

The Historic Huntsville Quarterly

Volume 5 | Number 3

Article 1

3-20-1979

From the Editor

Linda Bayer

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly>



Part of the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bayer, Linda (1979) "From the Editor," *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly*. Vol. 5: No. 3, Article 1.
Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly/vol5/iss3/1>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Historic Huntsville Quarterly by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

from the Editor

Huntsville during the antebellum period had the rare good fortune to have an architect of exceptional talent living and practicing here. His name was George Gilliam Steele.

He moved to Huntsville while still a young man, and through study and natural genius, he developed into one of the finest regional architects of his day. He practiced here for more than thirty years and grew prosperous from his profession. In that time he must have designed and built a great number of buildings, but today only a few can definitely be verified as his work. The following article discusses in chronological order all of his structures that have been identified so far; several of these have been destroyed, some so long ago that we know nothing of them beyond the fact of their existence. Certainly many more homes in town were designed by Steele, but they have not yet been recognized as such because documentation is missing.

Writing architectural history is fraught with pitfalls. Information on who built what, and when, and why, and how is often scanty or nonexistent. Fragments of knowledge must be strung together tenuously. But, new material is always coming to light, and it is hoped that this issue of the QUARTERLY might prompt someone to dig out an old photograph, a building contract, or other document that could contain valuable information to help fill the blanks in the history of Huntsville's architectural development. If the frustration of writing architectural history results from its constant need for revision, then that is also its excitement.

In order to better celebrate the work of George Steele on this the 181st anniversary of his birth, the QUARTERLY will not run its regular columns - News, Reviews, And Old Views - but they will return in the summer issue.

Happy Birthday, George!