

2817

#9

RECEIVED

CREOLE AND GULF COAST COTTAGES IN BALDWIN COUNTY

NOV 8 1988

(Thematic Group)

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Owner: Richard Brunell
306 Dryer Avenue
Daphne, Al. 36526

Historic Names: The Texas
Dryer House

Common Name: Brunell House

Location: 306 Dryer Avenue, Daphne

Verbal Boundary Description:

Begin at the southwest corner of the intersection of Old County Road and Dryer Avenue, thence proceed south along Old County Road 155 feet to a point, thence west 342.5 feet to a point, thence north 111.1 feet to a point on the south side of Dryer Avenue, thence follow the east side of said avenue in an easterly direction 372 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreage: 1 acre

UTM: 16/412/740/3385/520

Date of Construction: 1835

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Moved: 1907, less than $\frac{1}{4}$ mile

Statement of SignificanceCriterion C-Architecture:

The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House is significant as one of the oldest buildings in Baldwin County. It is also significant as a rare two story mixture of Gulf Coast and Creole Cottage elements (example - a central hall on the first floor, multiple entrances in the balcony and slight roof kick-off over the porches).

Integrity:

The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House underwent some major changes in 1907, but since that time has been little changed. To begin with, the house was moved to a new location less than a quarter of a mile from its original site in 1907. At this time the exterior end chimneys were removed and an interior brick shaft added to accommodate a stove. At the same time the upstairs interior was sheathed in beaded board. About 1935 the central plan was altered by the removal of the west hall wall, creating a large open space and more of a Creole feel. The present owner has limited alterations to a modern kitchen and some sheetrocking in the northeast room as well as the addition of a chair rail in this room.

Description:

The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House sits on the south side of Dryer Avenue opposite Bayside Academy. It is a two story, clapboarded, 5x2 bay, gable to the sides structure with a recessed, two tiered blaustraded porch with boxed columns and

capitals. The first story has a central entrance consisting of a four panel wooden door with side lights and transom flanked by a pair of 6/6 windows. The upstairs has three doors opening onto the balcony and three 6/6 windows. The roof kicks off slightly over the second story porch and is supported with diagonal braces from the columns. This provides extra protection from the weather and is an early example of a rain porch. There is a rectangular louvered vent at each gable end and a one story shed roof porch across the rear. This porch is filled on the east end and screened on the west end. The wood shake roof is pierced by a single brick shaft with a corbeled cap. The house rests on concrete block piers with lattice infill.

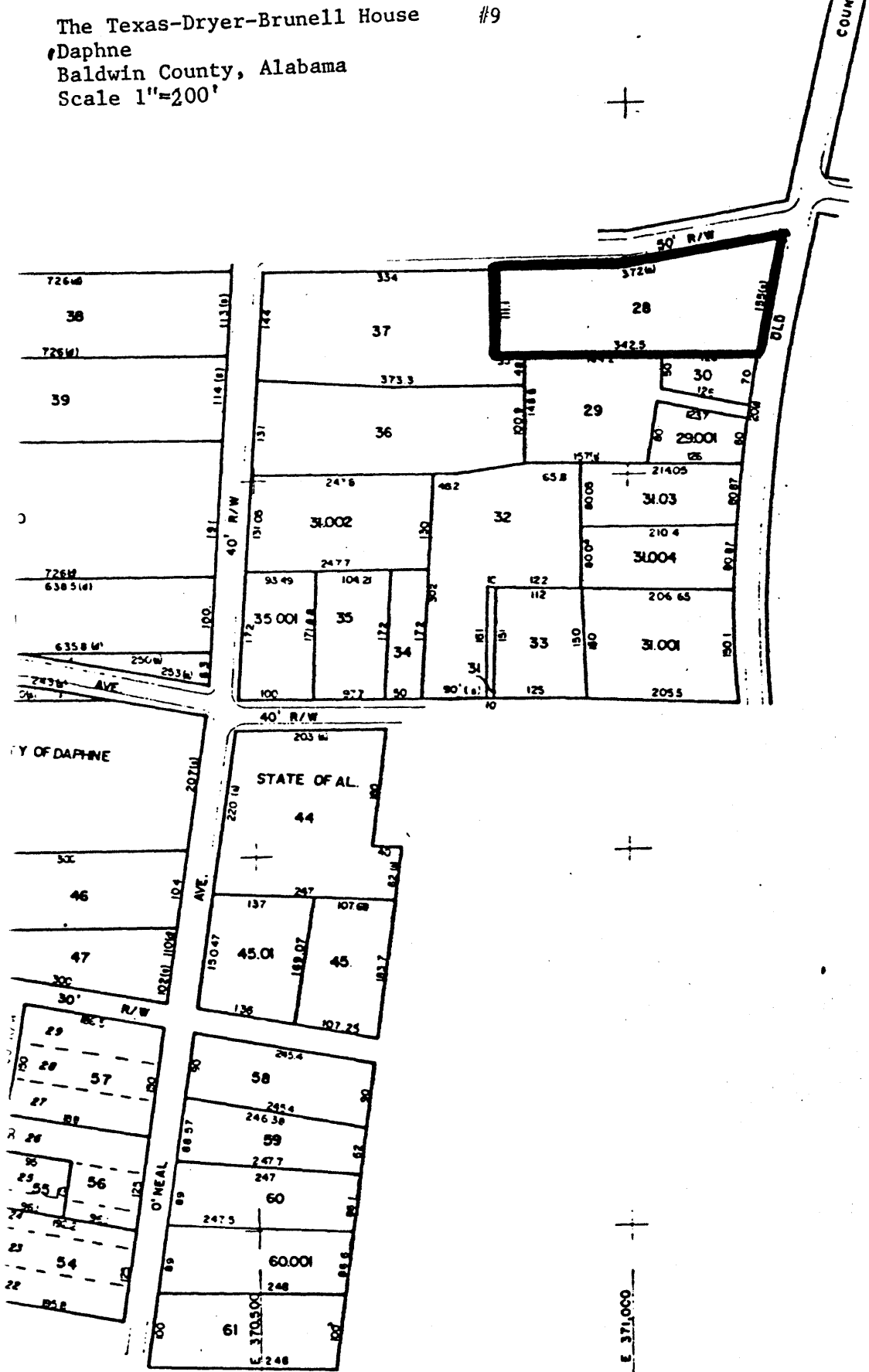
The interior plan was altered in 1935 by the removal on the west hall wall. A balustraded stairway runs up the east side of the hall. A boxed beam runs along the ceiling where the west hall wall used to be. Original hardwood floors are throughout. First floor rooms have pine tongue and groove ceilings and walls. There are no fireplaces and the central shaft has been closed off. The northeast front room has been sheetrocked and the southeast rear room made into a kitchen. The upstairs features a garrated ceiling of beaded board and walls of the same material. Three front rooms each have a four panel door onto the balcony and a pair of bedrooms lies behind on either side of the stair well.

Historical Summary:

In 1833 William L. Howard purchased over a hundred acres on the bluffs of Mobile Bay's Eastern Shore. The small community which existed there depended on the steamers to Mobile for commerce and supplies. This community, soon to be named Daphne, was then called Bell Rose. Howard realized the possibilities for a hotel and in 1835 constructed a large guest house with attendant cottages on his land overlooking the bay. The cottages were named the Texas, the California, the Long Branch and the Homestead. By 1850 Howard owned real estate worth \$10,000 and the hotel enjoyed steady business. After his death, his widow sold the property to William Dryer in 1894.

Dryer continued to operate the complex as a hotel, renamed the Daphne Springs Hotel. In 1907 Dryer moved the Texas onto an adjacent lot and pulled down the other cottages. The Texas served as a residence for the Dryers and subsequent owners down through the years. The only significant changes in the building were made by the Dryers after the 1907 move.

The Texas-Dryer-Brunell House #9
 Daphne
 Baldwin County, Alabama
 Scale 1"=200'



T 6 S	38	39	40	41	42
T 6 S	58	59	60	61	62
R 1 E R 2 E R 3 E R 4 E R 5					
TOWNSHIP					
(INDEX TO 1"=400' S)					

6	5	4
03		0
7	8	9
10	11	12
13	14	15
16	17	18
19	20	21
22	23	24
25	26	27
28	29	30
31	32	33

SUB-SHE

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LEG

- STATE LINE _____
- COUNTY LINE _____
- CORPORATION LINE _____
- DISTRICT LINE _____
- ROAD R/W _____
- TRAVELED ROAD _____
- RAILROAD R/W _____
- PROPERTY LINE _____
- LAND MARK _____
- INTERIOR TRACT LINE OR ORIGINAL TRACT LINE _____
- SUBDIVISION LOT NUMBER 29
- PARCEL NUMBER 15
- BLOCK (MAY BE WHERE APPLICABLE) _____
- OWNERSHIP MAP BLOCK (WHERE APPLICABLE) ②
- CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, CEMETERIES, AIRPORTS, GOVERNMENT LANDS, ETC. BY NAME

DATE	BY	DATE	BY	CHG
9-12-11	J.E.	1-3-12	J.C.	
1-1-12	J.E.			
4-12-12	R.P.C.			
5-12-12	J.E.			
6-12-12	J.C.			

GRANT SECTIONS
 TOWN 5 SOUTH

05-43-04
 MAP 1