Beaufort, the third oldest town in North Carolina, is the perfect place for a leisurely walk with its tree-lined streets and quaint historic buildings. The oldest and most haunted of these is the Hammock House, lodging place for the notorious Blackbeard the Pirate. Use the map provided on the inside to locate this as well as guide you through the six-block historic district listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

As you wander, imagine a time when the streets were canopied by elm trees given to the town by Queen Ann of England in recognition of the two Beaufort streets named in her honor.

Beaufort has historically been a seaport village, much as it is today. Walk along Front Street and you will see sailing vessels still using the safe harbor. Look across the inlet to Carrot Island and Bird Shoal to catch a glimpse of the wild ponies that make it their home.

Make the Beaufort Historic site at 130 Turner Street your first stop for information on all there is to see and do in the quaint seaport village of Beaufort. We offer lively guided tours of authentically restored homes and buildings, the mysterious Old Burying Ground, and Beaufort's charming historic district aboard a vintage English double-decker bus. You'll love discovering our coastal heritage!

Buildings Tours
Old Burying Ground Tours
Narrated Bus Tours
Old Beaufort Museum Shop
Mattie King Davis Art Gallery

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Funding for this brochure was made possible through a grant from the Carteret County Tourism Development Authority

presented by
The Beaufort Historical Association

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Beaufort, North Carolina

Exploring Beaufort's Past
Beaufort-by-the-Sea
Founded 1709
Incorporated 1722

1. Old Carrying Ground, 1714
   Deeded to the town in 1734, this cemetery contains both Revolutionary and Civil War graves. The earliest graves here would have been marked with cedar slabs or shells due to the lack of indigenous stone. More information and a self-guided tour brochure is available at the Safei Historical Center.

2. Old St. Matthew's Church, 1804
   Hand-carved woodwork adorns the walls and ceiling, with stained glass windows from 1886.

3. Annie Chapel, 1821
   The oldest Beaufort church in continuous use, this building was originally constructed by the Methodist Episcopal Church and then given to the AME Zion Congregation.

4. Carteret County Courthouse, 1857
   Note the statue of a Confederate soldier with his back symbolically to the north.

5. Old Fellow's Lodge, 1897
   Built by schoolmaster and court clerk Samuel Leffers, this cottage is a good example of a "story and a half" or one-and-a-half story house.

6. Joseph Hall House, 1825
   Originally built on Portmouth Island where it stood for 100 years, this home was moved to Beaufort New Town for another 100 years before being moved to its present location.

7. Josiah Irish House, 1802
   Once used as a school for girls from the Outer Banks.

8. Buckner House, 1855
   An above-ground basement, unusual for this area, is in this house, still in the Buckman family.

9. John Hall House, 1839
   Originally built on Portmouth Island where it stood for 100 years, this home was moved to Beaufort New Town for another 100 years before being moved to its present location.

10. John Low House, 1840
    Federal home of a sea captain whose daughter died at sea. Her body was preserved in a keg of rum and buried in the Old Burying Ground.

11. House, 1845
    A live cannonball was recently found here.

12. Robert's House, 1859
    An unusual three-story house with classrooms on the first floor and living space above.

13. Beaufort House, 1853
    Home of Captain Charles Biddle and his bride, Hannah Shepard, this house was built during the Revolutionary War.

14. Chalmers House, 1874
    Said to have been sold for a cow and a call, this steamboat gothic style house was previously owned by Congressman Charles Aiken, a prominent legislator known by his friends as "Grass." He later became the US Senator from South Carolina.

15. Jordan House, 1879
    Originally grown wooden pegs were used instead of nails in the construction of this house owned by John Shealy, a prominent lawyer and judge of the county.

16. Allan House, 1879
    Said to be General Burnside's headquarters during the Union occupation of Beaufort.

17. Jordan House, 1879
    Built by Rich Barker, a house carpenter, this is a good example of early Beaufort architecture.

18. J. H. Jasper House, 1879
    Featuring Victorian gingerbread trim, this house was used as a dormitory for boys from rural parts of the county who attended school in town.

19. Dr. Davis House, 1879
    Dr. Davis had a medical office and medical office building next to the house which has now been moved to the Beaufort Historic Site for tours.

20. Peanut House, 1879
    The oldest and most intriguing house in Beaufort, it is believed to have been built for a group of sea captains and later used as a tavern. Because the house stands on a small hill, or "hank," it used to be used as a navigation point on early maps. With over 30 documented owners in its nearly 300 years, the most famous (or infamous) guest is Blackbeard the Pirate, who stayed here when he was in port.

21. Jones House, 1879
    Used as a hospital during the Civil War, this was also the first home in Beaufort to have a phone but Mrs. Jones was so afraid of it that she had it installed on a post in the yard.