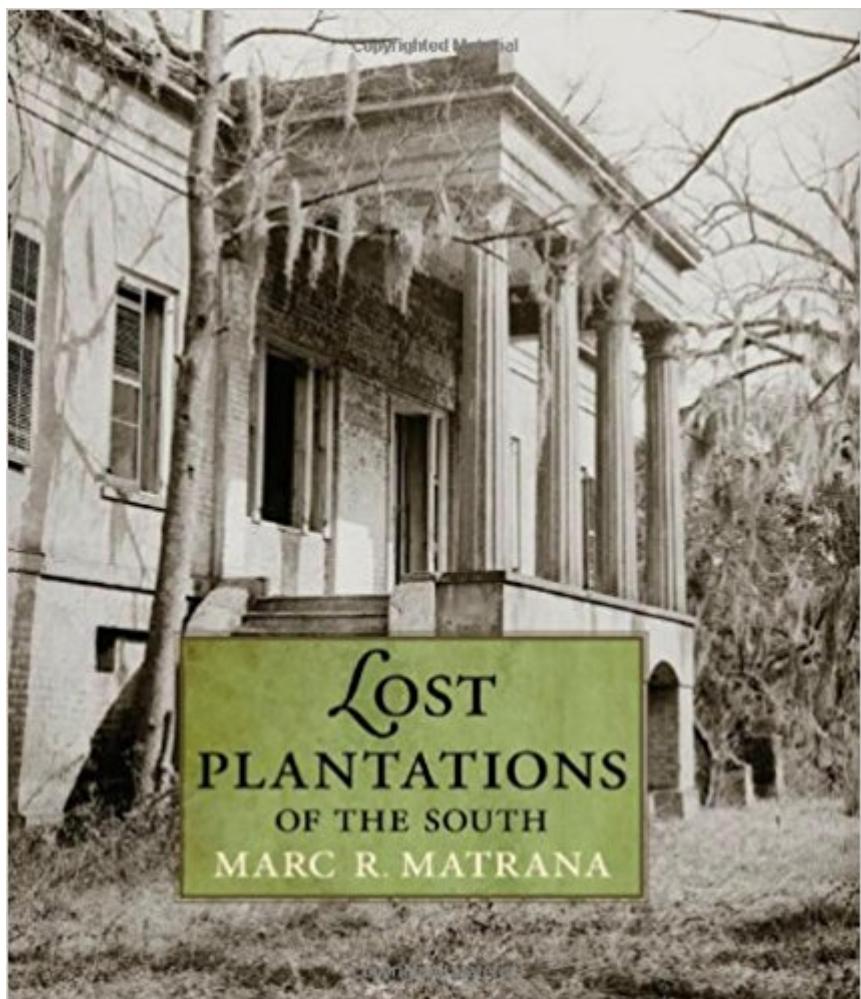


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# Lost Plantations Of The South



## Synopsis

The great majority of the South's plantation homes have been destroyed over time, and many have long been forgotten. In *Lost Plantations of the South*, Marc R. Matrana weaves together photographs, diaries and letters, architectural renderings, and other rare documents to tell the story of sixty of these vanquished estates and the people who once called them home. From plantations that were destroyed by natural disaster such as Alabama's Forks of Cypress, to those that were intentionally demolished such as Seven Oaks in Louisiana and Mount Brilliant in Kentucky, Matrana resurrects these lost mansions. Including plantations throughout the South as well as border states, Matrana carefully tracks the histories of each from the earliest days of construction to the often contentious struggles to preserve these irreplaceable historic treasures. *Lost Plantations of the South* explores the root causes of demise and provides understanding and insight on how lessons learned in these sad losses can help prevent future preservation crises. Capturing the voices of masters and mistresses alongside those of slaves, and featuring more than one hundred elegant archival illustrations, this book explores the powerful and complex histories of these cardinal homes across the South.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is an outstanding book. It is both stunningly beautiful and exceptionally well researched and written. The rare photographs are haunting and absolutely breathtaking. But unlike many books in this genre, there is a substantial amount of real history to go behind the beautiful pictures. I thoroughly enjoyed reading about the plantation families and the slaves who lived on these estates.

I relished the tales of Lucy Holcombe Pickens whose jaunts to Russia brought her much favor with the Czar and Cazrina, and Choctaw Chief Greenwood LeFleur who built a most impressive mansion called Malmaison. The tragic and hilarious history of Goat Castle and its insane inhabitants was wonderful, as were all of the other narratives. Dr. Marc Matrana does a great job of covering the history of lost plantations in every Southern state and provides strong and fresh ideas about preservation that can be utilized today. I hope this author will keep his great books coming!

This book is a wonderful record of the once magnificent edifices that have been lost through the years. It is a great work to preserve at least what is known and remains of these architectural treasures. Clearly it is not definitive, nor was it likely intended to be. As a fellow architectural researcher, I know that it is difficult to obtain materials that are suitable for publication showing every single worthy structure. However, what is included here shows information and illustrations that have not been widely published heretofore. I love this book. It is beautifully designed and is a welcome addition to my library which is already chock a block with volumes on this subject.

Prepare to be shocked, because this book purposefully blends delight and pain. The book and the lost houses it records are hauntingly beautiful. Reading the stories of these great estates that are no more is like reading the biography of a lost family member: The effect of the presentation is both blissful and profoundly saddening. I usually avoid books like this because they upset me. I hate being shown what we could have had, with more care, more insight, more money, more intelligence. Ossian Hall, in Virginia, was intentionally torched as an exercise for the Fairfax County fire department. Seven Oaks, in Louisiana, was one of the grandest plantations on the River Road, which was purposefully bulldozed in 1977 to accommodate a railroad right-of-way. This book upsets me, but that's what it's intended to do. The quality of the work--the photography, graphics, writing, and binding--is top shelf. This is no haphazardly assembled set of archives: It's a beautifully rendered contemplation on the history and fate of stolen art. The book is intended for any interested reader, but its style is not casual. Neither a photo essay nor a "coffee table" book, the author gives the work intentional academic gravity that could put off a casual reader, but will make architectural historians rejoice.

Some people say it's not a coffee table book. No it's not. It's not full of pictures for people with no brains to look at. It has pictures but a lot of text. Very good reading. If you like the South, and like to read, and enjoy information, you'll like this book.

I agree with Farm Chick's review 100%. It was definitely very textbook style and nowhere near the amount of photos I was hoping for. While the author certainly did an impressive amount of research, this book was not something I would have bought if I had known it would be mostly written text.

This is a great book for those who like the history of the Southern plantations.

As a fan of historical architecture I love reading about old houses. This was a very good book, with lots of facts about different plantations. My only complaint would have been a little less facts, and a little more human interest (about the people who lived there) and maybe more pictures of the homes. Every old home has a story, it just has to be told. :)

I just received this book a few days ago and from the cover alone I got chills. It is just a beautiful (and painful) photographic tribute to those (buildings and people) gone before. Once gone, forever gone. I recommend it highly.

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