Beaufort County 250 Committee
Historic Site Tours

Parish Church of St Helena - Beaufort

One of the oldest three churches in the United States, the Anglican congregation was formed in 1712 in the newly founded village of Beaufort.

Construction of the initial chapel commenced in 1717 following disruption of Indian hostilities beginning in 1713 and lasting through the Yemassee War. The chapel was built and the churchyard consecrated in in 1724.

Suffering only minor damage during the Revolutionary war, the church was expanded several times, but fell into disuse and disrepair after the Anglican disestablishment.

It was rebuilt and expanded in 1842 after serving as a center for religious activity in the Second Great Awakening.

The churchyard is the site of 14 Patriot gravesites including those of two Patriot and of two British officers who were killed in the Battle of Port Royal Sound on Feb 3, 1779 and accorded full military honors for their interment in the churchyard.

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