



The search for the owner who added the flamboyant Corinthian porch was one of the last journeys of discovery associated with this essay. Oddly, books about landmark Athens houses do not mention the renovation, and the newspapers are reticent about the owner who effected the change. The addition is similar to houses at 285 and 397 South Milledge Avenue. Sanborn Fire Insurance Company maps show that the Neoclassical facade and other changes were added between 1908 and 1913. The owner, John A. Fowler, was living in Hall County in 1880 and gave his occupation as “Retired Bartender” at age 28 on that census. By 1882 he was in Athens buying property, so much that it is difficult to know exactly when he bought this house. He owned it in the late 1890s when he married Elizabeth Ahearn of Washington, Georgia. Athens newspapers inform that his “sweet mash corn whisky” was produced at his distillery located in the vicinity of the lake at the present Athens Country Club. During Clarke County prohibition, he had bar rooms in adjoining counties, and there were regular articles about too much money flowing out of Athens to buy Fowler’s liquor to illegally consume in Athens. John A. Fowler died in 1919 and was buried in St. Patrick’s Cemetery, Washington. Mrs. Fowler died unexpectedly following surgery in 1930. Her Hines nephew and nieces inherited the house.

James Jones Taylor House, 599 Prince Avenue.



The original circa 1845 Greek Revival-styled portion of this house was later supplemented with a full-height Corinthian porch, extending across the front façade and continuing along both sides. The flamboyant result rivaled all other mansions along Prince Avenue and elsewhere in Athens. ~ J. Kissane.

Both photographs by William Columbus Davis.
The Columns of Athens: Georgia's Classic City.