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Title: Manatee, Liberty, Slaves
Financial view

NPS Number 70-8-18-0018

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FLORIDA'S
HISTORICAL RESOURCES

STATE OF FLORIDA
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION
FLORIDA NEWS BUREAU
TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA

Gamble Mansion in Ellenton, Florida, stands as a memorial to a way of life and a system of economy that was swept away by the War Between the States. Built between 1845 and 1850 by Major Robert Gamble, pioneer planter and soldier, it was constructed of red brick and "tabby" - a combination of oyster shell, lime and sand. Situated on the Manatee River, the plantation covered 3,500 acres and was engaged in the cultivation of sugar cane and its manufacture into sugar. During the War the refinery was looted and razed by a party from the U. S. Bark James L. Davis, one of the Federal blockading the River.

In May 1865, Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State for the Condederacy, took refuge in the Mansion to escape capture by the Federal troops. He remained in hiding there for several weeks before resuming his journey by boat to England.

Gamble Mansion is an outstanding example of an ante-bellum plantation house and contains many historic relics of that period. Open to the public under supervision of the Florida Park Service.

BUREAU OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION 11/15/70