

# HISTORY OF THE ROBINSON-GLASS HOUSE

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## **Construction History.**

The house was built c. 1850 and displays vernacular styling typical of this period.

Weatherboard siding with hand-planed flush siding under the porch roof, multi-paned (nine over nine) windows and two-panel doors are typical of pre-war construction. The house is one-and-a-half stories in the Georgian Cottage style. This building type consists of a central hallway with two rooms on either side. End chimneys such as on the Robinson-Glass House are less common than internal chimneys, which are usually found on the wall separating the pairs of rooms. The front porch is supported by five unadorned square wooden columns that are set outside of the porch floor on stone pillars.

The original main body of the house has three smaller additions to the rear. The dates and sequence of construction for these additions are unknown, but some of the materials appear to be of the same era as the house. It is possible some or all were built at the same time as the house and later moved and attached. It was not uncommon for detached kitchens to be moved and joined to the main house. Another possibility is that the additions used reclaimed materials from another antebellum structure. In either case, the house has been in this configuration for more than 50 years and as such the additions should be considered part of the historic evolution of the house.

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## Brief History of the Property

The Robinson-Glass House is one of only two houses in Blakely that are clearly identifiable as antebellum. The house was built by Bolling H. Robinson who first moved to Blakely in 1841.

Although this was not the first house he built in Blakely, it was where he lived until his death in 1890. The house was acquired by the Glass family in the 1960s who occupied it until a fire in 2009. The Glass family chose not to rehabilitate the house after the fire, but due to their desire to see it preserved, transferred ownership to Court Square Development, Incorporated in 2010. Blakely Hometown is a subsidiary of Court Square Development, Inc.

The house sits two blocks to the southwest of the courthouse square on what is thought to be its original lot. This is unknown however as it was common practice in Blakely to move existing houses further from the square to allow for new commercial development as the town grew after the Civil War. Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps do not provide any insight as the coverage stops just short of the property location. However, if the house has been moved, it has been at this location for well over 100 years.

The house is located at the corner of Westward Avenue where it intersects Jefferson Avenue. The lot is flat with no significant landscape features except for a large cedar tree in front of the house. It is probable that a detailed survey of the yard would yield information about possible outbuildings and historic plantings. There are two large sandstone pillars at the rear of the property that were possibly used as gate posts. Although there are no other signs of historic fencing, the property is currently enclosed with a chain link fence.



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**GEORGIA TRUST**  
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# THE 1772 FOUNDATION

## Early County News

### Blakely Hometown receives grant to begin restoration of Robinson-Glass House

May 27, 2025



Pictured above (L to R) are Susanne Reynolds, executive director of the development authority of Early County and Blakely Hometown board member, Kaye Hall, president of Blakely Hometown, and Sandra Langlely, secretary of Blakely Hometown, standing on the front porch of the Robinson-Glass House.

The Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation announced earlier this month that Blakely Hometown (Court Square Development, LLC) has been awarded a 2025 Georgia Historic Preservation matching grant made possible by the 1772 Foundation to assist with exterior stabilization of the Robinson Glass House, one of Blakely and Early County's oldest houses and a prime example of prewar design and craftsmanship.

It is located on Westward Avenue behind Cinderella Beauty Salon.

The historic house was built by Bolling H. Robinson who moved to Blakely from Fort Gaines in 1841. He was a successful businessman who owned a cotton gin and general merchandise store.

This was not the first house built by Robinson in Blakely, but it was the one he lived in until his death in 1890. The house was acquired by R.E. Glass in the 1950s. It remained in the Glass family until 2010 when it was transferred as a gift to Blakely

Hometown.

The 1772 Foundation works to ensure the safe passage of historic buildings and farmland to future generations. For more information, please visit [georgiatruster.org](http://georgiatruster.org) and [1772foundation.org](http://1772foundation.org).

# Restoration Plan - PHASE 1

## Structural Repairs

- 90 percent of the rotten wood removed & replaced
- The footings have been poured for the column piers. (forming the footings on Wednesday 12/3)
- Columns have been straightened and all the moldings removed
- Paint has been scraped from the exterior this week and will start painting the first of next week.
- Preparing to pour the sidewalk to the street this week.



# House Restoration Completed -

- Lease to for a Professional Office Space(s)
- Corporate Rentals
- Corporate & Economic Development
- Guest Hospitality & Accommodations



- Kick-Start Historic Restoration Projects in Downtown Blakely
- Completes a project for community & local business development
- Preserves local history and architecture
- Promotes Tourism & Tells the Story of the Community

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