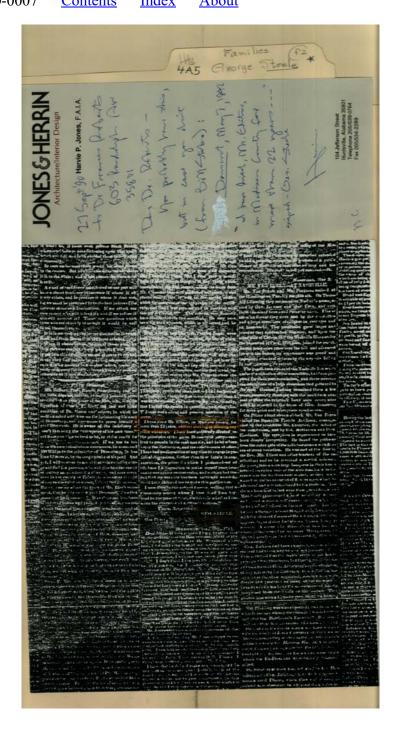
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 1r04a05-02-000-0007ContentsIndexAbout



Microfilm of newspaper **Names:** Jones, Harvey P.

(F.A.I.A.)

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

correspondence

Dates:

May 7, 1842

Roberts, Frances, Dr Steele, George

Stubro, B. M.

microfilm

Sept 27, 1990

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 2r04a05-02-000-0008ContentsIndexAbout

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Webb, Mr.

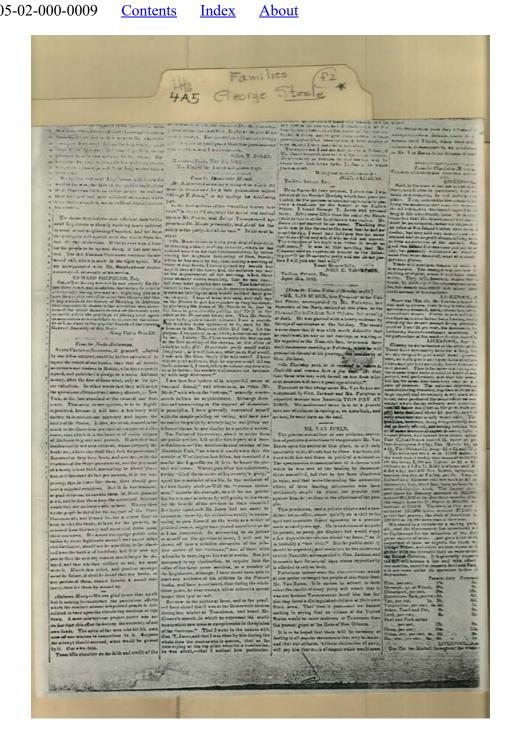
contact to George Steele Names: Roberts, Frances, Dr Sawyer, Elise Places: Huntsville, AL Types:

correspondence

Dates:

Feb 24, 1986

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 3r04a05-02-000-0009ContentsIndexAbout



See column 3

Names:

Steele, George

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper

Thompson, John C.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 4r04a05-02-000-0010ContentsIndexAbout



See column 3 / politics Names:

Steele, George

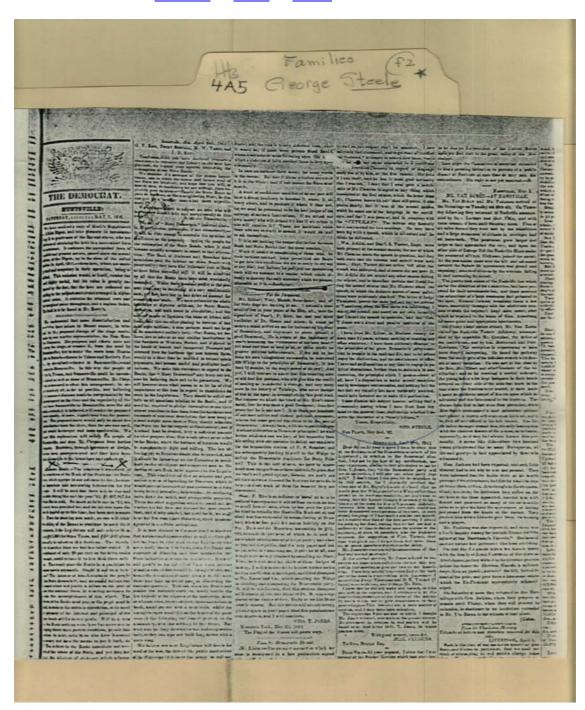
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 5r04a05-02-000-0011ContentsIndexAbout



See column 3 / politics

Names:

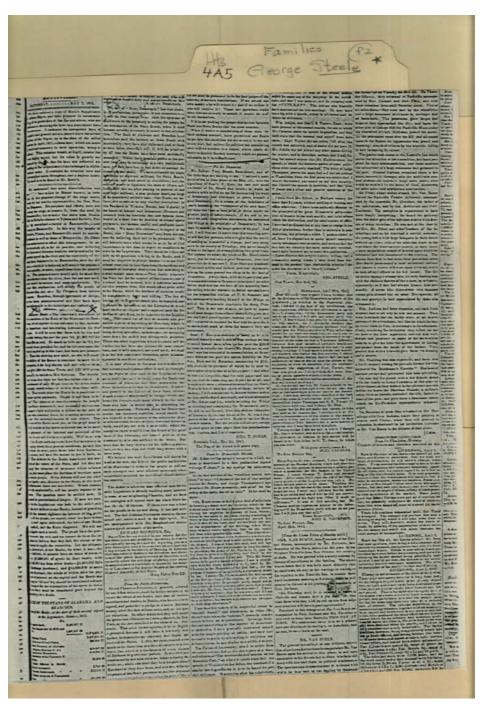
Steele, George

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper



See column 3 / politics

Names:

Steele, George

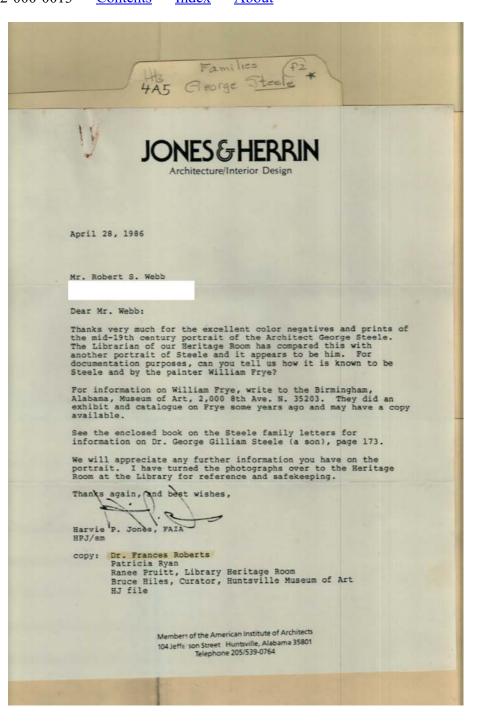
Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

newspaper

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 7r04a05-02-000-0013ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Frye, William Hiles, Bruce

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

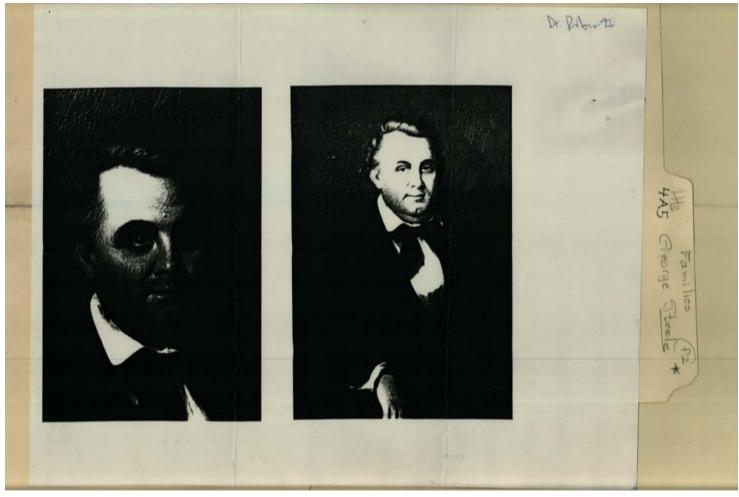
letter

Dates:

April 28, 1986

Jones, Harvey P. (F.A.I.A.) Pruitt, Ranee Roberts, Frances, Dr Ryan, Patricia Steele, George Webb, Robert S.

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 8r04a05-02-000-0014ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Steele, George

Types:

photograph

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 9r04a05-02-000-0015ContentsIndexAbout

Families P 4A5 eorge An monel 5 C Robbig W. William Elizabeth W. Lewis

Names:

Lewis, Elizabeth W.

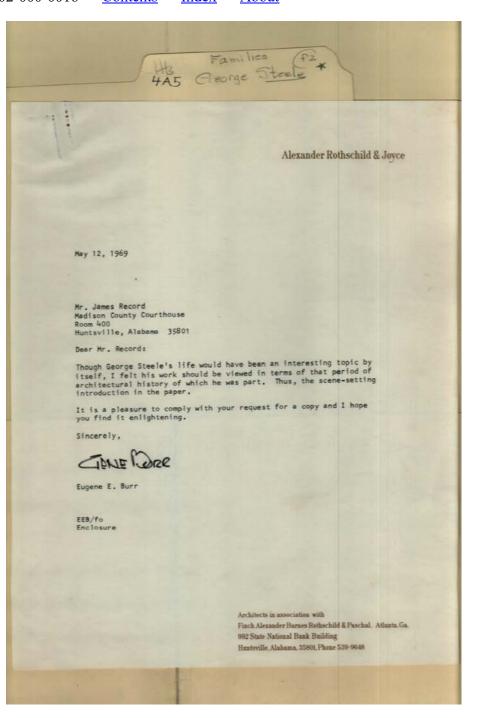
Williams, Robbie W.

Types:

note

photograph

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Names:

Burr, Eugene E.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

letter

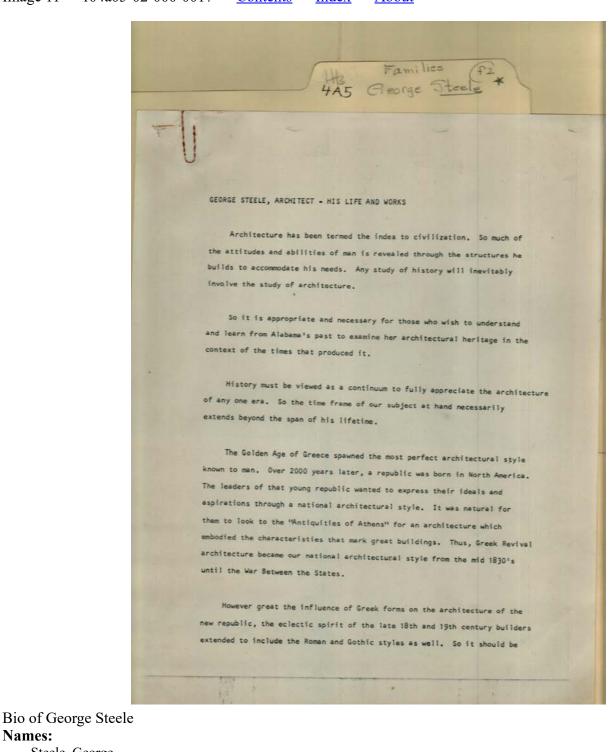
Dates:

May 12, 1969

Record, James

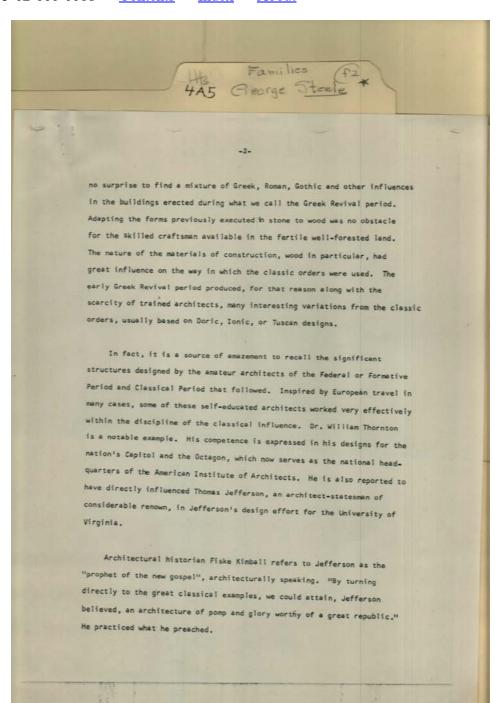
Steele, George

Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2 **Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection:** Steele, George - Families r04a05-02-000-0017 Image 11 **Contents** Index About



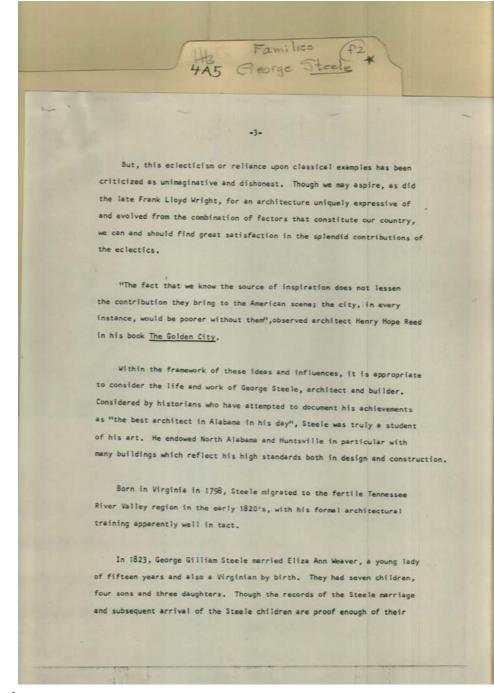
Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 12r04a05-02-000-0018ContentsIndexAbout



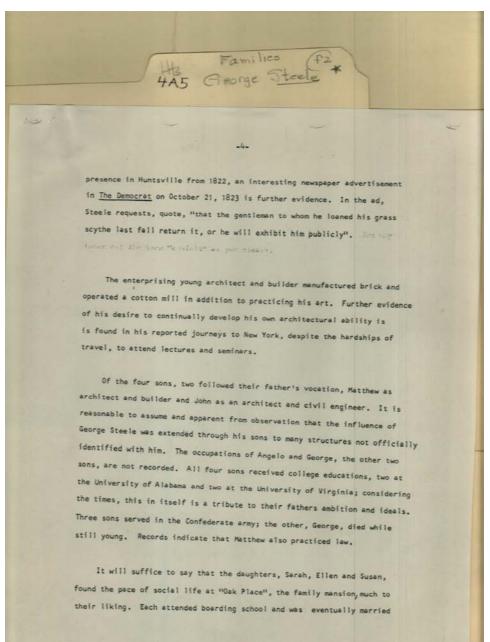
Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 13r04a05-02-000-0019ContentsIndexAbout



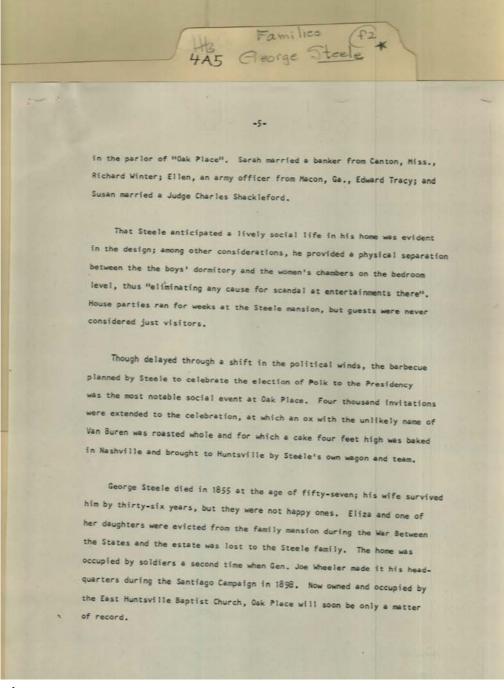
Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 14r04a05-02-000-0020ContentsIndexAbout



Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 15r04a05-02-000-0021ContentsIndexAbout



Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 16r04a05-02-000-0022ContentsIndexAbout

4A5

To appreciate the architect, one must examine his work. As with any artist dedicated to his art, Steele grew in competence and confidence over the years of practice. Understandably timid in his early years, he soon developed his understanding of and feeling for the use of the orders that enabled him to design responsibly and creatively.

Families

-6-

George

f2

The departure from Roman eclecticism to Greek Revival was initiated by Benjamin Latrobe in 1798 with his design for the Bank of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. The movement was encouraged by the publication of numerous books documenting the classic works of architecture, not unlike the manner in which architectural design is influenced today by the content of the architectural publications. Steele is reported to have had an extensive library of his own.

In general, the characteristics that identify the Greek Revival Period compared to the earlier Federal Period were greater discipline, dignity, and massiveness. The colossal-order or two-story portico first appeared with the advent of the Greek Revival. Windows were enlarged and lowered to the floor as a by-product of the re-directed emphasis on elegance. Ornament was affected as delicate hand-tooling gave way to woodwork produced by steam-powered machinery. Another significant characteristic of the Greek Revival is a greater degree of design unity throughout the structures; this was due to the fact that the areas of work executed separately by the builder and carver of ornaments in the Federal Period were designed and coordinated by the architect in the later period. It is this unity of design that distinguishes the work of George Steele.

Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 17r04a05-02-000-0023ContentsIndexAbout

4A5

Colonel Leroy Pope is referred to as the "father of Huntsville". His home, built in 1815, is reported to be the work of George Steele. Impressive though its Doric order columns may be, the distinctly Federal flavor of the balustrade over the unusual truncated pediment, the carved fan window and the ornament virtually rule out the possibility of Steele's participation in the design, when added to the obvious chronological discrepancy. The present owner is Mrs. James F. Watts.

Families

George

-7-

f2

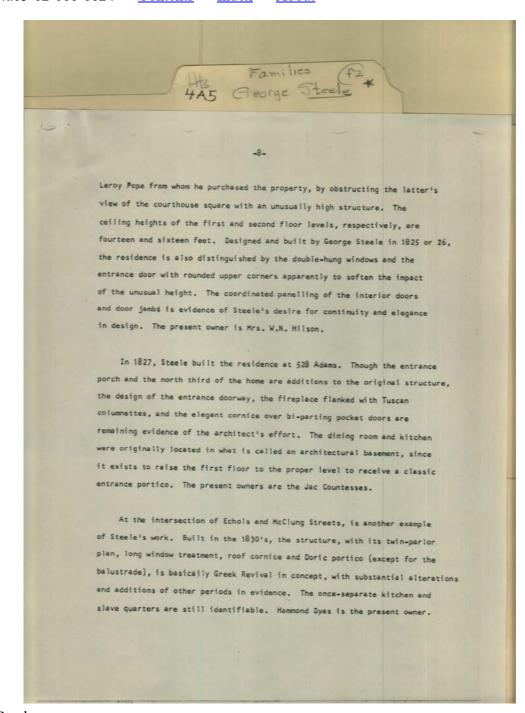
Another very important citizen in the city's early history, Dr. Thomas Fearn, installed the state's first public water works in Huntsville. His home on Franklin Street was built in the early 1820's and is apparently one of Steele's first commissions. The slightly under-stated portico is Doric. The order achieved through the use of simple unadorned pilasters give the structure a pleasant character. It is interesting to recall that two of the architect's sons, Matthew and George, Jr., married two of Dr. Fearn's daughters. Ownership is now in the Richardson family.

Built a short time later but before 1824, another home nearby on Franklin Street is similar in character. Steele is not credited with the structure, but it is reasonable to assume that the design was directly influenced by him. The present owners are the R.P. Gerons.

Just below the bluff occupied by the Leroy Pope home, which was sited to exploit the view of the courthouse square, is the "spite house". So named, supposedly, because the original owner, William Robinson, chose to express a residue of ill feeling generated by a dispute with his friend

Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 18r04a05-02-000-0024ContentsIndexAbout



Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 19r04a05-02-000-0025ContentsIndexAbout

4A5

In 1835, George Steele purchased a building site for his own home, his stables, carriage house, hen house, dairy, and cottages for his overseer, fieldhands, masons, carpenters and mechanics. "Oak Place" lies at the foot of Monte Sano Mountain and just east of what is now Maysville Road. Construction started in 1840 and the finished structure was one of the most interesting and original design solutions utilizing the classic orders in Alabama.

-9.

Families

Cleorge

f2

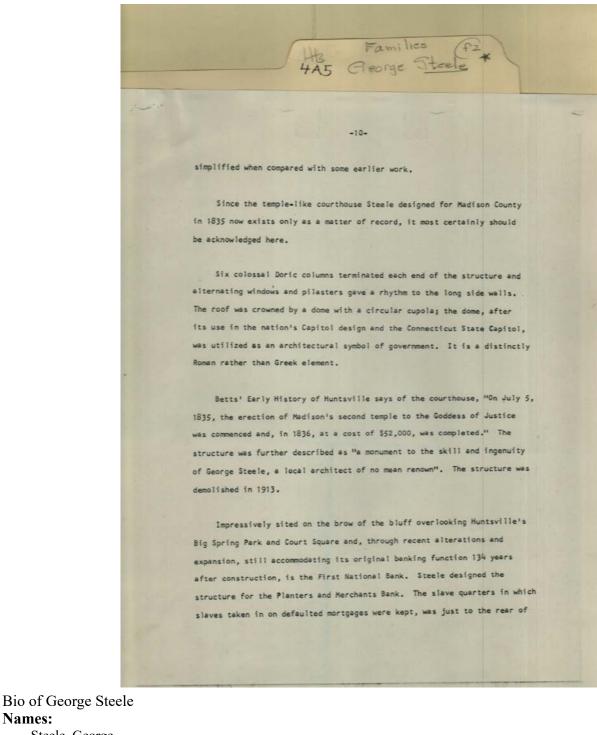
As with so many of his projects but particularly so at Oak Place, the landscaping was extensive and impressive. Flowering shrubs abounded and the lawn was described as "a smooth flow of blue grass". Little evidence remains of the past beauty of the estate.

Though the entrance portico is Doric, the use of round and square columns together is unusual, but most helpful in visually tying the portico to the main structure, in which the corner pilasters are treated as engaged columns. The entrance doors were of the bi-parting pocket type.

The use of twenty foot high square columns at close spacing at the sunken porch entrance to the basement banquet hall and at the entrance loggia on the southwest corner maintains a sense of design continuity and dignity on all approaches. Functionally, the entrance on the east relates to the kitchen-slave quarters annex on that side and the loggia, now enclosed, served as an entranceway from the drive on the west up to a balcony on the parlor-ballroom level. The panelled treatment of the doors and openings is consistently well done throughout, though slightly

Bio of George Steele Names: Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2 Steele, George - Families r04a05-02-000-0026 Image 20 Contents Index About



Names: Steele, George

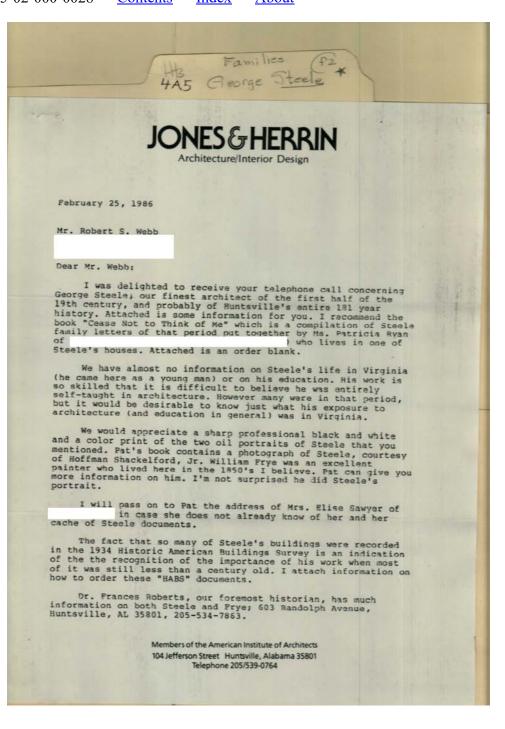
Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 21r04a05-02-000-0027ContentsIndexAbout

Families fz Greorge " 4A5 -11the bank proper; it was accessible by a sheltered walkway connection and opened to an interior exercising yard or court, which was eventually enclosed and converted into apartments. The slave quarters each had a fireplace. An open gallery on the lower level overlooked the Big Spring. In keeping with a legal requirement which stipulated that the bank cashier live in the bank, a second floor apartment was provided; the entire second floor was subsequently removed to create a more spacious banking lobby. Steele's resourcefulness is revealed in his use of sawdust in the floor of the apartment over the original lobby as an sound-deadening material. The stone shafts and capitals of the Ionic portico columns were transported from Baltimore by ox cart and barge. The use of the Ionic order both for the entrance portico columns and the mahogany columnettes flanking the fireplace mantels and teller stations provides a sense of continuity from the exterior to interior. This can be achieved in different ways, but should be part of the experience one enjoys in any well-conceived work of architecture. Huntsville and Alabama received much from George Steele. It is appropriate that we recognize his contribution and important that we understand the nature of the heritage he left. Eugene E. Burr May 2, 1969

Bio of George Steele Names: Burr, Eugene E. Types: report

Dates: May 2, 1969 Steele, George

Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 22r04a05-02-000-0028ContentsIndexAbout



Names:

Frye, William Roberts, Frances, Dr.

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

letter

Dates:

Feb 25, 1986

Ryan, Patricia

Shackelford, Hoffman Steele, George Webb, Robert S. Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection: Series 4, Subseries A, Box 5, Folder 2Steele, George - FamiliesImage 23r04a05-02-000-0029ContentsIndexAbout

Families George S ce Please come to Huntsville and we will give you the "George Steele tour". Respectfully, Harvie P. Jones, FAIA HPJ/dfp cc: Dr. Frances Roberts Ms. Patricia Ryan HJ file

Names:

Jones, Harvey P. (F.A.I.A.) Roberts, Frances, Dr. Ryan, Patricia

Places:

Huntsville, AL

Types:

letter

Dates:

Feb 25, 1986

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Frances Cabaniss Roberts Collection

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Archives/Special Collections Access Restrictions: None

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