



• WELCOME – AREA HISTORY •

Just off I-95's Exit 109, you can explore the Savannah River plantations, walk the living history of Sherman's infamous "March to the Sea," visit African-American praise houses, and more. Use the enclosed driving tour map to help you navigate throughout Port Wentworth – Savannah's Front Porch.

Founded in 1733 (the same year as Savannah), Port Wentworth was earlier known as Joseph's Town, and was an outpost for Native American relations with settlers.



The land later became part of several Colonial cotton and rice plantations, including Mulberry Grove, where Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793, an invention that revolutionized agriculture and the economy of the South, as well as the nation. General William T. Sherman burned Mulberry Grove to the ground during his "March to the Sea" when the plantation's owner refused to surrender food and livestock to the Union Army.

Enjoy Port Wentworth's history and adventure, then use your lodgings as a base for excursions into neighboring Savannah – Exit 109 is the exit closest to Georgia's oldest city.



• PORT WENTWORTH •

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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Scan the QR code with your mobile device to visit our website for more in depth info on the driving tour locations while you're exploring Port Wentworth!

Port Wentworth GEORGIA

Savannah's Front Porch



• Driving Tour •



"Last Days of the Mulberry Grove Plantation, December 1864"

Driving Tour

What is now Port Wentworth was originally part of several Colonial plantations including Mulberry Grove, where Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793. In 1864, historic Mulberry Grove was burned to the ground during Sherman's "March to the Sea." Mulberry Grove was sold to the Georgia Ports Authority in 1985 and was then incorporated into the city limits of Port Wentworth in 1989.



www.VisitPortWentworth.com

Only 11 short miles from Savannah's Historic District

I-95 Exit 109

1 Blue Star Memorial Highway Marker

At Georgia Welcome Center on I-95 South entering Georgia from South Carolina, this marker pays tribute to the Armed Forces that have defended the United States of America. GPS: N32 13028 | W-81 10472

2 Purple Heart City

Port Wentworth was named a Purple Heart City by the Military Order of the Purple Heart for its 40+ years of its annual patriotic festivals, "Stand Up For America Day." Signs are posted along I-95 north of Exit 109. GPS: N32 13028 | W-81 10472

3 Village of Abercorn Historical Marker

The Village of Abercorn was laid out in 1733, and when the Salzburgers arrived in Georgia in 1734, many of them were stationed in Abercorn to wait for their homes to be built in Ebenezer. The site was later determined to be unsuitable for habitation. Georgia Hwy. 21 at County Road 3, one-half mile south of the Effingham County line

• HISTORIC PRAISE HOUSES, CHURCHES AND CEMETERIES

Listen quietly and you may still hear a few strains of the harmonious hymns emanating from some of these old buildings where Savannah River plantation slaves lifted their voices. These praise houses, built in the early 19th century, are being restored and revived by Port Wentworth citizens who cherish their historical significance and want to preserve them.

4 Houston Praise House

Glimpse life as it once was on the Savannah River Plantations. This museum site is the location of the Houston Praise House that existed during the plantation era on Rice Hope Plantation and named after Rev. Ulysses Houston. Rich tradition and remnants of the early African-American culture are displayed along with several early graves at the site with markings from the Gullah/Geechee culture. 8000 GA Highway 21, 912-965-1999, GPS: N32 23546 | W-81 19426

5 Richmond Baptist Church

Former praise house for African Americans freed from Richmond Plantation. 7531 Old Highway 21, 912-964-5954, GPS: N32 23608 | W-81 19262

6 White Oak Baptist Church

Former praise house for African-Americans freed from Drakie Plantation. 135 Monteith Road, 912-965-0900, GPS: N32 18006 | W-81 19803



7 Mount Moriah Baptist Church

Former praise house for African-Americans freed from Godley Plantation. 310 Monteith Road, 912-964-1800, GPS: N32 18048 | W-81 20210

8 Road to Mulberry Grove Plantation

Mulberry Grove was located approximately 2 miles northeast of this point and is one of the most historic of the old Savannah River plantations. Once the home of Gen. Nathaniel Greene, it is also the place

where Eli Whitney, the Greene children's tutor, invented the cotton gin. Location of the Georgia Historical Society Marker. Site is not open to the public. Please call the Chamber for tour dates and times. GA 21 at Graveyard Rd, north of Port Wentworth, GPS: N32 10836 | W-81 11274

9 Meinhard/Monteith Road

Site of an 1864 battle between Confederate and Union troops during Sherman's "March to the Sea." GPS: N32 18240 | W-81 21273

10 Promised Land Farm

Home of the Collard Greens Festival, Promised Land Farm in the historic African-American community of Monteith, grows and sells a wide variety of fresh vegetables and fruit from these 30+ acres. 250 Monteith Road, 912-224-1199. GPS: N32 1048 | W-81 1147

11 Woods Seafood

You can't properly "do the coast" without a visit to a fresh seafood market. And,

you can't get any fresher than Woods Seafood, a retail seafood market at 711 Hwy 30, 912.963.9700. GPS: N32 155586 | W-81.173440

12 Houlihan Swing Bridge and Boat Landing

Built in 1922 and rehabilitated in 1954, the Houlihan Swing Bridge is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places and still transports cars daily along Highway 25, also known as the Old Coastal Highway or Alligator Alley. GPS: N32 16428 | W-81 15661

13 North Salem Baptist Church

North Salem Baptist Church was constituted April 13, 1823 with 45 charter members on 1 acre of land in Port Wentworth. The church congregation is still highly active. 955 GA Highway 30, 912-964-7933, GPS: N32 19532 | W-81 24755

14 Indian Trading Post/Home of Mary Musgrove Historical Marker

Along the Savannah River, about one mile east of this marker, was the home of John and Mary Musgrove, who engaged there in the Indian trade and in farming and cattle raising. Mary, niece of Old Brim, Emperor of the Creek Indians, served as an interpreter for Gen. James Oglethorpe, Georgia's founder. U.S. 17 at the former Savannah Sugar Refining Company, Port Wentworth, GPS: N32 08552 | W-81 09428

15 Battle Between Confederate Gunboats and Union Field Artillery Historical Marker

This 1864 battle was one of the few in which Confederate gunboats and Union field artillery were engaged against each other. U.S. 17 at the former Savannah Sugar Refining Company in Port Wentworth, GPS: N32 8562 | W-81 9438

16 Our Lady of Lourdes Church

A Catholic grotto dedicated in 1958 at this church stands as a symbol of multicultural reverence in Port Wentworth, honoring the Cajuns who came to work at the sugar refinery. 501 South Coastal Highway, 912-964-0219, GPS: N32 14248 | W-81 15746