

SELF-GUIDED HISTORY TOUR

Bike • Walk • Ride • Have Fun!



Pine Knoll Shores, NC

Celebrating 50 Years

1973 – 2023

Welcome!

Who knew that Pine Knoll Shores had so much fun and fascinating history? You're about to find out!

Travel by foot, bicycle, golf cart, car or however you choose to learn all about the unique history of Pine Knoll Shores.

The tour is grouped into three separate routes that can be enjoyed over a period of time or all at once depending on how you plan to travel, your time, and your energy.

We suggest you begin with the Eastern Tour and follow the stops in this booklet in numerical order. During the 50th Anniversary year, QR Codes for your smartphone are also provided at each location with a voice recording about the location's history. The narratives are read by volunteers, most of whom are current or former PKS residents, so you might recognize a friend, neighbor or town official.

Be Safe, Respectful of Private Property and Follow the Rules of the Road as you tour:

- *Pedestrians walk facing traffic.*
- *Cyclists ride with traffic.*
- *Carts may cross Hwy 58 but not drive East or West.*
- *Members of HOAs are reminded to bring gate cards if they plan to enter their gated parks.*

Have fun!

Early History of Pine Knoll Shores – In a Nutshell

Between 1900 and 1910, Oscar Kissam of New York and John Allen Royall of Maine bought undeveloped island property on Bogue Banks. Kissam bought a large 82-acre parcel in the center of today's Pine Knoll Shores. He called it Aibonita and sold lots to his New York neighbors to build hunting and fishing cabins as retreats from cold New York winters.

About the same time John Royall bought 8,000 acres, stretching from today's DoubleTree to the very end of Emerald Isle, and named it "Isle of Pines." He built his winter retreat called "Pine Court" just east of the Aibonita tract. In 1917, Royall sold 2,000 of his acres (what we know today as Pine Knoll Shores, Salter Path and Indian Beach) to Alice Green Hoffman.

Over time, Alice Hoffman built a sprawling home on Royall's former home site and named it "Shore House." She traveled between her homes in Paris, New York and Bogue Banks and spent her final years at "Shore House" until her death in 1953. Having no children of her own, she transferred her property to her niece, Eleanor, (Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, Jr.) and her four children.

They formed the Roosevelt Trust and together with a management consulting firm, a town planner, and an engineering firm envisioned the development of the Town of Pine Knoll Shores. They set up the physical structure of the town and created a long-range plan for development to include parks, residential, commercial, recreational, educational and natural areas.

Two homeowners associations, Pine Knoll Association (PKA) in the central section and Pine Knoll Shores Corporation (PIKSCO) in the eastern section, were established. They drew up covenants to regulate growth, managed town functions, and eventually worked together to incorporate the town. On April 25, 1973, the town's Charter was ratified by the NC General

Assembly. Residents voted to incorporate and the first Board of Commissioners was elected to manage the town's government.

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EASTERN TOUR

1. Brock Basin Park, 290 Oakleaf Drive

You are looking at Brock Basin, a park and marina named for Don Brock, a man of many talents. Mr. Brock, a native North Carolinian, was oversight developer and design engineer for the Roosevelt properties on Bogue Banks for over 20 years. He first worked for the Von Oesen Engineering firm that was hired to do surveys and topographical maps of the Roosevelts' Bogue Banks property. Later on, as an independent consultant, Brock formed his own company and designed canals, marinas and residential areas for Pine Knoll Shores, laying out single-family lots, building and selling condominiums. He completed his work with the development of Beacon's Reach. His goal, in keeping with the wishes of the Roosevelt family, was to maintain the island in its natural state as much as possible. He was especially pleased to have a role in setting aside 292 acres for the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area, including 25 acres for marine education known today as the NC Aquarium at PKS. Brock Basin is a private park owned and maintained by Pine Knoll Association members. It offers boat slips and a launching ramp, kayak storage, a children's playground, a covered pavilion with picnic tables, a grill, and a Little Free Library. *(Continue east on Oakleaf Dr to Aspen Ct.)*

2. Aibonita/Abonita Property (Aspen Court & Oakleaf Drive Corner)

You are near the west boundary of the property called Aibonita, an 82-acre area at the center of early PKS. It was purchased in the early 1900s by New Yorker Oscar Kissam. Mr. Kissam subdivided the property and sold lots to his friends to use as fishing camps and winter retreats. Mr. Kissam supposedly named his development Aibonita to commemorate the service of a relative who fought in the Battle of Aibonita during the Spanish-American War. Unfortunately, the appeal of Mr. Kissam's real estate venture was limited. The only access was by boat, as there were no roads. Although only a quarter of the lots were sold, several PKS residents today are proud to say that their families owned property in Aibonita. We can estimate the boundaries of Aibonita by looking for cement posts about 2' high inscribed with the letter R. The R is thought to indicate that the surrounding land was

owned by John Royall. A post is located on private property in this area and at your next stop. *(Continue east on Oakleaf to your next stop at the 242/240 Oakleaf property line.)*

3. John Royall & Alice Hoffman Homesteads (Oakleaf & Sycamore)

At the 242/240 property line you will see one of the “R” inscribed cement posts marking the east boundary of Aibonita. By 1910 John Royall owned three fourths of Bogue Banks, about 8,000 acres, from today’s DoubleTree to the west end of Emerald Isle and called it “Isle of Pines.” Like Kissam and the Aibonita families, he chose this area to build his home. Continuing east on Oakleaf, you will travel through the homestead areas of John Royall and later, Alice Hoffman. Imagine Mr. Royall’s home called “Pine Court,” a cedar shake bungalow with two open back porches, one with a pergola supported by white columns and one with an outdoor brick fireplace, nestled among yucca plants, tall pines and fragrant yellow jasmine hanging from the trees; a small cabin nearby, a skiff tied to a long dock, and a sailing yacht he built moored in deeper water. In 1917, Mr. Royall sold 2,000 of his acres (today’s PKS, Indian Beach, Salter Path) to the adventurous Alice Hoffman. Over the years, Mrs. Hoffman built a sprawling homestead she called “Shore House.” She traveled between her homes in NY, Paris and Bogue Banks and spent her final years at “Shore House” until her death in 1953. Her property was transferred to her niece Eleanor, wife of Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., and her four children. Mrs. Hoffman’s land became the foundation property for Pine Knoll Shores. *(Continue east to the Oakleaf Bridge. As you cross over, notice the flag and memorial plaque. You can read #4 and #5 at the McNeill Park stop.)*

4. Ken Jones Memorial Flag/Plaque (McNeill Park, 196 Oakleaf Drive)

The flag and plaque on the south rail are a memorial to Kendall Wayne (Ken) Jones, who served as mayor of Pine Knoll Shores from 2009 until he died suddenly in 2020 at the age of 61. The location of the memorial was chosen because Mayor Jones started every Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot by blowing his trumpet from the Oakleaf Bridge. He believed that there was no better example of community service than being a volunteer. He exemplified that by his hands-on approach to the job, being part of whatever was going on, like helping to set up for town events or always “being there” during difficult weather. He was known to have a wicked sense of humor, and it was said of him, “he never met a microphone that he didn’t like.” He loved his job as mayor and was passionate about doing his best for PKS.

5. McNeill Park & The Jake Tree, 196 Oakleaf

McNeill Park was named for Morehead City resident, George McNeill, an attorney and municipal judge who represented the Roosevelt family from the 1950s through the 1970s. Judge McNeill, or Captain, as he liked to be called, was an invaluable liaison between the Roosevelt Trust and Old Pine Knoll Shores. He drew up the original covenants and did the legal work for both PKA and PIKSCO homeowners associations. In keeping with the Roosevelt family's wishes, he ensured that development would be as environmentally sensitive as possible. Under Judge McNeill's guidance, Pine Knoll Shores grew from a few scattered vacation cottages into a thriving municipality.

Notice the massive live oak tree guarding the entrance to the park. This impressive live oak is named "The Jake Tree" in honor of Mr. Jake Rife, a dedicated former PIKSCO director and community leader. Mr. Rife no longer lives in PKS, but his namesake tree still watches over the park that he loved. McNeill Park is a private park owned and maintained by PIKSCO homeowners association. It offers a fishing dock, launching ramp, kayak storage and a covered pavilion with picnic tables and grills. *(Continue east to Garner Park, 162 Oakleaf Dr.)*

6. Garner Park, 162 Oakleaf Drive

Close your eyes... and imagine this property in the 1950s, before there was a Pine Knoll Shores. You're standing on a rough new street, Oakleaf Drive. Behind you, is another new street running south, Juniper Road, bumpy and muddy. Imagine thick maritime forest, dense marshland with clouds of mosquitoes, ponds filled with alligators...sounds challenging at the least. But not for Willard and Eva Garner, who purchased the most westerly lot available at the time. The Garners and their two sons set to work. With the help of grandpa's tractor, they bush hogged and graded. They cleared their own lot and didn't stop there. They cleared their neighbors' lots and the lot next door. In the process they created lasting friendships and plenty of community goodwill. The park next door, named North East Sound Park, was renamed Garner Park in 1976 to honor the family who contributed so much to early Pine Knoll Shores. Garner Park is a private park, owned and maintained by the members of PIKSCO homeowners association. It offers a fishing dock, kayak storage, a covered pavilion, picnic tables and grills, a children's playground and

a basketball court. In June, Garner Park hosts Pine Knoll Shores' best known event and fundraiser, Kayak for the Warriors Race (K4TW). The race draws participants from all over the state and raises thousands of dollars for Hope For The Warriors® that benefits our brave, combat injured and fallen service men and women and their families. *(Continue to Crystal Coast Country Club, 152 Oakleaf Dr.)*

7. Crystal Coast Country Club, 152 Oakleaf Drive

The golf and country club had its beginnings in 1969 when the Roosevelt family conveyed several acres of land to a group of investors with the stipulation that a golf course be built. It opened with nine holes in 1970 as the Pine Knoll Shores Golf and Country Club and was sold two years later to Autry & Associates. Autry developed the second nine and added a small clubhouse, pool and tennis courts. Autry had financial troubles, and the bank initiated foreclosure proceedings. In 1975, club membership formed a corporation named Bogue Banks Country Club and offered to purchase the club's properties for the amount then owed. The club survived financial and membership ups and downs for the next 43 years. In 2018, Hurricane Florence caused significant damage to the clubhouse and course, and in 2019, the club was sold to an investor group. They redesigned the clubhouse and golf course and added new facilities for tennis, pickle ball, exercise, swimming and maintenance. Now, after fifty plus years, the Crystal Coast County Club has emerged as a premier country club whose golf course is ranked in the top 100 of the state's best courses. As a semi-private club, the golf course and some of its programs are open to the public. *(Continue east on Oakleaf to the corner of Hwy 58 and Oakleaf. Park and walk to the corner for #8 & #9.)*

8. Hotel Alice & Atlantis Lodge (At NW corner, Oakleaf Dr & Hwy 58)

From this point, you can see both the newest and oldest landmarks on the tour. The most recent, Hotel Alice on the right, was inspired by Alice Hoffman, the legendary woman whose property became Pine Knoll Shores. And you might say that the Atlantis Lodge, across the highway, is the "cradle of our community." The Atlantis Lodge was the first motel in Pine Knoll Shores, designed and built in 1963 by A.C. Hall, a city planner from Raleigh. The "PKS-to-be" was under construction less than a mile away. It wasn't long before Mr. Hall became acquainted with Ted Hearsh, the Roosevelt's managing consultant, who stayed at the Atlantis while he was working on Bogue Banks. Mr.

Hall was eventually hired by the Roosevelt family to submit a plan for the continued development of Pine Knoll Shores. He designed the central section of Pine Knoll Shores, from Cedar Rd to Pine Knoll Blvd, always mindful of protecting the green spaces. As the town grew and required more administrative space, the top floor of the Atlantis Lodge functioned as the temporary town hall. Today, the Atlantis Lodge, still family owned and operated, is a popular and unique 1960s vintage motel with all rooms facing the ocean. *(Walk west on the sidewalk to see #9 across the street; walk a bit more to see Hotel Alice on the right and stop by for a visit to see all the hotel has to offer.)*

9. Roosevelt Beach Subdivision (At NW corner, Oakleaf Dr & Hwy 58)

Looking slightly west and across the road, you will see a residential beachfront property with two rows of large single family homes. This is the Roosevelt Beach subdivision. The maritime forest, so evident along Highway 58, seems to be missing, and for a good reason. The property was originally the site of the John Yancey Motor Hotel. Its first building and pool opened in 1964. By 1972, the phased construction of three additional buildings, a restaurant, convention complex and a second pool was completed. In 1993, the John Yancey was purchased and later renovated by a local resident and renamed the Royal Pavillion. Then, in 2006, a local developer purchased the Royal Pavillion complex, razed it and secured re-zoning for single-family homes. Residential development began in 2007 and continues today. Roosevelt Beach is governed by a homeowners association. *(To continue the Eastern Tour, walk back to Oakleaf, turn around and retrace your route on Oakleaf, cross over the Oakleaf Bridge and continue straight. Turn left on Sycamore, then right on Beechwood, and you'll see Hall Haven boat basin on your left, your next stop.)*

10. Hall Haven Park, 110 Beechwood Drive

Hall Haven is named in honor of A.C. (Alton Carlyle) Hall, a name synonymous with Pine Knoll Shores. With a background in landscape architecture and city planning, he was one of the first to recognize the business potential of the "Roosevelt property." In 1959, he bought 300 feet of pristine beach edged by maritime forest. Soon, PKS had its first motel, the Atlantis Lodge, opening for business in 1963. In addition to becoming the key planner for the "new Pine Knoll Shores", the area from Cedar Rd to Pine Knoll Blvd, Hall also served as chief planner for building the PKS canal system, officially known as the Pine

Knoll Shores Waterway. Hall Haven is owned and maintained by the PKA homeowners association and offers boat slips for PKA members. *(Continue west on Beechwood and stop at the corner of Mimosa Blvd.)*

11. Mimosa Bridge (Stop at Beechwood Dr & Mimosa Blvd corner.)

Look left (South) to see the Mimosa Bridge. The original bridge was built in 1972 and then replaced in 2012. The canal was constructed in two phases, east first, then west, with a land barrier roadway separating the two sections (today's Mimosa Blvd). The original idea was to install a culvert under the roadway to allow water to flow. It was decided instead to install a bridge to link the two sections that would allow better tidal circulation and permit small boats to pass from one side of the canal to the other. A contract was entered into with T.D. Eure Construction Co. in Morehead City in May 1972 to build a bridge in four and a half weeks for \$20,210. As with most construction projects, difficulties were encountered and delayed completion by two weeks, but costs remained the same. In 2012, after a multi-year project and at a substantially higher cost, the original bridge was replaced with a new bridge that provided a pedestrian walkway and widened the road and the opening underneath for boats. The bridge is a favorite spot for residents and visitors to enjoy east/west views of the Christmas Flotilla and Kayak 4 the Warriors (K4TW) events on the waterway. *(From Beechwood, turn right on Mimosa Blvd, then turn left on Loblolly Dr and go straight for about a block and a half until you see your next stop on the left.)*

12. Davis Landing, on Loblolly Drive between Teak Court & Ash Court

Davis Landing is the perfect easy in and out access to the canal for boat and kayak launching. The park is named in honor of A.C. Davis who was a construction expert on the team that built the Pine Knoll Shores Waterway or canal system. This monumental task was undertaken to drain swampy, low-lying areas, control stormwater runoff and to try to solve the ferocious mosquito problem. It was also planned as an enticement to boaters and future homebuyers. Phase I of canal building extended from McNeill Inlet to Mimosa Blvd. and was completed in 1967. The primary method of Phase I construction was a crane and bucket-mounted dragline, which was speedy, but resulted in too much damage to the forest. The Roosevelts were displeased with the results, so the construction team searched for an alternate method. Mr. Davis, a local contractor and civil engineer, suggested that the Phase II excavation system use more manual equipment, such

as pan scrapers and bulldozers. This technique allowed for more controlled excavation, resulting in less damage to the environment. Phase II was completed in 1971. In addition to providing convenient boat access and docking for homeowners, the canal is also enjoyed by kayakers and paddle boarders. Davis Landing is owned and maintained by members of the PKA homeowners association and offers a boat ramp and kayak launch.

This ends the East Tour. (To return to Brock Basin via the scenic route, exit the park and turn left and continue west on Loblolly as it loops through the neighborhood. When you reach Mimosa Blvd, turn left to return to the first stop at Brock Basin, just a block away.)

WESTERN TOUR

13. Pine Knoll Shores Town Hall and Grounds, 100 Municipal Circle

In the beginning and for more than a year, the Atlantis Lodge provided temporary meeting quarters for the town. When the town needed a more permanent place to conduct its official business, the Roosevelts once again stepped up and offered 25 additional acres adjacent to the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area as a site for a permanent town hall. While the building was being constructed, they contributed a readymade town hall—the former Pine Knoll Shores property management office that had previously been a kitchen in Alice Hoffman’s home. The little house was moved from the corner of Yaupon Drive and Salter Path Road to the SE corner of Pine Knoll Boulevard and Municipal Circle. It served as Town Hall until the new building was completed in 1979. But that’s not the end of the story of the little house. It was purchased at auction by a local resident and moved to Salter Path where it still stands today.

As you enter Municipal Circle, look to the left and you’ll see a sign for the Curry Trail, named in honor of Bob Curry. He chaired the PKS Community Appearance Commission for over 10 years and was instrumental in preserving the town’s beachfront vegetation and unique maritime forest ecosystem during a period of rapid growth. He was recognized by the NC Forest Service for his work and received their Outstanding Individual Grand Award. If you bear left and go behind Town Hall, the Canine Veterans Memorial Park will be straight ahead. The dog park is open sunup to sundown, free of charge to all residents and their well-behaved canines. Bearing right, you will see a

restroom and sign for the Veteran’s Memorial Trail. It winds along the shoreline and offers views of the marsh and sound. Bear right again toward the upper parking lot, and you will see Veterans Memorial Park that overlooks the sound and features monuments honoring PKS military veterans who served in foreign wars. *(As you exit Municipal Circle, turn left on Pine Knoll Blvd, then right on Ramsey Dr and stop at the McGinnis Dr corner on your left.)*

14. McGinnis Point Subdivision (Ramsey Drive & McGinnis Drive)

Looking north down McGinnis Drive toward Bogue Sound, you will see McGinnis Point, a private, residential subdivision. It’s spelled M-C-G-I-N-N-I-S. Where the name comes from is somewhat of a mystery, but we do have several clues. A “Jones Meginnis” is listed in the 1800 census as living on Bogue Banks. In an 1820 census, a Dorcas Maginnis, appears, but by 1830 the name disappears from the records. We might speculate that Jones and Dorcas were squatters who did not stay, and there were no remaining family members left on the island by 1830. In addition to fishermen and squatters in Salter Path, they are the earliest known residents on Bogue Banks, even before Oscar Kissam and John Royall acquired land here. Development began around 1982-83, and the name resurfaced on a 1983 deed as “McGinnis Point.” Construction proceeded in stages through the 1990s, offering three distinct dwelling styles: patio homes, townhouses, and single-family homes. The governing body for homeowners is the McGinnis Point Master Association that operates under established bylaws and a set of covenants. Residents enjoy living in a natural setting that provides habitats for diverse wildlife from herons to otters. It’s interesting to note that A.C. Hall’s layout plan for central PKS did not include development of the McGinnis Point property. Earlier, Hall had proposed a third bridge to the mainland at that point. He based his proposal on the possibility that a major storm could create an inlet at narrow points of Bogue Banks, east and west of PKS, leaving a portion of the island including Pine Knoll Shores with no access by bridge to the mainland. Although many at the state level agreed with him, a third bridge became part of a long-range highway plan but never materialized. *(Continue east on Ramsey Drive, and your next stop is straight ahead.)*

15. Ramsey Park, 200 Ramsey Drive

Ramsey Park is a secluded spot nestled at the corner of Ramsey Dr and Arborvitae Ct and bordering the canal. At one time, there was a plan to build a bridge over the canal here linking Ramsey Dr to Mimosa Blvd, but that never materialized and a small park was created instead. The park was named in honor of James W. Ramsey, an early community leader and the first Commissioner for Public Works and first mayor pro tem for Pine Knoll Shores. There is no canal access, but the park offers a basketball court, picnic tables, benches and a small children's playground. Ramsey Park is owned and maintained by the PKA homeowners association. *(Turn around and head back west on Ramsey Dr, turn left on Pine Knoll Blvd, pass by Town Hall, and you will see your next stop straight ahead at Roosevelt Blvd.)*

16. Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area and the NC Aquarium (Pine Knoll Blvd & Roosevelt Drive corner)

The timely generosity of the Roosevelts made it possible for the NC Aquarium to be located in Pine Knoll Shores. After the proposed site for a marine educational center in Morehead City was determined to be inadequate, members of the Roosevelt Trust, being concerned about coastal development, stepped up in 1971 and donated 292 acres in Pine Knoll Shores for the project. They named it the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area to honor the former president's commitment to conservation. The terms of the gift stipulated that 25 acres of the parcel be set aside for marine education, and in 1976 the state opened the Marine Resources Center on the grounds. In 1986, the name was changed to the NC Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores. At the end of 2003, the Aquarium closed for three years and underwent a major rebuild, tripling its size when it reopened in May 2006. Each year the Aquarium and its environs hosts thousands of guests from around the world and offers hands-on educational programs for visitors and residents of all ages, another priceless resource from the Roosevelt family. The Theodore Roosevelt Nature Trail and the Alice Hoffman Nature Trail can be accessed at the NC Aquarium. *(The tour continues south on Pine Knoll Blvd. To see the NC Aquarium and nature trails, turn right on Roosevelt Drive. The TR Nature Trail is straight ahead and free; the Alice Hoffman Trail requires paid admission to the Aquarium. To continue the rest of the tour, return to Pine Knoll Blvd and turn right. Stop at the SW corner of Hwy 58 and Pine Knoll Blvd and look right.)*

17. Verrazzano Highway Marker (Hwy 58 & Roosevelt Blvd)

You are located at the Verrazzano highway marker. There is evidence that indigenous peoples hunted and fished on Bogue Banks, but the earliest European contact may have occurred in 1524. It's believed that Giovanni da Verrazano, sailing for Francis I, King of France from 1515-1547, first encountered the tip of Cape Fear and then turned north exploring along the North Carolina coast. In his letters, Verrazano described how he and his crew came ashore and observed a native population in an area that fits the description of Pine Knoll Shores. The North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources placed this highway marker at the corner of Highway 58 and Pine Knoll Boulevard to honor his passage. *(Look left to the SE corner, and you will see the Blue Star Memorial marker.)*

18. Blue Star Memorial (SE corner, Hwy 58 & Roosevelt Blvd)

This marker and its lovely garden pays tribute to all men and women who serve in the United States Armed Forces. It was sponsored by the Pine Knoll Shores Garden Club in 2016 and won a First Place Award by the National Garden Club. The memorial is maintained throughout the year by the PKS Garden Club. The Garden Club, formed in 1974, designs and maintains nine gardens around town with assistance from the town's Public Works staff. *(Turn right on Hwy 58 or use the pedestrian sidewalk to go west for the next stop, immediately on your right after the stoplight.)*

19. Public Safety Building, 314 Salter Path Rd

The PKS Public Safety Building (PSB) may not remind you of a bank, but at one time it was just that. Formerly a Wachovia Bank building, it stands in an area originally zoned commercial in PKS. In the late 70s, A.C. Hall, owner of the Atlantis Lodge and planner for the central section of PKS, envisioned a shopping area for Pine Knoll Shores. A wide boulevard with a median (Pine Knoll Boulevard) would lead to a proposed commercial area called Pine Knoll Village. It would contain small shops nestled into the maritime forest, restaurants and parking. If one followed the wide boulevard north to the sound, it would connect to a bridge to the mainland. Mr. Hall's vision never materialized, but a new Pine Knoll Village emerged in the late 80s that included a Wachovia Bank branch, a commercial office building, and a residential area with its own HOA. When Wachovia closed its branch, PKS Mayor Reese Musgrave, seeing the need for a larger space for emergency personnel, went personally to Wachovia and negotiated

for the purchase of the building. After renovation, it was dedicated as the Public Safety Building on December 14, 2003. Today, the Public Safety Building houses the PKS Police, EMS and Fire Departments and their vehicles. (*Stay in the parking lot and continue to next building.*)

20. Bogue Banks Public Library, 320 Salter Path Rd

On the first floor of this building is the Bogue Banks Branch of the county's public library system. It also had modest beginnings. In 1973, when the town was sparsely settled, the Carteret County Bookmobile would stop on Yaupon Drive for 45 minutes every month. Humorous accounts in an early *Shoreline*, the town's monthly newsletter, related how some months the bookmobile never came due to bad weather, muddy roads or break downs. Neighbors ended up exchanging books among themselves creating a challenge for the librarian when books were returned. After the Marine Resources Center (now Aquarium) opened, the library was offered space in a small room there and opened for business in 1981 as the Bogue Banks Public Library. As the Aquarium grew in popularity, so did its need for space. In 1989, the Carteret County Commissioners agreed to purchase half of the first floor in a proposed commercial building in Pine Knoll Village for the library's new home. That same year the Friends of the Bogue Banks Public Library was formed to help raise funds for the furnishings. They raised over \$40,000 in less than a year! The building opened on May 20, 1990, and now houses a real estate company, a doctor's office, the Friends' Book Nook, and Spoonrift, a corner market. In 2020, the county reorganized its library system, and the library was renamed the Bogue Banks Branch of the Carteret County Public Library. Residents and visitors are welcome to stop in to see all the library has to offer and visit the Friends' Book Nook, a used bookstore that offers hard and soft cover books and DVDs for donations to support the library.

This ends the Western Tour. You may retrace your route to return to Town Hall. If you want to continue on the Hwy 58 tour, exit the parking lot and turn right on Salter Path Rd. Note: The next stop is Trinity Center, 2.2 miles on the right, between mile markers 9 and 9 ½.

HWY 58 TOUR (Salter Path Rd)

21. Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area & Beacon's Reach Subdivision

Exit the Public Safety Building parking lot and turn right on Hwy 58. As you travel west, notice the wide span of undeveloped property on the

right, the Theodore Roosevelt Natural Area (TRNA). Next, you will see Beacon's Reach properties on both sides of the highway, around 180 acres of oceanfront and soundfront properties, first developed in 1984. Beacon's Reach offers a marina, tennis courts, and swimming pools and includes single-family homes, condominiums, and townhomes in 12 separate subdivisions, each with its own HOA and covered by one Master Association. *(Next is Trinity Center. Turn in and follow signs to Point of Arrival. For a visit, park and go to POA.)*

22. Trinity Center, 618 Salter Path Rd

Trinity Center, "a sanctuary by the sea" is built on land that was donated to the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina by Alice Hoffman and her heirs. Before Trinity Center became a reality, it served as a retreat and recreational center for several local organizations. The US Marine Corps rented it as a retreat center for the chaplains at Cherry Point, and the Catholic Church established the Alice Hoffman Family Living Center there, fondly remembered as Surf and Sand by the beach-going families of servicemen. In 1982, the Diocesan Convention adopted a resolution to consolidate the three existing camp and conference facilities operated by the Diocese. A more comprehensive conference and retreat center was planned for the Bogue Banks property. A capital fund campaign was successfully completed, and in 1986, Trinity Camp and Conference Center became a reality. Today, Trinity Center offers a variety of educational experiences in a natural setting for all ages, from summer camps and year-round environmental programs to conferences, Road Scholar and spiritual retreats. *(As you exit Trinity Center, turn left and head back east to your next stop at The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores.)*

23. The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores, 511 Salter Path Rd

You have arrived at another landmark of Pine Knoll Shores. Imagine 1973 and this western section of Pine Knoll Shores without Beacon's Reach, condos or houses...just dense maritime forest and an unspoiled beach, and you will have a good idea why Melvin and Edna Mansfield selected this site for a hotel. When they purchased the land from the Roosevelts, they intended to build a nine-story hotel and name it The Clam Digger. During construction, the town incorporated and ordinances were passed limiting building heights to five stories or fifty feet. Since building was already underway, the hotel was allowed to complete seven stories, claiming to be the tallest building in Pine

Knoll Shores and Carteret County at that time. After construction was completed, the Mansfields decided to affiliate with a national franchise, opening instead in 1974 as the Ramada Inn. In 2006, the Mansfield heirs gave up the Ramada franchise and named the hotel The Clam Digger as originally planned. Today's owners have renamed the hotel The Inn at Pine Knoll Shores, but the restaurant and lounge retain their original names, The Clam Digger Restaurant and Cutty Sark Lounge. *(Turn right as you exit the parking lot and continue east to your next stop at the Iron Steamer Public Beach Access.)*

24. Iron Steamer Public Beach Access, 345 Salter Path Rd

This is a good time to stretch your legs and explore the next 2 stops. This public access has restrooms, an outside shower/foot wash area and requires a parking fee on summer weekends. The access is the site of the former Iron Steamer Resort that featured a fishing pier, motel, and restaurant and was a favorite among locals and visitors for fishing, surfing, sunbathing, and people-watching. A local businessman, Shelby Freeman, bought the land from the Roosevelts in the late 50s or early 60s and built the pier and motel. The road was unpaved, and he reported that he had to hack his way through thick maritime forest, underbrush and briars to make a path to the beach. Mr. Freeman built the pier next to a shipwreck since it attracted fish naturally. As you face the beach, look to your left and imagine a long fishing pier that jutted straight out into the ocean and a slightly angled side pier on the left (east) side about a third of the way out. It bordered the north side of the wreck. Anglers could fish the wreck from the side pier or the long pier. The wreck is about 200' from shore and in the past could be seen from the beach at low tide and from the pier when the sea was calm and the water was clear. The pier and motel were sold in 2004 and demolished for the existing residential development. You'll learn more about the shipwreck, the SS Pevensey, next at #25.

25. SS Pevensey Highway Marker, Hwy 58 right of way; view from the NE corner of the Iron Steamer Public Beach Access parking lot

In 1864, the SS *Pevensey*, a blockade-runner serving the Confederate States, was chased ashore by the *New Berne*, a Union supply ship. The SS *Pevensey* was typical of the vessels used to run Union blockades during the Civil War. It was an iron-hulled, sidewheel steamer, about 543 gross tons, 210' length, 24' breadth, 14' depth, with an average draft of 10', an "iron steamer" for all of us landlubbers. On the night

of June 9, 1864, the *Pevensey* sailed off course, was pursued and fired upon by the Union supply ship *New Berne*. Unable to continue, the *Pevensey*, with her crew of 36, turned north toward the shore and ran aground. The crew lowered auxiliary boats and made for the beach, with the exception of one man left on board to set the ship's boiler to explode. Still thinking they were in friendly Confederate territory, the crew headed out in search of their fort. Instead, they found Union Calvary troops, were captured and taken as prisoners to Union-occupied Fort Macon. In 2000, Surface Interval Diving Company (SIDCO) was asked by the NC Department of Cultural Resources to undertake an archaeological survey of the *Pevensey* wreckage. They reported that strong currents and an inordinate amount of maritime and human debris made diving the site difficult and that trying to explore the *Pevensey* was like "diving into a dumpster...golf balls, shoes, cameras, lawn chairs, fishing poles, reels, sunglasses, clothing, beach towels, rusty knives...even a complete tackle box." In 2005, the NC Office of Archives and History placed a NC Highway Marker to commemorate the incident. It can be seen on Hwy 58 from the back right (NE) corner of the parking lot. (*Exit the parking lot, turn right; the SS Pevensey Highway Marker is on the right. Continue east through the stoplight and turn right at the first Dogwood Circle sign. Near the end of Dogwood, look right and you will see your next stop.*)

26. Ocean Park & "Sittum," 99 Dogwood Circle

The deck at Ocean Park, built by volunteers and perched high on the dune overlooking the beach and Atlantic Ocean, has been used for decades as a place to sit and enjoy the day. The locally coined name "sittum" first appeared in the August 1975 issue of *The Shoreline*, or "*Pine Knoll Shore Line*" as it was titled then. According to current Pine Knoll Shores resident Bruce Yaeck, his mother, Cres Yaeck, was first to name this deck "the sittum," and it stuck. The term would come into common usage in Pine Knoll Shores in reference to similar decks along the beach. Ocean Park was originally called Mimosa Park or Mimosa Beach Park and was proposed in 1970 as part of the amenities featured in Roosevelt Development Group plans. Since that time, it has been a place for countless picnics, birthday celebrations, family reunions and weddings. It's a perfect place to enjoy a good book on a warm winter day, a relaxing vantage point to watch for dolphins or whales. It's a place where new residents can meet their neighbors for the first time, where old friends reunite, where new friendships are

formed. Ocean Park has seen its share of storms, hurricanes and nor'easters—weathered most, succumbed to a few. It has grown from its original form, been destroyed, moved, renovated, and enjoyed by families for 45 years. Ocean Park is owned and maintained by the PKA homeowners association and offers a large deck with tiered seating, picnic table, shower area, handicapped accessible ramps and a Little Free Library. *(At the corner, turn right on Salter Path Rd and look for a green street sign that says "Memorial Park." Turn in, park, and walk up the walkway to the deck for an elevated view of the beach.)*

27. Memorial Park, 203 Salter Path Rd

Memorial Park is one of 11 public beach accesses in Pine Knoll Shores. It was formerly owned and maintained by PIKSCO homeowners association. In 2002, it was leased to the Town to meet requirements of the 933 Program, a federally funded beach nourishment program that supplies dredged sand to rebuild beaches affected by erosion. CAMA, the NC Division of Coastal Management, and the Corps of Engineers oversee the program. To qualify and receive sand, coastal communities must provide beach accesses for the public. These accesses must be distanced no more than 1/2 mile apart and provide parking for at least 10 vehicles. Parking must be within 1/2 mile of the access. Memorial Park is open to the public year round. It features a deck, outside shower, picnic table and requires a parking fee on weekends during the summer. Enjoy a short walk up the tree-covered walkway for an elevated view of the ocean. Imagine sitting in John Royall's teahouse with views of a pristine beach east and west. (As you exit, turn right on Salter Path Rd and then right on Pinewood Circle. Continue to Bay Drive and turn right. Your next stop is on your right.)

28. Morgan P. Hammer Park, on Bay Drive, between Knollwood Drive & Pinewood Circle

This beloved oceanside park was dedicated to honor former PKS resident, Morgan Prosser Hammer. Mr. Hammer and his wife, Grace, retired here from Pittsburgh, PA, in 1976. He became an active community volunteer and served as president of the PIKSCO homeowners association. One longtime PKS resident remembers that because of Mr. Hammer's "insight, generosity and hard work...we have the 'sittum' at the PIKSCO's ocean park. He took it upon himself to provide the lumber, and labor of himself and his friends to build the ocean deck that we now all enjoy." In tribute, PIKSCO Association

members named this park Morgan P. Hammer Park. It is owned and maintained by the PIKSCO homeowners association. It features a large deck, picnic tables, a shower area, and handicapped accessible ramps.

This ends the Hwy 58 Tour.

Western Tour and Western Hwy 58



See Eastern Map for #26-28

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The PKS History Tour was created by members of the PKS History Committee and the Parks and Recreation Committee (PARC). Special thanks to the founding members of the History Committee for their original research, to the current members for designing the tour and booklet, to PARC for preparing the QR signs, recordings and maps, to the many volunteers who read the history narratives, and to the Town of Pine Knoll Shores Staff, the Mayor and the Board of Commissioners for their support.

Cover Photo: Mabel Conklin with two Royall boys, c. 1912. From the Young Family Photo Albums of Aibonita.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

History Committee’s “The Blog” at pineknollhistory.blogspot.com.

The Blog offers a variety of articles on the town’s history, researched and written by committee members since its establishment in 2011.

The Story of Pine Knoll Shores, 50th Anniversary Edition, ©2023.

Recently updated from the 1995 and 2007 editions, *The Story* is available in booklet form at Town Hall or digitally on the town’s website at townofpks.com under General Information.

The *Shoreline*, the town’s monthly newspaper.

The first issues were newsletters, beginning in May 1973 as the town was forming. All issues are digitized and can be accessed at digitalnc.org. The more recent issues, 2008 to present, are also available digitally on the Town’s website at townofpks.com.



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