



## Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site

Summerville SC

On December 5, 1695, a small group of Congregationalists – Puritan dissenters sailed on the brigantine Friendship from Boston to Charlestown. Led by Rev. Joseph Lord, two years later, in January 1697, one hundred and fifty Congregationalists left Boston for South Carolina.

After obtaining two land grants totaling 4,500 acres, they established the colonial town of Dorchester which bordering the north side of the Ashley River from the mouth of Bossoe Creek (Dorchester Creek) and three miles to the west of William Norman's property – the southeastern limits of the present-day city of Summerville.



([https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20\(SHPO\)/Research/Historic%20Contexts/OldDorchesterSPsm.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Historic%20Preservation%20(SHPO)/Research/Historic%20Contexts/OldDorchesterSPsm.pdf))

**The colonial town of Dorchester flourished as a trading town but was abandoned at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.**



Today, historical ruins give a glimpse of colonial South Carolina's early history. Visitors can stand below the towering remains of the brick bell tower of St. George's Anglican Church, catch a glimpse of a log wharf during low tide or view the tabby fort made of an oyster-shell concrete. Onsite archaeologists unearth the settlement's history painting a clearer picture of life in colonial South Carolina and the rest of the American South.



For More Information Visit:  
Colonial Dorchester State Historic Site  
300 State Park Road  
Summerville, SC  
843-873-1740

<https://southcarolinaparks.com/colonial-dorchester>

## Featured Article DHC Collection Highlights



Published by John Ogilby  
and engraved by James  
Moxon.

### A New Description of Carolina

A map, circa 1672 titled "a New Description of Carolina By Order of the Lords Proprietors." with unusual orientation appearing to be from the viewpoint of ship approaching the shore of Carolina.

Donated by Rutherford P. C. Smith

### Colonial Dorchester

Diorama of the colonial trading town of Dorchester. The diorama represents what the town would have looked like after its founding in 1697 and until the beginning of the Revolutionary War

Created by Ashley Chapman



**COMING  
SOON**

### Local DHC Collection Artifacts on Display

St. George Public Library  
506 N Parler Ave in St George, SC 29477

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**Membership forms can be found online  
[dorchesterheritagecenter.com](http://dorchesterheritagecenter.com) & onsite at  
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