

In the Beginning...

First visited by Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto in 1540, Cheraw is named for the Cheraws, the dominant Indian tribe that inhabited the upper Pee Dee in the early 1700's. By 1738, a smallpox epidemic had drastically reduced the Cheraws with most survivors leaving the area, joining forces with the Catawba and the Lumbee tribes.



During the 1730's, Cheraw's first settlers began moving to the area, and by 1740 a trading post had been established. In 1768, brothers Joseph and Eli Kershaw were granted an area and laid out the town in a grid pattern. Now the heart of the Cheraw Historic District, this 213-acre site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The town incorporated in 1820, and during the 19th century, Cheraw was a bustling river port, boasting the largest bank in South Carolina outside of Charleston and one of the largest cotton markets. Fine homes from this era still grace wide lawns. Tree-lined streets, 18th and 19th century homes, and gardens make a stroll through the residential areas an enjoyable experience.



Cheraw was in the forefront of the South Carolina secession movement, and during the Civil War, Cheraw became the destination of many of Charleston's wealthiest families. In an attempt to escape the Federal bombardment, many Charlestonians brought their prized possessions here for safety, not knowing that Cheraw was in the path of General William T. Sherman's Union army. For several days during March of 1865, Cheraw was invaded by General Sherman, with more of Sherman's army passing through Cheraw than any other town in South Carolina. Some Yankee soldiers referred to Cheraw as a "treasure house" due to all of the valuables found stored here from across the state. Another soldier wrote that Cheraw was "a pleasant town and an old one with the southern aristocratic bearing". Amazingly, Sherman's troops left the town essentially untouched, and today, numerous Civil War sites remain.



As you leisurely stroll through Cheraw's 10-block historic area, the Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour will provide over 50 historical tidbits of information. This intimate experience, which includes 25 stops at homes, churches, and businesses, many pre-dating 1860, will allow you to become acquainted with some of Cheraw's most impressive architecture and discover Cheraw like never before.

Comments About the Historic Cheraw Cell Phone Tour:

"A fun way to spend an afternoon in a delightful town."

"I've lived in Cheraw for over 25 years, and this tour provided insight about our town's history that I never knew."

"Even my teenage daughter was engaged in Cheraw's fascinating past."

"Our weekend guests have always commented on our town's beauty, but this cell phone tour absolutely gave them cold chills."

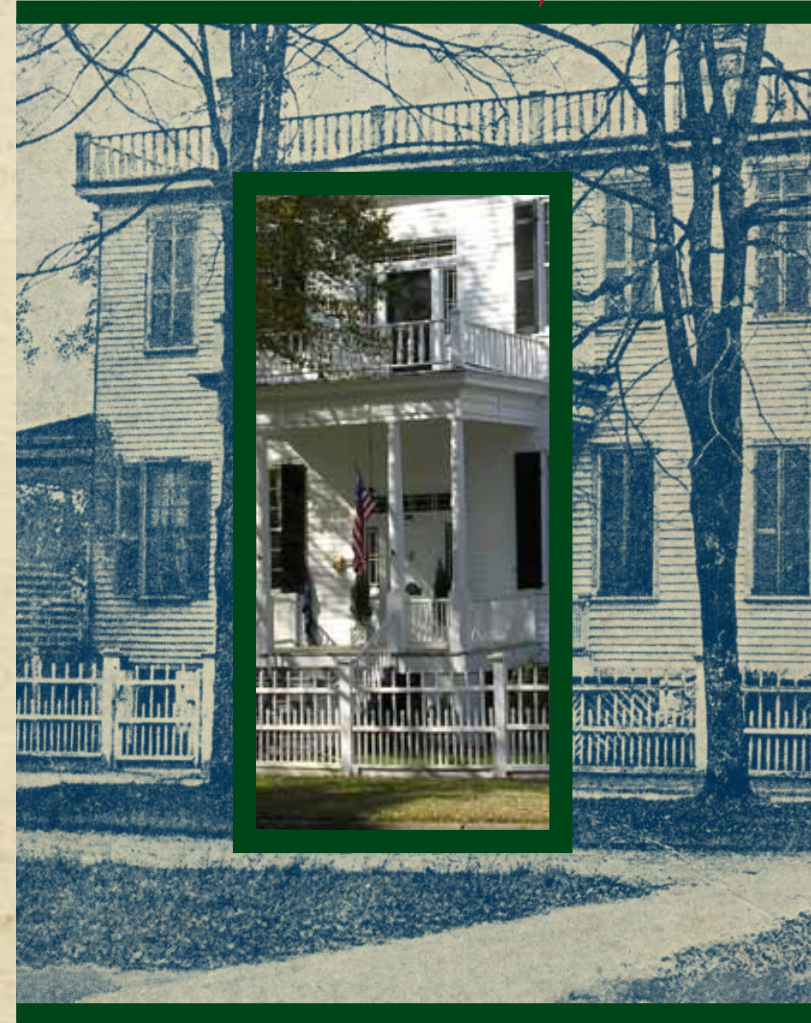
"What a great way to share our history. This allows visitors and residents alike to experience Cheraw like never before."

THE HISTORIC CHERAW CELL PHONE TOUR

WHERE OUR

HISTORY

Comes to Life!



This complimentary self-guided cell phone tour provided by



Visit our storied past and Encounter over 250 years of Cheraw's intriguing history.

Your walk through history may begin at any of the 25 tour stops.

Dial 843.865.3002 and enter the tour stop number, listed in this brochure or on the sign posted at each stop.

You choose what you hear, in your order of preference, any time of the day, any day of the week. The brochure map will assist you in locating each tour stop. While on the tour, dial *0 and share your feedback.

The tour is free, but your cell phone minutes/roaming charges may apply.

1 - Town Green

Once the site of livestock auctions, the Town Green is now home to the statue of native son, Dizzy Gillespie.

2 - Downtown Cheraw Business District

Twice suffering total devastation, Cheraw rebuilt to become a bustling regional center for business and culture.

3 - Old St. David's Church

The last parish established under King George the Third, the church now serves as a favorite venue for brides.

4 - Pee Dee Union Baptist Church

Founded in 1867 by black members of First Baptist, the original church was destroyed by "the big blow".

5 - Riverside Park

Site of a busy upriver port during the 1800's, Cheraw was known as a major trade and shipping center.

6 - Merchants Bank of South Carolina

One of the official gold depositories for the Confederate States of America, this was the last bank in the entire south to honor Confederate money. The vault is still intact.

7 - First Presbyterian and First United Methodist

Two of Cheraw's historic churches, each is celebrating over 175 years of ministry.

8 - Boxwood Hall, Pegues House, First Baptist, New St. David's

During Sherman's occupation, house-to-house fighting was common in this stretch of Market Street. More of Sherman's army passed through Cheraw than any other town in South Carolina.

9 - Wadsworth House and Original Boundary Markers

Briefly owned by Colonel E.B.C. Cash, a planter and Confederate officer, most famous for participating in the last fatal duel in South Carolina.

10 - St. Peter's Catholic Church

The first church on the Charleston Catholic mission, Sherman's troops left their mark here.

11 - Matheson House

The official Union Army headquarters, this home has served as a private school, Masonic Hall, and public library.

12 - John Campbell House

Built around 1820, this was home to US Representative John Campbell.

13 - Dizzy Gillespie Home Site Park

Native son and jazz legend Dizzy Gillespie was born in a home on this site.

14 - Enfield

During the Civil War, this home was the headquarters of General Oliver Howard, second in command to General Sherman.

15 - General Sherman's Headquarters

In addition to Sherman using this home as his personal headquarters, local legend claims this house is haunted.

16 - The Brown House

A classic upcountry farmhouse, look closely and you may see the rockers on the front porch mysteriously moving.

17 - Wesley United Methodist Church

The childhood church of famed jazz artist Dizzy Gillespie, the church was rebuilt in 1915.

18 - Lafayette House

Reportedly, Revolutionary War hero Marquis de Lafayette danced on this home's roof during his 1825 visit to the United States.

19 - The Teacherage

This home, said to be the oldest dwelling in the original town's limits of Cheraw, survived an attempt to burn it.

20 - John Inglis House

The in-town home of John Inglis, a delegate of the Secession Convention. Built around 1800, this structure was known as the "Charleston Box".

21 - McIver-Malloj House

Moved back from the street in the 1940's, the original slave cabins remain behind this home built around 1820.

22 - G.W. Long Memorial Presbyterian, Coulter Academy & College Inn

The thriving academy campus occupied much property along both sides of Second Street.

23 - Robert Smalls School

Built to provide a public education for Cheraw's black students, famous jazz artist Dizzy Gillespie attended school here.

24 - The Southern African American Heritage Center & Historic Business District

For generations, African Americans have played a significant part of Cheraw's history.

25 - Atlantic Coastline Freight Station

Built in 1916 to meet the needs of Cheraw's bustling cotton market, the building now houses the Cheraw Police Department.

