



17-1 The Meeting House

Road 56 at Bear Swamp Baptist Church

On December 22, 1801, one acre on the north side of Bear Swamp was deeded for the use of the Baptist Society. Local tradition says that the meeting house that stood on this tract was built in the 1780s and was used as a camp site by travelers between Fayetteville and Georgetown. In 1831, the Baptist Society was constituted as Bear Swamp church. Erected by Bear Swamp Baptist Church and the Friday Afternoon Book Club of Lake View, S. C.-1970

17-2 James W. Dillon House Museum*

1304 West Main Street, Dillon

This house was built in 1890 as the home of James W. Dillon, the father of Dillon County, and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Purchased by the Dillon County Historical Society in 1967, it was moved to this site and restored as a museum to preserve a record of those who contributed to the development of Dillon County. Erected by Dillon County Historical Society-1971

17-3 Early Cotton Press

SC 38, 0.3 mile W of its junction with SC 917

This cotton press, built in 1798 according to tradition, is thought by many to be the oldest in existence. It was first owned and used by John Bethea, III, and later by Henry Berry. Powered by oxen or mules rotating the beam to tighten the press, it was rendered obsolete by modern machinery. A Berry descendant moved it to this site about 1948 to preserve it. Erected by Dillon County Historical Society-1974

17-4 Joel Allen House

Intersection of Roads 38 and 29 at Centerville Crossroads, 7 miles NW of Latta

This house, located 1/4 mile E, was built about 1857 by Joel Allen, a Baptist minister who organized and served many churches in the Pee Dee area, 1838-1884. He represented Marion County in the S. C. General Assembly, 1870-1872. His son, W. B. Allen, added a second story to the 1 1/2 story dwelling about 1891. The present kitchen was built about 1940 by J. J. Allen. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1975

17-5 Selkirk Farm

Intersection of Roads 28 and 38, about 3.5 miles NE of Bingham

David Satterwhite was granted 177 acres here in 1789 by Charles Pinckney, governor of S. C. In 1855 this tract passed into the hands of the Rev. James A. Cousar, who added a three-acre tract in 1858 on which he built the present house, gin house, and outbuildings. The name originated from a nearby post office, which was discontinued in 1901. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1975

17-6 Catfish Creek Baptist Church*

Intersection of Road 63 and Road 41

This Baptist church, constituted in 1802, has ordained eleven ministers, provided a missionary to Brazil, and has helped to establish a number of other churches. The present house of worship, dedicated in 1883 with portico added in 1970, is on the National Register of Historic Places. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1977

17-7 Saint Paul Methodist Church

Town of Little Rock, about 150 yards E of the intersection of SC 9 and Road 23

This church was established prior to 1803 and was known as Liberty Chapel. The present structure, built in 1871, is significant both for its architecture and as a reflection of Methodism in the Pee Dee area. A Victorian adaptation of the classic meeting-house form, St. Paul's was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1977. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1978

17-8

Dillon County Courthouse grounds, Dillon

(Front) Dillon County

Originally in colonial Craven County, this area became part of Georgetown District, 1769; Liberty County, 1785; Marion District, 1798; and Marion County, 1868. The movement to separate this county from upper Marion County began some years before the General Assembly enacted the bill creating Dillon County. It was signed by Governor Martin F. Ansel, Feb. 5, 1910, in the presence of Dillon citizens.

(Reverse) Dillon County Courthouse

James W. Dillon and his son Thomas gave one-half of this block for erection of the Dillon County Courthouse; they also assisted financially in its construction. The cornerstone was laid October 30, 1911. Honoring James W. Dillon as father of Dillon county, the granite monument on the grounds was unveiled June 29, 1938. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1979

17-9

Main and Marion streets, Latta

(Front) The Latta Library

In 1911, W. C. Allen led a movement for a public library in Latta and was authorized by the town council to negotiate with Andrew Carnegie for funds. After the town complied with conditions set by Carnegie, Carnegie donated \$5,000 and C. F. Bass of Latta gave land for the building, which opened as the Latta Library in 1914. Voters in a valid election levied a tax for maintenance. A rear portion and north wing were added later.

(Reverse) The Latta Library

This library initially served the Latta area and its schools, but in 1929 extended its service to all Dillon County schools. The cost led the library board to ask the county to provide aid. The county complied, although local control of library services continued. By statutory provision in 1973, a county library providing for countywide control was established; the Latta Library is the base of this operation. Erected by Latta Rotary Club-1979

17-10

Near Marlboro-Dillon county line, about 1 mile S of Bingham on SC 34

(Front) Reedy Creek Springs

About 0.4 mile NW is Reedy Creek Springs, known for the medicinal value of its water. Here, before the turn of the century, William B. Allen laid out a quadrangle of a few acres, planted water oaks, and built a pavilion, hotel, cottages, and stables. The spa became popular as a gathering place for religious, educational, cultural, and social groups from a wide area.

(Reverse) Reedy Creek Springs

Reedy Creek Springs was a popular Pee Dee area resort for a number of years before

and after 1900, and visitors traveled here by train and by horse. As automobiles became common, however, vacationers went further afield, and the springs were neglected and suffered the ravages of time. Broken stones now mark the site of this once-popular spa. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1982

17-11 Pee Dee Church

SC 9, about 2 miles E of Dillon, turn right on Road 44 and travel about 3 miles to the church

Duncan McIntire, a licensed minister who preached in Gaelic for those who could speak no other language, organized this Presbyterian congregation shortly before 1829. The present vernacular Gothic revival structure was completed by 1851. A number of other congregations had their beginnings in this church. Erected by Dillon County Historical Society-1986

17-12

Near Seaboard Coastline railroad depot, Main Street, Dillon

(Front) Town of Dillon

Dillon was laid out by civil engineers of the Florence Railroad Company following a plan by John H. David, a local physician. The town was incorporated by the General Assembly on December 22, 1888, and its boundaries extended in a half-mile radius from the railroad depot. The first mayor and postmaster of the town was Duncan McLaurin. In 1893, a freight station was constructed, and in 1904, the present passenger depot was built.

(Reverse) Florence Railroad Company

In 1882, the Florence Railroad Company was chartered and authorized to build and operate a line east of Florence northward to the state border. Right-of-way problems here were solved when J. W. Dillon and his son Thomas offered half-interest in 63 acres if the railroad would use the land, build a depot, and lay out a town. The offer was accepted, and the railroad from Pee Dee to the state line was opened in 1888. Erected by Dillon County Historic Preservation Commission-1980