MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF GREENVILLE

BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: The Dickenson House Owner: Frank Knowles

537 S. Conecuh St.

Common name: The Dickenson House Greenville, AL 36037

Address: 537 S. Conecuh Street

Acreage: 1.78 acres UTM: 16/536/380-3520/340

Verbal Boundary: Lot 9, Block 108, 368' x 323.1'

Architectural Design: Vernacular

Date of Construction: c1890

Architect, Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance:

The Dickenson House (c1890) is a good local example of a south Alabama vernacular house-type distinguished by a square, symmetrical exterior main block with a truncated pyramidal roof with gable extentions and a wrap-around front porch. This architectural form was built between c1880 and c1915. The truncated pyramidal roof topped with a flat platform exhibited by the Dickenson House is typical of southeastern houses of the period primarily found along the railroad lines between Columbus, Georgia and Mobile, Alabama. Various stylistic treatments were applied to the porches and interiors of this house-type including Queen Anne, Colonial Revival and early Bungalow details. The Dickenson House has Ionic porch columns and Queen Anne interior features.

Description:

The Dickenson House is located on a large lot set well back from the street. The structure is an ell-shaped, three bay, frame house with a truncated pyramidal roof with several projecting cross gable extensions. Surrounding two sides of the house is a flat roofed wrap-around porch supported by Ionic columns with a turned balustrade. Several additions have been made to the house including a rear wing and two side bay windows which may have been added shortly after the main house was built.

Despite the summetrical exterior, the interior is assymmetrical with a large entry parlor just inside the front entry flanked on the right by a smaller parlor space. This reflects a Queen Anne period floor plan. The woodwork is typically Queen Anne including mirrored oak overmantels. The exterior doors are Eastlakean and the interior doors are horizontally paneled in Queen Anne fashion. Most of the windows have 1/1 sash but some near the back of the house are 6/6. Two rooms have bay windows with stained glass panes. The dining room has paneled wainscoting as does the center hall at the back of the house. A former back porch has been enclosed.

Historical Summary:

The Dickenson House was constructed around 1890 for a Mr. Dickenson. The house remained in the Dickenson family until the death of Mr. Dickenson's daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Leckie. The house was subsequently sold by the estate to Mrs. Albert Williams during the 1970s and again sold during July of 1985.