

South Carolina Historical Society

*Spring
Fair*

2006

Kingstree, SC • Sunday, May 21

11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.



WILLIAMSBURG COUNTY MUSEUM
- HAMPTON AVENUE, KINGSTREE, S.C.

Mike
Mouzon
2004

Witherspoon-Shuler House (1800): Built in 1800 by Samuel Witherspoon on Stoney Run, a tributary of the Black River, the house was moved to its present location in 1979 by its current owners. Simple in design, it is a typical Black River plantation house. In back, it contains material from the William Boyd House, circa 1840. The property sits on 340 acres. It is named for Samuel Witherspoon who migrated to Maury County, Tennessee, in 1806 to help form one of the “granddaughter” churches of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church. After Witherspoon left for Tennessee, the home went to his daughter and the McBride family and has since been passed on to the prominent McCullough, Stoll, then Carpenter families.

Pressley-Hamby House (1855): This structure is significant as the home of Colonel John Gotea Pressley, a prominent local attorney, judge, and Confederate regimental field officer. In an 1889 memoir, Pressley recalled, “My old home was on eleven acres of the same tract of land lying on the road leading to Sumter, which I purchased from Dr. James Scriven Brockinton and his wife. They were our next neighbors towards the town, their dwelling being what was once the Kingstree Academy, and about three hundred yards from ours. I sold the place after I came to California to Melville J. Hirsch, a lawyer then, but during the war Commissary Sergeant in the Wee Nee Vols. Gregg’s 1st Regiment S.C.V. in 1861.”

This house is one of only three extant antebellum residences in Kingstree that remain at their original locations. The house was constructed in 1855 in the Greek Revival style and received what appear to be Victorian or later embellishments. The house contains a pronounced “rain porch,” or a porch within a porch, an element unique to houses in eastern South Carolina. The one-and-a-half story, weatherboard-clad residence also contains a circa 1940s shed-room addition across the entire rear elevation. It was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

Epps-Inman House (1906): Built for David James Epps by Mr. Battiste, an African American contractor, this house was completed in 1906. Epps made a living in tobacco sales. The house has been in the same family since it was erected, with Epps’s daughter Janette Inman residing here until 1999. Epps is the great-grandfather of the current owners. The home has witnessed much Epps-Inman family history in the last century, including the births of five children, six funerals, and six weddings. A breakfast room and kitchen were added sometime prior to 1917, replacing the separate kitchen at the rear. The house was completely renovated in 2002.

Kellahan Park (ca. 1895): Kellahan Park was established in 1895 on property given by R. H. Kellahan when he divided his property surrounding his house, the Scott-Atkinson house.

Scott-Atkinson House (ca. 1843): The Scott-Atkinson House is one of the oldest houses in Kingstree and a fine example of mid-nineteenth-century vernacular architecture. It was built circa 1843 by Joseph Scott, a wealthy planter, trustee of the Kingstree Academy, and owner of the first steam-driven



Witherspoon-Shuler House (1800)



Pressley-Hamby House (1855)



Epps-Inman House (1906)



Kellahan Park (ca. 1895)



Scott-Atkinson House (ca. 1843)



Williamsburg Presbyterian Church (1914)

sawmill in Williamsburg County. He was also elected to the state legislature in 1836. Scott was a descendant of John Scott, one of the original settlers of the area.

This two-story house is frame, sheathed in weatherboard, and features a “rain porch” supported by slim, tapered piers. The house rests on a brick foundation, has two exterior brick chimneys, and an embossed tin roof. A major renovation/restoration was undertaken by the Atkinson family in the 1990s. The ceilings were restored to their original height and plasterwork was uncovered and patched. Rooms were modernized and spaces were put to new uses, but the basic framework of the house remains intact. The house also includes “rescued” materials that were removed from surrounding homes facing demolition. The house was listed in the National Register in 1982.

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church (1914): *Open after 12:30 p.m.* The oldest church of continuous existence between the Santee and Cape Fear Rivers, Williamsburg Presbyterian was founded in 1736 by immigrants who had fled Scotland because of religious persecution. It has been called a “mother church,” spawning many daughter and granddaughter churches stretching down the coast to Florida and westward to Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas. The history of Williamsburg Presbyterian derives special importance in that it was an original body—that is, neither a colony from another church nor an assemblage from numerous others. The church has had several homes during its long existence. A plot of land was purchased from Roger Gordon (near the site of the present Williamsburg Cemetery, about one mile to the east) in 1738, and the first church building was constructed. A new sanctuary was built in 1828 and was used until the church was given the current parcel in 1885. A wooden sanctuary was constructed on this site in 1890 that served the congregation until 1914, when the current structure was completed.

Heller-Arnette House (ca. 1845): Also known as the Arrowsmith House and the Old Methodist Church Parsonage, the Heller-Arnette House is architecturally significant as an excellent example of the evolution of a house from a one-story antebellum cottage (ca. 1845) to a substantial two-story residence (ca. 1895). A portion of this house (ca. 1845) remains as the only antebellum residence built within the original limits of Kingstree. Set upon a stuccoed brick-pier foundation, the house is lateral-gabled and sheathed in weatherboard, with a shallow gabled wing at the right rear. The iron fence dates to the original cottage, and the cedar tree in back is over 100 years old. The Heller-Arnette House was the first home in Kingstree to benefit from overhead gas lighting. The house served as a Methodist parsonage from 1863 to 1881 and was occupied by the Arrowsmith family from 1939 to 1976. During the 1950s, the dining room was used as a kindergarten. The house was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1994.

Fleming-Jenkinson House (ca. 1750-1770): This house was once situated on 450 acres at Boggy Swamp, three miles outside of town. It was built by a member of the Fleming family, though it is unclear which one due to the family's large size and incomplete records. It was likely constructed sometime between 1750 and 1770 and was moved to its present location in 1975. The McClary family resided in the home for much of the mid nineteenth century. The current residents purchased the home from Miriam Wise Dudley in 1975.

The house was examined by an architectural historian in the 1970s, who dated it based on the wear of the pine flooring around the fireplaces and the stucco panels that were located above the hearths to serve as fire retardants.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church (ca. 1884): *Open after 12:30 p.m.* With only two communicants, the first regular services of this congregation were begun in 1879 and conducted by the Reverend Edwin C. Steele. Construction of the church building took place from 1889 to 1895, and by 1897 the number of members had risen to twenty. A fire swept through the church in 1905 damaging the roof, scorching a wall, and destroying the pews. Repairs were costly. In 1914, under the direction of its first resident minister, the Reverend Henry DeSaussure Bull, the church received a facelift. It was painted and new windows and an altar cross were installed. The church is an excellent vernacular example of the "Carpenter Gothic" style of architecture. Characteristic of this style, the roof is steeply pitched with wooden brackets placed under the eaves, and its interior roof beams are exposed.

Among St. Alban's many noteworthy parishioners was Stephen Swails, one of the first African American commissioned officers in the U.S. Army and a member of the 54th Massachusetts Regiment during the Civil War. During Reconstruction, he served as both a delegate to the South Carolina Constitutional Convention and a state senator. He also became an attorney and practiced with M. J. Hirsch, a leading white attorney, in Kingtree.

Williamsburgh Historical Museum (ca. 1917): After receiving a grant from Andrew Carnegie in 1915, the town of Kingtree established a public library at 135 Hampton Street in June 1917. Renovation of both levels of the original building began in 1980 and was completed in 1982. The overall benefit of this process was more functional than aesthetic. The Williamsburgh County Library relocated in 1999 to its current location on Jackson Street. The former library building is now home to the Williamsburgh Historical Museum.

Williamsburgh County Courthouse (1823) and Confederate Monument: *May be seen as grounds only.* The Williamsburgh County Courthouse, designed by South Carolina native Robert Mills, was built in 1823. (Mills also designed the home of the South Carolina Historical Society in Charleston, known as the Fireproof Building, around the same time.) The courthouse is a fine example of Roman Neo-Classical design with its raised first floor, pediment, and Doric columns. In 1883 a serious fire gutted the second story of the courthouse, but records stored



Heller-Arnette House (ca. 1845)



Fleming-Jenkinson House (ca. 1750-1770)



St. Alban's Episcopal Church (ca. 1884)



Williamsburgh Historical Museum (ca. 1917)



**Williamsburg County Courthouse (1823)/
Confederate Square**



Thorntree House (1749)

•Tour information will be available at the Williamsburgh Historical Museum and tour sites will be clearly marked with South Carolina Historical Society signs that read "SCHS TOUR."

•This is a self-guided tour. You may begin and end the tour at any site and enjoy the tour at your own pace.

•Lunch will not be provided. You are welcome to bring a picnic lunch and/or tailgate at Thorntree House or Kellahan Park, or enjoy lunch at one of the local restaurants.

•Some restaurants and retail shops will be open.

on the first floor were protected from damage by thick brick vaulting. It is said that county employees kept working even as embers still smoked above. The courthouse complex was enlarged in 1901 with the addition of a substantial fence to provide a town park and to keep horses and cattle out of the square. In 1954 the structure was enlarged by adding a three-story wing at the back, giving the building its present T-shape. Also, the front steps were altered. The original steps were compressed within the portico itself and screened from view by the raised first floor. The courthouse is now featured on the official Williamsburg County seal.

The courthouse grounds were designated as parade grounds in the original survey of the town of Kingstree (1737). Local militia mustered on the parade grounds throughout the colonial and revolutionary periods.

The Confederate Monument was originally erected by the United Daughters of the Confederacy at the intersection of Main and Academy Streets. It was moved to its current location on the courthouse grounds in 1958. The monument is thought to have been originally meant for York, Maine, where a rebel soldier graces their monument. Despite the mix-up, Kingstree has become contented with its "Union" soldier.

Historic Train Depot (ca. 1909): Built in 1909 by the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad, the depot currently houses the Williamsburg HomeTown Chamber offices. Part of the old depot is still used for its intended purpose as a waiting room for Amtrak passengers. Kingstree has daily passenger train stops.

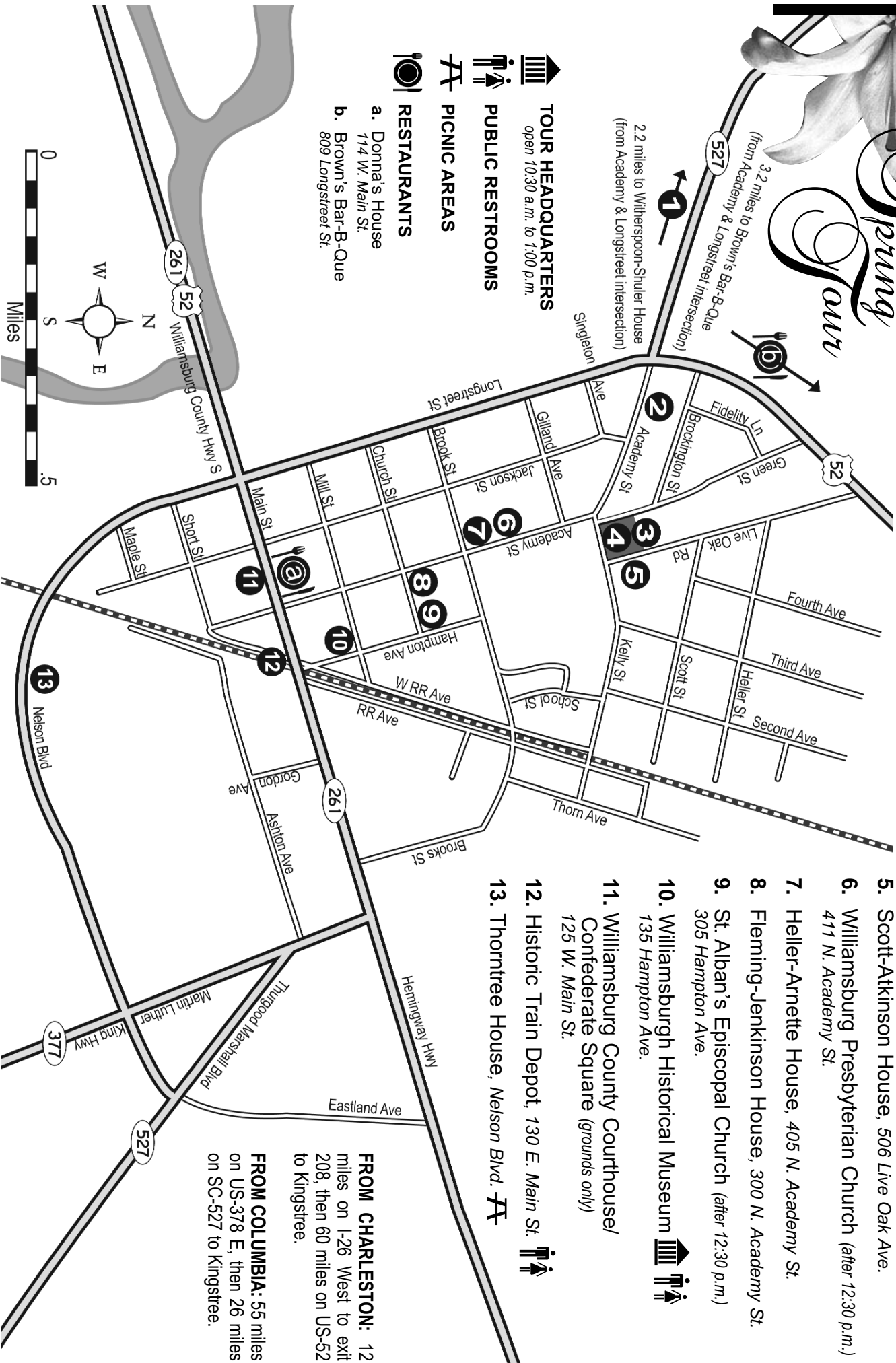
Thorntree (Witherspoon House) (1749): Built in 1749, Thorntree is the oldest known residence in the Pee Dee region and was the plantation home of James Witherspoon (1700-1768). Witherspoon immigrated to Carolina from Ireland in 1734 and was given a land grant near Thorntree Swamp, about six miles south of Kingstree. This two-story, frame, "I-House"-type structure has a great hall and parlor plan with exterior end chimneys and full-length piazzas on the front and rear. Its brick piers support hand-hewn heart-pine beams. The entire interior is pine: the floors, walls, ceilings, cornices, mantels, and all overmantels (except two that are plastered). The original wood was harvested from Witherspoon's land. After his death, Thorntree became the home of Gavin Witherspoon, who was a member of Francis Marion's brigade. During the Revolution, Colonel Banastre Tarleton, along with 100 British dragoons and a large number of Tories under Colonel Elias Ball, encamped at Thorntree in August 1780.





In 1969 the house was moved from the original site on Thorntree Swamp—which, by that time, was all but inaccessible—to its current location in order to preserve it. The structure was placed on a large truck bed and slowly carried the six miles to town, where the Williamsburg County Historical Society had been given a plot of land within the city limits by Marie Nelson for the purpose. Power- and telephone-line crews led the way, disconnecting utility wires to allow the house to pass. Thorntree was listed in the National Register in 1970.

Special thanks to Joanne Brown and the Williamsburgh Historical Museum, the Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce, and all the homeowners.

Spring Fair





Kingstree, SC • Sunday, May 21



1. Witherspoon-Shuler House, 705 Sumter Hwy
2. Pressley-Hampy House, 216 W. Academy St.
3. Epps-Inman House, 515 Live Oak Ave.
4. Kellahan Park, Kelly St. & Live Oak Ave. 
5. Scott-Atkinson House, 506 Live Oak Ave.
6. Williamsburg Presbyterian Church (after 12:30 p.m.)
411 N. Academy St.
7. Heller-Arnette House, 405 N. Academy St.
8. Fleming-Jenkinson House, 300 N. Academy St.
9. St. Alban's Episcopal Church (after 12:30 p.m.)
305 Hampton Ave.
10. Williamsburgh Historical Museum 
135 Hampton Ave.
11. Williamsburg County Courthouse/
Confederate Square (grounds only)
125 W. Main St.
12. Historic Train Depot, 130 E. Main St. 
13. Thorntree House, Nelson Blvd. 

FROM CHARLESTON: 12 miles on I-26 West to exit 208, then 60 miles on US-52 to Kingstree.

FROM COLUMBIA: 55 miles on US-378 E., then 26 miles on SC-527 to Kingstree.

-  **TOUR HEADQUARTERS**
open 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
-  **PUBLIC RESTROOMS**
-  **PICNIC AREAS**
-  **RESTAURANTS**
 - a. Donna's House
114 W. Main St.
 - b. Brown's Bar-B-Que
809 Longstreet St.

