MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF GREENVILLE

BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Hawthorne-Cowart House

Common name: Hawthorne-Cowart House

Owner: Douglas Edgar
319 Bolling St.
Greenville, AL 36037

Address: 319 Bolling Street

Acreage: less than one acre

UTM: 16/535/120-3521/040

Verbal Boundary: Lot 3, Block 47, 280' x 456'

Architectural Design: Vernacular

Date of Construction: c1850

Architect, Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Hawthorne-Cowart House (c1850) is Greenville's best local example of a vernacular house type distinguished by a raised rectangular main block, a gable roof flanked on either end by exterior chimneys and a full-length front porch inset beneath the front slope of the gable. Houses of this type were primarily built in Alabama between 1840 and 1875. The form was brought to the state from the Carolinas and Georgia. This particular version should differ from the creole cottage, which also has an inset front porch, but features a much steeper pitched roof that is sometimes kicked at the eaves. The creole cottage also often has interior chimneys.

Description:

The Hawthorne-Cowart House is a single story, five bay raised frame structure resting on brick piers. It has a gable roof with a cross gable rear wing forming an overall ell shape. A small gable roofed structure on the back of the ell is probably a turn of the century addition. A recessed front porch supported by square columns spans the width of the entire facade. A similar recessed porch along the rear wing is now enclosed. Each window and door opening has an eared Greek Revival architrave.

The interior features a center hall plan. Very simple architraves, baseboards and Greek Revival mantels all appear to be original. The center hall connects directly with the now enclosed back porch.

Historical Summary:

Although the actual construction date of the Hawthorne-Cowart House is not definitely know it is believed to have been constructed as early as the 1850's. The house was purchased during the early 1870's by Major A. J. Hawthorne. The house was then purchased from the Hawthorne family in 1901 by S. D. Cowart and was the residence of the Cowart family for over fifty years.