

William and Hector Bruce House  
U. S. Highway 90 (Chattahoochee Highway)  
Quincy  
Gadsden County  
Florida

HABS No. FLA-152

HABS  
FLA  
20-QUI,  
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## WILLIAM AND HECTOR BRUCE HOUSE

Location: U. S. Highway 90 (Chattahoochee Highway), Quincy, Gadsden County, Florida.

Present Owner: Quincy Garden Club, Inc.

Present Occupant: Quincy Garden Club, Inc.

Present Use: Meeting hall

Brief Statement of Significance: Oldest building in Gadsden County and a typical frontier farm house of the early 19th century.

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PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- a. William and Hector Bruce, 1820
- b. M. L. Floyd
- c. E. B. Shelfer
- d. Quincy Garden Club, Inc.

## 2. Date of erection: 1820

## 3. Notes on alterations and additions: Lower floor originally housed wagons, farm implements, etc. Kitchen believed to have been at north end of ground floor. Partition between rooms first floor right removed by present owner and occupant. Bathrooms added ground and first floor. Exterior stairs to front porch removed.

## 4. Sources of information:

- a. Mrs. E. B. Shelfer, Jr., Quincy, Florida.
- b. Quincy Garden Club Scrap Book
- c. Florida Times Union, Feb. 17, 1957, Jacksonville, Florida.
- d. Gadsden County Times, Oct. 25, 1956.
- e. History of Gadsden County, Randall Stanley (Gadsden Historical Commission, 1948).

## B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure: Traditionally, this is the site where Robert Forbes, first Gadsden County sheriff, built a log cabin. Wm. and Hector Bruce built the present structure around the original log cabin, then removed it. The structure was subsequently a center of the tobacco plantations owned by M. L. Floyd and E. B. Shelfer.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural Character: A two-story brick bearing wall farm house, porches at both floors on south side, gable roof, rear porch enclosed, rectangular with two-story ell.
2. Condition of Fabric: Fair. Extensively remodeled.

B. Technical Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: Approximately 48' (faces south) x 62' including ell.
2. Foundations: Brick bearing wall
3. Wall construction: Brick bearing wall approx. 16" thick, stuccoed and painted white. Bricks were hand-made near the site.
4. Porches and stoop: Front porches, ground and first floors. Ground floor porch, six square cement washed masonry columns, concrete floor; first floor porch six square tapered wood columns, wood balustrade, wood floor. Stoop, first floor rear supported by masonry, cement washed columns. Appears to have originally had back porch at first floor, now enclosed, columns remain exposed.
5. Chimneys: Five brick chimneys, cement washed.
6. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: Front and rear doorways at first floor identical, four light transom, side lights four lights each, two doors each doorway, three and four panels.
  - b. Windows: 2 over 2 light double hung windows on ground floor, 6 over 6 light double hung windows on first floor, louvered openings in attic.
7. Roof:
  - a. Shape and covering: Gable roofs, composition covering.
  - b. Cornice and eaves: Simple wood cornice and boxed eaves.

- c. Dormers: Gable dormer on south front shingled pediment or face, two-light casement window.

C. Technical Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: Structure formerly entered at first floor level, porch across south, central hall, stairs to ground floor, flanked by four rooms, west side rooms open into room in ell.
  2. Stairway: To ground floor, boxed newels, tapered square balusters two per tread, molded rail.
  3. Flooring: Misc. modern wood strip flooring
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster walls; wood strips on first floor ceiling; misc. modern acoustic tile on ground floor ceiling.
  5. Doorways and doors: Some doors appear to be original, paneled, mortise and tenoned, peg fasteners.
  6. Trim: Exceedingly heavy door trim, corner and plinth blocks, paneled fascia on stairway opening.
  7. Hardware: Modern
  8. Lighting: Modern
  9. Heating: Fireplaces in each room first floor. Several in ground floor rooms. Fireplace in ell closed, appears to have been large opening.
- D. Site: Structure faces south, immediately north of U. S. 90. No landscape adjacent. Wood fence enclosure, two stucco posts.

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February 1962