

Blount House
Haddock, Jones County, Georgia

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HABS No. 14-125

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 14

Historic American Buildings Survey
P. Thornton Marye, District Officer
62 Bartow St., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia

BLOUNT HOUSE

Near Haddock, Jones County, Georgia

Owner: Estate of James H. Blount.

Date of Erection: Begun 1828, completed 1833.

Architect or Builder: Denial Pratt, from Temple, New Hampshire.

Present Condition: Fair. Plaster badly cracked and some of it is only prevented from falling by temporary wooden props. About 1895 Mr. Blount had one room restored.

Number of Stories: Two and large attic across house.

Materials of Construction: Foundation brick, Wood floors. Exterior walls frame. Shingle roof.

Other Existing Records: Records by P. Thornton Marye, District Officer, HABS 1934. Georgia Landmarks, Memorials, and Legends by Knight. Article by Mary Callaway Jones, (Mrs. Frank F.) Sunday June 10, 1934 in Atlanta Journal.

Additional Data: Center two-story two columned portico with pediment. Doric columns, each flute of separate piece of wood from arris to arris. Base of columns has many pieces probably of recent construction. Round arched doorway with elaborate muntin treatment of interlacing circles of wood. Doorway to second story balcony has an elliptical arch. Fanlights at each end of attic. Front room to right of entrance most elaborate with two plaster niches and ornate mantel. Original mantels and woodwork and plaster ornament still intact throughout house except that circular ceiling ornament at the top of spiral stairway has fallen within the past two years.

Inside there are undimmed gold leaf ornaments at the corner of each door and window frame and decorating the stair ascent and arches in the parlor. There are different types of mantels in each room, eight in all.

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Additional Data: Con't. Around the back of the house was a semi circle of small cabins for use of domestic servants, store houses and kitchen. The slave quarters, (some of the houses still remain) were located a quarter of a mile down the hill at the back of the house.

Family history records that the house was five years in building and cost nearly \$60,000.00, was never finished, as the long porch on the south, probably built much later, should have been two small porches with four small fluted columns with bannisters matching those of the portico in front and both upstair and down.

The house was built by Gen. John W. Gordon and in 1848 was sold to Thomas C. Bowen. Thomas Bowen sold it to his wife's brother, James H. Blount in 1880 with the understanding that a certain portion of the plantation should be deeded to the purchaser's sister Mary Blount Bowen. During the Bowen regime, the place was called Belmont Farm. While owned by Hon. James H. Blount, Mrs. Blount named the place Hale Nui, Hawaiian words, approximately for "Big House," in memory of her husband's services under the Cleveland Administration in the Sandwich or Hawaiian Island in 1893.

Family history furnished by E.B.B. Lamar, (Mrs. Walter Lamar) of Macon; nee Blount.

Harold Bush-Brown

HAROLD BUSH-BROWN Feb 6
DISTRICT OFFICER-HABS 1937

3/9/37 JW

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ARCHITECTURAL NOTES:

The architect has incorporated the elliptical arch motif in this house, as he had already done in Lowther Hall in the same county. The two storey front porch has two tall and slender fluted Doric columns, these supporting a sharply pitched pediment. The head of the front door is semi-circular, but the second floor door to the porch has an elliptical head.

Inside the house an elliptical arch divides the front hall from the back hall with the spiral stairs.

Niches stand on either side of the hand-carved dining room mantel. These niches have moulded plaster heads and are flanked by fluted Corinthian pilasters. The plaster cornice around this room is decorated with anthemions and grape-vines.

by Henry Chandler Fowser
1936