

History Commission Agenda

January 8, 2019

6:00 PM – Meeting call to order

Welcome to visitors – introductions

Old Business -

- Review of Victory Day Parade and ceremony -December 16, 2018
- Review Guide to Historic James Island Draft
 - Fort Johnson as a National Historical Site draft of letter to Dr. Eric Emerson, SHPO, Department of Archives & History draft letter

New Business -

- Pursuing plans for 2019
- Attracting new commissioners
- Develop new historic district: James Island Presbyterian Church to Sea Water Dr.

Confederate Crucible The skirmish that saved Secessionville

June 10 1862 Confederate advance on newly established Union lines results in deaths of 60 soldiers from the Georgia 26th and the 4th Louisiana. (Bostick/NPS grant)

- Develop Pedestrian/Bicycle History Way around and through James Island encompassing locales and sites of Historic and Cultural significance utilizing estimated 2019 Greenbelt funds

Mr. Paul G. Hedden, Chair
Town of James Island Historical Commission
James Island, SC 29412

Dr. Eric Emerson, SHPO
Department of Archives & History
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC 29223-4905

Sir:

The James Island Historical Commission began its mission of cataloging, presenting and promoting the rich, and multicultural, history of James Island, South Carolina in February of 2015. There exists so much to the story of this small island that has played a role in European and colonial history; the Revolutionary War; the Antebellum period; the Civil War; Reconstruction, and on through the twentieth Century to the present.

Since our inauguration, the Commission has been busy collecting and collating detailed information on the multiple events and places on James Island. In our continuing review of one of our most important historical locations, we have noted that the study of Fort Johnson has been greatly enhanced through study and action since the 1972 National Register of Historic Places document was completed. There now appears to be much more than the originally cited Marshlands Plantation House and the Fort Johnson Powder Magazine to be recognized.

We are requesting your support in updating the particular sites (e.g. correcting the historical marker on the powder magazine) within Fort Johnson by assisting the Town of James Island History Commission in working with the Medical University of South Carolina, the South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources, and the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory to identify and mark more individual sites within the confines of historic Fort Johnson.

Other sites of concern are the remains of the Martello Tower and the earthworks referred to as Battery Harleston. The history of the Fort dates back to circa 1708 and has played a major role in the often-bloody history of Charleston, South Carolina and the United States. The Fort, and ALL its history should not be ignored, including the role the Fort played leading up to and during the Revolutionary War.

Thank you,

Mr. Paul G. Hedden, Chair
Town of James Island Historical Commission

cc: Medical University of South Carolina
South Carolina Dept. of Natural Resources
Grice Marine Laboratory