

Annie Denny Hall House



Photograph courtesy of Jason L. Harpe.

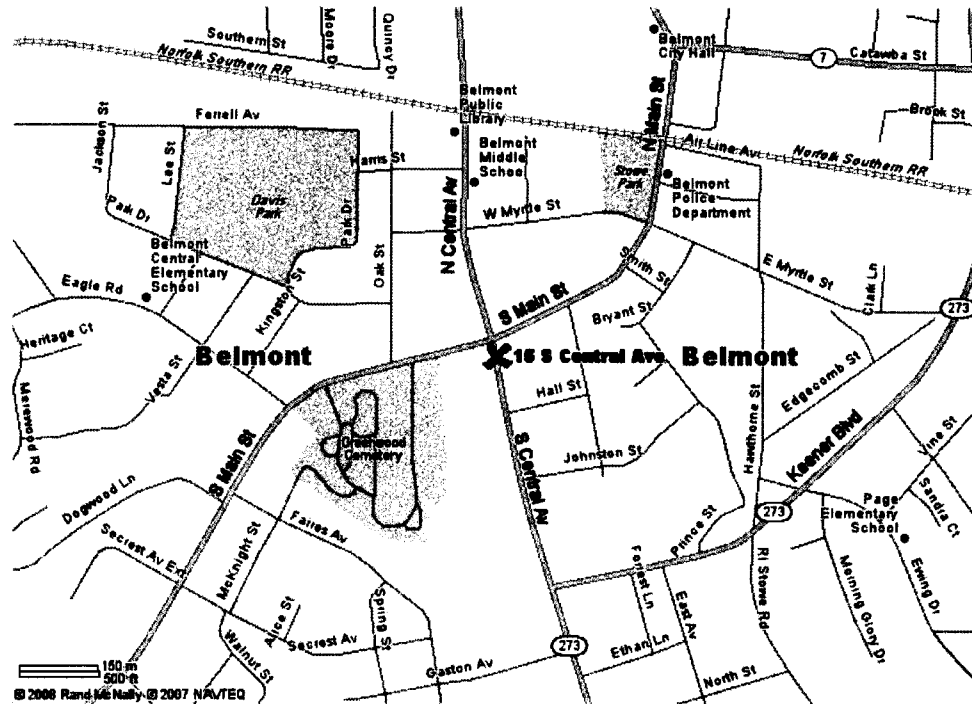
1. Name and location of the property: The property known as the Annie Denny Hall House is located in Belmont, North Carolina.

2. Name, address, telephone number, and email address of the present owner: The owner of the property is:

Anna P. Perry
15 S. Central Street
Belmont, NC 28012
(704) 825-3809

3. Representative photographs of the property: This report contains representative photographs of the property. Photographs courtesy of Jason L. Harpe.

4. A map depicting the location of the property: This report contains a map that depicts the location of the property.



5. Current Deed Reference to the property: The most recent deed to the property is recorded in Gaston County Deed Book 1739 at Page 800.

6. A brief historical sketch of the property: This report contains a brief historical sketch of the property prepared by Jason L. Harpe.

7. A brief architectural description of the property: This report contains a brief architectural description on the property prepared by Jason L. Harpe.

8. Documentation of why and in what ways the property meets the criteria for designation set forth in N.C.G.S. 160A-399.4:

a. Special significance in terms of its history, architecture, and/or cultural importance:

- 1) The Annie Denny Hall House is one of Belmont's best examples of an early twentieth century house that combines Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style architectural details.
- 2) The Annie Denny Hall House retains nearly all of the original exterior and interior architectural details that define its architectural significance as a local historic landmark.
- 3) The Annie Denny Hall House was designed by regionally renowned architect James Mackson McMichael, who designed over 900 churches. McMichael evidently met often with Annie Denny Hall's oldest son, J.B. Hall, since his name is included on documents belonging to the architect. However, J.B. Hall

never lived in this house. He was thirty-one years old when the house was completed and had been married for nine years.

- 4) The Annie Denny Hall House is associated with the locally-significant Hall family who contributed substantially to the community of Belmont, but more specifically to a widow and mother of eight who held steadfast to a dream of owning a significant home designed by a well-known architect.

b. Integrity of design, setting, workmanship, materials, feeling and association:

This writer contends that the physical and architectural descriptions included in this report demonstrate that the J.B. Hall House meets these criteria.

9. Ad Valorem Tax Appraisal: Designation (local historic landmark) would allow the owner to apply for an automatic deferral of 50% of the Ad Valorem taxes on all or any portion of the property that becomes designated as a "historic property." The current total appraised value is \$291,543. The current appraised value of the 3304 square foot building is \$246,543. The appraised value of the .41 acres of land is \$45,000.

Date of preparation of this report: January 15, 2009.

Prepared by:

Jason L. Harpe
410 South Cedar Street
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(704) 477-0987

Annie Denny Hall House

Chain of Title

1. Anna P. Perry and husband Joseph A. Perry to Anna P. Perry, lot no 1 on the F.P. Hall, Sr. plat, previously owned by Mary Elva Hall and Nellie Roberta Hall Dixon. The metes and bounds description indicates the property adjoins the property of Mrs. W.T. Hall, Sr. (formerly known as the J. B. Hall property). Recorded 7/1/1985 at book 1739, page 800 of the Gaston County registry.
2. John P. Graham to Anna P. Graham, property containing same description as above. Deed indicates that the property was previously owned by Mary Elva Hall and Nellie Roberta Hall Dixon and that Mary's 2/3 interest was conveyed to Nellie upon her death on 10/11/75. Recorded 1/23/1981 at book 1356, page 231, Gaston County registry.
3. Robert Davidson Hall, Jr. executor for the estate of Mary Elva Hall, and Nellie Roberta Hall Dixon and husband, Robert Clarence Dixon to John P. Graham and wife, Anna P. Graham, property containing same legal description as above. Recorded 3/11/1976 at book 1180, page 862, Gaston County registry.
4. Last will of Annie E. Hall, leaving house in which she lives on Central Avenue to daughters Mary E. Hall, Abbie D. Hall, and Nell R. Hall. James B. Hall received a share of personal property along with other children. Robert D. Hall was appointed executor of the estate. The will was dated 7/15/1930 and recorded and probated upon her death at Estate Book 5, page 178, Gaston County registry.
5. There is no record specifically indicating how Annie Hall came into possession of the future Hall house property. Matthews N. Hall died in 1906. No Will is recorded in the Estates registry for Gaston County, and Annie E. Hall qualified as Administratrix for the Estate in January of that year, a fact which indicates that either Matthews died without a will, or that a will could not be found or proven.

6. Matthews N. Hall appears to have received two inheritances in the 1890s. James D. Hall died in 1893, naming John Davidson Hall, M. N. Hall, and F.P. Hall as the executors of his Estate. None of the executors received a specific bequest of real property, though real property was devised to other children. It is possible, however, that there would have been a remainder interest including real property not specifically left to other heirs, which Matthews received through the Estate.

Matthews also received an interest in the J. B. Neagle estate in 1895, which is recorded at Book 29, page 278 of the Gaston County registry. Both the deed for the Neagle property and the Gaston County Index of Grantees for this conveyance refer to Matthews as "Matthew," a fact which the Commission believes to be a transcription or typographical error based on a review of all other available documents and historical evidence.

The only other record of any property owned by Matthews N. Hall consists of 60 acres H.W. Rumfelt Homestead, purchased at a courthouse auction in 1876, but this due to the fact that this property appears to have been situated along the Catawba River, it does not seem a likely candidate for the Hall house tract.

Due to the absences of specific property references in the Estate files, there is probably a reasonable question as to whether the Hall house property originally came from the Hall or Neagle families.

Statement of Significance

The Annie Denny Hall House was built in 1916 in historic Belmont, Gaston County, North Carolina, and was designed by regionally renowned Charlotte architect J.M. McMichael, who is noted for designing over 900 churches. This two-story frame dwelling combines both Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style architectural details, which was popular during the first two decades of the twentieth century, and exemplifies the increased sophistication that accompanied Belmont's growth and its emerging business leaders' economic prosperity in textiles during the late nineteenth century and the first three decades of the twentieth century. As the home of Annie Denny Hall, the wife of deceased Matthews Neagle Hall, who died in 1906, the dwelling reflects the architectural, social, and economic transition that took place in Belmont from the 1910s through the 1930s. The Hall House has local and statewide significance as a well-preserved example of the mixture of Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style architecture during the early twentieth century in Belmont. It is a representative and rare example of J.M. McMichael's residential designs, and demonstrates its association with the Hall family of Belmont, North Carolina.

Historical Overview

The Hall House, built in 1916 by Mrs. Annie Denny Hall for herself and her eight children, can be best understood and appreciated within the broader context of Belmont's development as one of Gaston County's best preserved textile towns. This two-story frame weatherboard dwelling with a mixture of Colonial Revival and Queen Anne style architectural details is one of the best examples of this marriage in the town of Belmont and the Belmont Historic District. The Hall family's acceptance and employment of these two styles, popular during the 1910s and 1920s, reflects Belmont's growth during this time period from a small nineteenth century community anchored by a railroad depot to a thriving textile community.

Chartered in 1895, Belmont is located in eastern Gaston County, North Carolina, just west of the Catawba River.¹ The town was named Garibaldi during the 1870s, in honor of John Garibaldi, the man who built the town's railroad water tower. The Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad reached the town in 1871, and upon receipt of their charter, the town fathers renamed their young community after August Belmont (1853-1924), a wealthy banker and financier from New York. August Belmont was a friend of Maryhelp Abbey's Rev. Leo Haid, O.S.B.² Men such as Abram Stowe, Confederate Veteran and builder of Belmont's earliest surviving structure, undertook mercantile ventures near the depot in Belmont when the railroad arrived. The growth spurred by the railroad and construction of commercial buildings in downtown warranted the town's incorporation.³

Belmont's transition from a small community to an economic center for the textile industry was precipitated by the construction of the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railroad in 1871, and the New South industrialism of members from the Stowe and Lineberger families. R.L. Stowe led the economic and industrial movement in Belmont that began in 1889 with the opening of the Stowe Mercantile Company, and the formation of Belmont's first cotton mill in 1901. R.L. Stowe, his brother S.P. Stowe, and Abel C. Lineberger provided the impetus for the organization and construction of over twenty other textile mills in Belmont.⁴ The foresight and New South entrepreneurial spirit of Stowe and his partners made an indelible mark on the fabric of Belmont's downtown, and provided a foundation upon which the city is building its current revitalization projects. These men cemented a legacy that pervades the city's renewed spirit of community, adaptability, and willingness to approach progress and growth while embracing the core principles and standards of historic preservation.

Equally important to Belmont's growth was the location of two Catholic educational institutions within the city limits. What today is known as the campuses of Belmont

¹ Kim Withers Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Gastonia, N.C.: Commercial Printers, Inc., 1982), 253.

² William S. Powell, *The North Carolina Gazetteer: A Dictionary of Tar Heel Places* (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina, 1968), 38.

³ Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County*, 253-254.

⁴ Kim Withers Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* (Gastonia, N.C.: Commercial Printers, Inc., 1982), 253-272.

Abbey College and Sacred Heart College was the Caldwell Plantation in the 1860s and early 1870s. Father Jeremiah O'Connell, a missionary priest, purchased the 500 acre Caldwell Plantation located one mile north of Garibaldi (Belmont) Station in 1872. O'Connell donated the property to the Benedictine Monks of Saint Vincent's Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of building a school and religious community to meet the educational and spiritual needs of the community. Saint Vincent's Archabbey named their religious establishment Maryhelp Abbey. Within less than two decades, Belmont welcomed its second Catholic educational institution. At this time, the Sisters of Mercy organized a convent and girls' school near Maryhelp Abbey. Father Michael McNerny, O.S.B., who came to Belmont at the turn of the century as a student, remained after graduation as the two schools' resident architect. He is noted for his design contributions to Saint Leo's Hall at Belmont Abbey and Sacred Heart's Administration Building.⁵

The Annie Denny Hall House reflects the prosperity and growth in Belmont during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, and is one of the most impressive examples of a dwelling that combines Colonial Revival and Queen Anne styles in Belmont. It is the only building in Belmont designed by regionally noted architect J.M. McMichael.⁶ Annie Denny Hall secured the architectural services of J.M. Michael for the design of the house at 15 South Central Avenue after her husband Matthews Neagle Hall's death on January 21, 1906. Matthew and Annie had eight children, and their home on South Point Road was not large enough to accommodate the large family.⁷ She first moved the family to a house in town on South Main Street.

The Hall family arrived in Gaston County in 1846 under the watchful eye of the Reverend James Davidson Hall. Rev. Hall was born on March 17, 1806, near Bethany

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ J.M. McMichael (1870-1944), a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, apprenticed and practiced architecture in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania six years before opening his firm in Charlotte in 1901. He is most widely known for his architectural designs for nearly 900 churches. Some of these churches include the former First Baptist Church of Lincolnton, and the old First Baptist Church, Little Rock A.M.E. Zion, East Avenue Tabernacle, Myers Park Presbyterian, and First Associated Reformed Presbyterian, all in Charlotte.

⁷ Anna Perry, interview by author, 11 January 2009.

Church in Iredell County, North Carolina, the son of James Davidson Hall and Rachel Johnston. From a young age, Hall exhibited a propensity for memorization and concentration, and he learned the Shorter Catechism as a child. He entered the University of North Carolina's Junior Class in 1826. While at the University he made academic and professional contacts that include those with Drs. James Phillips and Elisha Mitchell that lasted throughout his lifetime.⁸

Upon graduating from UNC Chapel Hill, Hall taught school in Washington, N.C. for two years. He received the call to the ministry during his two years in Washington and, after securing sufficient funds, attended Union Seminary, at that time located at Hampton Sydney, Virginia. Shortly after entering the seminary, Hall's professor, Dr. John Holt Rice, passed away. Dr. George A. Baxter replaced Dr. Rice as Hall's instructor, and it was from Dr. Baxter that Hall received such impressive and instructive teaching and preaching. He completed his seminary work at Union Seminary and accepted a call in the Orange Presbytery. After only two years, Hall became the pastor of Thyatira and Franklin Churches, both in Rowan County, North Carolina, in which capacity he served for ten years.⁹

In 1849, Rev. Hall moved his wife Elizabeth Scott and ten children to Gaston County, where he spent his career. He primarily served the Presbyterian congregations at Goshen, New Hope, and Olney, but did deliver his ministry to Union, Long Creek, and Hephzibah. His academic talents and the lack of educational opportunities in Gaston County spurred him to establish a classical school at which he was the primary instructor. He was also one of the founders of Davidson College.¹⁰

Rev. James Davidson Hall was married three times, and two children from two of his marriages died at a young age. Matthews Neagle Hall was the second child from his third marriage. Matthews Neagle was born on November 9, 1852, and married Annie

⁸ Hall, Rev. J.K. *The Rev. James Davidson Hall and His Descendants: 1806-1946* (Belmont, N.C., 1946), 5.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 5-7. Adams, Mrs. T.L. *The Hall Family History* (Statesville, N.C., 1949), 145.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*; Hall, Dr. J.K. *History of Goshen Church At the Celebration of the 175th Anniversary of Goshen Presbyterian Church Observed Sunday, October 15th, 1939*, n.p., 1939).

Elizabeth Denny on July 10, 1884. Annie E. Denny and her sister Mary Ellen came to Belmont from Illinois to teach school. They married Hall brothers – Annie marrying Matthews Neagle, and Mary Ellen marrying Josiah Quincy (Quin) Hall. Matthews Neagle Hall was an elder in the Goshen Presbyterian Church and later in the Belmont Presbyterian Church. Matthews N. Hall died on January 21, 1906, just four months before his last child was born.¹¹ Matthews N. and Annie Denny Hall were the proud parents of eight children who were all active members of the Belmont community.

After her husband's death in 1906, Annie Denny Hall needed more space for her eight children that ranged in age from the oldest, James Brownlee Hall, who was born in 1885, to the youngest, Matthews N. Hall, Jr., who was born in 1906. She moved the family to a house on South Main Street in Belmont. The South Main Street house later burned and she started plans for the house on Central Avenue.

Matthews and Annie Denny Hall's oldest son, James Brownlee Hall, was born on June 23, 1885. He was educated at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina and married Lottie Fite on September 2, 1907. Three of his sisters (Mary Alva, Abbie Denny, and Alice Neagle) were educated at the Woman's College of the University of North Carolina, and Mary and Abbie were both school teachers in Belmont who occupied the Hall house in subsequent years. Nell Roberta, the youngest daughter, attended Queens College. Brothers Robert and Matthews were educated at Davidson College. Brother Robert Davidson Hall married Mary Howe; William Thomas Hall married Grace Gullick; and, Matthews Neagle Hall, Jr. married Carolina May. All of the brothers engaged themselves in Belmont's textile industry. Robert Davidson Hall served as chairman of the WPB Advisory Committee on Combed Yarn at Washington, D.C. during World War II.¹²

After Annie Hall's death on April 14, 1932, her two daughters, Mary Elva Hall and Abbie Denny Hall, were the house's sole occupants. Annie's son William Thomas Hall

¹¹ Hall, *The Rev. James Davidson Hall and His Descendants: 1806-1946*, 13.

¹² *Ibid.*, 13-16.

built a two-story brick Colonial Revival style house on an adjoining lot to the north, which had been the property of his oldest brother, J.B., and her daughter Alice and her husband Robert Clarence Dixon built a Tudor Revival style house during the 1930s, two lots to the north (beside William Thomas Hall's house). When Alice Dixon died, her husband married Alice's sister Nellie Roberta Hall, and Clarence and Nellie lived in the house for the remaining portions of their lives.

Over the course of thirty years, from the early 1930s to the 1960s, the Annie Denny Hall House met many of Belmont's educational and religious needs. Mary Hall and Abbie Hall, the house's owners during this period, were school teachers that provided instruction at elementary schools in Belmont. The two also opened the second floor of their spacious house for other local teachers and area church workers to board. These church workers served in positions that today would be classified as directors of Christian education and youth pastors. Mary and Abbie inundated their house with volumes of classical works that they enjoyed throughout their lives and used in their classrooms. The sisters made very few alterations to the interior and exterior of the house. Because of legal issues over the Mary Elva Hall's estate, the current property owner was not able to move into the Hall House until one year after the purchase of the property. Anna Perry purchased the property in 1975 from Mary's nephew Robert Davidson Hall, Jr., and her sister and brother-in-law, Nellie Roberta Hall Dixon and Robert Clarence Dixon.¹³

The Annie Denny Hall House illustrates the evolution of the Town of Belmont from the turn-of-the-century to the present. The dwelling reflects Belmont's shift from vernacular architectural styles to more urban Queen Anne and Colonial Revival, and Belmont's increased economic prosperity as a center of the textile industry in Gaston County. In its connection to the Hall Family, and the educational and religious importance of Mary and Abbie Hall's efforts in Belmont, the home retains a link to the religious, commercial, and social aspects of Belmont's evolution.

Architectural Description

¹³ Gaston County Deed Book 1180, Page 862. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Gastonia, North Carolina.

The Annie Denny Hall House is situated on .41 acres in the Belmont Historic District in Belmont, Gaston County, North Carolina at 15 South Central Avenue. The property, rectangular in shape, is bordered on the west by South Central Avenue, on the north by a two-story Colonial Revival house built by William Thomas Hall, on the south by Hall Street, and on the east by a contiguous property. The Hall House's architecture is consistent with the integrity and context of early twentieth century architecture prevalent among the historic homes near and in downtown Belmont. This nominated property only includes the exterior envelope of the dwelling. The current owner is Anna Perry, who has owned the property since 1975. The most recent deed to the Annie Denny Hall House is listed in the Gaston County Deed Book 1739 at page 800. The tax parcel number is 126665.

The Hall House's front yard is dominated by two large oak trees planted by the Hall family shortly after they built their home, and circling the house are azaleas, nandinas, camellias, and other shrubs planted by the Hall family and the current owner. A concrete walkway leads from the house's spacious one-story wraparound porch to a sidewalk that runs parallel to South Central Avenue, and a concrete driveway leads from Hall Street at the southern elevation to the house's back porch and yard. A small one-story, contemporary two-door garage is located at the property's eastern elevation.

The Hall House is a residential two-story dwelling in the South Point Township of Gaston County that measures 3,304 square feet. The Hall House is situated less than twenty yards to the east of South Central Avenue in a picturesque fashion between two expansive oak trees. The house remained in the Hall family until the current owner purchased it from Robert Davidson Hall, Jr. and Nellie Roberta Hall Dixon and husband, Robert Clarence Dixon in 1975. Robert Davidson Hall, Jr. was the executor of the estate of Mary Elva Hall.¹⁴

The current property owner has made minimal changes to the interior and exterior of the house. In the dining room, these changes include the addition of decorative crown

¹⁴ Gaston County Deed Book 1180, Page 862. Gaston County Register of Deeds, Gastonia, North Carolina.

molding, decorative plasterwork to the mantel, and a large plaster medallion in the middle of the ceiling. In the living room, the owner replaced a brick mantel from the 1940s with a contemporary mahogany mantel, and mounted a large mirror on the northern wall over this mantel. She enclosed a former screened porch at the eastern elevation, added closets in the second floor room at the southeastern elevation, added central heating and air conditioning, updated bathrooms on the first and second floor, and added a porch extension at the northwestern elevation. Additionally, the owner re-floored the wraparound porch with tongue-and-groove pine decking that is consistent with the material used during the time of the house's construction. The current owner is committed to preserving the house's historical and architectural integrity.

This handsome and majestic two-story frame house with modillioned molded cornice was built in 1916 for the family of Matthews Neagle Hall, and was based on the design by regionally renowned architect J.M. McMichael.¹⁵ Although the house has been incorrectly called the J.B. Hall house by Kim Brengle in *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, it was built by J.B. Hall's mother, Annie Denny Hall. Matthews Neagle and Annie Denny Hall lived on South Point Road when Matthews died on January 21, 1906. They first lived on South Main Street before planning to build the house on Central Avenue for herself and her eight children.¹⁶ The house exhibits a design typical of and popular during the early twentieth century that combines Colonial Revival and Queen style architectural features, and is one of four houses in Belmont designed exclusively in the Colonial Revival style that Kim Withers Brengle documented in *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina* in 1982. Other dwellings such as the James W. Stowe House, Gullick Family House, and Abel Caleb Lineberger House possess design elements from the Colonial Revival style and maintain a mixture of Victorian and Craftsman bungalow features that reflect eclecticism in Belmont's early twentieth century architectural design repertoire.¹⁷

¹⁵ Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, 261; J.M. McMichael, Architect, "Specifications for Residence of Mr. J.B. Hall, Belmont, N.C.," Charlotte, N.C., Sept. 1916.

¹⁶ Anne Dixon Decker, interviewed by Lucy Penegar, 29 March 2009.

¹⁷ Brengle, *The Architectural Heritage of Gaston County, North Carolina*, 253-272.

The Hall House was built on a raised continuous common bond brick pattern, with pier and wall footings that project four inches on all sides, and chimney footings six inches on all sides. Visible access to the basement is provided at the house's foundation through a single pane window at the southern elevation, a door at the western elevation, and a door and one-over-one single hung window at the northern elevation. The contractors built the chimneys entirely separate from the rest of the brick work, and the bricks were burned two-thirds hard and two-thirds soft to bear a clear salmon colored brick face. The brick courses were laid with lime mortar with a minimal mixture of Portland cement to help the lime mortar harden.¹⁸

The house's façade (western elevation) is three bays wide, and is marked by a pedimented entry and classical columns that support a one-story wraparound porch. The shed-roofed wraparound porch is supported by a series of large, turned Doric wooden columns between which a balustrade of turned wooden balusters occurs. Molded concrete blocks support the porch columns, and the original step buttresses were made of molded concrete using Portland cement. The current owner replaced the concrete step buttresses with bricks because of cracks in the concrete. A hip-roofed bay at the house's southwestern corner provides the house's most pronounced Queen Anne style feature. The second story of the hip-roofed bay has a ribbon of three windows, with a center twelve-over-one double hung sash flanked by nine-over-one double hung windows. The first story of this bay has a center single sash window surmounted by a single sash horizontal transom with leaded, beveled glass that is flanked by one-over-one double hung windows. The central entryway has a pine veneered front door that is flanked by sidelights and surmounted by a transom, both of which have beautiful leaded, beveled glass. A hipped-roof dormer with louvered shutters rests atop this elevation, and each of the other elevations has hipped-roof dormers. The dormers at the other elevations have double hung windows with diamond shaped upper panes over a single glass pane. The bay at the house's northwestern elevation is a single pane window surmounted by a horizontal transom with leaded, beveled glass that resembles the window at the Queen Anne style bay and the front door's transom.

¹⁸ McMichael, Architect, "Specifications for Residence of Mr. J.B. Hall, Belmont, N.C.," 3.

The northern elevation of the house is three bays wide with a fourth bay at the northeastern corner that provides light to the kitchen. With the exception of double leaf glass doors leading from the dining room to the porch, all of the other windows on the first floor at this elevation are one-over-one double hung wooden windows. The current owners added the double leaf glass doors to provide access to the porch from this elevation. The windows on the second floor at this elevation are nine-over-one double hung wooden windows. Two interior chimneys rise from this elevation.

The Hall House's southern elevation is three bays wide with two single shouldered chimneys flanking the windows and hipped dormer. The three first floor windows at this elevation are one-over-one double hung wooden windows. The second floor has three nine-over-one double hung windows. At the corners of this elevation and each of the other elevations are the original wooden corner boards.

The eastern elevation is three bays wide with a first floor enclosed back porch. The windows on the second floor at the elevation are all nine-over-one double hung wooden windows, and a one-over-one double hung window is located on the first floor at the southeastern corner. A non-operational chimney rises from the back porch, and interior access to the chimney was covered at an undetermined time. A period door leads from a brick back stairway to the back porch. Originally, the southern section of this back porch was screened, and the northern half was a kitchen. The current owners enclosed the original screened back porch with large vertical windows and weatherboard siding consistent with siding that covers the rest of the house's exterior.

The Hall House was built using a balloon frame structural system of yellow pine, "reasonably dry, straight, free from loose knots, sap, shakes or other imperfections liable to impair its durability or strength." McMichael specified in his plans that none of the framing was to come within four inches of any smoke flue, and that the contractors were to cross bridge all floor joists five feet of span. In the principal framing, the contractors used 2 x 6s on the valleys and hips; 2 x 4s on the porch rafters, the joists of the first floor

ceiling, the plates, and studding; 2 x 8s for the joists of the porch floor; 2 x 10s for the first floor joists; 4 x 4s for window and door posts; 4 x 6s for corner posts; 4 x 8s for the porch sills; and, 6 x 10s for the sills.¹⁹

The original roof and dormers were covered with 4 x 16 cypress shingles that were coated in Creosote single stain and later brush coated with the same stain. This material was later replaced with asphalt shingles, the current material. The porch roofs, gutters, hips, and ridges were originally covered with forty-nine pound tin coating. The porch roofs are now covered with asphalt shingles. The porch ceilings were covered with 5/8 inch bead board, and the original back porch had 6 x 6 boxed posts.²⁰

The house retains its original windows with Sampson Spot Sash cords and cast iron weights and pulleys. All of the house's doors and window surrounds are fluted with bull's eye corner blocks. The door frames are one and one-eighth inches and are flush molded, and all of the interior doors have five raised cross panels. With the exception of the room located on the second floor at the northeastern elevation, the doors of the each of the bedrooms are painted white on the interior side and the exterior side displays stained yellow pine. The bedroom doors and doorways leading from the stairway to the dining room and back porch are 1 and 3/8 inches thick with glass transoms and two inch transom bars that open the transoms for ventilation and light to each of these rooms.²¹

All of the glass window panes are A.D.T., and the front door and lower lights of the front two windows have one and one-half inch beveled polished plate glass. The transom and side lights of the front door and transoms over the two plate glass windows at the western elevation have leaded art glass that cost \$1.50 per square foot in 1916. The original owners were charged with the design of the sidelights and transoms of the central entryway and the transoms over the two plate glass windows at the northern and southern side of the western elevation.²²

¹⁹ McMichael, Architect, "Specifications for Residence of Mr. J.B. Hall, Belmont, N.C.," 4.

²⁰ Ibid.

²¹ Ibid., 5.

²² Ibid.

The specifications of the exterior siding were outlined in the plans drawn by J.M. McMichael. This exterior sheathing is six inch wide wood siding, one half inch thick with four and one-half inches of the siding exposed. The house's corner boards are one and one-quarter inches by five inches. The house's only contemporary siding is located at the eastern elevation on the enclosed porch.²³

The interior of the Annie Denny Hall House retains many of its original Colonial Revival details. It has its original baseboards and crown molding; paneled wainscoting in living room, and beaded vertical wainscoting in the hall; plaster walls; doors; stairway; pine and maple decking; ceiling beams in the living room; and, door and window surrounds. The house's interior finish was laid out with yellow pine, with "neat strips" around the chimney's hearths. The original closets had shelving on 7/8" x 6" cleats with steel hooks every twelve inches. McMichael employed pictured molding in all of the main rooms including the bathrooms and halls, and placed deep chair rail molding in the dining room. The living room and front hall have recessed Tennessee white oak panels, and both sides of the front door are red birch.

²³ Ibid., 6.

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