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. Use the map provided on the inside to 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 Anne 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 Shoul to catch a glimpse of the wild horses 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!

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

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Beaufort Historical Association
130 Turner Street
Beaufort, NC 28516
www.beauforthistoricsite.org
252-728-5225

Though Beaufort’s houses range from traditional cottages to elaborate Queen Anne and Greek Revival styles, porches are a dominant feature in almost all of them. The quirky picket fences built with an up and down pattern are distinctive to Beaufort. These picket fences are used extensively, and may have a connection to an early law stating that pigs must be kept in the yard. Pigs found outside the fence could be slaughtered by the finder, though half must be given to the church wardens to feed the hungry.

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Historically, Beaufort was settled by the British in 1709. In 1713, Robert Turner, who held the original land grant for 200 acres, laid out the town and named the streets just as they are today. The town was named in honor of Turner’s friend, Henry Somerset, Duke of Beaufort, and was incorporated in 1722. By the late 18th century, Beaufort was becoming an active seaport. Inhabited by sailors, pirates, privateers, fishermen, soldiers, and planters, it was a diverse community with the common thread of the sea. While Beaufort’s active sea trade allowed it to be connected with seaports thousands of miles away, its geography kept it isolated from the interior of the state. This isolation has helped the town retain its historic appearance.

Still standing today are the homes of Beaufort’s early sea captains, shippers and merchants. Beaufort boasts over 100 homes that are over a century old and several private residences that are over 200 years old.

Architecture

Beaufort’s early architecture is characterized by its simplicity and charm. Boat-building tools and skills were used as sea captains copied the double-porch styles of the West Indies and Bahamas seen on their seafaring voyages.

The Bahamian influence is reflected in the roof lines of the oldest houses in Beaufort. Providing nature’s own air conditioning, the gabled ends form a steep pitch at the ridge of the roof which breaks to cover the traditional full-length porches.
1. Old Burying Ground, 1709
   Dated to the town in 1731, 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. Self-guided tour brochures are available in the Safrit Historical Center, or you can take a digital tour using the UniGuide app.

2. John Street Methodist Church, 1854
   Hand-carved woodwork adorns the walls and ceiling, with stained glass windows from 1898.

3. Davis Chapel, 1820
   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, 1907
   Welcome center and tourism information.

5. Old Borden House, 1768
   This was the townhouse for Col. John Easton, who led the Beaufort militia against the British landing in April 1782. Later this house was used as a hospital and then prison during the Civil War.

6. Hatsell House, 1827
   Emilie Pigott, a Confederate spy, frequently visited relatives here and watched the Union shelling Fort Macon from the top porch.

7. Old Borden House, 1768
   Moved from the corner using mules, the invalid owner didn't realize what was taking place until he saw the scenery outside his window changing.

8. Morse House, 1771
   Federal home of a sea captain whose daughter died at sea.

9. Dr. Josiah Davis House, 1854
   Once used as a school for girls from the Outer Banks.

10. Dr. James Manney, c1812
    Originally built on Portsmouth Island where it stood for 100 years before being moved to its present location.

11. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 1857
    This Greek Revival house served as the Union Provost Marshal's headquarters during the Civil War. Axe marks made by Union soldiers cutting wood are still visible on the floor.

12. Hatsell House, 1827
    Once used as a school for girls from the Outer Banks.

13. Dr. James Manney, c1812
    Originally built on Portsmouth Island where it stood for 100 years before being moved to its present location.

14. Slocum House, 1768
    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.

15. Morse House, 1771
    The original house had a depth of one room.

16. Carteret Academy, 1854
    An unusual three-story house with classrooms on the first floor and living space above.

17. Easton House, 1771
    This was the townhouse for Col. John Easton, who led the Beaufort militia against the British landing in April 1782. Later this house was used as a hospital and then prison during the Civil War.

18. hatsell House, 1827
    Emilie Pigott, a Confederate spy, frequently visited relatives here and watched the Union shelling Fort Macon from the top porch.

19. Morse House, 1771
    The original house had a depth of one room.

20. Carteret Academy, 1854
    An unusual three-story house with classrooms on the first floor and living space above.

21. Duncan House, 1900
    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.

22. Gibble House, 1772
    Built by brothers, Dedrick and Frederick Gibble, this house was purchased in 1778 by Captain Charles Biddle and his bride, Hannah Shepard, where they lived during the Revolutionary War.

23. Morse House, 1779
    Said to have been sold for a cow and a calf, this steamboat gothic style house was previously owned by Congressman Charles Abernathy, legislator Nathanial Russell, and author, Irving Batchelor.

24. Fackler House, 1878
    Originally, wooden pegs were used instead of nails in the construction of this house owned by John Fackler, a prominent civil servant and clerk of the court.

25. Allen Davis House, 1874
    Said to be General Burnside's headquarters during the Union occupation of Beaufort.

26. Lengdon House, 1764
    Built by Rich Barker, a house carpenter, this is a good example of early Beaufort architecture.

27. Dr. Joseph Davis House, 1854
    Dr. Davis had an apothecary and medical office building next to the house which has now been moved to the Beaufort Historic Site for tours.

28. Rev. Jones House, c1840
    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.