MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF ANNISTON CALHOUN COUNTY, ALABAMA

Historic name: Richard P. Huger House Owner: Mrs. Lila Huger Brazelton

Common name: Brazelton House 221 Druid Hills

Anniston, Alabama 36201

Address: 1901 Wilmer Avenue

Acreage: less than one acre UTM: 16/608640/3725870

Verbal boundary: The Noble Place, Block 246, in the city of Anniston, beginning at

the NE corner of Wilmer Avenue and Nineteenth Street, thence north 140 feet, thence east 220 feet, thence south 30 feet, west 70 feet,

south 110 feet, and west 150 feet to the point of beginning.

Architectural Design: Queen Anne with some shingle style influence

Date of Construction: 1888

Architect/Builder: Locally attributed to William H. Wood

Statement of Significance:

Criterion B - Medicine and Politics:

The Huger-Brazelton House is significant for its association with Dr. Richard P. Huger who was the first physician to practice in Anniston and who served two terms as mayor of the city from 1887-1891.

Criterion C - Architecture:

The Huger-Brazelton House is one of the few remaining houses, of quality, associated with Anniston's building boom of the late 1880s. Architecturally, it is a local example of the influence of the shingle style with an admixture of classicism on Victorian house design.

Description:

The house is lcoated on the edge of what once was the John Ward Noble estate — a four-square-block area where the Noble house once stood. The estate has been broken up, Wilmer Avenue and Twentieth Streets cut through, and now the property includes only a raised lot on the northeast corner of Wilmer Avenue and Nineteenth Street. (See attached sketch.) The two-and-a-half story, irregular-shaped house has a rusticated native-sandstone foundation, red-brick first story, and a cedar-shingled second story. The irregularly massed roof is basically hipped with projecting cross gables, with the pediments shingled and punctuated by a trio of windows in each gable at the attic level. The first-floor porch on the front and side — the west and south elevations — features paired Tuscan columns connected by a balustrade and a bracketed cornice forming the edge of the slightly sloping porch roof. At the second-floor level a covered corner porch has arched openings. A two-story bay dominates the north elevation, while the kitchen ell at the northeast rear of the house is one-story and gabled. The house has one-over-one sash windows and two main chimmeys.

The interior floor plan has four rooms radiating from a central hall: to the right a sitting room and bedroom, to the left the parlor and dining room, all with 12-foot ceilings, connecting double sliding doors with etched brass hardware, parquet floors, and mantels with glazed tile. In the north parlor the theme of Greek mythology is carried out with the tiles, firescreen, and backplate. To the rear of the dining room is a pantry that opens on a breezeway to the original kitchen.

The stairway to the second floor has a half-turn with landings, closed stringer balustrade and a carved newel post with a pomegranate design and the initials "R.P.H." for Richard P. Huger. The second floor essentially repeats the first floor plan. The original interior shutters remain throughout the house.

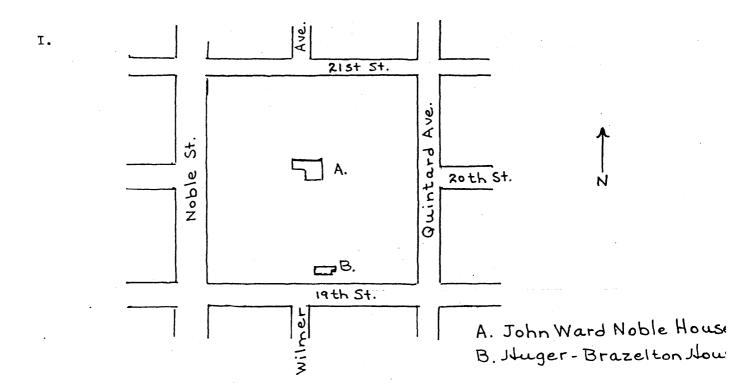
A sandstone wall topped by a wrought-iron fence separates the raised lot from the sidewalk.

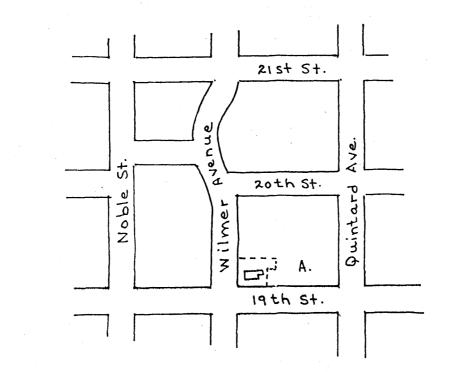
Historical Summary:

The Huger-Brazelton House was built for John Ward Noble, on his estate, and was presented, as a wedding gift, to his daughter Alwera and her husband, Richard P. Huger who was Anniston's first practicing physician. According to family tradition, William Halsey Wood who designed Anniston's St. Michael's Church, also designed this house. Dr. Huger was a graduate of the College of Charleston and came to Anniston after serving on the staff of Bryce Hospital in Tuscaloosa. He also served as the first president of the Alabama Medical Society. In Anniston he served for several years as resident surgeon for the Woodstock Iron Company and later entered private practice. Huger was elected to two terms as mayor of Anniston during the city's greatest period of growth, 1887-1888 and 1889-1891.

Descendants of the Hugers lived in the house continuously until 1976. At that time Lila Huger Brazelton inherited the property and turned it into offices for her husband's business, Brazelton Engineering Associates. No major modifications or alterations have been performed on the house.

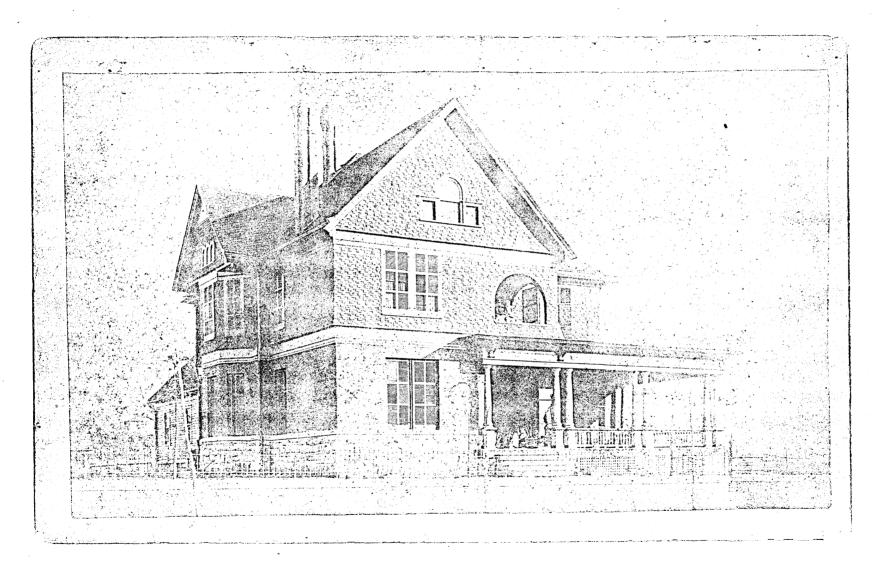
- I. From 1890 map
- II. At present





II.

A. Present Huger-Brazelton House and lot



Huger-Brazelton House, About 1889