The eight-room manor was built by slaves who made the bricks in the Sweetwater Creek nearby. The house still stands and was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1976. Over the past decades, the plantation grounds around the house have been divided up into subdivisions. Weedon Heights was one of the first, dating to the early 20th century. The neighborhood is named for John D. Weeden, Jr., the grandson of Robert Patton. When the neighborhood was developed, 23 small slave cabins from the old Sweetwater Plantation, known as the "slave village," were still standing, just north of present-day Broadway Recreation Center and facing a community square. There is also supposed to be a slave cemetery nearby, possibly in the woods between the mansion and the neighborhood. Weeden Heights is mapped on the 1936 USGS/TVA topographic map, but the slave cabins or houses in their configuration do not appear to be a part of subdivision.

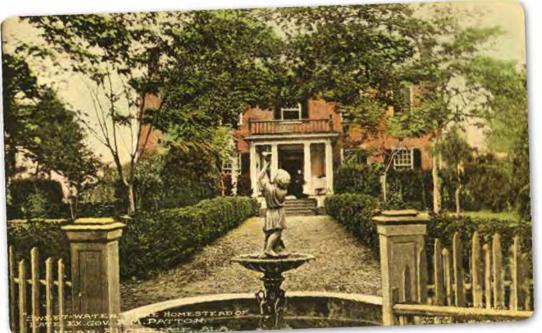
The historical marker for Weeden Heights states that the Patton family gifted a 25-acre farm to a former slave named Edmund Patton in 1871 "in consideration of his faithfulness and fidelity." A man

(Above) A Hand-Colored Postcard of Sweetwater Mansion (Florence-Lauderdale Public Library, Courtesy Robert Whitten)

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(Above) 1880 Agricultural Census Showing Edmund Patton's Land Use and Ownership (National archives and Records Administration via Ancestry.com)

named Edmund Patton is enumerated on the 1870 census as a 45-year-old black man living and farming in the Florence area with his wife, Francis. The 1880 agricultural census lists an Edmund Patton owning 21 improved acres and 6 unimproved acres. He grew corn, oats, wheat, cotton, potatoes, apples, and peaches, and had cattle and chickens.



30 Wilson Plantation* and Slave

Cemetery

The cemetery known as Wilson Family Cemetery is located northwest of Florence in the center of a triangle created by Old Jackson Highway, Gresham Road, and Middle Road. Today, it is in the southwest corner of a new neighborhood and golf course. In the early 19th century, this land was part

of the plantations owned by John, Matthew, and Samuel Wilson, brothers from Virginia who came to Lauderdale in 1818. The brothers and other members of the family are buried in the cemetery.

