

PINE LOG

and

GREEK REVIVAL

Houses and People of Three Counties

in

Georgia and Alabama

by

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Lumber produced on the Blue Springs Farms went into the construction of this and many other buildings. The octagonal design of the granary minimized waste space. Its upper floor, supported by enormous square, rough sawn timbers, reminiscent of pioneer construction with hand hewn timbers, contains eight pie-shaped bins for storage and curing of newly gathered grains.

The possibly unique design and idea for the building were among many accumulated by Mr. Callaway in research and visits to agricultural colleges all over the United States in an effort to improve the farming industry, not only in the immediate area, but of Georgia and the South, during the years of the "Great Depression," when so many people were leaving the farms.

He also built some octagonal sheds with eight horse stalls and feed troughs for each stall, with provision for the grain and hay to be fed from above, a labor and time saver.

Ivey & Crook (Ernest D. Ivey and Lewis E. Crook), noted Southern architects of Atlanta, Ga., designed this building to Mr. Callaway's specifications. They were also architects for many other buildings constructed by Mr. Callaway during his years of phenomenal development and restoration projects in Harris County, including the world famous Callaway Gardens at Pine Mountain.

Although fully a century separates this granary from the old Billy Nelson House, nearby, the architecture does not appear incompatible. Another Callaway Granary may be seen on the farm of Cason J. Callaway, Jr., the Callaway Hereford Farm, on Ga. 116, near Hamilton.



WILLIAM WALKER-COOK-HOOD HOUSE

George Walker came to America from Ireland in 1750. He settled in Burke County, Ga., where he married Mary Duhart in 1756, and they had twelve children. The sixth child, William Walker, was born September 5, 1765, in Burke County, Ga., and died January 25, 1831, in Harris County. He lived in Putnam County, Ga., for a while, but settled in Harris County about 1811-13, at Mulberry Grove, making him one of the county's earliest pioneers who was a large land owner.

William Walker, because of his affluence, was commonly and without malice called "Rich Billy" Walker, it being said of him that everything he worked with soon produced gold in one way or another. He is said to have been worth a million dollars in slaves, land, equipment and money when he died. The estate was divided among ten heirs, including his widow, each heir receiving slaves, over 400 acres of land, gold and other goods.

On November 20, 1791, at the home of her parents, Thacker and Mary Brock Vivion, in Jefferson County, Ga., Mary Vivion was married to William Walker. The Vivions were formerly from Spotsylvania and Orange

Counties, Va. Mary Vivion was born in Virginia on January 7, 1771, and died November 7, 1857, in Harris County. The William Walkers had eight children to reach maturity.

William Walker built his plantation house between 1816 and 1818, at Mulberry Grove. Most of the work was done by highly trained slave artisans and carpenters, using materials from the place. Featuring a Palladian doorway, the house has lines of some Virginia houses of the late eighteenth century. The present porch is not the original. Present round, tapered Tuscan columns are old but without capitals, and are probably not original. Dentil work and a cornice ornament the upper front of the house, and the heart pine siding has a molded edge.

The interior has superb woodwork, the horizontal sheathing of wide, hand smoothed pine boards being tightly fitted, with molded chair rail and wainscoting which is panelled. Mantels show English antecedents in their design, with Adam and Greek Revival motifs. A stairway with delicately turned balusters rises from the rear of the front hall, under which, as is usually found in houses of this type, is a small storage closet.

Bricks for the chimneys of this two story, attic and basement house were made on the place. Into the face of the chimney a series of diamonds was worked with glazed brick in contrasting color, an outstanding pattern design by the brick mason. This was done, in deference to old colonial beliefs, to discourage any witches from coming down into the house. The "Cross and Open Bible" doors used throughout further protected the house from evil.

William Walker built homes for his sons around him on his vast estate in Harris County, two of which are still standing, that of his son Virgil Homer Walker, about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the William Walker house, and the home for his son Thacker Vivion Walker, about two miles from the father's place.

The perfectly fitting doors in the William Walker house, and the Virgil Homer Walker house, have distinctive hardware, of English import, the hinges being designed to lift gradually as the doors are opened. This prevented sagging, and allowed the door to raise above a mat or rug which might be at the threshold. Both houses have basement entrances outside on the right front side, the doors having hand forged strap hinges.

There were once numerous dependencies around the William Walker-Cook-Hood House, the center of a large and self sufficient plantation, such as many slave cabins, cotton gin, loom house, smokehouse, and shops of various kinds. The place has been neglected, and house and gardens are somewhat hidden by growth of trees and bushes.

The 300 acre place is now owned by Mrs. Jessie Terrell Doughtie (Mrs. Frank), of Columbus, Ga., great granddaughter of Dr. Erastus C. Hood, who bought the plantation from Elijah Cook, son-in-law of William Walker, in 1859.

William and Mary Vivion Walker, and others of the family are buried in the Walker Family Cemetery near the house, and near where once there was a formal boxwood garden.

Plan of this plantation house follows the old design of two large rooms up and two-down, with wide middle halls. The lower hall continues between the shed rooms at the rear, ending in panelled double doors surmounted by a transom light.

An old kitchen, and what was possibly an "every day" dining room are in a wing across a dog-trot at the right side of the house. This addition is very old, but appears to be not as old as what was probably the original kitchen building, two rooms with a middle chimney, standing in the back yard. The main dining room, of course, is in the house proper.



WILLIAM WALKER-COOK-HOOD HOUSE

William "Rich Billy" Walker's daughter, Mary Vivion "Polly" Walker, was born October 3, 1795, and died here October 21, 1850. She was married to Elijah Cook, overseer of the vast plantation, and he became owner after the death of his wife.

In 1859, Dr. Erastus C. Hood bought the plantation of about 5,000 acres from Elijah Cook, and it has been in his family ever since. There are about 300 acres with the house now. Dr. Hood was born December 15, 1816, in Wilkes County, Ga. He married Mary L. Cochran, born February 11, 1826, who died in April, 1906. Dr. Hood, a prominent physician of the county, died July 15, 1902.

The old house was the childhood home of Mrs. Mamie Hood Terrell (Mrs. J. R.), now 88, who lives at Greenville, Ga. Her reminiscences of plantation life, familiarity with old time Harris County doings and families is remarkable. The Hoods, pioneers in Harris County, originally settled in the Beech Springs community. This view of the front shows ancient cedars of a row once leading up the wide walk to the house.

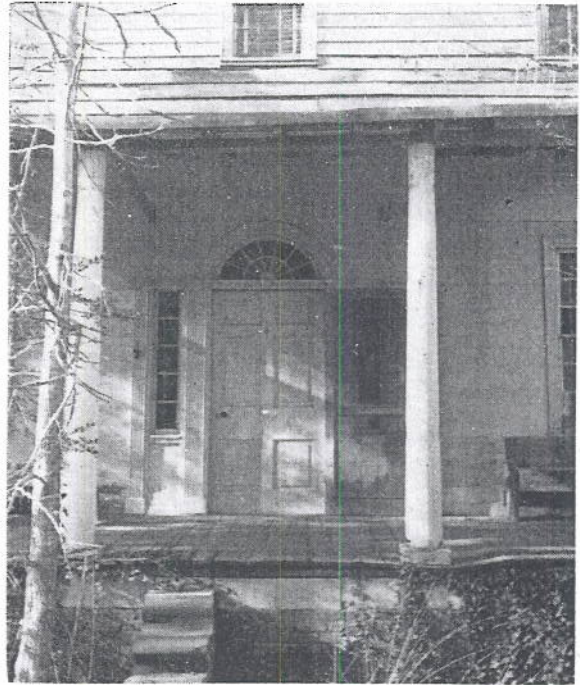
After selling the Walker plantation to Dr. Hood, Elijah Cook went to North Carolina. It is said that he lost most of the Walker fortune there, by investment in Confederate money and bonds.

The house of William Walker, Jr., was built on the road below that of his brother, Thacker Vivion Walker, and burned many years ago. Mrs. William Walker, Jr., was tragically drowned in Mulberry Creek when her carriage horses suddenly became frightened on the bridge across the creek and backed the vehicle off into the water. The old bridge was then located somewhat below the present Walker Bridge, itself an old style steel truss bridge.

Across the road from William Walker's house, a house was built for his son David Walker, beyond the small stream near the father's home. It, too, burned years ago.

WILLIAM WALKER-COOK-HOOD HOUSE

The Palladian doorway of the plantation house built by William Walker about 1816-18 is a fine example. The detailing around the door is expertly and crisply done, revealing high craftsmanship. Beveling of the "Cross and Open Bible," six panel door is outstanding. The fanlight above the door is a crowning touch to an imposing entrance.



WILLIAM WALKER-COOK-HOOD HOUSE

The old kitchen and what may have been an "every day" dining room are in the two room building attached to the side of the house by a porch and dog-trot. An older, and probably original kitchen is in a building to the rear of the main portion of the house, possibly 50 feet from the double doors of the back entrance.



VIRGIL HOMER WALKER HOUSE

William "Rich Billy" Walker of Mulberry Grove, built this house about 1822-25 for his son, Virgil Homer Walker, born in Burke County, Ga., September 14, 1792, and died in Harris County on January 8, 1848. It is about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from the William Walker original plantation house, and is one of several houses built for his sons by William Walker in the vicinity.

The house has a distinctive roof line, with low overhang sheltering the cantilevered balcony. Of two-up and two-down plan, with central halls and shed, there is also an attic room reached from the second floor by a stairway.

An interesting feature of the notably superior woodwork of the interior, wainscoting and Adam style mantels, are the panelled wall cabinets in the front room on the right, in the dining room immediately behind, and in the upstairs hall. One cabinet is lined with old newspapers of the early 1800's, dated years before the house was built.

Original cornices, having what is perhaps a stylized "three feathers" center ornament, are still over the windows throughout the house. Original hardware, made by Carpenter & Company, England, is still used. The Palladian doorway is a duplicate of the doorway of William Walker's house.

Virgil Homer Walker married Ann Champion Bell, born in North Carolina on November 10, 1796, and died October 17, 1868, in Harris County. They had six sons and two daughters, the first child being Calvin J. Walker, born November 18, 1820. The initials of their children are scratched on one of the chimneys of the house.

During the 1836 frontier warfare with the Creek Indians across the Chattahoochee River from Harris County, in Chambers County, Ala., Virgil Homer Walker was colonel of the 67th Regiment Georgia Militia.



VIRGIL HOMER WALKER HOUSE

The Virgil Homer Walker House, at Mulberry Grove, has been carefully restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie F. Riley. For many years, the place was the family plantation of William Irby Hudson, born in Putnam County, Ga., April 6, 1822, died June 12, 1893, who married Frances Rebecca Mahone on May 30, 1844. She was born March 25, 1829, and died December 27, 1886.

A son, Charles Irby Hudson (1845-1926) married Juliet Amanda Hood (1846-1938) in 1866. She was the daughter of Dr. Erastus C. Hood, who had bought the original William Walker house and plantation from Elijah Cook in 1859.

Bricks for the tall chimneys were hand made on the place. Chimney faces are inlaid with a series of diamond patterns, worked by the brick mason into the chimney with glazed brick in a contrasting color. As in the William Walker house, this measure of precaution was taken, in accordance with old colonial, English and Irish beliefs, to discourage any witches from coming down into the house. "Cross and Open Bible," six panel doors are used throughout the house to further protect it and ward off evil spirits.

Extension of main roof members over the porch is distinctive, as are the subtly arched ends. There is an old wine cellar under the house, where the large sills on which the house rests may be seen, in the same position as in the William Walker house, with outside entrance near the front on the right side.

The Switzer-Ingram-Hudson House at Hamilton is very similar to this house, in exterior and interior, and contains a panelled wall cabinet like those in the Virgil Homer Walker House.



THACKER VIVION WALKER HOUSE

In the Mulberry Grove community, on a slight hill, and near Macedonia Baptist Church for Negroes, is the home built by William "Rich Billy" Walker for his son, Thacker Vivion Walker, born January 7, 1806, died August 22, 1873. It is about two miles from his father's house, who also built houses in the vicinity for his other sons, William, Jr., Virgil Homer and David.

Built about 1828-30, this house of story and a half construction is rather small but has considerable charm in its adaptation of the Greek Revival lines. It consists of two large rooms and middle hall, with outside stack chimneys serving the wide fireplaces. An old kitchen and dining room was originally in the back yard, but is no longer there. A shed room on the right rear is a later addition, a door cut in one of the back windows of the main room opening into it.

Entrance from the porch is through a single panelled doorway with side lights and transom. The doors in this house are not of the usual "Cross and Open Bible" type. Hardware, however, as in the other Walker houses, is of English importation and made by Carpenter & Company. In the hall, a stairway rises to the attic "sleeping room," and there is a small storage closet under the stair. There is a doorway at the foot of the steps, near the door opening onto the back porch. All doors are attractively panelled in a superior design.

The parlor room is on the left, and at one side of the chimney, where normally is a window to match the window on the other side of the fireplace, there is a single door with side lights opening out on the back porch continuation partly around this end of the house. There is a small room at this corner of the porch, probably a later addition, known as the "fruit room," where fruit and vegetables were stored.

The design and facade of this house are in excellent proportions, with some original blinds on the windows. A pedimented, original small front porch was removed about ten years ago. The two original, round and tapered columns in the Doric order are stored under the house. They were made from solid tree trunks, topped with capitals. Against the sheathed front of the porch wall are signs of matching pilasters, now gone.

On each side of the front doorway is an old iron clothes hook. On the right hook, Mr. Walker always hung his hat and coat when he came in from the fields, tended by his slaves. There were at least eight slave cabins near the house at one time. His old scuppernong vine is in the front yard to the right of the house, but has been neglected. Thacker Vivion Walker lived here many years and operated his plantation.

Strangely enough, the interior of this fine house is not finished! Only the hallway is tightly sheathed with wide pine boards, wainscoting and molding. In the other two rooms, only the ceilings are covered with wide boards. The molded chair rail for the wainscoting is applied around the walls, the doors and windows are faced, but there is no sheathing or wainscoting. Since the outside weather boarding is the only wall covering, the rooms afford a remarkable opportunity to note the mortise, tenon and peg system of construction with the hand hewn framing and studs.

Possibly the house was unfinished when William Walker died in 1831, and work on it ceased. Thacker Vivion Walker, for whom it was built, never married, and when he died the house and some acreage was left to a family of his former slaves.

Jimmy Walker, a former slave, was married and named one of his sons Thacker Walker, who still lives nearby on part of the place and is about 77 years old. Another, Lou Jean, was married to Wilburn Walker, also a former Walker family slave, and he built the first small building of the Macedonia Baptist Church which is near the house. The church has been replaced recently by a new and larger building, but the original was erected over 100 years ago.

The house is now the home of Lewis Dixon, whose parents and grandparents, descendants of Walker slaves, lived here. The Dr. Erastus C. Hood family, who lived so long in the William Walker house, knew them then and now as good and respected Negro citizens of the community.

Thacker Vivion Walker is buried in the Walker Family Cemetery at the William Walker House. He was a twin to John Walker, who married and had a large family.