

I WAS ONCE A STATELY MANSION

In this gospel-sounding melody, Bryan speaks through the voice of an ante-bellum Southern Home. The song will work with guitar just as well as autoharp. This song is on Bryan's CD *Home, Home on the Road*. You can listen to it here:

https://youtu.be/Hu_hLE5xs2Q?si=KUOa-91cNAK1ISRT

STATELY MANSIONS

by Bryan Bowers

G **D** **G**
I was once a stately mansion
D **G**
Back around Civil War time.
G **D** **G**
Hard times they have fallen on me.
D **G**
Now I am past my prime.

That day the owner left for war,
It seemed as if my world was reeling.
The South lost, though Lord knows she tried,
And now my paint is cracked and peeling.

C **G**
Now my boards are bare, and who's to care?
C **G**
My yard is overgrown. My roof is old.
C **G**
To children, I am haunted. To myself, I am tired.
G **D** **G**
I'm just an old wood house down the road.

Instrumental Melody

C **G**
Now my boards are bare, and who's to care?
C **G**
My yard is overgrown. My roof is old.
C **G**
To children, I am haunted. To myself, I am tired.
G **D** **G**
I'm just an old wood house down the road.