

Alabama Historic Resource Preliminary Information Form

IDENTIFICATION

Property name (if any) Malbis Plantation
Address or street location 10145 Highway 90
County Baldwin
Town/City/Zip Daphne, AL 36526

Resource type

Building (e.g. single house, store) Structure (e.g. bridge, dam) District (multiple buildings) Object (monument) Site (e.g. cemetery, archaeological)

Name of person completing questionnaire Bonnie Gums
Address HUMB 34, Center for Archaeological Studies, University of South Alabama
City Mobile State AL Zip 36688-0002
home phone N/A work phone 251-460-6562
fax 251-460-6080 cell N/A
email bgums@jaguar1.usouthal.edu

Owner (if different from above) Malbis Plantation, Inc.
Address 10145 Highway 90
City Daphne State AL Zip 36526
home phone 251-767-5959 work phone 251-626-3050
fax 251-626-6703 cell N/A
email Laura@malbisplantation.com

Does the owner support the nomination? Yes No

Original Use Colony Plantation
Current Use Residence
Architect/builder (if known) N/A
Date of construction (if known) 1906-1965

I wish to nominate this property because (check one or more boxes)

- National Register and State Register listing is an honor
- I seek financial assistance through property tax reductions and tax credits for rehabilitation
- This building is my primary residence
- This is an income producing property (commercial or residential rental)
- I wish to protect this property
- This property is threatened with demolition or destruction

DESCRIPTION. The materials checklist is geared towards buildings. If the resource you are interested in nominating is a site, object, structure, or historic district, please provide a written description in the space below.

Materials—please check those materials that are visible

Exterior Walls: wood clapboard stone vinyl siding
 wood shingle brick aluminum siding
 vertical boards poured concrete cement-asbestos
 plywood concrete block unknown
 N/A other _____

Roof: asphalt shingle asphalt, roll wood shingle
 metal slate terracotta
 unknown N/A other _____

Foundation stone brick poured concrete
 concrete block unknown N/A
 other _____

Other materials and their location: _____

Briefly describe the overall appearance of the property and the setting:

 See attachment

What alterations or additions were made since the building was constructed? Please check one or more boxes where applicable:

additions replacement siding or re-siding
 removal of porches removal of decorative details
 replacement of door and windows interior remodeling or updating
 moved from original location
 (if moved, why, from where and when?) _____

Dates of major alterations or additions: _____

Briefly describe the nature of the changes checked above: _____

SIGNIFICANCE. In addition retaining a historic appearance and meeting age and requirements, properties also need to be important to local, state, or national history. Why do you think this property should be listed in the Alabama Register or National Register? Please check one or more boxes below and briefly explain why the property is important.

The property illustrates an important aspect of local history through its:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ethnic history | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation history |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social or political history | <input type="checkbox"/> educational history |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial or commercial history | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> early settlement history |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agricultural history | <input type="checkbox"/> other _____ |

It is the resource most closely related to the person's historic period and area of importance:

(check one or more)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> social or political history | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agricultural history |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial or commercial history | <input type="checkbox"/> other |

It is architecturally or artistically distinctive because it:

- is an important example of an architectural style
- is an important example of vernacular (commonplace) architecture
- is an unusual or important kind of building or structure
- has an unusual method of construction
- is an important work of art
- is the work of a master architect or builder

This property is important because: See attachment

PHOTOGRAPHS. Provide several current, clear, original photographs of the property proposed for nomination. Initial photographs can be color prints at least 4x6 in size, or digital images on disk or CD. Submitted views should represent the property as a whole. For buildings and structures this includes photos showing all sides of the exterior, views of the interior, any notable features, all associated outbuildings, and the general setting and landscape features. Features you should include are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Front door and doorframe | <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental plaster |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Window and window frame | <input type="checkbox"/> Old lighting fixtures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ornamental details | <input type="checkbox"/> Vintage equipment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cornerstone | <input type="checkbox"/> Tower, steeple, dome |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stained glass | <input type="checkbox"/> Old or new alterations |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Barns, stables, outbuildings | <input type="checkbox"/> Staircases |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Iron, wire, or wooden fences | <input type="checkbox"/> Mantels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardens, terraces, setting | <input type="checkbox"/> Fine woodwork or old faux finishes |

The photographs cannot be returned, but will become a permanent part of our site records.

MAP. Attach a printed or drawn map indicating the location of the property in relationship to streets, intersections or other widely recognized features so that the property can be accurately located. If the property is rural, please submit a plat map, county highway map, or other detailed map with the property location marked. This map can be a photocopy if the copy is legible. Please include a north arrow on the map.

Please submit this form and all supporting materials (maps and photos) to:

**Register Programs PIF
Alabama Historical Commission
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, AL 36130**

**Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage
Alabama Historical Commission**

**Malbis Plantation Historic District
Baldwin County, Alabama**

Introduction to Malbis Plantation

Malbis Plantation was established in 1906 as a colony farm by two Greek immigrants, Jason Malbis, the colony's spiritual leader and an astute entrepreneur, and William Papageorge, who became a successful businessman in his own right. Within a decade or two, the colony farm became a self-sufficient plantation and commercial enterprise known as Malbis Plantation, Inc., supporting a cannery, bakery, dairy, ice plant, machine shop, electrical plant, and plant nursery. Apart from these and other economic ventures, the colony was also a social experiment, which was reflected in its alternative names, the Malbis Family or Malbis Brotherhood. Although most members were not part of the Malbis family by blood, anyone who lived at the plantation was referred to as Malbis family member.

Malbis Plantation served as a starting-off point for many Greek immigrants who had endured hard times in industrial American cities of the north and northeast, and were looking for a tranquil rural existence, more reminiscent of their homeland. Upon joining the Malbis colony, newly arrived Greeks were required to give their meager savings to the common treasury (Malbis Plantation 1964:9). Plantation jobs and household tasks were assigned based on skills, knowledge, and gender. The population consisted primarily of unmarried men, although a few single females and married couples with children were part of the communal household. The main plantation home, commonly known as the Big House, contained over 20 sleeping rooms, and as the population increased dormitories were built for the men. Meals were also a communal affair. The colony was also called the Malbis Family or Brotherhood.

Under the strong leadership of Jason Malbis, the peak of financial success and resident population at Malbis Plantation occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. After the 1942 death of Jason Malbis while in occupied Greece during World War II, and other factors, such as social and economic changes from the war, Malbis Plantation began to wane. In the mid-1950s to mid-1970s, many of the first generation in their 60s and 70s passed away, most leaving no heirs. Perhaps the most memorable accomplishment of Malbis Plantation, Inc., was the construction of a majestic Greek Orthodox Church at the plantation, dedicated in 1965 and fulfilling the last wish of Jason Malbis.

By the end of the twentieth century, Malbis Plantation, Inc. was involved primarily in real estate, selling much of the colony land for residential and commercial development, yet protecting the historic core of the old plantation buildings and grounds, designated here as Malbis Plantation Historic District, the subject of this NRHP nomination.

National Register Research and Survey Methods

The Malbis Plantation Historic District study involved the use of primary and secondary resources, historical research in local archives, oral histories documented with taped informant interviews, a physical walkover of the plantation grounds, and documentation of extant buildings, structures, and landscape features. Two booklets published in Greece, *The Faith of Jason Malbis* (Malbis Plantation 1964) and *Malbis Memorial Church* (Malbis Plantation 1976), contain much historical background, although both focus mainly on the spiritual character of Jason Malbis. A two-page typed manuscript postdating 1970 provides specific details about plantation buildings. While its origin and author is unknown, the information seems plausible, although some dates are questionable. Several boxes of papers maintained by Malbis Plantation, Inc. were examined, and yielded some information. However, apparently many records, such as business transactions, employment records, and personal papers were not kept. There are also the published memories of Antigone Papageorge (1911-1998), who lived nearly her whole life at Malbis Plantation (Riser 1999). As part of this study, an interview was recorded with Bessie Pappas, the remaining resident at the Big House and at age 97 the oldest Malbis family member. Also interviewed was Gertrude Malbis, a 50-year resident of Malbis Plantation who married into the Malbis family. Much information was provided and substantiated by William "Bill" Scourtes, great-nephew of Jason Malbis and current President of Malbis Plantation, Inc., who was born in 1958 and grew up at Malbis Plantation. United States population censuses for 1910, 1920, and 1930 were also consulted to document Malbis Plantation residents in those years.

Fieldwork at Malbis Plantation consisted of several driving and walking surveys, including an initial tour of all extant buildings and landscape features with Bill Scourtes relating what he knows about each building. The survey was conducted by Bonnie Gums and Harriet Richardson Seacat of the Center for Archaeological Studies at the University of South Alabama and

involved documenting each building (and other physical features) with photographs and on a Standing Structure Form developed specifically for this project. Notes were taken on building materials, size and shape, current use, and condition, among other data. The interiors of some buildings were not accessible.

These research and fieldwork efforts allowed evaluation of the significance of Malbis Plantation and its potential eligibility for inclusion to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) based on the following criteria (USDI 1991):

- **Criterion A:** A property is associated with a specific event in American prehistory or history, or pattern of events that make a significant contribution to the development of a community, a state, or the nation.
- **Criterion B:** A property is associated with a significant individual within a historical context.
- **Criterion C:** A property is significant for its physical design or construction including distinctive architectural characteristics of type, period, or method of construction.
- **Criterion D:** A property has yielded, or has the potential to yield, information important to prehistory or history.

Criteria Evaluations and Boundaries of Malbis Plantation Historic District

Malbis Plantation Historic District is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C, as discussed below (Criterion D was not evaluated for this study, although the archaeological remains of lost plantation buildings are potentially significant resources). Malbis Plantation, Inc., once encompassed approximately 13,000 acres of land, most of which was in an irregularly-shaped tract that stretched for several miles east to west and north to south. The core of Malbis Plantation, including the "Big House" and other significant buildings, occupies the east-central portion of that tract, on the original 600 acres purchased in 1906. This core of Malbis Plantation remains relatively intact as plantation grounds. It covers approximately 690 acres within the boundaries defined for this NRHP nomination as Malbis Plantation Historic District. Thirty-five contributing cultural resources, primarily plantation buildings, are documented in the proposed Malbis Plantation Historic District. Fifteen non-contributing resources, primarily modern homes in one subdivided tract, are also present.

Criterion A

Malbis Plantation Historic District is considered eligible for listing to the NRHP under Criterion A. This now century-old Greek colony made a significant contribution to the economic development of Baldwin County, Alabama, in the first half of the twentieth century. These contributions include advances in agriculture and horticulture, livestock and animal husbandry, and early twentieth-century industries, such as naval stores, ice manufacturing, and electrical production. The labor force at Malbis Plantation participated in nearly every type of viable economic venture that the natural environs of Baldwin County could support. Malbis Plantation also influenced local transportation routes, primarily roads and railroads.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Malbis Plantation products, such as potatoes, canned fruits and vegetables, milk and eggs, bread and baked goods, were distributed to local communities and shipped to distant markets in large northern cities, such as Chicago and New York, thus strengthening the commercial agricultural viability of Baldwin County products. The cannery at Malbis Plantation also packed produce from other Baldwin County farms, further stimulating economic growth for local farmers. Experimentation and success with the silk worm industry in the 1920s was a unique enterprise at Malbis Plantation, as was the introduction of olive trees from California. Malbis Nursery, which specialized in ornamental plants, primarily camellias and azaleas, was described as a "showplace" of Baldwin County with a "mammoth wholesale and retail trade" involving hundreds of railroad cars of plants shipped to every state and to foreign countries (MPI).

From the early years until around 1950, the raising of livestock was a significant component of Malbis Plantation, providing meat and poultry for communal family dinners, as well as their restaurant business. Using the most up-to-date equipment, Malbis Dairy developed into a large business serving southwest Alabama. Malbis Plantation was an innovative leader in providing commodities, such as canned produce and block ice, and public utilities, including electricity and water, not typically found in early twentieth-century rural Alabama. For several decades, Malbis Motel and Restaurant was a welcomed oasis on a country road offering shelter for travelers and serving traditional Greek food, while also employing local residents. Plantation business ventures in the city of Mobile, including Malbis Bakery and the Metropolitan Restaurant, also employed many people and promoted the economic productivity of Malbis Plantation and Baldwin County.

In summary, the variety of economic ventures established at Malbis Plantation not only enabled the Greek colony to become self-sufficient, but also benefitted surrounding communities, in term of commodities, such as farm and dairy products, and employment for local laborers. Malbis Plantation managers and workers utilized the various natural resources of Baldwin County and implemented technological innovations and advances in their successful endeavors over its 100-year history.

Criterion C

Malbis Plantation Historic District is considered eligible for listing to the NRHP under Criterion C for its physical layout, distinctive domestic and commercial architecture, level of craftsmanship, and use of materials.

The physical layout of Malbis Plantation developed primarily over two to three decades after its 1906 establishment. This historic landscape currently retains 23 extant major buildings, including four residences, 13 farm-related buildings, five commercial buildings, and the Malbis Memorial Church. Malbis Plantation differed from other Baldwin County farms in terms of the variety of commercial enterprises and associated construction of building and other facilities. This diversity is reflected in the current physical appearance. The 1907 Big House itself is a significant eclectic style building, having been remodeled two times (in 1923 and 1962) to house the growing Malbis family. The Malbis Nursery building and the Tampary-Simmons house, both of Mediterranean Revival architecture with Classical Greek elements, are distinctive for this region. The Malbis Memorial Church, built in Neo-Byzantine style, has been a unique towering landmark for over 40 years in the rapidly changing landscape of the central and south Baldwin County. In the southwest Alabama region, these three buildings alone are unique for their architectural style and design. The presence of the Greek Orthodox Malbis family cemetery is also distinctive.

Nearly all plantation construction was planned and completed by Malbis Plantation residents. Most of the farm outbuildings, primarily barns, and storage sheds, are similar in terms of style and materials, primarily wood, brick, concrete, and hollow clay tile. With some exceptions, buildings materials were produced by Malbis Plantation members and workers. Specifically of note is the abundance and variety of concrete block construction. John Vocolis and William Papageorge are believed to be primarily responsible for much of the early construction, and were particularly known for their extensive use of poured concrete and the on-site production of a variety and abundance of concrete blocks (William Scourtes, personal communication, 2007). The massive one-story high poured concrete walls of the Cow Maintenance Barn attest to this, as does the use of at least three different kinds of concrete blocks (plain, roughened, and brick-impressed) that appear in nearly all plantation outbuildings. Many of the farm-related buildings were constructed in similar vernacular style out of a combination of wood, brick, and concrete, with roofing material consisting primarily of corrugated metal sheeting. Malbis Plantation workers also constructed the many poured concrete crypts in which they buried family members in Malbis Cemetery.

Some lesser used structural materials, such as hollow clay tile and brick, were brought from local kilns to Malbis Plantation. The large orange hollow clay tiles used in several plantation buildings were first made by Frank Brown at his Fairhope kiln, and later at the Clay City Brick Works, which he established around 1916 and worked until 1940, the year of his death (Brackner 2006:220). The Clay City Brick Works continued operation for several more decades focusing on brick production. It is likely that most of the bricks at Malbis Plantation came from Clay City, since there is no known history of brick-making at Malbis Plantation.

In summary, the arrangement of Malbis Plantation evolved out of necessity combined with some insight into design and construction materials. The style of architecture and construction seen in the 23 major extant buildings at Malbis Plantation is somewhat atypical compared to the few extant early twentieth-century farms in Baldwin County. Many structural materials were produced on site, and nearly all construction was supervised and completed by Malbis family members, with the help of hired local workers.

Historical Background: Baldwin County, Alabama

Baldwin County in southwest Alabama was established as part of the Mississippi Territory in 1809, ten years prior to statehood in 1819. The current county landscape consists of piney woods interspersed with agricultural fields, fruit and pecan groves, and rural and urban spaces. The county border to the west is Mobile Bay and the vast Mobile-Tensaw river delta. The white sandy beaches of the Gulf of Mexico delimit the southern county edge. As finalized in 1868, Baldwin County is the largest county in Alabama, and currently one of the fastest growing in population, with consequential and rapidly expanding residential and commercial development.

Prehistoric Native American occupations of Baldwin County based on the archaeological record go back over 10,000 years (Walthall 1980). Many local prehistoric sites known as shell middens or mounds (the remains from shell fishing) line the major waterways of the Gulf coast and the Mobile-Tensaw delta. Perhaps the most famous prehistoric site is Bottle Creek, the largest Mississippian town site (A.D. 1200-1450) on the northern Gulf coast, with eighteen earthen mounds that served as platforms for houses and temples (Brown 2003).

European intrusions in this region began with Spanish explorers in the mid-1500s, and later French colonists arrived in the early 1700s, followed by other European colonial powers. Artifactual evidence of the Spanish has been found at a site in north Baldwin County. During the 1700s, colonial French (1702-1763), British (1763-1780), and Spanish (1780-1813) plantations were established on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay and on major waterways, such as Bon Secour, Magnolia, and Tensaw rivers in Baldwin County. During the period from 1763 to 1813 southwest Alabama was part of West Florida.

Baldwin County's place in early American history began in August of 1813 with the battle of Fort Mims that triggered the Creek War of 1813-1814 that eventually led to the removal of Native Americans from the state of Alabama (Waselkov 2006). Throughout the early to mid-nineteenth century, Baldwin County remained largely an unpopulated wilderness. Notable Civil War battles in southwest Alabama include the Battle of Mobile Bay in August 1864 and the sieges of at Spanish Fort and Blakeley in March and April 1865, at the end of the war.

In the decades after the Civil War, the vast woods of central and south Baldwin County slowly gave way to small family farms. The growing agrarian economy was aided by the coming of railroad transportation. In combination with land clearing came the timber business and soon sawmills were scattered across the landscape. A cottage industry of family owned and operated stoneware potteries developed on the eastern shore of Mobile Bay and in the community of Clay City on Fish River (Brackner 2006:77-88). Railroad transportation allowed the export of Baldwin County products, as well as the importation of modern industrial and agricultural equipment from factories in northern states.

During the late 1800s and early 1900s, an influx of European immigrants to the United States impacted central and south Baldwin County, with the arrival of several ethnic groups, including Italians, Scandinavians, Germans, Poles, Czechs, and Greeks (Malbis Plantation, Inc. [MPI]; Comings and Albers 1928:68-83). Some of these groups were united by social and religious ideals. Many of these émigrés came indirectly from Europe via Chicago, as did Jason Malbis.

In 1888 Alesandro Mastro-Valerio founded the first immigrant colony near what became Daphne, Alabama, as an agrarian venture for his fellow Italian refugees in hopes of providing better opportunities than those they experienced in northern industrial cities (Guarisco 1928:69-71). Scandinavians Oscar Johnson, C. O. Carlson, and C. A. Valentin, having left their Chicago families, established the small rural community of Silverhill. The town of Elberta was founded in 1905 by the Baldwin County Colonization Company and settled primarily by German families. Forty-five Polish families settled in the Summerdale area in 1906 under the title of the Southern Development Lumber Company. A politically- and socially-motivated group of Iowans known as the "Single Taxers" bought land on Mobile Bay for their settlement that by 1894 became known as the Fairhope Single Tax Colony (Gaston 1928:71-74). A small group of Quakers from Kansas joined the Fairhope colony in 1910 (Lee 1928:74-75). Over a century later, these communities maintain some ethnic flavor with descendants of founding families carrying on cultural traditions, such as the German Sausage Festival in Elberta. Malbis Plantation, a colony farm founded by Greeks in 1906, was somewhat different in that it remained a communal group, whereas the other ethnic European settlements grew into rural towns with individually family-owned farms, and embraced other immigrant and American families.

In the early twentieth century, the exploitation of the piney woods of Baldwin County developed into a fairly extensive turpentine industry, with African Americans as the primary labor force. Native pines were also timbered for local lumber yards, thus clearing large tracts of land for agricultural use. Truck farms, many tenant-occupied, became a common sight in the rural landscape. The rich soils of Baldwin County became known for a variety of agrarian products, such as satsumas, peanuts, Irish and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, corn, melons, and cucumbers, among others (Work Projects Administration [WPA] 1941:80). Pecan orchards were another familiar sight. Farmers' organizations, such as the Independent Growers and Shippers Association, the Hub Truckers Association, and the Gulf Coast Citrus Exchange, helped to improve marketing conditions (Comings and Albers 1928:81). Dairy farms were also common in Baldwin County with the first one established in 1907 near the village of Silverhill by an experienced dairyman from Wisconsin (Winberg 1928:76). The seafood industry thrived in the Gulf of Mexico and nearby inland waterways, such as Bon Secour River, in south Baldwin County.

Much of the early twentieth-century economic growth of Baldwin County depended on the improvement of transportation systems, primarily roads and railroads, since water transport by the "Bay Boats" across Mobile Bay was well established in the nineteenth century. The Bay Minette and Fort Morgan Railroad, connecting north and south Baldwin County, was completed in 1905 (Winberg 1928:75), making county-wide travel and shipment of local products much easier. In 1927 the roadway known as the Causeway across Mobile Bay was completed, connecting the growing city of Mobile and the rural community of Daphne. By 1950 many country roads originally established as dirt paths were graveled and later paved as part of the Alabama state highway system.

For the past few decades, and now into the twenty-first century, Baldwin County has been perhaps the fastest growing county in Alabama in terms of population and economic development. Agricultural fields and pecan orchards are giving way to large subdivisions, as many people from other areas are attracted to the renowned white sandy beaches and tourist attractions on the Gulf of Mexico and the subtropical climate of south Alabama.

Greek Immigration, the Progressive Movement, and Malbis Plantation

Understanding why people came to Malbis Plantation during the early twentieth century requires a look at long-term developments and specific events in Greece just prior to and during this time period. At the end of the nineteenth century, many

Greek people were increasingly dissatisfied with their situation and status in Greece. The Ottoman Empire held much of the region, and there was much violence associated with the Greek people's attempts at liberation. In Greece, a kind of medieval economic structure still existed in which elite-owned large estates were leased to individual farmers, who were required to provide the lessors some percentage of their harvest. Thus, most of the people in Greece were in a cycle of perpetual poverty. In the 1880s and 1890s in the Peloponnese region of southern Greece, one of the biggest farm commodities, currants, began to fail. It is unclear whether this was primarily due to environmental conditions or to export limitations in the form of high tariffs imposed by France, the chief market for currants (Andreades 1906; Constantinou and Diamantides 1985; Saloutos 1964). Nonetheless, this situation led to a "great exodus from...Peloponnesus" (Constantinou and Diamantides 1985). Interestingly, many of the early colonists of Malbis Plantation came from this region of Greece (Table 1).

Table 1. Greek origin of some of the 1910 residents at Malbis*

Name	Year of Immigration	Region	Prefecture	City/Village
Jason Malbis (orig. Markopoulos)	1906	Peloponnese	Achaia	Doumena
William Papageorge	1904	Peloponnese	Arcadia	Tripoli
Chrysanthe Papageorge	1908	Peloponnese	Arcadia	Tripoli
Photini Papageorge	1908	Peloponnese	Arcadia	Tripoli
Peter D. Papageorge	1908	Peloponnese	Arcadia	Tripoli
John K. Vocolis	1906	Asia Minor		

*(William Scourtes, personal communication, 2007).

Paralleling the failure of currants, significant concomitant issues developed that encouraged Greek immigration to the United States. From the late 1880s to 1890s, trade was increasing between Greece and the United States. As a result, many Greek people came to admire Americans for their business relations. During this time, romantic pieces were occasionally written about Americans in major Greek newspapers (Saloutos 1964:8-11). Jason Malbis himself arrived in the United States as part of a group sent by the Greek royal family to learn American business practices. With the increasing popularity of the United States and "the rise in the political status of the middle class" in Greece came a substantial increase in Greek immigration to America (Saloutos 1964:14). According to Saloutos,

These immigrants were living in a country that was democratically governed and middle-class in orientation, and they sent material assistance to the homeland, corresponded with relatives and friends, made periodic visits to Greece, and otherwise gave nourishment to a movement for a representative government in Greece. This kind of activity was a response to the Progressive movement in America, which at this time was reaching its zenith. [1964:14]

The Progressive Movement was thriving in places where Greek people were settling en masse, especially in Chicago, the original base for Jason Malbis and most of his fellow Malbis colonists. There, people like social worker Jane Addams were attempting to live a vision of a shared society by minimizing the social differences of immigrants and providing an essential link to the greater American society. Founded in 1889 on Chicago's Halsted Street, Jane Addams' Hull House was the physical manifestation of her attempt at cultural idealism. Hull House became an important part of the Greek neighborhood that arose along Halsted and surrounding streets by the turn of the twentieth century (Hellenic Museum and Cultural Center 2007). This part of Chicago eventually became known as Greektown (Chicago Historical Society 2007).

Supporting the notion that the Progressive Movement influenced Greek people, the original settlement of Malbis Plantation is considered by its residents to have been a utopian pursuit. According to modern residents, Jason Malbis was attempting to create a shared society, where assets were combined and all residents helped manage and work the plantation operations. By contrast, many non-Greek people in the vicinity of Malbis believe that the plantation was established as a religious-centered colony; however, Malbis residents deny this was ever the case. Undoubtedly, this misunderstanding stems from the fact that Jason Malbis was a former monk and the Malbis community eventually erected a prominent and well-known Greek Orthodox Church. With the atmosphere of cultural idealism found in the area of Chicago where most Greek people settled, the notion that such idealism directly inspired Jason Malbis and William Papageorge is certainly plausible. The current president of Malbis Plantation, Inc., William Scourtes (personal communication, 2007) suggests the agrarian life most Malbis residents experienced in Greece may have provided the impetus for the creation of Malbis Plantation. However, rural life at Malbis was of a different sort than its residents experienced in Greece as it was a shared community where assets were combined. In Greece, agrarian operations were generally managed and run by a family (Constantinou and Diamantides 1985). In addition, Greek people were known for

their sense of independence and their devotion to marriage and children (Saloutos 1964), neither of which was characteristic of life at Malbis Plantation, where people initially shared everything and rarely married (William Scourtes, personal communication, 2007).

Malbis Plantation president William Scourtes (personal communication, 2007) tells an interesting story of why Jason Malbis left the monastery and how he came to America:

He had kind of radical views in terms of what he thought monks should do and not do, I guess. And he wanted to just be out in the world kind of, being religious, but, you know, more out. So he left, but he had a lot of assets because he was one of the priests for the king and queen of Greece. I guess that's what afforded him the opportunity to start olive oil manufacturing. And he became a business leader, long story short. And the monastery where he started the olive oil plant is south of Athens, but eventually you know he moved to Athens and established himself in a group of business men, came to Chicago to study economics and then to go back and implement that kind of stuff. You know, and he liked it so much the story goes that he just stayed instead of going back.

Given this story of Jason Malbis' desire for personal freedom, perhaps the Malbis colony can best be understood by recognizing that Greek immigrants in America banded together. For many Greek people, "pride, desire for freedom, and a will to succeed dominated their thoughts" (Saloutos 1964:259). For its residents, Malbis Plantation provided, through a communal life perhaps inspired by the Progressive Movement, a freedom from working for others and the pride associated with success.

Antonios Markopoulos [Jason Malbis] in Greece

Little is known of the childhood and young adulthood of Antonios Markopoulos, (later known as Jason Malbis), born January 17, 1869 (Catranis 1989:135). The 1964 book entitled "The Faith of Jason Malbis" simply states that he was born of "poor parentage" in a small Greek town named Doumena. Towards the end of the nineteenth century he was taken as a young man to a nearby monastery known as Mega Spilaion (Great Cave). Here he spent several years performing the duties of monastic life as the teachings of the Gospel became firmly planted in his spirituality, which continued to grow throughout his life. In the first few years of the twentieth century, during a time when many Greeks were suffering from poverty in rural agrarian communities, the monk Antonios Markopoulos left the monastery to teach the principles of the Gospel as they applied to daily duties of his fellow workers and countrymen (Malbis Plantation 1964:1). Through hard work supported by his strong faith, he became a successful and influential businessman in Athens and in 1905 came to the United States as a member of the Greek Commission for Study of European and American Commerce and Economic Life (MPI). After witnessing compatriots struggling to make a living in large cities like Chicago and New York, he chose to remain in America to help strengthen Greek-owned businesses into financially stable and politically influential organizations (MPI). While in Chicago, for reasons unknown, he officially changed his name from Antonios Markopoulos to Jason Malbis. In 1906, after about one year in the United States, at age 37, Jason Malbis purchased land in Alabama for what became known as Malbis Plantation.

Malbis Plantation

As the story has been repeated in the written record and oral history, Jason Malbis had a vision from God when he first set his eyes on the heavily timbered tract of land in Baldwin County that was to become Malbis Plantation (e.g., Malbis Plantation 1964; Catranis 1989; Scott and Scott 1965; MPI). Having left Chicago in "search of the land of their dreams" Jason Malbis and William Papageorge traveled for six months working odd jobs from city to city through Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mississippi, before arriving weary and destitute in Mobile, Alabama, in late 1906 (Malbis Plantation 1964:8). Sitting in a city park, the two friends discussed their lowly circumstances and strong faith in the Lord's Gospel when their eyes were suddenly drawn to a sign posted in a nearby window. With poor knowledge of English, they used their always present English-Greek dictionary to translate "LOW COST FARMLAND FOR SALE," and their hopes were uplifted by what they believed was a sign from God.

The next day they contacted the real estate agent Mr. Weafel, who agreed to show them the potential farmland. Taking a boat across Mobile Bay and then a hired carriage for six miles on rough dirt paths through uninhabited lands, at one point in a most desolate location, Jason Malbis shouted to his friend William Papageorge "Stop, don't go any further, here is the place where we shall build," claiming he saw a vision from God on the horizon telling him so (Malbis Plantation 1964:8-9). Offered 120 acres of forested land at ten dollars an acre, they made a deal for five dollars an acre, and finalized the purchase with a down payment of \$100.

Over the next few decades under the fatherly guidance and spiritual leadership of Jason Malbis, Malbis Plantation grew from a small colony farm to a self-sufficient and productive plantation with numerous enterprises operated by an energetic resident population, with the help of paid laborers from nearby communities. Numerous buildings were constructed, including a sawmill

operation, cannery, ice plant, machine shop, electrical plant, dairy, and plant nursery. Out of the piney woods of Baldwin County emerged an innovative agricultural community of Greek immigrants with strong social, political, and religious ties. Clearing the 600 acres of pine-forested land for the colony farm was one of the first activities for Jason Malbis and William Papageorge. With a new stump puller purchased in the neighboring village of Daphne, they could clear two acres a day, and construction on the main plantation house was begun shortly after (MPI). While building their new home, Malbis and Papageorge lodged for many months at the neighboring farm of Mr. and Mrs. William Grabham (Malbis Plantation 1964:9). The first plantation house was a large two-story vertical frame dormitory-style residence for Jason Malbis, William Papageorge, and other newly-arrived friends, and became known as the Jason Malbis Home or the "Big House." It was constructed in three major stages, the first consisting of 15 rooms in the two-story residence built of native heart pine harvested from the colony's forest (Anonymous n.d.:1). It was renovated and expanded in 1923 to include six additional sleeping rooms with baths and closets, and large screened porches extending along all four sides on both the first and second floors. In 1960 a few more rooms were added for a total of 35, and other renovations included structural material changes, new iron railings on the porches, and the stucco exterior was painted pink.

A two-story wood frame outbuilding behind the Big House served as a laundry. By the 1930s, a larger laundry facility was built, again close to the Big House, and still stands today. The laundry was used for washing linens and personal clothing of Malbis members and was worked by female residents. After 1934, linens from Malbis Motor Court and Malbis Restaurant were also brought to the plantation laundry.

In late 1906 or early 1907 a sawmill operation was established to provide lumber for new construction of plantation buildings. The timbered plantation lands soon became agricultural fields producing all kinds of vegetables and grains to feed colony members. The plantation sawmill operated into the 1950s based on patent dates on some of the cast iron woodworking equipment found abandoned in the workshops.

A January 1908 *Mobile Register* article declared that a "provincial Greek Colony" was organized by leading men from Chicago and New York, with Jason Malbis as president, William Papageorge, secretary, and Dr. Papageorge, treasurer (although absentee), with colony residents including Nick Argyros, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Papageorge, Miss Photini Papageorge, and John Vocolis. The colony farm reportedly had two cows, two horses, sixteen pigs, and 150 chickens, ducks, geese, and turkeys (MPI).

In 1909, although the plantation was not yet turning a profit, Jason Malbis convinced his co-workers that they needed to purchase an additional 600 acres of land, and with his usual confidence and persuasion, it was agreed (Malbis Plantation 1964:11). Potatoes were planted over the newly-acquired 600 acres, and with much cultivation and hard work, an abundant crop was harvested and two railroad cars were loaded for sale in Chicago. However, the overproduction of potatoes that year in southern states, such as Alabama, flooded northern urban markets, to the financial loss of many farms, including those in Baldwin County and Malbis Plantation.

In 1910 the United States population census lists Jason Malbis as "Head of Household" with 14 "Boarders," including six single men, three single females, and a married couple and their three sons (Table 2). Jason Malbis was described as manager of the "Colony farm" with the six males as "Farm Laborers." The occupations of women at Malbis Plantation are simply listed as "None," although undoubtedly they did many household and farm chores.

By the late 1910s and early 1920s, Malbis Plantation began to flourish in the establishment of numerous enterprises. Jason Malbis relied on his Greek compatriots in cities such as Chicago and New York for financial support to keep the plantation viable in the early years, and the once provincial and now thriving Greek colony officially became Malbis Plantation Corporation in 1935.

The production of naval stores from the pine forests of Malbis Plantation was one early enterprise. An improvised plant with distillery processed pine resin into turpentine, pitch, and tar (Malbis Plantation 1964:16). This labor-intensive enterprise primarily employed African Americans from local communities (Riser 1999:19). According to the 1920 U.S. census, Peter Malbis, Jason's nephew, was manager of the "Turpentine Orchard." Pine resin was obtainable at the plantation commissary, and was also used to seal bottles of wine made at Malbis Plantation for their personal consumption (Riser 1999:19).

Little is known about the commissary or company store that served local workers hired at Malbis Plantation. Commissaries were common parts of agrarian ventures and industries of that era, such as ironworks and saltworks. In lieu of monetary pay, workers were given credit for purchases of produce and dry goods at the commissary. One Malbis family member recalled that African-American turpentine workers were paid in "chips" to be used at the commissary (Riser 1999:20). In the 1920 census, Malbis Plantation resident Hercules Vlahos was listed as the commissary clerk.

Table 2. 1910 United States Federal Census of residents of Malbis Plantation.

Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age (1910)	Marital Status	Birthplace	Parents Birthplace	Year of Imm.	Occupation	Business	Read/Writ English
Jason Malbis	Head	M	White	45	Single	Greece	Greece	1906	Manager	Colony	Yes
William Papageorges	Boarder	M	White	28	Single	Greece	Greece	1904	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes
Chris Papageorges	Boarder	F	White	40	Single	Greece	Greece	1908	None		Yes
Photini Papageorges	Boarder	F	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1908	None		Yes
Peter D. Papageorges	Boarder	M	White	60	Single	Greece	Greece	1908	None		Yes
Peter F. Rostoghon*	Boarder	M	White	27	Single	Greece	Greece	1906	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes
Nikolas M. Pharmakuris*	Boarder	M	White	30	Single	Greece	Greece	1909	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes
John K. Vocolis	Boarder	M	White	37	Single	Greece	Greece	1906	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes
Peter E. Gregor	Boarder	M	White	26	Married	Greece	Greece	1901	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes
Katie P. Gregor	Boarder	F	White	25	Married	Greece	Greece	[illegible]	None		Yes
Frederick P. Gregor	Boarder	M	White	8	-	New York	Greece	-	None		No
Paul P. Gregor	Boarder	M	White	5	-	New York	Greece	-	None		No
Harry P. Gregor	Boarder	M	White	3	-	New York	Greece	-	None		No
Polyxene T. Colmos*	Boarder	F	White	18	Single	Greece	Greece	1908	None		Yes
Peter D. Mathews	Boarder	M	White	22	Single	Greece	Greece	1907	Farm Laborer	Colony Farm	Yes

*name as transcribed by Ancestry Library and may not be correct

At the onset of World War I, the Greek colonists recognized a vital need for processing and canning their agricultural products for local sale, as well as widespread distribution (Malbis Plantation 1964:12-13). In 1917, three large wood frame buildings were built for a cannery (Anonymous n.d.:1). The first floors housed the canning operation, and upper floors were for surplus storage and living quarters for cannery workers. A competent businessman, Malbis family member John Vocolis (known as Uncle John) became Jason Malbis's chief assistant and oversaw the cannery from the beginning. Although lacking knowledge and experience, Uncle John quickly learned the canning business by reading farm publications of the United States government (Malbis Plantation 1964:13). Within a few years the Malbis cannery was very productive, employing 100 to 150 workers from the surrounding communities of Belforest, Daphne, Loxley, and Stapleton (Anonymous n.d.:1). Tomatoes, potatoes, okra, squash, string beans, pears, and figs were among the fruits and vegetables canned at Malbis Plantation, sold to local markets, and shipped via railroad to major cities in the eastern United States, including Chicago, Cincinnati, New York, and Philadelphia. Neighboring Baldwin County farmers were encouraged to grow certain vegetables for canning at Malbis Plantation. Produce was packed in a No. 2 can with a paper label lithographed with the Malbis trademark. For reasons uncertain, around 1926 the cannery stopped operations. One of the old cannery buildings was demolished in 1945, and the other two were renovated to house some 40 refugees who fled Greece after World War II (Anonymous n.d.:1).

During the successful years of the cannery, Malbis Plantation members also turned their hands to the growing need for baked goods, mostly breads, biscuits, and traditional Greek pastries, for their communal dinner table (Malbis Plantation 1964:14). A bakery building quickly arose at Malbis Plantation, and they soon found that they could easily produce a surplus of baked goods for sale to local communities.

Death came to Malbis Plantation in 1918 when the beloved matriarch of the Big House Fotene Papageorge died of influenza during a trip to Chicago. Jason Malbis escorted her body back to Baldwin County by train. A funeral was held in the Big House and she was buried in a beautiful mausoleum built by Malbis family members in what became Malbis Cemetery on the plantation grounds. Fotene had joined her brother William Papageorge at Malbis Plantation in 1907 or 1908 at age 26, and her strong character, wisdom, and spiritual faith were akin to that of Jason Malbis. She wholeheartedly took on the responsibilities of managing the Big House and taking care of all plantation residents. Her death was a great loss for the Malbis family (Malbis Plantation 1964:14-15).

The 1920 U.S. population census indicates an increase to 31 residents at Malbis Plantation (Table 3). Jason Malbis and his nephew Peter Malbis were listed in one household, Tom Kokenes was the head of a household that included his sister and brother-in-law, Helen and James Mallars, and niece Nafseka Mallars. Christopher Papageorge headed a household of 24 individuals listed as "Boarders." The larger group likely resided in the Big House, and included 21 males and 4 females. Most of the men (ages 20s and 30s) were listed as farm laborers under the management of Tom Kokenes. Peter Malbis oversaw the turpentine business, Hercules Vlahos was in charge of the commissary, and 17-year old Fred Gregor worked as the chauffeur for the household. Marie Starkey, age 23, the only woman listed with an occupation, served as secretary for Malbis Plantation. Of Irish descent, Starkey originally came to Malbis Plantation as a boarder, taught for a brief time in a local school, but soon embraced the colony's way of life and became a working member of the Malbis family. By 1923, with an influx of residents, the Big House was expanded to over 20 sleeping rooms and the exterior was remodeled to its current size, with plumbing and electricity installed.

There were many different types of agricultural, domestic, and commercial jobs, from hard physical labor to cooking to bookkeeping, at Malbis Plantation. Malbis family members with varied skills devoted many years of hard work to the plantation.

Throughout much of the year and depending on the type of job, residents often worked from 4 to 10 in the morning and from 2 to 6 at night, for a very long day that resembled the schedule kept by Jason Malbis while a monk in Greece (MPI). The Malbis men were allowed Saturday afternoon off to sleep all they wanted (Riser 1999:18).

Table 3. 1920 United States Federal Census of residents of Malbis Plantation.

Name	Relation	Sex	Race	Age (1920)	Marital Status	Birthplace	Parents Birthplace	Year of Imm.	Occupation	Business	Read/Write English
Jason Malbis	Head	M	White	52	Single	Greece	Greece	1906	Farmer	Farm	Yes
Peter Malbis	Nephew	M	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1914	Manager	Turpentine Orchard	Yes
Tom Kokenes	Head	M	White	35	Single	Greece	Greece	1900	Manager	Farm	Yes
James Mallars	Brother-in-law	M	White	40	Married	Greece	Greece	1900	-- Granary	Granary	Yes
Helen Mallars	Sister	F	White	30	Married	Greece	Greece	1910	None	--	Yes
Nafseka Mallars	Daughter	F	White	8	--	Alabama	Greece	--	None	--	Yes
Christopher Papageorge	Head	M	White	78	Married	Greece	Greece	1907	None	--	Yes
Christina Papageorge	Wife	F	White	65	Married	Greece	Greece	1907	None	--	Yes
William Papageorge	Son	M	White	32	Single	Greece	Greece	1903	Farmer	Farm	Yes
Antigone Papageorge	Adopted	F	White	8	--	Alabama	U.S.	--	None	--	Yes
Fred Gregor	Boarder	M	White	17	Single	New York	Greece	-	Chauffer	Home	Yes
Paul Gregor	Boarder	M	White	14	-	New York	Greece	-	None	--	Yes
Harry Gregor	Boarder	M	White	13	-	New York	Greece	-	None	--	Yes
Paulina Kinnas	Boarder	F	White	17	Single	Greece	Greece	1911	None	--	Yes
Stratos Pappas	Boarder	M	White	32	Single	Greece	Greece	1902	Laborer	Farm	Yes
James Pappas	Boarder	M	White	30	Single	Greece	Greece	1901	Laborer	Farm	Yes
George Pappas	Boarder	M	White	45	Married	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Gus Pappas	Boarder	M	White	27	Single	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Tony Farmakis	Boarder	M	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1907	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Christ Anargyros	Boarder	M	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
George Merkuris	Boarder	M	White	23	Single	Greece	Greece	1914	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Paraskas Kontopoulos*	Boarder	M	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Andrew Christou	Boarder	M	White	25	Single	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Tom Kalamutas*	Boarder	M	White	26	Single	Greece	Greece	1908	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Christ Pappas	Boarder	M	White	35	Single	Greece	Greece	1913	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Clemens Pappas*	Boarder	M	White	26	Single	Greece	Greece	1913	Laborer	Farm	Yes
John Vocolis	Boarder	M	White	42	Single	Greece	Greece	1903	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Emmanuel Lambrakis	Boarder	M	White	27	Single	Greece	Greece	1912	Laborer	Farm	Yes
John Manos	Boarder	M	White	27	Single	Greece	Greece	1913	Laborer	Farm	Yes
Marie Starkey	Boarder	F	White	23	Single	S. Dakota	U.S.	--	Secretary	Farm	Yes
Hercules Vlahos	Boarder	M	White	30	Single	Greece	Greece	1904	Clerk	Commissary	Yes

*name as transcribed by Ancestry Library and may not be correct

Everyday use of the Greek language was common at Malbis Plantation (and still is). Although there was no formal learning in the English language, those who did learn it were taught by Mary Starkey. According to Antigone Papageorges's memoirs "Everyone spoke Greek all the time but since [Uncle John] spoke Turkish, they used "dog Latin" with him (Riser 1999:18).

Over the years Malbis Plantation hosted many visitors, including religious leaders from Greece, prominent Mobilians, and famous individuals, such as Clarence Darrow, the lead defense attorney for the 1925 "Scopes Monkey Trial" (Riser 1999:27; Timbes 2006:49-50). Fishing in the lake and hunting birds and rabbits on the plantation grounds were popular activities for some guests. On many occasions the Malbis family invited Mobile's Greek community for summertime picnics at the plantation (Catranis 1989:91). Malbis family member George Pappas, an experienced winemaker produced traditional Greek wines, particularly retsina, from grapes and figs grown at Malbis Plantation (Riser 1999:29). Wine was served with meals and special occasions at Malbis Plantation, and some was secretly shipped during Prohibition to their Greek friends in Chicago.

When the cannery business was at its peak, the need for ice in that operation and in the Big House with the growing Malbis family became apparent. A large sturdy building of brick and concrete blocks was completed in 1920 as an ice plant (Anonymous n.d.:1; MPI). Blocks of ice were manufactured with high-powered diesel engines and stored in two large freezer rooms in the plant. Surplus ice was sold to neighbors and local communities. John Peturis at age 18 left Chicago and joined his uncle at Malbis Plantation, working as an ice man until 1929 (Catranis 1989:190). A machine shop was soon built in the ice plant, and in 1925 an addition to house and electrical plant was built at the request of Alabama Public Service in Montgomery to supply electricity to residences and businesses in Daphne, Spanish Fort, Battles Wharf, and Point Clear (Anonymous n.d.:1). Around 1941 the electrical plant was purchased by Riviera Utilities Corporation in Foley (Anonymous n.d.:1). The brick building that housed the old ice plant, machine shop, and electrical plant still stands at Malbis Plantation.

Around 1925 Jason Malbis came to the aid of an ailing Greek restaurateur in Mobile, and although lacking experience in this type of business, he agreed to take over operation of the popular Metropolitan Restaurant. By 1930 he and his restaurant manager Malbis family member James Papas were quite successful, and they opened a new "modern" Metropolitan Restaurant in the heart of downtown Mobile's business district (Anonymous 1930). In 1937 George Kourtopoulos, a well-known New York restaurateur was encouraged by Jason Malbis to come to Mobile, and with the assistance of his brother Athanasio and brother-in-law Tom Teris, Kourtopoulos supervised the Metropolitan Restaurant until his death in 1960 (Catranis 1989:164).

This adventure in the Mobile restaurant business brought Jason Malbis closer to opportunities in the city, which led him to establish a new bakery in Mobile. Malbis Bakery Company was incorporated on November 18, 1926 offering stock shares to its directors, officers, and members, with Jason Malbis as its first president. Much of the capital was provided by Jason Malbis's friends and business colleagues in Chicago. Within a few years the bakery was turning good profits from breads, cakes, biscuits, specialty items, and traditional Greek pastries. A fleet of Dodge trucks delivered to local restaurants and markets and across five states in the southeast. The bakery was particularly known for its "milk bread" and "Dixie Bread" that sold for 5 to 10 cents a loaf. Many Malbis Plantation residents worked at Malbis Bakery during the week, living communally in several houses on Marine Street owned by the colony two blocks from the bakery, and returned to the plantation on weekends. Harry Gregor, who was brought as a baby to Malbis Plantation around 1907, but left for several years during his young adulthood, was encouraged by Jason Malbis to return around 1927 to supervise the new bakery, a position Gregor held until 1957 (Catranis 1989:147).

Throughout the 1920s the continued success and growth of plantation enterprises was aided by an increase in local transportation routes to support them. In 1927 a 10-mile road known as the Causeway (Highway 90/98) was completed across the head of Mobile Bay, connecting the village at Daphne with the city of Mobile. In the late 1920s, members and workers at Malbis Plantation cleared and hand dug five miles of road running east-west across the northern portion of Malbis Plantation, between the Big House and Malbis Nursery. This road first appears on a map in 1929; by 1937 it was designated State Highway 90 and was paved with asphalt. Highway 90 became a major artery between the rural communities of Daphne to the west and Loxley to the east, with Malbis Plantation centrally located between the two towns. In the late 1930s a major north-south road, first called County Road 27 and now State Highway 181, was completed through the center of Malbis Plantation linking it to communities to the south, such as Belforest, Fairhope, and Clay City. These important transportation routes for cars and trucks opened up many commercial, as well as social, opportunities for all residents of Baldwin County, including Malbis Plantation.

In 1922 Jason Malbis began a silkworm culture experiment under the management of Nicholas and Olympia Kontopoulos, Greek natives who emigrated from Turkey, where they once worked in the industry in northern Greece (Anonymous 1926; MPI). Two types of silk fiber, a white silk and a clear yellow silk, were propagated using the common American mulberry tree as host. Two rooms in the Big House were dedicated to drying the silk. Samples of silkworm cocoons from Malbis Plantation were exhibited at the Sesquicentennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1926.

In 1928 Malbis Nursery was established and soon specialized in growing ornamental camellias and azaleas (Anonymous n.d.:1). The nursery complex was north of the Big House on the opposite side of Highway 90. The main building was an elegant two-story Mediterranean Revival brick structure with a showroom on the first floor and an upstairs apartment for Emanuel Lambrakis, manager of the nursery throughout its operation. Attached to this building were two long hothouses. Also in the nursery complex were a series of three large attached hothouses, a large barn, an open shed, and two smaller outbuildings. The nursery was a successful Malbis Plantation enterprise, having its own business stationary and newspaper advertisements. Flowers, plants, and shrubbery were shipped by truck throughout the United States. At its peak, Malbis Nursery had developed through propagation 30 varieties of camellias and 50 varieties of azaleas (Anonymous n.d.:1). Jason Malbis also introduced olive trees from California to the plantation. Malbis Nursery closed its doors in 1971 after 43 years in business. The only remaining building is the brick showroom and apartment complex with attached hothouse frames.

In 1928 a massive two-story brick house was built a short distance from the Big House at Malbis Plantation by Constantine P. Tampary for his wife Alexandra and their two children (Perry 2006a, 2006b). Tampary, a Greek immigrant who knew Jason Malbis in Chicago, was a wealthy architect and bridge builder, and this family became part of the Greek community at Malbis and in Mobile. In 1926 Mr. Tampary designed plans for the new Greek Orthodox Church, school, and parish house in Mobile, and in 1932 he served as President of that Church (Catranis 1989:14, 24). Constantine Tampary died only six years after the house was built at Malbis Plantation; his widow Alexandra lived there until her death in 1983. Both are buried, along with their son and daughter-in-law, at Malbis Cemetery. The Tampary house still graces the landscape at Malbis Plantation.

A dramatic drop in number of residents to 16 at Malbis Plantation occurred between the 1920 and 1930 censuses (Table 4). Now listed as "Lodgers," there were 11 males and five females, including three married couples, in the household headed by Jason Malbis. Most of the plantation residents were by then in their 40s through 60s, with only two younger than 30. Unfortunately the portion of the census that lists occupations is missing in the microfilmed document (also unfortunately, the 1930 census is the latest census currently available for study).

The dairy business at Malbis Plantation was established around 1930 and continued operation into the late 1940s or early 1950s. That complex of buildings included three barns, a cattle maintenance building, cow stalls, an open shed, a garage, and an apartment for dairy workers (three brothers: Gus, Steve, and Philip Papas). The dairy had the most modern dairy equipment and a stock of Guernsey, Jersey, and Holstein cows. They made their own cattle feed mixing sunflowers and corn "with something that looked like wheat," and also purchased feed from a man in Loxley (Riser 1999:18). Surplus milk and other dairy products were sold throughout southwest Alabama for home consumption and commercial use (Anonymous n.d.:2). Glass milk bottles with a blue "MALBIS DAIRY" stenciled label were made in factories in the northeast and distributed by the Thatcher Manufacturing Company of New York (Lockhart et al. 2007). The main dairy-processing barn and cow stalls burned down, but the other buildings remain standing a short distance southeast of the Big House.

In the mid-1930s, a restaurant, motel, and automotive service station were constructed on the northwest corner of Highways 90 and 181 (Anonymous n.d.:2). Originally built of pine harvested at Malbis Plantation and lumber planed at the sawmill, Malbis Cottages and Café consisted of several two-story buildings for rental rooms and a large two-story restaurant building. In 1952 the older wooden cottages were replaced by a 32-room, one-story brick motel, typical of the mid-twentieth-century style, and renamed Malbis Motel Courts (Anonymous n.d.:2). Perhaps the most unique feature was the motel courtyard swimming pool built in the shape of the State of Alabama. Motel guests were also encouraged to enjoy the artificial lake built across Highway 90 at Malbis Plantation. Many Malbis Plantation residents worked in the motel, restaurant, and gas station. Malbis Restaurant was well-known for its traditional specialties, including roasted leg of lamb, shiskabobs with rice pilaf, Greek salads, and pastries. In the early years, most of the meats and poultry, fruits and vegetables, and dairy products were supplied by Malbis Plantation. With the 1970s extension of Interstate 10 less than one-half mile to the north, nonlocal traffic was diverted away from Highway 90 and the Malbis motel and restaurant business began to wane. The complex was recently demolished for a new gas station and home improvement store.

Shortly before World War II, Jason Malbis returned to his birthplace in Greece after nearly 30 years, finding few relatives and friends (Malbis Plantation 1964:29-30). With the outbreak of war in 1939 and the occupation of Greece by Italy and Germany the following year, he was unable to leave and lived with his sister and her family. With few communications open, in January 1943 the Malbis family received a message from the International Red Cross that Jason Malbis had died on July 22, 1942 (Malbis Plantation 1964:30). After World War II, his remains were brought back to Malbis Plantation for reburial in Malbis Cemetery. He was permanently interred in a shrine in Malbis Memorial Church after its completion in 1965.

Another consequence of World War II was the arrival of nearly 40 Greek refugees at Malbis Plantation who fled the devastation of war-torn Europe in hopes of finding new lives in the United States. Many lived in two of the old cannery buildings and worked on the plantation or at Malbis Bakery in Mobile. Few stayed on; most eventually moved away joining relatives in other places.

After WWII and the loss of their spiritual leader and co-worker Jason Malbis, Malbis Plantation continued to thrive, albeit at a slower pace through the 1950s and into the 1960s. Many first-generation Malbis Plantation residents were aging, now in their 60s and 70s, having dedicated their entire lives to the Greek colony. Between the years 1968 and 1974, eighteen Malbis family members died and were buried in Malbis Cemetery.

One of the last buildings constructed at Malbis Plantation was the Men's Dormitory. Completed in 1956, this large two-story brick building for male members of the Malbis family had a large parlor, den, kitchen, and 30 bedrooms, each with its own bathroom. During this period an effort was made to attract new immigrants from Greece to communal life at a south Alabama plantation, but without much success. Vacant for the last decade, the Men's Dormitory still stands on Highway 181 across from the Big House.

A major event was the construction of a Greek Orthodox Church, fulfilling Jason Malbis's wish expressed in his last letter from Greece that family members build a church at Malbis Plantation (Malbis Plantation 1976). The Malbis Memorial Foundation was established to oversee this monumental task. Fund raising proved most difficult, taking nearly two decades. By 1960 design plans were complete and ground-breaking took place near Malbis Cemetery. The church is a replica of the Neo-Byzantine-style Greek Orthodox Church of the Panagia Chrysopyliotissa (Our Lady of the Golden Cave), built around 1910 in Athens. It was dedicated as Church of the Presentation of the Theotokos (Mother of Jesus), although it is commonly known as Malbis Memorial Church (Malbis Plantation 1976:14). Marble was imported from the same Greek quarry that provided stone for the ancient Parthenon, and metal, glass, and wooden religious figures and ornaments used in traditional rituals were made by Greek artisans. A master painter and two assistants were brought from Greece to paint the spectacular Church interior walls, ceiling, and rotunda. The Church took five years to complete at the cost of more than one million dollars. In the early to mid-1960s, during construction of the Church, there were 40 to 60 people living at Malbis Plantation who participated, witnessed, and celebrated this historic event (Hill 1976; Hussey 1976). Although never an active congregation, Easter and other special services, funeral proceedings, weddings, and other events still take place at Malbis Memorial Church.

In 1971 Malbis Nursery closed, being one of the last large commercial enterprises on the plantation. By the mid-1990s, Malbis Plantation, Inc. was primarily involved in timbering, leasing farmland, and selling real estate (Cox 1996). Much colony land was sold for residential and commercial purposes, yet the core of Malbis Plantation remains relatively intact along Highways 90 and 181. In the 1990s about 20 Greek families lived at Malbis Plantation, many in new homes in the southwestern portion of the property or in the large subdivision called Historic Malbis surrounding the old Malbis Nursery building.

Contributing Cultural Resources at Malbis Plantation Historic District

Thirty-five resources, including buildings, structures, and landscape features, are considered contributing resources to the Malbis Plantation Historic District (Table 5). Construction dates of these resources range from 1907 to 1965, with most built between 1910 and 1945. Buildings include living quarters, commercial buildings, agricultural and livestock farm buildings, and a church. Structural features include a pond, water trough, water storage tank, artificial lake, channelized creek, gates, and fences. Gardens and orchards represent landscape features.

Living Quarters

Four extant buildings served as living quarters for Malbis Plantation members: (1) the original 1907 house (renovated in 1923 and 1960) commonly called the "Big House;" (2) the Tampary-Simmons house built in 1928; (3) the 1940s Arcade Dormitory; and (4) the 1956 Men's Dormitory. Other living quarters include apartments in the dairy complex and the plant nursery for Malbis family residents who managed those enterprises.

Resource #1-The Big House. The Big House is located on the east side of Highway 181, a short distance south of Highway 90. Built of native pine harvested on the plantation, construction on this house probably began in early 1907, after the original land purchase for Malbis Plantation was finalized. An early photograph (predating the 1923 expansion) shows a two-story, L-shaped building of vertical wood frame with numerous windows and one brick chimney. The original house had cross hallways separating the sleeping rooms, totaling 15 on both floors (Anonymous n.d.:1).

The house configuration as seen today was completed during the 1923 expansion, with the most noticeable change being the stuccoed exterior and the addition of full surrounding covered open porches on the first and second floors. The second-story porch and roof is supported by 36 Corinthian columns of Greek Revival style on the four sides of the house. Six more rooms for living quarters were added and a central electrical system was installed at this time. The 1960 renovation consisted of extensive structural and foundation overhauls. Exterior remodeling included new iron latticework railings on the porches, replacing the 1923 handmade wooden railings, and the stuccoed house was painted pink. A few more rooms, including baths, were added for a total of 35.

Architecturally the Big House is an eclectic building, predominantly influenced by the Craftsman's style, with elements of Greek Revival architecture, as seen in the Corinthian porch columns (John Sledge, personal communication, August 9, 2007), and a hint of vernacular Gulf coast or Creole cottage with full surrounding porches or galleries. The Big House measures approximately 80 by 150 feet in size and 2½ stories in height. The wooden building is covered with stucco on the exterior. There are four main doors, one centrally located on each of the four sides of the house, with ten other exterior doors, all of which are paneled wood. There are numerous double-hung windows, most with original wooden frames on both stories. The Big House is in excellent condition and continues to be used as a residence.

Resource #2-Tampary-Simmons House. Built in 1928 this massive 2-story brick and stone house is located along Highway 90 a short distance northwest of the Big House. The house was built prior to the road, and the south façade looks over Malbis Plantation grounds, while the north rear of the house fronts Highway 90. The original residents were Constantine and Alexandra and their two children. Since the mid-1980s the house was unoccupied and suffered from vandalism and neglect. In late 2006 a fire, believed to have been arson, damaged a portion of the roof (Perry 2006a, 2006b). This event spearheaded local historians and preservationists to save the historic building. It was subsequently purchased by Willard B. Simmons, Jr., and is being restored to its original appearance with modern upgrades.

The Tampary-Simmons house is a very fine example of Mediterranean Revival architecture (John Sledge, personal communication, August 9, 2007). Constantine Tampary was a wealthy architect and bridge builder from Chicago, and he designed this house to be very structurally sound. This large 2½-story house with an attached 3-car garage is built predominantly of tan brick and stone with two brick chimneys and red Spanish-style terracotta roof tiles. The tan brick is atypical of locally-made brick, and it seems likely that the brick was brought from the Chicago area. The source of the non-native stone is unknown. Architectural details include Greek Revival Corinthian columns framing the front door and two flanking palladium French doors and windows on the first story. Numerous walkways and the foundation outline of an old tennis court were uncovered during recent restoration of the house grounds. The walkways are made of sandstone similar in appearance to the east gate and the gates at Malbis Nursery (discussed below).

Table 5. Contributing Resources at Malbis Plantation Historic District.

Type	Resource#	Name/Function	Construction/Use Date
Living Quarters	1	The Big House	1907-Present
	2	Tampary-Simmons House	1928-Present
	3	The Arcade Dormitory	1940s-Present
	4	Men's Dormitory	1956-2001
Sawmill	5	Small Sawmill Workshop	Ca. 1910-1950s
	6	Large Sawmill Workshop	Ca. 1910-1950s
Enterprise Buildings	7	Laundry	1930s-Present
	8	Ice Plant, Machine Shop, and Electrical Plant	1920-1950s
	9	Plant Nursery and Hothouses	1928-1971
Dairy Farm	10	Cattle Maintenance Barn	1930s-Early 1950s
	11	Dairy Cow Barn	1930s-Early 1950s
	12	Dairy Barn	1930s-Present
	13	Dairy Shed	1930s-Early 1950s
	14	Apartment and Garage	1930s-Present
Aviary	15	Outbuilding	1930s-Unknown
	16	Aviary	1930s-Unknown
	17	Pond	1930s-Unknown
Livestock Farm	18	Livestock Shed	1920s-Unknown
	19	Livestock Shed and Stables	1910s-Unknown
	20	Water Trough	1910s-Unknown
Chicken Farm	21	Chicken Shed	1910s-Unknown
	22	Chicken-Processing Building	1910s-Unknown
	23	Egg-Processing Building	1910s-Unknown
	24	Hen House	1910s-Unknown
Other Farm	25	Small Barn	1930-Present
	26	Large Barn	1930s-Early 1950s
Water-Related	27	Artificial Spring-Feed Lake	1940s-Present
	28	Water Storage Tank	Ca. 1920-Present
	29	Channelized Creek	1930s-Present
Religious	30	Malbis Memorial Church	1965-Present
	31	Malbis Cemetery	1918-Present
	32	Cemetery Storage Building	1930s/40s-Present
Landscape Features	33	Garden and Orchards	1920s-Present
	34	East Gate	1930s-Present
	35	Highways 90 and 181 Fences	1940s-Present

Resource #3-The Arcade Dormitory. This building was completed in the 1940s as a dormitory for Malbis Plantation members, including workers at the sawmill and dairy farm, and for agricultural laborers. The dormitory was commonly called The Arcade, although the origin of this name is unknown. This building is located on the west side of Highway 181, just south of the Men's Dormitory (discussed below). The Arcade is constructed of orange hollow clay tile made at the Clay City Brick Works, with a red brick exterior; the brick also probably came from Clay City. The Arcade is rectangular in shape measuring approximately 65 by 100 feet in size. The central portion is one story in height and consists of one large interior room, which was used as a common area. This section of the building has crenulated front and rear roof parapets, with a series of large solid concrete spheres, all painted white, on each flat surface. This section is typical of mid-twentieth-century commercial architecture. The north and south wings of the Arcade are two stories in height, each with a hip roof, and with each floor containing eight bedrooms, for a total of 32 rooms. The Arcade retains most of its original materials, including three wooden doors and numerous metal-framed windows on both stories. It is in excellent condition. One of the northern dormitory rooms of the building is occupied by a resident of Malbis Plantation, Inc. The remaining two-thirds of the building houses an antiques shop and the shop owner lives in one of the southern dormitory rooms.

Resource #4-Men's Dormitory. The last major construction at Malbis Plantation was the large two-story brick building completed in 1956 to house male members of Malbis Corporation, Inc. The Men's Dormitory is located on the west side of Highway 181 across from the Big House. This building is an example of mid-twentieth-century Colonial Revival architecture, with the colonnaded façade and broken pedimented front door frame (John Sledge, personal communication, August 9, 2007). It is U-shaped in plan measuring about 75 by 140 feet, with an asphalt-shingled hip roof. The walls are built of orange Clay City tile with a red brick façade. It has a large two-story attached porch with a brick and tile floor supported by eight white squared wooden columns on the façade that faces Highway 181. One- and two-story metal stairs and porches extend across the rear courtyard of the Men's Dormitory. The interior consists of 30 bedrooms, each with a private bathroom, and a centrally-located first floor lobby and parlor that was used for company stockholder's meetings, wakes, and other activities associated with Malbis Plantation. It retains most of its original materials, including eight wooden single and double doors and over 80 metal-framed windows on both stories. The Men's Dormitory was last occupied as a residence in 2001. It is in good to excellent condition and is currently used for storage for the antiques shop.

Sawmill Buildings

The sawmill complex began operations in 1906-1907 and is believed to have ceased operations in the 1950s. The actual construction date of the two extant wooden workshops is uncertain, but they do appear to be from the 1910s or 1920s. Similar in construction and materials, they were probably built around the same time. These workshops are located in the wooded southeast portion of Malbis Plantation.

Resource #5-Small Sawmill Workshop. This wooden frame workshop is rectangular in shape, measuring about 40 by 80 feet, and is 1½ story in height. The eastern one-third of the building collapsed during Hurricane Frederic in 1979. It is built of vertical wooden boards on concrete piers, with one large bay door and a standard door, and dirt floor. The wood-framed gabled roof has corrugated metal sheeting. The workshop consists of one large open area; several large pieces of cast iron woodworking equipment are still present. One piece of machinery marked "CURTIS ST. LOUIS 1951 PATENT" lies under the collapsed part of the workshop. A planing machine made by the J.A. Fay & Egan Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, sits in the standing portion of the workshop. This company was founded in 1893 and went bankrupt in 1937 (Old Wood-Working Machines [OWWM] 2007). This sawmill workshop is in fair to deteriorating condition and is not currently used.

Resource #6-Large Sawmill Workshop. The large wooden frame sawmill workshop lies immediately south and parallel to the smaller workshop. This workshop is about 40 by 210 feet, and was probably 1½ story in height; nearly the entire roof collapsed during Hurricane Frederic. This workshop is also built of vertical wooden boards on concrete piers, with a dirt floor and a gabled wooden-framed roof covered with corrugated metal sheeting. The workshop contains numerous pieces of woodworking equipment, including a larger boiler and another piece from the "NAGLE ENGINE AND BOILER WORKS" in Erie, Pennsylvania. An edger machine is marked "TOWER 32 EDGER GREENVILLE, MICH. GORDON HOLLOW BLAST GRATE CO.," a company that was in business from 1911 to 1936 (OWWM 2007). A long planing machine for sawing boards runs along the south wall of the workshop. This sawmill workshop is in deteriorating condition and is not currently used.

Enterprise Buildings

Resource #7-Laundry. Built in the 1930s, and replacing an earlier wood frame structure, this building sits behind the Big House separated by a paved parking lot. The building measures approximately 50 by 105 feet in size and is 1½ story in height. It is built of Clay City tile with stucco exterior with a wood frame gabled roof of the asbestos-shingled roof, sitting on a continuous poured concrete floor. It contains an open bay on the west side for six vehicle parking spaces. The interior consists of several rooms of various sizes and a finished attic. The building is in good condition and is currently used for parking and storage. Partial restoration is currently ongoing on the exterior and interior at the time of this study.

Resource #8-Ice Plant, Machine Shop and Electrical Plant. This large building built around 1920 stands of the east side of Highway 181 north of the Malbis Memorial Church parking lot. It has very thick walls constructed of brick exterior over concrete blocks with a small concrete block extension to the northeast corner. It measures approximately 60 by 110 feet in size and is 1½ story in height. It has a flat roof and sits on a continuous poured concrete foundation. The brick exterior consists of a combination of dark red and red brick, with the upper portion set with repetitive zig-zag geometric pattern reminiscent of classical Greek designs in darker brick on the upper portion of front of the building facing Highway 181. The southern one-third of the complex consists of a workroom for ice production and two room-sized freezers with thick insulated doors. The interiors of the two freezers have three-inch-thick cork insulation under stucco finish. There is iron machinery and overhead craneworks used in ice production and storage. The machine shop and electrical plant consists of two very large rooms in the northern two-thirds of the building. Some machinery and electrical equipment stands dormant, unused for several decades. One small room in the

northwest corner contains large wooden barrels on racks used for storing wine produced at Malbis Plantation. This room also has three inches of cork insulation. The building is in fair to good condition and currently serves as storage space.

Resource #9-Plant Nursery and Greenhouses. Malbis Nursery was in business from 1928 to 1971. The only extant structure is the two-story red brick building with the metal frames of large hothouses attached on its east and west sides. Malbis Nursery was located on the north side of Highway 90, a short distance northeast of the Big House. The two-story brick building once held a nursery workshop and showroom on the first floor and an apartment on the second floor for Emanuel Lambrakis, who managed Malbis Nursery through its 43 years of operation. Malbis Nursery is a very fine example of Mediterranean Revival architecture (John Sledge, personal communication, August 9, 2007). The brick building is rectangular in shape measuring approximately 45 by 65 feet, with the roof covered with a combination of asphalt shingles and red Spanish-style terracotta tiles. On the façade in glazed ceramic tile is "MALBIS NURSERY" with one word on each side of the main door. There are six wood and glass doors and nearly 20 metal-framed windows on the two-story building. All that remains of the once enclosed hothouses are the metal frames that are now covered in yellow jasmine vines. These hothouses are rectangular in shape and each measures approximately 37 by 145 feet. Although the brick Malbis Nursery building retains some original materials, some replacement materials were used in a late 1990s renovation. Currently the building is in excellent condition with the first floor used as the Historic Malbis Community Center and second floor with office space for Malbis Plantation, Inc. Neighborhood events, such as weddings and birthday parties, take place in the old nursery and the jasmine-draped frames of the former hothouses.

Dairy Farm Buildings

Malbis Dairy was established around 1930 and ceased operation by 1950. The dairy complex consists of five extant buildings and the foundation remains of a barn with stalls that burned down. For most of its existence Steve Papas managed the dairy, and his brothers Gus and Philip worked with him. The dairy complex is located a short distance southeast of the Big House.

Resource #10-Cattle Maintenance Barn. This large building was used for "cattle dipping" and hay storage. It measures approximately 25 by 80 feet in size and 2½ stories in height. The first story has solid poured concrete walls with a center wall dividing it into two areas with a dirt floor. It is predominantly underground, being built into the side of the small rise. This would have once been a large vat filled with liquid arsenic or other pesticide, which cattle were "dipped" to eradicate ticks that caused what was known then as "cattle fever." The second story (missing its wooden floor) was used for storing bales of hay for cattle feed. This story is made entirely of wooden drop siding with a hip roof on a wooden frame covered with corrugated metal sheeting. On the second story there are three double-hung wooden-framed windows for lighting, and two wooden horizontal sliding bay doors, hinged at the top, for getting hay bales in and out of the barn. The cattle maintenance barn is in good condition and used for storage of wood planks, wooden doors, and wood-framed windows from dismantled plantation buildings.

Resource #11-Dairy Cow Barn. This large building sits near the cattle maintenance barn. It measures approximately 40 by 130 feet in size and two stories in height. It is made entirely of concrete blocks with exterior molded impressions to make it look like bricks. It has a hip roof covered with corrugated metal on wooden framework. A main entrance on the west side is heavily overgrown with vegetation. A double wooden door entrance is on the north side and single wooden doors occur on the east and south sides. There are two windows on the north side, each with a wooden shutter. This barn is in good condition. The barn's interior was not accessible at the time of our survey.

Resource #12-Dairy Barn. This dairy barn lies between the dairy shed and apartment and garage complex (discussed below). The barn measures about 36 by 62 feet in size and is 1½ story in height. It is built of concrete blocks, has side gables, and a corrugated metal roof on a wooden frame. It consists of a one-room work area with a poured concrete floor and a larger room with a dirt floor with three bay doors on each side of the building. The original use of this building is unknown. It is in good condition and currently used as a tool shed and storage.

Resource #13-Dairy Shed. This linear open shed lies to the north of the dairy barn. This shed measures approximately 23 by 108 feet in size and less than one story in height. The rear and side walls are made of mortared molded concrete blocks on a poured concrete foundation. On the open front are four concrete block columns supporting the wood-framed corrugated metal roof over the dirt floor. There are four wood-framed windows on the rear wall. Under the east side of the shed is a large terracotta drainpipe that allows the flow of water through a channelized section of a creek (discussed below) running between the dairy barns to the ice plant, machine shop, and electrical plant. The dairy shed is in good condition. Its original use is unknown. It is currently used as storage for old dairy and farm equipment, modern appliances, and miscellaneous scrap.

Resource #14-Apartment and Garage. This complex sits between the dairy barn and shed to the north and the cattle maintenance barn and dairy cow barn to the south. This large rectangular building, measuring approximately 30 by 102 feet, consists of a one-story garage with six bays and a two-story apartment with one garage bay underneath. The building is built of concrete blocks with impressions to make it look like bricks, and it rests on a continuous poured concrete foundation. The gabled roof of the garage and the hip roof of the apartment are corrugated metal over wood frame. The building is painted white and is in

excellent condition. The apartment has 13 double hung windows on the first and second stories, all with green painted wooden shutters, which may not be original. The garage bays are currently used for storage of farm equipment and vehicle parking and a Malbis Plantation Inc. member lives in the apartment.

Resource #15-Outbuilding. A small building sits behind or east of the apartment. It measures approximately 13 by 16½ feet in size and is less than one story in height. The outbuilding is built of concrete blocks with a roughened surface. It has a wooden gate for the large door opening on the west side and two fixed wood-framed windows, one of which has green painted wooden shutters similar to those on the apartment. It has a replaced corrugated metal roof on a wood frame, and sits on a continuous poured concrete foundation. This outbuilding is in good condition. Its original function is uncertain and it is currently vacant.

Aviary and Pond

Resource #16-Aviary. A small building once used as an aviary is located just west of the dairy farm complex. The aviary is about 13 by 13 feet in size, and less than one story in height. It is constructed on concrete blocks and wooden board and batten on a poured concrete foundation. The gabled roof has asphalt shingles and there is one entrance and the windows are boarded up. Malbis residents remember that dairy manager Steve Papas tended to “birds of all kinds” at the aviary. The aviary is in good condition and is not being used.

Resource #17-Pond. Located about 90 feet west of the aviary is a small “duck” pond made of poured “pebble” concrete with four concrete pedestals, six inches in diameter and nine inches high, in the center of the pond. It is circular in shape, measuring about 20 feet across and 1.4 feet in height. The pond is in good condition, and is not in use.

Livestock Farm Buildings

Sheep, pigs, and goats were raised at Malbis Plantation primarily to provide meat for Malbis family dinners, and, after the mid-1930s, for Malbis Restaurant.

Resource #18-Livestock Shed. A large L-shaped shed for housing sheep, pigs, and goats lies directly east of the dairy cow barn. Made of wooden frame with corrugated metal sheeting for walls, the livestock shed has a corrugated metal wood-framed roof held up by wooden posts set on concrete pads. It is less than one story in height and measures about 245 feet on one side, 100 feet on the other side, 20 feet in width, and is open on the long south side. There are several wooden animal stalls on the short side, with the rest as open space, all with a dirt floor. This livestock shed is in good condition. It is currently used for storage of a variety of items, including old farm equipment.

Resource #19- Livestock Shed and Stables. This linear building lies on the southern edge of the area used as a sheep, pig, and goat farm. It measures approximately 16 by 110 feet in size and less than one story in height. The western one-third is made of vertical wood planks with side gables and contains ten enclosed animal stalls made of wooden pickets. The wooden walls and stalls are supported by foundations of a mixture of Clay City tile and brick, most of which looks like reused materials. The eastern part is an open shed made of molded concrete blocks painted white with an angled roof supported by six columns of square concrete blocks. Both roofs are corrugated metal sheeting on wooden frames. A large tree fell through the center part of the roof during a recent hurricane. This shed and stable is in fair to good condition and is currently used for storage.

Resource #20-Water Trough. A round water trough made of poured concrete sits near the larger livestock shed. It measures about 16 feet across with an inner concrete ring. The walls are approximately 2.5 feet high and 6 inches thick. The trough is unused and overgrown with small trees.

Chicken Farm Buildings

Raising chickens and other poultry was begun shortly after the establishment of Malbis Plantation, and in 1908 there were about 150 birds (MPI). The chicken farm was located on the eastern portion of Malbis Plantation and consists of four extant buildings: a shed, two processing buildings, and a hen house, in close proximity to each other. Currently the chicken farm is very overgrown with shoulder-high vegetation.

Resource #21-Chicken Shed. This is a linear structure approximately 13 by 90 feet in size and less than one story in height. The south side of the shed is open, its walls are molded concrete blocks, and the corrugated metal sheeting roof on a wooden frame is supported by wooden posts. It rests on a foundation of concrete blocks and has a dirt floor. A small enclosed room with one door and a window is attached to the east side of the shed. The building was damaged by recent hurricanes and is partially collapsed in deteriorating condition.

Resource #22-Chicken-Processing Building. Nearby the chicken shed is a tile and brick building approximately 15 by 35 feet in size and one story in height. This one-room building was probably used for cleaning and processing chicken meat. This building is built of the large red Clay City tiles with standard-sized red bricks around the windows and on the corners of the

building. It has side gables with wood shingle roof. There is a four-paneled wooden door and an exterior chimney of Clay City tiles on the east side. There are six hinged windows with wooden frames, two each on the long sides of the building and one each on the short sides. The floor is poured concrete and there is a finished ceiling painted gray. The building is in good condition and is currently vacant with the exception of a wood cabinet and metal stack of trays.

Resource #23-Egg-Processing Building. This one-room building is approximately 15 by 25 feet in size and one story in height. It is built of plain and molded concrete blocks, painted white inside and outside, with a sided gabled roof of corrugated metal sheeting and a poured concrete floor. It has a finished ceiling of wooden lathes, one double wooden door on the south side, and seven casement windows in wood frames. A stove flue hole currently covered with metal is in the ceiling. This building was probably used for washing, packing, and storing eggs, and may have contained incubators for hatching eggs. The building is in fair to good condition, and is currently vacant with the exception of an old refrigerator and a wooden workbench.

Resource #24-Hen House. A one-room hen house is attached to the southeast corner of the egg-processing building. It measures approximately 15 by 60 feet in size and is one story in height. It is built of plain and molded concrete blocks painted white inside and out, with one door opening, a poured concrete floor, and a front and rear-gabled roof of corrugated metal sheeting on a wooden frame. Along the south wall are a series of wooden cages for laying hens on top of a short concrete block wall. The upper portion of this wall is open, covered with chicken wire. The building is in fair to good condition and is currently vacant.

Other Farm Buildings

Resource #25-Small Barn. This stucco on wooden frame barn is located between the dairy farm, the aviary, and the livestock farm. It measures approximately 20 by 50 feet in size, is one story high, and has a front and rear gabled wood-framed roof with asbestos shingles and a continuous poured concrete floor. There is one large bay door opening and two paneless windows. On the north side are two openings with wooden doors that appear to be for a specific function, which remains unknown. The original function of this barn is unknown, but it may be related to the dairy farm based on proximity. It is currently in good condition and is used for storage of a variety of items.

Resource #26-Large Barn. This barn is located in an isolated area south of the livestock farm. It measures approximately 60 by 120 feet in size, is two stories high, and has large one-story open sheds on the both long sides. The main portion of the barn is constructed of plain concrete blocks. The roof has front and rear gables with corrugated metal sheeting on a massive wooden roof frame. The interior consists of a large open space with a dirt floor. Bay entrances with sheet metal doors occur on the short sides of the barn, and there are ten wood-framed paneless windows each on the north and south sides. At the east entrance, there are two small interior rooms or stalls built of tan bricks at a later period. Eight columns made of glazed bricks support the roof of the southern open shed that shelters several pieces of old farm equipment. Eight columns of terracotta blocks support the northern open shed roof. This barn is in good condition and is used for storage of numerous old pieces of farm equipment, among other items.

Water-Related Structures

Resource #27-Water Storage Tank. An elevated water storage tank sits on the west side of Highway 181 just south of the Arcade Dormitory. It has a steel plate cylindrical tank with a hemispherical bottom and conical top supported on a squared latticework steel structural system consisting of four major beams. It is painted gray and has "MALBIS PLANTATION" painted in dark blue on opposite sides of the tank. Its height is indeterminate, and it is believed to have the capacity of 500,000 gallons. The construction style of this tank is similar to tanks made in the mid-1890s to the 1920s. In particular, these tanks were a common product of the Chicago Bridge & Iron Company (CB&I) founded in 1889, and the full hemispherical bottom on the tank is one of their innovations (CB&I 2007). It seems likely that with the strong Malbis connection to Chicago, that this tank may have been produced by this company. Another connection is Mr. Constantine Tampary, who built his large house at Malbis Plantation in 1928, and was an architect and bridge builder from Chicago. Nearly identical water storage tanks stand at the Mobile City waterworks and at Searcy Mental Hospital in rural Mobile County, Alabama, about 30 miles northwest of Malbis Plantation. Three similar tanks constructed in Crow County, Minnesota, between 1912 and 1918 by the Des Moines Bridge & Iron Company and the Minneapolis Steel Machinery Company are listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP 1979). About ten years ago the Malbis Plantation water tank was sold to the City of Daphne, and is still in operation.

Resource #28-Artificial Lake. In the 1940s a large artificial lake was created for recreational activities behind the two dormitories west of Highway 181. Carved out of a section of D'Olive Creek, this lake was dug by hand by residents and workers at Malbis Plantation. The lake meanders northwest to southeast and is approximately 1750 feet long and 400 feet wide, with cross channels creating several islands. It is about 10 feet deep in most areas, and has two old wooden bridges and a new wooden bridge across the lake to the islands. It is currently fed by a small spring in the northern section, although at the time of this study it was nearly dry. It was recently dredged and cleared of vegetation and recent hurricane debris.

Resource #29-Channelized Creek. A small creek meandering through Malbis Plantation was channelized for about 500 to 600 feet between the dairy farm and the ice plant, machine shop, and electrical plant. It is an unnamed tributary of Turkey Branch, which flows into a major waterway named Fish River about two miles southeast of Malbis Plantation. The section of the channelized creek has been cut deeper and lined with poured concrete to control storm drainage. A large terracotta drainpipe allows water to flow underneath the east side of the dairy shed. The creek was dry at the time of this study.

Religious Buildings and Monuments

The Greek Orthodox Church known commonly as Malbis Memorial Church was dedicated as The Presentation of Theotokos Church on January 3, 1965, after five years of construction, and twenty years of planning. Malbis Cemetery was established in 1918.

Resource #30-Malbis Memorial Church. This architecturally significant church stands on the east side of Highway 181, just south of the Malbis Plantation ice plant, machine shop, and electrical plant. Constructed in the Neo-Byzantine style under the supervision of the architectural firm Frederick C. Woods and Associates, Malbis Memorial Church was modeled after a church in Athens called Panagia Chytsospyliotissa (Our Lady of the Golden Cave) (Malbis Plantation 1976; Stuart 2007; Whitehead 1998). Built entirely with funds donated by Malbis family members over several decades, Malbis Memorial Church cost \$1 million to complete. The multi-storied brick and stone church has two towers flanking the pedimented and colonnaded façade and a central dome reaching a height of over 75 feet. Other exterior architectural features include Greek Revival Corinthian columns highlighting the façade, towers, and palladium windows, with stained glass panes and mosaics depicting religious figures and icons. The main roof is covered with Spanish-style red terracotta tiles, with silver-metal roofing on the domed towers and central dome, each holding a green-metal cross. The very colorful church interior is elaborately embellished with architectural adornments, such as the massive red marble Corinthian columns flanking the nave, and surrounded by paintings and murals on every wall and ceiling completed by master craftsmen and artists from Greece. The mosaics were designed by Tonelli Studios in Chicago and completed in the company's Italian workshop. Some artwork and religious relics were brought from Greece, and all of the interior marble was mined from the same quarries that supplied the ancient Parthenon.

Jason Malbis's remains were brought back from Greece just after World War II, a few years after his death in 1942, and he was buried in Malbis Cemetery. He was later reinterred in a shrine in Malbis Memorial Church shortly after its completion in 1965. Although never having an active congregation, religious observances, special services, weddings, and funerals take place in Malbis Memorial Church. It is also open to the public for tours.

Resource #31-Malbis Cemetery. The active cemetery associated with Malbis Plantation lies on the east side of Highway 181, south of Malbis Memorial Church. The cemetery tract is about one acre in size, with most of the graves concentrated in the west-central portion of the tract, near the highway. Currently there are 98 burials in Malbis Cemetery, with the earliest dating to 1918 and the most recent to 2005 (Table 5).

The arrangement of Malbis Cemetery consists of roughly ten rows of graves, typically buried with heads to the west and feet to the east. The most common form of grave monument is concrete crypts or box tombs. These box-like structures are approximately 3 feet 7 inches by 7 feet 9 inches in size and are set 2 to 2½ feet above the ground. Each crypt marks an individual grave, and most have small marble gravestones attached to the head of the crypt with the person's name and date of birth and death. There are also two mausoleums centrally located among the graves at Malbis Cemetery. One mausoleum contains the remains of Fotene (Photini) Chris Papageorge, who was the first to be buried here in 1918. Constantine (1889-1934) and Alexandra Tampary (1894-1983), who built the Tampary-Simmons house at Malbis Plantation, are buried together in the second mausoleum.

Resource #32-Cemetery Storage Shed: A small shed on the north edge of Malbis Cemetery is used for storage, including the metal molds for making the concrete box tombs common in the cemetery. The building is about 11 feet square and less than one story high. It is constructed of tannish-yellow brick from the Clay City Brick Works, resting on a poured concrete foundation, with one door, one window, and a flat asphalt-shingled roof. The building is in good condition. Next to this building is a large cast iron bell hanging in a wooden frame, which is struck for funeral processions.

Table 5. Burials in Malbis Cemetery, 1918-2005.

Year	Name	Dates	Year	Name	Dates
1918	Fotene Chris Papageorge	1881-1918	1974	Chris Anargyros	1893-1974
1921	Helen Kokenes Mallars	1885-1921		Peter E. Frankos	1880-1974
1923	Chris G. Papageorge	1848-1923		Angela N. Kospetos	d. 1974
1927	Chrysanthe Papageorge	1838-1927		Theodore C. Tampary	1914-1974
1929	Evangelos Karamanos	1891-1929	1975	George C. Antonopoulos	1879-1975
1930	Nicholas Kontopoulos	1853-1930	1976	Fred Peter Gregor	1900-1976
1934	Constantine Tampary	1889-1934		James E. Papas	1886-1976
1936	Athanasios Anargyros	1886-1936	1977	Gus E. Papas	1894-1977
	Peter Gregor	1884-1936	1978	John A. Mercouris	1900-1978
	John Kinnas Panayiota	1905-1936	1980	George M. Peturis	1899-1980
1942	Jason Malbis	1869-1942	1982	Maria G. Antonopoulos	1898-1982
	John Vocolis	1870-1942		Perry N. Kontopoulos	1890-1982
1943	Anthony Farmakis	1891-1943	1983	Efthimios P. Vrahatis	1901-1982
	Regina Micsan	1857-1943		James J. Mathews	1890-1983
1945	Mimis Chapralis	1890-1945		Alexandra Micsan Tampary	1894-1983
1947	Marie Jane Starkey	1895-1947	1985	George W. Rempas	1911-1985
1948	James A. Mallars	1879-1948	1986	Sofia E. Kontopoulos	1902-1986
1949	Fotene Papas	1900-1949		Catherine Papadeas	1905-1986
1953	Olympia Kontopoulos	1859-1953		Nicholas C. Stavrakos	1898-1986
1954	Stergios Zico Gouletsas	1884-1954	1987	Anthony P. Betsiaras	1907-1987
1955	George Demetriou Marinos	1893-1955		E. Nell Kalasountas	1932-1987
1956	Efstratios E. Papas	1889-1956		Constantine O. Papadeas	1892-1987
1958	John Efthimios Hanges	1888-1958		Goldie S. Theodore	1921-1987
	Panayioti Athanasios Malbis	1895-1958	1988	Pagona Kokenes Rempas	1915-1988
1959	Harry Andrews	1892-1959	1990	Pauline N. Kospetos	1894-1990
	Minnie Marina Marinos	1892-1959	1991	Mark Edward Malbis	1953-1991
	Stamatea Papas	1877-1959	1992	James John Marks	1911-1992
1960	Efstratios N. Kontopoulos	1885-1960	1993	Vasilios Demetrios Golfiinopoulos	1934-1993
1961	George E. Papas	1867-1961		Julia A. Gregor	1913-1993
1962	Constantine G. Stavrojohn	1889-1961	1994	Thalia P. Fishwick	1915-1994
	Petro Demetriou Toscas	1888-1961		Costantinos G. Scourtes	1910-1994
	Themistockles C. Kokenes	1881-1962		1995	Harry Peter Gregor
1964	John George Peturis	1899-1962	1995	Christina G. Mathews	1931-1995
	John F. Anargyros	1888-1962		Demetrios Miofas	1922-1995
1965	Thomas G. Mathews	1897-1965	1996	Ellen Morres Tampary	1914-1995
	Dr. George Papageorge	1876-1965		Sam G. Papas	1908-1996
1968	Lora Cometti Gregor	1910-1968	1997	Nafseka J. Mallars	1911-1997
	Peter D Papadeas	1889-1968	1998	Antigone F. Papageorge	d. 1999
	Tula Petrinou Papageorge	1884-1968	2000	Athanasia G. Papas	1905-2000
1970	Angelo Mathews	1985-1970	2002	Mary Gregor Wilkerson	1947-2000
	James Oardanis	1880-1970		Antigone Betsiaras	1914-2002
1971	Anastasios N. Kalasountas	1888-1971	2003	Bernard Fishwick	1920-2002
	Nicholaos P. Kontopoulos	1898-1971		Azar Kathryn Kospetos M.D.	d. 2003
	Emanuel S. Lambarkis	1888-1971	2004	Leiminia "Lula" Papas	1918-2004
	Alexio Tragos	1890-1971		George Peter Malbis	1930-2004
1972	George J. Frankos	1888-1972	2005	Peter Theodore	1921-2005
	Theodore N. Hangis	1886-1972			
	Pericles Kotojohn	1898-1972			
	Christina A. Tomares	1890-1972			
	Constantine N. Tomares	1970-1972			

Landscape Features

Resource #33-Garden and Orchards. An informal garden composed predominantly of azalea and camellia bushes covers two to three acres at the southeast corner of Highways 90 and 181, directly north of the Big House. A small orchard of sand pears and figs was planted south of the garden and east of the Laundry building. A pecan, pear, and persimmon orchard stands on the west side of Highway 181, just south of the Malbis Plantation water storage tank.

Resource #34-East Gate. This gate is located at the T-section of two dirt roads in the northeastern portion of Malbis Plantation. The gate leads from the dairy barn area to pasture and was primarily used as a cattle grade gate. The associated fencing

that would have separated the cattle barns from the pasture no longer exists. The east gate consists of two flanking gateposts built of large sandstone blocks mortared into 2 feet 4 inch-square columns, 7 feet in height. The sandstone blocks are roughly dressed or shaped. There are remnants of iron hardware in both gateposts. Based on materials and style, this gate was probably built in the 1930s when Malbis Dairy was established.

Resource #35-Fences along Highways 90 and 181. Elaborate fences extend around portions of Malbis Plantation on the south side of Highway 90 and on both sides of Highway 181. One section of fence covers the southeast corner of the intersection of the two highways around the azalea and camellia garden and The Big House. The other fence section covers the southwest intersection corner from the Tampary-Simmons house on Highway 90 to the Men's Dormitory on Highway 181. The fence consists of chain link fencing set between seven-foot columns, each over two-foot square and built of curved clay tiles, interspersed with round metal fence posts. Concrete spheres occur on top of the tile fence columns and are similar to those on the roof of the Arcade Dormitory. Metal ball post caps appear on all of the metal fence posts. The entire fence is painted white, and is currently in good condition. The materials and style of fencing with the concrete and metal ball top post caps suggest that it dates to the 1940s.

Non-Contributing Resources at Malbis Plantation

Fifteen buildings (all residences--some with garages and storage sheds) within the proposed boundaries of Malbis Plantation Historic District are not over 50 years of age and are considered non-contributing resources (Table 6). Thirteen of these residences are located in a subdivided tract along Malbis Lane (nine homes) and Vlahos Lane (four homes) on the west side of Highway 181, south and southwest of the Malbis Plantation water storage tower. One residence is on the east side of Highway 181 at the intersection with Malbis Lane, and the remaining residence is located on the south side of Highway 90 across from Malbis Nursery. Four of these residences are occupied by older members of Malbis Plantation, Inc., some of whom in earlier years lived communally at the plantation.

Table 6. Non-Contributing Resources at Malbis Plantation.

Residence Address	General Location
9511 Malbis Lane	North side of road
9563 Malbis Lane*	North side of road
9595 Malbis Lane	North side of road
9628 Malbis Lane	South side of road
9655 Malbis Lane*	North side of road
9717 Malbis Lane	North side of road
9740 Malbis Lane	South side of road
9780 Malbis Lane	South side of road
9800 Malbis Lane	South side of road
29120 Vlahos Lane	East side of road
29160 Vlahos Lane	East side of road
29220 Vlahos Lane	East side of road
29240 Vlahos Lane	East side of road
29289 State Highway 181*	West side of highway
10200 State Highway 90*	South side of highway

* Malbis Plantation, Inc., members

Statement of Significance of Malbis Plantation

In many ways, Malbis Plantation was a unique economic and social experiment that flourished for nearly a century in rural Baldwin County in southwest Alabama. Unlike similar ethnic immigrant communities established in Baldwin County around the turn of the twentieth century, Malbis Plantation maintained its domestic communal lifeways as a geographically isolated colony. At the same time, Malbis Plantation maintained strong connections with broad economic bases, including produce markets in large industrial cities in the north and northeast. Under the lead of Jason Malbis, Malbis family members sustained strong social ties with Greek immigrant communities primarily in Chicago and New York, but also Miami and New Orleans. Malbis Plantation also became a welcomed starting point for many newly-arrived Greek immigrants.

The height of economic success at Malbis Plantation occurred in the 1920s and 1930s with its numerous enterprises, such as the saw mill, cannery, ice plant, machine shop, electrical plant, dairy, plant nursery, and bakery. Some economic ventures, including experimentation in silkworm culture and the introduction of olive trees from California, were truly unique for the time and place. The physical aspects of the historical rural landscape of Malbis Plantation are still very visible, with the exception of commercial development on the north side and the expansion of Highways 90 and 181. Many plantation buildings, dating from

1907 to 1965, are still standing in various conditions. Members of Malbis Plantation made most of the structural materials, and built nearly all of the structures, although sometimes assisted by local workers.

Many Greek traditions, social and religious, were maintained at Malbis Plantation and family members also participated and interacted with the large Greek community in Mobile, as well as hosting spiritual leaders and dignitaries from the homeland. Perhaps the culminating point in the history of Malbis Plantation was the completion of the Malbis Memorial Church in 1965, an architectural Neo-Byzantine masterpiece that graces the grounds of Malbis Plantation.

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**Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage
Alabama Historical Commission**

**Malbis Plantation Historic District
Baldwin County, Alabama**

Malbis Plantation: Describe the overall appearance of the property and setting.

Malbis Plantation was established in 1906 as a colony for Greek immigrants, and by the 1920s it was self-sufficient operation. Currently the historic core of Malbis Plantation consists of about 690 acres. Malbis Plantation is a rural historical landscape consisting of four residential buildings, a church and cemetery, numerous farm and commercial buildings, water-related structures, and landscape features, such as gardens and orchards, gates and fences. Over the last decade or so, rapid commercial and residential development has encroached the northern edge of Malbis Plantation.

Malbis Plantation: This property is important because:

Malbis Plantation was established in 1906 as a colony farm by two Greek immigrants, Jason Malbis, the colony's spiritual leader and an astute entrepreneur, and William Papageorge, who became a successful businessman in his own right. Within a decade or two, the colony farm became a self-sufficient plantation and commercial enterprise known as Malbis Plantation, Inc., supporting a cannery, bakery, dairy, ice plant, machine shop, electrical plant, and plant nursery. The colony was also a social experiment. Malbis Plantation served as a starting-off point for many Greek immigrants, ^{who} were required to give their meager savings to the common treasury. Plantation jobs and household tasks were assigned based on skills, knowledge, and gender. The population consisted primarily of unmarried men, although a few single females and married couples with children were part of the communal household. The main plantation home, commonly known as the Big House, contained over 20 sleeping rooms, and dormitories were built for the men. Meals were also a communal affair. Under the strong leadership of Jason Malbis, the peak of financial success and resident population at Malbis Plantation occurred in the 1920s and 1930s. After the 1942 death of Jason Malbis, the plantation began to wane. In the mid-1950s to mid-1970s, many of the first generation in their 60s and 70s passed away, most leaving no heirs. Perhaps the most memorable accomplishment of Malbis Plantation, Inc., was the construction of a majestic Greek Orthodox Church at the plantation, dedicated in 1965. By the end of the twentieth century, Malbis Plantation, Inc. was involved primarily in real estate, selling much of the colony land for residential and commercial development, yet protecting the historic core of the old plantation buildings and grounds, designated here as Malbis Plantation Historic District. Thirty-five ^{of} ~~cultures~~ resources, including buildings, structures, and landscape features, were documented in the historic district.

This now century-old Greek colony made a significant contribution to the economic development of Baldwin County, Alabama, in the first half of the twentieth century. These contributions include advances in agriculture and horticulture, livestock and animal husbandry, and early twentieth-century industries, such as naval stores, ice manufacturing, and electrical production. The labor force at Malbis Plantation participated in nearly every type of viable

economic venture that the natural environs of Baldwin County could support. Malbis Plantation also influenced local transportation routes, primarily roads and railroads.

In the 1920s and 1930s, Malbis Plantation products, such as potatoes, canned fruits and vegetables, milk and eggs, bread and baked goods, were distributed to local communities and shipped to distant markets in large northern cities, such as Chicago and New York, thus strengthening the commercial agricultural viability of Baldwin County products. The cannery at Malbis Plantation also packed produce from other Baldwin County farms, further stimulating economic growth for local farmers. Experimentation and success with the silk worm industry in the 1920s was a unique enterprise at Malbis Plantation, as was the introduction of olive trees from California. Malbis Nursery, which specialized in ornamental plants, primarily camellias and azaleas, was described as a "showplace" of Baldwin County with a "mammoth wholesale and retail trade" involving hundreds of railroad cars of plants shipped to every state and to foreign countries (MPI).

From the early years until around 1950, the raising of livestock was a significant component of Malbis Plantation, providing meat and poultry for communal family dinners, as well as their restaurant business. Using the most up-to-date equipment, Malbis Dairy developed into a large business serving southwest Alabama. Malbis Plantation was an innovative leader in providing commodities, such as canned produce and block ice, and public utilities, including electricity and water, not typically found in early twentieth-century rural Alabama. For several decades, Malbis Motel and Restaurant was a welcomed oasis on a country road offering shelter for travelers and serving traditional Greek food, while also employing local residents. Plantation business ventures in the city of Mobile, including Malbis Bakery and the Metropolitan Restaurant, also employed many people and promoted the economic productivity of Malbis Plantation and Baldwin County.

In summary, the variety of economic ventures established at Malbis Plantation not only enabled the Greek colony to become self-sufficient, but also benefitted surrounding communities, in terms of commodities, such as farm and dairy products, and employment for local laborers. Malbis Plantation managers and workers utilized the various natural resources of Baldwin County and implemented technological innovations and advances in their successful endeavors over its 100-year history.

Malbis Plantation Historic District is also considered significant for its physical layout, distinctive domestic and commercial architecture, level of craftsmanship, and use of materials. The physical layout of Malbis Plantation developed primarily over two to three decades after its 1906 establishment. This historic landscape currently retains 23 extant major buildings, including four residences, thirteen farm-related, five commercial buildings, and the Malbis Memorial Church. Malbis Plantation differed from other Baldwin County farms in terms of the variety of commercial enterprises and associated construction of building and other facilities. This diversity is reflected in the current physical appearance. The 1907 Big House itself is a significant eclectic style building, having been remodeled two times (in 1923 and 1962) to house the growing Malbis family. The Malbis Nursery building and the Tampary-Simmons house, both of Mediterranean Revival architecture with Classical Greek elements, are distinctive for this region. The Malbis Memorial Church, built in Neo-Byzantine style, has been a unique towering landmark for over 40 years in the rapidly changing landscape of the south Baldwin County. In the south Alabama region, these three buildings each are unique for their architectural style and design. The presence of the Greek Orthodox Malbis family cemetery is also distinctive.

Nearly all plantation construction was planned and completed by Malbis Plantation residents. Most of the farm outbuildings, barns, and storage sheds, are similar in terms of style and materials, primarily wood, brick, and concrete. With few exceptions, buildings materials were produced by Malbis Plantation members and workers. Specifically of note is the abundance and variety of concrete block construction. John Vocolis and William Papageorge are believed to be primarily responsible for much of the early construction, and were particularly known for their extensive use of poured concrete and the on-site production of a variety and abundance of concrete blocks (William Scourtes, personal communication, 2007). The massive one-story high poured concrete walls of the Cow Maintenance Barn attest to this, as does the use of three different kinds of concrete blocks (plain, roughened, and brick-impressed) that appear in nearly all plantation buildings. Many of the farm-related buildings were constructed in similar vernacular style out of a combination of wood, brick, and concrete, with roofing material consisting primarily of corrugated metal sheeting. Malbis Plantation workers also constructed the many poured concrete crypts in which they buried family members in Malbis Cemetery. Some lesser used materials, such as tile and brick, were brought from the Clay City Brick Works, which was in operation until 1940.

In summary, the physical arrangement of Malbis Plantation evolved out of necessity combined with some insight into design and construction materials. The style of architecture and construction seen in the 23 major extant buildings at Malbis Plantation is somewhat atypical compared to the few extant early twentieth-century farms in Baldwin County. Most construction materials were produced on site, and nearly all construction was supervised and completed by Malbis family members, with the help of hired local workers.

Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage
Alabama Historical Commission

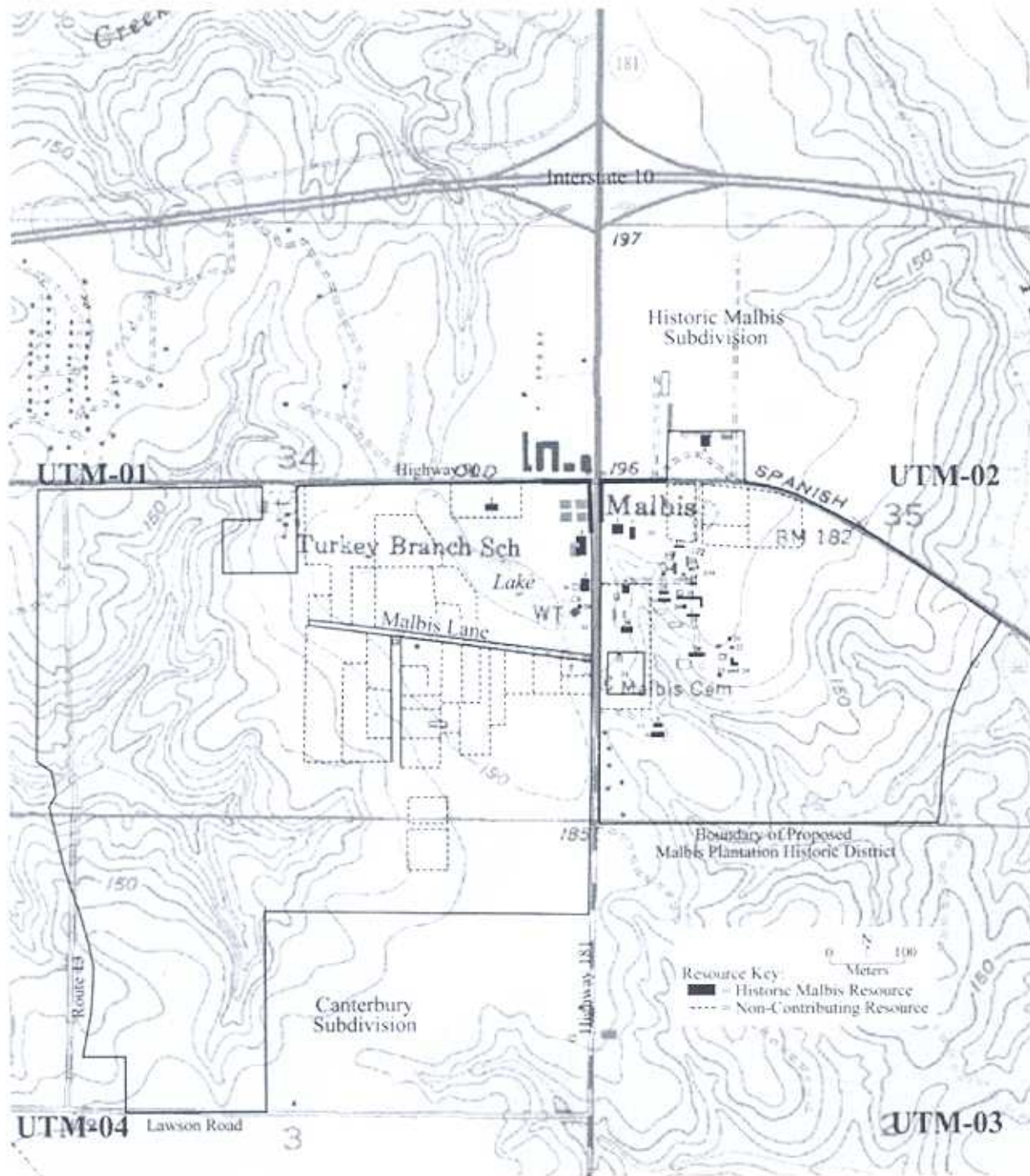
Malbis Plantation Historic District
Baldwin County, Alabama

Maps

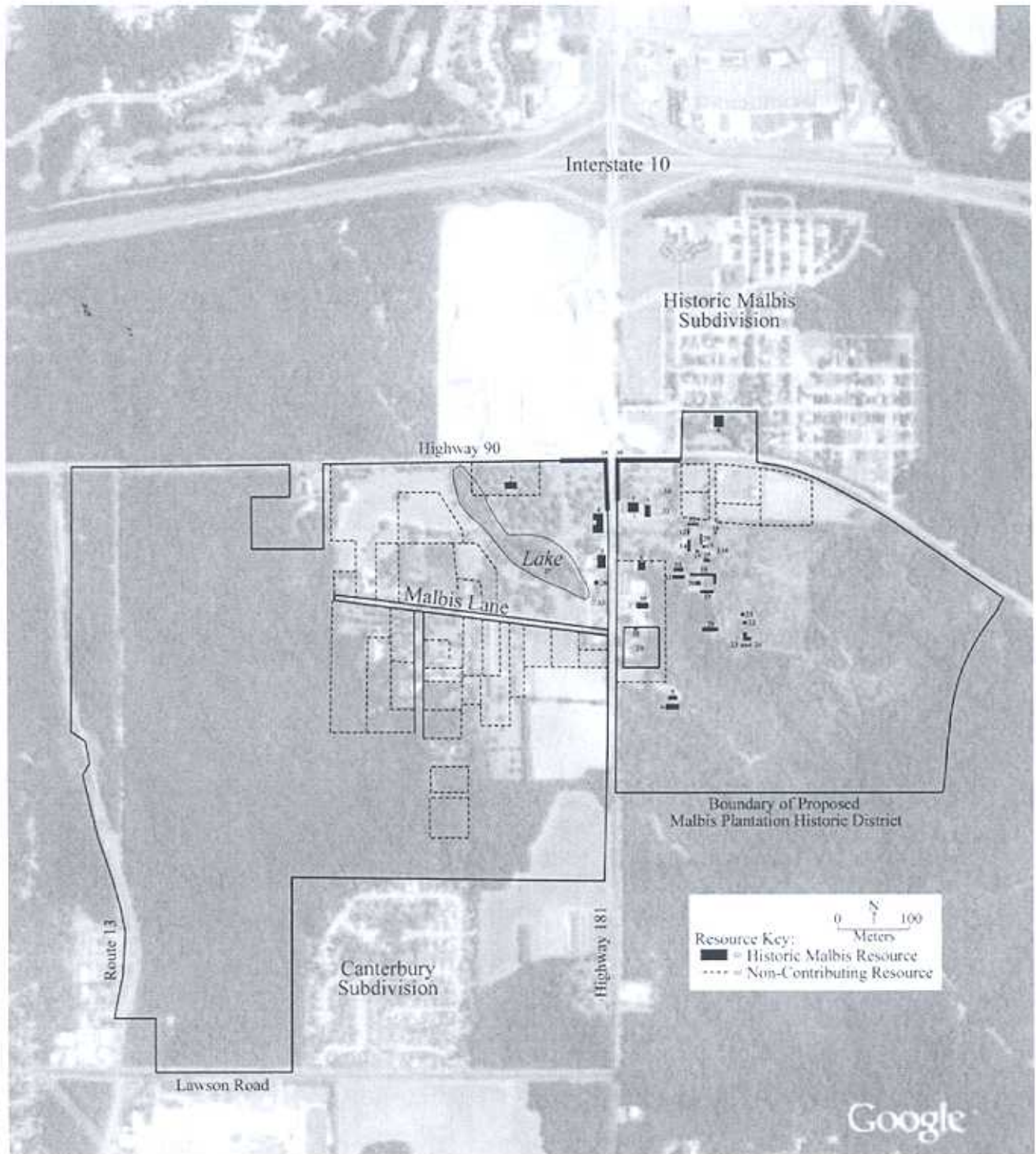
Map 1. Map of Baldwin and Mobile counties in southwest Alabama showing the location of Malbis Plantation.



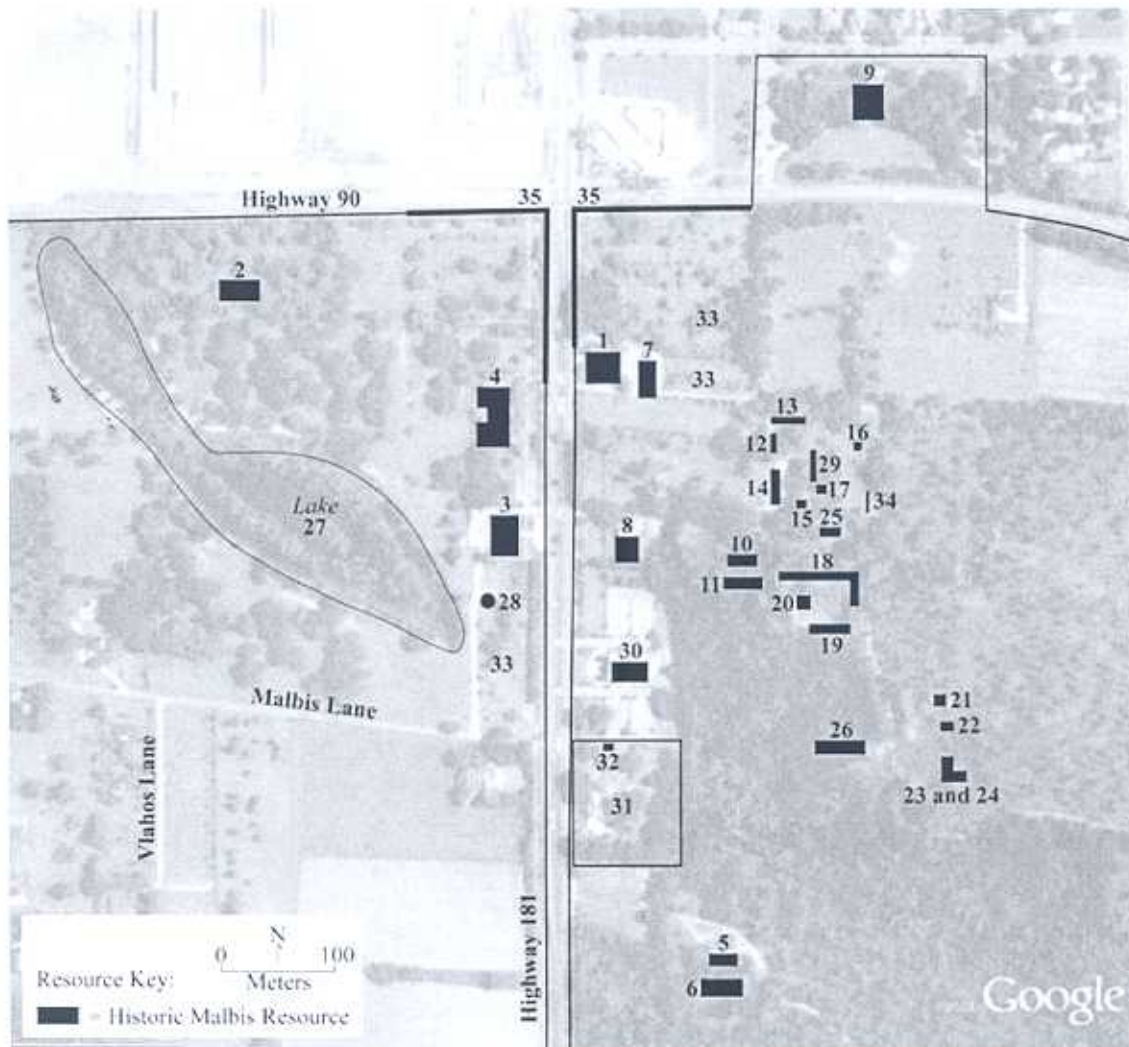
Map 2. USGS 7.5 minute series Stapleton, Ala. topographic quadrangle (1953; photorevised 1967) showing the location of proposed Malbis Plantation Historic District, Baldwin County, AL.



Map 3. Aerial photograph showing proposed boundaries of Malbis Plantation Historic District, Baldwin County, AL.



Map 4. Detail of aerial photograph showing the locations of Resources #1-35 in the proposed Malbis Plantation Historic District, Baldwin County, AL.



Resource Key for Malbis Plantation Historic District

Resource#	Name/Function	Resource#	Name/Function	Resource#	Name/Function
1	The Big House	13	Dairy Shed	25	Small Barn
2	Tampary-Simmons House	14	Apartment and Garage	26	Large Barn
3	The Arcade Dormitory	15	Outbuilding	27	Artificial Spring-Feed Lake
4	Men's Dormitory	16	Aviary	28	Water Storage Tank
5	Small Sawmill Workshop	17	Pond	29	Channelized Creek
6	Large Sawmill Workshop	18	Livestock Shed	30	Malbis Memorial Church
7	Laundry	19	Livestock Shed and Stables	31	Malbis Cemetery
8	Ice Plant, Machine Shop, and Electrical Plant	20	Water Trough	32	Cemetery Storage Building
9	Plant Nursery and Hothouses	21	Chicken Shed	33	Garden and Orchards
10	Cattle Maintenance Barn	22	Chicken-Processing Building	34	East Gate
11	Dairy Cow Barn	23	Egg-Processing Building	35	Highways 90 and 181 Fences
12	Dairy Barn	24	Hen House		

















Malbis
Plantation









JOHN GEORGE PETURIS

JUNE 15, 1899

DEC. 28, 1962

*A soldier with Christ on earth;
An angel with Christ in heaven.*







GREEK
ORTHODOX
CHURCH

GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
OF THE HOLY TRINITY
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA
86-1029









Malbis
Plantation





























29400











10145

MALBIS

NURSERY





