

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

JAN 4 1993

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

Ala. Historical Commission

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Hollingsworth, E. T., House

other names/site number Gunn, Charles, House (preferred); Bellenger, W. C., House

2. Location

street & number 872 Chestnut Street n/a not for publication

city or town Gadsden n/a vicinity

state Alabama code AL county Etowah code 055 zip code 35901

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Michael J. Byers 1-12-93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Alabama Historical Commission (State Historic Preservation Office)
State of 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 certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper *Michael J. Byers* entered in the National Register Date of Action 2/19/93

Gunn, Charles, House
Name of Property

Etowah Co. / AL
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

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

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

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	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 National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic: Single Dwelling

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Vacant

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Brick

walls Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See continuation sheet.

Gunn, Charles, House
Name of Property

Etowah Co. / AL
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1886

Significant Dates

1886

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

n/a

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository:

Gunn, Charles, House
Name of Property

Etowah Co. / AL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property Less than one acre.

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

1	6
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5	9	0	9	8	0
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3	7	6	3	9	2	0
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Zone Easting Northing

2

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3

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Zone Easting Northing

4

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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

Rodney Johnson, Etowah Historical Society Committee
name/title (Melanie Betz, AHC Reviewer, 205-242-3184)

organization c/o The City of Gadsden date November 19, 1992

street & number P. O. Box 267 telephone 205/549-4669 or 205/549-4719

city or town Gadsden state Alabama zip code 35999

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 SHPO or FPO.)

name City of Gadsden

street & number P. O. Box 267 telephone 205/549-4669 or 205/549-4719

city or town Gadsden state Alabama zip code 35999

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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Section number 7 Page 1 Charles Gunn House, Gadsden

DESCRIBE PRESENT AND HISTORIC PHYSICAL APPEARANCE.

The Charles Gunn House, located on the corner of Chestnut and Ninth Street in Gadsden, is a two-story frame residence situated on a 200' by 205' lot. Crowned with a mansard roof with iron cresting, the house is a fine representative of an 1880's Victorian cottage with twelve rooms.

The wooden front porch bordered with banisters of lattice work is eight feet wide at the front door entrance and widens to fifteen feet. The side porch, an extension of the front porch, is twenty feet wide with a two-door entrance. The back steps are brick.

The front door, the main entrance, is a combination of plain glass and leaded glass. The back door to the kitchen is of wood and glass and the door to the breakfast room is of wood and pressed glass.

The arches found all around the front and side of the house are supported by slender columns with lattice work between.

Originally the home had four chimneys, two of which remain. The twenty-three windows, excluding the attic windows on side and back, feature borders of stained glass panes in the upper sashes.

The ceilings of the room are twelve to fourteen feet high and the walls are papered. Originally the house had eight tiled fireplaces with mantel-pieces. One of the fireplaces located on the ground floor has been bricked over and one of the two upstairs fireplaces has been removed. On the ground floor a fireplace is found in each of the two bedrooms, the library-living room, the drawing room and the dining room. A stairway leads from the front hall to the second floor hall.

The front yard is terraced down to a cement curbing which separates the yard from the sidewalk. A concrete pad for a stepping-stone at the center front sidewalk is still in place, and, according to the last owner, Mrs. Carolyn Gunn Bellinger, this stepping-stone was for guests who arrived in carriages in bygone days. Mrs. Bellinger also said that at one time a hitching post was located by the side of the stepping-stone.

Originally a kitchen, connected to the residence by a covered porch or walk, was located some 30 feet from the main house. To

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one side of the porch was a well. After fire destroyed the kitchen in the early 1900's, the kitchen was moved within the house. At one time a servant's house and a barn were part of the property- both now gone.

In 1977 a small section at the back of the property was sold by Mrs. Bellenger.

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CRITERION C (ARCHITECTURE):

Constructed in 1886, the Charles Gunn House, 872 Chestnut Street, Gadsden, is good representative of the late Victorian residential architecture popular in Gadsden during the 1880's. This building was one of the fine Victorian homes erected during a boom period in construction following a large public land sale in Gadsden. Over the years, many of these buildings have been lost due to commercial development, but the Gunn House is one of the few that did survive from this period. It still has retained many of its original features including its mansard roof crowned with iron cresting (-the cresting has recently been removed for repair, but it will be put back in the near future-), brackets beneath the eaves of the roof, frame siding and fine front porch with lattice work and turned posts. Much of the interior is also intact, including its original plan, mantels, staircase, windows (-including stained glass-), wood floors, paneling, molding, and surrounds.

The Gunn house was originally the residence of Edward Hollingsworth, one of the pioneer families of Gadsden who became a prominent merchant and banker. It is more commonly known for its associations with Charles Gunn, an early dentist in the City. Today, the building is being restored as a house museum.

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HISTORICAL SUMMARY

Edward Tracy Hollingsworth purchased the lot where the home is located from J. R. and Willie J. Ward on April 12, 1886. Construction began in June, 1886, and Edward Tracy Hollingsworth and his wife, the former Julia Parrott, moved into their new home in October, 1886.

The Hollingsworth family, pioneer settlers of Gadsden, Alabama, trace their lineage to Valentine Hollingsworth who sailed from Ireland for America in 1682, arriving in Delaware a few months after William Pen. Valentine served in several session of the Assembly of Pennsylvania as well as participating in many other public affairs.

Like their illustrious ancestor, William Perry Hollingsworth and his son, Edward Tracy Hollingsworth, served their community with distinction.

At age sixteen William Perry Hollingsworth, born August 22, 1828, was given a partnership in his brother's mercantile business. In 1861 he was elected captain and later major of a company in the Nineteenth Alabama Regiment and remained in the service until the close of the Civil War, having fought at Shiloh, Chicamauga and Vicksburg. Returning home almost penniless, he soon recouped his fortune in his own mercantile business, said to be the largest ever in Gadsden at that time.

Edward Tracy Hollingsworth, born February 18, 1866, only son of William Perry Hollingsworth, followed in his father's footsteps in the mercantile business after graduation from Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Auburn University), later owning and operating the city's electric plant. On his doctor's advice, in 1901 he regretfully sold his home and moved the family to Oklahoma for health reasons. He opened a business there and resided in that state for a number of years before returning to Gadsden. When the Gadsden National Bank was organized, he was one of the three founders and served as first and only president until the bank closed in 1932.

He was also president of Hollingsworth Realty Company and Gadsden Loan and Trust Company. He served as a member of the Gadsden Board of Education for 21 years and also served as city treasurer.

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Section number 8 Page 5 Charles Gunn House, Gadsden

Edward Tracy Hollingsworth was married to Julia Parrott of Cartersville, Georgia on January 18, 1886 and they had three children. After Julia's death on December 3, 1916, he later married Ethel Martin of Menlo, Georgia in 1919. They had two children.

Edward Tracy Hollingsworth died on November 8, 1941 at age 75, "a former banker and member of one of Gadsden's most prominent families," according to his obituary in the Gadsden Times, November 9, 1941.

Dr. Charles Logan Gunn, who purchased the Hollingsworth home in 1901, was a dentist as were his four brothers and his father, Dr. J. B. Gunn, a pioneer dentist in Gadsden.

Dr. Charles Logan Gunn married Florence King of New Orleans. They had two children, Carolyn King Gunn, born in 1901, and Florence Clayton Gunn, born in 1904. Florence died as a child. In October of 1925 Carolyn was married to William Clinton Bellenger, Jr. born July 10, 1893, son of Gadsden merchant William Clinton Bellenger and Sallie S. Ralls who were married in 1882.

In less than a year Carolyn was a widow. W. C. Bellenger, Jr., cashier at First National Bank, died on July 29, 1926, after an appendicitis operation.

Carolyn Gunn Bellenger taught English at Gadsden High School from 1934 until she retired in 1964. She was a former chairman of the English department and played a key role in revising that department's curriculum.

Mrs. Bellenger inherited the house, which is on the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, from her parents. At her death on September 6, 1990 she willed the house to the City of Gadsden hoping to preserve a part of the city's history.

The City of Gadsden assumed ownership of the house on the 16th day of January, 1991.

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Section number 9 Page 6 Bibliography - Charles Gunn House, Gadsden

BIBLIOGRAPHY

PRIMARY SOURCES

- Deed to property. April 12, 1886. Etowah County Courthouse Records Room, Deed Book "K", Page 304.
- Alabama Property Record Card. Etowah County Tax Assessor's office.
- Executor's Quit Claim Deed. January 16, 1991. Etowah County Courthouse Records Room, Book "1715", Page 287. Recorded February 12, 1991.
- Arbery, W. Clifford, Architect. Personal interview. Arbery, McElrath and Oliver Architects, Gadsden, Alabama, March, 1992.
- Lewis, Donald, former journalist. Personal interview concerning the Hollingsworth family. Gadsden, Alabama, November 28, 1991.
- Letter from Edward Tracy Hollingsworth's son, William P. Hollingsworth. Birmingham, Alabama, March 19, 1992.

SECONDARY SOURCES

- Application to place Hollingsworth (Gunn-Bellenger) home on Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, April 11, 1984.
- "Dr. Gunn dead." Will I. Martin scrapbook clipping. Gadsden Times, n.d. (1899).
- "E. T. Hollingsworth." Gadsden News. December 23, 1886.
- "E. T. Hollingsworth announces plan to erect residence on newly purchased lot." Sidewalk Notes. Gadsden News, April 22, 1886.
- "Former banker dies Saturday." Gadsden Times, November 9, 1941.
- "Means trying to keep piece of city's history." Gadsden Times, November 23, 1990.
- "Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Hollingsworth moved to their new home on Chestnut Street last week." Sidewalk Notes. Gadsden Times, November 4, 1886.

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Section number 9 Page 7 Bibliography - Charles Gunn House, Gadsden

"S. S. Smith of Birmingham...pushing work on E. T. Hollingsworth's new dwelling." Gadsden News. Personal Column, July 1, 1886.

Stewart, J. Adger. Descendants of Valentine Hollingsworth, Sr. Louisville: John P. Morton Co., 1925.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY - Secondary Sources (continued)

"Wedding of E. T. Hollingsworth and Julia Parrott in Newnan, Georgia," Gadsden News. January 28, 1886. Page 3.

"William Perry Hollingsworth." Northern Alabama: Historical and Biographical. Birmingham: Smith and DeLand, 1888. pp. 256-7.

Woman's Club of Gadsden. A Little Book About Gadsden, Alabama. Gadsden: Howe Printing Co., 1938.

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Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 8 Verbal Boundary Description - Charles Gunn House,
Gadsden

BOOK "1715", Page 287, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama.

All that part of the lot formerly known as the McLeod lot in the City of Gadsden, Alabama as follows viz:

Commencing at the northwest corner of said McLeod lot on Chestnut Street, thence south along the street separating said McLeod lot from the Tolson property to the Pope or Mahaffey lot two hundred and forty five feet; thence along the northern boundary of said Pope lot or Mahaffey lot two hundred feet to the center of an eight foot alley between lot formerly known as J. R. Wands residence lot and the property herein conveyed, the said point in said alley being marked by a stone marked X; thence north with the center of said alley two hundred and forty six feet to Chestnut Street; thence west with Chestnut Street one hundred and ninety six feet to the point of beginning.

LESS AND EXCEPT THEREFROM, the following parcel:

To describe a certain tract or parcel of land begin at the intersection of Ninth and Chestnut Streets; thence run South 6 28' west along Ninth Street a distance of 131.3 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue South 6 28' west a distance of 111 feet to a point; thence north 89 08' east a distance of 208.24 feet to a point; thence run north 3 32' east a distance of 111 feet to a point; thence south 89 12' west 204.31 feet to the point of beginning, and being a part of the southwest quarter of the southwest quarter (SW-1/4 of the SW-1/4), Section Four (4), Township Twelve (12) South, Range Six (6) East, in Etowah County, Alabama. (Said excepted parcel being the same property conveyed by Carolyn Gunn Bellenger, a single woman, to Fred W. Hawkins and wife, Marian E. Hawkins, by deed dated July 7, 1976, and recorded in Book 1239, Page 49, Probate Office, Etowah County, Alabama, and corrected by deed from the said Carolyn Gunn Bellenger to the said Fred

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Section number 10 Page 9 Verbal Boundary Description - Charles Gunn House,
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W. Hawkins, et ux, dated October 22, 1977, and recorded in Book 1266, Page 233, said Probate Office.)

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION:

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

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Section number Photo-graphs Page 10 Charles Gunn House, Gadsden

CHARLES GUNN HOUSE
872 CHESTNUT STREET
GADSDEN, ALABAMA - ETOWAH COUNTY

Photographer: Rodney L. Johnson
Date of Photos: 09/14/92
Location of Negatives: "Alabama Historical Commission"

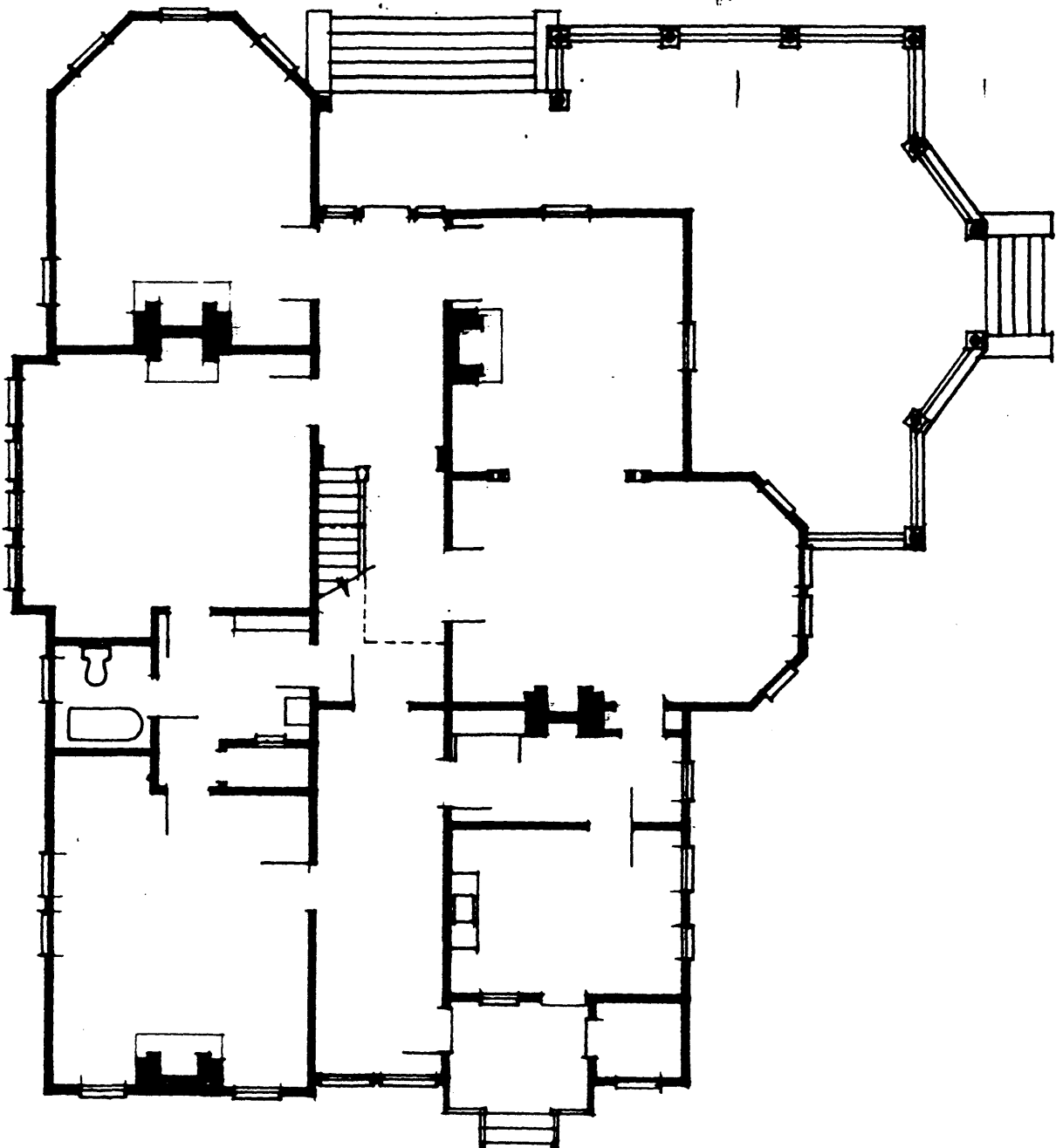
Photo No.

1. Music Room, camera facing West
3. Front Entry Hall, camera facing South
7. Front of House, camera facing South
11. Side of House, camera facing East
13. Rear of House, camera facing North
14. Side of House, camera facing West
20. Right Front Corner of House, camera facing South
22. Right Front Corner of Porch, camera facing South
23. Window/Doorway - Parlor, camera facing South

Historical Photos

Photographer: Unknown
Date of Photos: No Date (c.1890's)
Location of Negatives: "Alabama Historical Commission"

- A. Front of House, camera facing Southwest
- B. Front of House, camera facing Southwest
- C. Front of House, camera facing Southwest



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

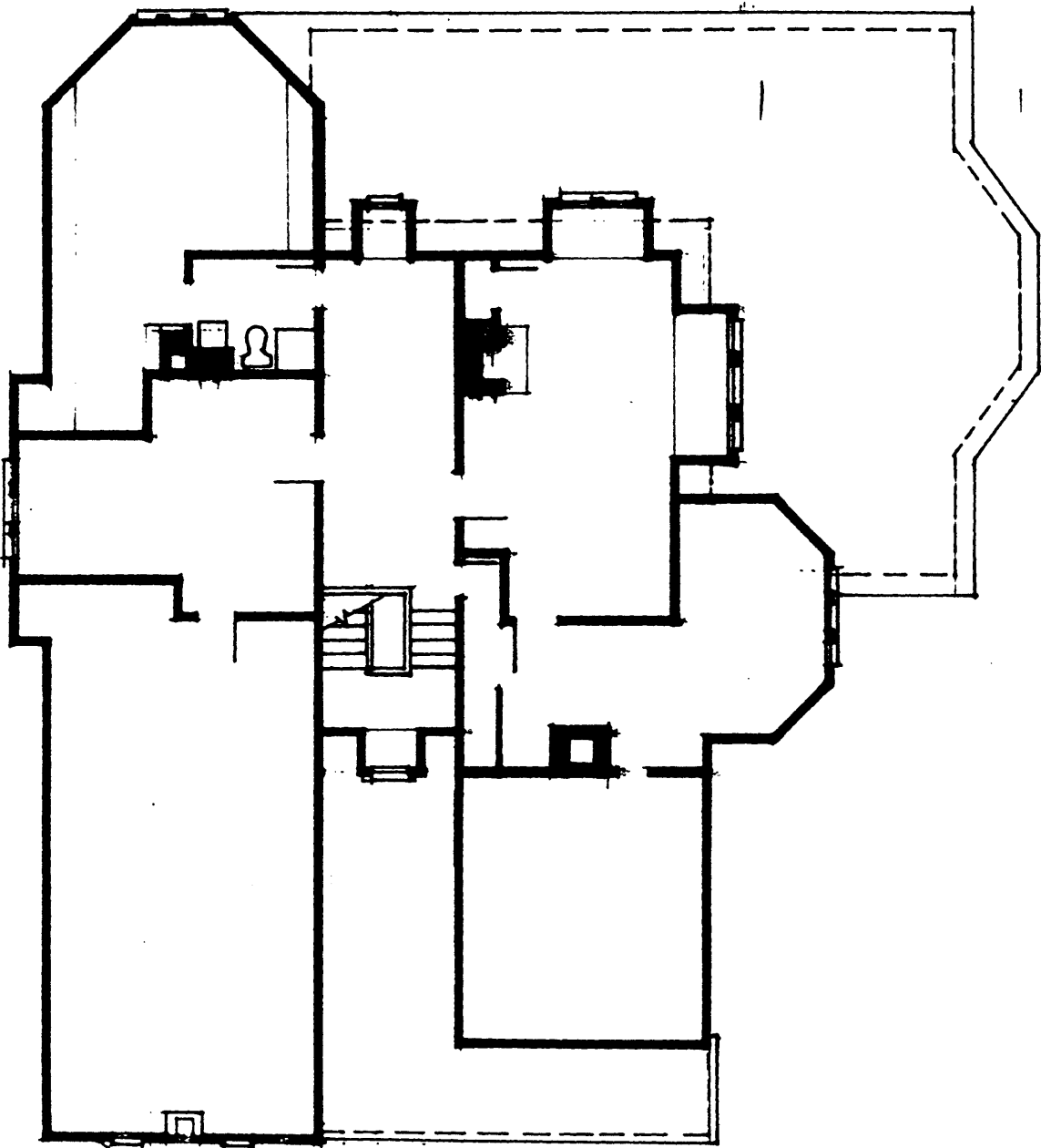
SCALE:

HOUSE • 872 CHESTNUT STREET • GADSDEN ALABAMA

COMMIT. NO.	DATE	REVISIONS	CHECKED BY
91-11	7-27-71		Cliff Arbery

SHEET NO. 1

W. CLIFFORD ARBERY, ARCHITECT, P.C.
 212 ANGLE Circle • P. O. Drawer 679
 GADSDEN, ALABAMA • 35902-0679



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

SCALE:

672 CHESTNUT STREET • GADSDEN, ALABAMA
SHEET NO. 2
DATE 7.29.71
CHECKED BY Giff Arbery
REVISED

W. CLIFORD ARBERY, ARCHITECT, P.C.
212 ALGHE CIRCLE • P. O. DRAWER 679
GADSDEN, ALABAMA • 35902-0679