## 20. GUSTAVE BRAUNE HOUSE 236 Prairie Street

Mr. and Mrs. Chris Beeker, Jr. 236 Prairie Street
Eutaw. Alabama 35462

Lot #113

Tax Map: 35-18-08-34-3-8-14

.31 acres (94' Praire x 145')

latitude: 32° 50' 16"

Longitude: 87° 53' 5"

mid 1850's -front wing

Architect/builder: unknown

early 1860's - remainder of house

SIGNIFICANCE: This is a unique variant on Eutaw types, representing increasing influence of victorian picturesque tendencies at the end of antebellum period.

DESCRIPTION: The superstructure is practically flat-roofed, its cornice surmounted by a banistered railing. An old one room law office became the parlor, and the room beneath the octagon was used for dining. It is rectangular with a straight flight of steps ascending on the south side. The upper rooms and those in the low wings are bedrooms, the latter preceded by a porch with hexagonal piers, similar to those of the front portico. The Braune addition is a step higher than the forepart, though the entablature is level across the entire front. Undoubtedly a gallery ran along the rear, and service buildings were in the yard behind.

Historical Notes: Judge William C. Oliver sold "A House and Lot" to Gustave Braune for \$1,950 on December 29, 1859. The "House" was Oliver's former single room law office on Lot #113, next door to his residence on Prairie Street. Gustave Braune was a native of Dresden, who opened a watch and jewelry store at Eutaw in 1853. He commissioned a residence on the lot purchased six years later, utilizing the office as the stem of a T shape, of which the adjoingin pavilion at the junction of cross bar is octagonal in the second story. Tradition maintains that this form was inspired by buildings known by Braune in Saxony, which may refer to eight-sided Romanesque churches or keeps. The present owner of the house is a great-grandaughter of Gustave Braune.





