

Bluffton Walking Tour LOCATORS

- 1 The Heyward House**
Built 1841. Museum open to the public, 70 Boundary Street
- 2 The Fripp House**
Built c. 1835, renovated 1998. Private residence, 48 Bridge Street
- 3 The Card House**
Built c. 1825, renovated 1998. Private residence, 34 Bridge Street
- 4 Pritchard House**
Built 1890, restored 1996. Private residence, 131 Pritchard Street
- 5 The Bluff**
Built 1883, rebuilt c. 1921. Private residence, 132 Pritchard Street
- 6 Pine House**
Built 1898. Private residence, 85 Bridge Street
- 7 Squire Pope's Carriage House/Summer Kitchen**
Built c. 1850, joined c. 1865. Private residence, 111 Calhoun Street
- 8 Church of the Cross**
Built 1857. Episcopal Church, 110 Calhoun Street
- 9 Huger-Gordon House**
Built before 1795. Private residence, 9 Water Street
- 10 Allen-Lockwood House**
Built c. 1850. 94 Calhoun Street
- 11 Seven Oaks**
Built c. 1860. 82 Calhoun Street
- 12 Graves House**
Built 1915, renovated 2016. Private residence, 85 Calhoun Street
- 13 Fripp-Lowden House**
Built 1909. 80 Calhoun Street
- 14 Colcock-Teel House**
Built 1890. BHPS Headquarters, 46 Colcock Street
- 15 Cedar Bluff**
Built 1890, renovated 2015. Private residence, 51 Colcock Street
- 16 Bluffton Oyster Factory**
Original structure built c. 1900. Current structure built 1954. Commercial business, 63 Wharf Street
- 17 Garvin-Garvey House**
Built c. 1870. Interpretive Center, 101 Bridge Street
- 18 Orage Cottage**
Built c. 1930. Private residence, 92 Bridge Street
- 19 The Store**
Built 1904. Retail store, 56 Calhoun Street
- 20 The John A. Seabrook House**
Built c. 1850s. Private residence, 47 Lawrence Street
- 21 Carson Cottage**
Built c. 1890, restored 2007. Commercial business, 38 Calhoun Street
- 22 Daniel H. Heyward, Sr. House**
Built 1914, restored 1998. Private offices, 32 Calhoun Street
- 23 Patz Brothers' House**
Built 1892, restored 1995. Private residence, 26 Calhoun Street
- 24 Planter's Mercantile**
Built c. 1890. Private offices & residence, 20 Calhoun Street
- 25 The Bruin House**
Built c. 1915. Private residence, Hwy. 46 & Goethe Road
- 26 Cordray House**
Built c. 1910. Private residence, Hwy. 46 & Calhoun Street
- 27 Campbell Chapel AME Church**
Built 1853. African Methodist Episcopal Church, 23 Boundary Street

START YOUR VISIT TO OLD TOWN BLUFFTON AT THE HEYWARD HOUSE VISITOR CENTER

70 Boundary Street | M-F 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Sat 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

The Heyward House is open to the public as a welcome center and for guided tours. Historic District Walking Tours are available Monday-Friday by appointment.

Please call (843) 757-6293 or e-mail heywardhouse@gmail.com. You can also find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/heywardhouse.



Private residences are not open to the public. On-street parking is available throughout Old Town Bluffton.
*Bluffton Historic Preservation Society, P.O. Box 742, Bluffton, SC 29910.

Bluffton, South Carolina

HISTORIC RIVERFRONT COMMUNITY

Experience

BLUFFTON'S CULTURAL DISTRICT

Bluffton's Cultural District is highlighted in light green on the walking tour map to the left. A Cultural District is an easily identifiable geographic area with a concentration of cultural facilities, activities and assets which serves as the center of cultural, artistic and economic activity. As listed by the South Carolina Arts Commission, a cultural district may include:

- Galleries
- Live performance venues
- Theaters
- Artist studios
- Museums
- Arts Centers
- Arts Schools
- Public art pieces
- Restaurants, banks or parks that make their space regularly available to artists

Explore Beyond Bluffton

Bluffton is the ideal hub-and-spoke destination for exploring the Lowcountry. Hilton Head Island, Daufuskie Island, Beaufort, Savannah and Charleston are just a day-trip away.



HILTON HEAD ISLAND-BLUFFTON
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



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A WALK THROUGH TIME IN BLUFFTON'S NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT

bluffton

HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

BLUFFTON, SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORIC WALKING TOUR



VISITBLUFFTON.ORG

Bluffton History

Bluffton's birth and growth were intimately intertwined with the rise of the Lowcountry rice and cotton plantations during the antebellum period. Like other coastal communities, it provided a refuge from the harsher plantation environment that often manifested itself in yellow fever and malaria outbreaks. The high bluffs facing the May River welcomed the comforting southerly winds, keeping the mosquitos at bay and making sultry summer days bearable.



Calhoun Street

Bluffton's first small dwellings were constructed in the early 1800s on the river's bluffs. The layout of the town's streets in 1830 indicated that it had become a summer haven, and soon a commercial center for isolated plantations in the vicinity that received their goods from Savannah via the May River. Literally a hotbed for political rhetoric, in 1844, cries of secession were first given voice and debate here. With the Civil War raging and the eventual occupation of Hilton Head Island and Beaufort by Union Forces, the town was mostly abandoned by residents and utilized as a base for Confederate pickets observing Union troop movements. The town was pillaged by Union forces on several excursions up the May River and eventually burned in June 1863.

Although the overall destruction was severe, 15 houses and two churches survived, including the c. 1841 Heyward House. By the turn of the century, the town again experienced growth with the opening of several hardware and dry-goods stores and the growth of a burgeoning oyster-harvesting business. Lowcountry residents returned to Bluffton, a place many continued to call home for the summer. The 1922 construction of the Houlihan Bridge from Port Wentworth SC Highway 17 ended commercial trade by water several years later. The shift away from being a center of trade ushered in a new phase of Bluffton development, where again it became predominantly a summer getaway. In 1996, the Town was designated a National Register Historic District. Over the past 50 years, it has attracted many full-time residents due to the livable, desirable historic character of Old Town Bluffton.



Sunday afternoon in Bluffton, c. 1900



1 Heyward House Historic Center and Official Welcome Center for Bluffton

This home was built as a summer residence for John Cole, a local plantation owner schooled in the building trade. It is both a fine and well-preserved example of the Carolina Farmhouse style of architecture, a style brought to the colonies by planers from the British West Indies. The house boasts much of its original materials both on the interior and exterior. It also has two historical outbuildings on the property: an original slave cabin and a summer kitchen. Opened to the public by the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society in 1998, the Center offers guided house tours Monday through Friday from 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM, Saturday from 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM, and historic district guided walking tours by appointment. It also serves the community as a historical, educational and cultural site for special events.

2 The Fripp House

This three-story frame building on eight-foot-high piers is believed to have been built in the late 1830s by James L. Pope, who died in 1863. William J. Fripp acquired the home in 1885 and owned it for 34 years. Substantial renovations were made by subsequent owners. It was later used as a bed and breakfast until 1999.



3 The Card House



According to legend, during a high-stakes poker session held in the house in the 1840s, William Eddings Baynard won the deed to Braddock's Point Plantation on Hilton Head Island from John Stoney. However, local records do not necessarily back up this claim. Although the home was known for its late night poker games in the 19th century, it was more likely given its name because its straight lines and symmetry make it appear to be a home made of cards.

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4 Pritchard House

This home, constructed in 1890, embodies the charm and simplicity of the Carolina Farmhouse architecture along with Queen Anne-style ornamentation. The original house which burned during the Civil War was built by the owner of nearby Oakland Plantation, Dr. Paul Fitzsimmons Pritchard. His son, Charles Teft Pritchard, built the house you see today. After his death at the age of 49, his wife took in boarders to make ends meet. This home was restored in the mid-1990s, and the two wings were added at that time.



10 Allen-Lockwood House



Built in 1850 by William Gaston Allen, this house is a classic Lowcountry summer cottage with its gabled roof, high ceilings, and numerous windows. Like many other homes in the area, it is raised off the ground to help ventilate the house. It also has a wide front porch facing the direction of the river which may have been used as a sleeping porch.

Although Allen was bankrupt by 1866, at a forced sale in 1873, his daughter Susan Virginia (Mrs. Thomas Postell Lockwood) bought the house for \$10. It remained in the family's hands until 1953.

11 Seven Oaks

This house was built in 1860 and owned by Colonel Middleton Stuart who lived here with his wife Emma Barnwell Stoney. The Stuarts did not return to Bluffton after the Civil War. During the heyday of Bluffton's prosperity as the commercial center of this area of Beaufort County until the 1920s, Mrs. Elizabeth Sanders operated Seven Oaks as a popular boarding house for salesmen and summer visitors. The interior of the original section has been virtually unchanged through time.



16 Bluffton Oyster Factory and Park



This oyster-processing and seafood business represents an important industry in both Bluffton and the Lowcountry. The current building was constructed c. 1940 on the same site as previous oyster factories and is one of the last oyster factories on the east coast. The Bluffton Oyster Co. is one of South Carolina's top-10 oldest, continuously operating businesses, and is the oldest cannery factory still in operation in the state. Beaufort County purchased the land surrounding the factory for preservation of open space and development of a passive use park.

17 Garvin-Garvey House

The summer home of Joseph S. Baynard was originally located here, but was burned in 1863 during the Civil War. Built c. 1870 by Cyrus Garvey, the current structure is the first freedmen's cottage built on the May River. It was originally a one and one-half story extended hall and parlor style residence on wooden stump piers with weatherboard siding and fronted by a porch supported by six square columns. Cyrus later purchased the land from Baynard in 1890. The home and land remained in the Garvey family until 1961. It is currently surrounded by the Oyster Factory Park and is owned by Beaufort County Open Land Trust, Inc.



8 The Church of the Cross

The construction of the this handsome Gothic cruciform building began in 1854 to replace an earlier and much smaller Chapel of the Cross located on the southeast corner of Calhoun and Bridge Streets. An advertisement in the Charleston Courier names the architect as Edward Blake White, well known in the 19th century, who had designed other churches in Charleston and Columbia. The church was completed in 1857 at a cost of \$5000. Reverend James Stoney was the first rector.

While the Federal troops spared the church during the firing of Bluffton, the great storm of 1893 was not so kind. While repairing the church at that time, the narthex was altered to house the small winter congregation in heated comfort. Extensive restoration of both the interior and exterior includes: the copper standing seam roof, diamond paned rose glass windows, and palmetto frond shutters. In 1975 the church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



18 Orage Cottage

The Orage House, named for its first occupants, was originally constructed in the 1930s. Restoration and renovation of this simple shotgun cottage began in 2001. The previous occupants installed vinyl siding and soffits in the 1990s, which were removed to expose the original pine lap siding and the exposed rafter tails, common characteristics of Lowcountry-cottage architecture.



20 John A. Seabrook House



This house was constructed in the early 1850s during Bluffton's last resort boom. John Archibald Seabrook, a planter on Edisto Island located north of Beaufort, is believed to have been the first owner. The first reference to him in the Bluffton area was his purchase of nearby Foot Point Plantation in 1853.

23 Patz Brothers' House

This home is named for two brothers from Baltimore, Maryland who moved to Bluffton in the 1890s to open the Planter's Mercantile (building to the right of the house), a dry-goods store. In 1892, after the store had been established, the two brothers built this Folk-Victorian semi-detached double residence. It was originally designed with mirror image apartments on each side of a central partition dividing the building in two. Behind the doors, the dividing wall has been removed and replaced with a central staircase.



27 Campbell Chapel A.M.E. Church



This classical revival church building was built in 1853 by the Methodist Episcopal Church and shows a good use of board and batten siding, 16/16 lite windows and the finest Greek temple-style portico in Bluffton. Although damaged by fire in the 1863 burning of Bluffton, it was not destroyed. By 1874, its congregation had moved to the St. Luke's Episcopal Church building at Bull Hill, and Campbell Chapel was sold to the African Methodist Episcopal Church, whose members have held services there for more than 100 years. Some additions and alterations, mainly to the interior, were made in 1969.