MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF PLANTERSVILLE

DALLAS AND CHILTON COUNTIES, ALABAMA

Historic name: Doctor's Office Owner: W. R. Martin

Box 13

Common name: Doctor's Office Plantersville, AL 36758

Address: Intersection of First Avenue

approximately 300' north of Oak Street and First Avenue

Acreage: 100' x 200'; less than 1 UTM: 16/507/200/3613/100

Verbal boundary: See attached maps; includes office and immediate surroundings.

Architectural design: Greek Revival

Date of construction: c. 1850

Architect, Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C, Architecture

The Doctor's Office (c. 1850) is a very fine, rare, mid-19th century, vernacular, Greek Revival, professional office. Similar small offices were once plentiful in south central Alabama, and the Plantersville Doctor's Office is one of the few survivors. It is a good period example of a conscious attempt to adapt high style architecture to the work place as well as to private homes and public buildings.

Integrity

The Doctor's Office is basically unaltered except for a modern corrugated metal roof. All of its original Greek Revival exterior detail is intact although deteriorated. The single room interior has its original flooring, window framing and wide pine board paneling. One original door and all of the window sashing have been removed. Portions of the original louvered blinds are still in place.

Description

The one-story frame 2-bay structure has a gable roof with a pedimental portico supported by two square columns with molded capitals somewhat Doric in style. The 6 over 6 window is shuttered. The entrance of the one-room building is Greek Revival in detail.

The abundant overgrowth surrounding the abandoned building defies hedge clippers and makes photographic documentation difficult.

Historical Summary

The historian, E. E. (Ned) Todd identifies this now abandoned building as the office of a Dr. Phillips, "the first Physician" in Plantersville. His home burned prior to 1936. It stood near the office "in the grove near the railroad." In his manuscript Todd states with confidence that the office is the oldest building in Plantersville. In the early 20th century Dr. Thomas M. Martin had his offices there.

The professional office is significant as an example of a once-prevalent architectural type and as an example of the period when Plantersville served the surrounding rural area as a center for services.