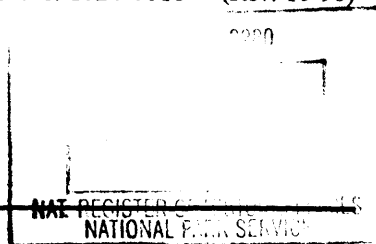


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1029



1. Name of Property

historic name Golden, C.S., House
other names/site number Lenoard and Ellie Crain House

2. Location

street & number 540 Seventh Ave not for publication N/A
city or town Thomaston vicinity N/A
state Alabama code AL county Marengo code 91 zip code 36783

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this 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 meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

July 28, 2000
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 for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

- I hereby certify that this property is:
- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
 - determined not eligible for the National Register
 - removed from the National Register
 - other (explain):

Edson H. Beall

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

8/31/00
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check only one box.)

Category of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply.)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources.)

- private
- public-local
- public-state
- public-Federal

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Contributing	Non-contributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
—	— sites
—	— structures
—	— objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)
N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the NR
N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat: <u>Domestic</u>	Sub: <u>single dwelling</u>
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—
—	—

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Queen Anne
—
—

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	<u>brick</u>
roof	<u>metal</u>
walls	<u>wood</u>
other	<u>wood</u>

Narrative Description (Describe the historic and current condition on continuation sheet/s.)

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 2 acres

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
1	<u>16</u>	<u>441220</u>	<u>3570750</u>	3	-	-	-
2				4	-	-	-

 See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joan Embree

organization Preservation Consultant

date April 25, 2000

street & number 1364 Lake Valley Road

telephone (601) 324-0410

city or town Starkville

state MS zip code 39759

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name Lenoard and Ellie Crain

street & number 540 Seventh Avenue telephone (334) 627-3802

city or town Thomaston

state AL zip code 36783

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 1

Name of property Golden, C.S., House

County and state Marengo, Alabama

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

The Cecil Stanford Golden House at 540 Seventh Avenue in Thomaston, Marengo County, Alabama, is the best example of vernacular Queen Anne architecture in Thomaston and in the rural areas surrounding the town. A Queen Anne cottage in form, the house is one-story frame with a weatherboard exterior. The V-seam metal-clad roof has multiple gables, with two parallel main north-south gabled wings connected by a cross gable. Small projecting rear gables are located on both east and west elevations. The house is rectangularly-massed, with gabled projections under the east/west gables. Extensive wraparound porches with heavy turned wood posts, balustrades, and spandrels run full length along the south-facing facade and along the west and east elevations.

The house is located in a deep, tree-studded yard toward the rear of a curving gravel drive. Seventh Avenue, which passes from west to east in front of the house, was originally a portion of the Linden-to-Cahaba Road. The Linden-to-Cahaba Road ran from the county seat of Marengo County to the early state capitol located in the town of Cahaba. The house is on the north side of the road, just past a "dogleg" turn to the north and the east. The road is narrow, blacktopped, and without sidewalks or gutters. Just to the west of the Golden house, beyond the turn, are the home of town founder C.B. Thomas, the site of an early store and mill, and the current north-south State Highway 25.

The southern facade of the Golden House is three-bay, with massive 1/1 double-hung windows in bays projecting into the porch area at either side of a central entry surround. Surrounds on the windows and the entry have heavily molded hoods. The entry surround has two-light overlights and two-light sidelights over heavily-molded aprons. The door is Queen Anne style, with small square lights edging a large central light at the top and applied carving and molding on the bottom half. Most of the glass panes in the windows are original to the house. Porch details dominate the facade, with heavy turned posts, connecting spandrels made up of spindles and rails, and a balustrade of milled rails and turned spindles. The porch has a tongue-and-groove, coved ceiling; the floor is new flush planks. The original steps and walkway have been replaced by brick. The porch has a hipped roof, which curves at the corners and which has a partial "tower" detail and roof above the right (eastern) bay window.

The eastern elevation of the house is 5-bay, with a 4/4 double-hung window at the south end of the wing, under the continuation of the wrap porch, followed by a multiple-windowed, glassed-in section of the porch, a gabled extension with two 2/2 windows, and paired 4/4 double-hung windows at the rear. Trim details on windows and roof match those on the facade. Brick foundation piers with brick infill are visible behind yard plantings.

The rear, northern elevation of the house, is similar to the facade, but has two large, 4/4 windows in each wing and a less ornate central entry surround. A shed-roofed rectangular porch on turned posts covers most of the north elevation and extends past the northwest corner of the house. A gabled breeze way in line with the central hall of the house attaches the rear porch roof to the side-gabled roof of the porch-attached rear wing. The rear porch and the breezeway are the originals, repaired during the home's restoration in the 1980s. The western elevation of the house has a central, gable-roofed ell and a small gabled well enclosure at the northwest end of the porch. Windows in the southwest and northwest rooms are 4/4 double-hung, in surrounds matching the others. Windows in the projecting ell are 4/4 double-hung. Foundation details are the same as those on the east elevation.

The second contributing building in the nomination is the wood-framed, side-gabled, simple, former kitchen/dining room attached by the breeze way to the north elevation of the house. The building has a metal roof and brick foundation piers and infill. The facade has been modified by the addition of a windowless shed-roofed extension over the left half. This extension widens and continues as a garage on the west elevation. The northern elevation has two 4/4 double-hung windows flanking two four-panel doors without steps. The right half of the facade has a single-leaf wooden entry door with one rectangular glass pane at the top. Windows in east, north, and west elevations are 4/4 double hung, in plain surrounds.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7.8 Page 2

Name of property Golden, C.S., House

County and state Marengo, Alabama

On the interior, the original floor plan of the house is largely intact. A twelve-foot-wide central hall connects the east and west gabled wings. Each wing has three large rooms opening into the hall. A shallow gabled ell on the west elevation houses the original "bath" room, alleged to be the first in Thomaston. On the east elevation, the rear portion of the wrap-around porch has been enclosed with glass for a sun room and a bath has been added under a shallow gabled extension. A shed-roofed rear porch and a gabled breezeway connect the rooms in the main house to the former kitchen/dining room building to the north. (See floor plan.)

Intact interior features include 14-foot ceilings, tongue-and-groove heart pine floors, painted woodwork and fireplace mantels. Five original fireplaces survive and a new one has been built in the music room on the northeast corner. The five original fireplaces have their original wooden fireplace mantels. Perhaps the home's most striking intact feature is its 12-foot-wide, 60-foot-long central hall. Local oral history says this hall was used for dancing and roller-skating parties.

Archeological Component

Although no formal archeological survey has been made of the C.S. Golden House, the potential for subsurface remains may be good. Buried portions may contain significant information useful in interpreting the entire property.

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Criterion C: Architecture

The C.S. Golden House at 540 Seventh Avenue in Thomaston, Marengo County, Alabama, is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion C for its outstanding vernacular Queen Anne cottage architecture. Although several other buildings in Thomaston have Victorian-era details in their massing and trim, the Golden House is the only claimant to the recognized Queen Anne style. The Golden house, particularly in its exterior details, follows the Queen Anne prescription: it appears to be irregularly-massed; it has multiple roofs, including a "mini-turret" over one of the facade bays; great emphasis is placed on the imposing front porch, which wraps the facade and much of two other elevations with decorative milled, turned, and cut-work details; and, its interior retains the original heart-pine floors and woodwork and period mantels that set it apart from other local houses with Victorian-era detail. It is the premier local proponent of detail for ostentation's sake, that particularly Queen Anne feature which was designed to make a statement about the place of the home's owner in the local landscape.

Its probable builder and its first owner was Cecil Stanford Golden. In 1898, before the plans for Thomaston's development were publicized, he built the house that was to remain the most stylistically ornate in the community. Thomaston's more common modest homes with Victorian-era detailing include the Clarice Etheridge home, at 467 Third Avenue, and the Stallworth/Lyons House at 6300 Second Avenue. Both have remnants of layers of exterior surface decoration and forms of the irregular massing and roofline common to late 19th/early 20th century Victorian-era styles. The Golden House, however, is closer in design to "urban" examples found in Demopolis, Uniontown, and Linden.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 3

Name of property Golden, C.S., House

County and state Marengo, Alabama

Historic Summary

The Cecil Stanford Golden House is a late 19th-century product of: the youthful exuberance of a wealthy, would-be entrepreneur; an age of optimism in portions of the South recovering from the Civil War and Reconstruction; a political movement to extract wealth from the regions formerly undervalued natural resources; and an era of architectural design that emphasized "romantic" verticality, irregularity, and the use of multiple layers of detail. Mr. Golden was the son of a wealthy foundry owner in Columbus, Georgia. Oral history says that as a young man, he came to Marengo County for a summer visit to relatives. He met and married Mary Louise Buck, daughter of John Wesley and Martha Buchannon Buck.

When its owner arrived as a young man, there would have been very little "community" in the crossroads settlement which had been renamed from "Nixonville" to "Thomaston" after its new owner, Dr. C.B. Thomas. Dr. Thomas, whose family farmed in nearby Rembert Hills, had bought a house and a store in the area along the Linden-to-Cahaba Road. Though it is not certain when Dr. Thomas began thinking about how he could develop the increasing acreage he was buying, it is certain that Golden knew him, and had enough confidence in him to buy land just to the east of him and set about building a substantial house that would have been, at the time, far grander and more architecturally ambitious than anything other than the few formal ante-bellum buildings remaining from the plantation era.

Family history says the house was built for Mary Louise Buck, C.S. Golden's bride. Construction materials for the house are alleged to have been largely heart pine, milled at a sawmill south of town owned by one of Golden's uncles. There is no record of which sawmill this was. The turned and cut work trim on the front porch may also be the products of a local carpenter, but the mantels throughout the house are the commercial styles available from late 19th century manufacturers. The 14-foot ceilings, the heart pine floors and milled moldings, and the classical central hall plan survive.

Golden apparently bought into Dr. Thomas's town development plans. He was one of the Trustees of the Marengo Improvement Company, incorporated by Dr. Thomas in 1901. His name also appears as a Trustee in the short-lived Thomaston Town Bank organized by Dr. Thomas in 1905, and an incorporator of the Thomaston High School campaign that also began in 1905. (Corporation Book 1, Marengo County Probate Records) He was a partner with E.G. Thomas, Dr. Thomas's nephew, in the Thomaston Cattle Company, a large cattle-raising operation in the grass lands bordering Thomaston. The cattle company and another commercial enterprise of Golden's, "The Red Store," apparently a general merchandise operation, were both advertised in early editions of the Thomaston Post and in the Linden Democrat. Like Dr. Thomas, he seems not to have served as an elected official, but both served temporarily as Mayor "pro tem" between elections. (Ordinance Book 1, Thomaston Town Hall)

Given his place in Thomaston's development efforts, Golden was prescient in his choice of architectural styles. In Demopolis, Linden, and other Marengo County towns the Queen Anne style of architecture was often chosen by successful merchants, bankers, and others as a measure of their successful enterprises. Golden chose the style and erected the house that was to remain Thomaston's most ornate home before he began his local enterprises. His ability to do so was based, according to family records, on family wealth accumulated in Columbus, Georgia, through his father's efforts.

The Queen Anne style, popular throughout the country from the mid-19th century into the early 20th century, was an American adaptation of the British Queen Anne style. In Britain, Queen Anne houses were more commonly made of brick, and featured an overlapping and generous number of materials, textures, angles, and levels. Outside of urban and East Coast areas, the American Queen Anne was more likely to be made of wood for structure, siding, and textural detail. Some of the best and most excessive examples survive in the gold-and-silver-rush towns of the West, like San Francisco and Denver. In Thomaston, the Golden house is the only real contender for listing as a vernacular Queen Anne.

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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8,9,10 Page 4

Name of property Golden, C.S., House

County and state Marengo, Alabama

The nomination for the C.S. Golden House is one of three individual nominations prepared to accompany the nomination for the Thomaston Central Historic District. All three individual nominations lie outside the original city limits of the town of Thomaston. Thomaston was the early 20th-century creation of Dr. Charles B. Thomas, a native of nearby Rembert Hills who joined with other development advocates in promoting the "New South" effort to help the South recover from Civil War and Reconstruction. Details of Dr. Thomas's city development plans and of Thomaston's history and growth are presented in the National Register nomination for the Thomaston Central Historic District.

SECTION 9: MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Crain, Ellie. Interviewed on C.S. Golden House history and renovation by Joan Embree, architectural historian, at her home on east Seventh Avenue in Thomaston, October 1994.

Stallworth, Clarke, Associate Editor. "Golden Years Will Return to Home," in Alabama Journey, 1981 column, undated, of Birmingham News, Birmingham, Alabama. Copy held at Thomaston Town Hall.

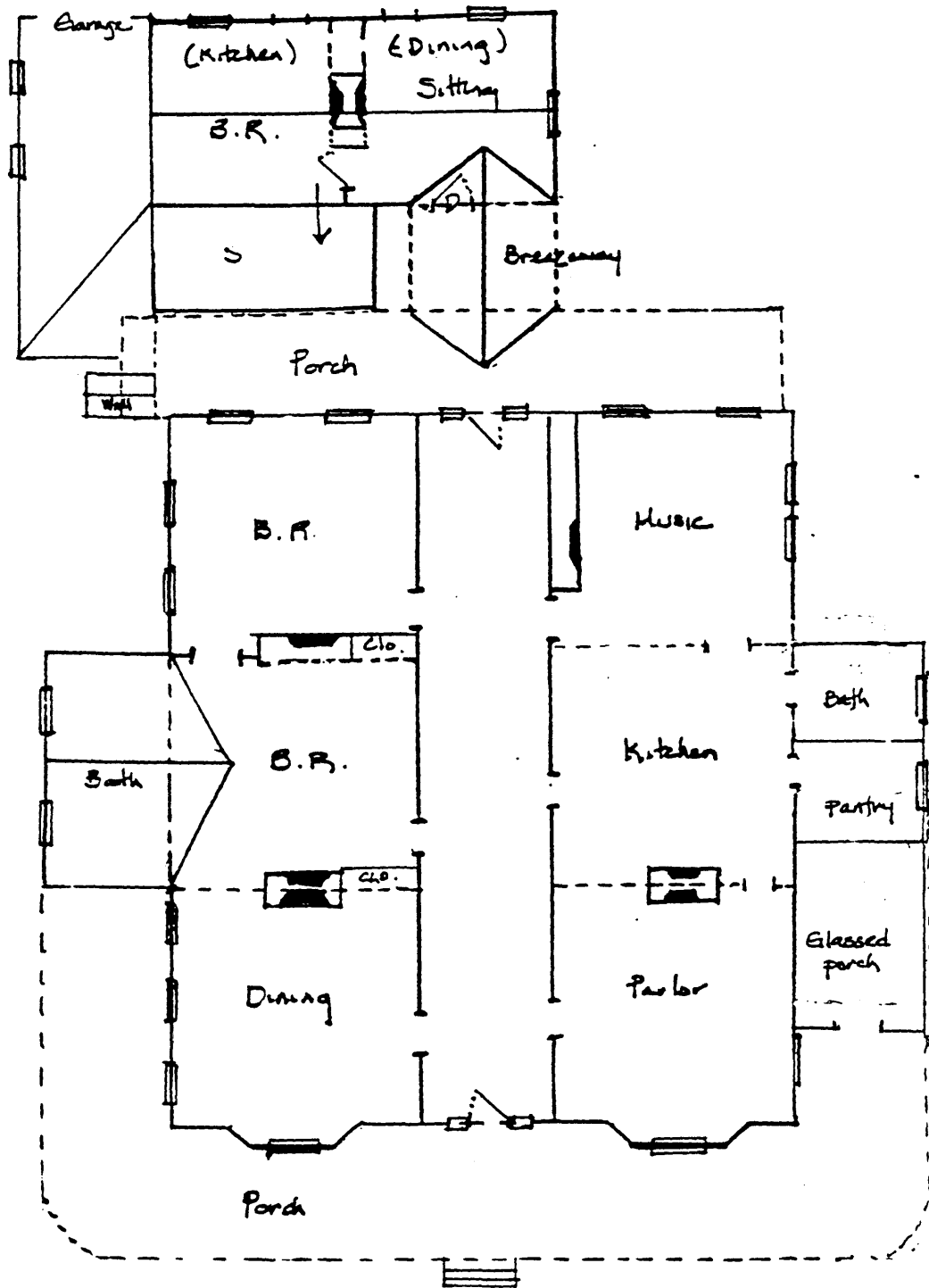
SECTION 10: GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated portion of the property includes the portion of Block #1, Parcel #4 on Marengo County Property Tax Assessment Map 48-20-04-18-2 that closely surrounds the C.S. Golden House. The southern boundary is Seventh Avenue (north side). The western boundary runs due north from a point 50 feet west of the southwest corner of the house, connecting the southern boundary at Seventh Avenue with an arbitrary line 20 feet to the rear of the kitchen/dining room building. This northern boundary runs from 50 feet west of the house to 50 feet east of the house. The eastern boundary runs south from the northern boundary to the point of beginning – 50 feet east of the southeast corner of the house, to meet the southern boundary at the north side of Seventh Avenue.

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the C.S. Golden House, its kitchen/dining wing, and its traditional front and side yards, but excludes property to the rear. These boundaries are meant to encompass the house without encumbering the remainder of the property. Since no outbuildings (other than the kitchen/dining room) are extant and no historic landscape exists, the boundaries were drawn to include only the house and the kitchen/dining room and the immediate setting.



C. S. GOLDEN HOUSE
 Marengo Co., AL
 540 SEVENTH AVE

Scale
 $\frac{1}{4}'' = 4'$