

Did You Know?

There is only one left in South Carolina...and we have it!

The Dairy/Blade house is directly behind the BB Sams house ruins. It is said to have been designed by B.B. Sams himself to store large blocks of ice used to cool the dairy products produced in the dairy barn next door. The thick tabby walls and roof insulated the cooling house from the South Carolina summer sun. It had a large, double-walled, tight-fitting door and a below-ground-level floor with a pit dug out under it for drainage as the ice melted. There were shelves, remnants of which you can still see today, lining the walls to hold the dairy products, which included milk, cream, and butter. The Dairy-Blade house's unique and rare tabby roof is the only one of its kind to remain in South Carolina.



The ice was insulated with sawdust to slow the melting process. The dairy products produced included milk, cream, and butter, which were produced in large quantities on Dataw in the early 1860s.

With thanks to John Colgan for his research and original authorship

"Did You Know?" is a feature presentation of the Dataw Historic Foundation. This is another in a series of fascinating facts and short stories about our Island.