Name Historic Alston House Location 1811 Gervais Street

Common McDuffie's Antiques (preferred) Classification Building

Owner Mary K. McDuffie
1811 Gervais Street
Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Representation in Existing Surveys

Description Built circa 1872, this one-story clapboard Greek Revival cottage set on brick foundations features a gable roof with two interior chimneys. The front facade is characterized by a centrally located doorway with transom and sidelights flanked on each side by one 6/6 window with notable early 19th Century ironwork. On the west end of the front facade, there is a single glass-paned doorway which has been converted into a window. The interior of the structure has a typical floor plan with a central hallway flanked on each side by two rooms. A small one-story addition extends in an ell from the rear of the building.

Significance Built circa 1872, this building is important for its association with early black business people in Columbia. Possibly as early as 1875 and definitely by 1895, McDuffie's Antiques Building was used as a residence and dry goods store by Carolina Alston. Mrs. Alston, a prosperous black businesswoman, was one of only twenty-five black business people operating in the Columbia area in the late 1800s. As such, she was an important leader of the black business community of her time.

In 1906 Mrs. Alston sold the building to L. M. Keitt, a black businessman, who operated a grocery store on the site. Follwing Mr. Keitt's ownership, the property passed through a series of owners until 1946 when it became McDuffie's Antiques.

Acreage .20 acre

Verbal Boundary Description TMS 36-05-26; 52.6' along Gervais Street with side line of 170.8'

UTM Reference Point Columbia North 17/497820/3762460

Other Information