



Originally known as “New Lands”, Ridgeway obtained its present name following construction of the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta Railway completed in 1850. RR owners decided not to build on the Camden route, but rather to use the “ridge way”. At an elevation of 625 feet above sea level, it is the highest point along the Southern Railway line between Augusta and Charlotte.

The earliest settlers were Scotch-Irish Presbyterians migrating from Virginia and North Carolina in the 1760’s. As early as the 1800’s, English, and French Huguenots from the low country of South Carolina began migrating to escape malaria.

Because of the railroad, Ridgeway became a prosperous agriculture supply center between ca. 1890 – 1915.

The Ridgeway Historic District consists primarily of 33 structures with another 22 structures within a three-block area dating from 1870’s to 1920’s located on both sides of the railroad.

PALMER ST. BUSINESS DISTRICT:
Visitors Welcome

- (1) **“World’s Smallest Police Station”** ca. 1940. The rear portion(ca. 1890) was built over the town well and had a horse watering trough still visible at rear of building.
- (2) Built ca. 1904, this 2-story brick building with a belfry, was the original **Town Hall and City Jail**.
- (3) The 3-store front **Johnson Building** next to Town Hall is a brick structure built by W. J. Johnson ca. 1908. It has cast iron engaged

post on front façade.

- (4) Originally known as the **Cooper Building**, this two-story brick structure with cast iron pilasters on first floor façade was built ca. 1895, and later occupied by W. H. Ruff Furniture.
- (5) Built by the **Lipscomb & Smith Co.**, ca. 1900, this two-story brick building, once a grocery store, now houses an antique store.
- (6) **The Bank of Ridgeway and Lodge BOAFM** purchased this lot for “ a brick building to be erected on said site.” The Bank used the 1st floor and the Lodge the 2nd floor.
- (7) The brick **Thomas Company Store** 1911, on the corner, and
- (8) directly behind this building is the original wood-sided Thomas Store built in 1875, and moved to current location.
- (9) Brick store built in 1880 by **J. Monroe Wilson**, it later became the 2nd store for Thomas & Co.
- (10) The old **Dobson’s Drug Store**, 1925.
- (11) The ca.1840 **Ruff & Cloud Mercantile** currently owned by a Ruff family member.
- (12) **Ridgeway Water Tower**, ca. 1922.
- (13) **Ruff & Co. Hardware** built in 1901.
- (14) **Ruff’s Gin House**, 1947.
- (15) **Dr. James W. Team Drugstore** ca 1925.

RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT:
Please respect the privacy of owners by viewing all homes from the sidewalk or roadway.

- (16) **Samuel F. Cooper House**, ca. 1882.
- (17) Ca. 1900 **Railroad House** built for the Charlotte, Columbia, and Augusta RR Co. employees.
- (18). **W. B. Kenndy House**, ca. 1904 was originally a single story. The second story was added when Mrs. Kennedy inherited money from her father who stipulated the entire amount be spent at once.
- (19). **Dr. James W. Team House**, ca. 1905.

- (20) One of the first gas stations in Ridgeway ca. 1910, later known as **Jones & Kelly Oil Co.**
- (21) **The James B. Coleman House**, ca. 1853, now known as the Century House, was built of locally made brick.

W. B. Kennedy in 1904, and by 1919 was occupied by the **Ridgeway Post Office**.

- (23) Once a brick carriage garage, ca. 1900, owned by **Robert H. McElvey**, it later become home to **Charles P. Wray & Co.**
- (24) **Isaac C. Thomas House**, ca. 1885, founder of The Thomas Co.
- (25) **The Rosborough House** said to be the oldest home in Ridgeway was built in the early 1800’s on Means St., and moved to its present site in 1979. The original double front porch can be seen from Coleman Blvd., while original back porch faces Dogwood.
- (26) The Neo-classical **Charles P. Wray House**, ca 1910. Local legend states that Mr. Wray can be seen staring down from the attic window at railroad tracks looking for his wife and child killed with him in a tragic train accident.
- (27) **The Ruff** ca. 1920 craftsman-style house.
- (28) **James Monroe Wilson house*****, ca.1890.
- (29) Ca. 1910 by **F.P. Hinnant**.
- (30) **First Baptist Church Parsonage/ Bowen House** ca. 1880.
- (31) **Baptist Church** established 1840’s.
- (32) **Augustus Tally Moore** built this house in1899. His young son was distressed at seeing a local crippled man. The young boy promised to repair the man’s foot one day. A. T. Moore Jr. became a doctor, perfecting and patenting the first artificial hip socket. One of his earliest surgeries was to repair the crippled man’s foot.
- (33) **J. Spann Edmunds House**, ca. 1906.

- (34) A Mission style bungalow built by W.H. Ruff for his daughter **Isabell Ruff Traylor** ca. 1918.
- (35) One-story Queen Anne built ca. 1895 by **Reid H. Brown** is one of the oldest homes on the street.
- (36) Built ca. 1911 by Daniel Walter Ruff for his daughter **Florence Ruff Hoaten**.
- (37) The brick **W. Herbert Ruff House** ca. 1910
- (38) The ca. 1904, D. W. Ruff house the grandfather of present owner.
- (39) The Victorian **Robert Charleton Thomas** house ca. 1906.

OTHER HISTORIC SITES

- (40) **Desportes House** ca. 1915.
- (41) **Henry Boozer House** ca. 1900.
- (42) **R. H. McElvey House** ca 1910.
- (43) **Ridgeway High School “arch”** at site of old school.
- (44) The **“Teacherage”** was built to house single teachers and later school principals.
- (45) **St. Stephen Episcopal Church**, originally a wooden structure was built on this site ca. 1854, church was founded in 1839.
- (46) **Aimwell Presbyterian Church** was established in 1790, near Aimwell Cemetery at intersection of Hwy 34 and Coleman Blvd. The brick building on this site was originally wooden and built in 1885.
- (47) Built ca.1900 **Wm. B. Hogan House**.
- (48) **Ruff Chapel**, an 1873 wooden structure, built on land given by David Ruff for the building of a Methodist Episcopal Church. ***
- (49) **Lebanon Presbyterian Church** on Hwy 34 East is the site of the first parochial school for African-Americans in the county.
- (50) **Maggie Cloud Smith House** ca 1892.

(51) Built ca. 1899 for **Sallie B. Parker**.

(52) Ca. 1920 craftsman-style possibly built by **W. E. Baxter**.

(53) Built ca. 1925, by **T. J. Castine**.

(54) **Annie Rosborough Parker** house ca. 1920.

(55) **Bolick House**, ca 1905.

(56) **Ward/Ross House** ca. 1900.

*** Indicates a National Register of Historic Places individual designation.

Along the Highways

Traveling towards Winnsboro:

Valencia: On Valencia Rd. approximately 1.6 miles from First Baptist Church.

Built ca. 1834 by Edward G. Palmer from St. James Parish, Santee. He was the chief supporter and first president of the Charlotte and South Carolina Railroad.

Aimwell Cemetery: On Hwy 34, west of Ridgeway at Coleman Blvd. and SC Hwy 34.

Many of Ridgeway's earliest residents are buried at this original site of Aimwell Presbyterian Church.

Cedar Tree: Van Exem Rd. off Hwy 34 west of Ridgeway off SC Hwy 34.

Built ca. 1853, it was home to the first woman elected to Congress, Mrs. Elizabeth Van Exem.

Vaughan/Blair Stagecoach House: Located approx. 3 1/2 miles west of Ridgeway on Barber Rd. off Hwy 34 a short distance on left from railroad crossing.

This house is located on what used to be the Old Hwy 21 which winds through the countryside crossing over present day US Hwy 21, then ends at Longtown Rd. (Hwy 34).

Traveling towards Longtown:

Hunter House: Approx. 1.7 miles from Ridgeway on Longtown Road

Built in ca. 1820. Mr. Hunter moved to Honduras rather than live in the Union-ruled South following the Civil War.

Longtown: A community along Longtown Rd. towards Camden, SC.

The oldest and easternmost settlement in Fairfield County is that area which borders the old Ridgeway to Camden Rd. Once believed to have been called "Log-town" because of the many log cabins built along the Indian fur-trade route that followed the western slope of the Wateree River. Fine plantations such as *Malvern Hall*, *Melrose*, *Solitude* and *Wisteria* no longer grace the land.

Longtown Presbyterian Church and Cemetery.

The burial place of many early and influential Longtown families.

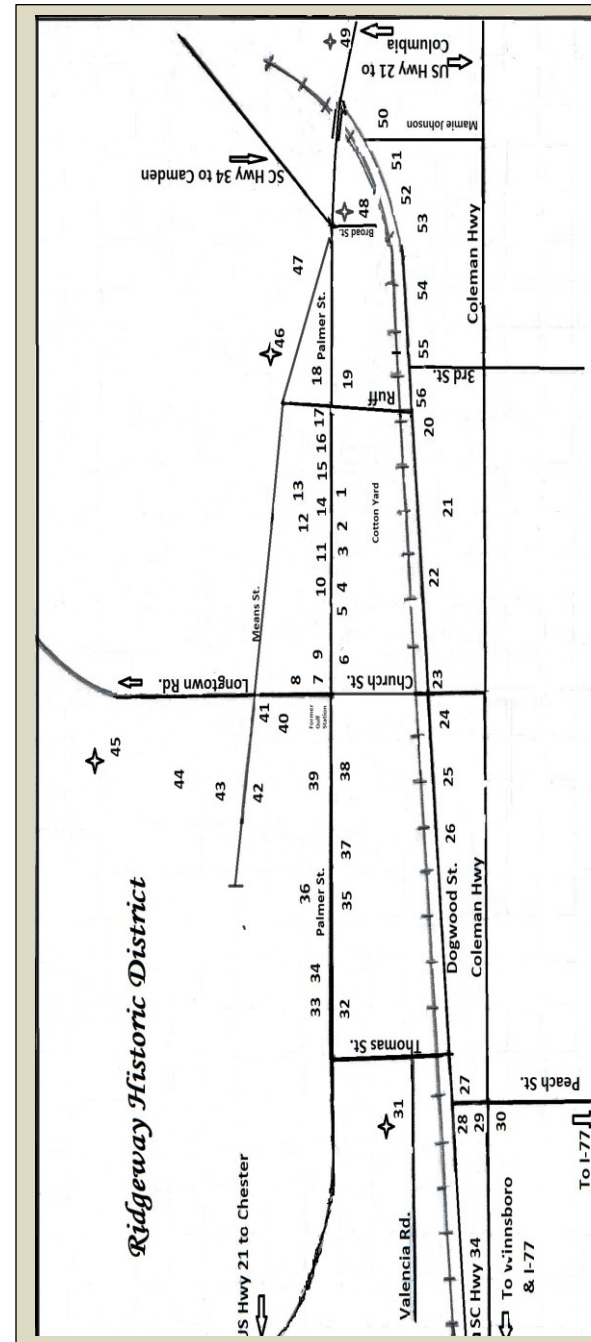
Blink Bonnie: Intersection of Longtown Rd. and Blink Bonnie Rd. (SC-S-20-258)

Built ca. 1822, by Camden banker, Darling Jones and later occupied by the Robertson and Kirkland families.

Many homes, churches and other historic sites await your viewing pleasure throughout Fairfield County. For further information, please contact: **Fairfield County Chamber of Commerce** (803) 635-4242; **Fairfield County Historical Society & Museum** (803) 635-9811 or **Ridgeway Town Offices** (803) 337-2213 during regular business hours.

This brochure is compliments of the
Town of Ridgeway Historical/Cultural Committee

WELCOME



Walking Tour Of Historic Ridgeway, South Carolina

Incorporated 1896

