



A Founding Father



*We the
People...*

Charles Pinckney

Charles Pinckney (1757-1824) in a Gilbert Stuart portrait circa 1786.

Charles Pinckney was a founding father of the United States. He was not only a major contributor to the development of the United States Constitution, but he was also a leader at all levels of government who devoted his life to public service. Pinckney began his career at the age of 22 when he was admitted to the South Carolina Bar and elected to the state General Assembly. He served as one of four South Carolina delegates to the Constitutional Convention where he promoted many concepts we take for granted today. He served four terms as Governor of South Carolina, was ambassador to Spain from 1801-1805 and held seats in both the state and national legislatures. After devoting 42 years of public service to help form a group of loosely connected British colonies into a young nation, Charles Pinckney retired in 1821.

Historic Snee Farm

Charles Pinckney's father purchased the 715-acre Snee Farm in 1754. While his primary residence was located in Charleston, Snee Farm was an integral part of Pinckney's family life until 1817 when he sold it to settle his debts. For more than 200 years a steady progression of farming included indigo, rice, cotton, tobacco, vegetables and cattle. Enslaved Africans made up the workforce. A 1787 inventory of Snee Farm "property" lists 40 slaves including specialists such as carpenters, coopers and sawyers. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, "snee" means abundant or plenteous.

The Site Today

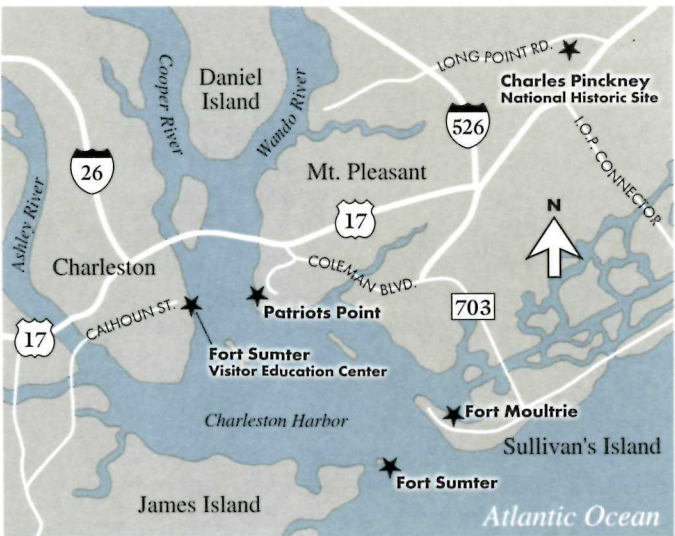
Twenty eight acres remain of the once expansive Snee Farm. The original farmhouse was torn down sometime after Charles Pinckney sold the farm in 1817, probably because of damage caused by one or more hurricanes. The present house was

constructed circa 1828, four years after Pinckney's death. Extensive archeological excavations have revealed several Pinckney era structures located in the core area of the site, including a possible slave cabin, kitchen, well and other outbuildings. The original farmhouse occupied the same spot as the present house, and was the same size and shape. The present house is an excellent example of a coastal cottage once common in the South Carolina Lowcountry.



The house at Snee Farm (ca. 1828) is now a museum and visitor center.

Interpretive exhibits tell the story of Charles Pinckney, the U.S. Constitution, Snee Farm and the United States as a young, emerging nation. An interpretive 1/2-mile walking trail includes the archeological site of a slave community, a nature trail and other historically significant parts of the farm. Ranger programs are scheduled every Saturday and Sunday, staff permitting. Schools and other groups should call ahead to schedule a visit. Admission is free.



For More Information

Charles Pinckney NHS is administered by the National Park Service. Located just off US Highway 17 on Long Point Road in Mt. Pleasant, SC, the site is open from 9:00–5:00 daily except for New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

For additional information write to:

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Charles Pinckney National Historic Site
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call 843 881-5516; or visit us on the
World Wide Web at:
www.nps.gov/chpi