

# Photouring Florida

By HAMPTON DUNN

MAYO—"Half-way down a by-street of one of our New England towns, stands a rusty wooden house, with seven acutely-peaked gables, facing towards various points of the compass, and a hugh, clustered chimney in the midst . . ."

Thus began Nathaniel Hawthorne's enduring self-labeled romance, "The House of the Seven Gables," published in 1894.

Half-way down a by-street in one of our north Florida towns, Mayo, to be exact, is a replica of the House of the Seven Gables

and it was inspired by the famous story. This community is the county seat of Lafayette county, and is 28 miles east of Perry.

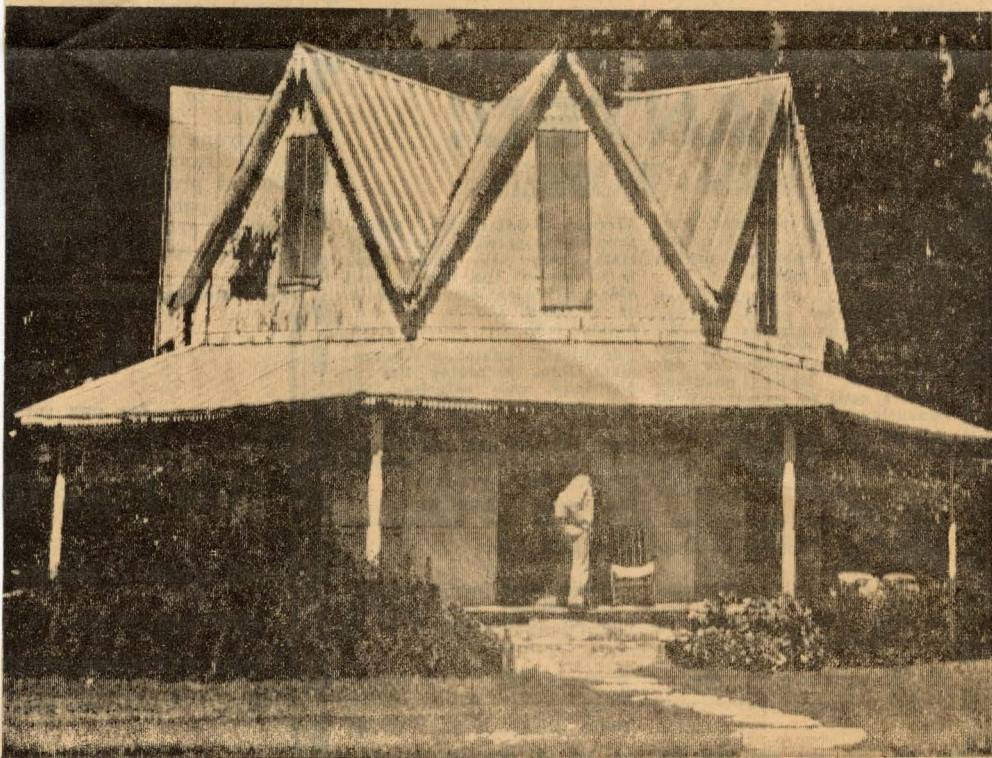
One block off U. S. Highway 27, at Clark and Bloxham streets, sits the seven-gabled house. Local historians say it was erected shortly after Hawthorne wrote his book.

The story goes that a Mayo resident named Jim Mitchell was fascinated by the description of the House of the Seven Gables in Hawthorne's romance and the idea grew in his mind that such a house would be

ideal for his wife and brood.

He went to a contractor named Mack Koon and closed a deal for the erection of this odd structure. It immediately became a "conversation piece" for the region in its early occupancy and has continued to be a "sight" for visitors to Mayo.

The building is in fairly good state of repair. It is presently occupied by two men who rent it, and who enjoy chatting with the sightseers who come to view it. The "gingerbread" along the eaves of the roof was hand-hewn.



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