

RECEIVED JUN 15 1992 OMB No. 1024-0018

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 Steele, L. C., House
other names/site number

2. Location
street & number 515 Fourth Street
city, town Corinth
state Mississippi code MS county Alcorn code 3 zip code 38834

3. Classification
Ownership of Property: [x] private
Category of Property: [x] building(s)
Number of Resources within Property: Contributing 2, Noncontributing 0, Total 2

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.
Signature of certifying official: Kenneth H. P. Paul
Date: JUNE 12, 1992
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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:
[x] 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 of the Keeper: Melissa Byers
Date of Action: 7/16/92

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Bungalow - Craftsman

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brickwalls StuccoWoodroof Asphalt Shinglesother Vinyl

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Located at 515 Fourth Street, northeast of downtown Corinth, the L.C. Steele House is an early, eclectic interpretation of Craftsman Style residential architecture with stucco and wood exterior finishes. The Steele house was constructed before 1910 by Low Carroll Steele, proprietor of a local cotton company and compress, and his wife Hermione Steel on land purchased from H.N. Young in 1908. "The block previously contained "Stanley's Pond".

The foundation consists of bearing walls and brick piers with cotton bales beneath for additional support. The exterior walls are finished with stucco on the foundation/basement level, wood siding and half-timbering on the first and second floors, and pebble-dash stucco and half-timbering in the gable-ends. The horizontal half-timbering occurs continuously above and below the second floor windows and vertically on either side of the main facade upper windows. The timber at the bottom of the windows becomes the parapet cap of the roof balcony on the north and west sides. The roof, constructed of wood rafters with wood decking, is currently covered with asphalt shingles with extended eave overhangs with projecting eaves at the gable ends.

Facing south, the main facade consists of a two-and-one-half story front-gabled symmetrical central core with a one-story transverse gable wing on the east side and a one-story wing with roof balcony above on the west side. The upper gable roof is pierced by 1 interior and 2 exterior stucco chimneys. The facade is fronted by a one-story front-gabled projecting porch with two heavy rectangular stucco columns, stucco and concrete balustrade and wall. An open carport is located to the west of the porch with large box stucco columns and matching balustrade. The main or formal entrance to the interior, located at the center of the front porch, consists of four-panel with four light wooden double doors with original screen doors, surrounded by small pilasters with raised strips creating geometric patterns and supporting a continuous frieze. Multilight casement windows on either side of the front entrance are surrounded by matching pilasters with horizontal and vertical banding. An additional side entrance is located in the carport. The front porch floor, originally covered with quarry tile pavers, has been partially replaced with wood decking. The side veranda retains its original pavers with a tile border of contrasting size and color. Original metal square lantern light fixtures are wall-mounted on either side of the double doors and suspended from the center of the porch ceiling.

The one-story east wing has six-over-six double hung wooden windows on the three exterior walls. The south, front facade of the sunroom contains multilight double french doors opening onto the veranda. The other facades contain one-over-one double hung wooden windows, except in the stairway, bathrooms, and above the built-in seating, which have multilight casement windows.

The house is virtually intact, with minor modifications including the enclosure of a back porch, the modification and enlargement of the kitchen, replacement of front entrance doors, application of vinyl over the exterior wood siding, and covering of some interior wall plaster with wood paneling in one room and gypsum board in limited areas. The application of exterior vinyl is not readily evident and does not detract appreciably from the historic appearance of the exterior. It is consistent in dimension, profile and color with the original wood siding and occurs primarily on the side and rear elevations.

**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)  
Architecture

Period of Significance  
1909-1910

Significant Dates  
1909-1910

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Cultural Affiliation  
N/A

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Significant Person  
N/A

Architect/Builder  
Unknown

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

The L.C. Steele House derives its significance from its architectural character (Criterion C), being an early eclectic interpretation of Craftsman Style residential architecture, with many similarities to the illustrations in Gustav Stickley's The Craftsman, published between 1901 and 1916. The house is one of the best examples of the Craftsman Style in the Corinth area. Built during a time when historically based architecture was the norm, this house represents the transition from Victorian architecture to a more honest form of architecture based on function and construction.

Its style sets it apart from other early twentieth century residences in Corinth. L.C. Steele, a young, successful cotton broker in Corinth for a short period of time, constructed the house before 1910 on land purchased in November, 1908, on a block previously containing "Stanley's Pond". The Steele's left Corinth and the house was sold in 1913 to L.F. Garrett, operator and owner of the Pocahontas Lumber Mill in Corinth, for \$6,000.

Characteristic of Craftsman Style architecture, the predominant form of decoration is the employment of construction features, with an emphasis on natural expression of materials and construction. The form of this house is typical of Craftsman Style architecture with simple gable roofs, wide overhanging and projecting eaves, exposed half-timbering and rough stucco gable ends and rough, not highly finished materials.

The interior decorative elements, part of the construction methods, include beamed and shallow arched ceilings, liberal use of wood used to define wall areas structurally, exposed or expressed structural elements, built-in furnishings and ceramic tile fireplaces as focal points of each main room. The stairway is the prominent feature in the house with dining and living areas on either side, visually divided by structural box columns and cross beams. The interior ceiling beams and shallow arches at the ends of the rooms emphasize the perspective views and openness of the continuous spaces. Windows typically contain square glass panes, based upon a more pure geometry.

It's architectural integrity is further enhanced by the inclusion of the original carriage house, and the intact original lot size with the northern portion of original rough stucco covered brick fence with an integral bench centered on the north side of the lot.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Alcorn County, Mississippi. Chancery Clerk. Deed book 28, page 175 and Deed Book 33, page 30, Alcorn County Courthouse, Corinth, Mississippi.

Boyd, Eloise. Interviewed by Carol Lanning, at Livingston, Alabama. February 26, 1992.

Curry, Pete. Interviewed by Dick and Carol Lanning, at Corinth, Mississippi. October 30, 1991.

Price, Beulah M. D'Olive, compiler. "Some Corinthians of Today and Yesterday."

Propp, Mrs. M.H. Rubel. Interivewed by Dick and Carol Lanning, at Corinth Mississippi. 1991-1992.

Stewart, Belinda. Inspection of L.C. Steele House, January 24, 1992.

U.S. Census, 1910. City of Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi.

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

- 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**

A 16 361380 38675510  
 Zone Easting Northing

C \_\_\_\_\_

B \_\_\_\_\_  
 Zone Easting Northing

D \_\_\_\_\_

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description Beginning at a point on the South line of block 547, Walker's Addition to the City of Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi which point is 85.0 feet East of the Southwest corner of said block; thence run North parallel with the West line of said block 145.0 feet; thence run East parallel with the South line of said block 115.0 feet; thence run South parallel with the West line of said block 145.0 feet; thence run West along the South line of said block 115.0 feet to the point of beginning.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

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

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Belinda J. Stewart, AIA, Architect and Owner: Dick and Carol Lanning  
 organization \_\_\_\_\_ date March 10, 1992  
 street & number P.O. Box 873, 129 N. Dunn Street telephone 601-258-6405  
 city or town Eupora, state Mississippi zip code 39744

Owners address: 515 Fourth Street  
Corinth, MS 38834

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

L.C. Steele House, Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi

Section number 7 Page 1

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The house interior has a predominately open plan, with living room, reading area and dining room divided visually by structural box columns and cross beams supports. Located between these areas, the main staircase with its landing is the prominent structural feature of the area. A breakfast area (the former kitchen) and kitchen (a former pantry) are adjacent to the dining room. A butler's pantry has been opened into the current kitchen. A library/den is located west of the living room and stair hall with a separate entrance from the carport. An additional stairway leads up to the intermediate stair landing from the hall adjacent to the breakfast area. A stairway below the main stairway leads down to the unfinished basement. The second floor level, more traditional and simple, contains three bedrooms, a sleeping porch, two bathrooms and hall with a small straight stairway to the partially finished attic level.

The interior walls, constructed of plaster, have a continuous horizontal wooden band at the level of the tops of doors and windows throughout the ground floor, creating a continuous frieze below the ceiling plane. In the living and dining room, rectangular ceiling beams occur parallel to the sides of the house. Pilasters occur on the walls beneath the frieze, aligning with the ceiling beams. The ends of the living room, dining room and sunroom contain a shallow, wide arched plaster ceiling. The plaster walls of the upper floor are divided into panels by small strips of wood molding. The sleeping porch is lined with beaded wood walls and double-hung windows opening out onto a parapeted roof deck over the west wing and the carport. The deck is covered with sheet metal sloped to drain to two roof scuppers.

The house contains several built-in elements including a recessed built-in window seat hiding a radiator at the bottom of the stairs; built-in cabinets and drawers at the stair landing; built-in cabinets and shelves in the former butler's pantry; and several utilitarian built-in storage areas in the upper bedrooms and hall. The master bath on the upper floor retains original plumbing fixtures, with white hexagonal tile floor, marble threshold and rectangular tile wainscoating.

The house contains six unique fireplaces. The living room and sunroom fireplaces have elaborate glazed tile surrounds and integral bracketed tile mantels. The dining room fireplace is faced with glazed rectangular tile with horizontal and vertical banding of 1x1 tile. The ceramic tile faced fireplace in the master bedroom is recessed in a shallow arched opening with a shelf above the firebox. The fireplaces in the other two bedrooms have wood mantels with ceramic tile surrounds.

An ice storage room in the basement, constructed of sawdust-filled wood frame walls, is lined with sheet metal over a previous wood lining, partially composed of a wood carton with the following words: L.Carroll Steele - Corinth, Miss.

The original carriage house, located on the northwest corner of the site, is similar to the house. It is constructed of matching wood siding with half-timbering and stucco in the gable-ends. The half-dormer windows on the upper floor are two-over-two double hung sash. The double-hung windows on the lower floor contain six-over-six sash. The roof is covered with asbestos shingles.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

L. C. Steele House, Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi

Section number Photos Page 1

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The following information is the same for all photographs:

- (1) L.C. Steele House
- (2) Corinth, Alcorn County, Mississippi
- (3) Dick Lanning
- (5) Mississippi Department of Archives & History

Photo 1 -- (6) L.C. Steele House Facade (south elevation), view to north. ca. 1925

Photo 2 -- (6) L.C. Steele House Facade (south elevation), view to north. January, 1992.

Photo 3 -- (6) L.C. Steele House, North and East elevations, view to northwest. January, 1992.

Photo 4 -- (6) L.C. Steele House, Living Room, view to southwest. January, 1992.

Photo 5 -- (6) L.C. Steele House, Dining Room, view to northwest. January, 1992.

Photo 6 -- (6) L.C. Steele House, Detail of Dining Room Fireplace, view to west. January, 1992.

Photo 7 -- (6) Carriage House Facade, view to north. January, 1992.

L. C. STEELE HOUSE  
 CORINTH, ALCORN CO., MS

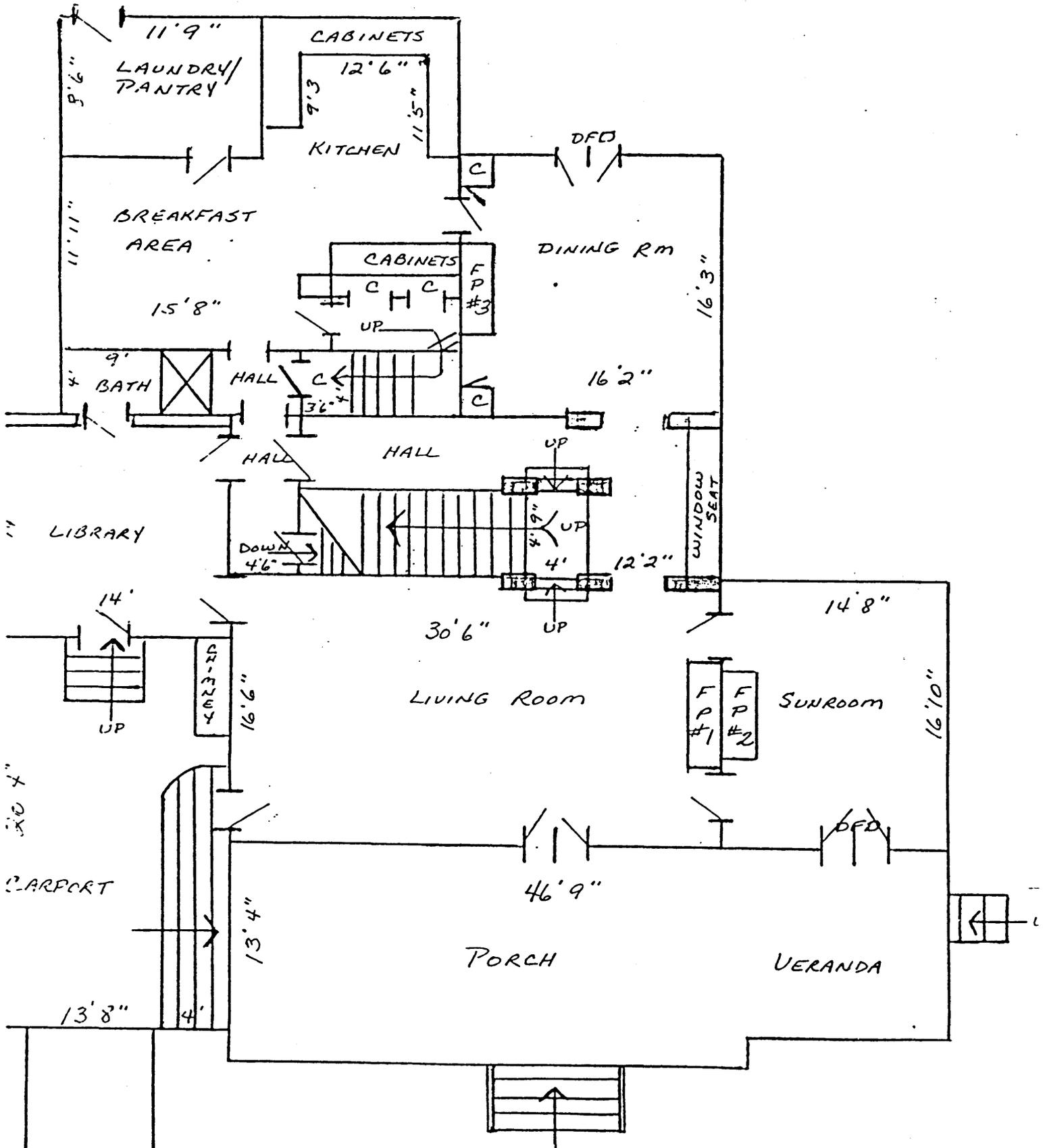
- MAIN FLOOR -

1 SQUARE = 2 FEET

FP = FIREPLACE

C = CLOSET

DFD = DOUBLE FRENCH DOOR



L. C. STEELE HOUSE  
 CORINTH, ALCORN CO., MS

- SECOND FLOOR -

1 SQUARE = 2 FEET  
 FP = FIREPLACE  
 C = CLOSET

