

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GAINESVILLE  
SUMTER COUNTY, ALABAMA

COLGIN HILL

0.3 mi. E of Alabama 39

Barnes A. Rogers  
Gainesville, AL 35464

UTM: A. 16/392120/3630920 E. 16/391430/3630520  
B. 16/392230/3630210 F. 16/391510/3630670  
C. 16/391660/3630200 G. 16/391600/3630810  
D. 16/391400/3630280 H. 16/392020/3630950

Block #2, Parcel 1

Tax Map: #60-08-01-11-4

Approximately 107 acres. See red line on attached map.

Date of construction: 1832

Builder/Architect: Unknown

Description:

The nucleus of Colgin Hill is a dogtrot log structure to which shed rooms were added and covered entirely with wood clapboarding. The gable roof is broken at front to extend over a full-length porch across the front and has a "cat slide" slope at the rear which covers shed rooms and a back porch. There are two pairs of stuccoed brick exterior end chimneys. The original open passage was enclosed in the early 19th century to create its "center hall" plan. The facade retains its matched board siding and Greek Revival piers and the little altered main interior preserves the original flush board siding, chair rail and mantels. A wing was added to the south-east rear of the house in the 1960s and necessitated the partial enclosure of the back porch and a room and bath were added to the north side around 1970. Alterations and modifications to the house have been accomplished unobtrusively while modifications made during the 1960s and 1970s are in harmony with the original structure. Aluminum siding now covers each side of the house as well as the additions.

Criterion C - Architecture:

Colgin Hill is significant as a well preserved example of the transition from frontier conditions to a more stable society as reflected in Alabama's early domestic architecture. It is a good example of an improved log house and is the oldest house in the Gainesville area. The house is also a good example of a "cat slide" roof profile that is relatively rare in Alabama.

Historical Summary:

Architectural evidence appears to buttress the tradition that Colgin Hill, built for William Colgin, is the oldest building in Gainesville. The log nucleus is said to have been dismantled and moved to the present hilltop site in 1832 from a less healthy location near the river. It was perhaps at that time or soon thereafter that the building was enlarged by the addition of two shed rooms, and covered with clapboarding. The interior was also plastered and otherwise finished to make the house more liveable. From the first owner, the bachelor William Colgin, the house and surrounding acreage passed to a niece. In 1917 it was purchased from the Colgin heirs by the father of the present owner.