

GAMBLE MANSION

(JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL)
U.S. 301, Ellenton
Manatee County

This lovely ante-bellum mansion is the only Confederate shrine in the State, as well as the oldest building on the west coast of Florida.

The mansion is designated the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial because of its connection with a dramatic episode in the last days of the Civil War. In another sense, it is a memorial to a way of life and a system of economy that were swept away by that war.

The close of the Second Seminole War in 1842 opened the Manatee River country for settlement. Among those settlers was Major Robert Gamble, whose plantation covered 3,500 acres - most of which was devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane and its manufacture into sugar.

Although still a bachelor, Major Gamble set his slaves to building a home in keeping with the lavish scale of his operations. Built between 1845 and 1850, the two-story building was made of red brick with walls nearly two feet thick. Eighteen large pillars support the roof, forming upper and lower verandas which extend across the front and two sides.

In 1857, the plantation was sold to Capt. Archibald McNeill. At the close of the Civil War, Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin was hidden in the mansion from Federal troops. With a price on his head and soldiers at his heels he posed as a "Mr. Howard" before escaping via a hazardous and circuitous route to England, where he carved out a second career as a leading member of the English bar.

After the mansion went through a succession of owners, the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy purchased it and deeded it to the State of Florida. Today, Gamble Mansion houses one of the finest collections of antebellum furnishings and memorabilia to be found in the South.

one for signature

In 1857, the place
to close of
I hereby certify that this property is included in the
National Register.

Ernest Allen Connally
Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date AUG 12 1970

ATTEST:

William J. [Signature]
Keeper of The National Register

Date JUL 6 1970

RH0022608

ADVANCE NOMINATION-1970

Form 10-300
(July 1969)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Florida	
COUNTY: Manatee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.8.09.0010	DATE 8/12/70

H2
10
1

1. NAME

COMMON:
Gamble (Robert) House

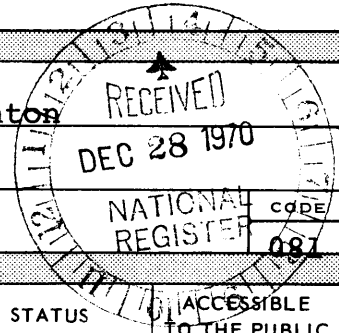
AND/OR HISTORIC:
Judah P. Benjamin Memorial

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
US 301, 2 3/4 miles east of Palmetto at Ellenton

CITY OR TOWN:
Ellenton

FLORIDA	CODE 12	COUNTY: Manatee	CODE 081
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Comments _____ Yes: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Division of Recreation and Parks
Department of Natural Resources

STREET AND NUMBER:
Larson Building

CITY OR TOWN:
Tallahassee

STATE:
Florida

CODE:
12

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
TRUSTEES OF THE INTERNAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

STREET AND NUMBER:
STATE OF FLORIDA

CITY OR TOWN:
TALLAHASSEE

STATE:
FLORIDA

CODE:
12

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
1-Florida Historic Sites Survey, 1940 & 2-HABS (Fla. 112)

DATE OF SURVEY: 1936-40 2- Federal 1- State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
1-Bureau of Historic Preservation 2-Library of Congress

STREET AND NUMBER:
1-The Capitol

CITY OR TOWN:
1-Tallahassee 2-Washington

STATE:
1-Florida 2-D. C.

CODE:
12

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Florida

COUNTY: Manatee

ENTRY NUMBER: 70.8.09.0010

DATE: 8/12/70

FOR NPS USE ONLY

7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

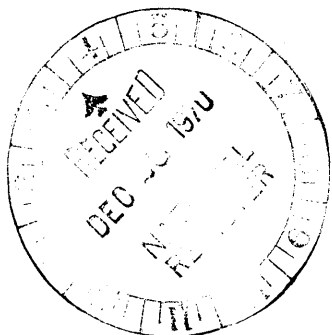
DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Gamble Mansion was built between 1845 and 1850. The two-story building is made of red brick with walls nearly two feet thick. 18 large pillars, 18 inches in diameter and 25 feet high support the roof, forming upper and lower verandas.

In 1925 the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the Daughters of the Confederacy purchased the mansion for \$3,200 - it had been vacant for many years and was in a run-down condition - and deeded it to the State of Florida.

Now operated by the Division of Recreation and Parks, Department of Natural Resources, it has been restored and houses one of the finest collections of antebellum furnishings to be found in the south.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This lovely antebellum mansion is the only Confederate shrine in the state, as well as the oldest building on the southwest coast of Florida.

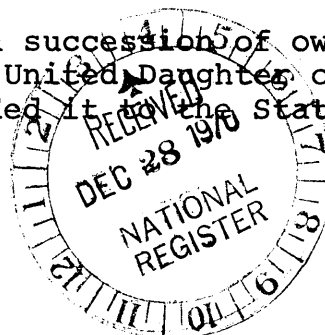
The mansion is designated the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial because of its connection with a dramatic episode in the last days of the Civil War. In another sense, it is a memorial to a way of life and a system of economy that were swept away by that war.

The close of the Second Seminole War in 1842 opened the Manatee River country for settlement. Among those settlers was Major Robert Gamble, whose plantation covered 3,500 acres, most of which was devoted to the cultivation of sugar cane and its manufacture into sugar.

Although still a bachelor, Major Gamble set his slaves to building a home in keeping with the lavish scale of his operations.

In 1857, the plantation was sold to Capt. Archibald McNeill. At the close of the Civil War, Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin was hidden in the mansion from Federal Troops. With a price on his head and soldiers at his heels he posed as a "Mr. Howard" before escaping via a hazardous and circuitous route to England, where he carved out a second career as a leading member of the English Bar.

After the mansion went through a succession of owners, the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy purchased it and deeded it to the State of Florida.



SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Butler, Pierce. Judah P. Benjamin, American Crisis Biographies, Philadelphia, Geo. W. Jacobs & Co., 1906, p.459.
 Cash, William T., The Story of Florida, Vol. I, New York, The American Historical Society, Inc., 1938, p. 347-349.
 Davis, William Watson, The Civil War and Reconstruction in Florida, Studies in History, Economics and Public Law, Vol. LIII, No. 131, New York, Columbia University, 1913, p.624-627.
 Dovell, Junius E., Florida, Historic, Dramatic, Contemporary, Vol. I, N.Y., Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1952, p. 329-330.
 (continued...)

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			OR	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	27° 31' 25"	82° 31' 30"		° ' "	° ' "	
NE	27° 31' 25"	82° 31' 25"		° ' "	° ' "	
SE	27° 31' 25"	82° 31' 25"		° ' "	° ' "	
SW	27° 31' 20"	82° 31' 30"		° ' "	° ' "	

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **11.23 acres**

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY:

NAME AND TITLE: **J. P. Schuck, Chief, Bureau of Historic Preservation**

ORGANIZATION: **Department of State** DATE: **8/5/70**

STREET AND NUMBER: **The Capitol**

CITY OR TOWN: **Tallahassee** STATE: **Florida** CODE: **12**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *Robert Williams*

Title: State Liaison Officer

Date: December 18, 1970

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Ernest A. Connolly
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
 8/12/70

Date: _____

ATTEST:

William Muntz
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE	Florida	
COUNTY	Manatee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY		
ENTRY NUMBER	70.8.09.0010	DATE
		8/12/70

(Number all entries)

Gamble (Robert) House
9. Bibliographical References - Page 2

Fain, Marjorie, "Some Extracts from the History of the Gamble Family in Florida", Tallahassee Historical Society Annual, 1934, p. 28-31.

Federal Writers' Project, Florida, A Guide to the Southernmost State, American Guide Series, New York, Oxford University Press, 1939, p. 393

Hanna, Alfred J., Flight Into Oblivion, Johnson Publishing Co., 1938, pp. 194-208, 224-228.

Historical Records Survey, Gamble Deed and Papers Regarding Judah P. Benjamin (Jacksonville) Historical Records Survey, 1937, 11p.

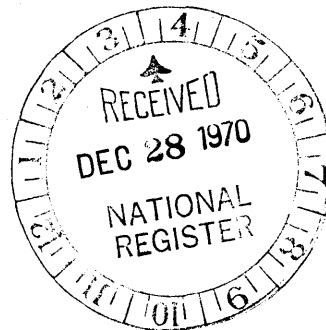
McDuffee, Lillie B., The Lures of Manatee, A True Story of South Florida's Glamorous Past, Bradenton, B. McDuffee Fletcher, 1961, p. 157-171, 33-38

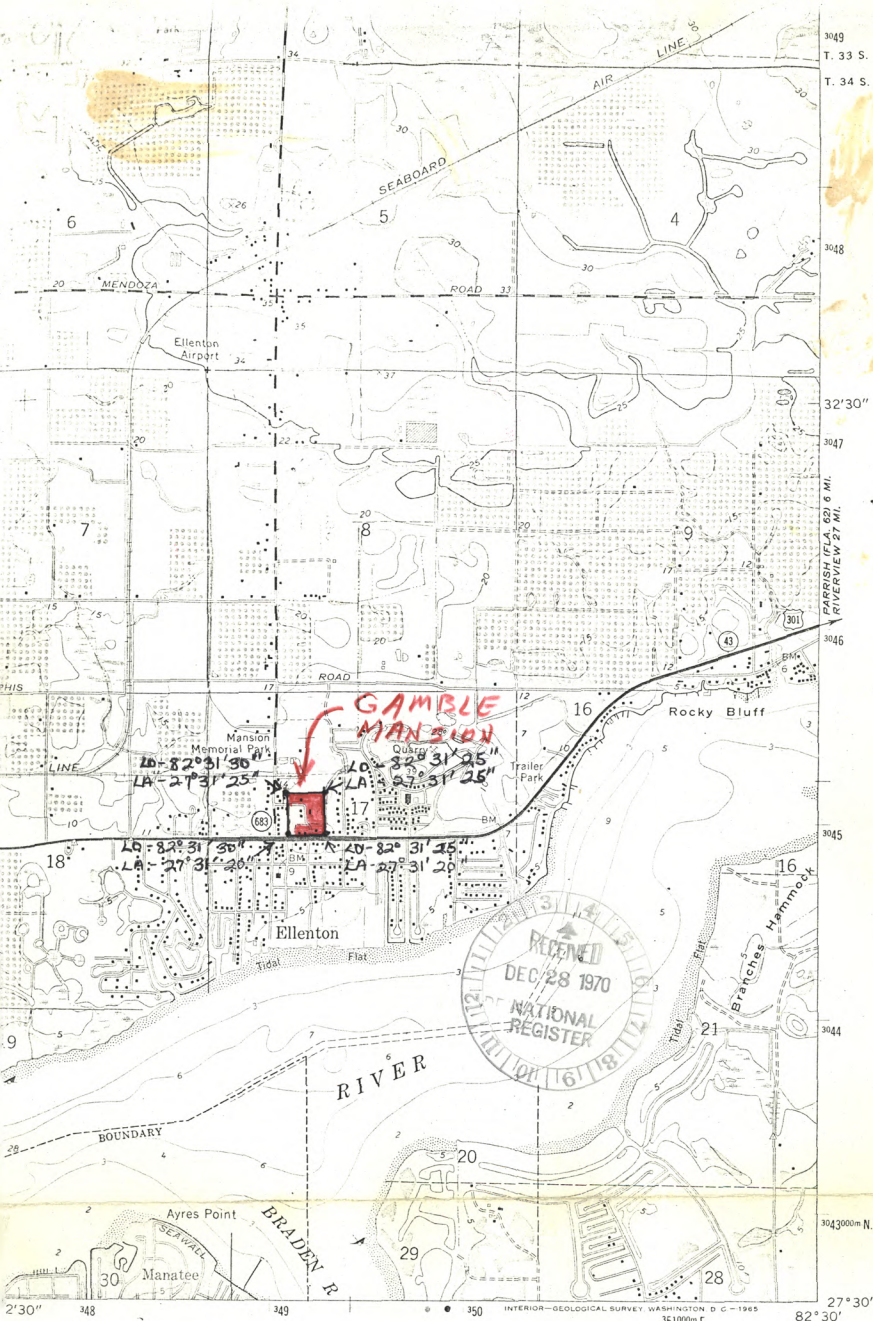
McKay, Donald B., Pioneer Florida, Personal and Family Records, Vol. III., Tampa, The Southern Pub. Co., 1959, p. 182, 671-672.

McLeod, H. A., Escape of Judah P. Benjamin, Jacksonville, Historical Records Survey, Works Progress Administration, 1937, 4p.

Patrick, Rembert W., Jefferson Davis and His Cabinet, Baton Rouge, Louisiana State Univ. Press, 1944, pp. 155-202.

Rerick, Rowland H., Memoirs of Florida..edited by Francis P. Fleming, Vol. I, Atlanta, The Southern Historical Assoc., 1902, p. 542-544.





TOTAL ACRES = 11.23



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- U.S. Route
- State Route

190-D
 PALMETTO, FLA.
 N2730—W8230/7.5

(LORRAINE)
 216 12559

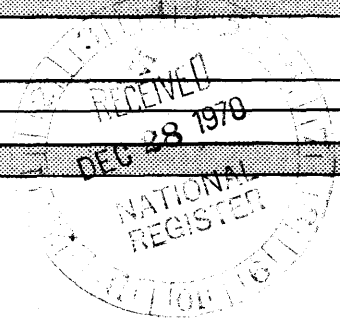
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

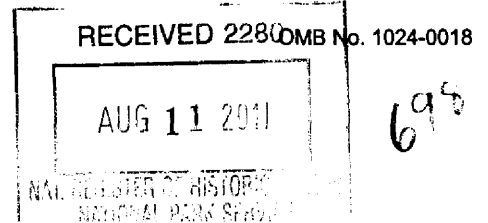
(Type all entries - attach to or enclose with map)

STATE Florida	
COUNTY Manatee	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER 70.8.09.0010	DATE 8/12/70

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

1. NAME			
COMMON: Gamble (Robert) House			
AND/OR HISTORIC: Judah P. Benjamin Memorial			
2. LOCATION			
STREET AND NUMBER: US 301, 2 3/4 miles east of Palmetto at Ellenton			
CITY OR TOWN: Ellenton			
STATE: Florida	CODE 12	COUNTY: Manatee	CODE 081
3. MAP REFERENCE			
SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey, Palmetto Quadrangle			
SCALE: 7.5 minute series			
DATE: 1964			
4. REQUIREMENTS			
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS			
1. Property boundaries where required.			
2. North arrow.			
3. Latitude and longitude reference.			





United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Benjamin, Judah P., Memorial (ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION & NAME CHANGE)

other names/site number Gamble, Robert, House; Gamble Mansion

2. Location

street & number 3708 Patten Avenue n/a not for publication

city or town Ellenton n/a vicinity

state Florida code FL county Manatee code 081 zip code 34222

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Barbara C. Mattick / DSHPO 8/4/2011
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is: [Signature] Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

- entered in the National Register See continuation sheet
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain) _____

Elson H. Beall 9.23.11

Additional Documentation Approved

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- buildings
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include any previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	2	buildings
1	0	sites
2	1	structures
2		objects
5	3	total

Name of related multiple property listings

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

n/a

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

1

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/single dwelling

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/park

RECREATION AND CULTURE/museum

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID 19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stucco

walls Stucco

roof Metal

other Tabby Brick

Brick

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 36) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Period of Significance

1925-1949

Significant Dates

1925

Significant Person

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Cavidson, J.P. (contractor)

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of Repository

Benjamin, Judah P., Memorial
Name of Property

Manatee Co., FL
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property Approximately 4 acres

UTM References

(Place additional references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1	7	3	4	9	2	3	0	3	0	4	5	1	7	0
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
2															

3															
	Zone		Easting						Northing						
4															

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ann Baird, Jim Flook, Rachel Thibeault/students and Barbara E. Mattick/DSHPO for Survey & Registration

organization Bureau of Heritage Services, Division of Historical Resources date August 2011

street & number 500 S. Bronough Street telephone 850-245-6333

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-0250

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Trustees of the Internal Improvement Trust Fund/Florida Division of Recreation & Parks

street & number 3900 Commonwealth Boulevard telephone _____

city or town Tallahassee state Florida zip code 32399-6575

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and amend listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 1

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

SUMMARY

Although the Gamble Plantation and the Robert Gamble House has an impressive antebellum history, the present configuration of the property physically represents its association with the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC), which bought the property in 1925 and made it a Confederate shrine. The period of significance is, therefore, 1925-1949, which is the period of management by the UDC. They transferred ownership to the state in 1925 as a condition of receiving state funds, and the Florida Park Service assumed management in 1949 through legislative action.

The Robert Gamble House -- Judah P. Benjamin Memorial is a 4-acre site located at 3708 Patten Avenue, on the north side of U.S. Highway 301 in Ellenton, Florida. The memorial consists of the ca. 1844 plantation home built by Robert E. Gamble (NR 1970), two antebellum cisterns, two historic engraved stone war memorials, and the site itself. There are three non-contributing resources: the Patten House, which is a two-story vernacular residential home, a gazebo near the Patten House, and the UDC Archives Building.

SETTING

The Robert Gamble House --Judah P. Benjamin Memorial is located within a mixed-development area of residential and commercial properties. The eastern boundary is defined by an antebellum drainage canal that was part of an extensive system built for Robert Gamble to prepare the land for agricultural use. The southern boundary of the National Register designated property is defined by the right-of-way of U.S. Highway 301. The main access is a paved driveway that runs north from Highway 301 to the western side of the mansion, where it intersects Patten Avenue, a secondary access road to the memorial. The northern boundary is defined by a line running east from Patten Avenue to the drainage canal. The home is oriented south, facing the Manatee River (Photo 1), which could be viewed from the second floor balcony before vegetation grew up (Photo 2). The western side of the driveway is the western boundary of the nominated property.

When the property was originally developed, the main house parcel was centrally located within a 3400-acre plantation with a sugar mill. Access to the Manatee River for the transport of people and goods was achieved by a road linking the mansion to a wharf. This original roadbed currently defines the western boundary of the nominated property. Cisterns located directly east of the main house reflect the residential and agricultural use of the property. Over time, the 3400-acre plantation property has been divided into both residential and commercial parcels. The main house (the Gamble Mansion) is the primary focal point of the property. The United Daughters of the Confederacy bought two lots adjoining the mansion in order to build a park around the building. They planted palm trees in rows, and accented walkways with flowers, decorative plants and shrubbery. A palm tree was planted in celebration of the bi-centennial of George Washington's birthday. Other palm trees were reserved to be planted by all Children of the Confederacy chapters. The beautification efforts of the mansion and grounds were intended to inspire pride in the Confederacy. Today, there are no palm trees on site, due to inclement weather and the passage of time. A tree-lined drive leading to the mansion from US Highway 301 is the only roadway included in the nomination.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7 Page 2

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
DESCRIPTION**

MANSION DESCRIPTION

In 1974, preservation architect Herschel Shepard conducted a thorough study of the Gamble Mansion. To more easily describe the building, he assigned room numbers and defined three major parts. According to his drawings: 1) the main house includes the Stair Hall, Room No. 1, and Room No. 2 on the first floor, and the Stair Hall, Room No. 6, and Room No. 7 on the second floor; 2) the central element, which lies between the main house and the north wing, includes Room No. 3 on the first floor and Room No. 8 on the second story; and 3) the north wing includes Room No. 4 and Room No. 5 on the first floor, and Room No. 9 and Room No. 10 on the second floor.¹ The two-story colonnade surrounds the main house on the west, south, and east elevations.

In 1935, Donald Corley and M.C. Dozier prepared Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) drawings which assigned uses for the rooms and delineated architectural details (Figures 1, 2, & 3):

Shepard Drawings

Stair Hall
Room No. 1
Room No. 2
Room No. 3
Room No. 4
Room No. 5
Room No. 6
Room No. 7
Room No. 8
Room No. 9
Room No. 10

HABS Drawings

Hall
Parlor
Dining Room
Pantry
Kitchen
Workroom, Carpenter Shop, etc.
Judah P. Benjamin Room
Guest
Clothes Press
Maj. Robert Gamble's Bedroom
Slaves Sewing Room

Shepard's nomenclature is used in the following description of the Gamble Mansion.

The Gamble House, also referred to as the Gamble Mansion, is a large two-storied dwelling containing ten rooms, as described above. All exterior walls and columns are finished in painted white stucco. The interior walls are composed of plaster over metal lath. The dwelling measures approximately 73' x 43'. It is divided into two separate structures connected by a covered exterior passageway. The south structure (composed of the main house and the central element) measures approximately 22 feet x 58 feet. The roof, which covers both

¹ Herschel Shepard. "The Gamble Mansion: A Report," 1974, pp. 23-24.

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parts, is crowned on the south façade by a modified gable (Photo 1). The north structure (north wing) is lower in height than the south structure and measures approximately 42 feet x 20 feet (Photo 3). An 18-columned, two-storied colonnade surrounds the south structure, terminating at the east and west walls of the north structure (Photos 3 & 4)). The colonnade and balcony unify the mansion, giving it the appearance of Greek Revival Style plantation architecture (Figure 6).

BUILDINGS

The entire southern structure part of the mansion rests on foundation walls approximately 13 inches thick and built of grey-brown bricks (Figure 1, Photo 5). The bricks measure 9 inches x 2 ½ inches x 4 inches. The exterior walls of the main house, as well as the chimneys and interior partitions, are constructed of the same grey-brown brick found in the foundation. The exterior walls in this portion of the house measure 13 inches thick; the interior walls measure approximately 8 inches thick. Portions of the wall of the main house have been rebuilt with modern common bricks on all but the southern interior wall, which is built of 13-inch grey-brown brick.²

The foundation for the north structure (north wing) is on-grade poured concrete. Five buttresses support the exterior west and northwest walls (Photo 6). All four walls of the north wing, its central chimney and its interior wall are made of locally produced tabby bricks except for clay bricks used for later repairs. The tabby brick is laid in oyster shell lime mortar, the clay bricks in Portland cement.³

The colonnade supports are low square pedestals that are elevated on the southern façade (Photo 1). The eighteen cylindrical columns supporting the second story of the colonnade and the projecting roof are of locally made pie-shaped tabby, the same material used in the north wing. The columns are 25 feet high and 18 inches in diameter and lack the capitals and other architectural details usually seen in the Greek Revival Style.⁴

Entry is gained into the interior of the mansion through double-doors with sidelights located on the south façade of the main house (Photo 1). The doors are flanked by two truncated half-columns. Above the entry is a plain raised stucco lintel. The exterior walls of the south façade are extended across the colonnade and are pierced by an opening that allows entrance onto the east and west colonnade. This gives the mansion the appearance of having a much wider façade than it actually has. The same design elements are repeated on the second floor.

Ground level entrance into the main house of the south structure is through a recessed modified archway with a single door on the north wall, and through a small opened vestibule on the west side of the structure. The vestibule opens into the central element as well as the main house. Entry into the central element on the second floor is gained from the north porch.

²Ibid., 3-4.

³Ibid, 4.

⁴Ibid.

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Access into the four rooms of the northern structure (north wing) is through two doorways coming off of the east and west colonnade on the first level and two doorways opening into each room from the covered passage at the rear of the main block (south structure). On the second level, entry into the north wing is made into the two rooms through an unusual configuration of two side-by-side doors off of both the east and west colonnade (Photo 3). An exterior stairway on the east elevation of the central element provides entry onto the second-floor balcony.

There are no windows on the south façade of the mansion. The east elevation has five windows on the ground level and six on the second story (Photo 3). The west elevation has five windows on the ground floor and six on the second story. Size and architectural details differ in the main house from that of the central element. Windows in the main house are larger and accented with a small rectangular bar above each window. The three windows in the central element are smaller and crowned by a modified recessed arch. The north wing contains two double-hung sash windows on the east and west elevations, and there is one centrally-placed window on each level. The north elevation of the north structure (north wing) is pierced by two second-story windows at each level.

INTERIOR

From the exterior, the Gamble Mansion appears to be a Greek Revival Style house, but the interior layout does not follow the symmetrical, central hall layout associated with that style. The interior of the south structure (the main house and the central element) of the mansion is one room wide and three rooms deep, with an enclosed stair hall on both levels (Photo 7). The first floor of the main house portion of the south structure also has an east side hall that is a continuation of the stair hall, extending along the east side of Room No. 1 to provide access to Room No. 2 (Photo 8). The central element consists of only one room (Room No. 3), accessed from the main house through a vestibule on the west side on the first floor and by a step down from the main house on the second floor (Room No. 8, Photo 13)). The interior of the north structure (north wing) is two rooms wide and one room deep (Room Nos. 4 and 5 on the first story (Photo 11) and Room Nos. 9 and 10 on the second story). The four rooms of the north wing are not accessible to each other from the interior. A central chimney is a defining feature of the southern structure. This chimney opens into the two main rooms (Nos. 1 and 2, Photos 9 & 10) on the first level as well as the second level (Room Nos. 6 and 7, Photos 14 & 15).

Architectural details in the interior of the southern structure (main house and central element) include wooden fireplace mantels, deep set windows with decorative wood surrounds, and plaster rosette medallions centered in the ceiling of the four main rooms. Door surrounds have simple details similar to those of the windows.

The main entrance to the first floor hallway is through an entryway (Figure 9) and stairwell. The hallway gives access to the parlor and dining room. The study is accessed through a covered vestibule. A breezeway allows access to the two rooms of the north wing. An exterior staircase gives access to the second floor rooms, which mirror their downstairs counterparts except for an unusual alignment of double doors. An

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exterior colonnade allows access to the interior rooms of the second floor of the southern structure: the flag room (Room No. 3) a bedroom (Room No. 2) and the Judah P. Benjamin room (Room No. 1).

ALTERATIONS

The Robert Gamble House -- Judah P. Benjamin Memorial has the characteristics of a memorial landscape, with a sweeping lawn and tree-lined entrance. The United Daughters of the Confederacy strove to create a beautiful, picturesque shrine to the Confederacy. Due to the passage of time and the delicate nature of landscaping, some natural landscaping elements have not survived from the UDC period. The two war memorials were moved from a location near the plantation house to the east side of the property, just west of what is thought to be a cistern.

The Gamble Mansion has been altered considerably since construction first began around 1844. The house suffered severe hurricane damage in 1921, and during the period of significance, 1925-1949, the United Daughters of the Confederacy in cooperation with the State of Florida's Gamble Mansion Commission completed nearly a total renovation of the interior woodwork, plaster and finishes. In 1974, Shepard reported that he located only remnant examples of what could have been period doors and window frames, mostly in the stair hall and Room No. 1. His report stated the following "with these major exceptions, the appearance of the building today is essentially as reconstructed after the 1926 hurricane."⁵ Photographs give evidence that the second-story windows were shortened, and the central element was reconstructed after sustaining damage from the hurricane in 1921.

Alterations have been made to the property since the Florida Park Service assumed management in 1949. In 1953, damaged woodwork and floors were repaired and replaced; and columns were repaired and restuccoed. In 1958, the southern structure (main house and central element) of the mansion was reroofed and structural repairs were made. The roof and floors were replaced once again in 1974. In 1978, the stairwell was rebuilt, but many original members were reused. Throughout the years, repainting of the exterior, interior and architectural details has been carried out under the stewardship of the Florida Park Service. The appearance the property attained or assumed under the care of the UDC has been maintained to a large degree by the Florida Park Service.

OTHER CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

War Memorial Boulders, c. 1937. Two engraved boulders were placed on site by the United Daughters of the Confederacy; one to memorialize World War Veterans of Florida, the other to memorialize Confederate Veterans with a bronze tablet in honor of Judah P. Benjamin. The boulders are located on the west side of the structure thought to be a cistern that is located on the east side of the property (Photo 16.)

⁵ Ibid., 21.

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Cisterns, c. 1844. Two tabby-brick, plantation-era cisterns are located within the property. The cistern directly adjacent to the mansion is believed to have functioned as a source of potable water for the residence (Photos 17 & 18). What is believed to be a second cistern is located east of the main house along the eastern edge of the property, near the antebellum drainage canal (Photos 19 & 20).

NON-CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Patten House, c.1885. The two-story, vernacular building was the home of George Patten and his family. The house is not considered a contributing resource because it was not included in the memorial efforts during the period of significance. Furthermore, the Park Service moved the house from the southwestern corner of the property to its present location in the southeastern corner of the property in 1988 in order to build the visitor center for the park (Photo 21).

Gazebo, 1971 (Photo 22) A small non-historic gazebo is located just northwest of the Patten House.

Archive Building, c. 1960. The Park Service built a small utilitarian building on the eastern edge of the property to serve as an archive for the UDC collection (Photo 23). This building is not contributing because it was built after the period of significance.

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SUMMARY

The Judah P. Benjamin Memorial consists of a plantation house and its immediate grounds built by Robert Gamble during the years 1844-1857. It was purchased, rehabilitated and preserved by the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC) during the latter half of the 1920s and maintained by them until 1949. The property meets National Register **Criterion A** at the **state and local levels** in the area of **Social History** and meets **Criterion Consideration F for commemorative properties** as the only antebellum property in Florida that was preserved and rehabilitated to serve as a Confederate shrine and museum. The period of significance is from 1925 to 1949. The United Daughters of the Confederacy is a national organization who formed in 1896 to honor their Confederate ancestors. In pursuit of that goal, the UDC initiated preservation efforts on a national level. This mission was manifested in Florida in 1925 with the acquisition and rehabilitation of the Gamble Plantation, creating the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial, which became a Confederate shrine in honor of Judah P. Benjamin, a national and international figure. The creation of the memorial was part of the second wave of post-Civil War memorialization, and is an example of the role women have played in historic preservation in the United States. Because of the changes made by the UDC in their commemorative efforts from 1925-1949, it no longer represents the appearance the property had during the antebellum or Civil War eras; therefore, the property is not nominated under Criterion C for architecture or under Criterion B for its association with Judah P. Benjamin during the Civil War.

HISTORIC CONTEXT

Robert Gamble was the eldest son of John Grattan Gamble, an established planter in Tallahassee, Florida, who was a significant figure in banking, planting and development during the early 19th century.⁶ Robert Gamble arrived at the Manatee River as part of the settlement of the region's lands that were made available by the Armed Occupation Act of 1843. The land was drained with an extensive network of drainage canals.⁷ Gamble built the plantation house, supporting buildings, and a sugar mill between 1844 and 1856. He and his neighbors utilized the river to transport their commercial exports.

Gamble utilized slave labor to develop the land for agricultural purposes and sugar mill operations. At the time of the 1860 census, there were 190 slaves living in 57 slave houses on the plantation. The ages of the slaves ranged from a two-month old baby to a 105 year-old woman. Thirty-one slaves were between the ages of twelve and twenty-one. Ninety-four slaves were over twenty-one. Twenty-five were between the ages of five and ten, and thirty-seven were less than four years old.⁸ There is very little information available about the identity of these individuals beyond the census data, however, they are acknowledged as among the first inhabitants in the Manatee River region and are responsible for the success of the development of the plantation and sugar mill.

Gamble transferred title interests to Allen MacFarland in 1857 as the creditor to the John G. Gamble Estate. MacFarland sold the property to John Calvin Cofield and Robert McGuinn Davis, but retained a mortgage on the

⁶ Matthews, J.S. *Edge of Wilderness: A Settlement History of Manatee River and Sarasota Bay*. (Sarasota: Coastal Press, 1983), 152.

⁷ Ibid, 153.

⁸ Ibid. 169.

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plantation. Cofield and Davis ceased mortgage payments with the beginning of the Civil War, but MacFarland was unable to reclaim the property at that time.⁹

A Manatee county newlywed couple, William and Jane Griffin, took residence at the Gamble plantation during the Civil War when William had a contract to harvest sugar cane on the Cofield-Davis estate. When Griffin left for the war in 1862, a shipping business associate named Archibald McNeill and his family arrived at the estate.¹⁰ McNeill served the Confederacy as a blockade-runner and later as a commissary agent. As commissary officer, his superior was James McKay, Sr., another blockade-runner who served as Tampa's mayor prior to the Civil War.¹¹ McKay knew the area from pre-war shipping and maritime ventures as well as cattle business with once-local Leroy Lesley.¹² As the first Methodist minister in the area, Lesley knew the Widow Ellen Clark, who was Mrs. Ellen McNeill by the time the McKay and Lesley families assisted Judah P. Benjamin in getting to the Gamble plantation (see discussion below).¹³

Various occupants resided at Gamble Plantation after the Civil War, while the property was still under Davis and Cofield ownership, and with MacFarland still in possession of the mortgage. George Patten expressed interest in purchasing the property for \$6000 in 1868. Foreclosure by MacFarland against Cofield and Davis was finally completed in 1873, but MacFarland passed away in the same year. Patten bought the property for taxes of \$3000 in 1873 and owned it until his death in 1891. The property devolved to the Patten children upon Mrs. Patten's death in 1893. A mortgage was held by Peter S. Braid, Julia A. Braid, and John Oliver against Julia Patten, Anna McDougal via Daniels, William C. Patten, and Edward B. Patten. Further records indicate that other families (Hayes, Best, McCree) were residing in the home. In 1914, Ellenton Mayor J. R. Wood purchased the remainder of the plantation from the bank for \$1600. He allowed an orphan family (Foy) to reside there. In 1920, Wood sold the property to the Armour Fertilizer Company for \$2000, but retained the mortgage.¹⁴

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN

Former Confederate Secretary of State Judah P. Benjamin's journey to the Robert Gamble House, and eventually Liverpool, England, began on April 2, 1865, with the fall of the Confederate capital, Richmond, Virginia, and the evacuation of the Confederate government. Benjamin declared to a confidant, "I'll never be

⁹University of Southern Florida Libraries Digital Collection and Manatee County Public Library Historic Photograph Collection, "MacFarlan Foreclosure on Gamble Property," (<http://guides.lib.usf.edu/content.php?pid=86148&sid=640854#doi=M01-01585-A>), accessed January 23, 2011.

¹⁰ McDuffie, Lillie B., *The Lures of the Manatee: A True Story of South Florida's Glamorous Past*, 2nd Ed., (Bradenton: B. McDuffie Fletcher, 1961), 123-4, 133.

¹¹ McKay, D.B., *Pioneer Florida: Personal and Family Records*, Vol. 2, (Tampa: The Southern Publishing Company, 1959), 325, 336.

¹² *Ibid*, 356.

¹³ McDuffie, 158. For Lesley's Methodist roots see McKay, vol. 2, 354. Archibald McNeill and Frederick Tresca also had knowledge of the areas from their pre-war shipping days as they delivered building supplies to the plantation and exported Gamble sugar. See Grismer, Karl H., *Tampa: A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida*, (St. Petersburg: The St. Petersburg Printing Company, Inc., 1950), 98.

¹⁴ Simpson, Deborah, *The Southern Way or What is Southernness*, Unpublished Paper shared with authors, December 5, 2010, 8-15.

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taken alive,” as the government fled south and the armies surrendered.¹⁵ A month after the evacuation, Benjamin left the government as the various secretaries scattered in different directions to escape arrest by the U.S. Army, the certainty of treason charges, and the possibility of death. Benjamin wrote, “I separated from President Davis near Washington, Georgia, early in May, last, having been requested by him to make my way through Florida to this place or Havana, and after attending to some public business, to rejoin him in the Trans-Mississippi District, by the way of Matamoras and Texas.”¹⁶ He also informed his sister of the gravity of the situation writing, “everything satisfied me of the savage cruelty with which the hostile government would treat any Confederate leader who might happen to fall into their hands, and I preferred death in attempting to escape, to such captivity as awaited me, if I became their prisoner.”¹⁷

Benjamin proceeded into Florida on horseback under the false name of a Frenchman, M. M. Bonfals. Armed with letters of introduction from his South Carolina relatives, he “got a kind farmer’s wife to make me some homespun clothes just like her husband’s.”¹⁸ He continued until he reached the farmer’s uncle and presented his letters of introduction to Leroy Lesley of Brooksville, near Tampa, Florida.¹⁹ The McKay and Lesley families—two leading Tampa families—dispute who guided Benjamin to the Gamble Plantation on the Manatee River, but “the families agree on all other points of Benjamin’s escape,” most importantly his presence at the plantation from May to June.²⁰

Benjamin’s escort took him to Gamble Plantation to meet Archibald McNeil, a well known blockade-runner, whom they believed could help Benjamin escape.²¹ McNeill accommodated his guest on the second floor of the house, where Benjamin revised his escape plans to use Florida’s west coast and constantly took a lookout position. Approximately one week into Benjamin’s stay, a Union patrol did arrive. McNeil and Benjamin abandoned the house and hid amongst the trees. McNeill’s dog nearly gave the pair away until the

¹⁵ Evans, Eli N., *Judah P. Benjamin: The Jewish Confederate*, (New York: The Free Press, 1988), 301.

¹⁶ Butler, Pierce, *Judah P. Benjamin*, (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company, 1906), 363-6.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Evans, 311; 363-6.

²⁰ The Lesley family explanation argues that Benjamin received letters of introduction from a Lesley at the home of Armistead Burt of Abbeville, SC, where a Confederate Cabinet meeting was held in April 1865. Consequently, Benjamin sought out Lesley kin in rural Florida (the farmer and wife) and in Brooksville (Leroy Lesley). From there, Leroy and his son John escorted Benjamin to Gamble Plantation. The McKay family explanation argues that Benjamin gave their ancestor, James McKay, a sword for assisting with his escape. Different iterations of the McKay explanation have the family sending Benjamin to Gamble, taking Benjamin to Gamble and taking Benjamin to Gamble with the assistance of the Lesley family. However, the sword is questionable proof of McKay involvement as it bears no such mark or description and seems to be an unlikely object in the possession of a fugitive who was never a military man. The most complete detailing of the McKay and Lesley claims appears in Rodney H. Kite-Powell II, “The Escape of Judah P. Benjamin,” *Sunland Tribune* (1996). See also: James McKay Jr., “Reminiscences of Captain James McKay, Jr.,” *Sunland Tribune* 17 (1990): 87; D.B McKay, *Pioneer Florida: Personal and Family Records*, Vol. 2, (Tampa: The Southern Publishing Company, 1959), 388-94; Karl H. Grismer, *Tampa: A History of the City of Tampa and the Tampa Bay Region of Florida*, (St. Petersburg: The St. Petersburg Printing Company, Inc., 1950), 149; Theodore Lesley to C. W. Schaffer, March 1, 1957. Shared with the author, courtesy of Historian Spessard Stone.

²¹ Meade, Robert Douthat, *Judah P. Benjamin: Confederate Statesman*, (New York: Oxford University Press, 1943), 320.

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blockade-runner preserved their safety by muzzling the dog.²² Claiming ignorance of the Florida coast, McNeill declined to pilot the secretary to safety, but recommended another sea captain, Frederick Tresca, in his stead. An additional guest at Gamble Plantation, Hiram McLeod, volunteered as well. Benjamin remained at Gamble Plantation for another week before moving to the Tresca household for approximately a week and eventually to Sarasota Bay.²³

Tresca, McLeod, and Benjamin began their voyage on June 23rd in what Benjamin described as “a yawl-boat open to the weather.”²⁴ They avoided Union capture once by hiding behind Gasparilla Pass and, when boarded on a second occasion, Benjamin disguised himself as a cook.²⁵ The three men reached Bimini in the Bahamas on July 10, 1865. Sinking vessels twice stalled Benjamin’s subsequent attempts to travel on to Nassau and Havana.²⁶ The former secretary finally made good on his escape on August 30, 1865, when he arrived in Southampton, England.²⁷ He succeeded in gaining his safety, the plans for which were formulated in large part at the Robert Gamble House. Benjamin began a prestigious second career as barrister at Lincoln’s Inn in London, later obtaining appointment as Queen’s Counsel and winning international fame for his legal publication on commercial real estate, *Benjamin on Sales*.²⁸

WOMEN IN HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In the 1850s, the Mount Vernon Ladies’ Association successfully preserved Mount Vernon, the home of George Washington, inaugurating both national historic preservation organizations and women’s participation in historic preservation.²⁹ Successive generations of women devoted themselves to preserving Confederate culture in the aftermath of the Civil War, forming a second wave of female participation in historic preservation. “As the creators and purveyors of Confederate tradition in the post-Civil War south” Virginia women formed three Ladies Memorial Associations (LMAs) within a year of the Confederate defeat, dedicated

²² Ibid.

²³ Benjamin’s letter to his sister describing his escape confirms that he spent a month in the Manatee area with the McNeills and Trescas without naming names. It took “nearly a month in procuring a small boat and securing the services of two trusty persons to accompany me in the perilous effort to cross the Gulf of Mexico in a little open boat.” See Butler, 363-6. On Benjamin’s presence at the Trescas, see Janet Snyder Matthews, *Edge of Wilderness: A Settlement History of Manatee River and Sarasota Bay*, (Tulsa: Caprine Press, 1983), 264.

²⁴ Butler, 363-6.

²⁵ Hiram A. McLeod, *Escape of Judah P. Benjamin*, (Jacksonville, Florida: Works Progress Administration, 1937), 1; Evans, 318; Meade, 322.

²⁶ Butler, 363-6.

²⁷ Kite-Powell II, 67.

²⁸ Congressional Biography, “Judah P. Benjamin,” <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=B000365> (accessed April 20, 2010).

²⁹ Lindgren, James, *Preserving the Old Dominion: Historic Preservation and Virginia Traditionalism*, (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 1993), 5.

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to cultivating ‘Confederate cities of the dead.’”³⁰ Expanding to more than seventy independent organizations throughout the South, LMAs carefully moved Confederate remains from battlefields to cemeteries, cared for cemeteries, and began establishing Confederate monuments. Virginians also formed the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA) in 1889, claiming “that Virginia’s ancient buildings, historic sites, and generations-old antiquities had much meaning for the modern age ... as symbols of venerated ancestors, [and] time-honored customs.”³¹ Although governed by a male advisory board that carried out most strategic functions, the women incorporated, operated and directed the day-to-day business of the APVA “to empower their gender” and “build women’s values in what was all too often a male society.”³² The following year, in 1890, “Virginians were the first to preserve a famous Confederate shrine, the White House of the Confederacy,” which assisted in the creation of the United Daughters of the Confederacy (UDC).³³

The United Daughters of the Confederacy established the first national preservation organization during this second wave of women’s participation in historic preservation. “Women were the longtime leaders in the movement to memorialize the Confederacy,” and when formed on September 10, 1894, the UDC brought “thousands of southern women together in a quest to honor their Confederate ancestors ...”³⁴ Expanding to 138 chapters in three years, 30,000 members within ten years, and more than 100,000 members by 1919, the UDC nationalized the effort to memorialize the Confederate soldiers. They erected monuments, acquired historic buildings, and purchased and preserved battlefields. In the 1910s, state and regional UDCs established homes for Confederate women, corresponding to homes for Confederate veterans.³⁵ The Mississippi UDC assisted in the construction of an annex at Beauvoir, the postwar home of former Confederate President Jefferson Davis, which combined cultural preservation and the care of elders with the preservation of buildings, objects and landscapes.³⁶

³⁰ Janney, Caroline E., *Burying the Dead but Not the Past: Ladies’ Memorial Associations and the Lost Cause*, (Chapel Hill: The University of North Carolina Press, 2008), 2, 3, 7, 8.

³¹ Lindgren, 7.

³² Ibid, 11, 58.

³³ Ibid, 4.

³⁴ Cox, Karen L., *Dixie’s Daughters: The United Daughters of the Confederacy and the Preservation of Confederate Culture*, (Gainesville: University Press of Florida, 2003), 1, 2.

³⁵ Ibid, 79.

³⁶ Ibid.

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UDC JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL

Records from the Florida Division's annual UDC convention in 1919 suggest that the UDC considered purchasing the Robert Gamble House at that time.³⁷ In her statement to the convention, Mrs. Reaves, the Chairman of the delegation, stated, "one of the objects for which the U. D. C.'s are organized is for the preservation of Confederate historic spots, and I think the Gambol [*sic*] mansion on the Manatee river, in which Judah P. Benjamin sought refuge until he could make his escape to England, can be bought for about \$3,000."³⁸

In 1925, the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter purchased the mansion in an effort to restore it to its "war time condition,"³⁹ In 1926, the Chapter reported purchasing two additional adjacent lots,⁴⁰ and the next year received an appropriation of \$10,000 from the Florida State Legislature that required the UDC to deed the property to the State.⁴¹ The legislature also created the Gamble Mansion Commission to oversee the expenditure of state funds and required that the title to the property be transferred to the state. The Chapter gave credit to their President, Issie Dopson Stevens, "for her untiring efforts in working to get this appropriation made, she having written over fifty letters to different members of the legislature in interest of this appropriation."⁴² The state-appointed commission oversaw the expenditure of \$24,000 on restoration of the mansion from 1925-1930, but the UDC was the primary manager of the property and the renovation and repair work.⁴³ Before the house officially opened to the public, the UDC and the Town of Ellenton hosted a reception for the United Confederate Veterans at the property on April 7, 1927..⁴⁴ This event was held concurrently with the United Confederate Veterans' General Reunion in Tampa, Florida.⁴⁵ In 1928, the Judah P. Benjamin Chapter of the UDC reported that the restoration work was completed, and the chapter started discussing plans to furnish the mansion and beautify the grounds.⁴⁶ The Chapter received some donations of "historical relics"⁴⁷

³⁷ United Daughters of the Confederacy, *Minutes of the Twenty-fourth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Jacksonville, Florida 7 - 9 May 1919, 81.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ United Daughters of the Confederacy, *Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in St. Petersburg, Florida 15 - 17 October 1930, 92.

⁴⁰ Ibid, *Minutes of the Thirty-first Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in West Palm Beach, Florida 5 - 7 May 1926, 132.

⁴¹ Ibid, *Minutes of the Thirty-second Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Ft. Myers, Florida 19 - 21 October 1927 (Tallahassee, Fl.: T. J. Appleyard, Inc.), 107.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ Ibid, *Minutes of the Thirty-second Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Ft. Myers, Florida 19 - 21 October 1927 (Tallahassee, Fl.: T. J. Appleyard, Inc.), 107.

⁴⁵ United Confederate Veterans, *Minutes of the Thirty-seventh Annual Meeting and Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans*, Convention Held in Tampa, Florida, 1927 (New Orleans).

⁴⁶ Ibid., 122.

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ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
SIGNIFICANCE**

prior to the completion of the restoration, and, throughout the 1930s continued to solicit donations from the other Florida chapters for the museum. The UDC divided the inside of the house into space for the museum and space for the care-taker.⁴⁸ By 1931, the women of the UDC spoke of the property not only as a memorial to Benjamin, but also as a monument to all those who fought for the Confederacy. In a resolution asking that the name of the property be changed to the Judah P. Benjamin Memorial, the UDC stated, "The Gamble Mansion' has been bought by the Daughters of the Confederacy; that it might be preserved as a Memorial to Judah P. Benjamin."⁴⁹

As the state's only museum to the Confederacy, it was a tourist destination. In her annual report, Mary Noel Moody, President of the Florida Division of the UDC, said of the Judah P. Benjamin Museum, "This historic building is the only Confederate Museum in Florida. It is nationally recognized and deserves our energetic support."⁵⁰ A little more than two years after it opened as a museum, during the Depression, Lillian B. Sponenbarger reported that 2916 visitors had registered, but the number of actual visitors was higher because some people did not register.⁵¹ Besides serving as a museum, the property also served as a location for a variety of events, remembrances and celebrations. The UDC continued to manage and interpret the property until 1949, when the Florida Park System assumed management through legislative action. Aside from the alterations already described, the Florida Park System has maintained the property as the United Daughters of the Confederacy left it in 1949.

While the general form of the mansion is as Robert Gamble constructed it. Based on the level of alteration after 1925, the mansion as it exists today is primarily representative of the efforts of the UDC to create the memorial to Judah P. Benjamin. Herschel Shepard, one of Florida's foremost historic preservation architects said the following about the UDC efforts: "the circumstances surrounding the preservation of this building following the 1926 hurricane are themselves of historical interest, although the details are beyond the scope of this report. The building as then restored and presently existing is a record of that important early effort, and this should be considered an important phase in the history of the structure." This is the justification for the determination that the period of significance is 1925-1949.

⁴⁷ Ibid.

⁴⁸ United Daughters of the Confederacy, *Minutes of the Thirty-fifth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in St. Petersburg, Florida 15 – 17 October 1930, 93.

⁴⁹ Ibid, *Minutes of the Thirty-sixth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Bradenton, Florida 20 – 23 October 1931, 85.

⁵⁰ Ibid, *Minutes of the Forty-fourth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Jacksonville, Florida 17 – 20 October 1939, 20.

⁵¹ Ibid, *Minutes of the Thirty-eighth Annual Convention Florida Division United Daughters of the Confederacy*, Convention Held in Gainesville, Florida 17 – 19 October 1933, 47.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 1

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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United States Department of the Interior
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**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 3

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9 Page 4

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

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**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 10 Page 1

**BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary encompasses three parcels recorded by the Manatee County Property Appraiser as:

Parcel No. 915500003, Lots 9, 10, also that part of Patten, encompassing 0.2858 acres

Parcel No. 917600008, Mansion Lot Patten Homestead, encompassing 2.4042 acres

Parcel No. 958100000, Lot S Plat of Ellenton less H/W R/W, encompassing 0.8264 acres for a total of approximately 3.5 acres. The boundary is depicted on the accompanying site plan.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary encompasses land within the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Florida Park Service-managed Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park. The land has been historically associated with the period during which the property was managed by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, 1925-1949.

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number	Photos & Figures	Page	2	BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
				ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHOTO LIST

- 10 6) Dining room, camera facing south
 7) Photo 10 of 23

- 11 6) First floor of mansion, kitchen, camera facing northwest
 7) Photo 11 of 23

- 12 6) Second floor of mansion, colonnade, camera facing south
 7) Photo 12 of 23

- 13 6) Flag room in mansion, camera facing northeast
 7) Photo 13 of 23

- 14 6) Second floor of mansion, bedroom, camera facing southeast
 7) Photo 14 of 23

- 15 6) Judah P. Benjamin bedroom in mansion, camera facing south
 7) Photo 15 of 23

- 16 6) War memorial boulders, camera facing south
 7) Photo 16 of 23

- 17 6) Cistern, south and east elevations, camera facing north
 7) Photo 17 of 23

- 18 6) Cistern, north and west elevations, camera facing south
 7) Photo 18 of 23

- 19 6) Cistern, east and north elevations, camera facing southwest
 7) Photo 19 of 23

- 20 6) Cistern, south elevation, camera facing west
 7) Photo 20 of 23

- 21 3) Unknown
 4) June 9, 2004
 6) Patten House (NC), west elevation, camera facing east
 7) Photo 21 of 23

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

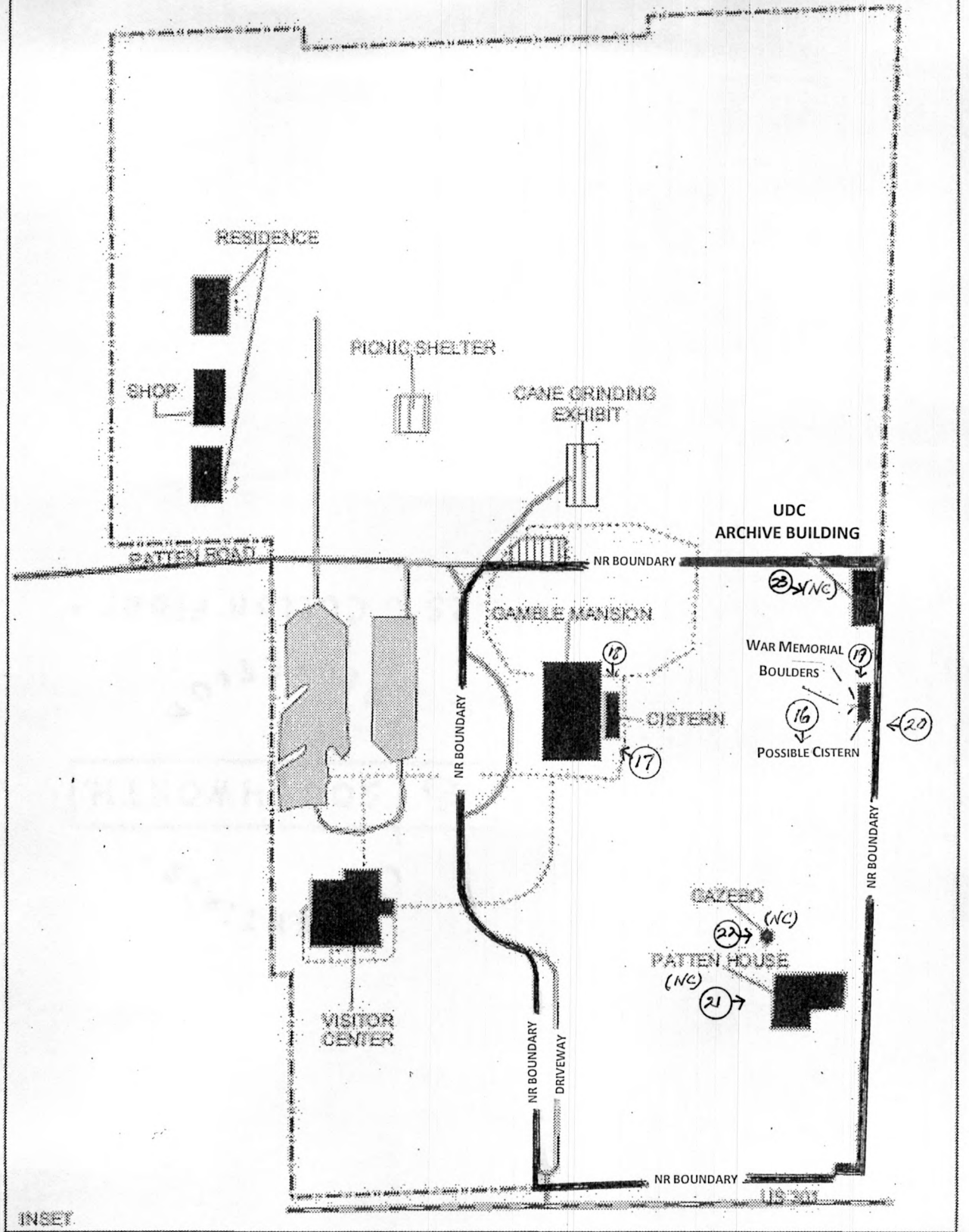
Section number	Photos & Figures	Page	3	BENJAMIN, JUDAH P., MEMORIAL
				ELLENTON, MANATEE COUNTY, FLORIDA
				PHOTO LIST

- 22 3) Unknown
 4) June 9, 2004
 6) Gazebo (NC), west elevation, camera facing east
 7) Photo 22 of 23
- 23 3) Ellen Andrews, Florida Park Service
 4) April 30, 2010
 6) UDC Archives Building
 7) Photo 23 of 23

FIGURES

Figures 1-3 are Historic American Building Survey (HABS) drawings of the Gamble Mansion. Index Number FLA 41-ELTO, 1, Survey Number FLA-112, measured by Donald Corley, drawn by H.C. Dozier, June and July 1935. Original drawings located at Library of Congress, 101 Independence Avenue, Washington, DC 20540.

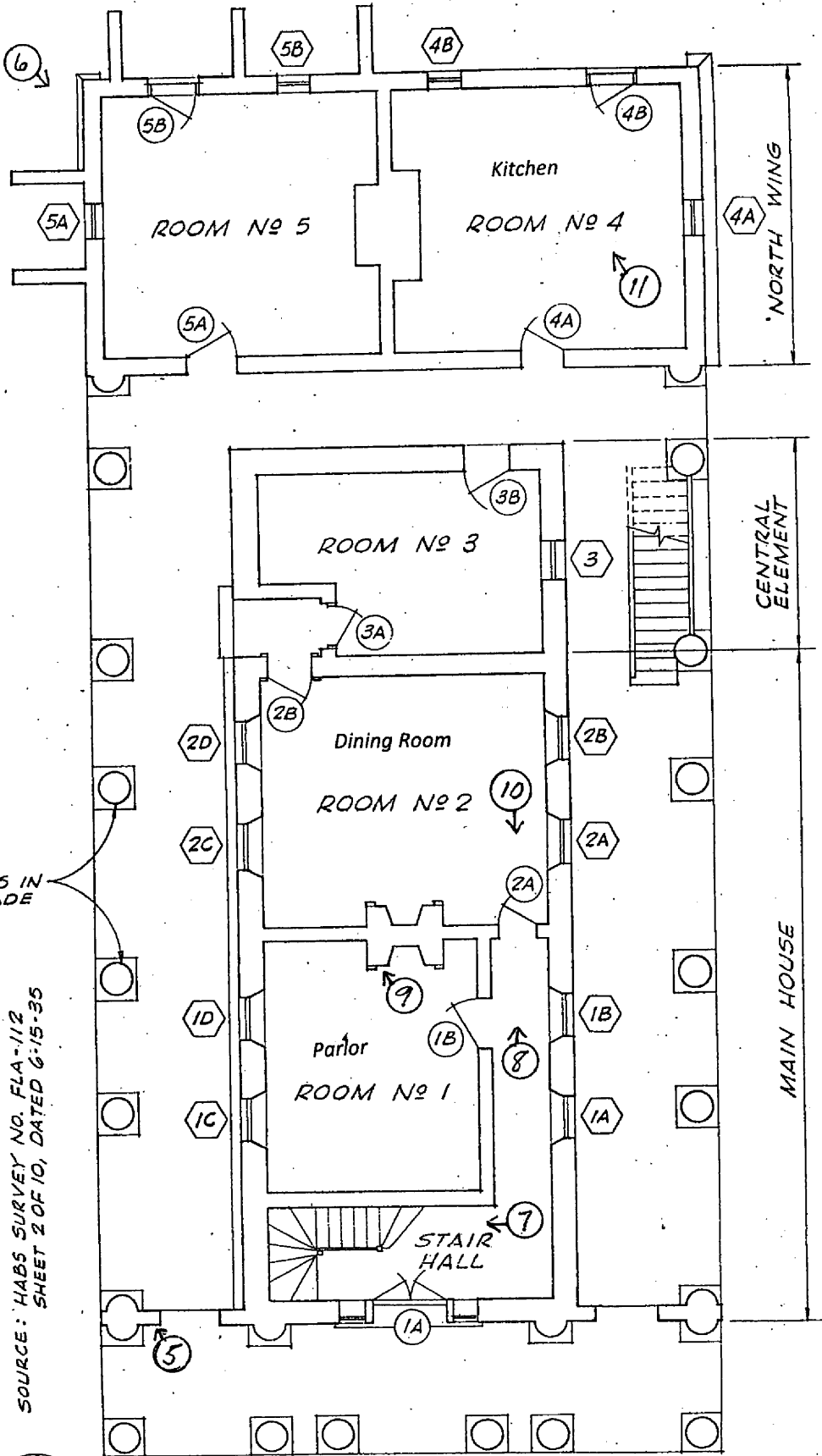
1. Front (south) elevation (Sheet No. 5)
2. Stairs: Plan of Front Veranda & Stairway – First Floor
3. Plans: First and Second Floors
4. Gamble Mansion, photo of east and south elevations, before restoration 1927



JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL
 3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton, Manatee County, Florida

Ⓡ → Photo

Located within the Judah P. Benjamin Confederate Memorial at Gamble Plantation Historic State Park,
 Florida Park Service, Department of Environmental Protection



TYPICAL COLUMNS IN COLLONADE

Herschel Shepard
1974 report

SOURCE: HABS SURVEY NO. FLA-112
SHEET 2 OF 10, DATED 6-15-35



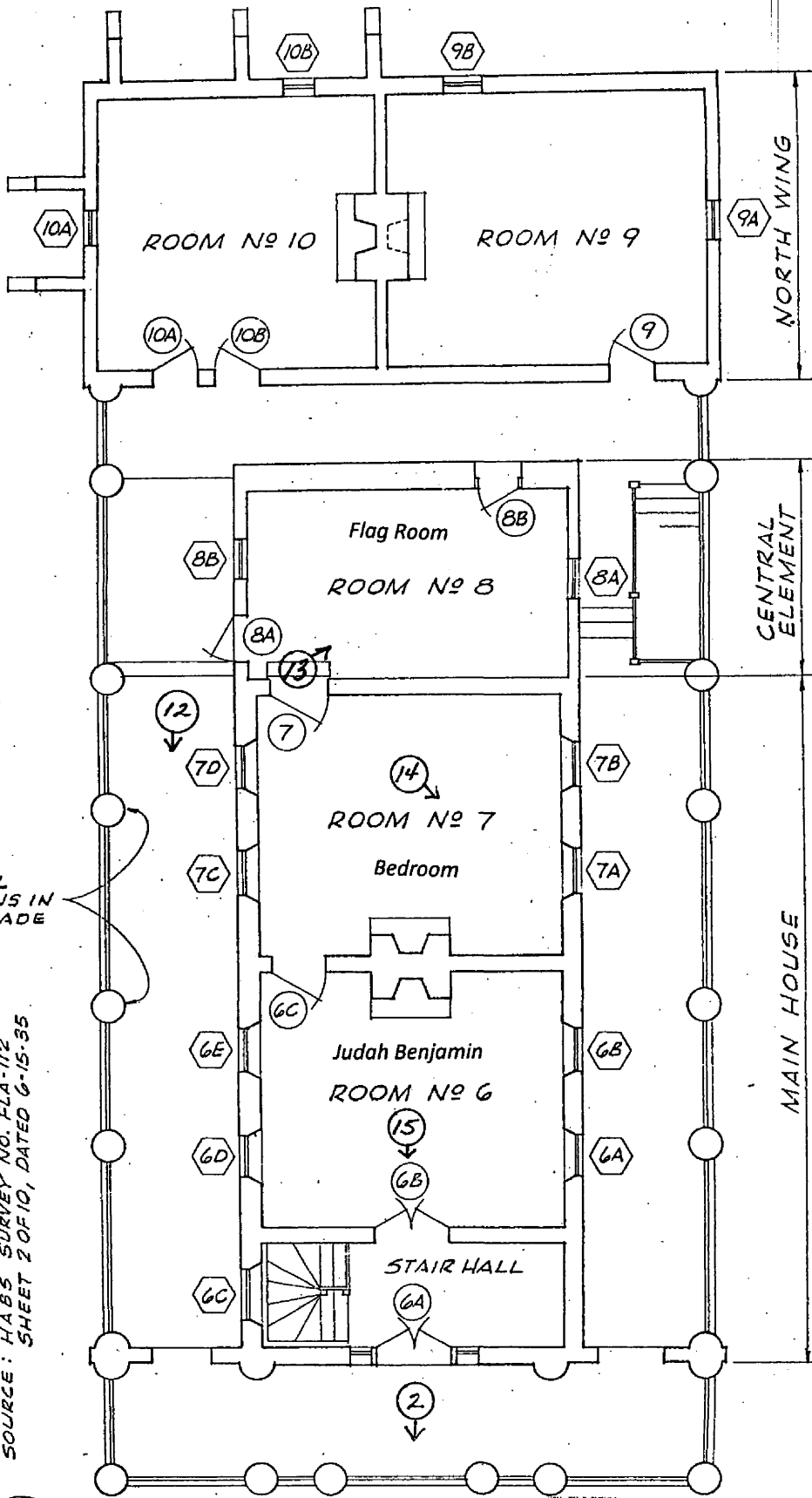
FIRST FLOOR

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

○ = DOOR NO.

⬡ = WINDOW NO





TYPICAL COLUMNS IN COLONADE

Hesseler Shupart
1974 Report

SOURCE: HABS SURVEY NO. FLA-112
SHEET 2 OF 10, DATED 6-15-35



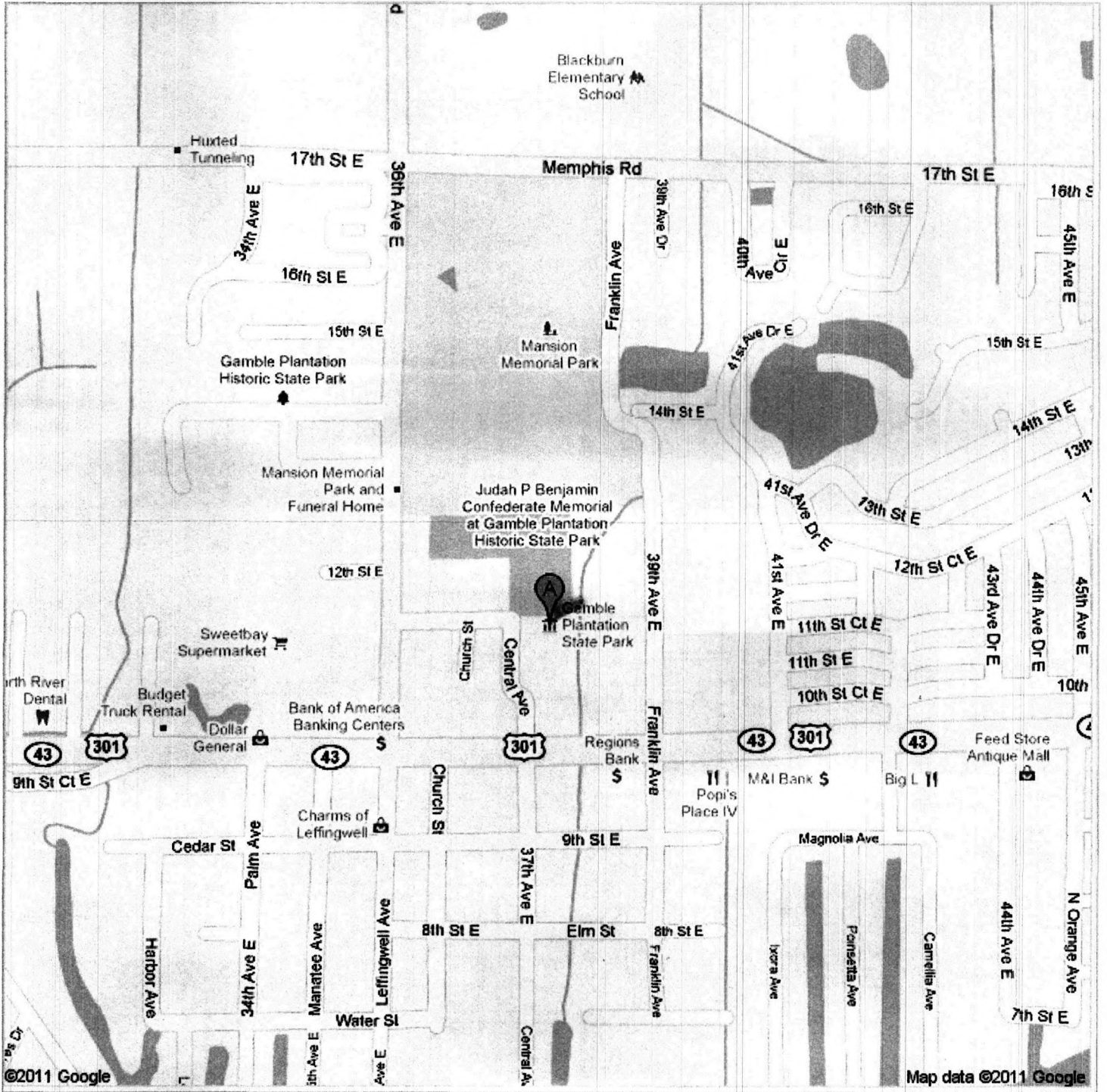
SECOND FLOOR

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

○ = DOOR NO.

⬡ = WINDOW NO.

Ⓝ = Photos



A. State of Florida: **Gamble Plantation**
 Historic State Park
 3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton, FL -
 (941) 723-4536
 13 reviews

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL, Manatee Co., FL

Google maps

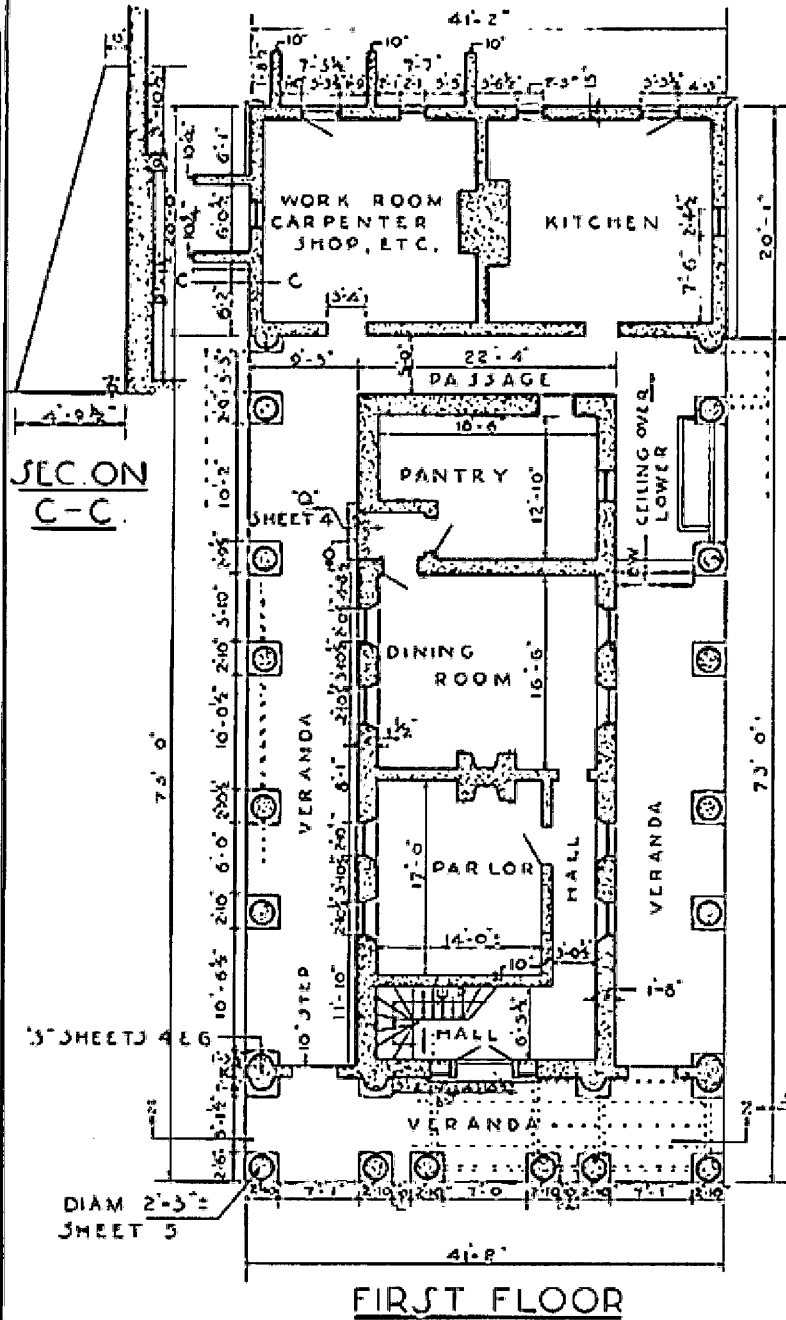
To see all the details that are visible on the screen, use the "Print" link next to the map.



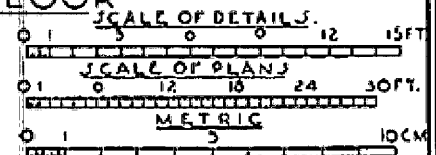
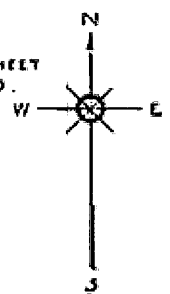
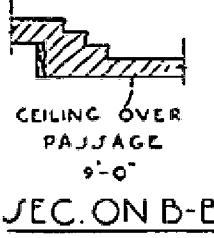
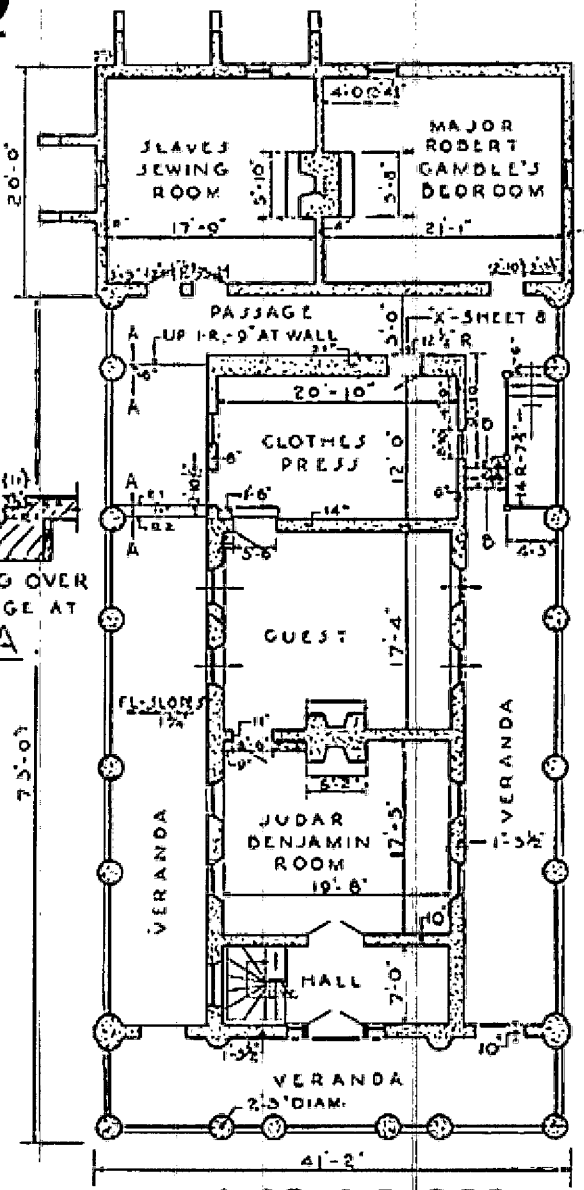
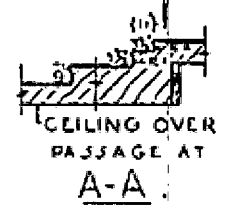
25% COTTON FIBER -
COLLECTION
NORTH

JUDAH P. BENJAMIN MEMORIAL, Manatee Co., FL

PLANS



NOTE
 WALLS BUILT OF COQUINA BRICK, 4" x 9", SHELL-LIME MORTAR. SEE SHEET #7.
 COLUMNS BUILT OF PIE-SHAPED COQUINA BRICK. SEE SHEET #7.



MEASURED BY DONALD CORLEY.
 DRAWN BY H.C. DOZIER.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
 BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

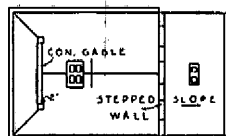
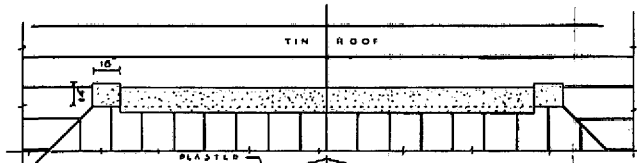
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GAMBLE MANSION
 FLORIDA - MANATEE COUNTY - MANATEE

SHEET NO.
FLA-112
 6-15-33

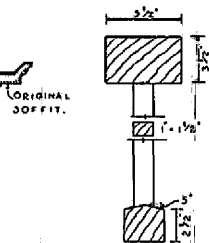
HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY
 SHEET 2 OF 10 SHEETS

INDEX NO.
 1.A
 41-ELTO.
 1-

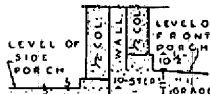
Judah P. Benjamin Memorial
Ellenton, Manatee Co., FL
Figure 1.



ROOF PLAN
NO SCALE



DETAIL-RAIL
& BALUSTER
3"-1'-0"

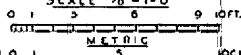


HALF COLS. & FLOOR
LEVELS AT 3-SHEET
NO. 2 - SCALE 3/8" = 1'-0"

HALF OF FRONT ELEVATION - HALF ELEV. & SEC. ON Z-Z

SHEET NO. 5

SCALE 3" = 1'-0"



MEASURED BY DONALD CORLEY
DRAWN BY H.C. DOZIER.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL PARKS, BUILDINGS AND RESERVATIONS
BRANCH OF PLANS AND DESIGN

NAME OF BUILDING
GAMBLE MANSION
FLORIDA - MANATEE COUNTY - MANATEE

SURVEY NO.
FLA-112
3-9-36

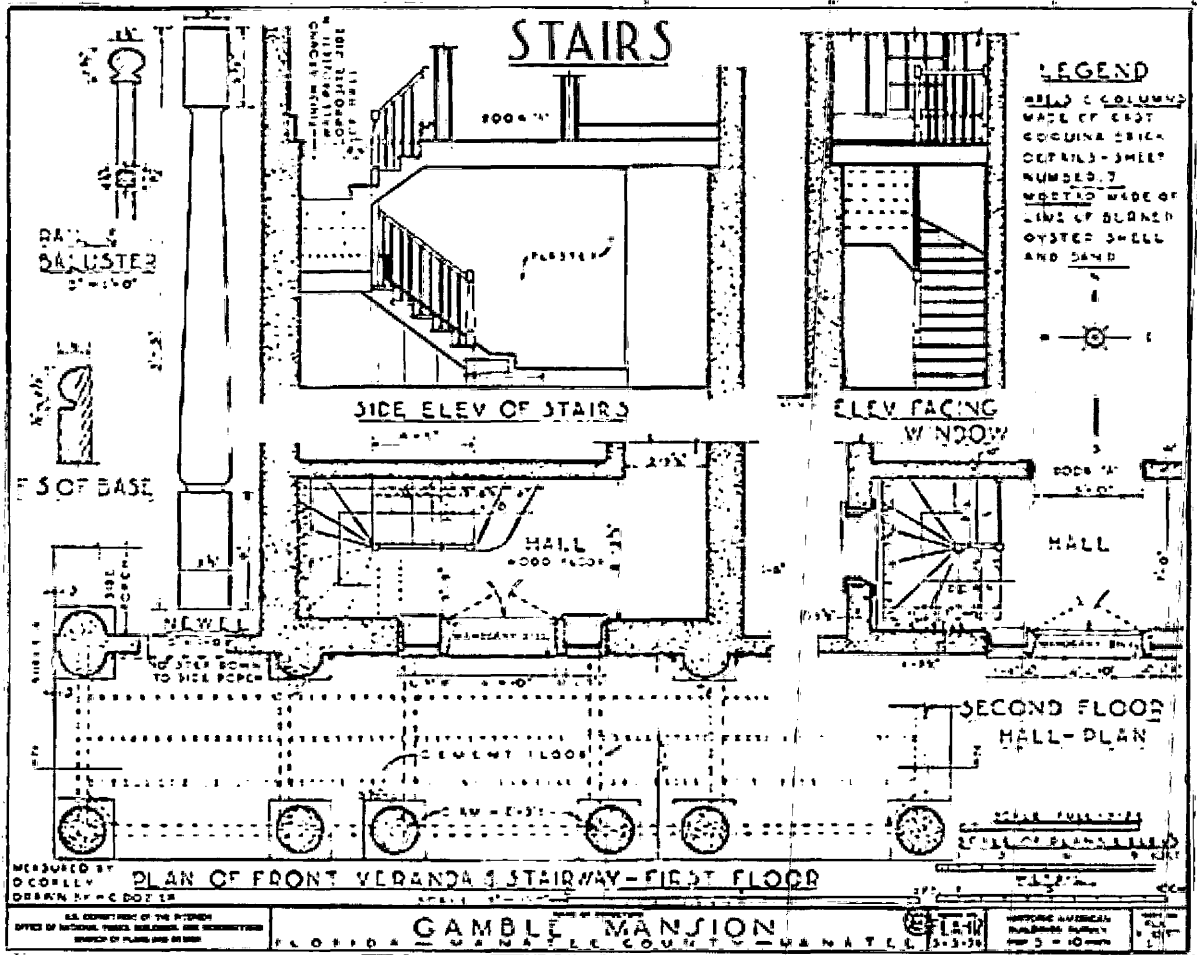
HISTORIC AMERICAN
BUILDINGS SURVEY
SHEET 6 OF 10 SHEETS

SCALE NO.
41-1810
37

#

Judah P. Benjamin Memorial
Ellortia, Manatee Co., FL

Figure 2



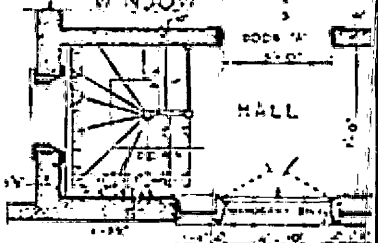
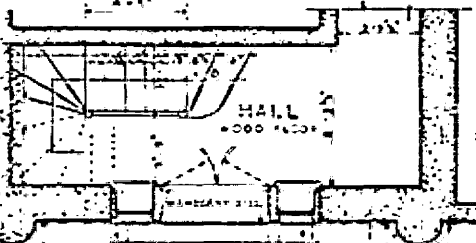
STAIRS

LEGEND

- BRICK COLUMN
- MADE OF BRICK
- CONCRETE BRICK
- DETAILS - SHEET
- NUMBERED
- WREATH MADE OF
- LIME OF BLANCH
- OYSTER SHELL
- AND SAND

SIDE ELEV OF STAIRS

ELEV FACING WINDOW



SECOND FLOOR HALL - PLAN

PLAN OF FRONT VERANDA & STAIRWAY - FIRST FLOOR

MEASURED BY
O. CORALLY
DRAWN BY - C. DOT 12

ALL DIMENSIONS OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF NATIONAL, FEDERAL, BUILDINGS, AND MECHANICAL
DIVISION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

GAMBLE MANSION
FLORIDA - MANATEE COUNTY - MANATEE

REGISTERED ARCHITECT
No. 10,000
No. 10,000

Judah P. Benjamin Memorial
Ellenton, Manatee Co., FL

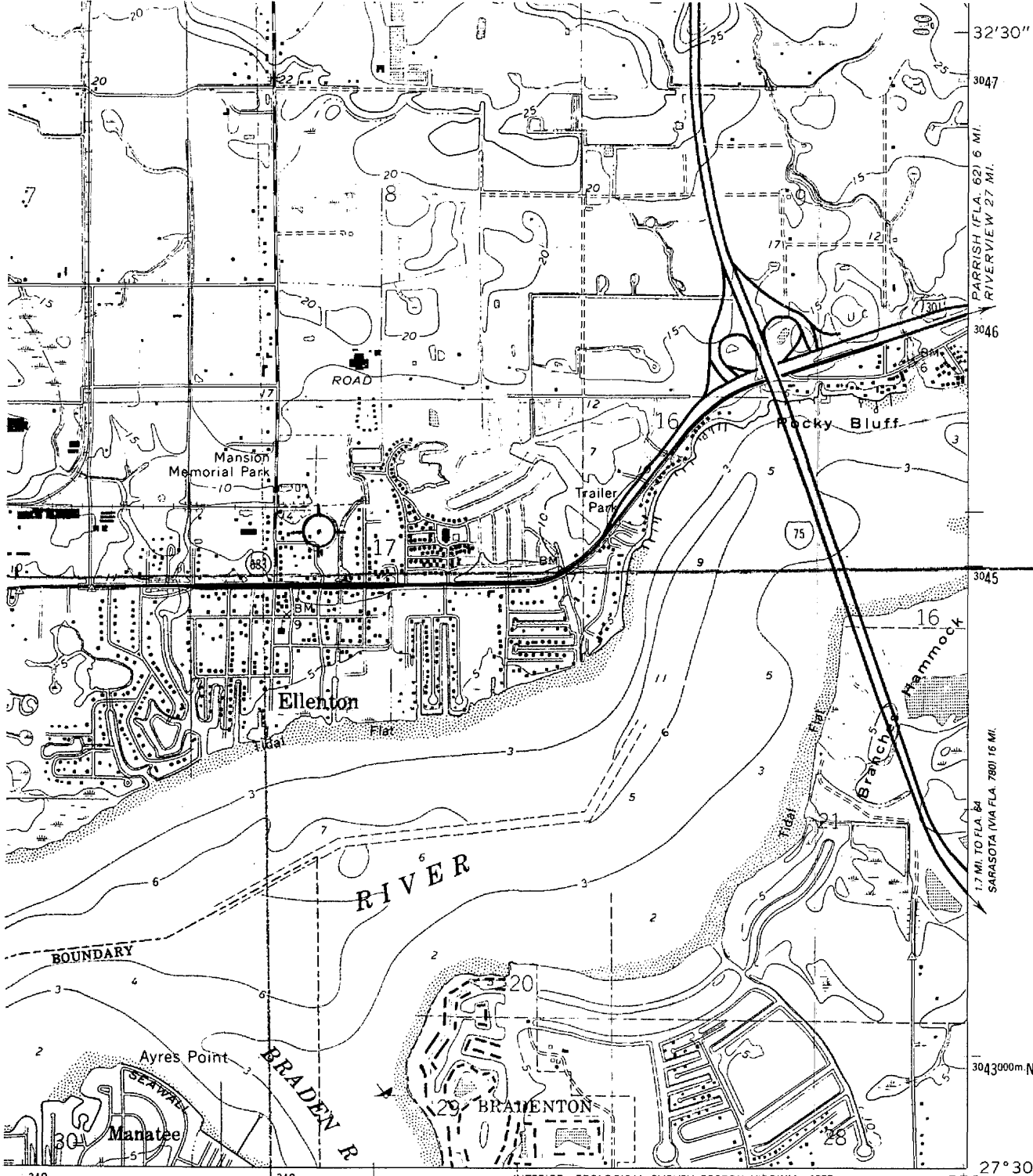
Figure 5



before restoration 1927

Judah P. Benjamin Memorial
Ellenton, Manatee Co., FL

Figure 4f



Sudan T. Benjamin Memorial
 Ellenton, Manatee Co, FL
 Zone 17 Easting 349230 Northing 3045170

INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1987
 351000m E.

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Primary highway, hard surface
- Secondary highway, hard surface
- Light-duty road, hard or improved surface
- Unimproved road
- Interstate Route
- U. S. Route
- State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Boundaries shown in purple and woodland compiled in cooperation with State of Florida agencies from aerial photographs dated 1984 and other sources. This information not field checked. Map edited 1987. Purple tint indicates extension of urban areas.

PALMETTO, FLA.
 27082-E5-TF-024

1964
 PHOTOREVISED 1987
 DMA 4439 II SE—SERIES V647

