

1977

**THE  
HISTORIC  
HUNTSVILLE  
QUARTERLY**

**A PUBLICATION OF  
THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE  
FOUNDATION, INC.**

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORTS: "OLD" AND "NEW"

by

Lynwood Smith, Jr.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE FOUNDATION DURING ITS FIRST TWO YEARS:

(1) Inauguration of the Quarterly for the purpose of fulfilling one aspect of the corporation's stated purposes: that of increasing knowledge of, and appreciation for structures of historical or architectural significance in the Huntsville, Madison County area. Further, the Quarterly has focused attention from time to time on the historical redevelopment movement in our community by publishing articles about current and completed restoration projects in and around Huntsville; by publishing practical, "how to do it" articles on restoration techniques; and by publishing articles on where restoration tools and products may be purchased. Finally, the Quarterly has served as the official organ of the Foundation by carrying announcements and news of interest to Foundation members.

(2) Significant progress has been made toward the publication of the first scholarly appraisal of the architectural (as opposed to historical) significance of Huntsville structures. In September of 1975, I applied through Mayor Joe Davis for federal funds (Comprehensive Employment and Training Act Funds) to finance a detailed and scholarly examination of Huntsville architecture. (My lengthy application was reprinted in Vol. I, No. 3 of the Quarterly, and fully explains the scope of this project). However, it was determined by Mayor Davis, after consultation with City Attorney Charles Younger, that CETA funds could not be paid to a private institution. Thereafter, Tom Dozier, City Planning Director, made the following offer: (i) the City Planning Commission would apply for the CETA funds; (ii) if obtained, he would hire the persons to work upon the detailed survey of Huntsville's significant architecture; (iii) such persons

would work on no other project, but would devote their time exclusively to that endeavor; (iv) the fruits of their labor would serve two purposes-not only that of the Foundation, but the Planning Commission's as well, since the study would enable the Planning Commission to better plan and zone for Huntsville's future development in and around historic areas. I accepted his proposal and, subsequently, Linda Bayer (Jeff's wife) and Patricia Ryan were hired with CETA funds to work on the study in the Planning Commission office. They have been so engaged for the past year and some months. The raw data they have compiled should be available for analysis and organization into a publication within another year. (A copy of Linda Bayer's article appeared in Vol. II, No. 2 of the Quarterly.)

(3) Throughout the observance of the United States' Bicentennial year, Henry Marks wrote a column which appeared twice each month in the Sunday editions of the Huntsville Times. The column focused upon significant area events, places, and persons. The regular nature of the column made the community at large aware of the Foundation.

(4) Starting in 1975 (when I obtained large pieces of stamped metal cornices from the American National Bank on South Side Square), the Foundation has been warehousing architectural components from structures in and around Huntsville which have fallen victim to the bulldozer. Such architectural components have great value as historical artifacts; some also might be sold to persons interested in renovating existing buildings, or interested in rebuilding a particular period style.

(5) In 1976, the Foundation jointly sponsored with UAH and the UAH Art Department a series of

lectures on architectural history. These lectures brought several speakers from various parts of the country to our community to discuss the renewed interest in our nation's architectural heritage, and the significance of various periods and styles. In this same regard, Prof. Jeff Bayer has often presented slide-lectures to general membership meetings of the Foundation on the significance of various architectural styles.

In June, the Foundation, in conjunction with the UAH Art Department, brought Mr. Barry Lewis, architectural historian to Huntsville. He spoke to the general membership on "The Greek Revival: America's First Modern Movement," and later in the week spoke in Humanities Building on the UAH campus about "The Centennial Decade: Prelude to a New Age."

- (6) Finally, for all of the above, the Foundation received the 1976 Award of Merit from the Alabama Historical Commission.

by

Nancy W. Van Valkenburgh

I am excited about the coming year for the Historic Huntsville Foundation, Inc. and the many challenging possibilities open to us. The organization was incorporated in 1974 and has already made significant accomplishments under the Chairmanship of Lynwood Smith. I asked Lynwood for a report of activities during his tenure and am sure you will be interested in his report in this Quarterly.

According to our By-Laws, Articles II, Section 1, "The purposes for which the Corporation is organized are to acquire, hold, improve, sell, exchange, preserve, develop, and restore sites, buildings, residences and other structures of historical or architectural interest in and around Huntsville, Madison

County, Alabama and to increase knowledge and greater appreciation of such sites, buildings, residences, and other structures."

The purposes of the Foundation thus complement those of many other organizations in our area, but are broader in scope and have a different emphasis-- that is, (1) an emphasis on preservation of architecture not only within the city but throughout the county and (2) education of the public to the value of these structures.

Two long-range goals for the Foundation are:

- (1) The establishment of a substantial revolving fund-- about \$200,000-- to be available for the preservation of threatened structures. This would make preservation much easier, as I am sure those of you who worked on the Weeden House or Steamboat Gothic agree. It would give preservationists a way to find interested parties for renovation and prevent quick destruction of buildings which sometimes takes place before preservation efforts can be organized.

- (2) Establishment of a permanent office which will maintain files of information about preservation for use of local organizations and individuals who are interested in preservation or restoration. We hope to collect information which will be of help in securing public grants and both public and private loans. We can possibly act as a clearing house for the many historic and architectural inquiries coming to our area by referring them to the appropriate organizations. These inquiries are substantial now and will increase in the future as the architectural and historic wealth of our area becomes better known.

For this year, we have already established the following committees:

1. Architecture - Jeff Bayer, Chairman  
Duties of Committee - To keep the Foundation informed about any buildings which are endangered and to obtain and preserve detailing from buildings which must be torn down.
2. Community Coordination - Bill Page, Chairman

Duties of Committee - To develop a list of every local organization which may have areas of mutual interests and to establish liaison with each group so as to coordinate and strengthen the total impact of historic and preservation efforts in our city and county

3. Constitution Park - Harvey Jones, Chairman

Duties of Committee - To keep the Foundation informed of the status of the Park and to actively support its completion.

4. Membership and Social - Evelyn Riggs, Chairman

Duties of Committee - To make arrangements for Annual Membership Tea, to actively promote membership, and to provide refreshments and act as hosts and hostesses for meetings.

Office - Lynda Doud, Chairman

Duties of Committee: To develop a plan for maintaining an office and to investigate sites for an office.

6. Project Development - Pat Laxson, Chairman

Duties of Committee - To develop ideas for projects which will promote interest in preservation. To keep a list of suggested projects and to investigate proposed projects. To coordinate special projects. Ultimately, to establish a revolving fund which will be available to save any endangered structure and/or to maintain a museum of architectural components and a local office.

7. Public Grants and Private Loans - Margaret Cole, Chairman

Duties of Committee - To develop information about public money available for restoration. To assist other organizations in securing grants when requested. To communicate with other Foundations to find out how they secured funds for restoration.

To develop information about

securing private loans and make the information available to individuals interested in restoring buildings for homes or offices.

8. Quarterly - Henry Marks, Editor

Duties of Committee - To continue publication of the Quarterly with the goal of establishing a periodical known throughout the South which will bring favorable attention to our city and county.

9. Railroad Depot - Catherine Gilliam, Chairman

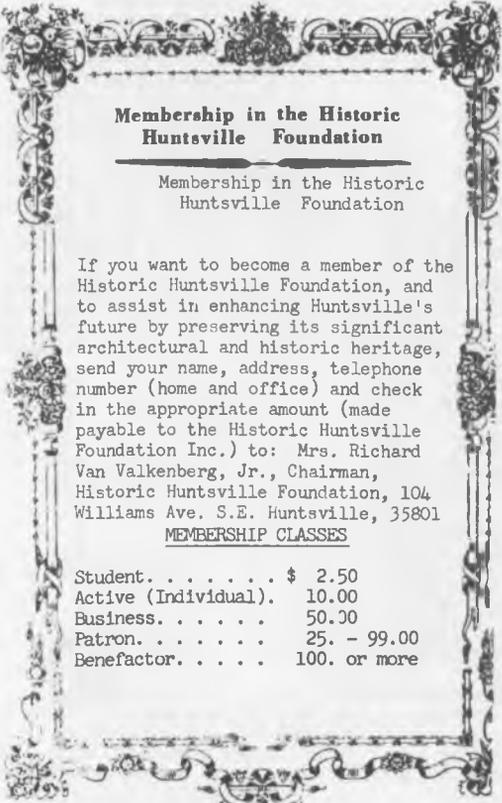
Duties of Committee - To keep the Foundation informed about the status of the Depot and to actively support its completion.

Some members have already volunteered to work on some of the above committees, but if you have not, please call either the committee chairman or myself and we will be glad to put you to work. We are only limited by the efforts we are willing to put forth. We will also appreciate your letting us know any of your ideas or suggestions.

The next membership meeting will be our Annual Membership Tea the first Sunday in May. Put the date on your calendar and plan to attend. You will be receiving further information when the committee completes its plans.

I look forward to getting to know each of you this year as we join forces and talents to make our city and county a better, more beautiful and more interesting place to live.





**Membership in the Historic  
Huntsville Foundation**

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Membership in the Historic  
Huntsville Foundation

If you want to become a member of the  
Historic Huntsville Foundation, and  
to assist in enhancing Huntsville's  
future by preserving its significant  
architectural and historic heritage,  
send your name, address, telephone  
number (home and office) and check  
in the appropriate amount (made  
payable to the Historic Huntsville  
Foundation Inc.) to: Mrs. Richard  
Van Valkenberg, Jr., Chairman,  
Historic Huntsville Foundation, 104  
Williams Ave. S.E. Huntsville, 35801

MEMBERSHIP CLASSES

Student. . . . .	\$ 2.50
Active (Individual). . . . .	10.00
Business. . . . .	50.00
Patron. . . . .	25. - 99.00
Benefactor. . . . .	100. or more

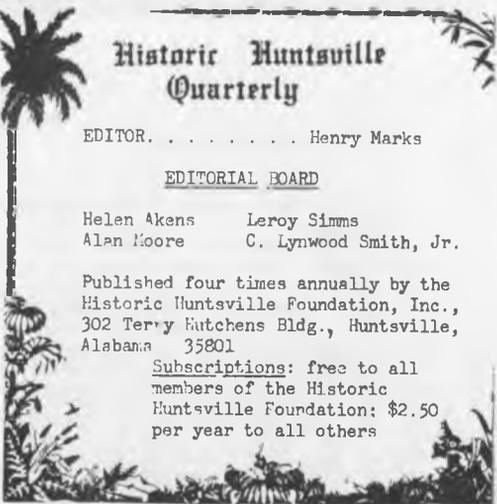
## ESSAY CONTEST

We are pleased to announce the creation of what we hope to be an annual essay contest for high school and junior high school students in Huntsville and Madison County. These students will be invited to write an essay on the history or architectural details of an edifice of prominence or significance anywhere in Huntsville or Madison County. A panel composed of three judges will award first, second and third prizes in the high school category. First place will have a monetary award of \$25.00; second place, \$15.00 (there will be three honorable mentions of \$10.00 each). In addition the first and second place winners will be guaranteed publication of their papers in the Quarterly. We hope to have the initial phase of the contest underway as this issue goes to press and the winner announced not later than May 1st. It is to be hoped that in future years the winners can be announced by the middle of April.

There can be a number of positive results from a contest of this nature. Not only will our organization receive valuable and needed publicity from the contest but it is amazing what secondary school level students can discover about their environment. Who knows what information can be uncovered by eager students that will be of benefit to an understanding of our architectural heritage.

I hope all our members will enjoy their participation in this contest and enjoy the articles in a future issue of the Quarterly that will be written by these young people.

Henry Marks



## Historic Huntsville Quarterly

EDITOR. . . . . Henry Marks

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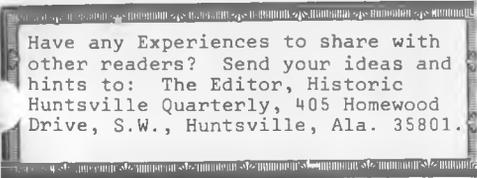
Subscriptions: free to all  
members of the Historic  
Huntsville Foundation: \$2.50  
per year to all others



## NOTICE

The Greene County Historic Development Commission has provided us with a unique opportunity to visit a renowned state landmark. Rosemount, "the grand mansion of Alabama," will be open to the public in April. Admission is \$2.00 per person. Three other edifices may be toured at the same time, Gaineswood, Bluff Hall and Kirkwood. Reservations may be made with:

Mrs. Wade Cagle, Jr.  
Rosemount Plantation  
Route 1, Box 7  
Forkland, Alabama 36740  
phone: 372-4880  
289-4921 (weekends)



Have any Experiences to share with other readers? Send your ideas and hints to: The Editor, Historic Huntsville Quarterly, 405 Homewood Drive, S.W., Huntsville, Ala. 35801.

## EDITOR'S REPORT

### Editor's Corner

In an endeavor to improve the quality of this journal, I have prevailed upon the following people to act as a "Board of Advisors." Each is well known and respected in his field of interest and or vocation. They are Mrs. Helen Akens, Mr. Alan Moore, Mr. Leroy Simms and Mr. Lynwood Smith, Jr. Lynwood, of course, is our past chairman. Helen is the noted author of such state works as Alabama: From Mounds To Missiles and Alabama Heritage (co-authored with Virginia Pounds Brown); Alan is the book and amusements editor of the Huntsville Times and Leroy is the editor and publisher of the Times and a member of our board. They will add much to our journal, both directly and indirectly.



### NOTICE

William D. Page, Judge of the Twenty-Third Judicial Circuit, has written to our organization asking for assistance in obtaining biographical data on each person who has served as Circuit Judge in the state. If any of our readers have biographical information about circuit judges anywhere in Alabama or have the time to assist Judge Page please contact him by telephoning 536-5911.

### ATTENTION

All Artisans, Carpenters & Craftsmen

Wishing to Advertise  
Trades & Skills  
Useful in the Restoration  
of Historic Homes  
Are Invited

to Submit Notices to  
the Historic Huntsville Quarterly  
Phone: 534-1404 or 881-2174

### NOTICE

"Mobile Jubilee Time" is being held this year from March 10-26. Historic tours include "Church Street East," "Old Dauphinway," "Spring Hill" and three others as well as a "Gala Opening Jubilee," from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10th. Tour hours are daily from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Gala tour is priced at \$3.00 while the others are \$5.00 per tour. Further information can be obtained from Historic Mobile Tours, P.O. Box 2187, Mobile, AL 36602.

ABOUT THE RAILROAD AND OUR DEPOT .....

by

Mrs. Richard H. Gilliam, Jr.

The Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company was organized to build a railroad between the Mississippi River at Memphis, Tennessee and the Atlantic Ocean at Charleston, South Carolina, and was chartered in Alabama in 1850. On October 13, 1855 an "Iron Horse", named General Garth, puffed its way into Huntsville, Alabama for the first time, and although the train had only come from near-by Decatur, this did not dampen the excitement nor lessen the awe of the large crowd assembled on the railroad grounds for that joyous occasion. In 1857 the line was completed from Memphis to Stevenson, Alabama where it connected with the Nashville and Chattanooga Railroad. North Alabamians had invested heavily in Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company stock, and finally their dream of being able to transport cotton and other cargo by rail had been realized. A local editor wrote, "Hail to steam and the iron rail -- it's only 13 hours to Memphis and 14 hours to Nashville." The company decided in 1858 not to extend beyond Stevenson as connections with other lines provided rail service to the Atlantic coast.

Huntsville acquired its first great industry when, between 1856 and 1859, the railroad company developed its Eastern Division headquarters by building a freight station, large round house with accompanying turntable, engine house, car shop and machine shop - all of brick. The company also owned and operated a hotel, built division houses, and encouraged businesses to

locate in the proximity with attractive real estate offers. Thus, the north side of Huntsville boomed; and when the shops were removed in 1876 the town suffered a serious economic blow. All of the original buildings are now gone, but the brick freight station, built in 1856, is still in use by a railroad company and is the oldest surviving Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company building on the entire line.

The three-story brick passenger depot on Church Street in Huntsville was constructed in 1860 and housed the Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company Eastern Division headquarters in handsome offices with massive masonry vaults on the second floor. The first floor had separate waiting rooms for men and women, a smoker for the gentlemen and "entirely private arrangements" for the ladies, a baggage room, and a ticket-telegraph office. Sleeping rooms were provided for officers and operatives of the road on the third floor. The building with its beautifully carved stair rail and its slate roof, was far better than might be expected for a small town station. The cast-iron fireplace mantles were probably an up-to-the-minute innovation as were the gas lights whose piping was built into the structure. The over-all design and proportions are excellent and the building was a justifiable symbol of civic pride when built in 1860.

Early on the morning of April 11, 1862 Federal troops, under the command of General O. M. Mitchel, occupied Huntsville,

their prime objective having been the all-important telegraph office located in the depot. Later in the day Mitchel wired his superior, "We have captured about 200 prisoners, 15 locomotives, a large amount of passenger, box, and platform cars, the telegraphic apparatus and offices, and two Southern mails. We have at length succeeded in cutting the great artery of railway intercommunication between the Southern States." For ten days, before being sent to a Northern prison, the captured Confederate soldiers were jailed in the depot and were fed by the ladies of the town. Except for an eleven-month period, the Federals occupied Huntsville for the remainder of the conflict.

Following the Civil War the United States government returned the line, in almost total ruin, to a destitute Memphis and Charleston Railroad Company. Funds had to be borrowed immediately to rebuild and so the mortgages began, from which the company would never recover. In 1837, in order to conform to the requirements of the Alabama Railroad Commission, extensive changes were made to the first floor of Huntsville's passenger station to provide a separate colored waiting room. Also, on the north and west sides of the building exterior, the column supported canopy was replaced with a bracketed one, the change being made so as to remove the old pillars that were in the way. About this time the cotton mills began to locate in the South, and for a while the future of this line, in Huntsville and elsewhere seemed brighter, but after being operated by another company and finally going into receivership, the once mighty Memphis and Charleston was purchased February 26, 1898, by the Southern Railway System.

In 1912, to better accommodate all the traveling public, Southern Railway System remodeled the Huntsville station. The addition of steam heat, electric lights, new "retiring" rooms, new floors and elegant golden oak furniture made this one of the finest stations in the Southern system. It was probably during this renovation that the window shutters, two chimneys and slate

roof were removed and the exterior painted to cover the new brick which was used where windows and doors were changed. The concrete platform, long train shed and baggage-express building were constructed the next year. Except for additional painting and now boarded-up windows, the depot remains today as it was remodeled in 1912.

Until the late 1960's, when Southern cut back and then discontinued passenger service in Huntsville, the depot served as the focal point for the coming and going of the community. During six wars the people of Huntsville and Madison County went there to say good-bye to young men and later returned for their homecoming - some to the passenger car exits and others, sadly, to the baggage car. This is the only ante-bellum passenger depot surviving in Alabama and one of the few in the United States. On September 10, 1971, the depot building was listed on the coveted National Register of Historic Places and a month later, after 111 years of use as a railroad facility, it was purchased by the City of Huntsville, Alabama. The City Council decided in December 1972 to preserve the structure by restoring it as nearly as practical to its original configuration. The historic old depot will become the nucleus of a museum of transportation and industry.



## HUNTSVILLE'S ARCHITECTURAL INVENTORY:

AN UPDATE

BY LINDA BAYER

The Huntsville Planning Commission, using available CETA funds, has hired Patricia Ryan and myself to conduct an architectural inventory of the city's historic buildings. We are attempting to gather as much information on Huntsville's architectural past as time permits. The final results will be available to the community in the form of a guide book to Huntsville architecture following the Civil War.

While considerable emphasis has already been placed on the antebellum homes, we feel that the Victorian architecture is as important in its own way, and its attractions should be brought to the public's attention. To this end we are dating buildings and making a written and photographic record of those that remain. Unfortunately many homes have already been lost without a record, a tragic example being those on West Holmes Street. It is our hope that in the future, when old buildings are destroyed, there will remain pictures and descriptions of them to provide a more complete portrait of Huntsville's past.

The brief report which follows is nothing more than an indication of the general trends in architectural styles which are present in Huntsville.

We have been researching Victorian and early twentieth century housing in the Twickenham and Old Town districts as well as a few interesting examples which fall outside these areas. So far we have dated about two hundred structures, of which sixty-five have been completely documented. The houses of this second group

have been visited and a written description completed of both the interior and the exterior. Photographs were taken of architectural features such as stairways and newels, mantles and woodwork, and a measured drawing of the house was made showing the floor plan as it existed today and approximate room sizes. The deeds were traced for each house to provide a history of its ownership and to aid in determining its age. Also checked were old real estate tax assessments, the Sanborn fire insurance maps, and contemporary newspaper accounts. In most instances at least two of these resources were available thereby providing a check.

We are finding that there was very little construction during the decade of the 1870's, but by 1880 building was again underway. The predominant style was a one or two-story frame cottage of irregular layout with wings or bays breaking the facade. It had a high, steeply pitched roof which combined hip and gable or was composed of several gables. A porch wrapped across the front and part of one side and was ornamented with turned wooden posts and balusters and often had a band of spindlework under the eaves. The front door was decorated in the Eastlake style and the windows had large panes and simple moldings. Additional ornament appeared as jigsaw work in the peak of the front gables.

Inside, the long hallway formed the axis of the layout, but it was not necessarily in the center. The formal rooms were often connected by large double sliding doors. The remaining doors had transoms and the interior frames usually had simple fluting or grooving and square

corner blocks with a bull's-eye design. Walls were nearly always papered. Interior decoration was mostly confined to the stairway and newel and mantles. Any additional ornamentation often took the form of an ornate spindle-work screen in the front hall.

We are finding that this Victorian style persisted into the twentieth century here in Huntsville, being built simultaneously with the then more fashionable colonial revival style. There is a notable absence of buildings in the Richardsonian Romanesque style and not so many Queen Anne style homes as might be expected. Presumably the economics of being an essentially middle class mill community is responsible for the lack of these more elaborate and therefore more expensive styles. Another possibility is that these homes were built in the areas of town that have been recently rebuilt; consequently have already been demolished.

The world's fair of 1876 held in Philadelphia to celebrate the centennial featured several buildings from the colonial past which triggered an interest in both antiques and the colonial style of building which continues undiminished even today. The colonial revival style of house which developed as a result of this interest was the complete antithesis of the Victorian styles. Instead of striving for a picturesque building of irregular layout decorated with jigsaw work and rambling porches, the colonial revival aimed at formal symmetry with classical detailing. The house was usually rectangular with a porch across the front edged with classical columns and the front door was centered with leaded glass top and side lights. The windows on the front were larger than previously with a plain light in the bottom sash and diamond-shaped panes in the upper. A focal point was provided by a Palladian window which had an arched central light flanked by lower side lights and the whole topped with an entablature. The roof was quiet except for the regularly placed dormers. The chimneys were often balanced.

The layout once again favored the central mission styles with heavy functional furniture of oak and plain brick or stone fireplaces which were no longer necessary to heat the house but were considered as the symbolic heart of the house.

There are also two homes in Huntsville built in the Prairie style made popular by Frank

hall with two large rooms on each side although the house often had additional rooms tacked on at the back since the kitchen was now usually built as part of the house rather than being a separate structure. The interior detailing of stairs and doorways was classical and elaborate stained and leaded glass windows were popular in the more expensive examples.

This style did not become popular in Huntsville until the first decade of this century.

Following World War I, domestic building in Huntsville usually took the form of the bungalow which had been developed in California at the turn of the century although fine examples of the type appeared here as early as 1910. The bungalow was a new style made popular by a change in life style; servants were no longer readily available so that the housewife had to do her own housekeeping. As a result she desired a smaller, more convenient home than the Victorian and colonial revival styles had been. The bungalow was usually a one-story house with perhaps a bedroom or two tucked under a large gable roof which covered the entire structure. The front porch in its most common form had a low surrounding wall which served as a base for the tapered wooden posts which supported a small gable roof. The windows were still double hung, but the top sash was divided into three or four vertical panes. The aim was to create a low horizontal structure which exuded coziness and comfort in a slightly rustic setting. Gone was the verticality that characterized the Victorian and colonial revival houses. Inside there was a corresponding emphasis on informality as the floor plan became slightly more open with the dining and living rooms beginning to merge. Interior detailing was simple often following the craftsman or

Lloyd Wright during the first decade of the twentieth century in Chicago. They have only an exterior similarity although one does have a large combined living and dining room.

Examples have been discovered of Victorian houses which were drastically altered to stay in fashion. One in particular was converted to a bungalow when its steeply pitched roof was replaced by a low hip roof, and the slender turned posts and spindlework of the front porch were removed to make way for tapered wood posts standing on a low masonry wall.

A number of architects worked in Huntsville during this time although little information has been located on them so far. We have been able to identify several structures designed by Edgar Love, who practiced architecture in Huntsville from the 1890's until 1936. For a few years at the turn of the century he was in partnership with Herbert Cowell, who came here from Ellettsville, Illinois, and stayed about five years. The names of several other architects have come to light, but they seemed to have designed only a few buildings before moving on.

We are continuing to search out additional information on the architects and to date more buildings to provide the most complete picture possible. Still to be considered are the commercial buildings. It is with these that we will be mainly concerned in the following months.

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for this excellent publication are \$12.00 Per year



By Renee Kahn

AMERICA GOT ITS FIRST LOOK at the Queen Anne style at the Philadelphia Exposition of 1876, the great "Centennial." It was love at first sight for this "tossed salad" (as Russell Lynes calls it) of Elizabethan, Jacobean, and Classical elements. For the next 20 years it was everyman's dream house, his castle, his retreat from the growing pressures of American life.

QUEEN ANNE was largely the creation of an English architect, Richard Norman Shaw. Nostalgic by nature, it was supposed to be a return to the simple, solid construction methods of the days of good Queen Anne (150 years earlier), when workmanship was emphasized over superficial architectural detail. In that sense, it was the architectural counterpart of William Morris and the Arts and Crafts movement of the time.



THE GREAT PUBLIC ENTHUSIASM for Queen Anne swept away both the Gothic and French Mansard styles.

Its only competitor was the Romanesque, which had the weight, both figurative and literal, of Henry Hobson Richardson behind it. Romanesque, however, was a stone construction style, and therefore out of reach of most American pocketbooks. On the other hand, a wooden Queen Anne house could



be put together quickly and cheaply by any competent carpenter and his helper.

**QUEEN ANNE'S NICKNAME**, the "bric-a-brac" style suited it very well. Earlier examples looked more Elizabethan, as though they had come out of Shakespeare's England, later came Jacobean towers and turrets, and still later, the more classical elements like Palladian windows and Grecian columns. The entire style was finally snuffed out by the Colonial wave which swept America at the turn of the century.

ALTHOUGH IT WAS POPULAR for only two decades, its impact on the American scene was enormous. The rapid growth of our cities and towns, along with innumerable technological advances, resulted in the construction of hundreds of thousands of Queen Anne houses. Although it is probably the most common "old house" we have around today, next to nothing has been written about it.

Old Nails



Machine-cut  
Nails with  
handmade heads  
(1790's-1820's)



### The Basic Shape

THE SIMPLE RECTANGLE of earlier days was gone: Asymmetry ruled the day. Wings and gables protruded in all directions, and modest porches expanded into full scale verandahs or piazzas. Balconies, overhanging gables,

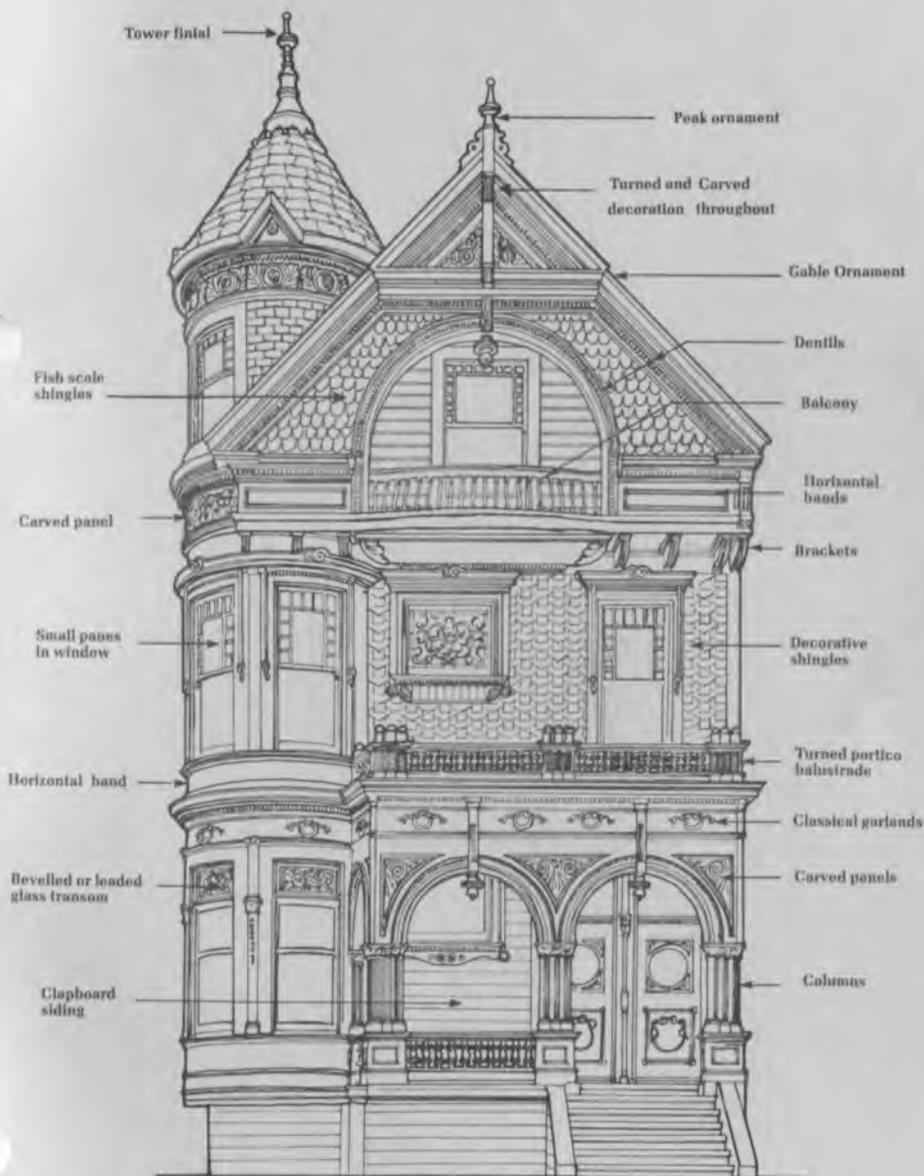
(Continued on page 3)

and bay and oriel windows dotted the facade. The house grew organically, from the inside out. Its inner structure determined its outer shape. Adding to the style's picturesque effect were the towers and turrets. "Here," according to one Builder's Plan Book, "the fastidious housekeeper could banish the smelly smoker." Towers were round, octagonal, or square, but the most fascinating were onion domed, like Arabian Nights fantasies. Rooflines varied: A street of the period often displayed many different styles. Whether gabled or hipped, roofs were high, in keeping with the medieval effect. Dormers were commonplace and not placed symmetrically. One rather charming roof variation was called "jerkin head," and the end tipped downward.



Hand wrought Nails,  
Made from 1820's  
up through early  
1860's

# Queen Anne Tower House





**FROM**  
**THE HISTORIC HUNTSVILLE**  
**FOUNDATION, INC.**  
**302 TERRY-HUTCHEN BLDG.**  
**HUNTSVILLE , ALABAMA 35801**