



INTRODUCTION

The Town of Awendaw is its own culturally significant resource. The Town was named for the Seewee Indian Tribe that once lived in the area. In 1709 the Seewee Barony, later renamed the Awendaw Barony, was created from approximately 12,000 acres of the area and made into a plantation. George Washington visited the plantation during his Southern Tour in 1791. The Francis Marion National Forest and the Buck Hall Recreational Area have preserved much of the area and its rich history. The 1999 Comprehensive Plan for the Town of Awendaw offers an extensive history of the Town.

The Town's more recent history can be observed in the historic buildings, churches and cemeteries. These structures are an important part of the Town's charm and should be preserved in order to maintain the small town, rural character of Awendaw.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Although there are currently no sites in the Town of Awendaw that qualify for the National Registry of Historic Places, there are a number of culturally significant structures and sites. Table 6.1 lists the culturally significant sites as determined by the 1999 Town of Awendaw Comprehensive Plan.

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TABLE 6.1: CULTURALLY SIGNIFICANT PROPERTIES AROUND AWENDAW

Name	Approximate Date of Construction	Location
McNeill House	1935	3989 Hwy 17
McNeil House	1935	3995 Hwy 17
House	1935	Hwy 17
House	1935	3921 Hwy17
Gregory Elementary School	1940	Hwy 17
Ford House	1930	4182 Hwy 17
Zion A.M.E Church site and Cemetery	1890	4170 Hwy 17
Jerman House	1915	Chandler Road
Wappetaw Cemetery	1700	15 Mile Landing Road
First Seewee Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery	1890	5151 Hwy 17
Corley's Country Store		4804 Hwy 17
House	1915	5538 Hwy 17
Awendaw School	1915	Seewee Road
Murrell Burying Ground	1810	Wilson Cemetery Road
Thames House	1930	7489 Hwy 17
Coaxum House	1925	7671 Hwy 17
Shackleford Cemetery	1800	8467 Hwy 17
Weathers House	1935	8485 Old Georgetown Road
Lawrence House	1920	8085 Old Georgetown Road
House	1910	8613 Old Georgetown Road
Howard Cemetery	1880	8592 Old Georgetown Road
Harrell House	1939	8479 Old Georgetown Road
Site of the Laurel Hill Plantation House	1853	Hwy 17
Mt. Nebo A.M.E. Church site	1870	5600 Hwy 17
Union A.M.E. Church	1868	7213 Hwy 17
House		Old Georgetown Road

Source: South Carolina Archives and History, Awendaw Comprehensive Plan 1999



Buck Hall Recreational Area

Buck Hall Recreational Area is situated just north of the Town on the site of the old Buck Hall Plantation. The Area offers camping, picnic areas and boat landings. It is touted as one of the most popular areas for tourists within the Francis Marion National Forest.

Archaeological Preservation

The Chicora Foundation has published a document on archaeological test excavations at Buck Hall Burial Mount at the site of Buck Hall Plantation in Francis Marion National Forest. Michael Trinkley authored this document and the name of the document is **Archaeological Test Excavations at 38CH644, Buck Hall Burial Mount, Francis Marion National Forest, Charleston County, South Carolina.**

Shell Mounds

Well-defined circular shellfish rings that were created by the Sewee Indians can be found in the Awendaw area. These rings served as shelter and had other ritual functions for the Sewee Indians. They can be seen along the Sewee Shell Mound Interpretive Trail in the Francis Marion National Forest. This trail is located in the heart of the Town and dates back 4000 years. These mounds offer an insight into the natural history of the Native Americans of the Awendaw area.

Existing Preservation Organizations

1. *National Audubon Society*
2. *South Carolina Heritage Corridor (Region IV), Alta Mae Marvin (Coordinator)*
3. *Charleston National Historical Society*

Cultural Corridors

The South Carolina National Heritage Corridor

The African American Coastal Trail of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor runs along Highway 17 in Awendaw. This part of the trail begins in McClellanville and continues through the Lowcountry Region of the Corridor. It illustrates the effects that African Americans have had on the coastal region of South Carolina and how almost every aspect of Lowcountry life has been shaped by the presence of African Americans.

CULTURAL FESTIVALS, PARADES, EVENTS, AND ACTIVITIES

Awendaw Blue Crab Festival

Each fall the Town of Awendaw holds the Blue Crab Festival, which features local blue crabs caught in the waters of the Town. The festival draws seafood lovers from the entire state to the Town to enjoy steamed or deep-fried blue crabs and other Lowcountry

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favorites, such as Frogmore Stew. The profits from the festival go toward college scholarships for local high school students.

OTHER CULTURAL RESOURCES

The Awendaw area is home to several sweet grass basket stands. Sweet grass basketry is a Lowcountry tradition that was brought to America by West African slaves. The craftsmanship of the basket makers draws many visitors to the basket stands along Highway 17.

OVERVIEW

The Town of Awendaw is privileged to have a number of unique, cultural and historic resources. These resources shape the character and culture of the Town. This character attracts tourists and new residents to the area.

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Goals, Policies and Strategies

Goal: Historic and culturally significant buildings and sites in the Town of Awendaw will be preserved for future generations.

Policy	Implementation Strategies	Suggested Schedule / Responsibility
A. The Town will continue working with local residents to establish and/or enhance use of appropriate preservation tools.	1. Consider seeking approval as a Certified Local Government (CGL) and adopting a comprehensive preservation plan and ordinance that would foster establishment of historic corridor and/or cultural district.	1-2 Years/ Town Council
	2. Evaluate effectiveness of existing ordinances intended to preserve significant trees and tree corridors. Coordinate with local utility companies to determine best methods for minimizing damage to trees and tree corridors while providing utility service (i.e. placement of utilities underground vs. pruning practices).	
	3. Identify and re-evaluate the significance of all buildings and sites in the community.	2-5 Years/ Town Council, Planning Commission, SCDAH, Town of Awendaw Community
	4. Work with local archaeologists to develop a process whereby sites of archaeological value that should be protected from land disturbing activities, will be identified and catalogued.	
	5. Establish a Museum to protect local historical collections for future generations.	Ongoing/ Town Council, Planning Commission and Staff