

*“My recollections cling more about the house than anything else. It was not a common house. It was **uncommon**. It was not one house, but three, three distinct houses... built of tabby, a mixture of shells, lime, and sand.” James Julius Sams*

Sketch map drawn by James' wife, Mary Eliza Sams.



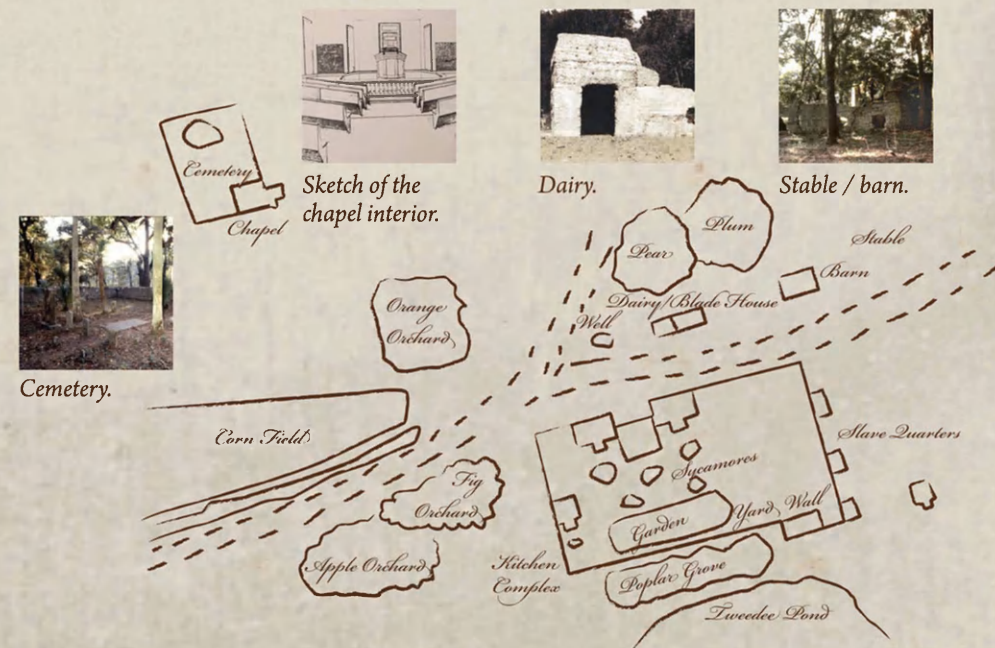
The Tabby Ruins

The ruins of Berner Sams' home are preserved here at Dataw. The ruins contain portions of 15 buildings—one of the largest collections of tabby structures in the South. The arrangement of the house and the buildings within a walled compound is unusual but not unheard of. Walled yards like this were typical of England's early 19th century agrarian movement that encouraged simplicity, neatness, and order. This 20th century sketch shows the compound and its attached buildings such as the kitchen and slave residences, the family chapel and cemetery, and the dairy. Fruit trees and



The ruins in the 1930s.

ornamentals described by James Sams and located by researchers during the 1980s also are shown.



Architectural study of the ruins.

“In front of each house there was a large sycamore, beyond there were two large walnut trees, beyond these again was the old garden which stretched to a little pond.”

James Julius Sams