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RECEIVED

CREOLE AND GULF COAST COTTAGES IN BALDWIN COUNTY

(Thematic Group)

NOV 8 1988

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Owner: Wayburn Burnette
200 Annex Street
Cordova, Al. 35550

Historic Name: Orrell House

Common Name: Burnette House

Location: North side County 6, Bon Secour

Verbal Boundary Description:

Lot 213 in the W. R. Orrell Estate. Begin at a point 1324 feet southeast of Emanuel Bayou on the north side of County Road 6. Proceed 359.7 feet southeast to a point, thence northeast 727.6 feet to a point, thence northwest 359.7 feet to a point, thence southwest 727.6 feet to the point of beginning.

Acreage: 6

UTM: A-16/432/320/3353/860

Date of Construction: c. 1900

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Statement of Significance

Criterion C-Architecture:

The Orrell-Burnette House is significant as an unaltered rural example of the Gulf Coast Cottage style of architecture. The recessed porch, gable roof, exterior chimney, and central hall plan are all indicative of the style.

Integrity:

The Orrell-Burnette House retains its integrity of location, materials and plan. The central hall plan, with two rooms on either side, is unaltered. The half story interior is an open space, clad with beaded board and accessible by the original stairway which leads into the central hall.

Exterior integrity is excellent. The only changes are the back porch which has been filled with drop siding and corrugated tin over the first floor windows on the east side.

Description:

The Orrell-Burnette House is a one and a half story, drop sided, three bay Gulf Coast Cottage resting on cypress block piers. The gable roof with boxed cornice is oriented parallel to the road and covered with slate shingles. A recessed porch covers the full facade and is supported on chamfered posts. The central hall entrance consists of a wood door with glass window, sidelights and transom. There is a 6/6 window on either side. The shed roof back porch has been filled with dropsiding and is utilized as a kitchen and laundry room.

There is a double shoulder stepped chimney on the east elevation and a single shaft brick chimney at the northeast, rear corner.

The central hall divides the first floor in half, with two rooms on either side. A stairway runs from the hall up to the half story. The staircase has square balusters and a four panel wooden door halfway up. All rooms have flush board ceilings, walls and floors and original hardware is present throughout. A simple mantel is present in the southeast front room. All doors are four panel with frame surrounds.

The half story is an open space with garrated ceiling, clad in beaded board. The windows are 6/6 on the west side and 2/2 on the east side.

Historical Summary:

The lands along the Bon Secour River proved profitable for farming, naval ✓ stores and lumber operations. One late 19th century settler to take advantage of the rich timber and farming opportunities was William R. Orrell. Orrell bought several hundred acres in the Thomas Johnson Tract, bordered on the west by Emanuel's Bayou and by 1880 besides farming had one of his nephews employed chopping logs. Orrell died in 1893 and his estate was divided among his widow and children. Son William A. Orrell obtained a lot 360 feet by 728 feet which fronted on Oak Road, now County Road 6, and erected a small Gulf Coast Cottage around the turn of the century. Willaim A. Orrell worked as a machinist in a local sawmill and lived in the house with his wife and four daughters. Orrell continued to reside at this location until he sold the house and lot in 1969 to Wayburn Burnette, the present owner.

Contributing Building 1

