

**12 Oakley Park Museum**, 300 Columbia Road, Edgefield, SC (803) 637-4027 or (803) 637-6861.

Open 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM First or Third Friday of the month or by Appointment. This 1835 plantation home features furnishings and artifacts from the antebellum period, Civil War, and Reconstruction.



**13 Edgefield Pottery Sites**

Edgefield pottery is a unique style of stoneware indigenous to the Edgefield district. Edgefield pottery is considered one of the three unique folk art traditions of South Carolina, along with sweetgrass baskets and Catawba pottery. Potters made jars, churns, jugs and other forms that were needed on southern farms and plantations. Some Edgefield pots were decorated as face jugs, which were made by African American slaves and featured eyes and teeth made of white kaolin clay.

**Old Edgefield Pottery**, 230 Simkins Street, Edgefield, SC. Open Tuesday through Thursday 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Potters are on hand to turn a pot while you watch and to talk in greater depth about the history of Edgefield pottery. Pots are also on sale, as Old Edgefield Pottery is a working artisanal pottery today.

**14 The Dr. Arthur F. and Esther Goldberg Edgefield Pottery Groundhog Kiln**, corner of Meeting Street and Crest Road, Edgefield, SC.

This modern wood-fired kiln is used to fire alkaline glazed pottery and the kiln site includes displays on pottery of the Edgefield District.

**15 Pottersville**

Currently, Pottersville is invisible as you drive past it on Highway 25. However, the site has been a location of interest for historians, archaeologists, and pottery enthusiasts. Pottersville was once a thriving industrial-scale pottery.

Pottersville was established by the Landrum brothers, Abner and John, and is sometimes called Landrumsville. The Landrums trained enslaved Africans to work as skilled potters turning wares. This made Pottersville unique in the history of American pottery. It is estimated that as many as 50 African American potters may have lived in the Edgefield district from 1810 to 1865. Using local clays, the enslaved potters at Pottersville turned out large, inexpensive stoneware vessels for the storage of meats, grains, water, and other necessities. Vessels were fired in a groundhog kiln, a rectangular kiln built partially underground with a firebox, a ware chamber, an arched roof, and a chimney.

One of Edgefield's most famous potters was Dave Drake, often known by the rhyming name Dave the Slave. Dave was owned by several persons over his career, including Harvey Drake, the Landrums, and Lewis Miles. He was an accomplished potter who could produce jars as large as 40 gallons in size, but he is best known for inscribing rhyming couplets into his pots, as well as marking his pots with his name, the initials of his owner, various symbols, and dates.



**16 Cedar Grove (NRHP LISTED)**

This house was built by the Blocker family, a generation or so after the Blocker house (see below). This home is much grander, and was built expressly as the family residence. The two-story house features a neoclassical façade with a triangular entry portico and a large fanlight over the door. The landscaping also features Prussian cedars and English boxwoods.

**17 Blocker House (NRHP LISTED)**, 1563 Highway 25 North, Edgefield, SC

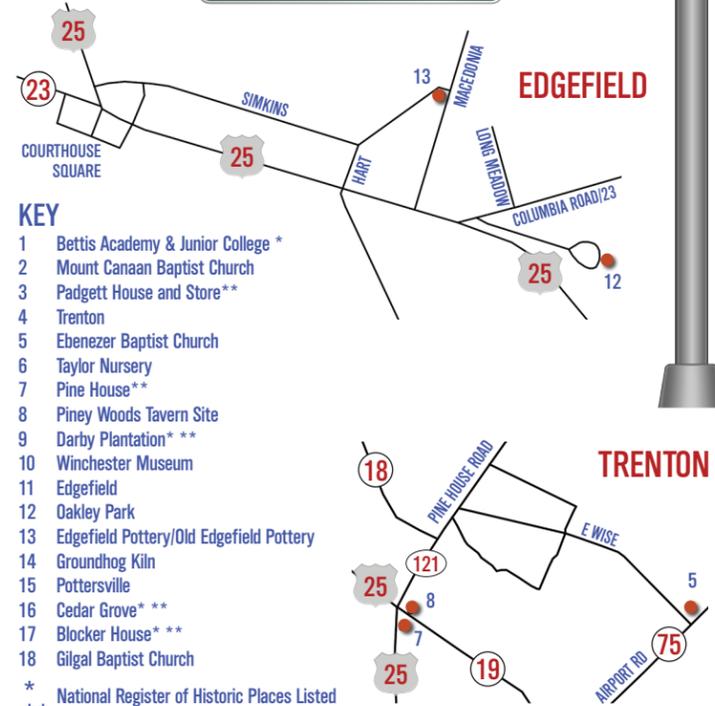
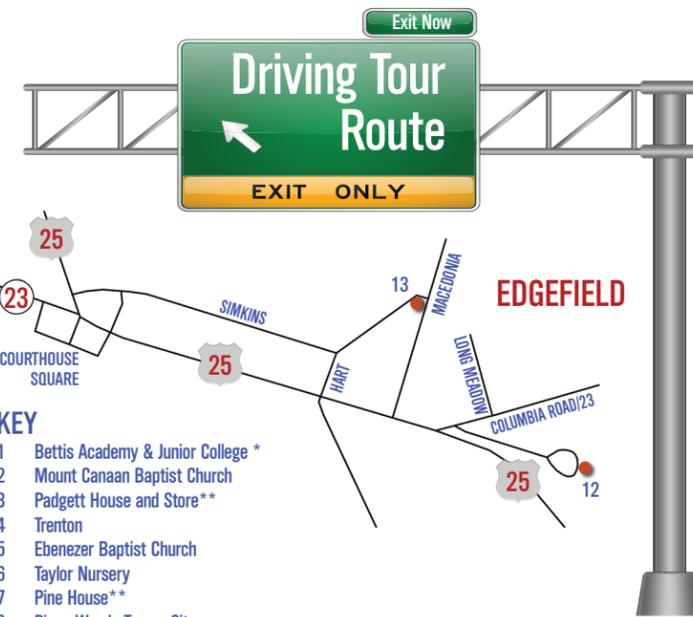
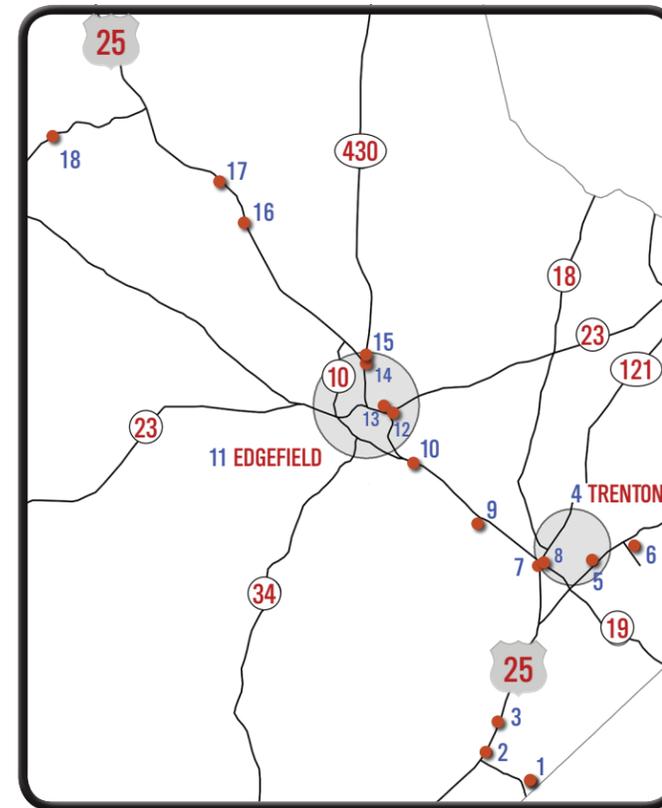


This house is one of the oldest in the area, begun in the eighteenth century. It was initially an overseer's house for the plantation, but the Blocker family moved into the structure when their own home burned. The cedar trees in the surrounding landscape were brought by the Blocker family when they emigrated from Prussia. Michael Blocker, the patriarch of the Blocker family was known as "the Colonizer" because he made many trips back to Prussia with the goal of persuading his countrymen to settle in the region.

**18 Gilgal Baptist Church**, End of Gilgal Church Road, Edgefield, SC.



Gilgal Baptist Church is one of the oldest churches along the Highway 25 corridor, founded around 1810. A 1813 citation nailed to the church door contains the oldest remaining reference to a building on the site. The present building dates to 1839 and is much plainer in style than many of its contemporaries.



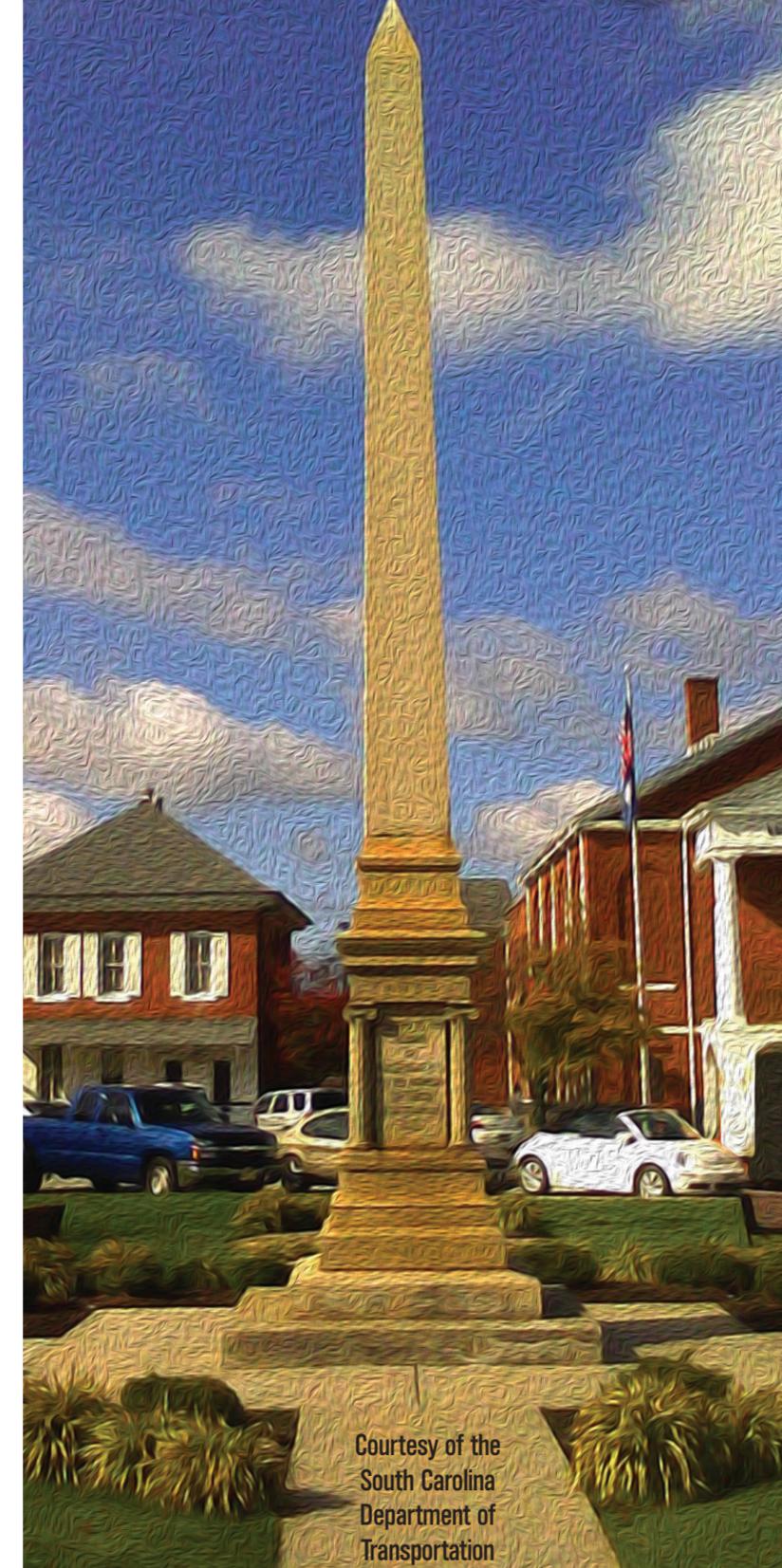
**KEY**

- 1 Bettis Academy & Junior College \*
  - 2 Mount Canaan Baptist Church
  - 3 Padgett House and Store\*\*
  - 4 Trenton
  - 5 Ebenezer Baptist Church
  - 6 Taylor Nursery
  - 7 Pine House\*\*
  - 8 Piney Woods Tavern Site
  - 9 Darby Plantation\* \*\*
  - 10 Winchester Museum
  - 11 Edgefield
  - 12 Oakley Park
  - 13 Edgefield Pottery/Old Edgefield Pottery
  - 14 Groundhog Kiln
  - 15 Pottersville
  - 16 Cedar Grove\* \*\*
  - 17 Blocker House\* \*\*
  - 18 Gilgal Baptist Church
- \* National Register of Historic Places Listed  
 \*\* Not Open to the Public

**LEARN MORE!** Much of the information on this brochure was excerpted from the State Historic Preservation Office's website, a great source for information on SC's historic sites. See <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov>

**ENJOY YOUR TOUR AND PLEASE RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THE SITES THAT ARE PRIVATELY OWNED.**

**DRIVE**



Courtesy of the South Carolina Department of Transportation

# US Highway 25

takes travelers through one of South Carolina's most historic places, Edgefield County, where Washington once visited and where plantation owners, enslaved master potters, ministers, educators, industrialists, and farmers contributed to its distinctive culture. That heritage is present in the pecan orchards, fields, crossroad communities, historic homes and churches, country stores and historic towns that line the historic highway. This driving tour provides highlights of these historic sites, starting at the juncture of US 25 and Interstate 20 moving northward towards Trenton and through Edgefield to Greenwood County.

## 1 Bettis Academy & Junior College, 78 Nicholson Road, Trenton, SC. (NRHP LISTED)



Bettis Academy was an outgrowth of the Mt. Canaan Education Association founded in 1880 by Alexander Bettis, other ordained ministers, and representatives of various black Baptist churches in the area. Bettis, born a slave on a nearby Edgefield District plantation, is considered the founder of the academy that educated African American children from Edgefield, Saluda, Aiken and Greenwood counties from 1881-1950. The complex, once a campus of fourteen classrooms, a dormitory, and related buildings, now consists of three historic buildings and one triangular historic landscape.



making him the only ordained African American preacher in this part of the state. The first services were held in a bower before the building of a wooden church. That building has been succeeded by the brick sanctuary you see today, built in 1961.

The Mount Canaan Cemetery is as old as the church, and burials are still permitted there. Note the large obelisk marking the grave of Alexander Bettis, which is directly behind the church. Legend has it that his grave within the Mt. Canaan churchyard marks the very spot upon which he was ordained.

## 2 Mount Canaan Baptist Church and Cemetery, 2451 Edgefield Road, Trenton, SC

Reverend Alexander Bettis (1836-1895) preached to enslaved African Americans during the early 1860s. When the Civil War ended, the freedmen and women wished to ordain Rev. Bettis and to have a church of their own. Several South Carolina preachers met with willing congregants to form the Mount Canaan Baptist Church. This new church sponsored Alexander Bettis and ordained him to the ministry,



## 3 Padgett House and Store, 2671 Edgefield Road, Trenton, SC

The Perdue/Padgett house retains the look of a farmhouse of the early twentieth century. The associated store was built around the same time, in a style more often seen in urban settings such as downtown Edgefield. The large display windows flanking the front door would have been filled with items designed to catch the eye of passersby. The store also served as a bus station in the early twentieth century, and persons waiting for the bus or disembarking would provide foot traffic for the store despite its rural location.

The pecan orchard on the other side of the road is an important part of the Padgett property. Pecan nuts have a long history as a source of food and commerce in the United States, but their association with the Edgefield District is relatively young. In 1822, Edgefield District native Dr. Abner Landrum discovered a grafting technique for pecans that would enable growers to produce better nuts. The idea did not catch on immediately and Landrum was forced to make his money in a number of other endeavors. Pecans are grown and sold at many places along US 25, as are peaches and other crops.

## 4 Trenton, SC



A loop through the town of Trenton passes many houses of the Victorian and Queen Anne eras, built in the last decades of the 19th century. Trenton was incorporated on December 20, 1877, after the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railroad was established in the 1860s. First referred to as the "Pine House Community," the railroad town with streets oriented to the tracks, was later named Trenton. Today, the town is best known for the Ridge Peach Festival, begun in 1971.

Some of the sights of Trenton include the Wise Houses (111 W. Wise Street), built circa 1870 for James Monroe Wise, who is credited with the probable founding of Trenton, and his uncle, George W. Wise.

Tillman Library on Wise Street was established in 1923 as a repository for the books and memorabilia of Senator and Governor Ben Tillman. Tillman's senate career was rocky; he earned the epithet "Pitchfork Ben" for a particularly vehement speech threatening to stick a pitchfork in President Grover Cleveland. Tillman assisted in the founding of Clemson University and is interred in Ebenezer Cemetery in Trenton.

## 5 Ebenezer Baptist Church and Cemetery, 303 Airport Road, at the far eastern end of Wise Street.



The church, founded in 1871, is built in a simplified Greek revival style. The large cemetery next to the church is called a garden cemetery or rural cemetery. These graveyards were designed with the living mourner in mind and feature lush landscapes among the graves.

## 6 Taylor Nursery, 53 Girl Scout Camp Road, Trenton, SC www.trees.sc.gov.

Since its inception in 1928, the South Carolina Forestry Commission has grown and distributed over 2.5 billion forest tree seedlings. Contact Jimmy Lisenby (803-275-3578) if you are interested in a group tour of the history and silviculture of this South Carolina Forestry Commission seedling nursery.



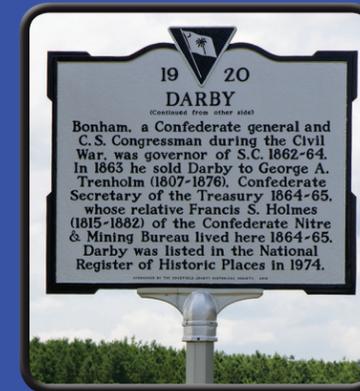
In 1786, the Piney Woods Tavern was established as a stagecoach stop between Augusta, Georgia, and Ninety Six, South Carolina. In 1791, George Washington stopped at the tavern and dined during his tour of the southern US, cementing its importance in local tradition. In 1847, the parcel across the road was purchased from the tavern owner by General J.R. Wever and he may have erected a massive Greek revival mansion at that time. The house was rebuilt in a similar style in 1870, after a fire, although the two smaller buildings survived the fire and may date to 1847. A historic column of pecan trees signal your approach to the historic house. The Pine House, barely visible from the road hidden behind a thick hedge of privet, is one of the most significant structures of the area, anchoring the later town of Trenton.

## 8 Piney Woods Tavern Site, Edgefield Road, Trenton, SC

The eighteenth-century tavern was established at the intersection of two historic trails to garner patronage: one from Augusta to Columbia and the other from Charleston to Ninety Six. Land records date back to 1757, when it was surveyed for Richard Pace. The property was acquired by Van Swearingen in 1786 who operated it as a tavern. In 1791, George Washington stopped at the log tavern and dined during his tour of the southern US, cementing its importance in local tradition. Frances Bettis owned the property after 1811. In 1847, the tavern property was purchased by General J.R. Wever who constructed the residence that would later be called the Pine House. The 1757 Piney Wood Tavern was located across the road from the Pine House.

## 7 The Pine House, 5995 Edgefield Road, Trenton, SC

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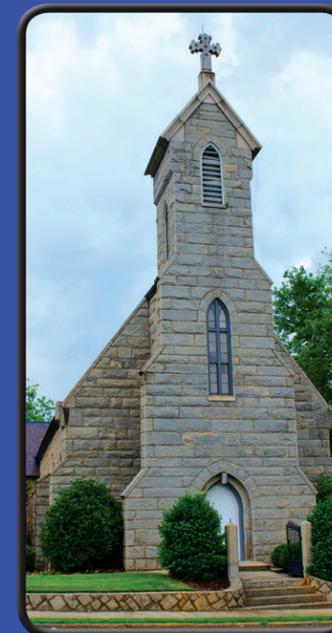
## 9 Darby Plantation, 1150 Augusta Road, Trenton, SC. (NRHP LISTED)

This plantation features a Greek revival house built for Nathan L. Griffin, circa 1842. The Greek revival style was popular at that time, and features columns on the front façade that mimic a classical Greek temple. Despite the classical influence,

Darby also retains the look of a large farmhouse in its wide front porch, simplified columns, and clapboard siding. Griffin's daughter married Milledge Luke Bonham, who resided at Darby. He was governor of South Carolina from 1862 to 1864. The historical marker was unveiled on November 4, 2012. In a special ceremony, Civil War re-enactors shot muskets and cannons in memory of the distant cannon booms that could be heard at Darby at the start of the Civil War.

## 10 National Wild Turkey Federation's Winchester Museum, 770 Augusta Road, Edgefield, SC www.nwtf.org/about\_us/wtc\_museum.html. Open Monday through Friday 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. The Museum features exhibits on the history of wild turkey management, restoration, and hunting.

## 11 Edgefield, SC



The Edgefield Historic District encompasses a large portion of the town, especially the portion you will drive through as you continue along Highway 25. Edgefield village has been the county seat of the Old Edgefield District and the later, smaller, Edgefield County since 1791. The current courthouse building located on Court House Square adjacent to US 25 dates to 1839. The village that has grown around the courthouse features more than 40 nineteenth-century buildings. Information on many homes and churches in Edgefield is available from [www.historicedgefield.com](http://www.historicedgefield.com).

The Rainsford Discovery Center sits off Highway 25 just outside of courthouse square. The Miller House, which holds the Center, was moved to this location from its original location about 7 miles south of Edgefield on Highway 25 in 1992. Stop at the Discovery Center for a history of Edgefield, an introduction to Edgefield pottery, and for literature on the downtown walking tour and Edgefield driving tour.

Ferrell's Antiques and Museum 101 Courthouse Square, Edgefield, SC is an antique store, but also houses a collection of pottery and artifacts from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.