

HISTORIC RESOURCES OF GAINESVILLE
SUMTER COUNTY, ALABAMA

Gibbs House

0.3 mi. SW of Spruce & Webster Streets (deviation of former Carroll Street)

Mrs. J. A. Gibbs (Lillian)
Gainesville, AL 35464

For boundary description, see red line on attached scale map.

Tax Map: #60-08-01-11-2

#60-08-01-11-3

UTM: A. 16/391210/3630990

B. 16/391090/3630840

Acreage: Approximately 17.5 acres

C. 16/390660/3630840

Date of construction: 1860-61

D. 16/390800/3630980

Addition: c. 1890-flanking wing

E. 16/390990/3631080

Builder/Architect: Unknown

F. 16/391140/3631070

Description:

Rectangular five-bay center portion with full-length inset front porch, chimney (now removed) at each gable end. Center-hall plan with large room at either side on first floor, smaller rooms behind; simple hall stair to upper floor, plain interior woodwork. Flanking semi-detached two-bay one-story gable wings added later, with identical two-bay front porches. Yard enclosed by unusually fine 19th c. fence with cypress pickets. Except for minor additions at rear, the removal of the chimneys and of the original balusters of the wing porches, the house is little changed.

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Gibbs House is significant architecturally as an example of the characteristic domestic architectural arrangement, a broad center pavillion flanked by pedimented wings, that is prevalent in other houses found in the Gainesville area such as the Travis-Derryberry-Harwood House (#28) and Aduston Hall (#33).

Historical Summary:

Built for Hawkins Gibbs, the house remains in Gibbs family ownership. Family tradition asserts that the dwelling was nearly completed on the eve of the Civil War, and that workmen labored into the night to finish the house before leaving next day for the war. This could conceivably account for the stark simplicity and unfinished character of the interior, especially the upper floor. Flanking one-room wings were added in the late 1800s, one of them as the office of Dr. Harwood, a physician member of the family.