



## **The Wormsloe Big House, 1895.**

De Renne Family Papers, Hargrett Library, University of Georgia.

Since 1828, the main plantation house has served as the nexus of agricultural and social life on Wormsloe. George Jones's home on Newton, one of his nearby plantations, burned to the ground in 1825, and he decided to build a replacement on his Isle of Hope property. Noble Jones's old fortified house was too small and outdated, and so George Jones built from the ground up. The new frame structure fronted the Skidaway River and was centrally located on the plantation. Portions of the new home's foundation came from tabby rubble taken from the colonial fort.

The plantation house's appearance has changed a great deal since the early nineteenth century. The original home was a modest two-story structure facing the river. Antebellum additions expanded the house to three stories, and moved the main entrance to the north side of the structure. Following the war, the De Renne family continued to enlarge the home and added Victorian trappings, including a spired tower, elaborate trim, and an entirely new servants' wing as tall as the main house. The house as it appears today is largely the product of a remodel that took place around 1940, which removed most of the Victorian adornments in favor of a simpler facade.