

16th Annual Historic Beech Island Tour

Beech Island, South Carolina

FEATURING HOMES, CHURCHES, CEMETERIES
AND OTHER HISTORIC PLACES



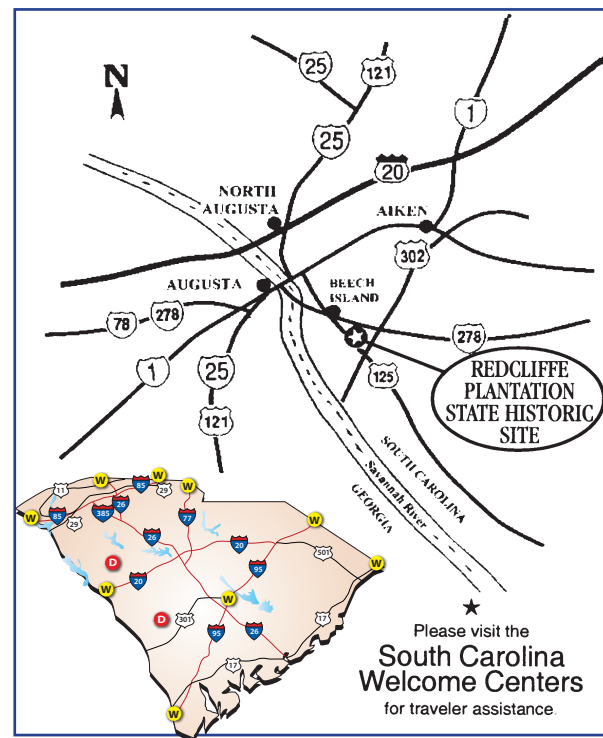
Dr. John Galphin Home

**Saturday,
April 27, 2024
10 A.M. - 5 P.M.**

SPONSORED BY

The Beech Island Historical Society, Inc.

Proceeds Will Benefit The Beech Island Historical Society, Inc.



Please visit the
**South Carolina
Welcome Centers**
for traveler assistance.

TICKET INFORMATION

Tour ticket prices are \$25 the day of the tour and \$20 in advance for adults, \$20 for senior citizens (age 60 & up) and \$15 in advance. Children & students (under age 18) are free. Tickets the day of the tour can be purchased at the Beech Island Historical Society History & Visitors Center (site # 7) at 144 Old Jackson Highway 803-867-3600. Advance tickets can be purchased from the Beech Island Historical Society or at any of the following locations:

- Beech Island, SC – Beech Island Appliance Service – 1516 SandBar Ferry Rd. (803) 827-0421
- Augusta, Ga. – Historic Augusta – 415 Seventh Street (706) 724-0436
- North Augusta – Arts & Heritage Center of North Augusta 100 Georgia Ave. (803) 441-4380
- Jackson SC – Jackson Municipal Complex – 106 Main Street (803) 471-2228
- Aiken SC – Aiken County Parks, Recreation & Tourism Visitors Center – 133 Laurens Street NW (803) 642-7557

Or by mail from: The Beech Island Historical Society, Inc.
144 Old Jackson Highway • Beech Island, SC 29842

For more information, call:

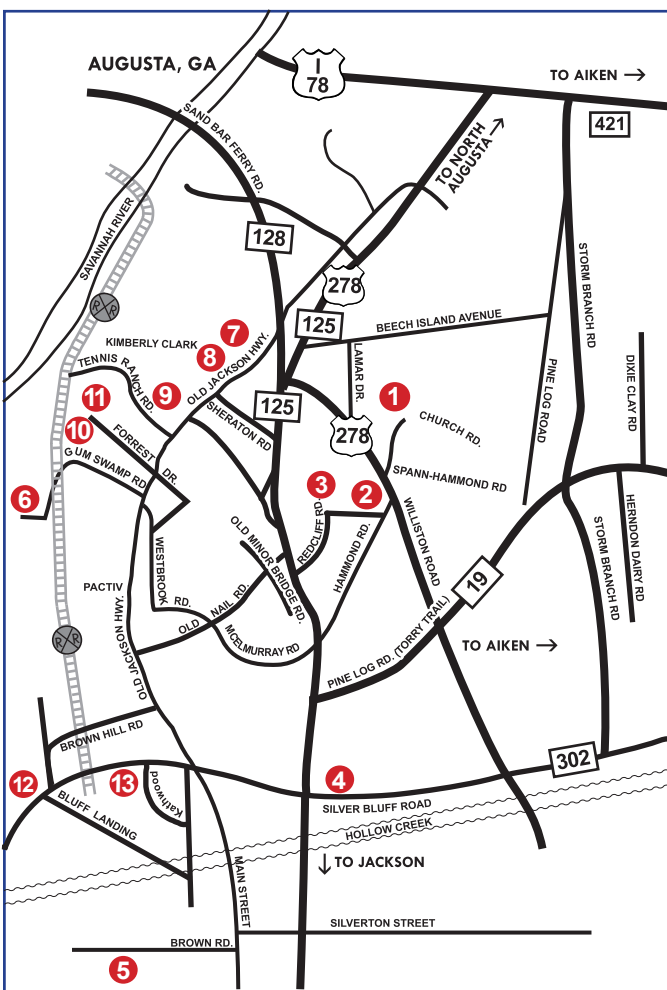
The Beech Island Historical Society at 803-867-3600
& leave a message or call Jackie Bartley at 706-833-3651
or email bdbartley@comcast.net

Makes checks payable to the Beech Island Historical Society
Add \$1 for postage & handling

DISCOVER
South Carolina



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TOUR INFORMATION

Low-heeled, comfortable walking shoes are recommended, and we ask that no pictures be taken inside homes (unless owners grant permission).

BBQ LUNCH

An old-fashioned barbecue lunch, sponsored by the Beech Island Historical Society, will be served from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Beech Island Historical Society's History & Visitors Center (Site # 7) at 144 Old Jackson Hwy. Eat-in or take-out. BBQ (chicken or pork) dinners will cost \$15.

For info: www.beechislandhistoricalsociety.com



**GARY L. McELMURRAY
CONSTRUCTION CO., INC.**
181 Old Jackson Highway
Beech Island, SC 29842
(803) 827-0043
FAX (803) 827-3807

Tickets for this one-day, self-guided, driving tour can be purchased the day of the tour at the Beech Island Historical Society History & Visitors Center (Site # 7) located at 144 Old Jackson Highway in Beech Island, SC 29842.

The following 13 places can be visited at your leisure and in any order you choose, except Site # 3, Redcliffe Plantation State Historic Site, with tour times at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., & 3 p.m.

1. 🇺🇸 FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF BEECH ISLAND

170 Church Road, Beech Island, SC 29842

Organized Jan. 21, 1832, and dedicated September 1832 as the Beech Island Baptist Church, this two-story, Greek Revival structure predates the Civil War. This church was constructed with an upstairs slave gallery that wrapped around three sides of the sanctuary and could accommodate from 40 to 50 slaves who accompanied their plantation owners to church services. The land, lumber, carpenters and labor to build the church were donated by several of the church's 22 original members. In 1962, the name was changed to First Baptist Church of Beech Island.



2. 🇺🇸 HAMMOND CEMETERY (BEECH ISLAND CEMETERY)

Hammond Road, Beech Island, SC 29842

Private community cemetery established by SC Gov. James Hammond in 1864 as the final resting place for him, his family, their descendants and members of the community.

3. * REDCLIFFE PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

181 Redcliffe Road, Beech Island, SC 29842

This four-story Greek Revival plantation home was constructed in 1859 by Augusta, Georgia, contractor William Goodrich for S.C. Gov. James Henry Hammond. The mansion is the centerpiece of a 400-acre country estate that was originally supported by at least three working plantations in the area totaling 14,000 acres. Hammond and three generations of his descendants used the estate for relaxation, entertaining and agricultural experimentation. John Shaw Billings, Hammond's great-grandson, was the last owner of Redcliffe, and he donated the house and its collections to the State of South Carolina in 1973. Redcliffe contains approximately 4,000 pieces of artwork, books, furnishings and textiles that belonged to four generations of Hammonds. **TOUR TIMES: 11 a.m. & 1 & 3 p.m. ONLY!**



4. THE DR. JOHN GALPHIN HOME, OWNED BY DR. CHARLES G. LARKE

3573 Silver Bluff Road, Aiken, SC 29803



Built in 1833 by Beech Island plantation owner, David Bowers, this historic, three-story Galphin-Murray home overlooks a 100-acre estate of beautiful pastures and a large pecan grove. Occupied by five generations of the Galphin Family, the estate is currently owned by Dr. Charles Larke, retired Richmond County School superintendent. Located two miles from the Kathwood Community, where he was born, the home serves as a private retreat and entertainment venue. Major renovations completed by prior owners, Roy and Kaye Gmitter, between 1998 and 2002 added a modern kitchen, family room and master bedroom suite to the main floor, bringing its size to 4,908 square feet. Original heart pine floors, paneling and ceilings from lumber cut on Bowers' swamp plantation remain throughout the five-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath home.

5. 🇺🇸 THE JARRETT MUSEUM, OWNED BY KENNY JARRETT

383 Brown Road, Jackson, SC 29831

Dedicated to the memories of his grandmother, Mamie Brown, and his uncle, Jarrell M. Brown, Kenny Jarrett, owner of Jarrett Rifles, built this two-story, 3,300-square-foot private museum in 2006 to house his vast collection of Native American and Civil War artifacts and hunting trophies from all over the world. In 2011, he enlarged the museum, adding another 2,500 square feet to hold more of his 50-plus years of collecting and a Civil War pistol collection.



6. THE RIVER HOUSE, OWNED BY SARAH & LEROY SIMKINS, JR.

860 Gum Swamp Road, Jackson, SC 29831

Located at Simkins River Farms on the Savannah River, this three-bedroom modified vacation home features cathedral ceilings in the living room and dining area, Brazilian cheerywood flooring, pine doors and a fireplace with a mantel made from hewn cypress logs from an old barn on the property. Built in 2002 on approximately 3,000 acres protected by a conservation easement in perpetuity, the home boasts a panoramic view from its back deck of the mighty Savannah River all the way across to the Georgia side.



7. 🇺🇸 BEECH ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY VISITORS CENTER & BARN

144 Old Jackson Highway, Beech Island, SC 29842

Headquarters of the Beech Island Historical Society, this brick country store building and the recently renovated brick warehouse/barn was built in the 1880s by Beech Island businessman Luther Hankinson. Constructed of bricks made at his own brick factory in Hamburg, SC, the original store structure consisted of one large room with a restaurant added to the right side and a restroom to the left. After Hankinson died in 1933, his heirs sold the property and the two buildings to George McElmurray, and McElmurray added a kitchen, bedroom and porch and lived there and operated a cotton gin nearby. McElmurray raised the height of the warehouse and used it for the storage of cotton seed. In 1991, McElmurray's heirs donated the buildings and the acre of land to the Beech Island Historical Society. Renovations to the old store/home began soon after and were completed in 1996. In May 2008, renovations were completed on the barn which is now open as the Beech Island Agricultural Museum and Gift Shop.



8. 🇺🇸 THE BEECH ISLAND COUNTRY STORE, OWNED BY THE BEECH ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

144 Old Jackson Highway, Beech Island, SC 29842

Completed in 2018, this 828-square-foot building is filled with hundreds of antique items that could have been purchased from the many little country stores all over Beech Island from the late 1800s to the 1950s. While the purpose of the store is to introduce children to how their ancestors purchased their daily supplies, it also will serve as a nostalgic look back for those who remember those good old stores.



9. 🇺🇸 SILVER BLUFF MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH & SCHOOLHOUSE

360 Old Jackson Hwy, Jackson, SC 29831

This church, one of the oldest black Baptist churches in America, grew out of regular worship services held as early as the 1750s at Silver Bluff, the plantation of Indian trader George Galphin. At first, a non-denominational congregation with white, black and Native American members, it was formally organized as Silver Bluff Baptist Church in 1775 with the Rev. Watt Palmer as its first preacher. The church moved from its original site in 1815, again in the 1840s and to the present site in 1866 with a large frame sanctuary built in 1873. This sanctuary was covered in brick in 1920, later demolished, and the present church built in 1948.



10. MEYER BROTHERS' SWISS SETTLERS' FARM & HOME SITE, OWNED BY JACKIE BARTLEY (New Windsor Excavation)

Forrest Drive, Jackson, SC 29831

This land was granted in 1736 to Leonard, Ulrich and Michael Meyer, settlers who came to live in New Windsor Township (Beech Island) with a group of Swiss Protestants from Canton Appenzell in 1737. The Meyer family occupied this site until 1790. From 1993-95, archaeologists with the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program excavated the site and uncovered the remains of a house and outbuildings along with thousands of artifacts from several trash pits.

11.* 🇺🇸 ZUBLY CEMETERY

Forrest Drive, Jackson, SC 29831

The oldest established cemetery in Beech Island, Zubly Cemetery is the final resting place of David Zubly, Jr. (1738-90) and his wife, Ann Meyer (1744-95), the daughter of Ulrich Meyer. Their newly marked graves are located in the vacant space in the middle of the cemetery. All but one of the Zublys' five daughters are buried in Zubly Cemetery. On May 21, 1855, Mary Ann Mills, who is buried at Zubly, deeded the cemetery to the descendants of Samuel, Ulrich and John Clarke, and Capt. John Miller. In 2001, the Zubly Cemetery Association, Inc. was organized to oversee the preservation of the cemetery, and in 2007 and 2009, the association added 4.10 more acres to the cemetery property to protect the cemetery from future development.

12.* 🇺🇸 SILVER BLUFF AUDUBON CENTER & SANCTUARY

4542 Silver Bluff Road, Jackson, SC 29831

This 3,400-acre wildlife sanctuary and environmental education center, located on the Savannah River at historic Silver Bluff, has a long history of use, including Native American encampments, exploration by Spanish conquistadors, Irishman George Galphin's 18th Century trading post, the site of a 1781 Revolutionary War battle and plantation owned by SC Gov. James H. Hammond in the 1800s. The road to the river landing will be open to tour visitors, and include an interpretive talk about the archaeology and history of the Bluff.

13. RISHER CABIN & UPPER POND, OWNED BY THE SILVER BLUFF AUDUBON CENTER

Kathwood Road, Jackson, SC 29831

Located on 50 acres of pine forests and two ponds, this old clubhouse's main part was at least 50 years old when Ellenton-Jackson resident Eldon Risher bought it in 1957. The property included the old clubhouse and an upper pond from the Christopher Hammond estate. Risher later built a two-acre pond in front of the old wooden clubhouse. The canal which runs behind the clubhouse was dug to run water from Hollow Creek, which was diverted in the early 1900s at the upper pond, through Kathwood Lake to a spillway that powered a cotton gin, cotton seed oil mill, grist mill and flour mill. After Risher died in 1991, the Silver Bluff Audubon Center purchased the property in 1992 and uses the cabin for meetings and interns. The Kathwood Lake was converted to a pond for migrating storks.



🇺🇸 Handicap Accessible

*Listed on the National Register of Historic Places