

IN compiling this book, it was my intention to give only country places. However, I can not omit two homes that were once surrounded by broad acres and pastoral scenes, but as the city grew were engulfed therein, and now live in the country only in memory. Their chaste and beautiful architecture is so pronounced that I have made an exception in recognition of them.

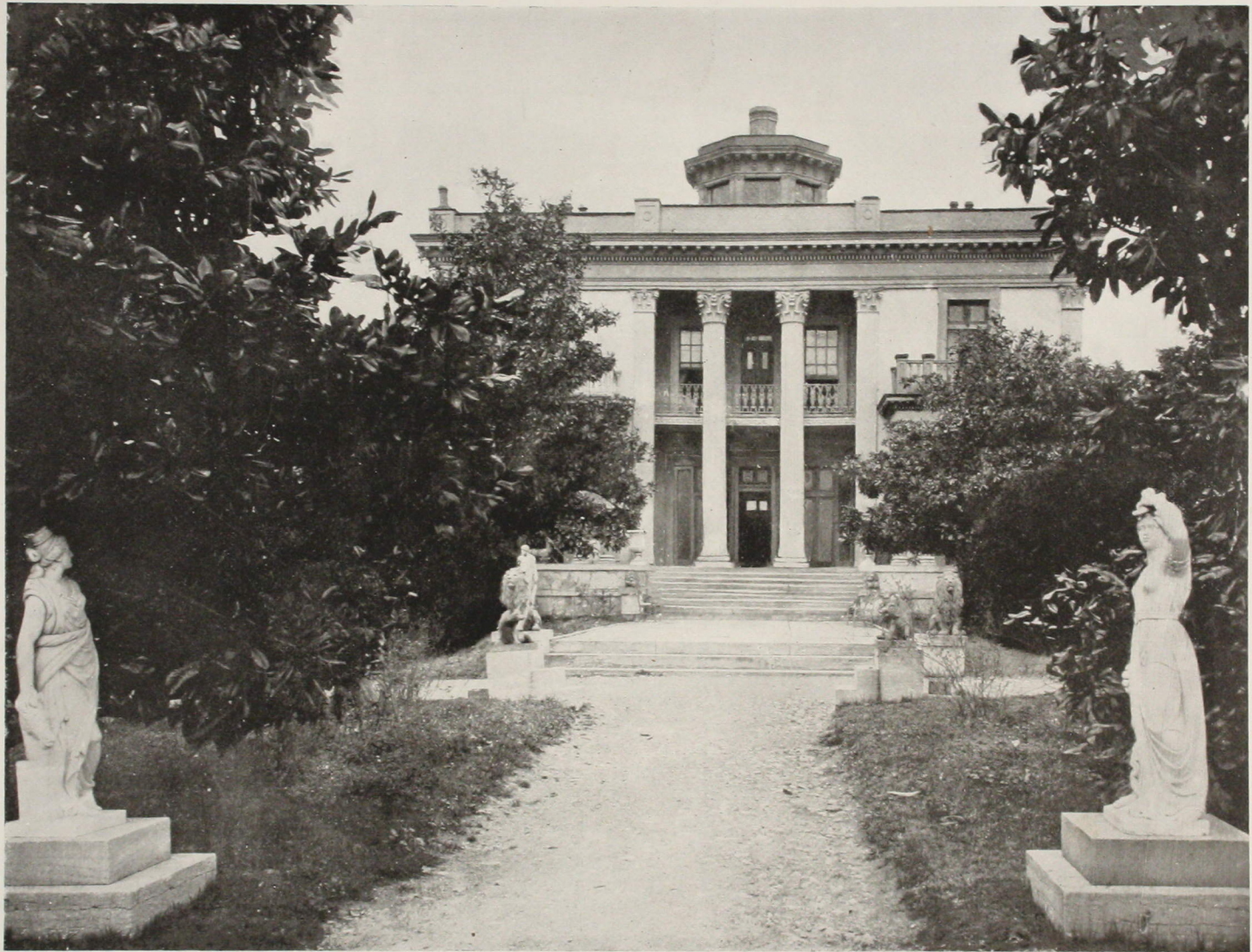


BURLINGTON PLACE

Burlington Place

THIS was the home of the late W. R. Elliston, and was erected in 1859. It stands on the site of the old homestead built by his father, Joseph T. Elliston, in 1816. The architect of the house was the noted Strickland, who drew the plans for the Tennessee State Capitol. The style of the house is the Italian.

It is now owned and occupied by Mrs. Norman Farrell, a daughter of W. R. Elliston.



"BELMONT"

“Belmont”

BEAUTIFUL “Belmont” was the palatial home of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph H. Acklen. It was built in 1850, and, at that time, it was, perhaps, the handsomest private establishment in the United States. Mrs. Acklen's first husband was Mr. Franklin of Sumner County. He was a man of great wealth and lived most of the time on one of his plantations, of which he owned seven, and a large number of slaves. After his death, his widow married Colonel Acklen, who built their Belmont home. It was an exact reproduction of an Italian villa. In front of the house was a lovely formal garden, with beds of flowers, statuary, fountains, and a beautiful lake, in the center of which was a tower with an observatory. In the distance, always to be seen, were the ever changing blue hills.

In 1864, during the Battle of Nashville, the tower was used by the Federals to learn the movements of the Confederate Army.

The following interesting history, in connection with this place, was taken from the war reminiscences of Mrs. S. A. Gaut, who was a life-long friend and relative of Mrs. Acklen.

“After the death of Colonel Acklen, in 1863, his wife felt that it was necessary for her to go to Louisiana to look after her estates there.

The Federals held the river and the Confederates were a few

miles back. Mrs. Acklen persuaded me to go with her, saying I could leave my children at Belmont with her mother, who was also my aunt, Mrs. P. B. Hayes. After reaching the plantation, we learned that General Polk of the Confederate Army, had ordered all cotton to be burned.

Mrs. Acklen, not being strong, asked me to see General Polk and get him to rescind the order. Under the protection of an old gentleman friend, I drove, in a carriage drawn by mules, over mud roads. When we had gone 150 miles and were within twelve miles of General Polk's headquarters, we were compelled to turn back on account of the rapid advance of General Sherman's Army. I made, in all, eight trips to see various generals, suffering many hardships. However, the cotton was saved, and Mrs. Acklen was permitted to send it to New Orleans. From there it was shipped to Liverpool and sold for seventy-five cents a pound. From this sale she realized nine hundred and sixty thousand dollars.”

This beautiful home is now the property of Belmont College. It has been greatly enlarged, and the owners have shown the good taste to keep the architecture of the additions in perfect accord with the original place. It now stands as one of the largest and most elegant girls' schools in the South.

