

MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF GREENVILLE

BUTLER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Gaston-Perdue House Owner: Janis M. Odom
Common name: Gaston-Perdue House 111 Cedar Street
Address: 111 Cedar Street Greenville, AL 36037
Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/535/660-3521/550

Verbal Boundary: Lot 39, Block 15, 180' x 309.9'

Architectural Design: Queen Anne

Date of Construction: 1895

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Gaston-Perdue House (1895) is Greenville's finest surviving Queen Anne cottage. Outstanding exterior stylistic features include projecting octagonal bays, a porch wrapping around three sides of the house with very fine slender turned columns with Eastlakean brackets and turned spindle spandrels and balustrade, a steep truncated hipped roof with multi-cross gabled extensions and splendid sunburst patterned spindlework in the gable ends. The interior likewise displays outstanding Queen Anne period woodwork including beaded tongue and groove paneling, architraves with bracketed cornices, mirrored Eastlakean overmantels, and a very fine spindlework entry hall screen.

Criterion B - Government and Politics; Medicine:

The Gaston-Perdue House is significant for its association with Judge Zell Gaston who served as Butler County Probate Judge from 1896-1903. The house is also significant for its association with Dr. J. L. Perdue who served as Butler County Health Officer for over twenty years during the first three decades of the 20th century.

Description:

The Gaston-Perdue House is an unusually fine Queen Anne style frame cottage situated on a large corner lot. The house features a truncated hipped central roof with several cross gable extensions, each of which has exceptionally fine turned spindlework arranged in sunburst patterns in the open gable ends. The one story frame house is ell-shaped with three projecting octagonal bays. A wrap-around porch encircles three sides of the house and features very slender turned columns and scroll sawed brackets with turned spindle spandrels and matching balustrade. A fine two story frame carriage house with a gable roof is located at the back of the property lot and is in original condition.

The interior floor plan is original and features a central hall flanked on either side by two rooms. The interior woodwork is all original and includes very fine beaded tongue and groove paneling on the walls and in some rooms the ceiling as well. The entry hall has wainscoting and a chair rail and an exceptionally fine turned spindle

screen. Some of the architraves have bracketed cornices and the fireplace mantels are typical of the Queen Anne period, some with mirrored overmantels.

Historical Summary:

The Gaston-Perdue House was constructed during the summer of 1895 on the site of the Manning Steiner House which had been destroyed by fire in 1891. The house was built by Judge Zell Gaston who served as Butler County Probate Judge from 1896-1903. The house was purchased in late 1903 by Dr. J. L. Perdue after Judge Gaston had resigned as Probate Judge during the summer of 1903 and moved to Birmingham. Dr. Perdue served as Butler County Health Officer for several years during the early 20th century. After Dr. Perdue's death the house was the residence of his widow, son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Barnes. During the last few years the house has been restored and is now occupied by an arts and craft shop.