

Onslow Hall

Onslow Hall Home of Thomas McIntyre

Thomas McIntyre, a New York financier and builder of the Jacksonville-Wilmington railroad, built a great mansion and established a plantation on a 2439 acre tract of land purchased from Dr. Richard Ward of Onslow. This immense tract reached from Town Creek to Lewis Creek, a distance of more than three miles. This site was the former Old Town Point and was to be later known as Coddington.

This place became a scientifically operated model farm known as the Glencoe Farm. Blooded horses, cattle, hogs, and poultry were produced, in addition to all kinds of vegetables, wheat, cotton and corn. More than two hundred full time workers were required to operate the farm, and during harvest time, four hundred workers were needed. The operators of the farm were given high wages, a home and garden rent free.

Certain areas of the plantation were set aside to be planted each year as feeding places for the deer, quail, and pheasants. Ducks and swans filled the waters on New River around the point.

Trotting stables and a two mile race track were set up. The mule barn held 130 mules and horses; 15-20 high bred race horses were housed in another barn.

There was a 27 room mansion, designed and built by James Howard of Wilmington. The exterior was covered with hand rived shingles and the roof was made of slate. Three massive doors made up the three front entrances with inserts of glass panels on either side of the them. Above the center door was a hand carved plaque with the words, ONSLOW HALL

Here the McIntyres entertained friends and guests from New York and elsewhere during the period known as the "Gay Nineties". Horse racing and other sports were carried on every day and at night they held great balls. A long magnolia lane led up to the house. This drive was lined with barrels of tar which were lit to guide their guest to the house at night.

A 500 foot pier, wide enough to drive a team of horses on, led out to the point in the river where people boarded yachts, boats, and ships to cruise down the river, or embark on a trip to New York.

The first supervisor of the plantation was Isaac Hogan, followed by Paul Mattocks, Foster Pridgen, and L.O.Fonville. The last to hold this position before the Base moved in was Daniel Pearson.