

# Media Release



**bluffton**  
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

May 16, 2017

For more information:

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Town Hosts 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Historic Preservation Symposium

The Town of Bluffton is hosting its third annual historic preservation symposium Thursday, May 31 at 5: 30 p.m. at the Historic Campbell Chapel AME Church (23 Boundary Street). The symposium, "The Bluffton Historic District: This Place Has History," will bring together historic preservation organizations, residents, students, business owners and Town leaders to discuss the importance of preservation. This event is free and all are welcome.

The event will begin with a "Meet and Greet" with representatives of local historic preservation organizations at 5: 30 p.m. A moderated speaker panel will be from 6 p.m. – 7: 30 p.m. The two featured speakers will be Michael Bedenbaugh, executive director of Preservation South Carolina, and Dr. Emory Campbell, a Gullah Culture consultant of Gullah Heritage Consulting Services. The local historic preservation organizations participating in the "Meet and Greet" include: the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society, A Call to Action, Celebrate Bluffton, Bluffton Township Black History Historical Preservation Society, Palmetto Bluff Conservancy and the Cultural District.

Come learn from historians and historic preservation experts about the history, culture, and preservation of Gullah Heritage and what new initiatives preservationists are using to help save endangered places in South Carolina. Educational/volunteer opportunities will be available for those who wish to be more involved in local preservation.

This symposium also celebrates the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the designation of the Bluffton Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places.

"The more we honor our past, the more we know who we are as a collective community," Mayor Lisa Sulka said. "Knowing the stories of past residents and preserving the sites and structures of our Town is a key component to Bluffton's unique character and our current success as a town. Our stories and our sites are rich with unique character and historic culture."

Heather Colin, the town's growth management director, said this annual symposium is an opportunity for life-long residents and newer area residents to either learn or add depth to their understanding of Bluffton.

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“For the past two years, there has been standing room only at this symposium. The popularity of this annual historic preservation symposium indicates an authentic thirst for many to have a greater understanding of our past residents and how their contributions have shaped our Town’s identity today,” Colin said.

For more information, or to RSVP for the event, contact Marcia Hunter via email at [mhunter@townofbluffton.com](mailto:mhunter@townofbluffton.com) or by telephone at 843.706.7826.