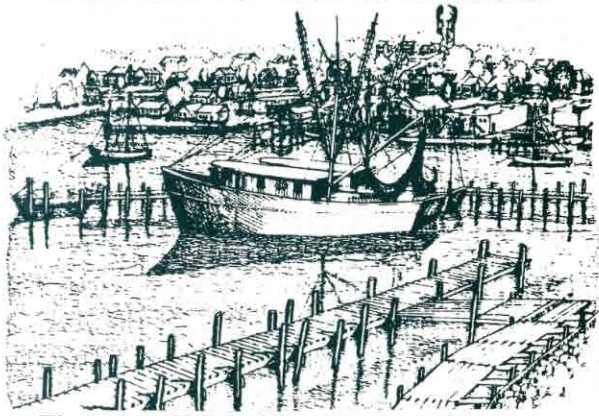


Historic Swansboro

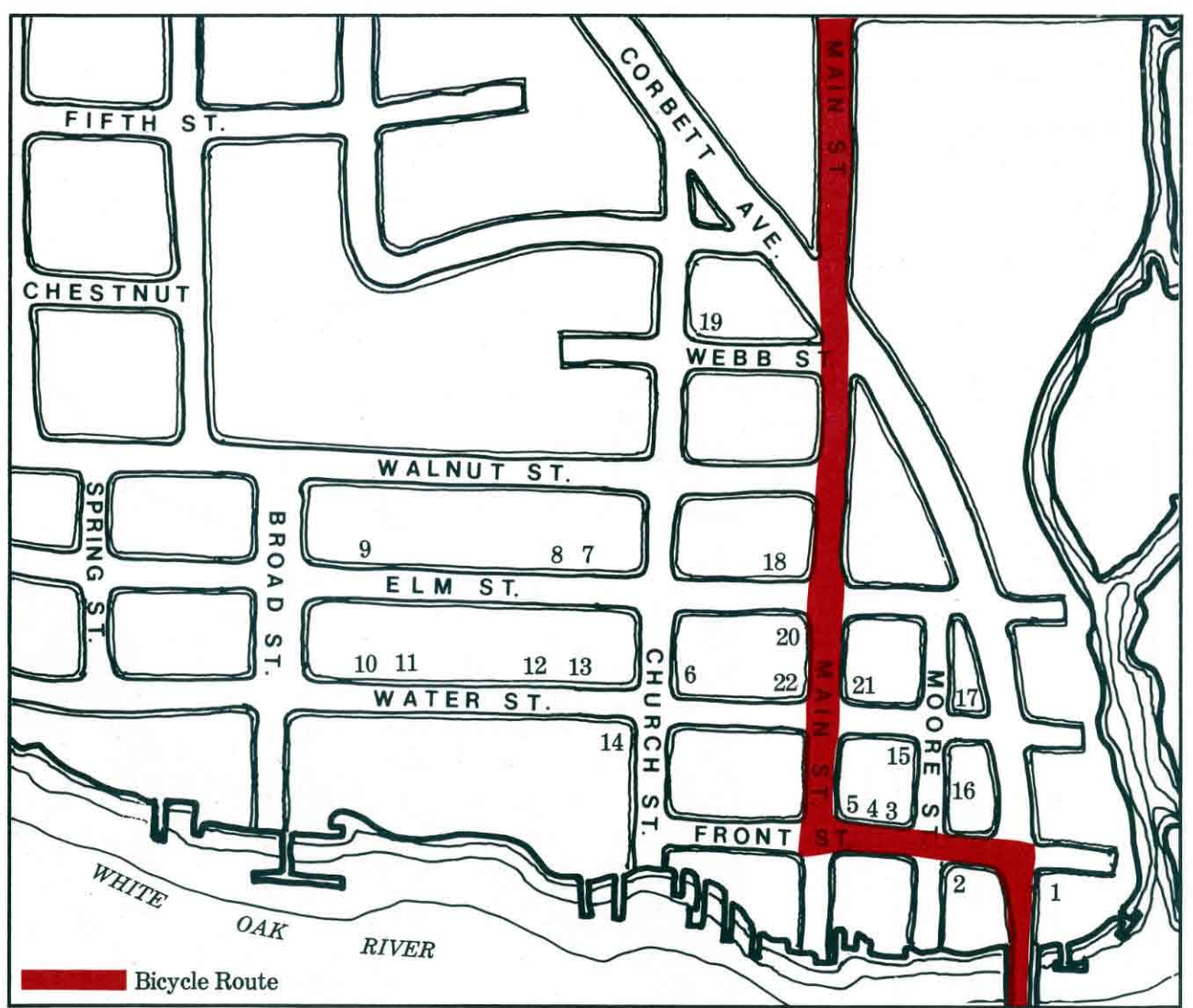


The point of land where the town of Swansboro is presently situated has a long and varied history. Once the site of an Algonkian Indian village, European settlers, moving south from New England, permanently established a settlement there around 1730.

The area began to grow and prosper during the mid-1750's, as shipping activity at the mouth of the White Oak River steadily increased. About 1770, Theophilus Weeks, a prominent landowner, decided to establish a town in the area. He divided part of his plantation into forty-eight lots and laid out six streets for the town. Various called Week's Wharf, Week's Point, New Town and Bogue, the Town as officially chartered as Swansborough on May 6, 1783. The name was later shortened to Swansboro.

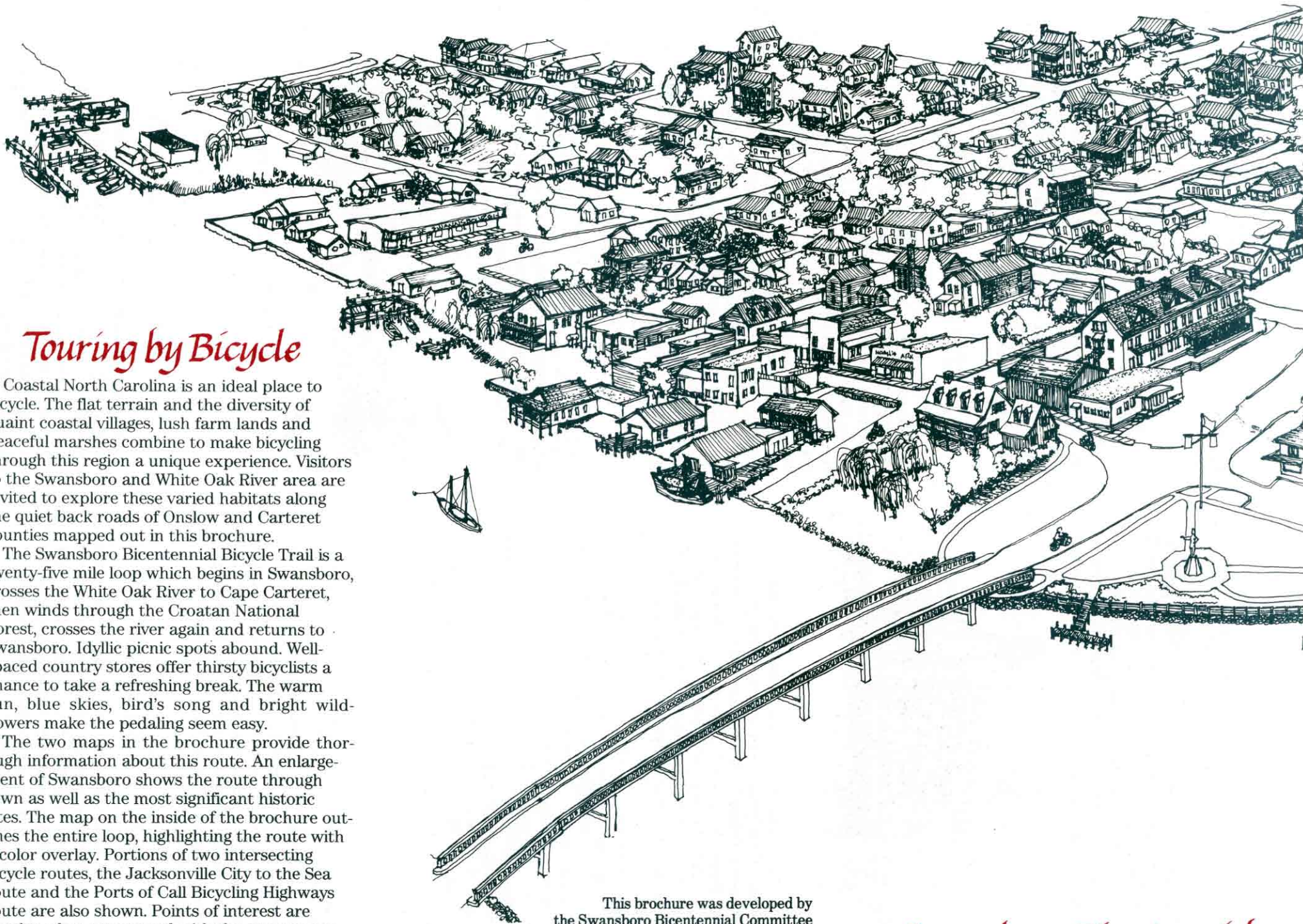
During the early 1800's the growth of a local ship building industry and a thriving import-export trade made Swansboro an important economic and cultural center. Prosperity seemed to be at hand. But, the outbreak of the Civil War in the early 1860's brought an abrupt halt to local shipping activities, devastating the economy of the area. Recovery during Reconstruction was slow, but the town re-emerged as a trade center, with the growth of the lumber industry and commercial fishing in the late 19th century.

In the years since the turn of the century, Swansboro has continued to undergo many changes. Today, many historic structures from each of these distinct periods of growth, remain. The adjacent map shows the location of some of the more significant sites. A leisurely bicycle ride along Swansboro's quiet lanes will give you a chance to observe the diverse heritage of the town.



Points of Interest

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Swansboro Bicentennial Park | 12. James Elija Parkin House, ca. 1893 |
| 2. William Edward Mattocks House, ca. 1901 | 13. Edward M. Hill House, ca. 1884 |
| 3. Robert Spence McLean Store, ca. 1840 | 14. David James Moore House, ca. 1887 |
| 4. James Thomas Bartley Store, ca. 1893 | 15. The Beaufort House, ca. 1790 |
| 5. William Pugh Ferrand Store, ca. 1839 | 16. Tarrymore Hotel, ca. 1910 |
| 6. Calvin W. Buckmaster House, ca. 1894 | 17. John Edward Kirkman House, ca. 1896 |
| 7. Clyde Sanders Pittman House, ca. 1906 | 18. Jonathan Green, Jr. House, ca. 1770 |
| 8. Hawkins House, ca. 1830 | 19. Emmerton School, ca. 1920 |
| 9. Bazel Hawkins House, ca. 1826 | 20. Captain Peter Ringware House, ca. 1778 |
| 10. George E. Bell House, ca. 1888 | 21. Swansboro Baptist Church, ca. 1897 |
| 11. Thomas Merritt, Sr. House, ca. 1891 | 22. James Thomas Bartley House, ca. 1893 |



Touring by Bicycle

Coastal North Carolina is an ideal place to bicycle. The flat terrain and the diversity of quaint coastal villages, lush farm lands and peaceful marshes combine to make bicycling through this region a unique experience. Visitors to the Swansboro and White Oak River area are invited to explore these varied habitats along the quiet back roads of Onslow and Carteret counties mapped out in this brochure.

The Swansboro Bicentennial Bicycle Trail is a twenty-five mile loop which begins in Swansboro, crosses the White Oak River to Cape Carteret, then winds through the Croatan National Forest, crosses the river again and returns to Swansboro. Idyllic picnic spots abound. Well-spaced country stores offer thirsty bicyclists a chance to take a refreshing break. The warm sun, blue skies, bird's song and bright wildflowers make the pedaling seem easy.

The two maps in the brochure provide thorough information about this route. An enlargement of Swansboro shows the route through town as well as the most significant historic sites. The map on the inside of the brochure outlines the entire loop, highlighting the route with a color overlay. Portions of two intersecting bicycle routes, the Jacksonville City to the Sea route and the Ports of Call Bicycling Highways route are also shown. Points of interest are numbered to correspond with the accompanying narrative. Everything you need to know is there. Just get on your bicycle and start pedaling. Healthful exercise, enchanting scenery and a glimpse into the past await you.

This brochure was developed by the Swansboro Bicentennial Committee and the North Carolina Department of Transportation Bicycle Program. Drawings by Robert N. Shuller

Swansboro Bicentennial Bicycle Trail