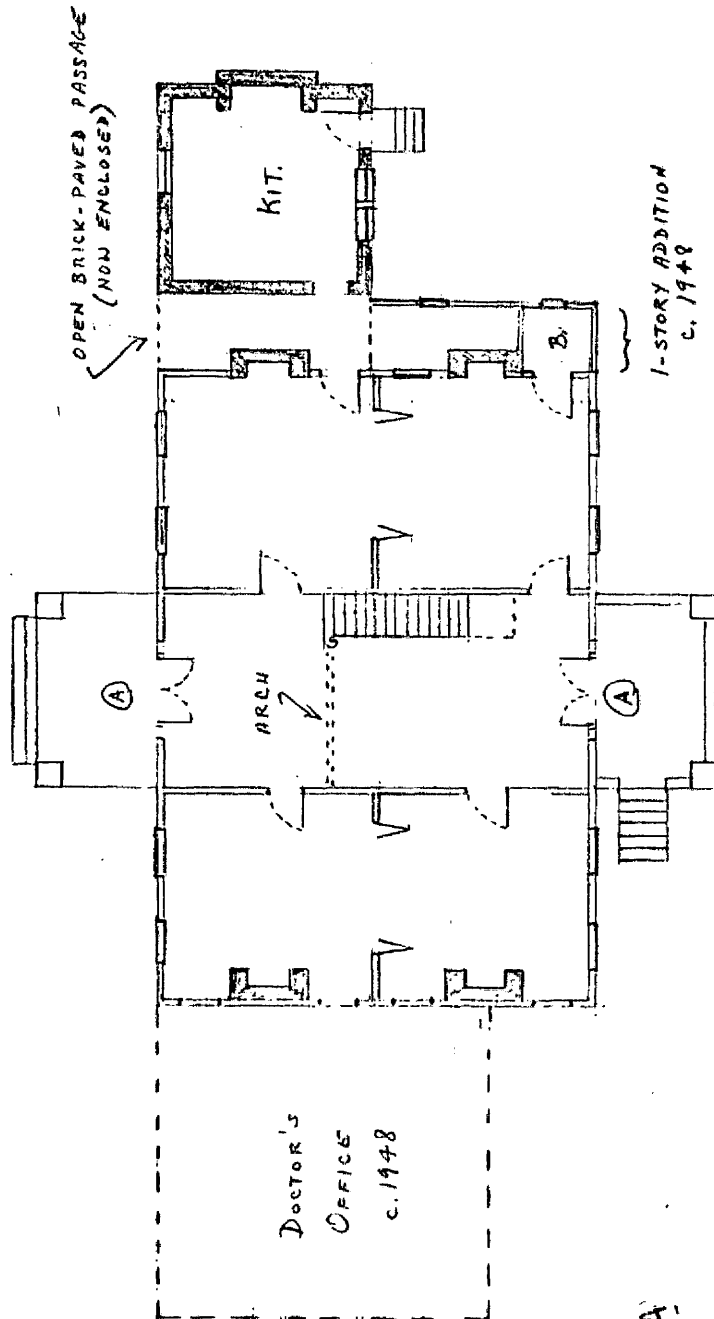
ALLEY



SCALE
1" = 8'
0 3 6

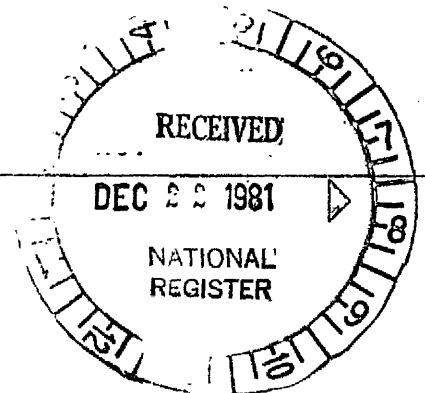
200'
(UNSCALED)

LIMESTONE ST.



COULTER, GEORGE, HOUSE
(MAPLETON)

PINE ST.



JAN 21 1982