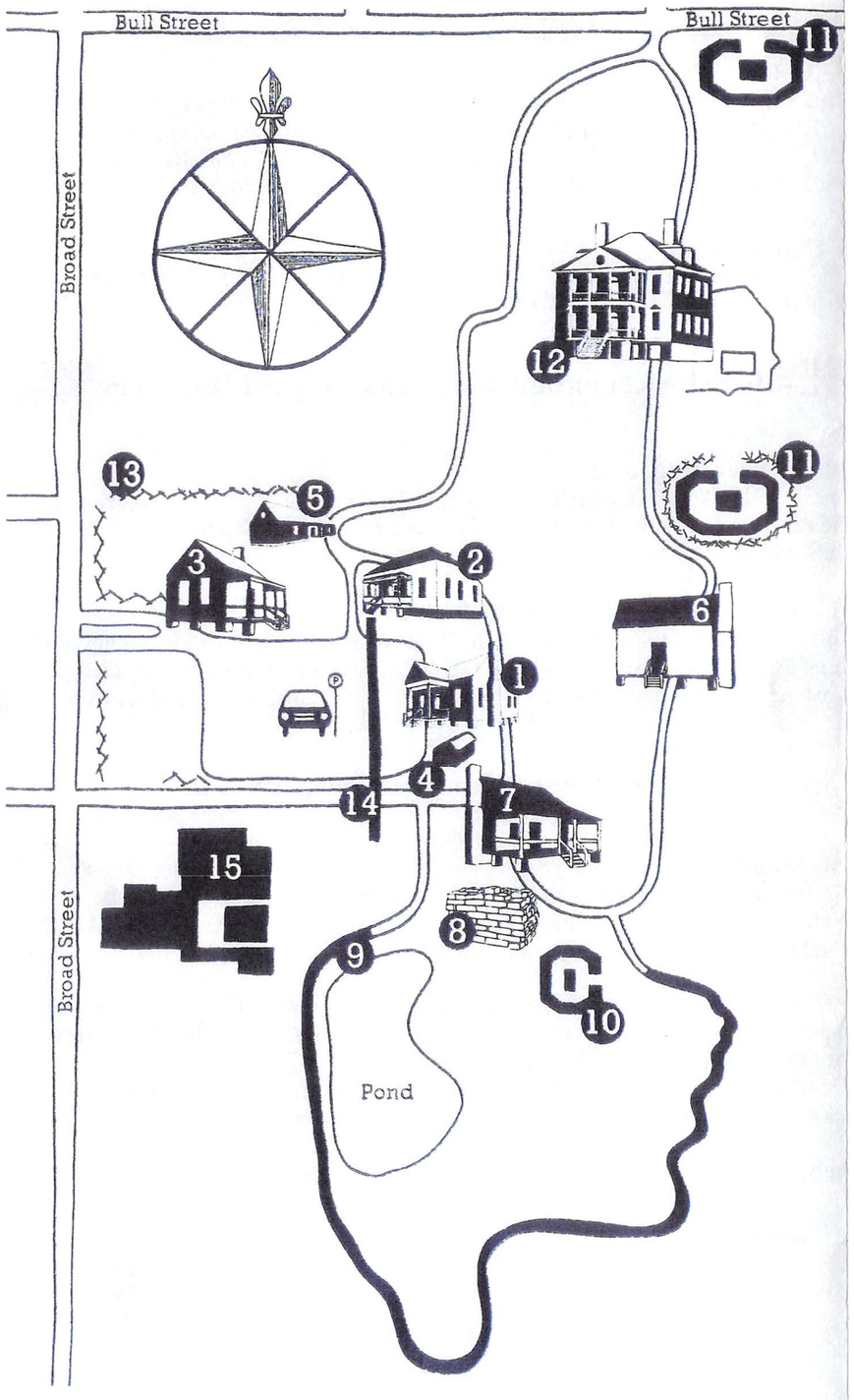

1. Cunningham House and Museum Gift Shop
2. McCaa House And Tavern
3. Craven House and Exhibit Gallery
4. Blacksmith Shed
5. Dogtrot / Restroom
6. Drakeford House
7. Bradley House
8. Colonial Brickyard
9. Nature Trail
10. Powder Magazine
11. Northeast and Southeast Redoubt
12. Joseph Kershaw House- Cornwallis Headquarters
13. Town Wall
14. Liberty Path
15. Revolutionary War Visitors Center (Summer 2021)

Do exit right and enjoy our fine restaurants and shops in downtown Camden and our City of Camden Historic District, one of four Kershaw County historic districts on the National Register of Historic Places

Historic Camden Site Orientation Video

HISTORIC CAMDEN Foundation

Welcome to Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site

Self-Guided Site Tour Map

Kershaw COUNTY SOUTH CAROLINA

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

This is the site of the oldest inland town in South Carolina. Established in 1733 as the Fredericksburg Township, early immigrants were joined in the 1750s by Quakers and Scotch-Irish traveling down the Great Philadelphia Wagon Trail. Joseph Kershaw arrived in 1758 as a representative of a Charleston mercantile firm. He established a store in the area and renamed the town Pine Tree Hill. The town prospered as trade grew. By 1768, the town was the top inland trade center in the colony. At Kershaw's suggestion, the town was renamed Camden, in honor of Lord Camden, champion of colonial rights.

On June 1, 1780, after the fall of Charleston, Camden's citizens surrendered to General Charles, Lord Cornwallis. Camden became the main British supply post for the 1780-1781 Southern Campaign of the American Revolution.

Two major battles were fought nearby:

The Battle of Camden (August 16, 1780)
The Battle of Hobkirk's Hill (April 25, 1781)

The British evacuated Camden on May 10, 1781.The town, left smoldering, was soon rebuilt north of the original townsite.

1 Cunningham House and Museum Gift Shop
This Federal-styled residence, circa 1835, exhibits the fine craftsmanship of the early 19th-century Camden builders. The offices and gift shop are located at the Cunningham House

2 McCaa House And Tavern
This house, circa 1800, was the office of Dr. John McCaa, a Camden physician. The clapboard house is a transitional design between Georgian- and Federal-styles, uncommon for the area. The building is currently interpreted as a late 18th century tavern. Stop in for tastings and refreshment.

3 Craven House and Exhibit Gallery
A prime example of Camden Colonial Georgian architecture, this white frame house, circa 1789, is one of two remaining houses built in Camden in the 18th century. Most of the interior woodwork is original. The house was built for John Craven, Joseph Kershaw's accountant. Current exhibit on the Revolutionary War Southern Campaign.

Colonial Backcountry Architecture and Trade Exhibits

4 Blacksmith Shed
This replica of an early 19th century blacksmith shed features a traditional forge and a small demonstration area. The forge is operable, with demonstrations at special events throughout the year.

5 Dogtrot
The architectural term "dog trot" refers to an open-air passage between two rooms that share a common roof.

The wheelchair accessible restrooms are located here.

6 Drakeford House
This house was built about 1812 by a man named Richard Drakeford, a noted patriot soldier. Originally located twelve miles north of town, it was dismantled and rebuilt on site in 1970. Colonial Horticulture Exhibit and Medicinal Garden are included in monthly demonstrations.

7 Bradley House
This early 19th century log structure was built about nine miles east of Camden. After being moved to Historic Camden, its rebuilding included the need to cover all but the porch side pine logs with clapboard because of deterioration. A Colonial Potter's Wheel is on exhibit and demonstrations are held monthly.

8 Colonial Brickyard
This 18th century-styled brickyard was built to produce wood-fired bricks as part of Historic Camden's Horticultural & Trade Program. During the colonial and early federal period Camden was known for their clay and high-quality bricks, and was producing over 600,000 bricks per month by the end of the 1800's

9 Nature Trail
The nature trail passes a small pond and bogs on its way to Pine Tree Creek. Visitors are encouraged to walk the ¼ mile hiking trail.

British Occupation and Archaeological Discovery

10 Powder Magazine
The 1777 brick powder magazine was built for the State of South Carolina under the supervision of Joseph Kershaw. This reconstruction is based on typical construction methods of the era.

11 Northeast and Southeast Redoubt
This small fortification originally extended across Bull Street. Roughly one-third of its dry moat and earthworks have been reconstructed. It was noted by George Washington in his diary that, during his 1791 visit, he inspected the remains of the "works and redoubts erected by the British" while in Camden.

12 Joseph Kershaw House- Cornwallis Headquarters
The Kershaw House is a reconstruction of the home of Mr. Joseph Kershaw, considered Camden's founding father. Originally constructed c.1778, it served as post headquarters for Lord Charles Cornwallis during the British occupation of 1780-81 and became known as the Kershaw-Cornwallis House. By the late 1850s, the house was abandoned. During the Civil War, the house served as a storehouse for the Confederacy and burned in 1865.

1960's Archaeological investigations of the area revealed evidence of the original foundations of the main house, kitchen, and an outbuilding, a well and the British palisade defense trench. Based on the original foundation layout, two early 19th-century paintings of the house, and an 1858 photograph, reconstruction began in 1977. Externally, it is an exact replica of the original mansion.

Guided Tours are available daily. Visit Gift Shop for details.

13 Town Wall
The reconstructed palisade sections flanking Broad Street (then the Catawba Path or Waxhaws Road) are part of the south wall erected by the British in 1780