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Historic Dorothy Walton House Restored, circa 1960s

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Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN



HISTORIC DOROTHY WALTON HOUSE RESTORED

By HAMPTON DUNN

PENSACOLA --- History-loving Pensacolans are doing a grand job of restoring worthwhile old structures. One such landmark is the home of Dorothy Walton, widow of George Walton, signer of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia. She also was the mother of George Jr. and joined her son and family here when he was appointed Secretary of State of West Florida in 1821 by President James Monroe.

The Walton House was built in 1810-11, at 137 West Romana St., and was moved in 1967 for restoration at 221 East Zarragoza Street. Mrs. Walton is believed to have resided in the attractive house sometime between 1825 and 1832 when she died. She's buried in St. Michael's Cemetery.

Though records do not indicate who built the structure, it is believed to have been built for speculation by Sonora de Folch, wife of the Spanish governor here between 1795 and. 1811.

The house was owned from 1834-38 by Don Francisco Moreno, prosperous builder of Pensacola's first hotel; was purchased by James Gonzalez who maintained it for 17 years and was believed to have moved his family into it in 1838. It eventually wound up in the ownership of a local historian, T.T. Wentworth, Jr., who later deeded it to the city.

The structure is typical of architecture found on the Gulf Coast in the early 1800's. The one-story frame cottage features a double entry door, covered veranda with multi-width boards and a great hall inside which divides the house with two rooms at either side.

Among items of interest in the house are the original fireplace with wooden mantel and a heavy iron chest in which Moreno stored valuables.

