

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF GREENVILLE

BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Wright-Kilgore House Owner: James McBride
 Common name: Wright-Kilgore House Bell Street
 Address: 808 Walnut Street Greenville, AL 36037
 Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/536/300-3521/320

Verbal Boundary: Lot 54, Block 79, 148' x 215'

Architectural Design: Vernacular

Date of Construction: c1850

Architect, Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Wright-Kilgore House (c1850) is significant as a good local example of a vernacular, single story, Greek Revival cottage distinguished by its rectangular form, hipped roof and inset front porch. Of particular note is the Wright-Kilgore House's complete entablature along the roofline which encircles the entire original portion of the house. Houses of this type in Alabama date between 1840 and 1870 and are predominately found in the east, central and Gulf Coast regions.

Criterion B - Politics/Government:

The Wright-Kilgore House is significant for its association with Robert R. Wright who served in the Alabama House of Representatives during the session of 1855.

Description:

The Wright-Kilgore House (c1850) is a single story, five bay, frame, vernacular house with some Greek Revival detailing situated on a corner lot. The house has a low hipped roof with a recessed front porch across the entire width of the facade. The porch roof is supported by square brick piers which are replacements for original wooden columns. Rounded wooden pilasters against the back wall of the porch suggest that the original porch columns may also have been round. The double leaf central entry is surrounded by a simple transom and sidelights. There is a small addition at the back of the house which was probably built in the 20th century. A small shed roofed back porch is located in the angle formed by the main block and the rear addition.

Historical Summary:

The Wright-Harrell-Johnson-Kilgore House is believed to have been built during the 1850's for Robert Wright who was a Butler County planter and served as a member of the Alabama Legislature during 1855. The house originally had wooden columns and shutters

but were later removed and the columns were replaced with square brick piers. Robert Wright sold the house to Louis Harrell, who later served as Mayor of Greenville, and he in turn sold the house to a local farmer, James Johnson. Johnson sold the house in 1893 to B. F. Kilgore. The house remained in Kilgore family possession for over sixty years, the last being Bennie Baisden who lived in the house his entire life.