



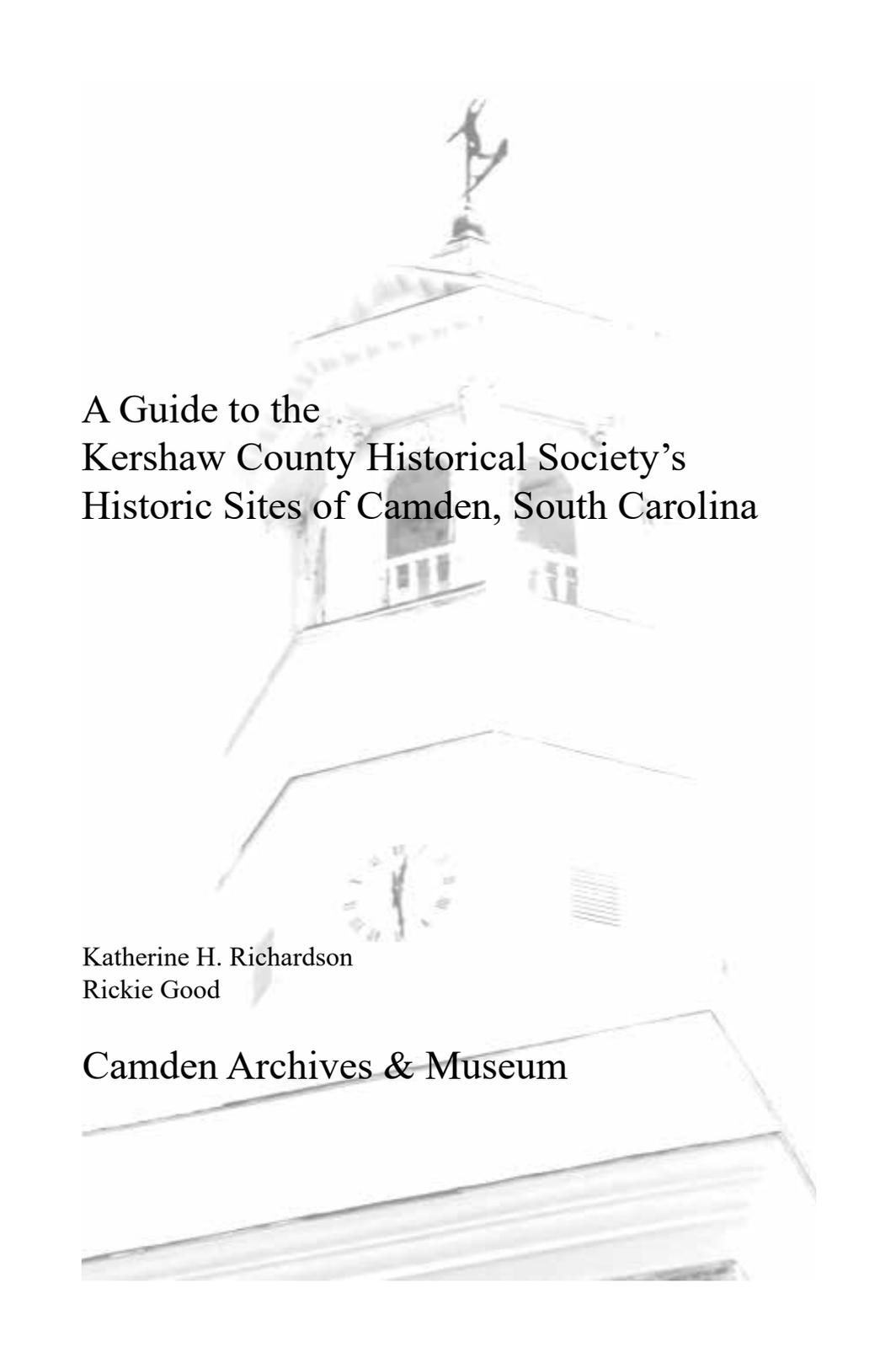
# CAMDEN

SOUTH CAROLINA

*A Guide to Historic Sites*



Historic  
Robert Mills  
Courthouse  
1820



A Guide to the  
Kershaw County Historical Society's  
Historic Sites of Camden, South Carolina

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Camden Archives & Museum

# Introduction

In the late 1960s, the Kershaw County Historical Society identified more than sixty historic sites in the city of Camden. These sites were homes and buildings that, at the time, were more than one hundred years old. The Society placed historical markers on each of the designated sites and, by 1970, had published a guide to all of the marked sites. After multiple reprints of the original booklet, the Society published “A Guide to Historic Sites in Camden, South Carolina.” It too was updated and reprinted many times over the years.

This latest edition, produced by the Camden Archives and Museum and the City of Camden, combines the information from other guides with historic photographs, new photography, and new research about the buildings and homes long recognized as an important part of Camden’s historic fabric.

It is indeed fortunate for all of Camden that the Kershaw County Historical Society and its partners had the foresight to recognize and preserve the history of these important structures.

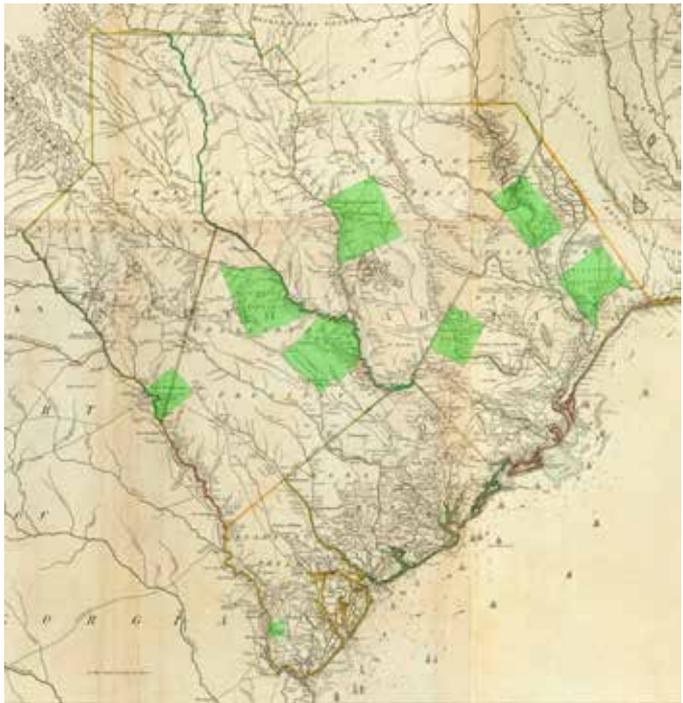


# A History of Camden, SC

Its closeness to the Wateree River and its tributaries has made the Camden area a desirable home for more than two thousand years. A Native American trading route known as the Catawba Path, one of the oldest documented travel routes in the southeast, ran through Camden. The path travels from Virginia to present-day Augusta and was part of a network of other trading routes that tied the interior to the coast and to points north and south. In the early 1700s, English settlers used portions of the path to move their trade goods between Charleston to the interior of South Carolina and further inland to other trading partners.

Prior to the 1730s, European settlements remained concentrated in the coastal regions of South Carolina. As rice cultivation and then indigo became important cash crops in the low country, the growth

of African American slavery exploded. By the 1720s, the enslaved inhabitants dwarfed that of the English population. The colonists feared slave uprisings as much as they feared attacks by the surrounding Native Americans, the French, or the Spanish.



A Map of the Province of South Carolina, 1773 by James Cook with townships highlighted.

These external and internal dangers caused South Carolina's royal governor Robert Johnson to propose and implement the Township Act of 1730.

This plan proposed to attract large numbers of settlers to inhabit new settlements in the interior of South Carolina. The mass immigration, primarily of Protestants from northern European countries and other British North American colonies, would increase the white population and provide a primary line of defense for the coast from attacks launched from the interior. Surveyors laid out eleven townships, all located on key waterways and all at least sixty miles from Charleston.



As part of the township plan, surveyor James St. Julien laid out the township of Fredericksburg sometime between 1733 and 1734 on the eastern bank of the Wateree River. The plat references both Pine Tree Creek and the Catawba path.

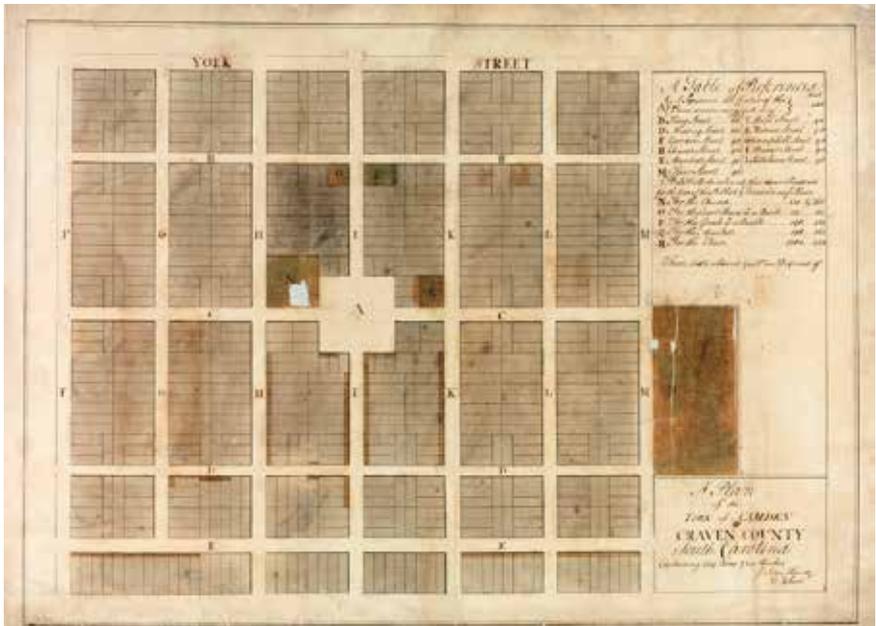
In 1751, a group of Quakers, mainly from Ireland, took up land in the area. One prominent member of their

community was Samuel Wylie. Wylie, a surveyor and merchant, worked with the Native Americans as a colonial agent. His friendship with the headman of the Catawba Nation, King Hagler, was crucial to the safety of the settlement. King Hagler, who was shot and killed in 1763 by the Shawnee, is known as the "patron saint" of Camden.

Joseph Kershaw, considered the “father of Camden,” arrived in Fredericksburg Township in 1758 to establish a store for a Charleston mercantile firm. Soon, Kershaw and his partners in the firm petitioned the colonial government for land grants along Pine Tree Creek and other areas that they thought would be good for the development of the town. Their first plat is marked



Pine Tree Hill and the store they established was called Pine Tree Store. Eventually, the partners owned enough land to lay out the first town plan. That 1774 plan spanned the area from present day Gordon to Fair Street and from York to just below Wateree Street. A public square was centered at Bull and Broad. Based on the Philadelphia model, the town had extraordinarily wide streets and land was set aside for public services, a church, a market, and a fair ground.



*1774 Plat of Camden surveyed by John Heard*

The first written notice that Fredericksburg was renamed “Camden” was in an Act of Assembly of 1768 establishing a circuit court at “Camden, lately called Pine Tree Hill.” The name change is attributed to Joseph Kershaw and the town was renamed to honor Charles Pratt, 1st Earl Camden for his support of American colonial rights in the British parliament.

For the next several years, the people of Camden concentrated on establishing their homes and making their community a better place to live. Then, in 1776, South Carolina joined other North American colonies and declared their independence from Great Britain. Although Camden’s people soon declared their allegiance to either the colonies or to Britain, the town itself was far removed from the fighting until the British invaded South Carolina in 1780.

After the May 1780 fall of Charleston, the British army under Lt. General Charles, Lord Cornwallis planned to occupy and pacify South Carolina and then to turn north to march against North Carolina and Virginia. To accomplish this, the British raised several units of loyalist companies and established a series of fortifications across South Carolina. Once again, Camden’s strategic location on the Wateree River and as a gateway to the interior was



*Lt. General Charles, Lord Cornwallis*

as important to the British as it had been to the Native Americans and to the early European settlers. On June 1, 1780, Camden became one of the British army’s most important garrisons.

Two months later, in August 1780, the British routed the American army at the first Battle of Camden where the patriot forces suffered one of their worst defeats of the Revolutionary War. For the next five months, the only organized forces standing against the British army in South Carolina were small bands of partisans.



Battle of Camden - Death of de Kalb  
*Engraving of a work by Alonzo Chappel, 1868*

In April 1781, a second battle of Camden, known as the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, took place. Although the Continental Army was again defeated, they remained a cohesive fighting force and a continued threat to the British army. Soon after the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill, on May 10, 1781, the British put Camden to the torch and retreated back to Charleston.

Although the war continued until September 1783, the people of Camden quickly returned to rebuild their battered city. For many, it was a time of rejoicing as prisoners of war returned home and

a time for recreating the town that the retreating British army had destroyed. A few buildings escaped the torch and they were soon joined by many others - a testament to the strength and resilience Camden's people have always shown to adversity.

By the time George Washington visited Camden during his southern tour of the United States in 1790, Camden had rebounded and had about 120 residences, a courthouse and jail, stores, churches, and several taverns or public houses. Contemporaries attributed much of the prosperity that visited Camden after the Revolutionary War to the presence of several splendid flour mills located along the area's swift creeks. The Wateree River also continued to enable citizens to do a lively trade between Charleston, the low country, and communities in the backcountry.

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October 30

While boats plied the river and a bustling ferry connected Camden to the markets in Columbia, the lands around Camden were rich with corn, tobacco, wheat, and cotton. As a result, Camden became an inland port, with two expansive boat yards on the eastern shore of the Wateree River.

Beginning around 1800, the introduction of cotton to the backcountry began to supplant other agricultural crops and cotton mills eventually took over from the flour mills. Camden merchants drew cotton from plantations as far north as the Yadkin River in North Carolina and as far south as the Broad River in South Carolina. Camden newspapers were filled with notices about boat arrivals and departures. A number of craft plied the waterways to bring goods into Camden and to carry off the large quantities of cotton filling the stores and streets. The inland port of Camden was booming.

A 1798 plan of Camden shows a well laid out town with several public squares and a fair ground. At this time, most of the homes and industry were located in the lower town, around the original colonial era settlement. The upper town still had marshy areas full of wild life and just a few homes and businesses. A fire in 1812 destroyed many of the buildings in the lower town. When the people rebuilt, they moved their businesses and homes further to the north along Broad Street. It was during this period that a second community came into being just north of the city.

In 1818, two years after a devastating malaria epidemic swept through the city, the Kershaw family laid out fourteen one-acre lots facing a commons area on a sandy hill about two miles from Camden. They named the area Kirkwood Village. The family intended Kirkwood Village to be a summer retreat for wealthy residents in the common belief that the higher elevation would alleviate the effects of the sickly summer season. Each lot came with access to a spring and the use of a common area. Many of the homes in the Kirkwood section of Camden date from the 1820s to the 1850s. They share common architectural styles that were prevalent in the antebellum south.

Camden suffered another devastating fire in 1829. A contemporary account described the “awful conflagration” that destroyed the whole of Broad Street on both sides, from York to King Streets.

In one hour, the flames enveloped the entire square. When the people at last managed to put out the fire, the most valuable part of town was a heap of smoldering ruins. Yet again, the Camden community pulled



together as they rebuilt their stores and homes, once again just a little further north along Broad Street.

War came to Camden again in the 1860s. Although Camden was well behind the front lines, the war touched everyone. When the fighting began, 80% of Camden's white male population volunteered to fight in the Confederate Army. While some Camden men fought with the army in the north and west, others served in the home guard. On the home front, women gathered food, clothing, and other goods and sent packages to the soldiers fighting in the field. Camden was also home to a large Confederate hospital and several convalescent facilities.

After the Civil War ended in 1865, Camden's economy continued to rely on agriculture, lumber mills, and cotton mills. However, within a few years, Camden added another important aspect to the economy which greatly aided the city's recovery from the war. From the 1880s until the 1940s, Camden was a thriving winter resort area.

For decades, northern and mid-western visitors flocked to Camden to enjoy the area's mild winters and a variety of outdoor sporting activities. From early November until late April, numerous hotels and rental houses provided homes for visiting tourists. The ease of traveling to Camden was another part of the city's charm. Only eighteen hours from New York, conductors on the Southern and Seaboard Railways would inform incoming passengers, "Carolina in the morning."



*The Kirkwood Hotel was one of Camden's premiere resort hotels.*

Many of the visiting guests enjoyed the area so much that they purchased homes in Camden and the city became known as "a winter colony." Three of these residents were instrumental in transforming Camden into a mecca for steeplechase racing and a training ground for both flat track and steeplechase horse racing.

Two New Yorkers, Ernest Woodward, the CEO of Genesee Pure Foods Company, and Harry Kirkover, an avid sportsman, established and supported the Carolina Cup Steeplechase race. Marion duPont Scott of Delaware and Virginia continued their work with the Carolina Cup, created the Colonial Cup steeplechase race, and encouraged the establishment of the many training facilities still located in Camden.

Through the last three centuries, Camden and her people have experienced triumphs and hardships. The city has enjoyed great prosperity and the hardest of hard times. Through it all, the people of Camden have appreciated their history and have preserved it for future generations. The homes and other sites in this guide book are a testament to their foresight and diligence in preserving our past.



*The People of Camden*

*From the collection  
of the Camden  
Archives & Museum*



## Notes:

The Kershaw County Historical Society gave all of these sites “Historic Site” markers. The number on those markers correspond with those in this booklet and map.

In some cases, if a building was destroyed or moved, the sign was removed and the number dropped. When a site was added to this list, it was given a number of the appropriate geographic area and a “letter” i.e. 23a.

It is important to remember that the majority of sites on this list are privately owned and can only be viewed from the street. Please do not intrude on the homeowners’ privacy.

These are not the only historic homes and buildings in Camden. For a larger list, please download the Camden Audio Tour app from the Apple store or Google Play.

For more information about things to do and see in Camden, please visit the Revolutionary War Visitor Center at 212 Broad Street or call 803-272-0076.

Enjoy your stay in Camden!

**Marker #1: Historic Camden**  
**The 200 block of Broad Street**

This 107 acre museum complex is the site of the original town of Camden. The museum includes five of the earliest surviving homes from the Camden area. They date from c1786 to c1840. Several of the buildings contain exhibits on life in colonial Camden and activities in Camden during the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Camden, the British occupation of Camden, and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. Admission is charged.



*McCaa House, c1825*

**The Kershaw-Cornwallis House at Historic Camden**

The Kershaw-Cornwallis House is a reconstruction of the Georgian home built by Joseph Kershaw in 1777. The exterior reconstruction was meticulously researched using old photographs and documents. It is built on the original site after archaeologists excavated the old brick foundations. During the occupation of Camden from August 1780 until May 1781, the British Army used the building as





*Craven House, c1786*



*Bradley House, c1800*



*Drakeford House, c1812*



*Cunningham House, c1840*



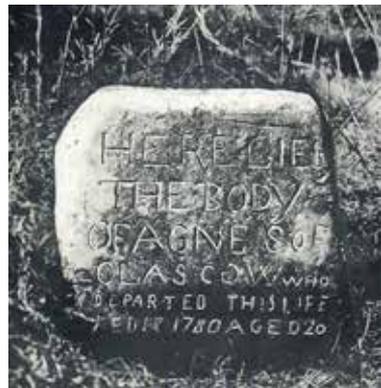
*Pond on nature trail*

their headquarters. At the end of the Revolutionary War, Joseph Kershaw, who had been captured by the British and imprisoned in Bermuda, returned home to his wife, Sarah, and their family. Sarah died here in 1789. Joseph lived here until his death in 1791.

***Marker #2: The Grave of Agnes of Glasgow***  
**The Old Presbyterian Cemetery**  
**At the intersection of Meeting and Church Streets**



The grave of a young woman named Agnes Glasgow lies at the southern edge of the original Presbyterian Cemetery. A renowned South Carolina historian who saw the grave in the early 1900s stated that the “of” was obviously a recent addition to the stone. The nearby historical marker tells a romantic story of love and loss, which is a fictional Revolutionary tale. In the most famous version, Agnes, a young Scottish lass, travels to America to find her true love, a soldier in the British Army who was fighting with Cornwallis in South Carolina. This romantic tale was well established by the early 1800s, but the chronology of the story’s events are not corroborated by established historical facts.



**Marker #3: Quaker Cemetery**  
**The intersection of Meeting and Campbell Streets**

Quaker settlers established this cemetery in 1759 when Samuel Wyly, a leader in the Quaker community, deeded them four acres of land for a meeting house



and burying ground. The oldest Quaker graves are marked with arching brick structures rather than headstones. Through the years, the cemetery was enlarged, eventually becoming Camden's main burial ground. In 1863, Camden's leaders followed the popular trend of the Rural Garden Cemeteries and hired the Scottish landscape designer James Crammond to redesign the cemetery. Crammond imposed the current landscape over the existing cemetery, forming the design we know as Quaker Cemetery today.

**Marker #3b: Beth El Cemetery**  
**Campbell Street next to Quaker Cemetery**



The Hebrew Benevolent Association, founded in 1877 by twenty-four families, purchased this plot of land in that same year for \$75.00.

The Jewish population of Camden began to grow after the

Revolutionary War, when the names of several Jewish merchants can be found in the records. In 1788, Col. Joseph Kershaw left Camden lot 315 for a burying ground and a place of worship for “God’s ancient people, the Jews,” though they never used the lot for those purposes.

Many other Jewish families migrated to Camden from the German Confederation before the Civil War. By the late 20th century, Camden’s Jewish population played a prominent role in the life of the Camden community.

***Marker #3c: Cedars Cemetery***  
**Campbell Street between York and King Streets**



The early beginnings of this burial ground for the African American people of Camden are lost in the mists of time. Tradition holds that the owner of the land upon which it stands allowed a burial on the tract at some unknown date. The ground continued to be used for interments of African Americans. The cemetery was established by the 1840s, as documented by the earliest dated headstone in the burying ground. In 1962, the McGyrth, later McGirt, family signed a quit claim deed over to the Colored People’s Cemetery Association for the city lots occupied by the cemetery. At that time the name was changed to Cedars Cemetery. Cedars Cemetery is a hallowed place. We

may never know the exact number of Camden citizens who rest in this ground, for many graves are unmarked. Others have stones ranging from handmade to artist-engraved. The lives of those who rest here tell the story of the people of color in Camden.

**Marker #4: The Blue House Site**

**The northwestern corner of Meeting and Broad Streets**



This is the site of the Blue House, built by June 1, 1780. The house was within the palisaded garrison which the British built around the town of Camden

*Painting from the Collection of Historic Camden* during the Revolutionary War. Blue House was the home of Dr. Isaac Alexander, who attended the Patriot sick and wounded during the war.

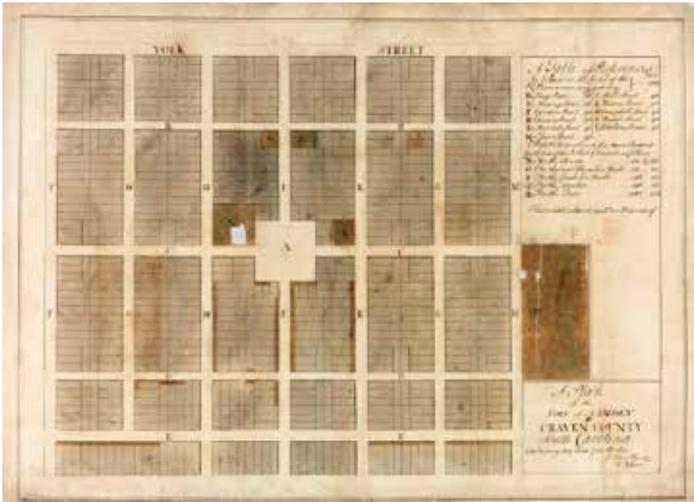
This house was where the fatally wounded Baron Johann DeKalb, fallen Continental Army hero of the Battle of Camden, died on August 19, 1780. We are not sure of the date of the demise of Blue House, but it appears to have been standing when a c1830 painting of lower Camden was produced by Isaac Brownfield Alexander.

**Marker #5: The first Town Square**

**The intersection of Broad and Bull Streets**

This area is the site of Camden's first public square. Joseph Kershaw modeled his town plan for Camden on that of Philadelphia. Kershaw's plan incorporated wide streets, open public squares, and open land for future use. The earliest plan of

Camden, drawn before 1774, shows a 486 square foot public space in the very center of town. The square was used for many public gatherings. Militia musters, political rallies, and public ceremonies were all held in this space. Perhaps the most well recorded event was President George Washington’s visit during his 1791 tour of the South.



**Marker #6: The Kershaw Family Cemetery**  
**The northwest corner of Broad and Bull Streets**  
**inside a brick enclosure**

Col. Joseph Kershaw and his family are buried here. This enclosure is on land designated by Kershaw for the Episcopal Church and burying ground.



The Kershaw family has been prominent in Camden’s history since Joseph Kershaw established his store in 1758. Known as the Father of Camden, Kershaw fought for the patriots during the Revolutionary War, was the first intendant or

Mayor, and laid out the first town plan. His son, John Kershaw, served in the US Congress in 1812. John's wife Harriet lies next to him. Most of the other graves are of infants and young children – a chilling reminder of the high infant mortality rate in the early 1800s. Around 1880, all of the other graves in the old Episcopal cemetery were moved to Quaker Cemetery.

***Marker #8: The Robert Mills Courthouse***  
**607 Broad Street**



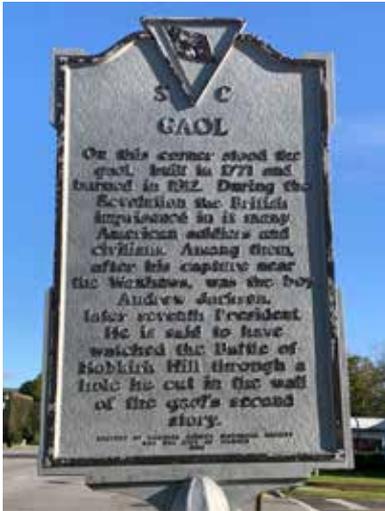
In 1825, Robert Mills wrote, “An elegant court-house is now building here, which will be superior to the design of any in the state...” Robert Mills was the first American born architect trained in the United States. He designed many public buildings in Washington D.C. including the Washington Monument, the Treasury

Building and the United States Patent Office. A native of South Carolina, Mills work can be seen all along the eastern seaboard from Pennsylvania to Florida.

Between 1821 and 1830, Mills designed several buildings in Camden including this courthouse and Bethesda Presbyterian Church. Originally, the Mills Courthouse had six brown sandstone Ionic columns across the front. In 1847, renovations to the courthouse included replacing the original Ionic columns with four Doric columns on the front portico and building the central front steps to the second floor porch.



**Marker #9: The site of the Revolutionary War era gaol, or jail  
The 600 block of Broad Street  
directly opposite the Robert Mills Courthouse**



The 1774 plan of Camden shows this site as the jail. During the British occupation, the British army fortified the jail as one of their redoubts and used it for imprisoned Americans. When the British evacuated Camden in May 1781, they burned most of the town, including the town jail. Although the town rebuilt the jail, the new jail building burned in 1812.

Soon thereafter, the city built a new town market, adjoined by a 118 foot steeple, on the site. The spire housed the 1826 King Hagler weather vane and the 1824 Lukens clock, both of which are now on exhibit at the Camden Archives and Museum.

**Marker #10: The Price House  
724 Broad Street  
At the intersection of Broad and York Streets**





*Florence and Susan Price*

This is the last remaining example of a combination store and residence in Camden. John D. Winn built the Price House in 1829 as a home and business. The business was located on the ground floor and the family lived on the second floor. There was no inside access between the residence and business.

Susan Price, an African American, purchased the building and grounds at a sheriff's sale in 1902. The first floor was a store and she lived on the second floor. When Susan's daughter, Florence, inherited the building in 1913, she operated a general merchandise store on the first floor and resided on the second floor until her death in 1954.

### **Marker #11: The Bonds Conway House Currently Located at Historic Camden**



This small house, one of the oldest in Camden, was constructed around 1812 by Bonds Conway. Conway is thought to be the first enslaved person in Camden to purchase his freedom. Conway did

this in 1793. This building is one of the last extant reminders of the vernacular dwellings constructed in Camden in the early 1800s.

The Bonds Conway house once stood at 411 York Street on property owned by the Conway family from 1812 to 1890. The Bonds Conway House was in great disrepair when the Kershaw County Historical Society acquired it in 1977. The Society completely restored the home to its original appearance.

***Marker #12: The Douglas-Reed House and the Arts Center***  
**310 York Street**

Built in 1812, this house was originally a three-room, one story



structure. In 1813, a prosperous merchant named James Kennedy Douglas purchased the home. He added two large front rooms and the upper story with two bedrooms. The home features fine Palladian windows in the upper gable ends. The building is now owned by the Arts Center of Kershaw County.

Founded in 1974 by the Camden Art Association, the Camden Music Association, and the Camden Community Theatre, the Arts Center serves as the cultural focus of the county, as the local arts agency, and as an umbrella organization for affiliate clubs. The Arts Center features art exhibits, musical and theatre performances, and art classes. Along with the Douglas-Reed House, the Center

consists of the Bassett Building and the Daniels Education Building. The Bassett Building houses the Bassett Art Gallery and Wood Auditorium. The Daniels Education Building is the focal point of arts education classes with space for music instruction, dance, visual art, and a clay studio.

**Marker #13: The Powder Magazine  
818 Market Street**

This 1859 arsenal building was used before and during the Civil War for the storage of arms and ammunition for the use of the militia.

The magazine measures 18' x 14' and has ventilation holes in the masonry.

It has a hollow wall construction

to assist in the ventilation and to keep the powder dry. It also features anchor plates known as earthquake bolts. These plates are connected to a tie rod or bolt which provides structural reinforcement to the masonry structure.



South Carolina's militia system dates to the colonial period. All able bodied white men between the ages of 18 and 45 were expected to serve in a local militia company. To support the militia companies, South Carolina established several powder magazines or arsenals across the state.

Joseph Kershaw built the first Camden arsenal in 1777. The British destroyed that magazine in 1781 when they evacuated Camden. Another Kershaw-built arsenal stood on the southeast corner of Fair and Bull Streets. It was this magazine that figured prominently in the aborted slave uprising of 1816 when a group of



*Partially reconstructed 1777 powder magazine at Historic Camden*

enslaved African Americans planned to overwhelm the arsenal guards, arm themselves, and attack the white population.

The present arsenal was built in 1859 in response to John Brown's raid on the arsenal at Harper's Ferry,

Virginia. In the first half of the 20th century, the City of Camden used the building as a tool shed. It is currently owned by the City of Camden and is maintained as an historic site.

### **Marker #15: The Clock Tower 950 Broad Street**

The clock tower houses the town clock and the King Hagler weather vane. The clock tower building was used as a theatre and city offices until 1956. The tower is the only portion of the original building still standing. The current building dates to 1964.

The City of Camden installed the original 1824 clock and 1826 weather vane in the first town tower across from the Mills Courthouse. The city relocated both clock and weather vane to a second town tower in 1859. In 1886, they were relocated to this tower. In 1974, the current electric clock and replica weather vane replaced the originals. The original clock and weather vane are on display at the Camden Archives and Museum.



The iconic weather vane stands at 5 feet 1 inch and is a silhouette of King Hagler, patron saint of Camden. King Hagler was a chief of the Catawba Nation that befriended the early Camden settlers. King Hagler and his people fought alongside the colonists against the French and other Native Americans in the 1750s and 60s. The weather vane shows King Hagler with drawn bow and arrow in his hands, a quiver at his back, feathers in his hair, and a stag's horn at this feet.



Philadelphia clockmaker Isaiah Lukens created the original town clock. It operates on a rope and gear system and had a bell that rang on the hour.

***Marker #16: Collins Funeral Home***  
**714 W. DeKalb Street**



Elizabeth Collins purchased this house and property in 1898. In 1914, her son, A. R. Collins, established Collins Funeral Home and

operated it out of a small building on the grounds. Collins later moved the business to his residences at 1014 and 1008 Campbell Street.

In the 1950s, the business moved from the Collins family home

back to this site. The oldest extant funeral home in Camden, many solemn funeral processions began here and wound their way to Cedars Cemetery for interment in that historic African American cemetery. Collins Funeral Home used the beautiful horse-drawn hearse in front of the building from 1914 until 1923.



*Image provided by Collins Funeral Home*

**Marker #17:  
The Lafayette Cedar  
1121 Broad Street  
Site of the Bernard Baruch House  
1201 Broad Street**

The Lafayette Cedar is the sole survivor of a double row of cedars planted to celebrate the 1825 visit of the Marquis de Lafayette. The trees were on the property of John Carter who placed his new mansion at the



disposal of General Lafayette. During the visit, the General laid the cornerstone of the Robert Mill's designed monument to Baron Johann de Kalb, hero of the Battle of Camden. De Kalb's remains were removed from the original burial spot in the Colonial District and re-interred on the grounds of Bethesda Presbyterian Church.

Just north of this area is the site of the former Bernard Baruch



House. The house was built in the 1820s and was the birth place of world-renowned financier and philanthropist Bernard Baruch. A state historical marker has been erected on the site. A statue of Baruch and baseball legend Larry Doby is located at the Camden Archives and Museum.

### ***Marker #18: The Bishop Davis House*** **1202 Broad Street**

Built c1820, the Bishop Davis House is a classic example of a Charleston single house. This one room deep house has the side facing the street and the front of the home running perpendicular to the street. The Bishop Davis House is a three story brick structure which originally had two rooms and a central hall on each floor.



Although the home has had many owners, it is named for the Right Reverend Thomas Frederick Davis, the Fifth Episcopal Bishop of South Carolina. Bishop Davis moved to Camden in 1846 and

purchased this home in 1854. Davis, who was Bishop from 1853 to 1871, was the first South Carolina Episcopal Bishop to live outside of Charleston.

***Marker #19: The Geisenheimer House***  
**1204 Broad Street**



Built by James Aiken in the 1830s, this was one of two identical attached houses with an enclosed carriageway running between the two sides.

The sides of both houses faced the

street and their fronts faced an enclosed courtyard. Named for the Geisenheimer family, Dr. William G. Geisenheimer purchased the northern house in 1883 and his son, Lexie, a renowned college educator, purchased the southern structure in 1917. The southern house was razed in 1923. Currently, there is a modern one-story addition in the rear.

***Marker #20 : The Joshua Reynolds House***  
**1310 Broad Street**

According to new architectural research, this house was likely built shortly after the Revolutionary War and was owned by Col. Joseph Kershaw. The Joshua Reynolds House was originally a two story frame Charleston-type house with two rooms on each floor and a central stairway. It sat on a lot that extended from Broad to Lyttleton Streets. It has been enlarged over the past two centuries. In 1805, Camden merchant Samuel Mathis purchased this property



from the estate of Col. Kershaw. For many years, Mathis operated a store on the site. In 1816, Mathis sold the home to his son-in-law Joshua Reynolds. From 1816 to the early 1820s, Reynolds and his wife Sofia operated a school for young ladies there. The Reynolds's heirs sold the house in the 1850s. At that time, the home was described as having one drawing room, one passage, one dining room, four bedrooms, and one piazza. In 1868, Dr. G. R. C. Todd, a Confederate surgeon and brother-in-law of President Abraham Lincoln, owned the residence. The house has had many uses over the years, both as a residence and as a commercial property.

***Marker #21:***  
**The McCants House**  
**1301 Broad Street**

Built c1813 by John McCants, this home is a frame two story structure with a brick foundation. Like many Charleston style homes, the side faces the street with the front entrance



facing a courtyard. This house has two front doors opening onto the long southern facade porch. It is currently used as the offices of The Buckley School of Public Speaking.

***Marker #22: Greenleaf Villa***  
**1307 Broad Street**



Built c1815 by Samuel Flake, William E. Johnson purchased Greenleaf Villa in 1826. During his ownership, its extensive gardens were developed by a landscape gardener from Savannah. Greenleaf Villa is the sole example of a Charleston double house in Camden. Modifications to the house between 1840 and 1850 included covering the brick with stucco to resemble stone, adding porches, and creating a decorative pediment on the facade facing Broad Street.

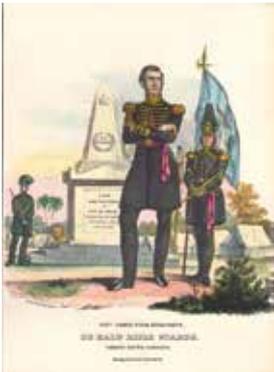
In the 1880s, the owners added a Victorian-style double piazza with delicately fluted free standing wooden columns rising from the ground floor to the top of the second story piazza. Named “Greenleaf Villa” between 1928 and 1931, the building has been used as both a residence and as a commercial establishment.

***Marker #23: Monument Square***  
**The intersection of Laurens and Broad Streets**

This is one of the original town squares as noted on the 1798 map of Camden. Within this square are two monuments, one to the Confederate War dead and the other to Lt. Col. James Polk Dickenson.



Dickenson, born in Camden in 1816, trained as a lawyer and served in the military during the Seminole Wars in Florida and later as a member of the DeKalb Rifle Guards, a local militia company formed in 1840. During the War with Mexico, Dickenson joined South Carolina's Palmetto Regiment and was elected Lt. Col. or second in command. He died in action in 1847.



After his death, his remains were returned to Camden and buried in the Old Presbyterian burial ground in Quaker Cemetery. In 1856, his body was reinterred in Monument Square and later that year this monument was erected over the grave.

***Marker #23a: The Camden Archives and Museum  
1314 Broad Street***



This building was the first public library in Camden. Built with a grant of \$5,000 from the Carnegie Foundation, the library opened in 1915. It remained the city library until 1973, when it became the home of the City of Camden’s Archives and Museum. The building houses one of the best genealogical libraries in the state, exhibits on the history of Camden and Kershaw County, and is home to the 1826 King Hagler weather vane and 1824 city clock.

“Reconciliation” by artist Maria Kirby-Smith is also located on this site. “Reconciliation” consists of two bronze statues of



Camden natives Bernard Baruch, a world-renowned financier and philanthropist, and Larry Doby, the first African American baseball player in the American League. Doby was the second African American to be drafted into

the major leagues when he signed a contract with the Cleveland Indians in 1947.

**Marker #24: 1315 Monument Square**

Mrs. Sarah Anne Gamewell built the original house on this site in the early 1850s. The home was a two story frame house with porches on each floor. Mrs.



Gamewell and her husband, John M. Gamewell lived here until 1865. Mr. Gamewell was the town postmaster, a local agent for the Washington and New Orleans Telegraph, and the inventor of the Gamewell Fire Alarm. The Gamewells sold the home to Major Zach Leitner and, in 1903, the Camden School District purchased the building for Camden High School. It served as the high school for sixteen years until sold in 1919. Fire devastated the original house in 1928 and it was rebuilt in the 1930s.

***Marker #25: Tanglewood***  
**612 Laurens Street**



Mrs. Ann Gilman purchased this property in 1827 and built Tanglewood soon thereafter. The original structure was built in the style of a typical Carolina I-house without the usual chimney on each

gable end. The home consists of a raised basement, a main floor, and a second floor. Each floor has a wide central hall with rooms on either side. The structure is made of hewn and pegged timbers.

In 1845, Mrs. Gilman’s will left Tanglewood to her daughter, Elizabeth, and her son-in-law, Isaac B. Alexander, an artist of note and a pioneer in daguerreotype photography. During the Civil War, Federal troops used the kitchen building and well water from the yard while camping in Monument Square. The house is named “Tanglewood” because of the extensive gardens that surrounded the home.

**Marker #26: Aberdeen**  
**1409 Broad Street**



Samuel Mathis and his wife, Margaret, built this house and named it “Aberdeen,” c1805. It was originally a one story frame house built over a raised basement. Over the years, additions have been added around the structure’s core. Details, such as the decorative woodwork in the eaves and on the porch supports, were added from the mid to late 19th century. A wooden outbuilding once used as slave housing stands at the rear of the home.

Samuel Mathis, the first white male born in Camden, was a prominent merchant, attorney, and public servant. In 1776, at the age of sixteen, Mathis joined the Patriot cause. He enlisted in Kershaw’s Battalion, Camden District Regiment of the SC Militia. Mathis was captured at the fall of Charleston in 1780 and paroled back to Camden. After the British evacuated Camden in May, 1781, Mathis broke his parole and joined the partisans under Francis Marion. Later, he fought with Kershaw’s Regiment as part of the Continental Army. After the Revolutionary War, Mathis ran a flourishing mercantile business, practiced law, was an active public servant, and served as a Methodist minister. Mathis married Margaret Cathcart Miller in 1793 and they had two daughters who survived to adulthood. The Mathis family resided at Aberdeen throughout their married life.

**Marker #27: Camden House  
1502 Broad Street**



Charles John Shannon built this Classical Revival house in 1832 on thirteen acres. The residence was probably designed by a master builder, one of the artisans who functioned as an architect in this period. The two story front portico has four Doric columns, each made from individual pine trees. Originally, the three story 8,546 square foot home had a raised basement with two upper floors. The first floor of the house has four rooms flanking the large central hallway.

Other original features are the fourteen foot ceilings and the pocket doorways on the main floor. Some of the original outbuildings, such as the smoke house and dairy, are located behind the



*The Camden House, 1996*

house. Modifications to the home in the late 19th and early 20th centuries include a kitchen addition in the rear and the two story porches on the side.

## ***Marker #28: 512 Chesnut Street***



This property stands on what was once known as South Kirkwood, part of the extended summer village of Kirkwood. Benjamin Perkins owned and developed the property. In 1841, Perkins willed the property to his daughters, Mary Kershaw DuBose and Sarah J. Johnson. By 1842, when the ladies sold half of the property to Alexander Johnson for \$3,000, the price indicates a building may have stood on the tract. Some believe that Alexander Johnson built the original core of the house around 1845 at 1705 Lyttleton Street and later moved it to this location. By 1853, when the property changed hands it specified “ten acres with dwelling and other buildings ...”

The original house appears to have been a two story frame house with four rooms and a central hallway on each floor. Successive owners have renovated and enlarged the house many times. The house still has the original heart pine floors and two pairs of massive four foot doors which open from the two front rooms into the center hall.

The property was once home to an impressive topiary garden. Local lore says an Italian landscape gardener laid out the gardens. More likely, Scottish landscape designer James Crammond contributed to the landscaping of the grounds, for we know he worked extensively on several impressive gardens in Camden.

***Marker #29: 1707 Broad Street***



John McKain, owner of a stage line running from Raleigh to Augusta, purchased a lot near the corner of Broad and Clyburn streets in 1850. By 1859, this house occupied the site. The original home had a typical floor plan – four large rooms divided by a wide central hallway. Mrs. Mary A. E. Clyburn purchased the home in 1878 and the Clyburn family moved the house to its present location in the 1880s.

In 1909, Mrs. Minnie Clyburn had the house extensively renovated but it retains the original floor design as well as the hand carved mantles and heart pine floor. The American Red Cross purchased the home in 1940 and used it as their headquarters during the war.

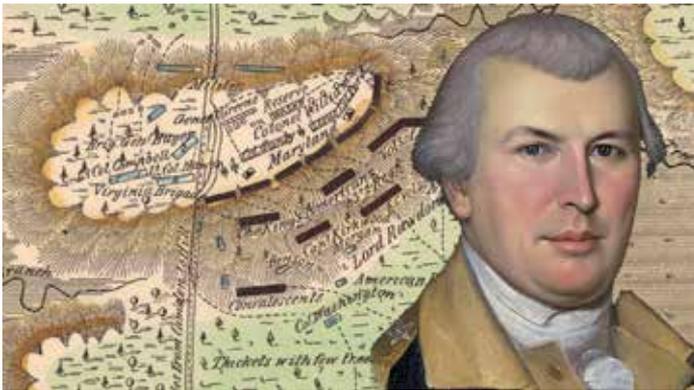
***Marker #30: South Hill  
606 Greene Street***

Built between 1832 and 1835, this was probably the first summer home of Confederate General James Cantey. When built, it was a simple



raised cottage sitting on forty-six acres of land. In the 1850s, Cantey's son, Zach Cantey, enlarged South Hill to its present proportions. Today, South Hill has a raised basement, a main floor with four rooms and a large central hall running the length of the house, and three bedrooms on the second floor.

**Marker #31: The Battle of Hobkirk's Hill**  
**The 2000 block of Broad Street**



This ridge overlooking Camden was the site of a Revolutionary War battle fought on April 25, 1781 between the Continental Army under General Nathanael Greene and the British Army under Colonel Francis, Lord Rawdon. Rawdon marched north from the fortified city of Camden to surprise Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia Continentals camped on the ridge. Although the Americans fought fiercely and gained ground, a sudden panic gripped some of the troops and Greene was forced to abandon the hill. However, Greene's army regrouped a short distance away and continued to threaten the British garrison at Camden.

After the American capture of Fort Watson on the Santee, the British abandoned Camden on May 9, 1781. The street along the crest of Hobkirk's Hill was named in honor of General Greene.

***Marker #32: 514 Kirkland Lane***

**Cannot be viewed from the road**

***Marker #33: 304 Kirkwood Lane***



Once known as the Scotta Salmond House, this was originally a modest summer abode for the Salmond family. Thomas Salmond, a Scottish immigrant who arrived in Camden in 1802, purchased thirteen acres in 1830 and built this cottage sometime between 1830 and 1844. Over the years, generations of Salmonds enlarged the simple cottage into an imposing residence.

The family sold the home in 1917 and the new owner, Miss Olive Wittredge, again increased the living space of the house and built a cottage on the property. During the height of Camden's Winter Resort period, the old home welcomed paying "guests" enjoying Camden's mild winters.

**Marker #34: Kamschatka**  
**108 Kirkwood Lane**

Confederate General James Chesnut and his wife Mary Boykin Chesnut built this house in 1854. They named the house Kamschatka after one of the northernmost points in Siberia, because of the house's distance from Camden. The Chesnuts were only able to enjoy their grand home for a few years. They sold Kamschatka in 1858, after Chesnut was elected to the United States Senate.



*Mary Boykin and James Chesnut*

The estate passed through many hands until, in 1938, Mr. and Mrs. William F. Buckley purchased the old house. The Buckley's restored, renovated, and modernized the 9,100 square foot home.

When first built, Kamschatka was a two story structure sitting on a raised open basement. Octagonal exterior columns fronted an expansive veranda reached by a double staircase. The open



ground floor housed carriages and tack rooms. The main floor had an octagonal entrance hall and six large rooms with center halls running both the length and width of the house. When the Buckley's renovated the home, they enclosed the ground floor to create additional living space, reconfigured the interior, enlarged the estate by building several cottages and barns, and created the beautiful terraced formal gardens filled with both native and imported trees and shrubbery.

***Marker #35: Horse Branch Hall***  
**102 Kirkwood Lane**



In 1839, Isabel Scota McRae purchased twenty-six acres in Kirkwood Village. By 1840, she and her mother, Mary McRae, were building a house on that land, now known as Jumelle Hill. The house, Horse Branch Hall, was typical of many other homes in the area. Like its neighbors, it sat on an open raised basement used for carriages and tack. Both upper floors had four large rooms and a large central hall. Also common to many homes in the area, it has a lovely double stairway to the front porch.

In 1855, when Isabel was forty-nine, she married her cousin, John McRae, who was a civil engineer and pioneer in railroad construction. He designed a conduit system for both the house and the gardens which pumped water up from nearby Little Pine Tree

Creek. John also designed the terraced garden surrounding the house, which was tended by an African American gardener named Moses Anderson.

Horse Branch Hall remained in the McRae family until the early 1900s. Successive owners enclosed the basement to provide more living space. Horse Branch Hall was and is one of Camden's most impressive homes.

***Marker #35a: Millbank, c1841***  
**30 Kirkland Lane**

**Cannot be viewed from the road**

***Marker #36: Brevard Springs***  
**1816 Brevard Place**

As with many of the antebellum homes in Camden, we are unsure of the exact date of construction of Brevard Springs. We know that the property was owned by John Whitaker



in 1827. It was transferred to Dr. Alfred and Harriet Chesnut McRae Brevard between 1827 and 1845. This was one of the very early homes built in Kirkwood Village; by 1845, the Brevards had been living here for some time. It is assumed that the home was probably built by the Brevards around 1830.

Dr. Alfred Brevard was the son of a state judge and legislator. Harriet Chesnut McRae was the daughter of Mary Chesnut and Duncan McRae and the sister of Isabel Scota McRae of Horse Branch Hall. Although the Brevards had no children, they raised Alfred Brevard's cousin, the orphaned James Polk Dickenson at Brevard Springs. A monument to Dickenson can be seen in Monument Square.

Brevard Springs is a typical home for this area with two floors above a raised basement. Each upper floor has four rooms and a wide central hall. The large rooms and expansive gardens are, again, typical of the first homes constructed in Kirkwood.

***Marker #37: Frogden or Frogvale***  
**101 Union Street**

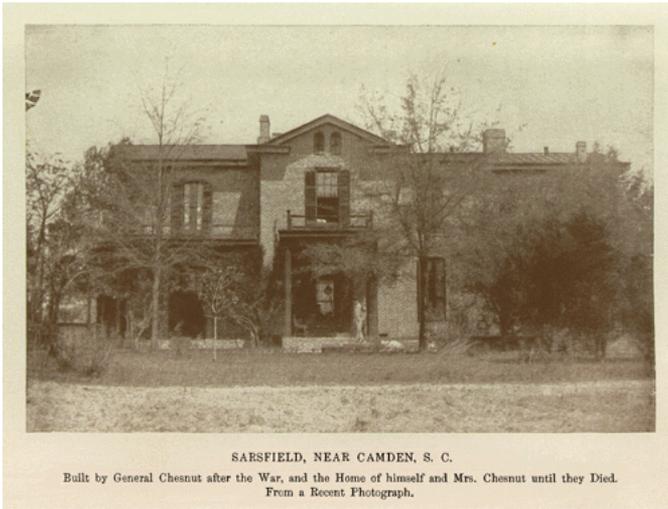
General James Chesnut and his wife purchased this land in 1848 and build a modest cottage which became their first home. They sold the house in 1853. The small four room cottage with an octagonal hall has been renovated many times over the years.



Now known as Frogvale, the home's long piazza overlooks carefully tended stables and a wooded area.

***Marker #38: Sarsfield***  
**136 Chesnut Street**

General James Chesnut built Sarsfield for his wife Mary Boykin Chesnut in 1873. General Chesnut, a wealthy landowner who was also a former U.S. Senator and a former general in the Confederate



Army, purchased the property in 1872 and hired a Charleston architect to design the Greek Revival home. Sarsfield is one of the few brick homes built in Camden in the 1870s. Family tradition says that some of the bricks came from an old kitchen at Mulberry, the Chesnut's country plantation a few miles south of Camden.

Mary Boykin Chesnut completed her memoirs "Diary from Dixie" at Sarsfield. She and her husband lived here until their deaths in the 1880s.



Sarsfield became the Sarsfield Golf Club around 1909 and was at one time used as a clubhouse for the Court Inn, a tourist resort hotel. Although Sarsfield was once damaged by fire and unoccupied for many years, it was completely restored in the 1930s.

***Marker #39: Fairhaven***  
**1803 Fair Street**



Mrs. E. A. Cunningham purchased this piece of property in 1851 for \$450.00. In 1857, she sold the lot and the frame house she had built on the property to P. T. Villepigue. Typical for this area and period, Fairhaven has a raised brick basement and a main floor with four rooms bisected with a wide center hall, twelve foot ceilings, and heart pine floors.

The second floor had two bedrooms and two storage rooms. Over the years, the home has been remodeled several times but it retains the classic lines of the original structure. A lovely Charleston-style ironwork gate guards the entrance.



**Marker #40: The Sycamores**  
**1818 Fair Street**



Alexander and Sarah Perkins Johnson built this home around 1850 on land inherited by Sarah Johnson from her father, Benjamin Perkins. The front façade of this Greek Revival style home has a rain porch with six free standing columns reaching from the ground to the second floor roof of the piazza. Although the basement is now enclosed, it was originally a raised open basement used for carriages and storage.

One notable owner of the Sycamores was Confederate General John Doby Kennedy. Another was Henry P. Kendall, founder of the Kendall Company. The Sycamores was the winter residence for the Kendall family from 1924 to 1959. The Kendall Company operated a textile mill in Camden for many years.



Still a residence, the wonderful old home is surrounded by expansive gardens filled with wisteria, old azaleas, and cherry laurel.

**Marker #41: Holly Hedge**  
**302 Greene Street**



In 1842, William E. Johnson, a prominent merchant and President of the Bank of Camden for over twenty-five years, purchased his brother's lot in South Kirkwood. There he built this frame two story home on a raised brick basement. Johnson had for years rented a lot in Kirkwood from his friend, Benjamin Perkins, where he developed a thirty-two acre garden. The gardens were a magnificent setting for the new home, featuring terraces, ornamental lakes, and rare shrubs and plants.

Their gardener, William Timbers, was a free person of color from Virginia. An expert gardener and landscape architect, Timbers is credited with both designing and overseeing the maintenance of the expansive gardens. In the Johnson family, he was known as "the tyrant of the gardens." The gardens Johnson and Timbers created at Holly Hedge were a lovely combination of the beauty of wild nature and formal parterre and topiary gardens.

The location of Holly Hedge is significant as the site of the beginning of the Revolutionary War Battle of Hobkirk's Hill. General Nathanael Greene and the Southern Continental Army

camped here in August 1781 and the Continentals were washing their clothing in the springs when the British attacked and the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill began.

Later owners were Ernest Woodward, a public spirited winter resident instrumental in the creation of the Carolina Cup, and Marion duPont Scott. Mrs. Scott lived at Holly Hedge from 1944 until her death in 1983. She established the Camden Training Center at Springdale Course and was instrumental in the growth and continuation of the Carolina Cup. In many ways, Mrs. Scott paved the way to make Camden the "Steeplechase Capital of the World."

***Marker #61: The Old Methodist Parsonage***  
**212 Greene Street**

This home was originally located on Hampton Park Street. It was a two and one half story house built on a raised basement. Amelia Haile and Sarah L. Ciples



built the house around 1851 and donated it to the Lyttleton Street Methodist Church for a parsonage, complete with furniture, staff, and carriage.

After many years of use, both as a parsonage and as an educational building for the church, the house was moved from Lyttleton Street to Greene Street in 2000. Due to modern building and safety codes, the house could not be completely restored to its original appearance.

**Marker #42: Proctor Hall**  
**2030 Lyttleton Street**



The builder of Proctor Hall is unknown. It stands on land purchased by Thomas Salmond between 1827 and 1829. The price he paid for the land indicates that no dwelling was standing when he acquired the property.

Salmond was a Scottish immigrant who settled in Camden in 1802. He prospered and was a five term mayor, the Clerk of Court for 10 years, and president of the Bank of Camden for thirty-two years. Thomas Salmond eventually went bankrupt and passed away by 1854.

Sometime prior to 1860, the property passed through the hands of Thomas Whitaker and, when it was purchased by John Whitaker in 1860, the deed noted “10 acres known as the residence of the late Thomas Whitaker.”

Formerly known as The Cedars, the house is a Classical Revival style dwelling. Proctor Hall is named after Louise Proctor, great-granddaughter of Thomas Salmond. Louise’s mother purchased the property in 1891. At Louise’s death, she bequeathed the house to the Camden community to be used for educational and cultural purposes.

**Marker #43: 406 Greene Street**



The core of this imposing house began as a simple log structure in Kirkwood Village. Built between 1831 and 1836, the summer home was owned by Lewis and Sarah Ciples, a local planter and his wife. Lewis Ciples died in 1836, and the small log cottage remained as Sarah's summer house through her lifetime. Sarah's will of 1863 bequeathed the cottage to her nephew, Edward E. Adamson, but the cottage instead remained in her estate and was sold in 1867 to Susan and Mattie Lang.

In 1883, Colonel William Shannon purchased the four acre property and the small cottage. He is credited with the extensive remodeling and enlargement that turned a summer cottage into a beautiful year-round home.

Known as "Rawdon" from the 1930s on, the house sits at the highest point of Hobkirk's Hill, where the Battle of Hobkirk's Hill was fought during the Revolutionary War.



**Marker #44: The Withers House / Gander Hill  
414 Greene Street**



In 1839, Judge Thomas Jefferson Withers, a signer of the Ordinance of Succession and a delegate to the Confederate Convention, purchased a lot on Lyttleton Street. One renovation expert says that this was originally a small house with two rooms and a center hall on two floors.

The house was likely built by Mrs. Nancy Reed between 1824, when she purchased a “Parcel near village at Kirkwood” on Lyttleton Street for \$200.00 and 1839, when she sold the property to Withers for \$1,750.00. The Withers family called it Gander Hill and they enlarged the house to a common floor plan of four rooms and a wide center hall on each floor.

A Cleveland, Ohio family, the Nortons, purchased Gander Hill around 1918, then standing at 2031 Lyttleton Street, and had it moved to the present location. The Nortons also enlarged the house by adding four more rooms. This home is adorned with the original marble mantels, heart pine floors, and hand carved woodwork.

**Marker #45: Pine Flat (Hobkirk Inn)  
1919 Lyttleton Street**



Built in the late 1850s by Colonel William M. Shannon, this Italianate style home was originally known as Pine Flat. While owned by the Shannon family, Pine Flat had ten rooms - four large square rooms on each floor with two smaller rooms attached. In 1883, after Shannon's death in the last "legal" duel in South Carolina, Frank Eldridge and his wife purchased Pine Flat, renamed it The Hobkirk Inn, and converted the residence into Camden's first winter resort hotel.

By 1910, The Hobkirk Inn had sixty-five rooms in three wings and six separate cottages. Over the decades and through several managers, the Inn became known as one of the finest winter resort hotels in South Carolina. The Hobkirk Inn closed in 1940. The new owners of the main house removed the wings in 1944 and restored the home as a private residence. Many of the cottages were sold as single family homes.



Pine Flat once had elaborate parterre and topiary gardens laid out for the Shannons by James Crammond, a Scottish landscape architect. The extensive gardens surrounded the house and were still in existence in the 1930s according to contemporary descriptions.

***Marker #46: The James Villepigue House***  
**1811 Lyttleton Street**

James I. Villepigue, a prominent 19<sup>th</sup> century Camden merchant, purchased this property in 1850 and built this house by 1857. Four square “rain porch” columns support the roof of the full façade porch.



The one and one half story house rests upon a raised basement originally used for carriages and tack. Today, the lower level has been bricked in to expand the living quarters.

***Marker #47: 1801 Lyttleton Street***

This house was built prior to 1830 by Hiram McAdams, a Camden inn keeper who also operated a stagecoach line to Charleston. The house originally sat on town lot 1094 on the western side of Lyttleton Street. It was



the third house south from the corner of Lyttleton and Rutledge Street, across the street from the present-day City Hall.

Hiram McAdams died in 1831, leaving the house and his inn to his wife, Mary Perkins McAdams. It passed through a succession on owners during the 19<sup>th</sup> century and in 1965 was sold to John deLoach, Jr. In 1965, he moved the home to its present site. Architect Henry Boykin and builder John Thompson renovated the house, carefully preserving original features and restoring the original portico on the front of the dwelling.

**Marker #48: Shadow Lawn  
1710 Lyttleton Street**



When Dr. Lynch H. Deas purchased this property in 1843, the plat listed several buildings, including two houses. Kirkland and Kennedy's *History of Camden* stated that Deas built this house in 1848. The Charleston-born Deas was a physician who trained in Charleston and Philadelphia. He and his wife, Ellen Douglas of Camden, moved to town in 1837. Deas was a leading physician in Camden until his death in 1883. The Deas sold the home in 1864.

When constructed, the house known as Shadow Lawn was a one story cottage sitting on an open raised basement. Around 1925, the owners enclosed the basement to create additional living space.

**Marker #49: Bloomsbury**  
**1707 Lyttleton Street**



*Image provided by Katherine Lemay Brown,  
Bloomsbury Inn*

In 1854, Colonel James Chesnut, Sr. and his wife Mary Cox Chesnut, owners of Mulberry Plantation, purchased an eighteen acre lot in Kirkwood Village to build an in-town residence for their unmarried daughter, Sally. They named their home “Bloomsbury” for Mrs. Chesnut’s home “Bloomsbury Court” in Trenton, N.J.

The Chesnuts lived here during the Civil War to be closer to the telegraph and news sources. Also during the War, the Chesnut’s oldest son General James Chesnut and his wife Mary Boykin Chesnut, author of *A Diary from Dixie*, stayed at Bloomsbury when they were in Camden. When Colonel Chesnut died in 1866, he left the home to Sally.

Bloomsbury features eighteen foot fluted columns, ten foot wide piazzas, and a handsome front entranceway. When built, the raised brick basement contained four rooms and a central hall, identical to the floor plan of the main floor. The second floor also contains four rooms. A separate brick kitchen is located behind the main house.

***Marker #50:***  
**The Lynch Deas House**  
**314 Chesnut Street**

Completed about 1853 for Dr. Lynch Horry Deas, this is one of the first homes built in the Kirkwood area as a year-round residence. Deas hired a Philadelphia architect with the surname of Hamilton to draw up the plans for this two and one-half story Greek Revival home. Deas resided here until about 1884, when it became the property of the Lang family.



***Marker #51: Rectory Square***  
**The 300 block of Chesnut Street**  
**between Lyttleton and Fair Streets**



Once known as Kershaw Park, Rectory Square was renamed in 1912 after the Episcopal Church built a rectory across the street from the park. Along with lovely gardens, tennis courts, and a playground, the six acre park contains a six columned pantheon

dedicated in 1911 to the six generals of the Confederacy native to Kershaw County: James Chesnut, Jr. (1815-1885), James Cantey (1818-1874), Zach Cantey Deas (1819-1882), John D. Kennedy (1840-1896), Joseph Brevard Kershaw (1822-1894), and John B. Villepigue (1830-1862).

***Marker #51a: Stag Hall***  
**1613 Lyttleton Street**

James R. McKain, a Camden druggist and a former mayor, or intendant, of Camden built this home in 1839. It is believed to have been the site of a bachelors' club known as "Stag Hall." Successive owners have made extensive additions to the original building.



***Marker #52: 1515 Lyttleton Street***



Built about 1832, this house was originally owned by Malcomb McCaskill. Typical of residences in this period, the home was a two story frame house on a raised brick basement. The exterior

was made of cypress and the interior of heart pine. There were four rooms on each floor with a wide center hall. Doors on both the first and second floors open onto the front porches.

This is one of several Camden homes once owned by Colonel James Chesnut, Sr. (1773-1866), a wealthy planter and state legislator. Colonel Chesnut and his wife Mary Cox Chesnut were the owners of Mulberry, a large plantation outside of Camden. Although he held title to this property for thirty years, the Chesnuts apparently never lived in the home.

***Marker #53: 1507 Fair Street***



Apparently this house was constructed between 1851, when Camden merchant James Wilson purchased this lot for \$400.00, and 1853, when Wilson sold the property for \$3,200.00.

This one and a half story house originally stood on raised piers. The ground floor area was enclosed around 1900. Two story square posts support the porches of the house. The house has four rooms with a wide center hall on both the main and ground level floors.

***Marker #54: 1413 Mill Street***



This home once stood in the heart of old Camden at King Street and Fair Street. Built by Colonel John Chesnut around 1780, the city held a grand banquet for President George Washington in this home during the president's 1791 tour of the South. Chesnut, a former captain in the 3rd SC Regiment and a prisoner of the British after the fall of Charleston, was no doubt thrilled to offer his home for a reception in General Washington's honor.

The house remained in the Chesnut family for almost a hundred years. At some point around 1830, fire damaged the building and the owners added the columns and full length porch. The house retained the typical floor plan of a wide center hall with two rooms on either side with each room opening into the hallway.

In the early 1900s, the owners had the building moved to its present location. For many years the home welcomed paying "guests" from the north who came to Camden to enjoy our temperate climate and outdoor lifestyle. During World War II, many of the instructors from the Southern Aviation School lived here. These instructors provided preliminary flight training for young men entering the US Army Air Corps.

***Marker #55: The Col. William Shannon House***  
**1502 Lyttleton Street**

This house stands on property originally granted from the estate of Col. Joseph Kershaw to Alexander Young, Camden's silversmith, in 1831. Young later divided lots 920 and 921 and conveyed the western portions to C. J. Shannon in 1841. Shannon passed the property to his son, William M. Shannon, in 1844.

Earlier entries in the tour books state that this house was constructed on Broad Street in 1838 by Col. Shannon and was moved to this location in 1849. The house's architecture suggests a much earlier construction date.



The front and side facades contain nine over nine sash windows with small panes, characteristic of houses constructed prior to the Revolutionary War. The general shape of the roofline is like that of a saltbox house, with gable ends on the north and south façade. When William Shannon sold the house to William D. Anderson in 1859 he described it as "my two story dwelling house." Tradition holds that the large upstairs room was originally used as a ball room.

***Marker #56:***  
**1415 Lyttleton Street**



Built in the 1850s, Miss Sue Gibbs purchased this house in 1867. The home had a center hall and four main rooms. Miss Gibbs lived in and taught a kindergarten

class in a small cottage to the rear of the house while renting the main building. The house has had extensive modifications to the interior.

***Marker #57: The McCandless School***  
**410 Laurens Street**



Around 1850, the School Association purchased a lot on the opposite side of Laurens Street where they built a frame building with a center hall and four rooms. This became the McCandless School. Mr. Leslie McCandless and his wife Fanny Coleman McCandless operated the school. He taught the boys while Mrs. McCandless taught the female students.

In 1893, the School Board had the house moved to its present location to make way for a larger school. In 1894, a wing was added to the east end. Floor marks where the teachers' desks stood are still visible.

***Marker #58: The Joseph Brevard Kershaw House***  
**1305 Lyttleton Street**



This house was built c1844 by General Joseph Brevard Kershaw, a Confederate officer, well-known local attorney, and grandson of the founder of Camden. The six windows opening onto the front porch still contain many of the original hand-blown window panes.

During Sherman's raid on Camden at the end of the Civil War, General Kershaw's wife, Lucretia, her children and their African American servants barely had enough to eat. Most of the time their diet consisted of cornbread and milk. As Sherman's men raided their smokehouse and pantry, Lucretia sent a message to a Union soldier, Capt. McQueen, asking for his protection from the raiders. McQueen visited the Kershaw household and upon leaving, left his greatcoat on the lounge in the dining room as protection for the family. Later, when two drunken Union soldiers threatened to burn the house, Lucretia showed them Capt. McQueen's coat and the men immediately left, saving the family and their home from the flames.

### ***Marker #59: 1214 Fair Street***

Although we do not know the date of construction for this house, we know that it was built before 1843. The home's first owner, Mary Kershaw, inherited the land from her



father Joseph Kershaw in 1791. At her death in 1843, Mary Kershaw left the land and the house to her niece, Mary Kershaw Young. Originally, this home was a two story frame structure with two rooms and a central hall on each floor. Although the home has been remodeled many times, it still features the original ten foot double front doors with a fine fanlight over the entrance.

### ***Marker #60: Greenhaven 1218 Mill Street.***



This lot became DeSaussure property in 1842. The exact date of construction is unknown but the land was given to Daniel L. DeSaussure (1796-1857) by his father in 1846. At Daniel's death in 1857, the family had been living in the home for some years.

DeSaussure was a veteran of the United States Navy. He served as a midshipman during the War of 1812 and also served during the conflict with the Barbary pirates in the Second Barbary War from 1815 to 1816.

During World War II, the old home became a social club for the use of cadets from Southern Aviation School. For five years, cadets trained at the school in preparation for service in the United States Army Air Corps. In 1941, British cadets also trained at Southern Aviation. In all, more than 6,000 students lived and trained in Camden between 1940 and 1944.

***Marker #62: Hampton Park***  
**Bordered by East DeKalb, Lyttleton,  
Fair and Hampton Park Streets**



This five acre park was named after Confederate General Wade Hampton, III. Hampton commanded Hampton's Cavalry, a unit attached to the Army of Northern Virginia. After the Civil War, Hampton was elected governor of South Carolina and later elected to the United States Senate.

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the park was filled with tall pine trees and walking paths led through the park. During the warm months, the ladies from neighboring Lyttleton Street Methodist sold ice cream at the park as a church fundraiser.

Hampton Park is a showplace with flowering shrubs and trees, pathways, and an old horse watering fountain. The National Humane Alliance of New York donated the fountain to the City of Camden in 1910. The city dedicated the fountain to Confederate Army Sgt. Richard Rowland Kirkland, the Angel of Marye's Heights, in 1911.

***Marker #63: Bethesda Presbyterian Church***  
**502 De Kalb Street**



Built in 1822, Bethesda Presbyterian Church is an architectural masterpiece and a splendid example of architect Robert Mill's ingenious use of the Greek Revival style. Of special note is the steeple, placed at the rear of the church, rather than at the front. At the rear portico is a scissors stairway leading to the five landings that represent the five porches of Bethesda in the Bible. At the top of the landing are double doors that open to the gallery. Three Doric columns support the roof of the rear portico, while four columns are found on the DeKalb Street portico.

Robert Mills also designed the monument in front of the Church. This monument honors Revolutionary War hero Baron Johann de Kalb. De Kalb was fatally wounded at the Battle of Camden in August 1780. Originally buried within the colonial town, his remains were re-interred here in 1825. The foundation stones are

granite and are surmounted by an obelisk of white marble. The names of the 24 states in existence in 1825 are cut into the 24 foundation stones. The Marquis de Lafayette laid the cornerstone at the re-interment ceremony.



*Engraving, 1827. Title: The Monument to de Kalb, who fell fighting bravely in defence of the rights of man on the plains of Camden, State of South Carolina, August 16, 1780. Erected in the town of Camden, front of the Presbyterian Church, the cornerstone laid by Gen. Lafette March 9, 1825, in presence of a large concourse of citizens of the state.*

## Sites Open to the Public

- Marker #1) Historic Camden Revolutionary War Site  
[historicc Camden.org](http://historicc Camden.org)
- Marker #3) Quaker Cemetery - [quakercemetery.com](http://quakercemetery.com)
- Marker #3b) Beth El Cemetery
- Marker #3c) Cedars Cemetery
- Marker #12) Arts Center of Kershaw County  
[artscenterofkershawcounty.wildapricot.org](http://artscenterofkershawcounty.wildapricot.org)
- Marker #23a) Camden Archives & Museum  
[camdenhistory.com](http://camdenhistory.com)
- Marker #42) Louise C. Proctor Hall - [proctorhall.com](http://proctorhall.com)
- Marker #63) Bethesda Presbyterian Church  
[bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org](http://bethesdapresbyterianchurch.org)
- The Revolutionary War Visitor Center  
[simplyrevolutionary.com](http://simplyrevolutionary.com)
- The National Steeplechase Museum  
[nationalsteeplechasemuseum.org](http://nationalsteeplechasemuseum.org)

### Battle of Camden Site

From Historic Camden, go 6.6 miles north on Highway 521 (Broad Street) to Flat Rock Road. Bear left. Go 2.1 miles. The site is located on the right. This six-acre portion of the battlefield is a National Historic Landmark. Visitors can enjoy several walking trails.

