

# CHARLES PINCKNEY

National Historic Site

South Carolina



## The Man and his Career



Charles Pinckney (1757-1824) is one of the nation's founding fathers. His public career began in 1779, when at the age of 22 he became a member of the South Carolina legislature. One year later, while serving as a lieutenant in the Continental Army, he was captured in Charleston and sent to St. Augustine, Florida, as a prisoner of war.

Pinckney's greatest contribution to our country was as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1787. Although one of the youngest delegates at the Convention, he emerged as one of its most influential members. His outline for government, known as the "Pinckney Draught," is believed to have contained as many as 31 provisions later incorporated into the United States Constitution.

After working energetically to ensure ratification of the Constitution in South Carolina, Pinckney pursued a distinguished career in both state and Federal government. He served four terms as Governor of South Carolina (1789-92, 1796-98, 1806-08) and served in the General Assembly from 1810-1814. He was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1798 and three years later was appointed Minister to Spain by President Thomas Jefferson. He concluded his political career as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, serving from 1819-21.

Charles Pinckney's long and distinguished record of public service makes him one of the truly outstanding figures in the early history of our nation.



## Snee Farm

Historic Snee Farm is an excellent example of a South Carolina Low Country plantation. Originally part of a 1698 royal grant, the property was purchased by Colonel Charles Pinckney (1732-1782) in 1754 and later passed to his son, Charles.

During the British occupation of Charleston, 1780-82, paroled American prisoners, including General William Moultrie and Colonel Charles Cotesworth Pinckney (a cousin of the owner), were billeted on the plantation. While touring the South in 1791, President George Washington breakfasted at Snee Farm before being ceremoniously rowed across the Cooper River into Charleston.

For almost 250 years Snee Farm was a working plantation of nearly 1,000 acres. Rice was the principal crop grown, although indigo and cotton were also harvested. Like most plantations located near major waterways, it had primary approaches on both the river side, via Horlbeck Creek, and the land side, toward the King's Highway (now Route 17).

The story-and-a-half gabled house is typical of the simple but refined Low Country dwellings once common throughout the region. It is sturdily constructed of pine and cypress and contains magnificent paneling, wainscotting, and hand-carved mantles.



## About the Site

Charles Pinckney National Historic Site is currently under development by the National Park Service and is **not yet open to the public.**

For additional information about the site, please contact:  
Superintendent, Fort Sumter National Monument, 1214 Middle Street, Sullivan's Island, SC 29482; phone (803) 883-3123.

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