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## Gracious living in the South in the 1800s

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## GRACIOUS LIVING IN THE SOUTH IN THE 1800s

Point Washington --- Heading along U.S. 98 between Panama City and Pensacola, don't go too fast or you'll miss the turnoff for "Eden," a lovely home that depicts Southern living in the late 1800s. Watch for State Road 395. Eden is on that just a mile off U.S. 98.

This handsome frame house, sheltered by the moss-draped oaks, was restored to its original glamour by Miss Lois Maxon after she bought it in 1963. The white-columned mansion was built before the turn of the century by a lumber baron who had his millhands construct the home of heart pine and cypress.

The Eden estate is at the southeast corner of Choctawhatchee Bay. The virgin timber was floated down the river to the mill for processing, then taken to Pensacola for finishing. Through the years, Eden was a social center in the Panhandle. But finally the house was abandoned. Vandalism and decay were wrecking the place when Miss Maxon saved and restored it.

The present owner set about to furnish the handsome mansion with a priceless collection of art and antiques, including many pieces from Europe and others from family heirlooms, dating back to the 1600s. There are such attractions as altar candlesticks from Italy, Adams knife urns from Scotland, a French grandfather clock 200 years old, a 17th century cherry bed and French fruitwood chest, and many, man, other elegant objects

There are 11 acres in the estate. Some of the trees are 300 years old. Eden is open to visitors for a nominal admission fee.

