MADE & SOLD BY

DANIEL PRATT

1844

AND HAS BEEN OPERATED AS A "FARM GIN"

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 3 OR 4 YEARS,

SINCE THAT DATE.
COUNTY: Autauga

PRESENT NAME: Daniel Pratt Farm Gin

HISTORIC NAME: ____________

LOCATION (Street and number): Prattville City Hall, 101 W. Main Street, Prattville.

TOWN (Give directions if rural): Prattville, Alabama

PRESENT USE: Display

HISTORIC USE: Cotton Gin

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

OWNER'S NAME: City of Prattville

MAILING ADDRESS: 101 W. Main Street

Prattville, Alabama 36067

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

INTEGRITY: Original Site ( ) Moved (XX) When? Portable.

From where? ____________ Give details in significance.

THREATS: No (XX) Yes ( ) By What? ____________

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

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

If there are numerous buildings in the area, could this structure be part of a Historic District?

SIGNIFICANCE: Why is this important (XX) associated with events, persons, or movements
Local (XX) State (XX) National (XX)
( ) a good example of a type or style of structure
(XX) other -- Good example of an important farm implement.

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 antique farm gin on display in the lobby of Prattville City Hall was manufactured in 1844 by the Pratt Gin Company. It is a rare example of the type of gin used on small Alabama farms in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The gin, measuring only three by five feet, could be operated by one man, or a mule.

The gin was owned for several years by Bush Hog Continental Gin Company, the descendant of Daniel Pratt's original factory, before the firm donated it to the City of Prattville in 1975.

Daniel Pratt, a native of New Hampshire, came to Alabama in 1833 and built Alabama's first cotton gin factory at General John Albert Elmore's plantation near Elmore Station, which at the time was located in Autauga County.

Later, he built a gin shop on leased land at McNeil's Landing on Autauga Creek, two and a half miles downstream from what is now the City of Prattville.

Pratt purchased the site of present day Prattville in 1835. He built the Gin Factory still being used by Bush Hog Continental Gin Factory in 1838.

By 1844, Pratt's Gin Company was manufacturing 200 gins each year, and was one of the leading gin companies in the nation.
**Daniel Pratt Farm Gin/Display**

**Prattville City Hall**

101 West Main Street

**County**

Autauga

**City or Town**

Prattville

**Adjacent Township & Vicinity**

Prattville 36067

**Date(s) or Period**

1844

**Style or Design**

Historic display

**Architect or Engineer**

Danie1 Pratt

**Contractor or Builder**

Pratt Gin Company

**Original Use, if apparent**

Farm gin

**Historic Use**

Historic display

**Ownership**

Public

**Owner’s Name & Address, if known**

City of Prattville

**City**

Prattville 36067

**Thematic Category**

Technology, Agriculture, Commerce

**Thematic Period**

19th Century

**No. of Stories**

1

**Foundation Material**

No

**Wall Construction**

No

**Roof Type & Material**

No

**No. of Bays**

Front 1

**Wall Treatment**

Side 1

**Plan Shape**

No

**Condition Interior**

No

**Preservation Underway?**

No

**Endangered?**

No

**Visible from Public Road?**

No

**Acreage, Lot Size**

No

**Visible from Public Road?**

No

**Description of Environment and Outbuildings**

Prattville City Hall. Urban setting.

**History and Significance**

Pratt, a native of New Hampshire, came to AL. in 1833 and built the state's first cotton gin factory at General John Albert Elmore's plantation near Elmore Station. Later he built a gin shop on leased land at McNeil's Landing on Autauga Creek, 2½ miles downstream from what is now the city of Prattville. Pratt purchased the site of present-day Prattville in 1835 and built the Gin Factory still being used by the Bush Hog Continental Gin Factory in 1838.

**Description of Important Features**

This antique farm gin on display in the Prattville City Hall is a rare example of the type of gin used on small AL. farms in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The 3'x5' gin could be operated by one man or a mule.

**Sources of Information**

AR file

**Prepared By**

D. Baldwin

**Phone**

6-26-78

**Date**

6-26-78
130-YEAR-OLD GIN — Continental/Moss-Gordin made one of the first contributions to the Prattville Bicentennial, donating one of the original gins made by Daniel Pratt. The gin was manufactured in 1844, and as the sign says, has been in use nearly ever since. The Gin is on display in the Prattville City Hall. Inspecting the device is, from left, C/MG president C.M. Merkel, Mayor C.M. Gray, commission head Richard Garrett and E.T. Walrond of C/MG.
GENERAL HIGHWAY MAP
AUTauga COUNTY
ALABAMA

PREPARED BY THE
ALABAMA STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
BUREAU OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING
SURVEYING AND MAPPING DIVISION
IN COOPERATION WITH THE
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF PUBLIC ROADS

SCALE

1965
MADE & SOLD BY

DANIEL PRATT

IN 1844

AND HAS BEEN OPERATED AS A "FARM GIN."

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 3 OR 4 YEARS,

SINCE THAT DATE.
### ALABAMA REGISTER OF LANDMARKS AND HERITAGE

**REVIEWS COMMITTEE**

**Daniel Pratt Farm Gin**  
Autauga County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Approval</th>
<th>Comments</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W. Warner Floyd</td>
<td><img src="y" alt="Approve" /></td>
<td>Probably the most significant industrial object in Central Alabama.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanette Barrett</td>
<td><img src="y" alt="Approve" /></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ellen Mertins</td>
<td><img src="y" alt="Approve" /></td>
<td>OK but demolition speculation not desired, program to try for too.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Donelson</td>
<td><img src="y" alt="Approve" /></td>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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Signed  
Date 3-30-77

Signed  
Date 3-29-77

Signed  
Date 3-29-77

Signed  
Date 3-29-77

Signed  
Date 3-29-77

### Notes

The name to give credit to Janet for work in their office. Also ask if anyone knows where gin was moved and who owned it before Continental Oil.
March 31, 1977

Mr. C. M. Gray, Mayor
City of Prattville
101 W. Main Street
Prattville, Alabama 36067

Re: Daniel Pratt Farm Gin - Autauga County
(March 29, 1977)

Dear Mayor Gray:

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to inform you that the referenced landmark has been favorably reviewed and added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage. The Alabama Register is a prestigious listing of historic, architectural and archaeological landmarks. These selected Alabama landmarks are worthy of both recognition and restoration. The Alabama Historical Commission appreciates your interest in Alabama's historic preservation program.

Sincerely,

W. Warner Floyd

WWF/pjs
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The antique farm gin on display in the lobby of Prattville City Hall has been added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage, the Alabama Historical Commission announced today.

According to Warner Floyd, Executive Director of the Commission, "The gin is probably the most significant historic industrial object in Central Alabama". The small gin, measuring only three by five feet, was manufactured in 1844 by the Pratt Gin Company, and could be operated by one man, or a mule. It is a rare example of the type of gin used on small Alabama farms in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

The gin was owned for several years by Bush Hog Continental Gin Company, the descendant of Daniel Pratt's original factory, before the firm donated it to the City of Prattville in 1975.

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By 1844, Pratt's Gin Company was manufacturing 200 gins each year, and was one of the leading gin companies in the nation.

Floyd commended Janet and Mike Gibson for the background information for the nomination.

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