

MAP OF Old Town BLUFFTON



Bluffton is a BEAUTIFUL SOUTHERN TOWN that is the HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY.

A steamboat landing was constructed in the 1850's at the southern tip of Calhoun Street to support the Town's growing significance as the commercial center of southern Beaufort County. The landing provided the opportunity for the Town to serve as a stopover for travelers between Savannah and Beaufort. Boarding houses for visitors and businessmen, along with several general stores and a blossoming seafood industry, emerged as a result of the steamboat landing.

The May River was the primary access for the Old Town Bluffton Historic District until the early 20th Century. Practically everything came into and left Bluffton by river boats. Regular passenger and freight services between Savannah and Bluffton brought travelers, goods and services to Bluffton, with stops at nearby Daufuskie Island, Hilton Head Island and what is now known as Palmetto Bluff.

Commercial trade by water ended with the construction of the Houlihan Bridge over the Savannah River in 1922. After commercial use ended, a pavilion was constructed across the end of the wharf to serve as a venue for community gatherings, especially dances. The existing dock serves as one of several public access points to the May River in the Town of Bluffton.

Legend:

- Information Kiosk
- Visitor's Center
- Public Park
- Historic Church
- Fire Station
- School
- Public Restroom
- River Access
- You are here
- Old Town Bluffton Historic District

To
US 278

Dr. Mellichamp Drive

Pin Oak Street

To SC
46/170



Calhoun Street Dock



Squire Pope Summer House



Calhoun Street Dock and Steamboat

Sketches donated by Doug Corkern. Photographs provided by the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society. Material is based upon work assisted by a Preserve America grant administered by the Department of the Interior, National Park Service.