

Antiquing Alabama: Cullman

If you're an antique enthusiast, after a few hours in Cullman, Ala. you'll rank the small city as a new favorite for finding old things.

FOR SOME, ANTIQUING MEANS A SEARCH for a specific item to fill a specific need. Then there are those whose antique buying and collecting habits border on full-fledged addiction. No matter which category you fall in to, the drive up I-65 to Cullman, Ala. is one you should take.

Recently featured in the book, "The 50 Best Small Southern Towns," Cullman oozes the small town charm and hospitality that you'd expect to find. What you wouldn't expect to find however, is one of the country's largest offerings of architectural antiques.

But in downtown Cullman, occupying almost an entire block all by itself, sits Southern Accents Architectural Antiques.

The rich patina of old wood. The intricate detailing of hand-made craftsmanship. These elements bring character and warmth to any structure, no matter when it was built. For anyone searching for ways to add the charm and elegance of the old-world to their home, their search abruptly ends when they walk into Southern Accents.

With a huge variety of original and one-of-a-kind architectural pieces, the store is basically a warehouse packed to the brim with hundreds of antique entryways, beveled and stained glass doors, antique stairways, original antique lighting, fire-place mantels and more. The extensive selection dwarfs in number and sheer size the inventory of other antique stores.



22 MONTGOMERY LIVING

Other Antiquing Avenues

There's more of the antique scene in Cullman than Southern Accents. Check out these other shops for furniture, glassware, china, fine collectibles and more.

That Antique Place

104 1st Avenue NE
(256) 736-5935

Biltmore Antiques & Gifts

2611 AL Hwy 157 NE
(256) 734-3600

Funky Chicken Antiques & Art

18131 US Hwy 31
(256) 734-8283

Retrotique

3669 Hwy 278 East
(256) 734-7040

Yesterday's Antiques

105 2nd Avenue SW
(256) 739-3972



It all began in 1969 when Dr. Garlan Gudger Sr. started the business in his garage in his first house in Cullman. His son, Garlan Gudger Jr., now owns and operates Southern Accents and said it is his goal to provide his customers with the best quality architectural antiques in the Southeast.

"We are like the Lowe's and Home Depot of the 1880s," he said. "Our stock comes from all over the nation. We keep a wide selection on hand. Just as an example, we have 3,000 doors in stock all the time. We want to be a one stop shop for anyone wanting to add the charm and elegance of architectural antiques to whatever they are building. We also have a restoration shop in back, where we can re-hinge doors, frame them, add new hardware or rework the original hardware and even install them if needed."

The beautiful old items are salvaged by Southern Accents and find new life in new homes. Southern Accents also carries a wide selection of iron pieces for indoors or out as well as fountains, columns and garden statuary.



Colorful, vintage stained glass windows are in abundance at Southern Accents in Cullman.



Prices range from the hundreds (and sometimes even less) to the thousands. And sometimes you have to use your imagination. You can purchase a "well-used" heart pine mantle for a hundred dollars, strip it, sand it and stain it, and you'll have a piece that looks like a million bucks—or at least more than you paid!


And if you needed something to make it even easier to take

home one of the unique pieces from the shop, they'll ship anywhere and accept all major credit cards.

You can even browse on the store's website to see what is currently in stock, although, you'll still want to see this place in person and all it has to offer.

Need another reason to love Southern Accents? Two words. "Antiques Roadshow." This popular PBS television program has convinced millions of Americans that that clock or chair they found stashed in grandma's attic is worth some serious cash. If

you've got an architectural antique that you'd like to know more about, Southern Accents

does appraisals, for \$50 per item. E-mail a photo and the dimensions along with any known history of the item and the store's experts will put a value on it. 

Cullman, Ala.
256-737-0554

antiques-architectural.com
info@antiques-architectural.com