MULTIPLE RESOURCES OF PLANTERSVILLE

DALLAS AND CHILTON COUNTIES, ALABAMA

Historic name: Todd House Owner: Henry E. Biscoe

Plantersville, AL 36758

Common name: Todd-Biscoe House

Address: South side Oak St. approximately

2700' west of First Avenue

Acreage: 300' x 150'; less than 1 UTM: 16/506/450/3612/950

Verbal boundary: See attached maps; includes house and yard.

Architectural design: Carpenter Gothic

Date of construction: 1867-68

Architect, Builder: unknown

Statement of Significance:

Criterion C, Architecture

The Todd-Biscoe House (1867-68) is an excellent example of pattern book Gothic Revival (Carpenter Gothic) domestic architecture. This particular house style ranging from c. 1855 - c. 1900, is relatively rare and widely scattered over Alabama. The Todd-Biscoe House is a good example of the house designs disseminated nationally by noted 19th century American architects, Richard Upjohn and A. J. Davis.

Description

The two-story board and batten dwelling, with basement, has three bays. There is ship lap siding in the center, entrance bay. The steep gable above the portico has an ornamental barge board which continues around the house and ornaments the end gables. Shuttered windows with 6 over 6 lights are inset in all facades. The single door entrance has a horizontal transom above. The roof of the portico is outlined with wooden ornament following the pattern of the barge board. This decorative feature is continued in the capitals of the two pilasters and two square columns of the portico, and give a unified appearance to the structure. Exterior steps to the second floor are a later addition.

The grounds seem the perfect setting for the country villa.

The house retained its original brown paint until 1959 when it was renovated and painted white with green shutters.

Historical Summary

The original owner, Dr. Samuel G. Todd, was the first dentist ("tooth doctor") in Plantersville. Two upstairs bedrooms were reserved for travelers and one set aside for visiting preachers.

Richard Chandler obtained title to the land from the Federal Land Office at Cahawba. His claim was entered in 1832 and patented in 1834. When in 1847 he sold 416.75 acres to Thomas S. Driskell, Chandler's wife Batheny signed with her mark. The purchase price was \$2,939.40. In 1858 Driskell purchased an additional 236 acres for \$1,900.00 from his brother-in-law James H. McGee.

In 1867 Samuel G. Todd bought 120 acres of Driskell's tract for \$1,000. In 1916 his son E. E. Todd, the author of $\underline{\text{Todd's Legend}}$, sold this holding to Salliegeo D. Lawrence. The present owner bought the house and 76 acres from Lawrence heirs in 1959.