

~~Wm. A. Dawson House (Carolina Hall)~~
~~Purdue House & Playhouse~~
(Mobile, Ala. (9 miles from)
Springhill, Mobile Co.

HABS No. 16-10
HA25
ALA
49-SPRIHI
2-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

"Supplementary sheet to C.W.A.

WILLIAM A. DAWSON HOUSE (RESIDENCE)
Spring Hill, Mobile County, Alabama.

49-SPR1H1

2.

Ownership:

Present Owners: Mrs. W. V. M. Robertson
400 E. 57th, Street.
New York City, New York.
From 1917 to 1935.

Previous Owners: William A. Dawson
From 1840 to 1891.
Alphonzo Luling
From 1891 to 1900.
H. H. Wefel.
From 1900 to 1904.
Spring-Hill College
From 1904 to 1917.

Date of Erection: 1840.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: William A. Dawson.

Present Condition: Good state of preservation.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Frame house with shingle roof.

Other Existing Records:

Additional Data: This rather distinguished plantation house is near Spring Hill, Alabama, about nine miles from Mobile, Alabama. It is an ambitious residence, not conforming to the usual symmetrical plan which we find in use with the Greek Revival. The exterior is a playful two story use of the Greek Revival, very light in character.

The most interesting feature about the house is the treatment of the parlor, which show well proportioned window and door treatment and undercut plaster ceiling cornices. The dining room, also, deserves special mention, as well as the plaster cornices of the lower and upper stair hall.

An additional unusual feature is the wood play house which, however, may have been used as an office in the beginning .

Source of Material:

Father Bruhen
Spring Hill College
Mobile, Alabama.
H. Mashmire
74 St. Francis Street
Mobile, Alabama.
G. Chaudron Jr.,
258 Stocking Street
Mobile, Alabama.

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd.
Auburn, Alabama.
Glennita Broach.
Mobile, Alabama.

Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS.
Auburn, Alabama

Date 7- 7-21-1936.

WILLIAM A. DAWSON HOUSE
Springhill, Mobile County, Alabama.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The plan of the Dawson house is a "T". There are large two-storey porches at front and rear, and small narrow two-storey porches in the angles of the "T". Since the hallway is off center, the interior arrangement of the house is not symmetrical. The front and rear parlors form really one room separated in the middle by columns. The kitchen is in the basement.

The most interesting feature about the house is the decorative treatment of the parlor. Pilasters flank doorways and windows. The capitals are similar to those on the Tower of the Winds, Athens. The marble mantel is carved with oak leaves and acorns. In the hall on the first floor is a ceiling with a rinceau plaster cornice, and in the hall above a plaster cornice of grape-vine design.

The porches have also the same type of capital as that in the parlor. The lightness of the porch columns resting on tall narrow bases gives an elegance to this house not found in many other Alabama mansions of the Greek Revival period.

Source of Material:

E. Walter Burkhardt, District Administrator, HABS.
Alabama Polytechnic Institute, Auburn, Alabama.

(Revised and rewritten at HABS
Headquarters, Feb. 15, 1936 -
H.C.F.)

(~~Original sheet in field notebook~~).