

January 1960

Picturesque homestead reflects pioneer living in Florida

Hampton Dunn

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring

Recommended Citation

Dunn, Hampton, "Picturesque homestead reflects pioneer living in Florida" (1960). *Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection*. 3.

https://digitalcommons.usf.edu/dunn_phototouring/3

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Floridiana - General at Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. It has been accepted for inclusion in Hampton Dunn Phototouring Florida Collection by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons @ University of South Florida. For more information, please contact scholarcommons@usf.edu.



Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



PICTURESQUE HOMESTEAD REFLECTS PIONEER LIVING IN FLORIDA

STARKE --- Less than a mile off busy U.S. 301 on the Brooker road is a pastoral scene that transforms the visitor to pioneer days of Florida.

This is the Mansell homestead featuring a rambling two-story structure which is the "old home place," built shortly after the Civil War. It's weather-beaten and in need of some attention, but is still liveable.

The interesting century-old home is owned by direct descendants of the pioneer Bradford County farmer who built it, Thomas Fletcher Mansell.

The frontiersman came here as a lad of 11 about 1855 from Pickens County, So C. After the great conflict, he acquired the land from Hulda Prevatt, who had been widowed during-the War.

Mansell built the home, at first just a one-story affair, but later a second story was added when the children came along. The kitchen and dining room, as was typical of the early days architecture, was separated from the living area by a crude "breezeway."

The hard-working pioneer planted an orange grove, some of the trees are still living despite the Big Freeze of the late 1880's. He also did general farming, raised cane, cotton, peanuts, sweet potatoes and other crops.

There are many relics of pioneer living on the place, including a king-sized well sweep and a cane-grinding apparatus that was operated with horse-power. Bradford County Telegraph Editor Gene Matthews has urged that the Mansell homestead be preserved for its historical value.

