



An American Tour: **160**



Mount Pleasant's *Boone Hall Plantation*

Boone Hall Plantation is a historic district located in Mount Pleasant, Charleston County, South Carolina, United States and listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The most important historic structures in the district are the brick slave cabins located along Slave Street which date between 1790 and 1810. The plantation, which used slave labor until the American Civil War, is one of America's oldest plantations still in operation. It has continually produced agricultural crops for over 320 years and is open for public tours.

The historic district includes a 1936 Colonial Revival-style dwelling, and multiple significant landscape features. Boone Hall Plantation comprises 738 acres. The most notable feature of the grounds is the grand Avenue of Oaks that was first planted in 1743 and completed by the Horlbeck brothers in 1843. On axis with the front facade of the house, the allée consists of 88 live oak trees and one magnolia, that are evenly spaced. It runs for 3/4 of a mile from the entrance of the plantation to a pair of brick gateposts. The gateposts are topped with ball finials, hung with formal wrought iron gates and, along with a brick serpentine wall, enclose the forecourt of the house. Open lawns at each side of the entry drive are flanked by formal gardens with brick-paved paths, laid among large live oaks and planted with camellias, azaleas and

Noisette roses. Visitors arriving to the house in the 19th century by carriage would have driven through the tunnel of oaks, and past the many slave quarters to the left of the road. Their number and small massing would have starkly contrasted to the large, master's house at the end of the drive.

The first slave cabins were likely made of wood. These brick slave cabins date from between 1790 and 1810. The one-story structures are 12 feet by 30 feet with gabled roofs, have either plank or dirt floors, and a simple fireplace with a brick hearth and no mantle at the rear of each house. The cabins were in use well into the 20th century, as they were occupied by sharecroppers through the 1940s. These dwellings were continuously occupied by slaves, then free sharecroppers for nearly 150 years, making them incredibly significant to the history of the site.

To the southeast of the main house is the large Cotton Gin house built in the 1850s.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Boone_Hall]

