

STATE OF ALABAMA

ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION  
725 MONROE STREET  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130  
PHONE: 832-6621



ALABAMA INVENTORY AND WORKSHEET FOR LANDMARKS

COUNTY Cley

PRESENT NAME Gay Home HISTORIC NAME Gay Home

LOCATION (Street and number) Highway 9 North

TOWN (Give directions if rural) Ashland (Within City Limits)

PRESENT USE Residence HISTORIC USE

OWNERSHIP: Public ( ) Private (X) Public acquisition being considered ( )

OWNER'S NAME Kathryn Gay Roberts

MAILING ADDRESS P. O. Box 85

Ashland, Alabama 36251

CONDITION: Excellent (X) Good ( ) Fair ( ) Ruins ( )

INTEGRITY: Original Site (X) Moved ( ) When? \_\_\_\_\_

From where? \_\_\_\_\_ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No (X) Yes ( ) By What? \_\_\_\_\_

RESTORATION WORK: Being considered ( ) Underway ( ) Completed (X) Not planned ( )

SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT: Open land ( ) Woodland ( ) Scattered buildings ( )  
High building density ( ) Commercial ( ) Industrial ( )  
Residential (X) Rural ( )

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District? No

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important (X) associated with events, persons, or movements  
Local (X) State ( ) National ( )  
(X) a good example of a type or style of structure  
( ) other

Explain: (Expand on the significance of the building. If architecturally significant, give details being very specific. Additional data on what aspects of the community's development the building represents, or a specific event, trend or person related to the building's importance.)

The Gay Home is a two-story Greek Revival style house and was completed in 1914. The original features include walls of native red brick, varying in thickness from 11 inches to 15 inches, with interior walls being plaster over brick; eight fireplaces; and floors and ceilings of tongue and grooved heart pine.

Date of Construction: 1914

Builder or Architect: (Give names and biographies, if known)

Hampton Adair. Mr. Adair was a local contractor who constructed many homes and buildings in the area.

Original Owner: (Give name and biographies--attach additional sheet if necessary)

The original entry in the abstract is dated 12-5-1859. The property passed through several owners during the ensuing years. In 1908, William J. Browning, Jr. purchased eight acres of land, a part of the original grant.

The house which occupies the area now was completed in 1914. In 1922, the property and house was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Gay. It is now owned by their daughter, Kathryn Gay Roberts.

Subsequent Owners (Give name and biographies)

Dr. and Mrs. Gay played an important role in serving their town and county in church, civic, and school activities.

Dr. Gay was a general practitioner and surgeon in Clay County from 1908 until 1948. Mrs. Gay was one of the early school teachers in the county, as was her mother, Mrs. Hiram Evans.

State sources of information, giving full bibliographical data:

Deed books; members of the Browning family; The Ashland Progress (local newspaper); Mr. Guy Gibson, a contemporary of Mr. Browning; Marion Street, who was a young boy at that time and assisted the brick mason by carrying the mortar mix.

Description of land can be found in Deed Record 68 at page 889, Clay County Court House, Ashland, Alabama 36251

SECTION III: DESCRIPTION (In each category please state if elements are not original)  
YOU MUST PROVIDE US WITH PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE STRUCTURE, SHOWING FRONT, SIDE, REAR AND NOTABLE DETAILS.

Number of stories 2 Foundation Brick  
Basement Crawl space only Interior framing or structural system Load-bearing masonry

Exterior wall material and design: (Note changes from one floor or wing to another)

The brick work is laid out in 6 courses of stretchers and one course of headers and stretchers. This pattern is repeated from ground level to the roof area.

The brick have a rust-red color and were made at a local brick yard, which went out of business in the early 1920's.

Roof type and covering: Hipped roof made of slate.

Roof Trim: (Cornices, vergeboard, brackets, etc.)

Vergeboard

Chimneys: (Give number, location, and material)

Two chimneys - providing flues for 4 fireplaces on the first floor and 4 fireplaces on the second floor

Porches: Front (type and description) \* See attached

Rear (type and description)

Side (type and description)

Doors: Main entrance (location, description)

Other entrances: (location, description)

Windows: (Give types, number for each floor of facade, describe trim)

(Give types, number per floor for rear and sides)

#### INTERIOR FEATURES

Mantels: (Number, location, and description):

Describe interior window and door trim:

Stairways (types, locations and features)

\* SEE ATTACHED

Wall and ceiling finish: (Include wainscotting, plasterwork, cornices, etc.)

Flooring: \_\_\_\_\_ Notable hardware: \_\_\_\_\_

General setting and orientation:

Outbuildings:

Give all alterations and additions: (Be specific, give date of change and original appearance when known)

Make a sketch of the floor plan of the building, showing dimensions, related structures, and additions. Also give north arrow and indicate front of the structure.

Form prepared by Kathryn Gay Roberts Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address P. O. Box 85 Phone (205) 354-4019

Town Ashland, Alabama 36251 \*\*

Organization Private

\*\* Second Home Address - 1022 Barbara Street  
Tyler, Texas 75701 Phone- 214-593-9507

PORCHES: Front Porch: Quarry tile verandah (44' X 12') supported by 4 large fluted doric columns and 2 fluted pilasters. The roof trim of the portico consists of dentils and modillions with wooden decorative bannister surrounding the roof line.

Rear Porch: Enclosed brick and quarry tile porch with thermal windows\*. The well with freestone water (still in use) has always been a part of this area. The demensions for the porch are approximately 30' X 12', with projection for well cistern.

DOORS: Main Entrance: The door to the main entrance consists of glass panels with decorative wood mouldings and door-length paneled side-lights. A segmental brick arch is over the main entrance door and side-lights.

The door to the rear entrance consists of raised panels with beveled, textured glass in upper half.

On the second floor there is a door opening onto the portico which consists of decorative wood work with an etched scene on glass in the upper half of the door.

Kitchen Entrance: The door to the kitchen is constructed of heart pine with five (5) beveled panels. A segmental arch is over the door.

WINDOWS: South Facade: The 4 windows consists of 12 over 1 with segmental brick arch. Non-functional shutters hang at each window.

East Facade: The 6 windows consists of 12 over 1. Four of the windows are paired to each story. The first floor (diningroom) has a single segmental arch over the pair, while the second floor has a double arch over the windows. Shutters are hanging on each side of the windows.

West Facade: The 4 windows have 12 over 1 with segmental brick arch and shutters at each window.

North Facade: 1 large window, 12 over 1 with 2 small windows approximately 3' X 2' repeating the pattern of the other windows, 4 over 1 with segmental arch.

MANTELS: There are 8 mantels made of mahogany and of oak. The 5 bedrooms have mantels as does the music room, sitting room, and diningroom. Several of the mantels have beveled mirrors and fluted columns, the other have decorative moulding, carvings, and brackets.

INTERIOR WINDOW AND DOOR TRIM: Windows have little trim as they are recessed into the plastered brick wall.

The doors are heart pine with five beveled panels.

STAIRWAY: The stairway begins in the entrance hall with the starting step being a half circle 1 end. The hand rail is oak beginning with a left hand volute. There are 17 treads and risers.

\*Thermal windows were installed in the late 1970's to replace window screens. No structural change was made other than the installation of these windows.

WALL AND CEILING FINISH: The interior walls are plaster on brick varying in thickness from 11" to 15".

The wainscotting in the halls and along the stairwell are beaded (ceiling) board. All of the rooms have a chair rail for protection of the walls and furniture, and picture moulding.

The ceilings are tongue and groove heart pine varying in height from 10' to 12'.

FLOORING: The floors are tongue and groove heart pine and oak.

NOTABLE HARDWARE: The doorknobs throughout the house are the original brass ones. The rear door has an exceptionally fine heavy duty brass key door lock manufactured by Sargent Union Lock Co.

GENERAL SETTING AND ORIENTATION:

The Gay Home is located on Highway 9 North facing south and is approximately 2 blocks from the courthouse square.

There is an established pecan grove in the rear. Magnolias, crepe myrtles, dogwood, holly, and boxwood are found throughout the landscape.

On the west facade is the playhouse (facing south) with original furnishings.

ALTERATIONS: By the latter part of the 1920's, the porches were deteriorating and an architect from Auburn, Alabama, was consulted. His plans were followed subsequently. The descriptions can be found in the section on porches.

The original porch on the south facade had a wooden plank floor with columns spaced at intervals across the verandah.

The porch on the north facade was an open type with a wooden plank floor and columns supporting the roof.

OUTBUILDINGS:

1. Playhouse
2. Smokehouse
3. Garage
4. Servant's Quarters
5. Woodshed and corn-crib