

The
HERITAGE
Center

Johnston County Heritage Center

FREE OF ADMISSION CHARGE

9:00-5:00 Monday-Saturday

241 East Market Street, Smithfield NC 27577

tel: **919-934-2836**

email: heritagecenter@johnstonnc.com

PARKING

Two-hour parking is allowed along adjacent streets. Free all-day parking is available in nearby off-street lots, the largest of which sits behind the Public Library on the east side of North Third Street.

johnstonnc.com/heritage



**Walking
TOUR**



visitsmithfield.org



Downtown SMITHFIELD



- 1 Heritage Center
- 2 Early Post Office/Print Shop
- 3 Masonic Lodge
- 4 Antebellum Medical Office/
Post-Civil War Residence
- 5 Barnes-Grady House
- 6 Smith & Telfair Home Site
- 7 Smith's Ferry Site
- 8 Bridge Abutment
- 9 American Legion Hut
- 10 Hastings House
- 11 Primitive Baptist Church
- 12 Riverside Cemetery
- 13 St. Paul's Episcopal Church/
Baptist Church Site
- 14 Myatt-Sanders House
- 15 Congressman Edward W. Pou's Law Office
- 16 Centenary United Methodist Church
- 17 Courthouse
- 18 Bingham House
- 19 Freedmen's Schoolhouse

- Tour Route
- Roads/Streets
- Parking
- Food/Dining
- Tour Structures
- Church
- Cemetery

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY
GIRL SCOUT HUT
KIDDIE PARK

1. Johnston County Heritage Center

Originally the Bank of Smithfield, this Neo-classical building was constructed in 1913 and housed the corporate offices of First Citizens Bank until the 1970s. Since 2000 it has been the home of the Johnston County Heritage Center, a library and museum where local citizens and visitors from across the nation come to research genealogy and local history.

2. Early Post Office/Print Shop

Judge W. S. Stevens had this prominent brick office building built in 1904. It served as the town's post office until about 1928 and was also headquarters of The Smithfield Herald until 1924.

3. Masonic Lodge

This Greek Revival building, constructed 1854-1855 by Fellowship Masonic Lodge #84, was built in the temple form, with an elliptical arched ceiling on the upper floor where the Masons held their meetings. It was moved to its current location in about 1917 by attorney F. H. Brooks to serve as his law office.

4. Antebellum Medical Office/ Post-Civil War Residence

Dr. Alexander F. Telfair built the original Greek Revival two-room block of this structure prior to 1850 when he formed a medical practice with Dr. John R. Thompson of Raleigh. According to family history, Dr. Thompson was given a walking stick by local citizens in appreciation for his service to the community as a physician during the Civil War. The facade has both Greek Revival and Italianate fenestration, reflecting the architectural tastes of the 1840s and 1870s.

5. Barnes-Grady House

This house and the next door were built about 1885 by attorney Patrick T. Massey. This home was given to Massey's daughter Helen Massey Barnes and son-in-law Turner Barnes. Embedded in the ground near the street in front of the house is a hitching ring that was once used to secure horses.

6. Massey-Wilson House/Smith and Telfair Home Site

P.T. Massey built this handsome Italianate house in 1885 on the knoll where the families of town founder John Smith and Dr. Alexander F. Telfair formerly lived. Massey was the county's most influential Republican politician in the late 19th century. He served as Clerk of Superior Court during Reconstruction and later as a U.S. tax collector, raiding numerous illicit liquor stills in the area.

7. Smith's Ferry Site

The Smith family operated a ferry here 1760-1786. Court minutes from 1760 show it cost four pence for man and horse to cross, six pence for an empty cart, one to two shillings for empty and loaded wagons. The home of town founder John Smith, Jr. was built on the knoll overlooking the ferry. After moving to Tennessee in the 1780s his sons-in-law John Allen and William Bridgers ran the ferry.

8. Bridge Abutment

John Allen built the first of many bridges here in about 1786, and travelers had to pay a toll to cross. In 1865, fleeing Confederate soldiers burned a covered bridge on this site to slow the movement of Union forces, and county commissioners later contracted with African American merchant Bryant Alford to rebuild it. The covered bridge remained in use until 1907.

Until a turnpike was built in the 1870s, heavy rains frequently caused flooding such that travelers had to wait for someone to come on a boat to convey them across.

9. American Legion Hut

Workmen employed by the federal WPA (Works Progress Administration) in the 1930s used whole logs to construct this rustic building in the style of an Adirondacks lodge. It served as a community center where USO dances and



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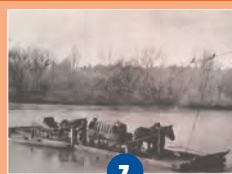
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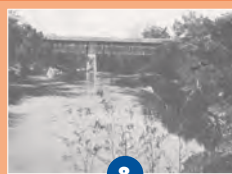
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other recreational activities were held for soldiers stationed at Fort Bragg and Seymour Johnson Air Force Base during World War II. It is now home of the Neuse Little Theatre, a community theater group.

10. Hastings House

This well-preserved Greek Revival house (ca. 1839) served as headquarters for Confederate Generals Joseph E. Johnston, Wade Hampton, and Braxton Bragg in March-April 1865 prior to and following the Battle of Bentonville. Major William Hastings acquired the property in 1854, and the Hastings family lived here during the Civil War era. It was moved to its current location in 1965 by the Hastings House Association to prevent its demolition.

11. Primitive Baptist Church

This one-room church (ca. 1875) represents Johnston County's largest religious denomination of the 19th century. Primitive Baptists still worship in much the same way as their pioneer ancestors—no Sunday schools or missionaries, preachers who are "raised up in the church", and singing without the use of man-made instruments. The Smithfield congregation still sings from the 1841 Benjamin Lloyd hymn book in use since the church's founding.

12. Riverside Cemetery

In 1777 John Smith, Jr. provided a half-acre plot at the intersection of Front and Church Streets for a burial ground in the new town named in his honor. The oldest surviving marker is from 1825, as earlier grave markers haven't survived the ravages of time. A Confederate monument erected in 1887 stands in front of sixteen graves of Confederate soldiers, who died in Smithfield following the Battle of Bentonville. The cemetery features two statues by the late Frank Creech, a local artist.

13. St. Paul's Episcopal Church/ Baptist Church Site

The original 1777 plan of the town included a churchyard at the corner of Front and Church Streets, but the earliest known church structure, Smithfield Baptist, was built on this lot in 1835. It was a simple one-room meeting house with a gallery for slaves and was used as a temporary hospital for Confederate soldiers in 1865. The present Early English Gothic style sanctuary on this site was built in 1949 by the congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

14. Myatt-Sanders House

This is Smithfield's only house inspired by Second Empire architecture that became popular during the reign of Napoleon III of France. Nathaniel G. Myatt is believed to have had this dwelling built about 1882 for his wife Mary Woodall Myatt. William Marsh Sanders, a prominent merchant and cotton mill owner, purchased the home in 1885. The house's most distinctive features are its mansard roof, decorative dormer windows, and its entrance and hall placed at the right rather than in the center.

15. Congressman Edward W. Pou's Law Office

Smithfield (later Centenary) Methodist Church had this four-room brick office building constructed in 1905. It served as the office of U.S. Congressman Edward W. Pou until his death in 1934. Pou represented North Carolina's Fourth District in the U.S. House of Representatives, serving as chairman of the Rules Committee during the Wilson and Franklin Roosevelt administrations. He is buried in Riverside Cemetery.

16. Centenary United Methodist Church

Methodists worshipped a block away from 1839 to 1914, when they completed this impressive domed auditorium. It is a notable example of the Colonial Revival style that was popular in the early 20th century.



9

17. Courthouse

The original portion facing Market Street was built in 1921-1922 on the same site occupied by courthouses since 1797. It replaced a brick courthouse built in 1843—the headquarters of Union General William T. Sherman April 9-16, 1865. It was here that Union soldiers celebrated news that General Robert E. Lee had surrendered at Appomattox Court House, VA. Architect Harry Barton of Greensboro was hired to design this stately, Neo-classical structure, built by contractor J. W. Stout and Company of Sanford, NC.



10

18. Bingham House

This Greek Revival house was built on this site in the 1840s by William S. Ballenger, a county sheriff and sawmill operator. Since 1883 it has been owned by James Carroll Bingham and several generations of his descendants. One Bingham heir recalled that when windows were replaced in the early 20th century workers found loot that had been stuffed in the walls prior to the Union Army invasion in 1865.



11

19. Freedmen's Schoolhouse

This building is one of Smithfield's most historically significant landmarks. Originally a two-room schoolhouse, it was built by the federal Freedmen's Bureau in 1869 for the New York-based American Missionary Association on the adjacent corner lot of First Missionary Baptist Church. It was moved to its present location about 1887 and continued to serve as a public school for African Americans until 1913.



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A view of Market Street from the roof of the new courthouse in about 1922. Only three of these buildings are still standing.



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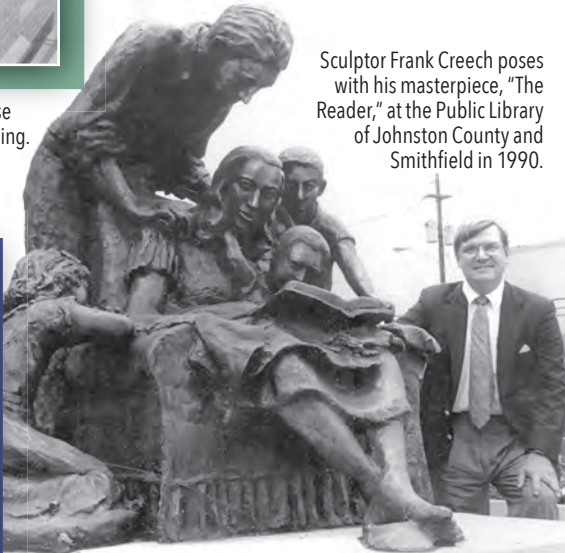
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With the help of a local contractor and parent volunteers, members of Boy Scout Troop 22 built this Scout Hut in one day on May 15, 1940. They held a meeting here that night.



Sculptor Frank Creech poses with his masterpiece, "The Reader," at the Public Library of Johnston County and Smithfield in 1990.

THE READER
BY FRANK CREECH
DEDICATED TO THE PEOPLE
OF JOHNSTON COUNTY
OUR HERITAGE AND IDEALS
SEPTEMBER 1990