

269

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Coley, A.J. and Emma E. Thomas, House  
other names/site number Dr. J.A. Gogan's Infirmary; Coley-Joiner House

2. Location

street & number 416 Hillabee Street NA not for publication  
city, town Alexander City NA vicinity  
state Alabama code AL county Tallapoosa code 123 zip code 35010

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: NA  
Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register NA

4. 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.  See continuation sheet.  
[Signature] 11-28-90  
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.  
 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
[Signature] 1/3/91  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

---

---

---

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

---

---

---

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Queen Anne

---

---

---

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation brick

---

walls weatherboard

---

roof asphalt

---

other NA

---

---

---

**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

SUMMARY: Constructed in 1895, the A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House, 416 Hillabee Street, Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, is a virtually unaltered example of the Queen Anne style. The detached, two and one-half story frame building is sided with weatherboard and rests on a limestone and brick foundation. Asphalt shingles now cover the original wooden roofing shingles. Despite minor alterations and the attachment of a carport to a portion of the rear porch, the Coley House retains its integrity of design, materials, workmanship, and location.

ELABORATION: The house is sited on approximately one-half acre of gently sloping land with large pecan, oak, and magnolia trees that appear to be original to the site. A perimeter foundation of limestone is interrupted with brick at three locations. Brick piers support the pine beams under the house, with limestone occasionally utilized for base. Windows and doors have been installed in one section of the perimeter foundation on the west elevation so that plants may be stored underneath the house during the winter months. The facade, or south elevation, consists of three two-story bays with four windows located in each bay. The siding is virgin pine of a narrow ship-lap pattern. Asphalt shingles sheath the roof, which consists of six gables that intersect with a raised, hipped central portion. The original wood roofing shingles are still visible in the attic. The roof is penetrated with four large chimneys which are capped and vented. The soffit area between the eaves and the exterior wall is enclosed and furnished with cove moldings.

Exterior windows and door casings are a plain, wide pattern with an extended ledge across the top. All exterior doors have transoms; the front entrance retains its original leaded glass transoms and side lights. Corners of gables are graced with decorative turnings. The windows are double hung, one-over-one and measure approximately seven feet high by two and one-half feet wide, with the exception of three stained glass windows installed in the enclosed west end of the rear porch. Storm doors and windows cover the original doors and windows, which are intact beneath.

The one story, wraparound front porch with pedimented entryway is supported by twenty-five hand hewn columns grouped in twos and threes and resting on decorative handmade pedestals. The porch railings consist of hand carved spindles supported between hewn top rails and plain bottom rails which connect the pedestals. The porch is floored with one inch by four inch, tongue and groove lumber extending to the cove molding along the bottom wall of the

 See continuation sheet

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

house. The porch ceiling is covered with long length beaded tongue and groove lumber, which is the full length of a tree. East and west ends of the front porch extend around to the bay windows on each side. The west end of the wraparound front porch was later enclosed to make a sun room. Each end of the wraparound sections was originally connected with side entrances to the house, with the two on the east side still in use.

A balcony is centered above the front porch on the facade. The balcony railings are similar to the front porch railings and spindles. The shed roof above the balcony is graced with six large teardrop turnings. The balcony is reached through an upper front hall door with sidelights and transoms, furnished with leaded glass and outside, wall mounted electric lamps. The upper doorway matches the front entrance downstairs. Another one story porch extends across the rear, or north, elevation. The shed type roof is supported by nine single columns resting on pedestals with railings similar to the front porch, but on a smaller scale. A wing extends from this porch and covers an original well and connects to a double carport, added in 1989. The back porch has one inch by four inch tongue and groove pine flooring. The west end of the back porch was enclosed circa 1940 to make a sitting room and bath and was furnished with three stained glass windows along with regular windows. The back entrance has a door with a stained and leaded glass and a plain transom. Centered over the back porch is a balcony with shed roof similar to the one over the front porch. This balcony is accessible from the upstairs back hall through a door with a plain transom over door and a stained and leaded glass window in the door.

The interior is arranged around a central hallway. The front and back foyers measure ten feet by seventeen feet. The middle hall is eighteen feet by twenty feet. The center hall contains the main elaborate stairway with the back foyer having the back stairway and separated from the main stairway by a door. The lower floor has nine rooms and three baths. All of the rooms are large, with some of them measuring twenty feet by twenty feet. The upstairs has seven rooms and two baths. All interior windows and door casings are multiple grooved with bull's-eye corners and plinth plates. Doors throughout the house are five panel construction with original brass knobs. Two of the rooms--the dining room and the parlor--are furnished with pocket doors and typical door hardware, consisting of the original fancy brass.

There are eleven massive fireplaces, each with an elaborate mantel of a different design. All of the fireplaces have decorative cast iron inserts with matching covers, along with tile surrounds and hearths. Some have painted tiles while other are plain. Four of the mantels exhibit over-mantel beveled mirrors with shelves; one is a very large Chippendale, while the balance have permanent beveled mirrors, but are very ornate.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

---

All flooring throughout the house is three and one-quarter inch original virgin pine lumber. All ceilings are twelve feet high and are beaded tongue and groove pine lumber. The walls retain the original plaster, and most are covered with wall paper in Victorian patterns. The rooms are fitted with crown molding, picture molding, and baseboard molding in various combinations, along with beautiful wainscoting. The baseboards are twelve inches wide. The upstairs and downstairs maids' rooms have been converted into utility rooms.

The attic is accessed via a stairway off the upstairs back bedroom. While only a walkway is floored, there is access to all six gables of the house. Two of these gables have louvers for natural ventilation. The center part of the attic exceeds twenty-four feet in height.

Alterations to the house have been minor. A portion of the rear porch was enclosed to create a sitting room and a bathroom, probably during the house's tenure as an apartment building. In 1989, the current owners, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Joiner, attached a carport to the extension of the rear porch which served as a well cover; no historic materials were removed. Windows were also installed in the foundation on the west elevation to light a portion of the crawl space used for storing plants in the winter. The house still reflects the essential characteristics and elements which defined the Queen Anne style.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)  A  B  C  D  E  F  G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

Architecture

1895

1895

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Significant Person

NA

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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

SUMMARY: The A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House, 416 Hillabee Street, Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, is significant under Criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE. Constructed in 1895 as the residence and occasional office for a locally prominent physician and his wife, the house is a representative, relatively unaltered, late example of the Queen Anne style. Its design utilized many of the characteristic elements of the style, such as irregular massing, a complex roofline composed of a steep hip roof with lower cross gables, wraparound veranda, and Classically inspired ornamentation.

Despite the irregular form emphasized by three projecting bays, the Coley House is also an example of an Alabama Queen Anne which applied a mass produced style, standardized and promulgated by pattern books and catalogues, to a traditional central hall plan.

ELABORATION: The English Queen Anne style was generally acknowledged to have its origins in the work of Richard Norman Shaw and was further popularized by J.J. Stevenson, who preferred the term "Free Classic" for the result.<sup>2</sup> The Queen Anne style was introduced in America in the 1870s, where it acquired elements of both the vernacular and the Colonial style but avoided any specific historical accuracy.<sup>3</sup> One of the earliest American exponents of the style, Henry Hudson Holly, introduced his interpretation in Harper's Monthly in 1877 and, in the next year, in a pattern book, Modern Dwellings.

<sup>1</sup> Robert Gamble, The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey, A Guide to the Early Architecture of the State (Tuscaloosa, AL: University of Alabama Press, 1987), p. 123.

<sup>2</sup> Sadayoshi Omoto, "The Queen Anne Style and Architectural Criticism," Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 23 (March 1964): 29.

<sup>3</sup> Idem, pp. 29 and 33.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS): NA

- 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 # \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

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

A 

1	6	5	9	8	3	0	0	3	6	4	5	7	6	0
Zone		Easting						Northing						

B 

Zone		Easting						Northing						

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

All of lot 7, Block K, City of Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, Alabama

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the entire city lot which has been historically associated with the property.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Joiner; Steve Mitchell/AHC Reviewer  
organization \_\_\_\_\_ date August 1990  
street & number 416 Hillabee Street telephone 205 329-9623  
city or town Alexander City state Alabama zip code 35010

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

The characteristic large chimneys, irregular plan and silhouette, and textured surface treatment of the Queen Anne style were introduced in Shaw's English designs. The American interpretations of the style by Holly and subsequent proponents, such as George and Charles Palliser and Robert W. Shoppell, were more irregular than their English antecedents and aspired to a more exaggerated, artistic effect. Among those elements emphasized by the American Queen Anne were carved decorations in gable ends and over windows and, later, the tower and balcony.<sup>4</sup> Although contemptuous of what he termed "the Queen Anne' fever," architect John Wellborn Root offered a contemporary description of the application of the elements which characterized the style. The Queen Anne house, Root explained, was

adorned . . . with all sorts of 'ornamental' devices in woodwork--open-work scrolls under and above its gables, jigsawed crestings in its ridges, and wonderful frostings and finials on its gables. The architraves about its windows were no longer content to be of simple boards, but were decorated by rosettes, star-shaped ornaments, and all kinds of forms . . . The clapboards or matched ceiling covering it were laid in all directions . . . The verandas of these houses offered best opportunity for such display, and here jigsawed railings and curiously turned or chamfered frosts [sic] ran riot.

In the American examples of the style, the emphasis on the balcony and veranda, as well as the extension of interior space into oriels and bays, underscored the importance of "the free flowing of space into space and indoors into outdoors"<sup>6</sup> and represented an essential difference between the English and American styles.

As early as 1881, architectural bulletins referred to the enthusiasm for the style as a "'craze for Queen Anne.'" Another journal showed unintentional insight in its scorn for the proliferation of the style: "'Apart from the picturesque appearance of these buildings and their supposed popularity there is comparatively little to recommend them.'"<sup>8</sup> Originally introduced in the eastern states, the style quickly spread to other parts of the country. Despite the scorn of professional journals, the Queen Anne style was the dominant style of domestic building from the 1880s to approximately

<sup>4</sup> Idem, p. 31.

<sup>5</sup> John Wellborn Root, "The City House in the West," Scribner's Magazine 8 (October 1890): 418.

<sup>6</sup> Mark Girouard, Sweetness and Light: The 'Queen Anne' Movement, 1860-1900 (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977), p. 218.

<sup>7</sup> Omoto, p. 33.

<sup>8</sup> Idem, p. 34.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 2 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

1910.<sup>9</sup> In small towns, especially, the style was eagerly embraced by large sections of the American middle classes and was the enthusiastic choice of merchants and members of the professional establishment, such as physicians and bankers, and of aspirants, such as the sons of established entrepreneurs and small merchants.

Whatever reasons attended the creation and continuance of the style, however, several identifiable factors assisted its dissemination. Professional and architectural periodicals popularized and conveyed the Queen Anne style to small town carpenter-builders, and pattern books and "the published catalogues of planing mills"<sup>10</sup> advertised the variety and availability of pre-cut details. Finally, the expanding network of rail transportation allowed the distribution of these embellishments and the dimension lumber essential for the mass produced style.

In Alabama, the popularity of the Queen Anne style coincided with a period of economic boom in the late 1880s and early 1890s. In Alexander City, as in many Alabama towns, prosperity or its promise was represented by the arrival of the railroad. In 1859, the Opelika and Talladega Railroad was chartered to construct a line from Opelika via Dadeville in Tallapoosa County to a point on the Alabama and Tennessee Rivers Railroad. In 1861, the charter was amended by the Confederate government and the name was changed to the Opelika and Tuscumbia Railroad. Construction was halted by the war and all work was destroyed. In 1866, the charter was again amended and the railroad renamed the Savannah and Memphis Railroad. Youngsville, which was incorporated in 1872, lay on the route of the new line. In 1873, in honor of Savannah and Memphis Railroad president General Edward Porter Alexander, the state legislature changed the name of Youngsville to Alexander City. By the following year, the railroad was completed to the town. Three years later the line was in receivership. In 1880, it was sold and reorganized as the Columbus and Western Railroad, which was then acquired by Central of Georgia.<sup>11</sup>

A.J. Coley Jr. was born in 1858 near Alexander City. In 1877, he began the study of medicine with Dr. J.C. McClendon. From 1878 to 1880, he attended Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia. Upon graduation, he practiced at New Site in Tallapoosa County until September 1880. From 1880 to 1881, Coley attended lectures and studied in New York City at the University of New York, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, and at Bellevue Hospital. In 1881, he returned to Alexander City to practice.

<sup>9</sup> Girouard, pp. 208-215.

<sup>10</sup> Root, p. 421.

<sup>11</sup> Marie Bankhead Owen, The Story of Alabama: A History of the State, 4 vols. (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949), 2:185-186; William Pressley Ingram, A History of Tallapoosa County (n.p., 1951), pp. 99-100; and Gamble, p. 122.



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

In 1884, Dr. Coley purchased lot 7 of Block K from B.J. and Jennie Holloway for \$900; the following year he married Emma E. Thomas. In addition to his own medical practice, Coley also served as the county health officer and was half owner of a livery stable. From 1902 to 1903, he served as mayor of Alexander City.<sup>12</sup> When Dr. Coley and his wife built a new house in 1895, it was unsurprising that the prominent and successful local physician chose the prevailing Queen Anne style.

In 1909, Dr. Coley left Alabama for reasons of health and settled in Oklahoma. The house at 416 Hillabee Street was purchased by Dr. James Adrian Googan, who used it as a residence and infirmary until his death in 1920. The house has been maintained as a single family dwelling except for a brief period during World War II, when it was divided into apartments.

The A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House still retains and displays many of the distinctive characteristics which defined the Queen Anne style from its inception. The Coley House is an example of what McAlester and McAlester identified as the most common Queen Anne subtype--hipped roof with lower cross gables. This subtype comprised over one half of all Queen Anne houses and was adaptable to a variety of structures, ranging from small cottages to more elaborate, multi-storied residences. Complex hip roofs with lower cross gables accented the irregular massing, which was sustained by cross axes, projecting wings and bays, and porches or porte-cocheres incorporated into the main mass of the dwelling. Decorative spindlework, bay windows, and an asymmetrical facade were also employed as distinctive elements of the style. The proliferation of the Queen Anne style represented the subsuming of local traditions and nuances of construction in standardized, mass produced designs promulgated by pattern books, catalogues, and the railroad. The Coley House, however, is also an example of an Alabama Queen Anne style house which retained a traditional, central hall floorplan, which was effectively disguised by the modern embellishments of the style.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>12</sup> Deed Books 12 and W, Tallapoosa County Probate Office, Tallapoosa County Courthouse, Dadeville, Alabama; and Jennie Lee Kelley, "Alexander City," in Tallapoosa County, A History (Alexander City, AL: Tallapoosa County Bicentennial Committee, 1976), p. 106.

<sup>13</sup> Gamble, p. 123.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1 A.J. and Emma E. Thomas Coley House

---

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Deed Book 12. Tallapoosa County Probate Office. Tallapoosa County Court-  
house, Dadeville, Alabama.

Deed Book W. Tallapoosa County Probate Office. Tallapoosa County Courthouse,  
Dadeville, Alabama.

Gamble, Robert. The Alabama Catalog: Historic American Buildings Survey, A  
Guide to the Early Architecture of the State. Tuscaloosa, AL: Univer-  
sity of Alabama Press, 1987.

Girouard, Mark. Sweetness and Light: The 'Queen Anne' Movement, 1860-1900.  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1977.

Ingram, William Pressley. A History of Tallapoosa County. N.p., 1951.

Omoto, Sadayoshi. "The Queen Anne Style and Architectural Criticism," Journal  
of the Society of Architectural Historians 23 (March 1964): 29-37.

Owen, Marie Bankhead. The Story of Alabama: A History of the State. 4 vols.  
New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1949.

Root, John Wellborn. "The City House in the West," Scribner's Magazine 8  
(October 1890): 416-434.

Talpoosa County, A History. Alexander City, AL: Tallapoosa County Bicen-  
tennial Committee, 1976.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number photo-  
graphs Page 1

---

The following information is the same for all photographs:

- 1) Coley, A.J. and Emma E. Thomas, House
- 2) 416 Hillabee Street, Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, Alabama
- 3) Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Joiner
- 4) May 1990
- 5) Alabama Historical Commission, 725 Monroe Street, Montgomery, AL

Photograph #1: View from south

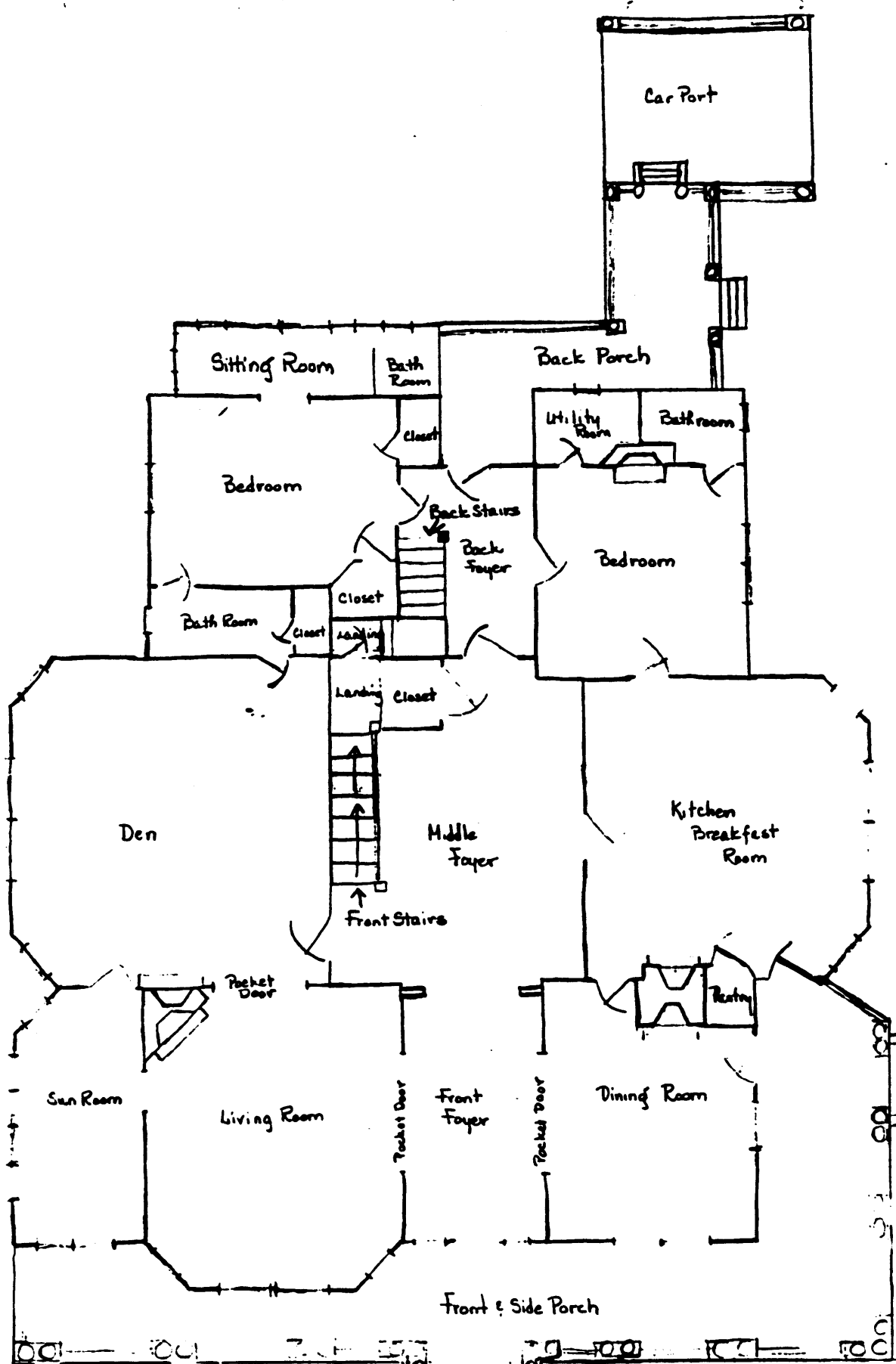
Photograph #2: View from southeast

Photograph #3: View from east, detail of bay

Photograph #4: View from east, detail of carport addition

Photograph #5: View from northeast

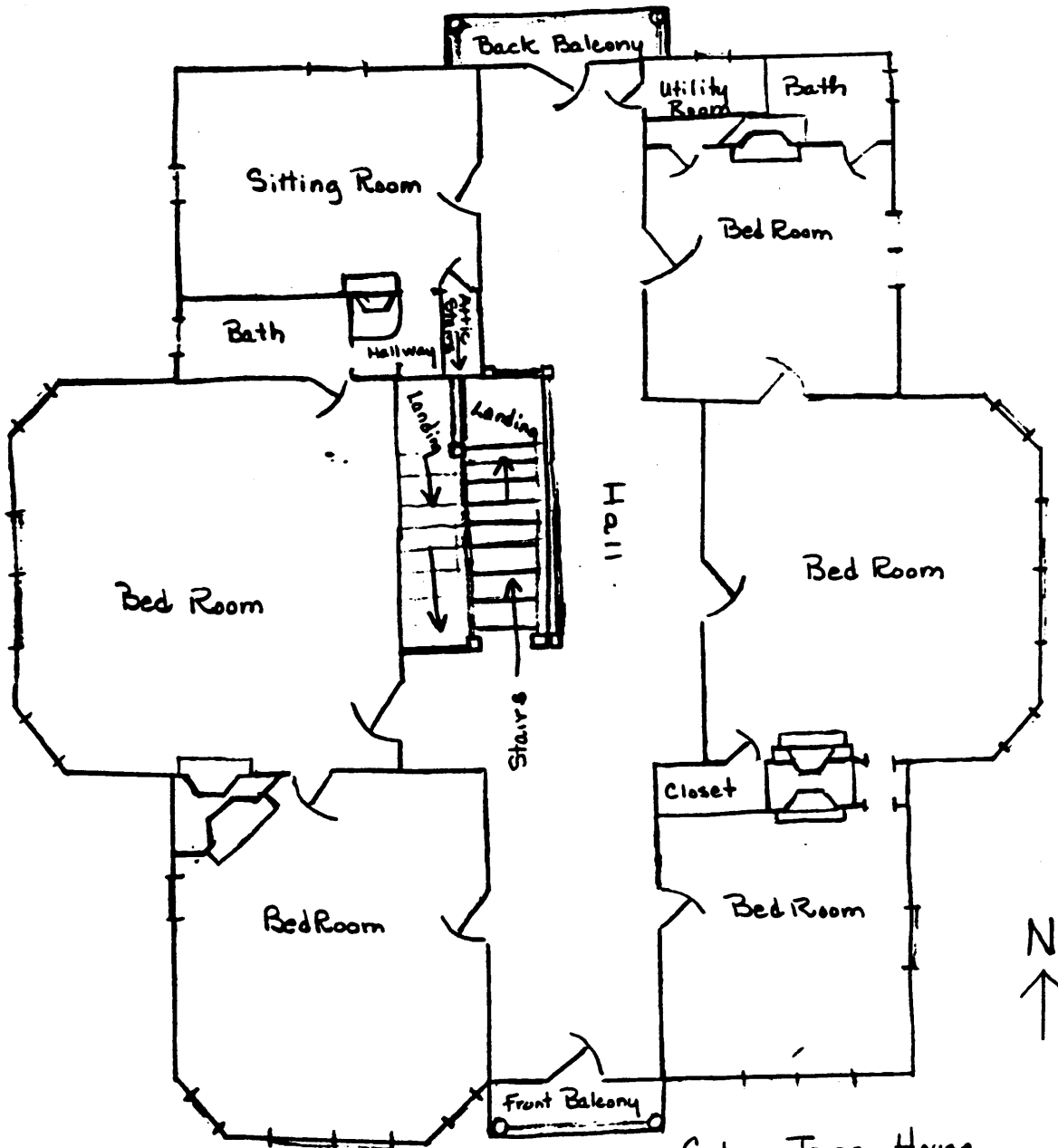
Photograph #6: View from north



416 Hillabee Street  
 Alexander City, Ala. 35010

First Floor  
 Coley-Joiner House  
 Sketch Drawing by Ellen Joiner  
 2-22-82





Coley-Joiner House  
 Second Floor  
 Sketch Drawing by Ellen Joiner  
 2-22-89