



Historic Preservation Month - 2021

Heritage Travel - Route 66

After a year or so being stuck at home, many people are looking forward to the possibility of traveling—but maybe not in the way we've done in the past. Instead of traveling by air, there may be thoughts of road trips, either long distance for a visit somewhere, or local staycation. Consider the possibility of making some of your stops along the way—or the eventual destination—a look at history. For more information, check out the National Park Services Heritage Travel website at www.nps.gov/subjects/heritagetravel.com.

Heritage travel takes the traveler off the interstate and into areas that are rich with local history and sights. In the early part of the 20th century, the automobile became more popular and allowed people to travel longer distances more comfortably than the horse and buggy. In 1926, the Federal Government's Bureau of Public Roads launched a program to combine the many local, state, and national roads in order to create a federal highway system. The intention was to connect the main streets of rural and urban communities along a particular route as many of the smaller towns did not have a connection to a major thoroughfare.

Route 66 became the most popular as the U.S. 66 Highway Association began actively marketing it as "the shortest, best and most scenic route from Chicago through St Louis to Los Angeles." Smaller towns and entrepreneurs along the route saw a way to make money by catering to travelers, offering gasoline services, inexpensive restaurant meals, and low-cost accommodations.

Most of those traveling Route 66 during the Depression were looking to improve their circumstances, thinking that the western states would provide them with a better lifestyle. At the end of World War II, traffic increased dramatically as automobile ownership soared, the end of rationing allowed for unlimited fuel purchase, and the general public wanted to travel and see the sights.

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Possibly the most iconic of all road trips is the 2,400-mile Route 66, stretching from Chicago, IL, to Los Angeles, CA. It was also one of Nat King Cole's most popular recordings, a 1960s television show, and featured in the animated classic, "Cars."



Will Rogers Motel—Joe Sonderman's Online Route 66 Archive

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Historic Rock Hill

HRH is currently looking for volunteers to help identify and catalog its collection. If you are interested, please contact Lindsay Stuber, Programs Director, 803-329-1020, or check out historicrockhill.com.

Heritage Travel - Route 66 (cont)

With the increase in traffic, business along Route 66 boomed. In order to keep up with all the competition, business owners had to figure out ways to make travelers stop there instead of their competitors. Many of the over 250 sites now listed on the National Register of Historic Places began as landmarks for Route 66 travelers. The Lazy A Motel, Springfield IL, a 13-unit motor court hotel, was constructed in 1948 and featured garages for each unit. The Rock Café in Stroud, OK, has remained in operation since opening in 1939.

The most useful structures for the automobile also became some of the most iconic. The National Register of Historic Places nomination form for the Magnolia Service Station, Texola OK, provides a detailed histo-

ry of the development of the service station as well as an excellent history of the route itself. Original drive-in filling stations were replaced by cottage-style stations in the mid-1920s to better fit in with the surrounding residential neighborhoods.

As oil companies began franchising stations, they hired engineers to streamline for efficiency of service and architects to design recognizable logos and features to entice consumers. While most stations were constructed in familiar box shapes, a few novelty stations popped up along the route, including windmills, pyramids, pagodas, and castles.

One of the most architecturally significant structures is the Tower Conoco and U-Drop Inn, Shamrock, TX. This

“Well, if you ever plan to motor West / Jack, take my way, it’s the highway, that’s the best / Get your kicks on Route 66.” Bobby Troup, composer, [Route 66](#)

City of Rock Hill website

The City of Rock Hill has a dedicated website devoted specifically to historic preservation at cityofrockhill.com/historic. In addition to the Certificate of Appropriateness process and *Historic Design Guidelines* for the City’s designated historic properties, there are a number of articles available for a variety of topics, including:

- Sanborn map research
- Old House Restoration Guide
- The Craftsman Blog
- Manual for Owners of Historic Buildings
- Unsticking a Stuck Window
- Save, Repair, or Replace?
- 5 Tips to Make Your Historic Interior More Comfortable

Art Deco-inspired building was constructed in 1936 at the intersection of Route 66 and North Main Street, and contained two separate businesses, a service station and a diner. The Tower Station National Register nomination form states that the design of the building came from a drawing in the dirt made by John Nunn, son-in-law of the original owner of the properties making up the intersection, L.R. “Lack” Randall.

While sections of Route 66 and the historic architecture no longer exist or are now private property, there are roads that follow the same path—physically or virtually—available from the National Park Service:

Learn the history: ncptt.nps.gov/rt66/

Download a map: ncptt.nps.gov/rt66/route-66-corridor-preservation-program-map/

Research the route online: ncptt.nps.gov/rt66/route-66-archives-and-research/

Learn about Route 66 associations and organizations: ncptt.nps.gov/rt66/resource-center/links/route-66-associations/

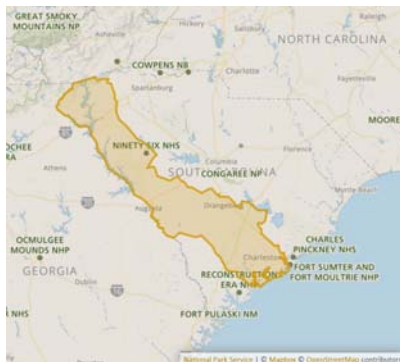
Check out some neat postcards on Joe Sonderman’s Online Route 66 Archive: 66postcards.com



A Little Closer to Home

South Carolina is home to two significant National Heritage Corridors (NHC). Also known as National Heritage Areas (NHA), these are designated areas created by Congress to inspire appreciation of the history and culture of an area as well as encourage historic, cultural, and environmental preservation. Today, there are 55 corridors/areas located across the United States. While associated with the National Park Service, each NHC/NHA is managed by its own entity.

South Carolina's National Heritage Corridor (SCNHC) was established in 1996 and encompasses 17 counties from the Appalachian Mountains to Charleston.



The goals of the SCNHC include providing grant funds to promote the natural, historic, and cultural aspects within the Corridor through tourism. Additional programming includes:

- The Carolina Barbados Connection, which strives to increase public awareness of the historic connection between South Carolina and Barbados
- Paddle SC, a statewide program to promote paddle recreation activities throughout

South Carolina

- Yes! We Will Be the Change initiative connecting students with South Carolina's STEM-related industries

More information is available on the SCNHC website, scnhc.org.

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor was established in 2006 to preserve the unique culture and heritage of the African Americans who settled in the coastal counties of South Carolina, Georgia, North Carolina, and Florida, eventually becoming known as the Gullah Geechee. The central goal of the organization is to recognize, sustain, and celebrate the important contributions the Gullah Geechee community has made in America culture.

This Corridor is comprised of the barrier islands and coastal areas from Pender County & Wilmington NC to St Augustine FL, encompassing over 12,000 square miles, or more than 8 million acres.



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Sites to visit

Along the SC National Heritage Corridor, you'll find a wide variety of projects the organization has supported with grant funding:

- Stumphouse Mountain Multi-Use Trail System, Walhalla
- Drayton Hall Visitor Center, Charleston
- Town of Edgefield Trail & Fishing Platform and Pier
- Railroad Historical Center, Greenwood
- Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site, Summerville
- St George Rosenwald School, Town of St George
- The Museum of the Cherokee, Walhalla
- Saluda Theatre, Town of Saluda
- McLeod Plantation Historic Site, Charleston County
- Aiken State Park, Windsor
- Horn's Creek Church, Town of Edgefield

The Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is comprised of many historic and cultural places of significance, many of which are located in South Carolina, including:

- Angel Oak, Johns Island
- Avery Research Center, Charleston
- Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Ravenel
- Phillip Simmons House & Museum, Charleston
- McLeod Plantation, James Island
- Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, Charleston
- Boone Hall Plantation & Gardens, Charleston
- Charles Pinckney National Historic Site, Mt Pleasant
- The Rice Museum, Georgetown
- Brookgreen Gardens, Myrtle Beach
- Penn Center, St Helena Island
- Mitchelville, Hilton Head
- Aiken-Rhett House, Charleston
- Gullah Museum of Hilton Head
- Gullah Museum, Georgetown
- Hobcaw Barony, Georgetown

A Little Closer to Home (cont)

The Gullah Geechee culture is unique in that it maintains its own created African American Creole* language and culture, which includes some Native American traditions. As described in the Corridor's Management Plan:

"Of all African American cultures in the United States, the lifeways, folk customs, oral history, literature, crafts, arts, music, and foodways of Gullah Geechee people show the strongest continuities with indigenous cultures of Africa (primarily West Africa) and connection with other cultures of the African diaspora." (p20)

More information about the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor is available on their website, visit gullahgeechee.com.

The Penn Center, an early academic school opened for formerly enslaved West African people, was established in 1862 on St Helena Island. In 1901, it was reorganized as the Penn Normal, Agricultural & Industrial School, existing until 1987.

The school campus was designated a National Historic Landmark District in 1974 and was recently recognized as a site on the National Park Services' Reconstruction Era National Historic Network. The center is a reposi-

*Linguists use the term "Creole" to refer to any language that develops as a hybrid of the native languages of several cultures living in close proximity in order to establish a common method of communication.

tory of historical and cultural heritage items that define the African American Sea Island experience, including early photographs, artifacts, and scholarly papers.

The Penn Center Historic District is composed of 25 historic buildings and structures covering 50 acres. Comfortable clothes and walking shoes are recommended for visitors.

The York W Bailey Museum interprets the history of the Penn Center and the West African people who formed the Gullah Geechee culture. Rare photographs dating back to the 1860s along with unique artifacts and publications are featured. The museum is housed in the Cope Industrial Shop, built in 1912 to provide instruction to students on harness-making, wheel-righting, blacksmithing, basketry, and cobbling.

The site provides a number of history, art, and culture presentations, including The Port Royal Experiment, Civil Rights Movement and Dr Martin Luther King Jr at Penn Center, Gullah Geechee Artists and Art Forms, Gullah Fa' Oonah: The Gullah Language, and Cooking the Gullah Way.

More information about the Penn Center is available online at penncenter.com.

Board of Historic Review

The Rock Hill Board of Historic Review was established in 1989 with the charge to assist in the preservation of the City of Rock Hill's valuable historic buildings. The seven members of the Board are appointed by City Council and serve three-year terms.

The Board is assisted by the Zoning Division of the Planning & Development Department. Janice E Miller, Historic Preservation Specialist, serves as the Board's liaison and can be reached at 803-817-5129, or janice.miller@cityofrockhill.com.

