

**HISTORIC SITES
IN
BRUNSWICK COUNTY**

SECOND DRAFT

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PREPARED BY BRUNSWICK COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

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INTRODUCTION

The following text includes an inventory and description of the more significant Historic Sites found throughout Brunswick County, not including Southport which shall require a separate study. This compilation report illustrates how the major historic sites of Brunswick County fit into early American History and explains their relationship to previous generations in the County.

Each Historic Site exists as a point in time along a calendar of events which illustrates the scientific, cultural, technological, educational, judicial, social and economical achievements which help to mold the present lifestyle. Through knowledge of the past we gain better insight of the present and increase the appreciation for these unique elements of our common inheritance.

Historic Sites are unique and nonrenewable educational resources which owe their importance to associations with american history, archaeology, architecture and culture of the past. These valuable resources constitute an integral part of the human environment by showing the integrity of past generations which in turn develops a special character for Brunswick County.

In order to continue this unique County asset, there must be a comprehensive management program established within Brunswick County. It is the wish of this Planning Department that a joint Southport - Brunswick County Historic Preservation Commission become established to develop the means necessary to protect these important historical resources. Such a program would insure that most of the valuable Historic Sites will be present for the future generations of Brunswick County.

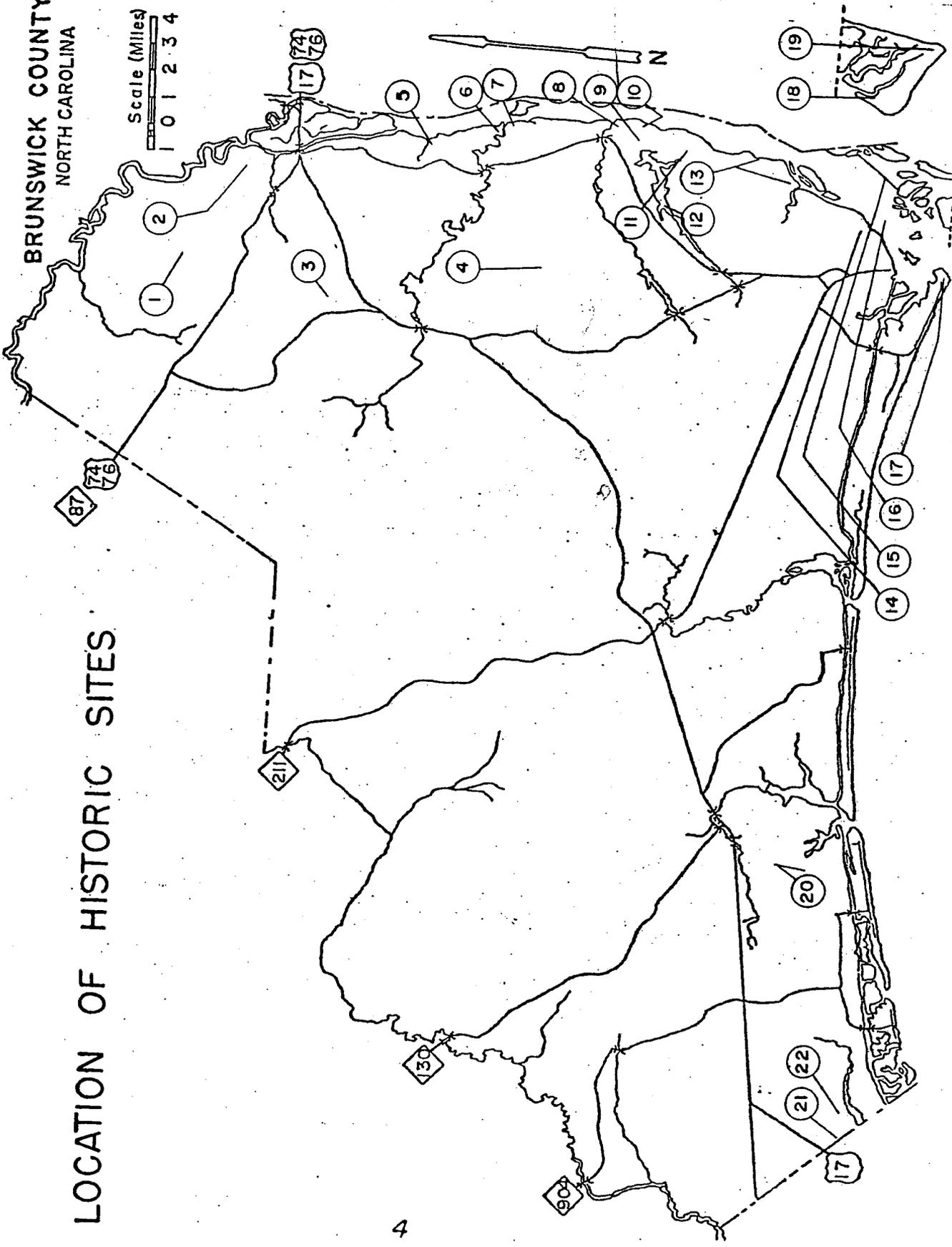
Index Of Brunswick County's Major Historic Sites

<u>MAP NO.</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OWNERSHIP</u>
1	Williams House	On S.W. side of S.R. 1426, 0.7 mi. N.W. of junction with S.R. 1430, Phoenix Vicinity	Private
2	Belvedere Planta- tion	On west bank of Brunswick River Near juncton of U.S. 17-74-76 And River Road	Private
3	Railroad Hotel	On East Side of S.R. 1438 at Junction with U.S. 17, Lanvale	Private
4	Winnabow Planta- tion	On S.W. side of S.R. 1521, 1.5 mi. S.E. of Junction with U.S. 17, Winnabow	Private
5	Clarendon Plan- tation	Between N. C. 133 and Cape Fear River S. of Mallory Creek and North of Town Creek	Private
6	Old Town Planta- tion	On N. Bank of Town Creek, at Cape Fear River	Private
7	Pleasant Oaks Plantation	At the intersection of Rt. 133 and State Road 1518	Private
8	Orton Plantation	On East side of S.R. 1529, across from S.R. 1530, near Brunswick Town	Private
9	Brunswick Town	At the end of S.R. 1533, Orton Vi- cinity	State
10	Fort Anderson	Along the Edge of the River at Bruns- wick Town	State
11	St. Philips Church	N. C. 130 off U.S. 17, Brunswick Town State Historic Site	State
12	Liberty Pond And Colonial Fort	On West side of S.R. 1533, known as Orton Pond, Fort area is in Sunny Point	Private
13	Battery Lamb And Saltworks	Old Bunkers within Sunny Point, Restrictive Zone and Saltworks near junction of Walden Creek and Cape Fear	Federal
14	Price's Creek Lighthouse	W. Bank of Cape Fear River on Price's Creek, at end of S.R. 1540 Southport	Private

<u>MAP. NO.</u>	<u>SITE</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>OWNERSHIP</u>
15	"The Rocks"	In the Cape Fear River and Extends from Federal Point through Zeke's Island to Smith Island Marshes	Federal
16	Quarantine Station	Within the Cape Fear River 1-1/8 miles Northeast of Southport	Federal
17	Fort Caswell	At the end of N. C. 133 at Caswell Beach	Private
18	Bald Head Light-house	In the N. W. Corner of Smith Island	Private
19	Cape Fear Light-House Complex	South East Corner of Smith Island	Private
20	Gauses Tomb	500 Feet Eastward From S.R. 1154 and South of Jinnys Branch Creek	Private
21	Boundary House	Located near the North and South Carolina State Boundary, .4 mile South of U.S. 17	Private
22	Hickory Hall	Along the Western town limits of Calabash South of S.R. 1163	Private

BRUNSWICK COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA

LOCATION OF HISTORIC SITES



The Williams House

The Williams House at Phoenix is one of the last surviving country homes of it's era in North East Brunswick County. In October of 1874 the tract of land was sold to the Spencer family and it was latter conveyed back and forth until December 27 ninteen hundred when the Williams family bought it from Samuel Chinnis.

The design and architectural style of this home lends itself to historical significance since this building form has been modified since the turn of the century. The brick walk is flanked by cedar trees leading from the road to the front porch. There are seven steps about eight feet long leading to the porch, which stretches across the front of the house. It has board and batten construction that has turned a light gray through the years.

One of the more unique aspects of this house is that the kitchen and dining room are separated from the main house by a porch that extends across the rear of the home and down one side of the dining room and kitchen. The dining room has a 57 inch fireplace with an 86 inch mantle top. Both kitchens and dining rooms have tongue and groove walls with chair rails. The Kitchen has a fireplace and also a flue in one corner.

Another unique style of this 18th century home is it's front door design. It has four small windows on either side with three above the door way. As one enters a 10 foot wide Hallway that extends the length the house from which one can enter a living room and five bedrooms, each having it's own fireplace. All of the rooms are 11 feet high and 15 by 15 feet in size.

Other unique aspects of the house includes it's beautiful entrance which has large yaupon and magnolia trees scattered throughout the yard. The house has five large chimneys and a stairway in the rear which leads from the back porch to a storage area in the attic (Blake 1972).

Mr. Worth Williams of Wilmington indicated that the Williams Family resided in this beautiful house for the past 75 years, however at the present it is unoccupied.

Belvedere Plantation

This Plantation site is situated nearly opposite the City of Wilmington on the banks of the Brunswick River and near the junction of 17-74-76 and River Road. It became the home site of two North Carolina Governors, Benjamin Smith and Daniel Russell.

"Colonel William Dry was perhaps one of the first owners of the piece of property. In later years his son-in-law, Benjamin Smith owned it and established it as his main residence. In April of 1796 President George Washington had breakfast at Belvedere with his old friend, who served under him during the war years. Smith was quite young when he served as aide-de-camp to General Washington in the dangerous but masterly retreat from Long Island after the defeat of the American Army in August 1776" (Hall 1971).

"In 1783 Mr. Smith first appeared in the General Assembly of North Carolina, representing Brunswick County in the Senate. Smith was elected Governor of the State of North Carolina in 1810, and among his other accomplishments he served as Grand Master of the Order of Masons of North Carolina. It seems to be mere coincidence that Daniel Russell later owned the Belvedere Plantation and also became Governor of the State of North Carolina in 1898 (Asbury 1966).

The Plantation contained approximately 200 acres of tidal swamp and under the ownership of Mr. Smith, 160 acres was banked, ditched, and under rice cultivation. Also there was some 900 acres of pine land which became utilized for the production of tar and pitch for naval stores.

At one time the premises contained a manor house, a large two story building with a cellar structure, which was connected by a

breezeway to a building one and a half stories, containing a kitchen, wash house, and carriage house, all of brick. Also on the site was a smoke house, two story barn 110 feet long and 40 feet wide, containing a threshing machine, an overseer house and slave quarters with necessary out buildings.

Today if one visits the area, all that remains is the ruins of a ballast stone building and some enormous oak trees which lend shade and soft breezes to the site and are over 200 years in age. The plantation site has been divided into lots and a road has been cut through where most of the building once stood. (Asbury 1966)

Battery Lamb and The Confederate Saltworks

Battery Lamb was a Confederate Fort work on Reeves Point on the edge of the Cape Fear River. It was used during the Civil War as protection for the Wilmington Seaport.

Just below this area on Walden's Creek was established, in war times, a large Confederate Salt Works for the supply of salt to the soldiers. Salt-water was carried in tanks from New Inlet to the creeks and evaporated by artificial heat, producing a fine white salt at a small expense. It was probably demolished by the Federal blockades who fired at all signs of smoke.

Also bricks which were used in the original construction of Fort Caswell were made on the banks of Walden Creek (Sprunt 1896).

Railroad Hotel

The Railroad Hotel located one quarter mile off U.S. 17 on State 1438 is one of the more impressive landmarks in the area. It is a two story wood frame building with a gable roof and a monumented front portico. It has a diamond shape louvered vent in the gable and two central interior chimneys.

The hotel was financed by Dr. E.G. Goodman sometime in the late 1880's as a business venture when there were big ideas to link the railroad of Southport (Smithville) with Chicago. This speculation failed however and the Railroad Hotel only saw limited use with local visitors between Wilmington and Southport (Of course Southport never became the large deep water port it was planned to be either.) Since this railroad connection never blossomed the Railroad Hotel became utilized as a school house throughout the 1900's and at the present it lies idle.

Winnabow Plantation

Winnabow Plantation is located on the Southwest side of State Road 1521 along the edge of Rices Creek. It was built approximately in the 1730's and was said to be one of the prettiest plantations in the early settlement days of the Lower Cape Fear Region. This plantation site originally gained prominence when it was owned by Nathaniel Rice and latter became incorporated into Governor Russell's Plantation a few hundred feet further South of S.R. 1521.

Nathaniel Rice was one of the most prominent men who ever settled within the Town Creek area in colonial days. He came to the Town Creek section along with John Baptista Ashe and a number of other men who became prominent in the colonial life of the lower Cape Fear area when they came from Bathe, England about 1727.

Information found in the Colonial Records indicated that Nathaniel Rice was appointed Secretary of the Province in 1729. In 1734 he became justice of the peace for the New Hanover Precinct and a justice for the Kings Court. A few years later he became a member of Governor Burrington's Council of which he became president. Also Rice served by appointment as a vestryman in St. Philip's Parrish and he was appointed by the Assembly of North Carolina in 1745 to erect a fort which was named Fort Johnston in Southport.

Rice was involved in a controversy with Royal Governor Burrington over the sale of lands in the colony. Other conflicts with the early governor developed when Rice and a few other compiled a list of complaints against Burrington and sent them to the Duke of Newcastle, one of the King's Secretaries of State. The list was quite lengthy and the accusations against the governor and crown were strong. He was branded a revolutionary when he tried to get more rights and justice

for the New Hanover Precincts.

"At the death of Governor Burrington in 1734, Nathaniel Rice, who was Secretary of the Council, became Governor and took his oath of office at Edenton on the 17th of April, 1734, which office he held until Gabriel Johnston was sworn in as Governor at the town of Brunswick in November of 1734. On the death of Governor Johnston, July 17, 1752, Rice became acting Governor of North Carolina, since he was ranking Councillor, and he held this office until his death in January 1753" (Taylor 1962).

Also occupying this plantation site was Governor D.L. Russell who used a great deal of the Rice house into the building of his mansion a few hundred yards away. He also incorporated all of Nathaniel Rice's land holding on the fork of Town Creek into his plantation site about 1840.

The Governor Russell Mansion can still be seen at this location which is in fine repair, illustrating some of the colonial features of that era.

CLARENDON PLANTATION

Clarendon Plantation is located five miles south of Belville along Rt. 133 and is one of the few fine old Cape Fear plantations which has retained its identity. Clarendon, a 1,000 acre cotton and tobacco plantation, was named after Clarendon County which originally extended from Albemarle on the north to Saint Augustine, Florida, on the south.

The powder magazine that is still standing on Clarendon Plantation is said to be the oldest building in the Carolinas, having been erected in 1666 by the colonists two years after they had settled in a community that they named "Charles-Towne" a settlement they abandoned in 1667. These same settlers came back to the "new world" two years later and established another Charles-Towne, now known as Charleston, South Carolina. This old powder house is a square building of distinctive brick work believed to be late 17th century because the brick corner bonds and the pantile roof are the same architectural styles used at both Williamsburg, Virginia and Charleston, South Carolina.

Since there had been no settlers in the Cape Fear area until after 1700, when Pantile was no longer used for roofing, then the appearance of Pantile on Clarendon must mean that a colonial town was once situated there a full sixty-one years before the plantation was granted to John Grange in 1728 (Hayden 1961).

During the aftermath of the American Revolution, the first Governor of North Carolina, Benjamin Smith, came into possession of Clarendon Plantation. Later in 1834 the site was purchased by the Watters family who built a two-story, antebellum house which has been moved but is still in good repairs. It is here that the famous author, Inglis Fletcher wrote

"Lusty Wind for Carolina" (Archives and History 1975).

Bordering the plantation along the Cape Fear River can be found one of the most interesting and intriguing time telling devices in America. It is a 50 foot wide canal said to be dug by the Indians and oriented so perfectly that the Summer Solstice sunrise ascends dead center in the canal, thus telling the Indians that the sun would then start moving southward and providing them with the first calendar that was ever set up in these parts. There is also an unidentified avenue of ruins and live oaks which leads to an old Indian field where many different pieces of Indian pottery have been found.

Presently Clarendon is closed to the public.

OLD TOWN PLANTATION

Old Town Plantation is located on the north bank of Town Creek where it meets the Cape Fear River and is one of the oldest, if not the first, plantation in the Lower Cape Fear Region. In 1725 Royal Governor George Burrington issued about twenty (20) patents, ten (10) of these amounting to 9,000 acres, were granted to the powerful Moore family. The head of the family was Colonel Maurice Moore, who received 7,000 of these acres including a 1,000 acre grant at the mouth of Town Creek.

This grant covered a strategic tract at the junction of Town Creek and the river where silt from the creek formed shoals at it's mouth, which prevented large craft, requiring more than ten (10) feet of draft, from venturing further up river. Thus the creek provided a safe and convenient means for transportation to haul out naval store products and crops from the plantation's well-drained farmlands and swamps, which were suitable for rice production. Around 1740 half a dozen other plantations had been situated near Town Creek because of it's fertile lands and protected transportation route (Lee 1965).

Within a few years of the 1725 grant, a large residence was constructed. When, or for whom it was built, is not known, but it remained in the possession of the Moore family and is recorded in a 1761 deed as the "Old Town" plantation. The discovery of the eighteenth century plantation house site was a result of long standing interest in the location of the seventeenth century settlement of "Old Charles Town".

The "Old Town" is named in honor of the reigning monarch

by a group of colonists from Barbados in 1644. It is generally believed that the early colony was located between this site and Clarendon Plantation. Examination of an artifact collection on an old field site seem to substiate this idea. The materials collected on a field site exhibited fragments of seventeenth century Rhenish stoneware jugs and kaolin pipe fragments with marked seventeenth century bowls. Also a coin was recovered appearing to be a rose farthing ($\frac{1}{2}$ penny) of the reign of King Charles I, and when the logistics were completed a mean occupation date of 1663 was calculated for the field site, thus substantiating the belief that "Old Charles-Town" was near this vicinity. (Stone, 1970).

Artifacts collected by a UNC-W archaeological group around the old house site included a Hibernia half penny dated 1723, colonial red clay pipes and white salt-glazed stoneware of the eighteenth century. Evidence on the mansion house site reveals that it was a central chimney, four room structure with a fire place in the corner of each room, which is very similiar to the early eighteenth century Virginia buildings. Logistic analysis of the house site places the mean occupation date about 1723 (Hume 1970). This site is not open to the general public.

PLEASANT OAKS PLANTATION

The entrance to this beautiful plantation is located at the junction of Rt. 133 and state road 1518 and extends back to the Cape Fear River. The grant for the property was made in 1725 to John Moore, a half-brother of Maurice Moore and "King Roger" Moore, (the latter the owner of Orton Plantation). The Moores came to the Lower Cape Fear area from Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1728 the present 4,000 acre estate was granted to the widow of John Moore from whom it is believed the "Widow Moore's Creek" took its name. Also the "Battle of Moore's Creek, which historians told was the turning point in the American Colonists' fight for freedom, was so named because a creek along which it was fought, meandered through lands owned by the widow of John Moore. (Ross 1965).

"The Oaks" as the plantation was originally named for many years was particularly distinguished for a grand grove of Oaks that extended from the antebellum house (which is situated on the junction between the river and Town Creek) for $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to a large artificial lake. This body of water was known as the "Mill Pond" which supplied motive power for the saw mill and the grist and rice mills. More fame came to Pleasant Oaks when the plantation attained the reputation world wide of producing the finest rice in America, having the largest grains. This occurred eight years before the outbreak of the civil war when the owner purchased large cargo ships to transport his rice

to the world markets. A canal was even dug to bring his cargo vessels closer in shore for easier loading and unloading.

Pleasant Oaks Plantation had one of the most beautiful Camellia Gardens in the nation and at the present time acres of azaleas and camellias are cultivated on the plantation. Even though, the present owners do not open the grounds to general visitation, one person familiar with the plantation described it as follows: (Hayden 1961)

"After entering the beautiful old wrought iron gates, which are flanked by white brick facades, the visitor will drive through a mile of woodland before reaching the avenue of stately live oaks, which extend some two miles to the gardens.

This avenue of oaks is considered one of the most beautiful in the south. It is set parallel on either side by white rail fences, enclosing lush green pastures on which Pole Herefords graze.

Many of the finest camellias in the country are to be found in the gardens, along with thousands of beautiful azaleas, all intermingled with countless holly and dogwood trees; and all this beauty is enhanced by the stately old oaks and the mirrored Mill Pond, bordered with colorful azaleas and studded with moss-draped cypress."

Orton Plantation

Orton Plantation, which is located seventeen miles South of the City of Wilmington and just nine miles North of Southport, is generally recognized as being one of the finest examples of Southern ante-bellum (prior to the Civil War) architecture, and has been acclaimed as one of the most beautiful showplaces in the south. The old Mansion is not open to the public, but the beautiful structure is centrally located amid gardens that are open to the public with many interesting views from points of vantage along the meandering garden paths. The gardens are especially beautiful in early April when Azaleas and Camellias bloom and exhibit kaleidoscopic scenes around the stately Mansion, under towering shady oaks.

Orton Plantation was originally owned by Maurice Moore, a grandson of Sir John Yeoman, who in 1665, built old "Charles-Towne". Maurice Moore deeded the plantation to his brother Roger Moore who built the lower central part of the present Mansion in 1725. Roger Moore and his family became so active in opposing the harsh regulations that were imposed upon the Colonist by the Crown, that King George often referred to them as "Those pestiferous Moores" (Hayden 1961). In fact as a result of Roger's wise organization and direction against the british rule, he became locally known as "King Roger of Orton"

His Plantation was named for the Village of Orton near the Town of Kendall in the beautiful Lake District of England, the ancestral home of the Moores. The original grant, which was for approximately 8,000 acres, was increased later when two adjoining Plantations, Kendall and Lilliput were acquired, thus

emcompassing the nearby old port town of Brunswick.

George Moore, "King Roger's" son gained the ownership of Orton. While he resided there he became one of the leaders of armed resistance against the Stamp Act in 1766 when the Colonists surrounded the Governor's Palace and stoutly opposed the landing of the despised British Tax Stamps. George Moore later sold Orton to his brother - in - law who, in turn sold the plantation to Benjamin Smith, a Governor of North Carolina and aide to General George Washington during the revolution.

In 1840, Dr Frederick Hill bought Orton and improved upon the rice plantation by utilizing Orton ponds waters to irrigate the fields. This method proved efficient and productive only when large numbers of slaves were used to keep down weed competition. It was during this next decade that Orton became less able to compete with the upper Cape Fear Plantations because there became a shift from reliance on fresh water ponds, to utilizing tidal swamps. The principal advantage to be gained by such a change was a considerable saving of labor necessary to control grass and weeds.

Orton continued to rely on fresh water ponds for flooding the rice fields since it was a lower Cape Fear large plantation which had the more saline (salt) waters, which was deadly to the rice plants. Thus Orton had the largest slave population (160 slaves).

Due to these circumstances and being one of the largest, wealthy plantations, Orton operated milling facilities, some steam-driven and others water-powered, for both threshing and polishing the rice. The Census of 1860 showed the lower Cape Fear as having ten rice mills, all in Brunswick County, with

rice yields being very high averaging about forty bushels per acre for orton while tidal swamp plantations could produce in excess of 60 bushels (Clifton 1971).

The Cape Fear rice planters has a "hay day" until changes in life style resulted from the Civil War when tools and machinery had to be developed to replace the cheap hand laborers which were emancipated. Also near the end of the Civil War, Orton was used as a hospital for union soldiers that were sick and injured. In the following years, labor for Orton was not secured through either of the two most commonly used systems; one relying on wages and the other on a portion of the crop. Because of these circumstances the great Orton Plantation finally was sold in 1872. Since heavy rice harvesting machinery was not feasible on it's soils the future owners turned their interest to restoration of the grounds and buildings and established an excellent wildlife preserve. Even though the rice fields lay idle, turpentine, tobacco and cotton paid for the saddle horses and London Finery.

Today Orton is owned by the Sprunt family and is open for the public to view one of the most well preserved historical sites in Eastern North Carolina.

BRUNSWICK TOWN

The colonial town of Brunswick was begun in 1725 by Col. Maurice Moore of South Carolina as a real estate venture. In the 1730's Brunswick Town was the seat of New Hanover County and in 1764 it became the seat of the newly created Brunswick County. Brunswick Town was used as an early port town on the Cape Fear river where interchange of goods between England and the colonists occurred. Once this small village was established approximately sixty buildings were situated along the banks of the river.

One of the more prominent ruins in old Brunswick Town is known as Russellborough which was purchased in 1758 by Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs when he moved here from New Bern. The two-story house with basement had been built by Captain John Russell who belonged to his Majesty's Sloop "Scorpion". Dobbs did some work on the house to complete it and added various out buildings. In moving to Brunswick Town Dobbs was getting away from what he called the "aguish" town of New Bern and hoped to improve his health by the move. By 1762 his health had improved substantially, in fact the 73 year old Dobbs married Miss Justina Davis, a 15 year old resident of Brunswick Town. He then changed the name of Russellborough to "Castle Dobbs" (South 1765).

After the death of Governor Dobbs in 1765, William Tryon moved into the vacant house and changed the name to "Castle

Tryon". A ready made crisis was awaiting for William Tryon when he took office as Royal Governor of North Carolina in 1765. In Wilmington the stamp master William Houston had been forced to resign his office, and an effigy was hung in protest to the Stamp Act. When the sloop "Diligence" arrived at Port Brunswick with a cargo of stamps to be sold for affixing on various documents, the people were determined not to buy them, and the stamps remained on board the vessel. The courts could not function without these official documents, resulting in a tense situation around Brunswick Town in November of 1765.

This state of affairs continued until after the first of the year when the ships owned by prominent men of Brunswick Town entered the port, but were not allowed to be unloaded because of lack of proper papers. This caused Cornelius Harnett and George Moore to go to "Castle Tryon" and speak with Governor Tryon about releasing the cargoes of the ships. They were determined to force the release of the ships, and place Governor Tryon under house arrest until the matter could be settled. During the night an angry mob broke into the home of William Dry and took clearance papers for the vessels. The 500 armed resisters then went to the ships and demanded release of their cargoes much to the displeasure of Governor Tryon.

As the cargoes were being unloaded the armed citizens went to Castle Tryon where the Comptroller of Port Brunswick fled for safety. There Cornelius Harnett faced Tryon with his

angry, armed mob and asked Tryon to send out Pennington, the tax stamp official. The Royal Governor, upon feeling like a prisoner in his own home, finally told Pennington to resign and leave the house. The resisters then went to Brunswick Town, and there, probably in front of the courthouse, they compelled the clerk of court, William Dry the Collector, and Pennington the Comptroller as well as lawyers, to sign a statement saying "they would not sign or execute any stamped paper in the execution of their various offices." This became one of the first acts of armed resistance to British authority in America and it happened at Brunswick Town (South 1965).

At the outbreak of the Revolutionary War in 1775 the few citizens residing in the almost deserted town feared that the British war ships would attack the town and moved due to this threat. In 1776 their fears were realized when Brunswick was burned by British troops under the command of Captain Collet. Only two or three families returned after the war, and by 1830 the town was totally in ruins. (Division of Archives 1974).

FORT ANDERSON

For many years after the British burned Brunswick Town, it lay idle and forgotten, inhabited only occasionally by a handful of people. It wasn't until April of 1861 that life in mass form once again came to this site, to work on construction of a confederate earthen fort. In 1861 hundreds of tons of soil were placed over many of the ruins of the colonial town which had flourished 86 years before. Fort Anderson was to be a strong defense structure for Wilmington and other surrounding communities and it was ideally located for such fortification because it lay both on a point of the river and on a ridge.

The fort stretched one mile in length and it was composed of two batteries "A" and "B", which possessed five guns each. Other gun emplacements, less impressive than the main batteries, were strewn along the line of defense. However, the guns were not utilized in the following years and North Carolina's 40th Regiment became bored, except for the practice drills and visitors from nearby areas. (Asbury 1964).

On January 15, 1865, Fort Fisher fell and the confederate soldiers of Fort Anderson realized they had a tough task ahead of them; that of holding the river's defense. On the following day, soldiers from Forts Holmes and Hederick on Smith Island joined 900 men from Fort Caswell to form a bastion against the yankees at Fort Anderson. Their attempt failed, however, when

the Federal Navy moved 15 vessels into the river, one vessel firing on Fort Anderson and a northern land regime firing from behind. On February 19, 1865 after severe bombardment, the confederates slipped out of the fort, and Fort Anderson fell to the north.

Today the earthwork mounds of the fort have been naturally preserved, for the most part, and can be seen at the Old Brunswick Town site, which is open to the public.

St. Philip's Church

St. Philip's Anglican Church is located at Brunswick Town and is one of the first churches in North Carolina. Brunswick Town was begun in 1726, and within two years the first minister, John Lapierre had arrived. In 1729 an act was passed directing that the church of New Hanover County (as the area was known) be built in Brunswick. By 1736 the church was built, and five years later an act provided for the creation of St. Philip's Parish and the building of a new church to be financed by poll tax.

By 1754 the new church was under construction and the brick work was completed above the window level. Five years later the church still was not finished, and a lottery was authorized to provide money to complete it. Finally several gentlemen of Brunswick Town were interested in the completion of the church and Royal Governor Arthur Dobbs proposed to make St. Philip's the King's Chapel in North Carolina. It was probably through the influence of these wealthy men that a second lottery was held, and ^{half} the proceeds from the slaves and other effects taken from the Spaniards who attacked Brunswick in 1748 was applied to the church fund. (South 1968)

By July, 1760, the church was almost completed when lightning struck the roof and it collapsed. By 1762 the old chapel in use since the 1730's was repaired and a Brunswick carpenter was placed in charge of repairing the roof and belfry

of the new church. Reverend McDowell, the minister of the old church died and was buried in the graveyard at St. Philips Church. Three years later the church was still not completed when Governor Dobbs died and was buried inside.

Royal Governor Tryon then moved into "Castle Dobbs" at Brunswick Town and became interested in the completion of the new church. Tryon paid for the sashes and glass, which were brought from England and also requested Reverend Barnett, the new minister, to be a guest at the Governor's mansion until the church was completed and dedicated in 1768.

When Brunswick Town was burned in 1775, St. Philips Church was probably destroyed at that time. When Confederate, Fort Anderson was built across the ruins at Brunswick Town in 1862, the ruins of the church were planned as part of the fort. During the bombardment of Fort Anderson in 1865, naval shells struck the church but did little damage. The Confederate dead, from the bombardment, were placed inside its walls where they were found by the capturing Union troops.

At the present a restoration project is being coordinated by the State to help preserve the foundation and walls of this old historical church. It is open to the public.

A Colonial Fort and Liberty Pond

A short distance below Fort Anderson, on a bluff called Howe's Point are the remains of a Colonial Fort, and behind it the ruins of a residence in which tradition says was born in 1730 one of the greatest heroes of the revolutionary war (General Robert Howe). He was the trusted and honored Lieutenant of Washington. Robert Howe also lived at Kendal Plantation for a while which is now part of Orton Plantation.

The nearby Colonial fort was erected long before the Revolution as a protection against buccaneers and pirates. Later it was used as a defense strong hold against the British who finally drove out the americans and forced them back to Liberty Pond about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile in the rear. At this Pond a stand was made with americans on the west and British on the east side and it was said the battle caused blood to stain the water within the pond.

Captain Sam Price corroborated these facts saying that the Howe house was a large three-story frame building on a stone or brick foundation on Howe's point near the old fort just below old Brunswick (Sprunt, 1896).

Presently the area is owned by the Federal Government at Sunny Point.

It is not known how much of the site still exists because the whole area has been modified by the Federal Government. However Liberty Pond is now known as Orton Pond and presents a beautiful example of a Historic Natural Landmark. This Pond was also used as the irrigation source for Orton Plantation's Rice Fields and can be viewed by the public.

Price's Creek Lighthouse

Price's Creek lighthouse, which is located along the banks of the Cape Fear River and it's junction with the ferry landing, is one of the oldest range lights still standing in the Cape Fear Region. The circular brick tower and adjacent dwelling for the light keeper were both constructed in 1849 to serve the purpose as a range light for new inlet. There also was a smaller back beacon which sat atop the keeper's dwelling.

The twenty-five foot tower was brick and is in a deteriorated condition at the present, however, the old structure has kept it's shape remarkably well. Only the ruins of the walls of the keeper's house remain with sides of the buildings standing as high as six feet. The original two acre tract was purchased by the Federal Government to be served with a lighthouse and keepers dwelling.

This signal station acted as the only means of communication between Fort Caswell and Fort Fisher at New Inlet via Southport (Smithville), where the Confederate General resided. This signal corp frequently rendered some very efficient service to the blockade runners after they had succeeded in getting between the blockaders and the beach, where they were also in danger of the shore batteries until their character became known to the Confederate Forts.

At first the signal system failed, but as time went on an educated member of the signal team went with every ship and eventually more valuable cargoes were saved from capture or destruction.

Today the tract is owned by Pfizer Pharmaceutical Company who expressed an interest to restore and preserve the historical site.

"The Rocks"

The Cape Fear River would shoal shut from the storm induced opening of New Inlet. Congress was petitioned by the people to appropriate necessary funds for increasing the depth of water on the Cape Fear bar and river, and after careful surveys and estimates by the Corps of Engineers it was decided to undertake the entire closure of New Inlet under the direction of Colonel W. P. Craighill. This important and difficult work began in 1875 (Sprunt 1896).

A continuous line of mattresses composed of logs and brushwood loaded with stone was sunk and laid entirely across New Inlet. This work was continued from year to year by piling small stone rip-rap on and over this foundation, building it up to high water, and then finally covering it with heavy granite stones on it's top and slopes to low water. This feat was finished in 1881 and saved the deep water port of Wilmington.

The length of the dam from Federal Point to Zeke's Island is 1 mile plus 1-3/4 mile to Smith Island. The rock foundation is from 90 ft to 120 feet wide at the base and for 3/4 of the depth of the stone wall it is 3 feet from the top of the wall. It has been estimated that the stone used in this structure would build a solid wall 8 feet high, 4 feet thick for 100 miles on land.

Today it is still standing and can be seen from the ferry that crosses from Southport to Fort Fisher.

The Cape Fear Quarantine Station

The Cape Fear River was the only marine gateway of importance by which epidemics could gain an entrance into North Carolina. During the 1800's medical facilities were at a minimum and if a contagious disease escaped notice in the river, possible the whole state and country could have been affected.

Prior to building the Cape Fear Quarantine Station, all disinfection of vessels took place at the mouth of the Cape Fear by burning large quantities of sulphur and the disinfection of crew clothing was never done properly. There was also no facilities to care for the sick or detention areas for suspects; thus arose the need for a new station.

Finally in 1893 Congress granted the Marine Hospital Service the funding of \$25,000 to build and equip a Quarantine Station. This new station was located in the river about 1-1/8 miles northeast of Southport. The Station was built on a pier 600 feet long, with gangways, docks, and ballast cribs.

The station has a disinfecting house with a sulfur furnace used to provide 10% per volume sulfur dioxide gas. This was sprayed over all parts of the vessel by means of a hose. There was also an apparatus used to disinfect by live stream mixed with disinfecting solutions. A small hospital area existed with surgeon's and attendants quarters and Quarantine rooms or barracks used to detain persons during disease incubation periods.

Presently only the foundation for the water tanks is left intact and can be seen when crossing the Cape Fear River on the Ferry.

FORT CASWELL

Fort Caswell, which is located at the end of Caswell Beach, has been for years the principal coast defense of the Cape Fear River. Construction started in 1826 during the administration of President John Quincy Adams and Major Blaney of the United States Corps of Engineers was in charge of building the fort for eleven years. During the time of Blaney's death a young Lieutenant Col. named Robert E. Lee also came to Fort Caswell to work on anti-erosion projects for the Corp.

The Fort was named by the War Department on April 18, 1833 in honor of Richard Caswell, the first Governor of North Carolina. The fort finally was completed during the administration of President Martin Van Buren, but did not see service until late into the Civil War. It is remarkable that no major exchange of fire occurred between the Confederates and Yankees at Fort Caswell even though the fort was exposed to the Federal Fleet. The fort was of great service, however, in defending the main bar and the Confederate garrison at Southport. (Hayden 1961)

During this time (1865) Fort Caswell was an enclosed pentagonal structure with two rolls of moated soil mounds used as fortifications. Each mound contained many small openings through which small firearms could be discharged easily. On the top of the fort were enough emplacements for sixty-one

channel bearing guns and situated within the soil fortress were spacious barracks, officer quarters, store rooms and armory areas. In fact, Fort Caswell was one of the most well built forts in the South.

During the later part of the Civil War the fort was destroyed, not by the Federal fleet, but by the confederates themselves. A few days after the fall of Fort Fisher the confederate soldiers at Fort Caswell decided to abandon the area. Word came to them that a huge Federal naval fleet was approaching them from the north while Sherman's battalion was marching East to Wilmington from Fayetteville. Before the confederates left however, they blew up all of the major powder magazines and most of the original Fort Caswell was reduced to ruins.

Towards the later part of the nineteenth century the fort was allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that just prior to the Spanish - American war it was reported in a dilapidated condition. Then came the Spanish - American war and Fort Caswell was rebuilt with concrete emplacements on which five, eight and twelve inch disappearing rifles were mounted atop the southeast corner of the original fort. Along with attendant magazines there were spacious wooden barracks and five wooden dwellings for the officer quarters. Most of these structures are existing today. (Hayden 1961)

The fort was actively garrisoned until about 1923, after which it was declared surplus and all of the remaining armament

and material declared obsolete and sold for scrap. The federal government then decided to sell the fort in 1926 to some real estate developers, however the depression of 1929 ruined such plans. Fort Caswell thus lay idle again until the U. S. Navy used it during World War II as a military base to control submarine attacks. It saw limited use during the following years and the fort was declared a surplus site and offered for sale.

From 1949 till the present Fort Caswell has been owned by the North Carolina Baptist Seaside Assembly and utilized by that organization as a recreational and religious center for only the Baptists of North Carolina. There is extremely limited public access to the beautiful, spacious, historic grounds of the old fort site, which exists an important part of our common heritage.

II. BALD HEAD LIGHTHOUSE ("OLD BALDY")

The first lighthouse on Smith Island was constructed in 1796, but due to extensive erosion of the shoreline, was replaced by an octagonal tower on the north-west corner of the island. This uniquely shaped tower is now known as "Old Baldy" and is the oldest lighthouse, still standing on the North Carolina shores.

In April of 1816, congress appropriated \$16,000 for the building of the Bald Head Lighthouse. It was built one hundred and ten feet (110) high with a visible range of 18 miles. The old lighthouse was built of hard brick and had eight walls joining a strong foundation of stone. The base of this octagonal pyramid is thirty-six feet (36) in diameter with gradual taper to the top of the lantern, which had a wooden floor fourteen feet six inches in diameter. The width of the walls are graduated, starting with five feet of thickness at the base of the lighthouse and becoming more narrow at the top, with walls being two feet (2) in thickness. The ground floor was made of brick while the top floor, joists and stairs were made of Carolina yellow pine. The outside of Old Baldy was rough plastered, while the inside and wood workings were well painted (Herring 1967).

There was also a keepers house which was built initially as a temporary quarters for the workmen. This dwelling was made of brick, thirty-five feet by seventeen feet, one story high with a gable end roof. The walls were twelve (12) inches

thick with brick chimneys in both ends of the house which serviced two fireplaces. There was also two out buildings or sheds around the lighthouse site.

From 1817 till the civil war years Old Baldy's fish oil lantern guided many ships through the tricky Cape Fear shoals. However in 1861, by order of Governor Ellis, the Confederates extinguished all the lights in the Lower Cape Fear region. The Bald Head lighthouse was then reactivated after the war in 1866 and it again served as the major guide for ships entering the Oak Island channel. This function was of major importance to navigation in the area, especially after the only other point of access to the river, New Inlet (several miles above the Cape) was closed. This action was supervised by the Corps of Engineers in 1880 for the construction of "The Rocks" which controls siltation to the shipping channel.

Erosion became a difficult problem for "Old Baldy" in 1881 and two years later to prevent the lighthouse from destruction, a stone jetty 150 feet long was authorized for the protection of the foundation of the tower. This helped control erosion for a while, but in succeeding years rapid abrasion of the shoreline occurred again. In addition the Bald Head Lighthouse was so far inland and was not of sufficient height to light the dangerous Frying Pan Shoals that a replacement tower (the Cape Fear Lighthouse Complex) was planned for the southeast corner of Smith Island. At this time Old Baldy became a fourth-order fixed light station. The light beacon was then discontinued in

1935 and a radio-beacon was established on the site in 1941. This beacon was of service during World War II when Fort Caswell, across the river, was used by the U. S. Navy. When the new Oak Island light was activated on May 15, 1958, the new station took over the operation of the radio-beacon.

Today "Old Baldy" stands as a beloved reminder of the hard times in the past. It is a landmark that has withstood many adverse weather conditions and has served for a century and a half (1817-1967), the lower Cape Fear area. Presently it is owned by the Carolina Cape Fear Development Corporation who plans to preserve the historic structure, however, there is very limited public access to the site.

CAPE FEAR LIGHTHOUSE COMPLEX

In 1903 a new lighthouse complex was added to service the lower Cape Fear area and replaced "Old Baldy" on Smith Island. The new light house complex was located on the southeast corner of Bald Head Island and had three keeper's houses. This fourth order lighthouse was 150 feet high and had a radius of 18.5 miles of light which could reach out towards the Frying Pan Shoals.

Unlike "Old Baldy", the new complex was not constructed of brick and wood, but had a steel skeleton tower, enclosing a stair inner tower. The entire structure was painted white, and the upper part was later painted black, so that it could be seen more easily.

On the watch-room balcony, the illumination apparatus rotated on a Mercury float and gave off light utilizing incadescent oil vapor. This beacon used a six inch wide mantle with a lens that was six feet in diameter and ten feet in height. The light had a 160,000 candle power rating that was visible up to 19 miles out in the ocean.

Operation of the Cape Fear lighthouse took quite a bit of manpower. The lens was run by weights on heavy cable which the keeper had to wind every three hours with large brass handles. The keeper also had to light the mantle at sundown and turn it off at sun up. There was always danger that the lantern would become flooded with fuel oil which would cause special work procedures and cause a delayed schedule. Also the lantern fuel had to be thoroughly cleaned after each burn so the maximum light

power could be kept up, all the time (Herring 1967),

The Cape Fear Light was set burning by Captain Charlie Swan and he tended the light for thirty years. He and his family lived on Bald Head Island during this time. Only two other men followed him for brief periods of time before the Coast Guard took over the keeping of this lighthouse complex. As a result of changing demands for a stronger beacon and more economical operations, the Cape Fear Light was replaced by the Oak Island Coast Guard Station in May of 1958. The final demolition of the steel tower occurred in September of the same year. The three keeper's houses were left and later used by the Coast Guard until all services were moved to Oak Island.

Today the site is owned by Carolina Cape Fear Corporation. The remains of the site still are exhibited by the keepers' house and other out buildings, but cannot be seen unless permission is received from the present owners.

Gause's Tomb

"An unusual and interesting memorial to a family that was prominent in the life and activities of Brunswick County during the Colonial Period can still be seen on an old plantation site just five miles from Shallotte. The brick burial tomb of John Julius Gause (1774-1836) is located some 500 feet eastward from State Road No. 1154 and about the same distance South of the run of Jinnys Branch," (Berry 1966).

The Gause family had large land holdings in Horry County, South Carolina and also some smaller acres scattered around Shallotte and Ocean Isle. The Father of this Brunswick County clan was William Gause referred to in South Carolina as the "Inn Keeper" because of his large business operations. Old William had six sons, two of which moved to Brunswick County prior to the Revolution when in 1762 they purchased land on Shallotte Sound. John Gause and William Jr. then became active in local government and fought in the Revolutionary War. Later William Jr. served in the House of Commons from Brunswick County in 1778 and his home seems to have been at or near Gause's Landing.

John Gause, the Revolutionary Veteran and brother William Jr. was also the father of John Julius Gause, the person responsible for erecting the tomb. In his Will dated May 3, 1836, recorded in Will Book B. Page 171, Brunswick County Court House, he authorized the building of the Gause Tomb and tells who shall be buried there (Berry 1966).

Presently the Tomb is in fine repair and offers an enchanting site to the visitor.

The Boundary House

The Boundary House which is located south along a dirt road .4 mile off of U.S. 17 stood astride the state line prior to 1750. Only the chimney remained during the civil war and it always marked the dividing line between the two early Carolina Provinces. In fact it was a documented truth that the early boundary line, established in the spring of 1735, ran right through the center of the Boundary House (Lee 1965). The location of the building had to be determined to properly survey the state line when it was last surveyed in 1928. At that time, the surveyors erected a 600 pound granite post inscribed "Boundary House" to mark the site of Horry County's oldest known building.

If the name was properly given to the Boundary House it would probably be the Boundary "Meeting House" since it is known to have been a place of worship in colonial times. In 1965, Reverend John Bennett came from England to preach in the Old St. Phillips Church at Brunswick Town and other "remote congregations". In a letter to his conference dated August 22, 1967 he wrote: ... "Nine times in the year I preach at the Boundary House situated on the line between the Carolinas. Here a large congregation meets ..." (Berry 1974)

It is also known that the house served as a private residence for Isacc Marion, a brother of General Francis Marion known as the "Swamp Fox". Isacc resided here in colonial times where he served the community as a Justice of the Peace. It was at this building that South Carolina first received the message about the Battle of Lexington which was the start of the Revolutionary War. Marion received the note from an express horseback rider from Wilmington on May 9, 1775 and then rushed

it from there to the Committee of Safety at Little River.

A later incident at the Boundary House included a duel between Captain Maurice Moore and his cousin General Benjamin Smith. Maurice Moore was a son of Alfred Moore, Associate Justice of the U. S. Supreme Court and Benjamin Smith later served as governor of North Carolina. Both lived through the ordeal to become famous men.

Hickory Hall

Hickory Hall, located in Calabash, is typical of rural, middle class homes for this area of Brunswick County during the past - colonial era. Most of the homes of this type have disappeared, especially within this vicinity either from fire, age or natural elements. Hickory Hall has not been necessarily restored but it has been kept in good repair throughout it's time.

Dating the building is rather difficult, however family tradition indicates that some of the brick within the chimneys had the date 1812 imprinted on it. The house was built by Samuel Frink (Sept. 1786- Nov. 1862), whose great grandfather Nicholas Frink was the first settler of the name in the area. In fact the present day Little River Neck area, northern Myrtle Beach, was formerly known as "Frinks Neck" after Nicholas Frink (Berry 1971).

Samuel Frink operated this large plantation which is presently the town of Calabash. His produce consisted primarily of indigo and rice and the large acreage of long leaf pine supplied tar and pitch for naval stores. These abundant timbers can still be found throughout the house as sills and timbers in the foundation of the house.

The unique feature of this house is the fact that it was built over a huge hickory stump that latter became used as a table for many decades. Due to decay the old stump has been since removed, however the name of this unique feature still remains.

Other architectural features include two chimneys that were a part of the original house and were built from ship ballast stones. The foundation of the house contains oyster shells which were burned into lime like substances used in the mortar. Included were five

fireplaces used for cooking and heating and ceilings and walls consisting of beaded paneling, possibly imported from England. The original floors were, for the most part, native long leaf pine planking, some of which remain to this day (Berry 1971).

The present owners of Hickory Hill reside there and operate one of Calabash's restaurants.

LIST OF HISTORICAL HIGHWAY MARKERS IN BRUNSWICK COUNTY

<u>MARKER NAME</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION</u>
Orton	Fine Colonial home. Built about 1725 by Roger Moore. Later it was Benjamin Smith's home. Stands 16 3/4 miles south. (Marker stands at junction of U. S. 17 and N. C. 133).
Stamp Act	Resisted by armed band, February, 1766 at Brunswick, where Royal Governor Tryon lived. Site 18 3/4 miles south. (Marker stands at junction of U. S. 17 and N. C. 133).
Fort Caswell	Named for Governor Caswell. Begun by U.S. in 1826, seized by N. C. troop, 1861; abandoned by Confederates, 1865. Stands 5 miles southeast. (Marker stands at junction of N. C. 133 and 211).
Fort Johnston	Built 1748-1764; burned by Whigs, 1775; rebuilt by U. S. government, 1794-1809. Only the officers quarters remain. (Marker stands on N. C. 133 in Southport)
Arthur Dobbs	Royal Governor, 1754-1765; author; member Irish Parliament; promoter of search for Northwest passage, is buried at St. Phillips Church. (Marker stands at intersection of N. C. 133 with U. S. 17).
St. Phillips Church	Episcopal. Built under act of 1751 in town of Brunswick, now extinct. Ruins 18 3/4 miles south. (Marker stands at intersection of U.S. 17 and N. C. 133).
Spanish Attack	A spanish expedition captured the town of Brunswick, 1748, during King George's War, but was soon driven away by the Colonial militia. (Marker stands at intersection of N. C. 133 and U. S. 17)
N. C. Boundary Marker	Colonized, 1585-1587 on Roanoke Island by first English settlers in America, permanently settled 1650; first to vote readiness for independence, April 12, 1776. (Marker stands at Route U. S. 17 and State Line).

<u>Marker Name</u>	<u>Description and Location</u>
First Post Road	The road from New England to Charleston over which mail was first carried regularly in N. C. , 1738-1739, passed near this spot. (Marker stands along U. S. 17 and State Line).
Charles Town	Center of a colony from Barbados under Sir John Yeamans, 1664. Abandoned 1667. Was located two miles east on Town Creek. (Marker stands on N. C. 133 near Town Creek Bridge).
Brunswick	Founded 1725, long a principal port of N. C., site of Spanish attack, 1748 and of Stamp Act resistance 1766. Later abandoned. Was two miles southeast. (Marker is located at entrance to Orton Plantation).
St. Phillips Church Graves	Grave site of Governors Arthur Dobbs, Benjamin Smith, and U. S. Justice Alfred Moore all buried near the church. Ruins two miles southeast. (Marker located at entrance to Orton Plantation).
Fort Caswell Marker	Seized by N. C. militia three months before firing on Fort Sumter. Governor Ellis ordered its return to Federal authority three miles east. (Marker located at the junction of N. C. 133 and Oak Island Drive).
Bald Head Lighthouse	Completed 1796. Used intermittently until 1935. Built of sandstone with eight sides, standing 109 feet tall 3.2 miles south - southeast. (Marker stands in Southport Water Front).
Fort Anderson	Large Confederate fort stands two miles east. After a strong Union attack it was evacuated February 18, 1865, resulting in the fall of Wilmington. (One marker stands at junction of U. S. 17, 74, 76 and N. C. 133 and one at entrance to Brunswick Town).

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