

Summerville's Walking Tour of Homes and Flowers ~ LIST OF HOMES TO SEE

Where to Begin: Begin at the Cuthbert Community Center in Azalea Park on West 5th South Street (see the 🌸 on the map). Turn right onto Main Street (17-A/165). Turn right onto West 6th South Street.

1 Middleton-Minott Cottage – c. 1886 104 West 6th South Street

This home was reconstructed near the site of a larger home of Henry A. Middleton, which was destroyed by the earthquake of 1886. The cottage was built for Harriet Minott, granddaughter of Mr. Middleton to whom he willed the property along with Newington Plantation in 1887.

Turn left onto Rutherford Street.

2 Kracke House – c. 1886 102 Rutherford Street

This property was purchased by the Kracke family in June 1885 for \$400 and sold in 1887 for \$2,500 so it is likely the house was built around 1886. It is not known if it was constructed before or after the earthquake.

3 Carrington House – c. 1871 108 Rutherford Street

This house was built about 1871 by William Carrington, a Charleston merchant. The land was part of a 34-acre tract purchased by A.W. Taylor in 1862. Rutherford Street was named Taylor Street at that time. The style of this house is representative of earlier Summerville homes.

4 Oliver House – c. 1888 114 Rutherford Street

Lovely Victorian home built by Henry Oliver, the builder and contractor who succeeded Henry L. Cade as builder of the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in Charleston. Mr. Oliver purchased the land from Mr. Carrington in 1887 and it had formerly been part of the Taylor tract.

Turn right onto Hampton Street.

5 Blake Washington House – c. 1862 304 Hampton Street

Plantation style home saved from deterioration and neglect by extensive restoration in 1970. The house was built on land whose titles go back to an 18th century land grant: Fenwick-Hawks.



Turn left onto Sumter Avenue.

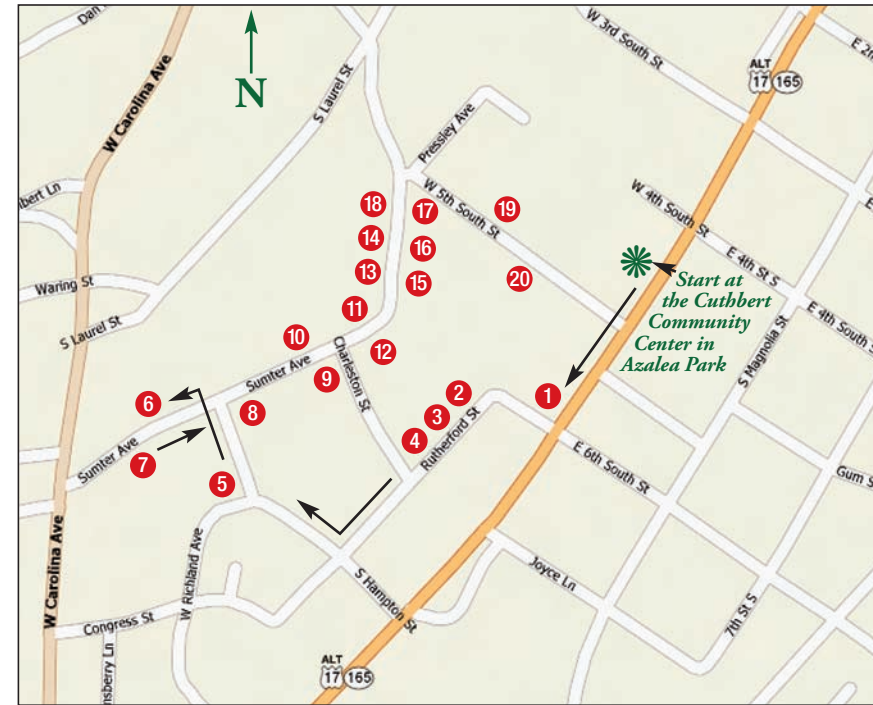
6 Brailsford-Browning House – c. 1830 408 Sumter Avenue

Typical of some early Summerville architecture being built high off the ground and open underneath, the enclosure of the lower floor occurred after 1915. This house was occupied by Dr. W.M. Brailsford in 1838 and at that time was listed as one of 29 houses comprising the village. The exact date of construction and original ownership is uncertain because the land was formerly a part of Colleton County, whose records were burned in the 1860s.

7 Gelzer Brothers House – c. 1852 413 Sumter Avenue

This home, one of four built on this end of Sumter Avenue, was constructed by the Gelzer Brothers. Documentation indicates that Thomas Gelzer resided at 427 Sumter Avenue, which was built prior to 1886. The Gelzers built several homes that have endured the damages of nature and are still standing centuries later.

At this time, please turn around and head back down Sumter Avenue.



8 Buckheit House – c. 1884 317 Sumter Avenue

This land was purchased by Mr. Philip Buckheit, Sr., a baker from Charleston in 1862. Records indicate the house was built around 1884 and was occupied by the Stenders, another bakery family, until 1966.

9 Disher House – c. 1862 303 Sumter Avenue

Deeds for this property go back to 1862 when Mr. Robert W. Disher purchased two acres from A.W. Taylor. The street running east of the property (Charleston Street) was formerly named Disher Street.

10 William Prioleau House – c. 1896 302 Sumter Avenue (Bolen House)

Built by Dr. William H. Prioleau, druggist, who moved from Charleston to Summerville for the healthful climate and is distinctive Victorian architecture in the Queen Anne style. The Bolen family has occupied the house since 1925.

11 Brownfield House – c. 1875 230 Sumter Avenue

Was the residence of the Brownfield family and site of the Brownfield Academy, a boarding school advertised in 1893 as “Particularly desirable for Northern young ladies with impaired health who would probably be successful in following their studies in this health-giving climate.” For many years prior to 1897-8, the congregation of what is now St. John’s Catholic Church held services in a chapel on the premises of this residence.

12 Kinloch House – c. 1861 233 Sumter Avenue

Built for Henry W. Kinloch around 1861, the property was purchased on June 4, 1861 from Rev. Philip Gadsden, the first Rector of St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Summerville and whose family was large land owners here.

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We hope this walking tour allows you to see a glimpse of Summerville’s history – with its majestic homes, well-manicured gardens and small town atmosphere. It truly is the “Flower Town in the Pines.”

13 Purcell House – c. 1820
224 Sumter Avenue

Early deeds date this home between 1811 and 1828. The architecture is typical of very early hunting lodges or summer homes erected by nearby planters.

14 Charles Boyce House – c. 1888
220 Sumter Avenue

Built by Charles Boyce, an attorney, around 1888. The land, including the lot to the rear of the house, was purchased from Margaret C. Purcell in 1887-8. At that time the Colleton and Berkeley County lines ran through the property.

15 Preference – c. 1885
223 Sumter Avenue

The architecture of this home is West Indian in character. The exact date of construction is difficult to pinpoint, but it is felt that it was built for Mary Webb about 1885.

16 Samuel Prioleau House – c. 1887
217 Sumter Avenue

This was the home of Samuel Prioleau, for whom the first infirmary was named. The land was given to his wife, Marianna Rhett Prioleau, by her mother, Mrs. Benjamin Rhett, who lived next door.

17 Samuel Lord/Elizabeth Arden House – c. 1891
208 Sumter Avenue

Handsome Victorian house built for Samuel Lord by the same contractor who built the Old Pine Forest Inn.

Three stories tall, with double piazzas, it is more representative of Charleston homes. Purchased by Elizabeth Arden, the cosmetic firm executive, in 1938 for a winter residence, the house remained in her possession until 1954.



208 Sumter Avenue

18 Rhett House – c. 1882
205 Sumter Avenue

Built by Dr. Benjamin Rhett who had been a surgeon in the Confederacy and later practiced medicine and served on the Board of Health in Summerville. Land titles go back to Gadsden land with the largest portion being purchased from the South Carolina Canal and Railroad Company.

19 The Teacherage – c. 1882
127 West 5th South Street

Records show this property, consisting of two acres, was purchased in December 1881 by Mrs. Pauline B. Rhett for \$300. The house features unusual interior architecture with an octagonal room with a medallion skylight extending to 18 feet in height. The house was purchased in 1944 by the Summerville School district to board teachers. It was sold to Paul Hyde Bonner, author, in 1954. He resided in the house for 10 years.

20 Squirrel Inn – c. 1913
116 West 5th South Street

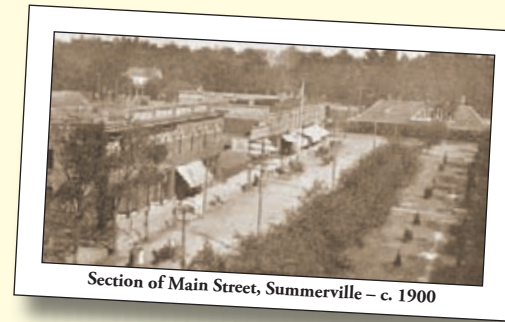
The Inn was built by Miss Raven Lewis during Summerville's days as a winter resort, and continued to be a noted Inn with fine cuisine under the ownership of Jeanne and Eugene Sutter until 1966. The building was renovated for condominiums in 1979.

This concludes the Walking Trail of Homes and Flowers. Please visit the Summerville Visitor Center at 402 North Main Street for more information or call 843-873-8535.

This brochure provided by the Greater Summerville/Dorchester County Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with the Summerville Preservation Society.



Summerville Preservation Society



Section of Main Street, Summerville – c. 1900

The History of Summerville

Summerville started as Pineland Village around 1785 when plantation owners came here to escape the swamp fevers and insects. The first dwellings were described as summer camps with temporary housing. Later people built many of their homes high off the ground to ward off mosquitoes; hence the name “Mosquito Houses.”

In the beginning, the owners made no plans for streets or a town – as evidenced by the winding roads but in 1847 the settlers decided to incorporate the different areas into a town. By the 1850s there were 1,088 people, 5 hotels and boarding houses, 3 churches, 9 stores and 372 dwellings; many of which are still in existence today.

Summerville was named one of the two best health resorts in the world at the tuberculosis World Congress in Paris in 1899. The town was so named because of its situation on a dry, sandy ridge, amidst pine trees that charge the air with derivatives of turpentine. The world-wide publicity brought modern inns and hotels to the town. After the turn of the century, Summerville became a winter resort for Northern visitors who came to enjoy the mild climate and hunting season. The closing of the Squirrel Inn in 1970 marked the end of this era in the town's history. When Summerville officially became a town in 1847, one of the first ordinances continued the protection of its chief assets, the long leaf pine trees – thus the town's motto “Sacra Pinus Esto.”

In 1976, a portion of the town, including 700 buildings, was listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The residents of this historic area are dedicated to preserving its natural and man-made beauty and are proud that you have come to share our heritage and view the Trail of Homes and Flowers.

Summerville's Walking Tour of Homes and Flowers



This walking tour takes approximately one hour. It is a moderate walk and sidewalks are not always available. To ensure your safety, please be aware of traffic at all times.

For more information, please visit
www.VisitSummerville.com