

EXPLORE HISTORIC JAMES ISLAND

Read about the earliest inhabitants feasting on oysters. Visit the fort that fired the first shots of the Civil War and the battlefields that resulted from the conflict. Learn about the island's classic midcentury architecture. Historic Sites of James Island presents an overview of 31 sites that will introduce you to the deep history of the land.



The Stoney Gates, known as the Stone Posts, were built as part of the Agricultural Society of South Carolina in 1922.



www.jamesislandsc.us



Historic Sites of **JAMES ISLAND**



Historic Sites of
JAMES ISLAND



*On this island can be
found historic places and
archaeological sites associated
with every major event that
shaped our country.*



OUR ISLAND'S HUMAN HISTORY STARTED OVER 4,500 YEARS AGO WHEN NATIVE AMERICANS BEGAN TO LIVE IN COASTAL SOUTH CAROLINA.

They used the bountiful resources of the Lowcountry to build shelters and feed their families. They collected oysters, fished, hunted deer, and traveled the area's waterways to trade. Around 1,000 years ago, Native people across the Southeast and on James Island began building more permanent homes and living in hamlets and villages. They hunted and farmed, growing beans, squash, and corn. A complex chiefdom-based society developed throughout the region. The people on James Island were part of the chiefdom of Cofitachequi; their capital was located near Camden. When Europeans arrived in the Lowcountry, the Coosa, Kiawah, Etiwah, Sewee, Bohicket, and Stono were among the tribes living around Charleston harbor. By 1750, most Native communities in the Lowcountry had been destroyed by disease, warfare, and enslavement.

Aerial view of Fort Johnson. You can see the Marshlands Plantation house with the red roof.

The Spanish arrived in the Southeast in the early 1500s. The French soon followed. Both empires tried and failed to establish permanent settlements in South Carolina. Nearly 100 years passed before the English established Charles Towne, the first permanent settlement in the Carolina Colony, in 1670. In 1671 the Grand Council of Charles Towne ordered the creation of a second town on James Island. We do not know why, but a formal town was never laid out.

In the 1680s and 90s small plantations were established along James Island's waterways. These early settlers raised cattle and pigs and shipped salted pork to plantations in the West Indies. They harvested the island's large oak trees to provide lumber for ships and houses. Settlers also traded manufactured goods for deer skins with local Native Americans. These industries required little capital investment and their products were in high demand. By the early 1700s rice was the principal money-making crop in the Lowcountry. Thousands of people from Africa's rice growing regions were captured, enslaved, and shipped to Carolina to construct fields and grow rice.



BECAUSE OF LIMITED FRESH WATER, RICE COULD NOT BE GROWN COMMERCIALY ON JAMES ISLAND. INSTEAD, SETTLERS PLANTED INDIGO, RAISED CATTLE, AND GREW VEGETABLES TO SUPPORT CHARLES TOWNE'S GROWING POPULATION.

Throughout the early 1700s the new Carolina Colony faced threats from pirates, the French and Spanish, and Native Americans. In 1706 the French and Spanish conducted a joint attack on the colony. They put men ashore on James Island, but abandoned the island after burning some plantation buildings on its north eastern point. This attack led the Carolina Colony to build Fort Johnson in 1708.

In 1776 the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. Many people on James Island rallied to the Patriot cause. Even before independence was declared, the Council of Safety in Charleston armed Fort Johnson and manned it with officers and soldiers. When the British navy tried unsuccessfully to capture Charleston in June 1776, Christopher Gadsden commanded the forces at Fort Johnson. In early 1780 the British tried again to capture Charleston.



Sea Island Cotton

They landed on Seabrook Island and marched across Johns and James Islands to lay siege to the city. Charleston fell in May and was occupied until December 1782.

Despite the devastation the war caused to homes and businesses, James Island recovered quickly. No longer supported by the British government, planters on the Sea Islands stopped growing indigo. By about 1800 they started growing long staple Sea Island cotton. The owners of Great Britain's booming textile mills were willing to pay high prices for the silky cotton. James Island was soon home to some of the richest cotton planters in the Lowcountry.

However, Sea Island cotton had to be cultivated by hand and required intensive care. Although the South Carolina Legislature had closed the transatlantic slave trade in the 1780s, planters forced the state to reopen the trade. Thousands of captives were brought directly from Africa from 1804 to 1808, when the trade was again banned, this time by the Federal government. In 1790 there were 2,546 enslaved people living on James Island. By 1810 that number increased to 3,179.



THE FIRST SHOT OF THE CIVIL WAR WAS FIRED ON FORT SUMTER ON APRIL 12, 1861 BY CONFEDERATE FORCES STATIONED AT FORT JOHNSON.

By 1862 the winds of war again came to James Island. Union commanders understood the strategic and symbolic importance of capturing Charleston as quickly as possible. James Island stood in their path and would be heavily engaged in defending the city until it was evacuated in February 1865.

Once again, changes came to James Island. Many of the island's large plantations were broken up and sold because their white owners could not afford to operate them without slave labor. Newly emancipated African Americans purchased small parcels of land and established freedmen's communities such as Grimball and Sol Legare where they started their own farms.

Photograph of Fort Johnson taken after February 1865.





Ox-cart and car traffic on James Island, around 1930.

IN THE 1870S AND 1880S THE ECONOMY OF JAMES ISLAND BEGAN TO REBOUND.

White and black farmers managed to make a decent living growing cotton and vegetable crops and harvesting seafood. They also raised beef and dairy cows. When cotton crops were wiped out by the boll weevil around 1921, farmers turned to truck farming. Hundreds of acres of vegetables were grown and shipped north in refrigerated rail cars.



A farmer sows eggplant seeds on James Island, around 1930.

By the early 1900s white landowners again controlled most of the land on James Island. They hired local African American men and women to work the fields. In the early 1900s, as bridges were built, roads were paved, and more people owned cars, James Island became a desirable place to live. The first bridge was built across the Wappoo Creek in 1911. In 1925 the Edisto Realty Company began to develop Riverland Terrace, the first large-scale subdivision on the island. Agriculture declined as African Americans moved north to escape racist Jim Crow laws and seek out better jobs and opportunities. More and more land was subdivided for homes and businesses.



Wappoo Bridge spanning the Wappoo Creek around 1914.

THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT OF THE 1960S BROUGHT MORE EQUAL TREATMENT TO THE REGION, AS SCHOOLS, PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS, AND PRIVATE BUSINESSES BEGAN THE PROCESS OF RACIAL INTEGRATION.

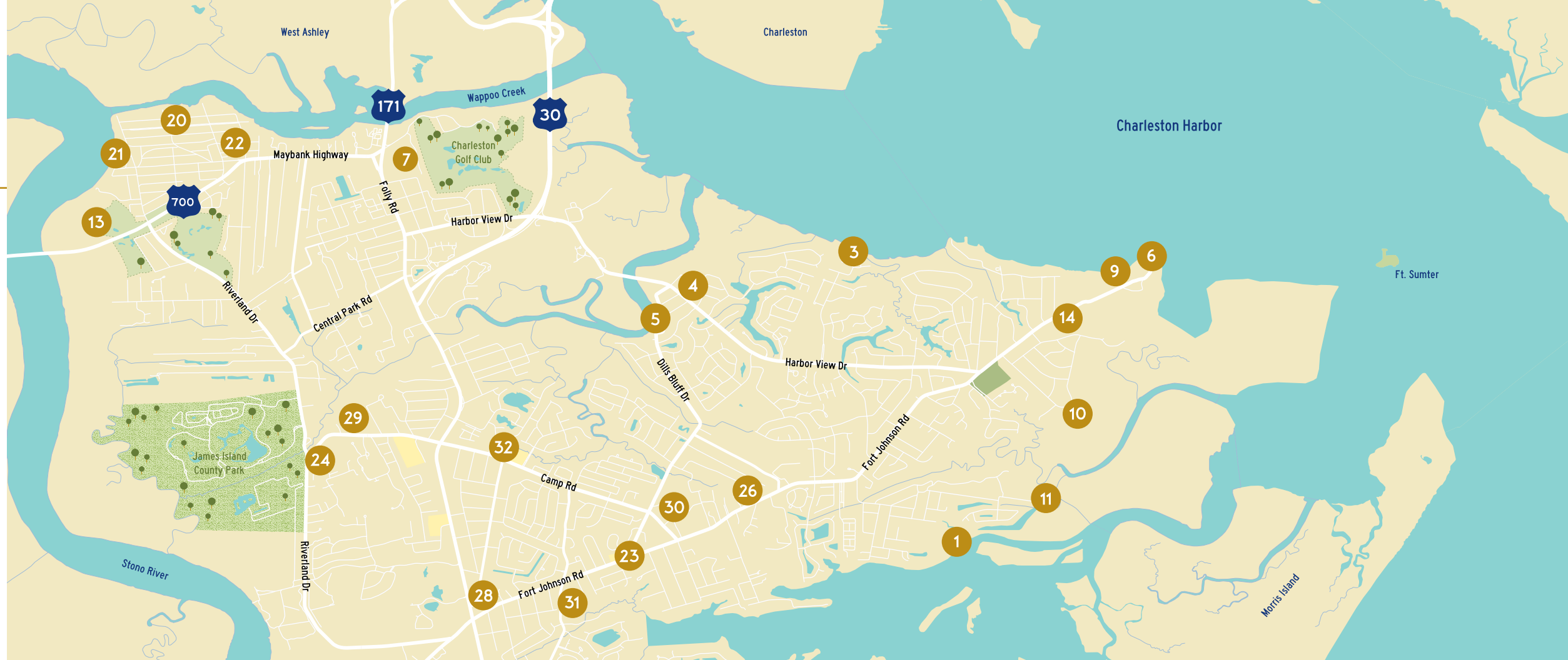
This history is most visible in the construction of Equalization Schools such as James Island High School and W. Gresham Meggett. Today, James Island is a blend of rural landscapes, traditional neighborhoods, and new subdivisions nestled under the trees

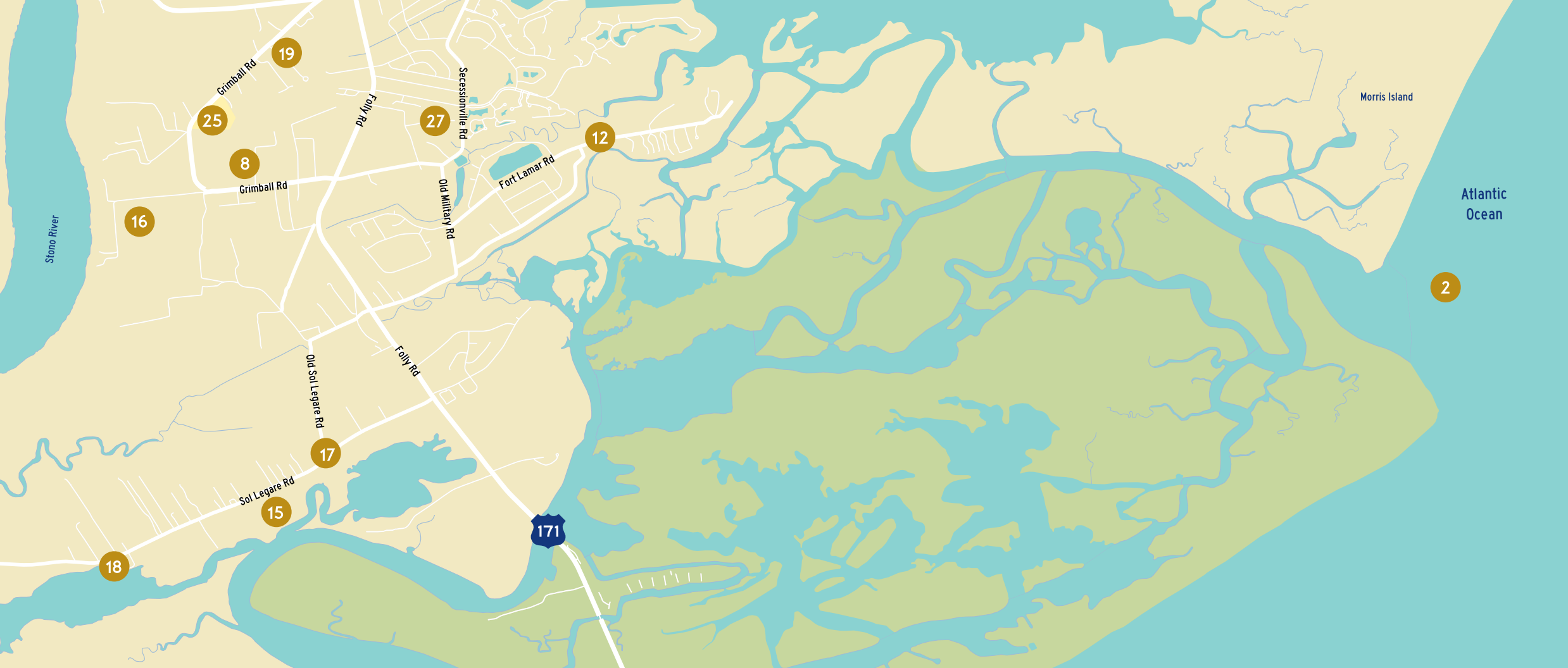
between the Wappoo, Ashley, Folly and Stono Rivers. As James Island has developed into a thriving 21st century town, the local government has taken on the challenge of balancing the preservation of historic and cultural places with the need for economic progress.

HISTORIC SITES OF JAMES ISLAND

HISTORIC PLACE MAP NUMBER

Shell Ring and Midden	1	Riverland Terrace	20
Stiles-Hinson House	3	Avenue of Oaks.....	21
Cuthbert-Heyward House.....	4	Elliot Constantine House.....	22
Battle of Dills Bluff.....	5	James Island Grammar	23
Fort Johnson.....	6	Cut Bridge Elementary	24
McLeod Plantation.....	7	Three Trees School.....	26
Marshlands Plantation.....	9	James Island Presbyterian Church.....	28
Battery Cheves.....	10	Saint James Episcopal Church.....	29
Battery Haskell.....	11	First Baptist Church of James Island.....	30
Fort Pemberton.....	13	Saint James Presbyterian Church	31
Pinckney Park.....	14	Payne RMUE Church	32





HISTORIC SITES OF JAMES ISLAND

HISTORIC PLACE	MAP NUMBER
Morris Island Light House	2
Grimball Plantation and Cemetery	8
Fort Lamar Heritage Preservation Site	12
Sol Legare	15
Grimball Farms	16
Seashore Farmers Lodge	17
Mosquito Beach.....	18
Little Rock Golf Club.....	19
W. Gresham Meggett School	25
Society Corner School	27

[~8,000 BCE]

FIRST PEOPLE

We have evidence that people have lived in South Carolina for more than 10,000 years. Most of the clues that help us understand their lives can be found in archaeological sites. An archaeological site is any place where physical evidence of past human activities exists. Sometimes the only information we have about people or an event is preserved in the ground. Remember that most of the history of the United States happened before there were written records.



Archaeologists think shell rings started like this, as trash piles of oyster shells near people's homes.



1

ARCHAIC SHELL RINGS AND MIDDENS

Lighthouse Point | *National Register of Historic Places*

Archaeologists believe Native American shell rings mark occasions when people came together to celebrate and feast. Researchers found three shell middens and evidence of several houses at Parrot Point. They believe the people who lived here were part of a community that lived around Charleston Harbor 4,500 years ago. In addition to hundreds of pounds of oyster shells, researchers found thousands of artifacts including pieces of pottery, bone pins, whelk tools, and shell beads.

[1492 - 1763]

COLONIAL ERA

In 1671 the new Grand Council of Charles Towne ordered the creation of a town on James Island. James Towne was to be laid out in ½-acre town lots with 10-acre planting lots. No evidence of the town has been found. Instead James Island remained sparsely populated until the early 1700s. The first settlers established homes and farms along the island's rivers and streams. They used locally made boats to travel between the island and Charleston.



2

MORRIS ISLAND LIGHTHOUSE

Morris Island | *National Register of Historic Places*

The first lighthouse was built on Morris Island about 1767 by the Royal Colony of South Carolina. It was one of the first lighthouses constructed on the East Coast. The black and white striped lighthouse you see today was built in 1876. The lighthouse is made of brick and is 150 feet tall. It ceased to be an official navigation aid in 1962. Morris Island has severely eroded and is only accessible by boat because no bridge serves this island.

STILES-HINSON HOUSE

90 Paul Revere Drive | *National Register of Historic Places*
Private Residence, No Public Access

The Stiles-Hinson House consists of two houses built back to back. The first house was built in 1742 by Benjamin Stiles. Stiles fought against the British during the American Revolution. The second house was built in the late 1800s by William Godber Hinson. It was constructed in a Victorian style with high ceilings, a mansard roof, and decorative wooden elements. The plantation was actively farmed until the early 1960s.

3



4

CUTHBERT-HEYWARD HOUSE

683 Fort Sumter Drive | *Private Residence, No Public Access*

This may be the oldest house still standing on James Island. It was built about 1740 for Hester Heyward, the widow of Captain Thomas Heyward. In the early 1900s the property was part of Lawton Plantation. By this time a kitchen had been attached to the house and a rear addition constructed. The porch roof, columns, and balustrade were added before 1940.



[1765 - 1783]

REVOLUTIONARY WAR

When the Thirteen Colonies declared their independence from Great Britain in 1776, many prominent citizens supported the Patriot cause and fought to expel the British. Despite their efforts, Charleston and the surrounding area fell to the British in 1780 and were occupied until December 1782.



5

BATTLE OF DILLS BLUFF

Dills Bluff South Carolina Historical Marker

The Battle of Dills Bluff was the last Revolutionary War engagement in South Carolina. On November 14, 1782, a small group of Patriot soldiers attempted to ambush a British wood-cutting party. But the Americans had faulty intelligence; they were outnumbered by the British soldiers. The Patriots retreated, suffering casualties. These men were the last to die in combat in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War.

FORT JOHNSON

End of Fort Johnson Road | National Register of Historic

The first Fort Johnson was built in 1708. It was replaced by a new tabby fort in 1759, fragments of which are still visible. It was manned during the American Revolution, but never engaged the British forces. After the war General Moultrie ordered construction of a new fort, but it was destroyed by a hurricane in the early 1800s. During the Civil War, Confederate soldiers built new earthworks and installed four 10-inch mortars and three guns at the site. On April 12, 1861 at 4:30 in the morning, the first shot of

the Civil War was fired from Fort Johnson over Fort Sumter. During the war Union forces made two unsuccessful attempts to capture Fort Johnson. Confederate forces finally abandoned the fort during the Confederate evacuation of Charleston in February 1865. After the Civil War, Fort Johnson served as a maritime quarantine station, as a Coast Guard billet during World War II, and now as the College of Charleston's Grice Marine Laboratory and the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resource Division.

6



[1720 - 1865]

THE YOUNG COUNTRY

From 1720 until 1865, the majority of James Island's residents were enslaved Africans. Early in the Colonial Era, they raised livestock, cut timber, fished, and grew vegetables. In the 1750s indigo was grown as a cash crop. After the American Revolution, indigo was replaced by Sea Island cotton. In 1860, 1,533 enslaved people toiled on the island's 21 plantations. Some of the largest plantations were Seabrook, Hinson, Dill, Rivers, Grimball, Legare, Clark, and Lawton. There were 193 white residents on James Island.



MCLEOD PLANTATION

325 Country Club Drive | National Register of Historic Places

The existing plantation house at McLeod was built in 1858 and modified in the 1920s. The six intact cabins lived in by enslaved people likely date to the 1850s. According to the 1860 US Census, 115 enslaved people worked on the property. During the Civil War McLeod Plantation was used as Confederate Headquarters for James Island; after the island was evacuated in February 1865, as a Union hospital. After the war it became an office for the Freedmen's Bureau.



GRIMBALL PLANTATION / CEMETERY

1870 South Grimball Road

English immigrant Paul Grimball was first granted 1,600 acres of land on Edisto Island in 1682. Along with other Edisto planters, the family began to acquire land on James Island in the early 1800s to grow Sea Island cotton and provisions. The 1860 US Census shows 210 enslaved people lived on the property. Confederate Brigadier General Gist gave the order for all civilians to evacuate James Island. The Grimball family complied, abandoning their property in May 1862.

MARSHLANDS PLANTATION HOUSE

311 Fort Johnson Road | National Register of Historic

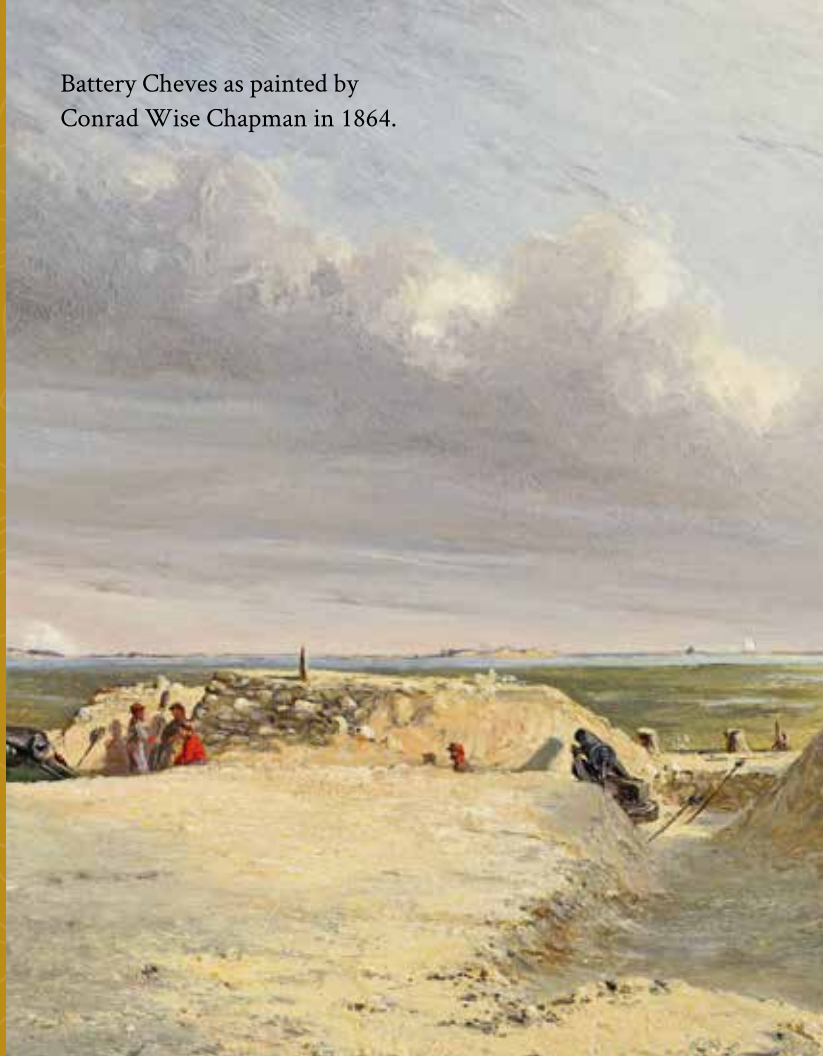
The Marshlands Plantation House was built around 1810 on the Cooper River. Around 1906, the owner, Mrs. Wallace Lawton of Lawton Plantation on James Island, sold the plantation to the United States government to establish the Charleston Naval Shipyard. In 1961, the government proposed to demolish the house to expand the naval yard. Concerned citizens had the house moved by barge to Fort Johnson. Other than location, very little else has changed for the Federal-style house.



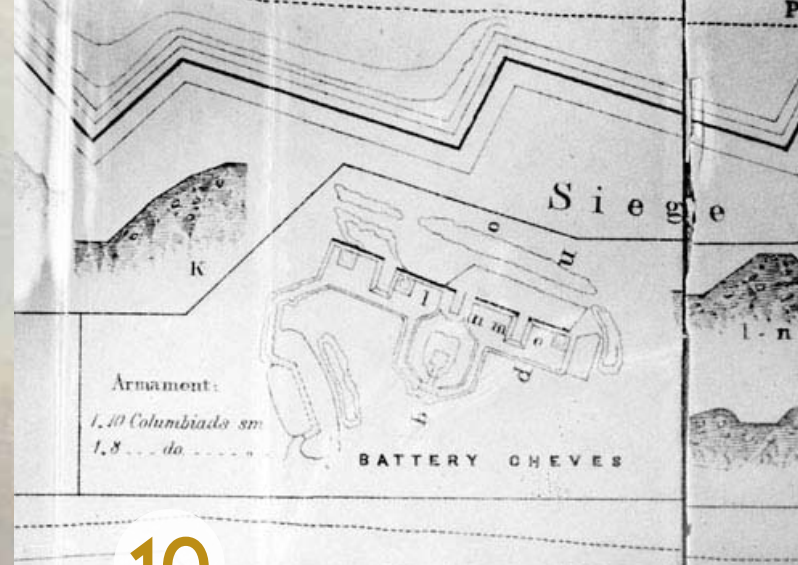
[1861-1865]

FIERY SECESSION

Politicians and most of the free population in Charleston and on James Island supported secession and the Confederate government. Charleston and the lands around the harbor were under almost continuous attack from Federal forces beginning on July 10, 1863. Confederate forces tenaciously defended James Island to protect the city of Charleston and the harbor. However, in February 1865 the city surrendered to the Union army. Confederate forces then evacuated the entire South Carolina coast and retreated into North Carolina.



Battery Cheves as painted by Conrad Wise Chapman in 1864.



10

BATTERY CHEVES

R.E. Lee Boulevard | National Register of Historic Places

Battery Cheves was one of five Confederate earthworks built in the summer and fall of 1863 on the southeastern shore of James Island to defend Charleston. These batteries were built after Union forces occupied Folly Island and captured most of Morris Island. This battery was named for Captain Langdon Cheves, a Confederate engineer killed at Morris Island in 1863.



11

BATTERY HASKELL

Schooner Road | National Register of Historic Places

Battery Haskell helped defend Confederate-held Battery Wagner by shelling attacking Union forces during the summer of 1863. Originally it contained 12 artillery emplacements. Battery Haskell was named for Captain C. T. Haskell, Jr. who was killed in action at Battery Wagner on July 10, 1863.



12

FORT LAMAR HERITAGE AREA AND SECESSIONVILLE HISTORIC DISTRICT

Fort Lamar Road | *National Register of Historic Places*

In June 1862, Union troops landed from the Stono River at Grimball Plantation and on the west end of Sol Legare Island. They marched to attack fortifications west of Secessionville, later named Fort Lamar. The Confederate army defeated the Union army, causing heavy casualties. Union forces retreated, leaving behind many of their dead.

They evacuated most of the wounded to Union camps near the Stono River. Most of the Union dead were buried in front of Fort Lamar near where they fell. The mass-grave has never been located. The Secessionville Historic District includes the location of the Battle of Secessionville and two antebellum homes that were once owned by prominent planters.



13

FORT PEMBERTON

221 Yates Avenue | *National Register of Historic Places*

Fort Pemberton was a large, enclosed, five-sided Confederate earthwork completed in 1862. The design was unusual. Normally only masonry fortifications of this period featured this plan. It was constructed on the Stono River to prevent the Union navy from accessing Charleston Harbor through Wappoo Creek and Elliott Cut. The fort was abandoned when Confederate forces retreated from Charleston in February 1865.

[1863- 1877]

RECONSTRUCTION

The defeat of the Confederacy ushered in an era of social and political upheaval. The South Carolina Constitution of 1868 enacted democratic reforms and allowed newly emancipated men to vote for the first time. Groups of newly emancipated families worked together to build new communities. However, the election of Governor Ben Tillman and passage of the Constitution of 1895 negated the political and social gains made by African Americans. James Island adopted the discriminatory Jim Crow laws instituted across the South. A segregated community developed with separate schools, churches, and restaurants for white and black people.

PINCKNEY PARK

461 Fort Johnson Road

Pinckney Park is named for Simeon Pinckney who once owned this property. He was enslaved until the Civil War, when he enlisted in the Union Army as a member of the 3rd Regiment South Carolina Volunteer Infantry (African Descent). They were recruited and mustered at Hilton Head. In 1877 Pinckney purchased 20 acres on James Island and passed his property to his descendants. Much of the land continued to be owned by the family until they sold it to the town in 2015 for use as a park.

14



15



SOL LEGARE

Sol Legare Road | National Register of Historic Places

This vibrant African American community was established after the Civil War as formerly enslaved people worked to purchase their own land to farm and build homes. It was laid out in long narrow lots, allowing farmers access to waterways and roads. In 1919, the Sol Legare School opened as a two-room schoolhouse with two outhouses and hand pump for water. Today, the school built in the 1940s serves as a community center. Many descendants of the originally property owners continue to make the community their home.

GRIMBALL FARMS

Approximately 1870 South Grimball Road

Although the Grimball family regained their property after the Civil War, they sold some of the land to freedmen. The new Grimball community was planned in the same way as Sol Legare, with long, narrow lots. By 1880, approximately 10% of the old plantation was owned by African Americans. Evergreen Cemetery is located nearby and may contain unmarked graves of enslaved people who worked on the plantation and their descendants who worked their own farms. The cemetery is still used today.

16



[1950 - PRESENT]

A NEW CENTURY

World War II and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 60s brought more changes to James Island. Schools and businesses were integrated. New bridges, paved roads, and cars brought new people to the island.



17

SEASHORE FARMERS LODGE

Sol Legare and Old Sol Legare Road | National Register of Historic Places

The Seashore Farmers Lodge was built in 1915 as a lodge hall. It was a hub of this vibrant African American community. An organization of local men formed a community bank to help provide for the residents' financial needs and to protect against unexpected natural disasters such as hurricanes, flooding, failed crops, sickness, injury, or death. The lodge sustained damage from Hurricane Hugo in 1989 and suffered from disrepair. In 2007, the community worked to restore the building. Today it is a museum and cultural center.

18

MOSQUITO BEACH

Mosquito Beach Road | National Register of Historic Places

In 1953 Andrew "Apple" Jackson Wilder opened Haborview Pavilion with a lounge, restaurant, and motel at the "Factory", the site of a former oyster cannery. Mosquito Beach, as it became known, offered African American families the opportunity to relax, dance, cool off, and socialize. From 1900 until the mid-1960s, beaches in South Carolina were segregated. Mosquito Beach was one of five African American beaches around Charleston. African American beaches usually were on rivers or sounds. Prime oceanfront areas were reserved for whites. Today, Mosquito Beach remains an important part of the community.

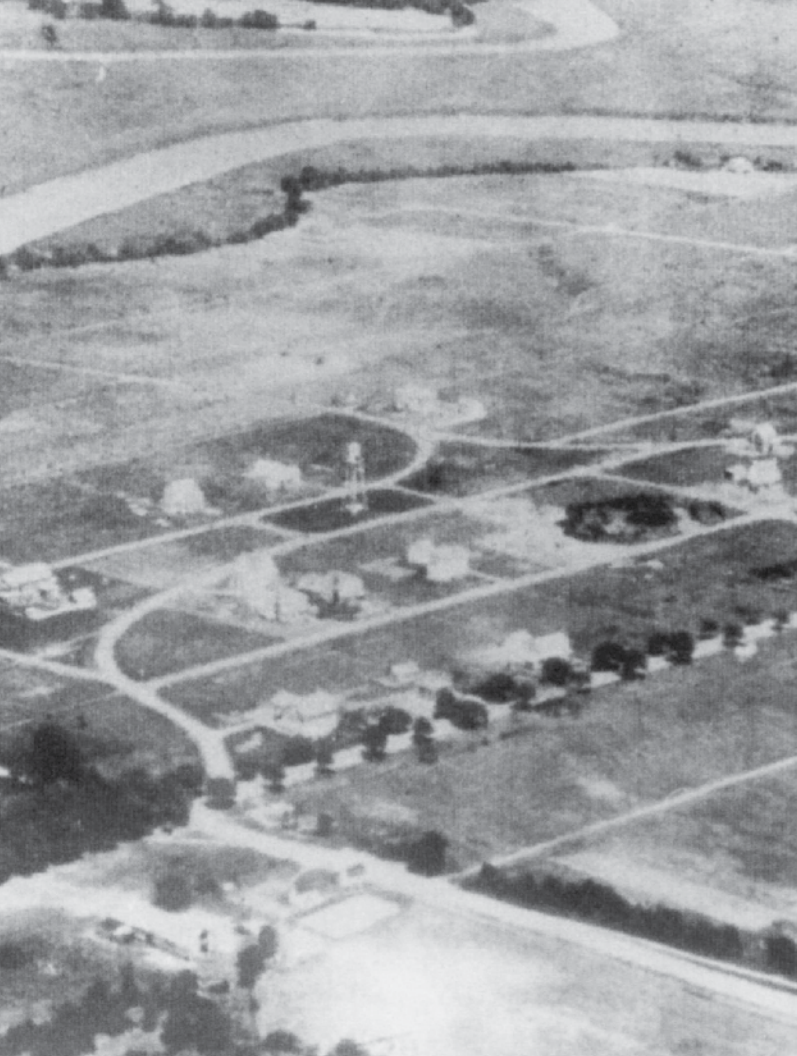
LITTLE ROCK GOLF CLUB

Grimball Road and Little Rock Boulevard

The Country Club of Charleston was a whites-only golf course when it was built in 1926. The only way African American men could access the course was as hired caddies. Richard Smalls, Sr. worked as a caddie before deciding to open his own course. He studied golf course construction and design and purchased eight acres of land in Grimball Farms. Mr. Smalls built a six-hole course with a club house, bar, and eight-room motel. African American men played at Little Rock Golf Club from 1953 until 1961 when the City Municipal course was integrated. There are no known images of the golf club.

19





20

RIVERLAND TERRACE

North of Maybank Highway

Riverland Terrace was one of the first modern planned neighborhoods on James Island. Construction started in the 1920s using the most modern design trends including curvilinear street patterns, uniform housing setbacks, and driveways. Because of the Depression and World War II, construction of most homes was delayed until the 1950s.



21

AVENUE OF OAKS

Wapoo Drive

The allee includes more than 70 grand live oak trees that are over 100 years old. They were originally planted in the 1910s.



22

ELLIOTT A. CONSTANTINE HOUSE

*2037 Lake Shore Drive | National Register of Historic Places
Private Residence, No Public Access*

This house was designed and built in 1973 in the Modern International Architectural Style by prolific Charleston Architect, Elliott Augustus Constantine, son of renowned architect Augustus Edison Constantine of 'Constantine and Constantine Architects'. It features walls of glass, a flat rectangular roof, incorporating simple and modern architectural elements. There are very few houses of this style in the Charleston area.



Our schools

The South Carolina Constitution of 1895 established the state's system of public education, creating separate schools for white and black children. However, African American schools were woefully underfunded. In 1954 the Supreme Court ordered states to desegregate public schools. The state government tried to build new separate schools for African American children to avoid the ruling. Despite the state's efforts, school desegregation began in 1963.



23

JAMES ISLAND GRAMMAR

Fort Johnson Road and Dills Bluff Road

The first public school was established on James Island in 1883 as James Island Grammar School. It was located on the same land as the earlier private planter's school. Initially, there were only six students, and the school only served white students. The Riverland Terrace School was built in 1930 to serve white students.



24

CUT BRIDGE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Riverland Drive at Camp Road

Cut Bridge Elementary, commonly called Old Cut Bridge School, was built on property donated by the Dills family of Stono Plantation. It was a two-room school house that was painted black and located in the middle of low lying marshland. Students had to wade through the water at high tide. Mrs. Alberta Johnston Murray served as the school's principal beginning in 1926.



25

W. GRESHAM MEGGETT HIGH SCHOOL

1929 Grimball Road | National Register of Historic Places

W. Gresham Meggett High School was constructed in the 1950s as part of South Carolina's push to improve schools for African American children and avoid school integration. The school brought higher education for African Americans to James Island for the first time. The new school had modern amenities and taught a wide range of classes. James Island High School on Camp Road was the companion, white-only Equalization School.



26

THREE TREES SCHOOL

Fort Johnson Road and Champaigne Lane

Three Trees School was established as the only school for children who lived “down the island”. In 1926 Mrs. Fannie Greenwood was hired as the principal to improve learning conditions. She made sure students received a solid academic foundation, teaching black history and nurturing students’ self-esteem. Miss West, a volunteer from Florence, South Carolina, taught students for 40 years in the small black schoolhouse.

SOCIETY CORNER SCHOOL

Bur Clare Road and Secessionville Road

Society Corner School was established by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation in 1888 as a school for black children. It was considered a “high class” school because teachers could live on the property in a small shed. In 1926 Mrs. Mamie Garvin Fields was hired as Society Corner’s new teacher. She taught until she retired in 1953. She wrote a memoir about her life as an African American living on James Island after the Civil War, titled *Lemon Swamp and Other Places*.

27



Our churches

The leaders of the early Carolina Colony encouraged religious tolerance. Settlers of many faiths came to Charles Towne and James Island. The first churches on James Island were built in the early 1700s. For more than 200 years, church has been central to the community.



28

JAMES ISLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1632 Fort Johnson Road

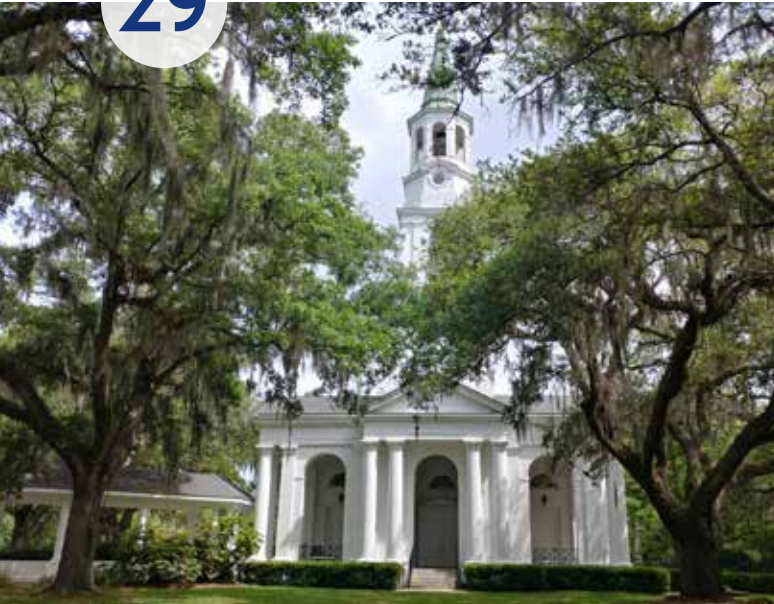
First constructed before 1724, James Island Presbyterian is locally known as Burnt Church because it accidentally burned around 1864. The current church has undergone many renovations but was built around 1909 in a Gothic-Revival style. Burnt Church Cemetery is the final resting place of many notable James Islanders, including Samuel Smalls, the inspiration behind Porgie in George Gershwin’s *Porgie and Bess*.

SAINT JAMES EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1872 Camp Road

Saint James Episcopal Church is the oldest Anglican Church on the island. It was established in 1719 and has been rebuilt five times! It has been destroyed by hurricane, fire, and war. The current building was constructed in 1960.

29



30

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF JAMES ISLAND

1110 Camp Road

The First Baptist Church was established in 1869 by some faithful freedmen who held worship service at a house on what is now the corner of Camp and Dills Bluff Rd. The Ferguson family allowed the congregation to use the house until Reverend Green led the construction of the first wooden church building on the Camp Road site. The second church building was constructed in 1959 by Rev. Cooper Whaley, followed by the third building in 1985 led by Rev. Gadsden, Sr. The fourth and current church building was built in 2007, directly across the street from where the former church building known as the Landmark Center stands today.

SAINT JAMES PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1314 Secessionville Road

Before the Civil War, enslaved people could not worship without supervision. Saint James Presbyterian Church is the oldest African American church on James Island. It dates from 1866. After the Civil War, freedmen initially worshipped under a tree on this property. Eventually they were able to build their own church.

31



32

PAYNE REFORMED METHODIST UNITED EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1560 Camp Road

Reconstruction brought some improvements in the lives of enslaved people. On the Seabrook Plantation, workers were given land rights to set up a “Bush Tent” for one cent a year for 99 years and here they established a place to worship. This informal group of worshipers became Payne RMUE in 1869 and in 1875 they built their first church building. It is one of the oldest wooden frame churches on the island.



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Detroit Publishing Company Photograph Collection, Library of Congress.

Civil War photographs, 1861-1865, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division.

Ox Cart, Seeding Eggplant on Nungezer Farm, and Young Men at the Stoney Gates, from Collections of the South Carolina Historical Society.

American Civil War Museum

Wappoo Creek Bridge, Cabin Wheel Club Courtesy of The Charleston Museum

Designed by **HW** EXHIBITS

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