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## bit of old Spain in the oldest city

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# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



## A BIT OF OLD SPAIN IN THE OLDEST CITY

By HAMPTON DUNN

ST. AUGUSTINE --- Spain still has a direct interest and piece of this ancient city which was discovered by the Conquistador, Don Pedro Menendez back in 1565. The Spanish Government has contributed to the far-reaching restoration program here by erecting Casa del Hidalgo, a true replica of an 18th Century Spanish home.

"This is Spanish land," informs the guide at the handsome structure. "You are now a guest of the Spanish government." Actually, Spain invested \$350,000 including land acquisition, construction and furnishings. A practical function of the building is to serve as quarters for a Spanish Cultural Center and Tourist Information Office.

The two-story house museum includes a downstairs area consisting of reception, dining and sitting rooms and a chapel, as well as a separate kitchen, while upstairs quarters are composed of reception and sitting rooms and two bedrooms. (Photo shows hostess checking progress in the kitchen, as a lady in the House of Hidalgo might have done in the early days of this nation's oldest city in a house similar to this one).

The St. Augustine restoration program has been boosted by many in high places, including the late President John F. Kennedy, who said: "When I recall how colonial Williamsburg has served so effectively as a symbol of the bond between English speaking peoples on both sides of the Atlantic, I can see how valuable it will be to have a similar symbol of the cultural heritage which came to us from Hispanic-American sources. This can be a most important symbolic bond with our Latin-American neighbors to the South, as well as to Spain, across the ocean."

