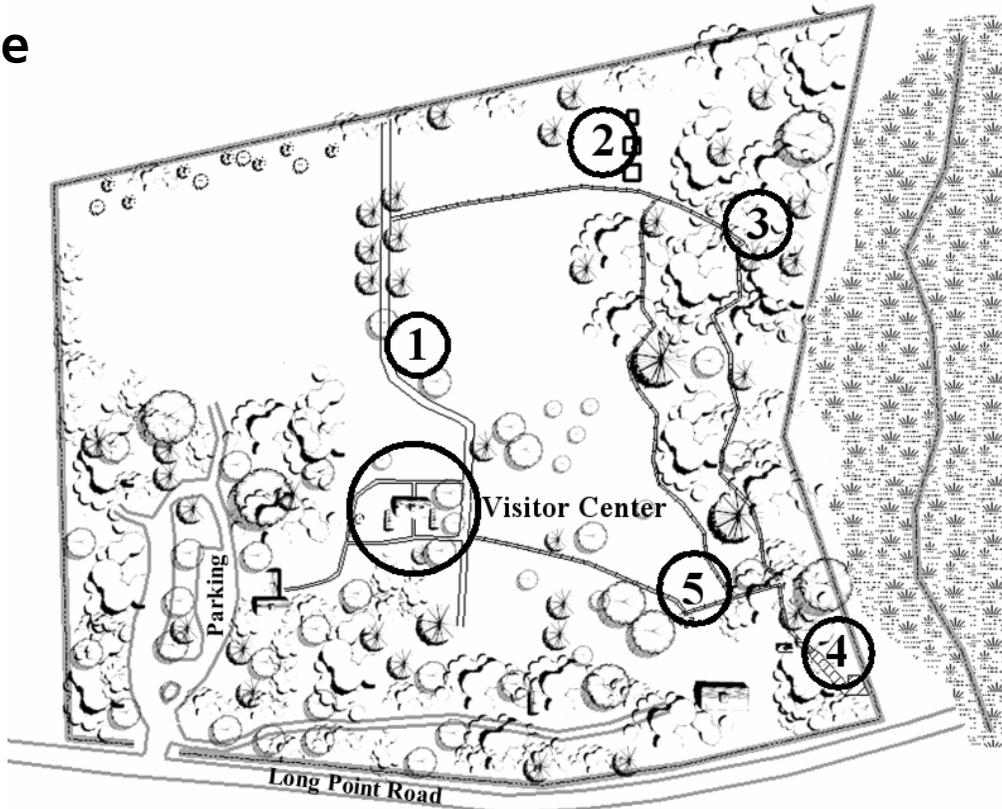




Trail Guide



1. Historic Road Trace

Native red cedars line this roadway that once connected Snee Farm to the public road (U.S. Highway 17). Beyond park property the road continues as an oak lined avenue through Snee Farm subdivision until it reaches Highway 17. In Pinckney's time one way to get to Charleston was to take the public road to Haddrell's Point. From there

a ferry crossed the Cooper River to the city. When George Washington made his tour of the south in 1791 he followed this route. After breakfast at Snee Farm the presidential party proceeded to Hibben's Ferry where they were taken by barge to a grand reception in Charleston, where the President met with Governor Charles Pinckney.

2. Slave Community

Archeological excavations uncovered evidence of three post-in-ground buildings in this area. Historic plats show more dwellings existed to the south, beyond the park boundary. According to a 1787 inventory, a family of eight may have lived here in a one-room, 16' x 20' house. Among those listed as Pinckney property was a driver (foreman) and sawyer (woodcutter) named Cudjoe. His wife Inba worked as a field slave. They had a young daughter,

Phyllis, and five grown sons: Joe, Tom, Shanney, Roger and one who was a wheelwright. Enslaved African Americans were a significant majority in Christ Church Parish and at Snee Farm. This family represents the enslaved labor force that was the foundation of South Carolina's economy until emancipation in 1865. They also represent the creators and sustainers of Gullah culture.

3. Nature Trail

A mulched path borders a tidal wetland where native vegetation abounds. Towering magnolias and live oaks grow on the high ground. Wax myrtle and yaupon holly line the path. Spanish moss adds a mysterious look to the brackish swamp edge where palmettos step out into the pluff mud. Both Sabal palmetto (cabbage palm) and Sabal minor (dwarf palmetto) can be found. Early imported plants that

have naturalized include popcorn trees (Chinese tallow), wisteria and several forms of privet (ligustrum). Native sea lavender edges the high salt marsh where black needlerush grows. Look for traces of old tree houses, historic ditch banks and a tree uprooted by Hurricane Hugo. Watch out for poison ivy!

4. Boardwalk

Using boards made of recycled plastic, volunteers built the boardwalk that overlooks a tiny branch of Wampacheone Creek. This tidal estuary joins the Wando River that empties into the Cooper. In Pinckney's time a nearby bridge crossed this small branch and led to a boat landing on the larger creek. From the landing, rice and other table crops were floated by barge to the markets in Charleston.

Waterways provided crucial transportation in the lowcountry and determined early settlement patterns. The marsh grass growing here is black needlerush, a coarse rigid grass with sharply pointed tips. Even though it is flushed twice a day by high tide, the health of this little wetland is stressed by the runoff from surrounding residential development, a golf course and public roadway.

5. Model Rice Trunk

This small model of a rice trunk is designed for use with educational field trips. Trunks such as these were installed in embankments to control the flow of water to rice fields. Farther upstream where the water is less brackish, the Cooper River was lined with rice plantations that used tidal flow to irrigate

their fields. An 1818 plat of Snee Farm shows rice fields and levees along Wampacheone Creek. Enslaved labor transformed the landscape using skills brought from West Africa. Rice was the main cash crop of South Carolina until it was overtaken by cotton just before the Civil War.