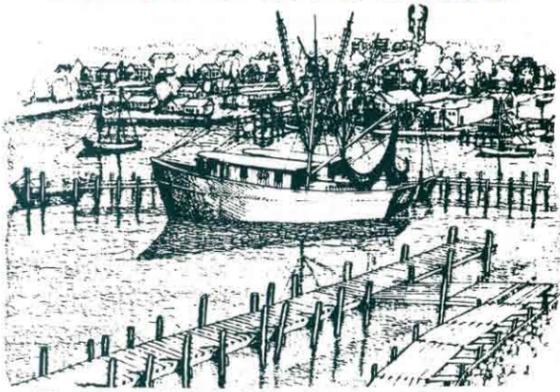


Historic Swansboro

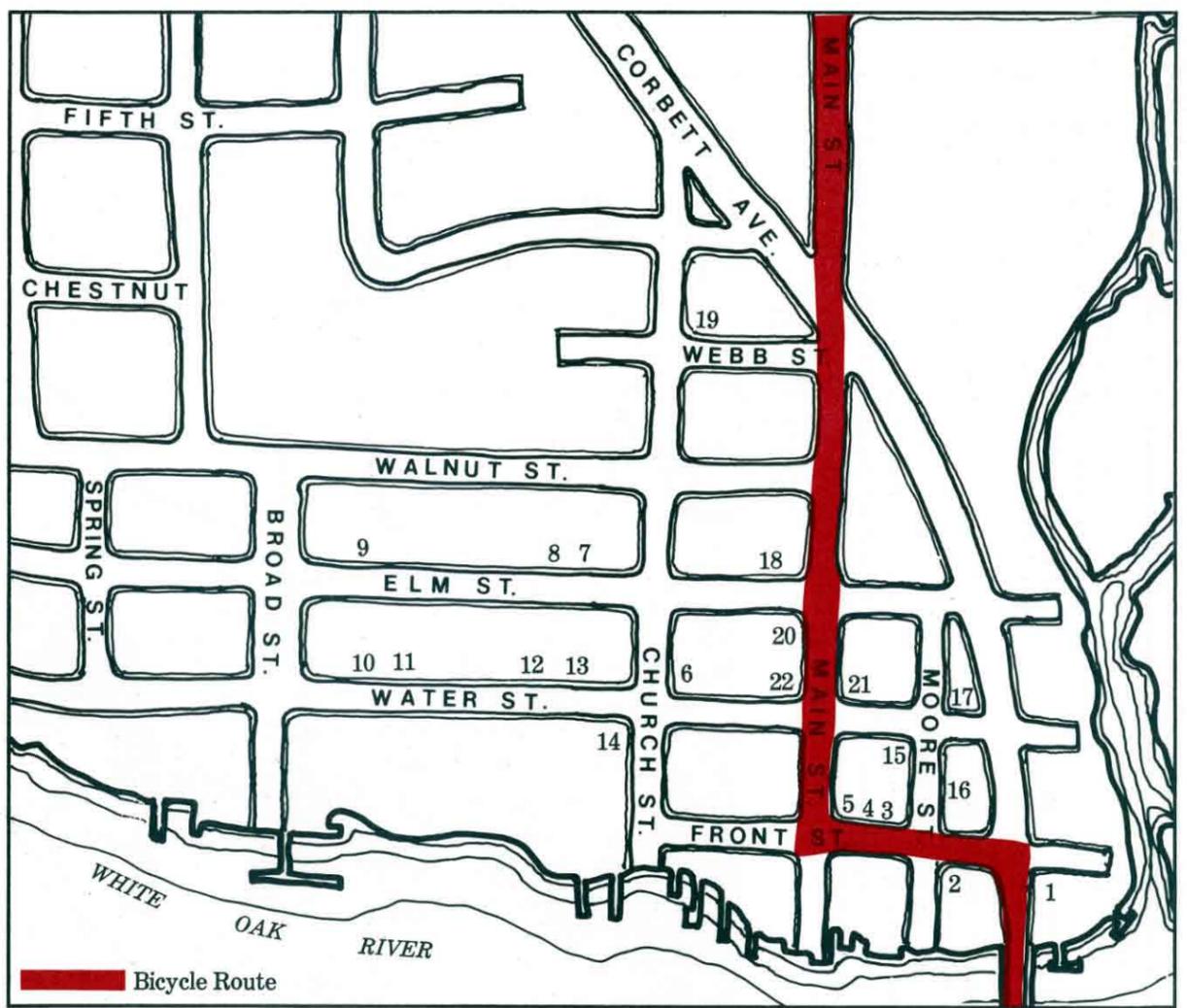


The point of land where the town of Swansboro is presently situated has a long and varied history. Once the site of an Algonkian Indian village, European settlers, moving south from New England, permanently established a settlement there around 1730.

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.

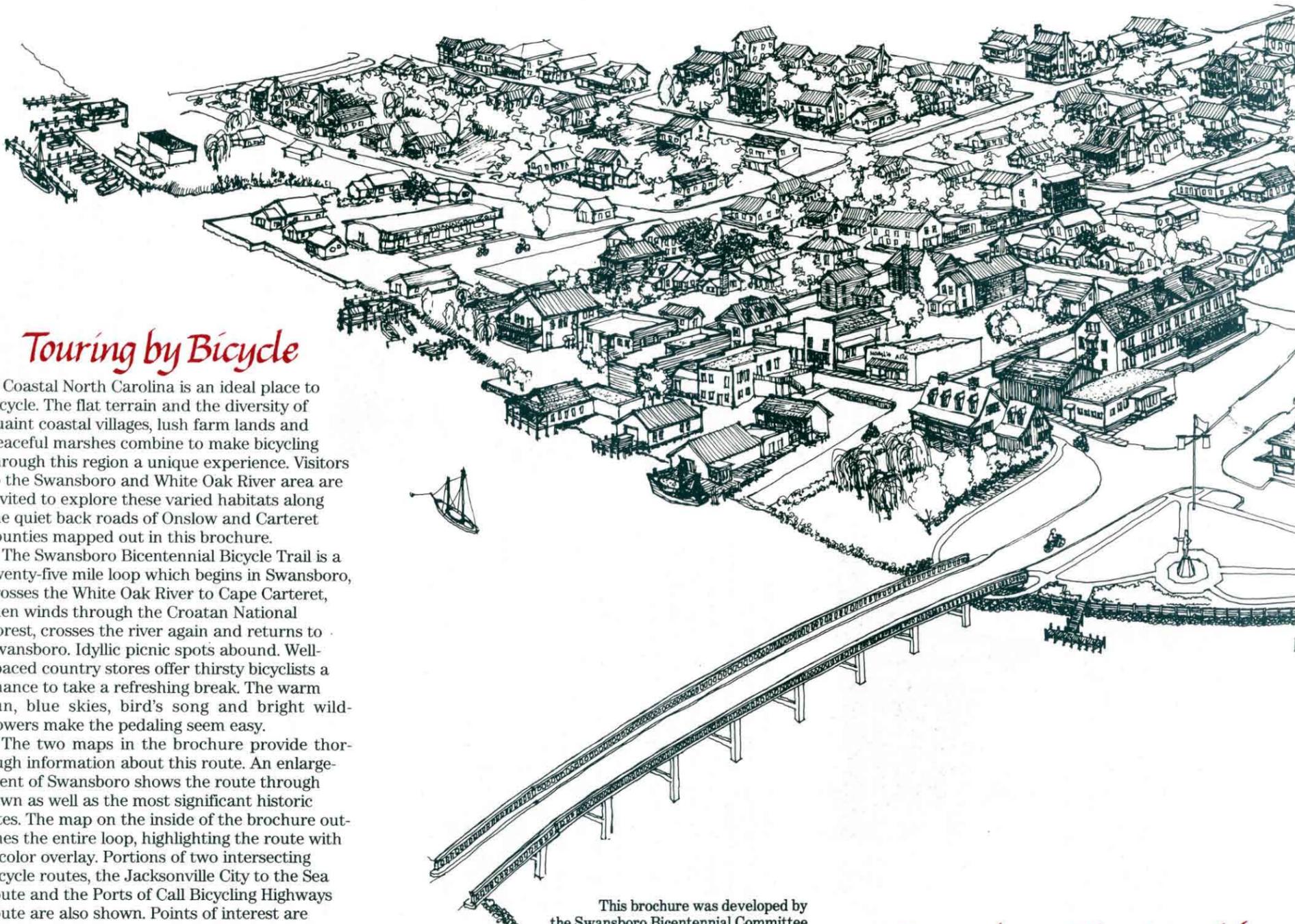
During the early 1800's the growth of a local ship building industry and a thriving import-export trade made Swansboro an important economic and cultural center. Prosperity seemed to be at hand. But, the outbreak of the Civil War in the early 1860's brought an abrupt halt to local shipping activities, 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

Bicycling through the Past

Traveling by bicycle gives you a different perspective. The trip, not the destination, is the important part. You become a part of your environment, stopping to investigate anything which catches your eye. On this route, you'll find many such places. Below is a listing of the more significant points of interest you'll pass on your trip.



1. Swansboro

In 1783, the town at the mouth of the White Oak River was officially chartered as Swansboro. Proximity to the sea dictated a maritime economy for the small village. Shipbuilding, the import-export trade and commercial fishing dominated the economy during various periods of Swansboro's development. In periods of war, the manufacture of salt from sea water also became an important industry.

The nation's early wars had a significant impact on life in Swansboro. During the American Revolution, ardent patriots established a warehouse there to supply the Continental Line. The War of 1812 saw North Carolina's most famous privateer hero, Captain Otway Burns, set sail from Swansboro. During the Civil War, Swansboro was captured three times by Federal forces; twice in 1862 and once again in 1864.

Today, things are much quieter in Swansboro. This quaint coastal village has become a popular retirement community and tourist center, once again adapting to meet the needs of the time.

2. Cedar Point Recreation

Cedar Point Recreation Area provides a scenic stop-over and a chance to explore the unusual habitat of the Croatan National Forest. Maintained by the US Forest Service, picnic tables, drinking water and overnight camping facilities are provided for public use. The Tideland Trail, which meanders through pine and hardwood forests, crossing tidal marshes on cypress boardwalks, has been designated to help the visitor better understand the ecology of the area.

3. White Oak Chapel

Established as White Oak Chapel in 1901, the former Unitarian church is currently used as the Pelletier Community Building. Originally, the structure was part of a field of four Unitarian churches established as a mission with an impressive social and educational program, headquartered at Swansboro.

4. Hadnot's Creek Primitive Baptist Church

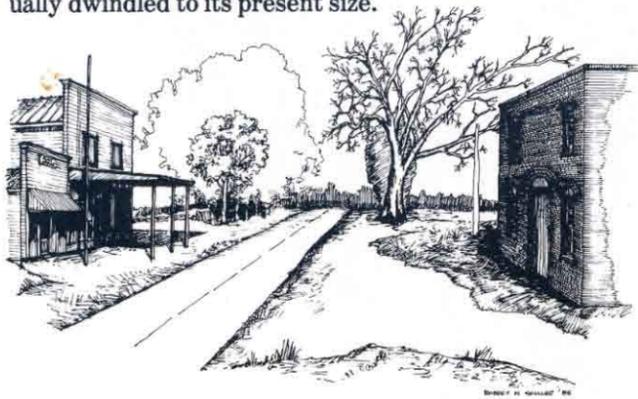
The congregation of Hadnot's Creek Primitive Baptist Church was established at least as early as 1790. The present building was erected about 1840. It is the only landmark which remains to mark the existence of Pelletier's Mills, a once-thriving community with its own post office and water-powered grist mill.

5. Croatan National Forest

Lying between the Neuse River on the east and Bogue Sound on the south, this coastal forest covers a total of 155,000 acres of land. Wildlife abounds in the Croatan. Animal life includes deer, black bear, wild turkey, muskrat, mink, otter and many species of birds including the rare bald eagle and peregrine falcon and the endangered red-cockaded woodpecker. Reptiles, both friendly and not-so-friendly, are also part of this environment. The largest and most awesome is the alligator, a rather retiring resident of the deep swamps and waterways. Several species of poisonous snakes are found in the area, as well. A number of unusual plant species, including the exotic Venus fly trap, the sundew and the pitcher plant thrive in the wet upland bogs of the region.

6. Stella

The village of Stella got its start in the lumber boom of the late 1800's and became a bustling center of mill activity, boatbuilding and shipping. When the lumber industry folded after the Great Depression, Stella gradually dwindled to its present size.



7. St. Thomas African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church

While the exact age of St. Thomas' is not known, it most certainly dates from the late 1800's. The Freedmen's Bureau, created at the close of the Civil War, had established a school for blacks on adjoining property in 1868, and the church congregation appears to have been organized the following year. Sunday services are still held in the church.

8. Hammock's Beach State Park

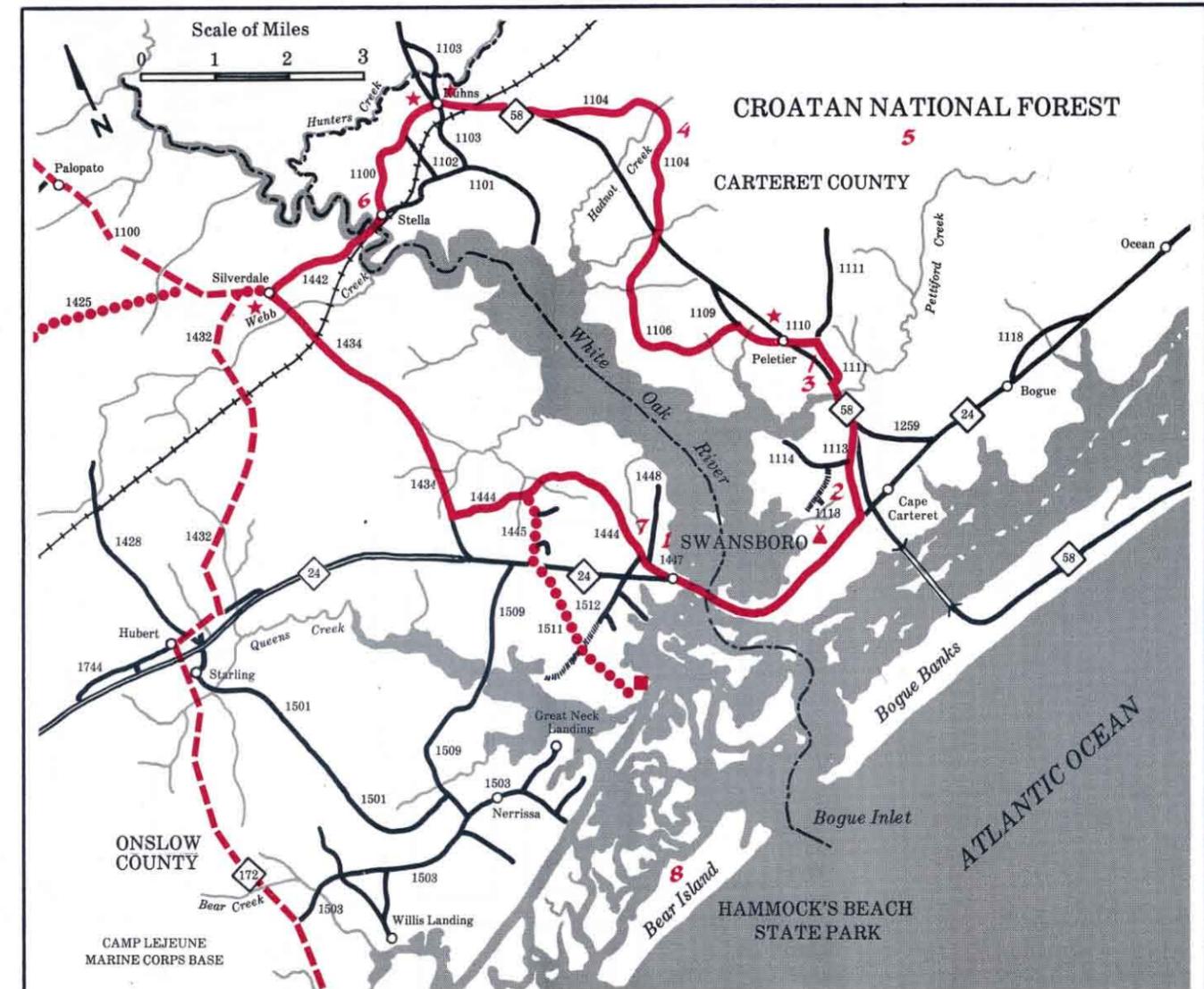
Hammocks Beach State Park occupies 892 acres on Bear Island. The island is three and one-half miles long and three-fourths of a mile wide. Sand dunes on the island rise to 60 feet above sea level.

The park, with its three miles of ocean frontage is said to be one of the most beautiful and unspoiled beaches on the Atlantic Coast. Largely undeveloped, Hammocks Beach State Park presently offers a bath-

house with restrooms, showers and baskets for swimmers and a refreshment stand and picnic tables. Primitive camping is permitted on the beach.

The park can be reached only by boat. Two free passenger ferries operate daily between Memorial Day and Labor Day, making one round trip per hour. The first boat leaves the mainland at 9:30 am and the last boat departs the island at 6:00 pm.

No bicycles will be transported to the island, but arrangements can be made with a ranger to store them in a locked maintenance shed at the ferry landing.



Safety Tips

The bicycle has legally been considered a vehicle since 1937. It has full rights and responsibilities on the roadway and is subject to all regulations governing a vehicle. Please follow the tips below to insure a safe trip along the roads of Onslow and Carteret counties.

- Always ride on the right.
- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Avoid night riding, especially in rural areas.
- When riding with a group, ride single file.
- Watch for sand, loose gravel and wet leaves.
- Watch out for speeding drivers.

Legend

- Bicycle Route
- Paved Road
- Unpaved Road
- Jacksonville City to the Sea Route*
- Ports of Call Bicycling Highways Route*
- 1-8 Points of Interest
- ★ Country Stores
- ▲ Campground
- Hammocks Beach Ferry Landing

*maps available from NC Bicycle Program, PO Box 25201, Raleigh, 27611, (919)733-2804

Please be aware:

Although every effort was made initially to choose routes on less traveled roads, some areas of this map may have experienced significant growing. In these locations some of the selected bicycle routes could have increased traffic volumes. The NC Department of Transportation and the Division of Bicycle and Pedestrian Transportation assume no liability for the increase use of any road on this map. We ask you to, as much as you are able, make yourself aware of the roads you intend to travel on, prior to your trip. To do so you may consider contacting the local government, bike shops or clubs in the area, for advise.

A Note of Caution

The highlighted bicycle routes shown on this map follow roads of the North Carolina highway system. These roads do not include any special accommodations for bicycles such as paved shoulders or designated bike lanes. Care has been taken to select more lightly traveled roads. In a few places, however, short sections of busier roads are used to make connections where no other options exist. These areas are marked with "Share the Road" signs, like the one shown here, to alert motorist to the presence of cyclists on the road. The bike routes are not intended for use by children, as their ability to judge traffic conditions and driver actions is not well developed.



Be predictable, be courteous, and obey all traffic laws, while traveling by bicycle.