

Historical Forte

Classic Greek
Revival architecture
encounters sunny
Southern
graciousness in this
stately home that's
both private
sanctuary and
social ideal.

WRITTEN BY JAN SOULTS WALKER
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RICHARD LEO JOHNSON
PRODUCED BY SANDRA L. MOHLMANN

Greek Revival-style pilasters in the corners of the great-room appear to support a classically proportioned frieze. Muted upholstery hues maintain a sense of quiet sophistication.



THIS PHOTO: Seven-foot-tall bronze chandeliers define the living and dining areas within the great-room while visually lowering the 20-foot-high barrel-vaulted ceiling. OPPOSITE: A slate roof, limestone steps, and Savannah brick enrich the exterior.





In 1926, near Savannah, automobile giant Henry Ford built an elegant Greek Revival home on 1,800 acres of private, picturesque land. Today, Ford’s former estate hosts a collection of new homes that celebrates history. When charged with building one of those houses, architects from Historical Concepts, along with interior designer Joy McLean, drew inspiration from the venerable estate’s pedigree, basing their designs on similar Greek Revival classics. “Although this is a very formal, higher style,” project manager and architect Domenick Treschitta says, “the Greeks were streamlined in their designs.”

The house’s exterior boasts Greek Revival hallmarks—symmetry, stately columns and pediments, pilasters, and cornices—and looks as though it were built over decades thanks to a few architectural tricks. “We took a generational approach to the structure,” Treschitta says. The main house is pure in its symmetry, but two adjoining wings are sited lower to appear as if they were added later. The illusion is reinforced by a transition from the main house’s brick facade to clapboard siding for the wings.

Greek Revival details continue inside, where graceful Doric columns define a gallery-style entry. The columns set a formal mood that’s relaxed by an open-concept great-room boasting a wall of tall glass doors and transoms that welcome in sunlight and views of a nearby lake. Walls, trim, and a cypress-lined barrel-vaulted ceiling are whitewashed in a soothing off-white. “The quality of the moldings in this home is amazing,” McLean says, “but if we’d opted for a strong color contrast among details, the rooms would have been too busy and distracted from the view.”

Crowned with impressive layers of trimwork around windows and the ceiling line, the private master bedroom echoes the great-room’s formality. But a more casual stance prevails in the kitchen, keeping room, and breakfast room thanks to wood-plank walls, buttery color palettes, and relaxed gingham and floral fabrics. “This home is a wonderful example of history harmonizing with architectural details, open spaces, and outstanding views,” McLean says. “The combination adds up to understated elegance you can live with every day.”

The roots of Greek Revival architecture run deep in the South for good reason—the style offers refined formality without stuffiness.

BELOW: Generous fabric panels turn up the sunny charm in the board-paneled breakfast room. The chairs' classic check pattern supports the room's casual function. RIGHT: A brass mural behind the range in the kitchen features a wheat harvest motif—an artistic reference to the home's location on The Ford Plantation.







LEFT: A sumptuous vanity reflects a matching one on the opposite wall in the master bath. Marble countertops and floors maintain a serene look while matching the luxurious detail of the white-painted cabinetry. RIGHT: Valances conceal motorized shades that simplify light control in the master bedroom. The Savannah four-poster features an upholstered headboard for comfort. The chandelier came with crystals, but interior designer Joy McLean removed them to relax the piece's formality.

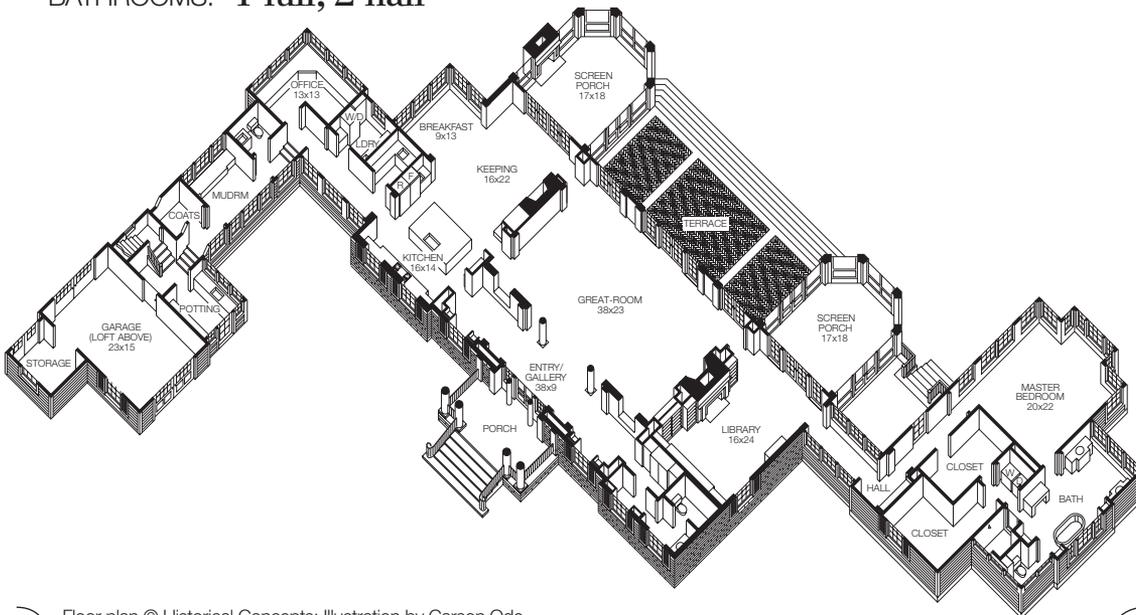


Floor plan

TOTAL SQ. FT: 5,204

BEDROOMS: 1

BATHROOMS: 1 full, 2 half



Floor plan © Historical Concepts; Illustration by Carson Ode

