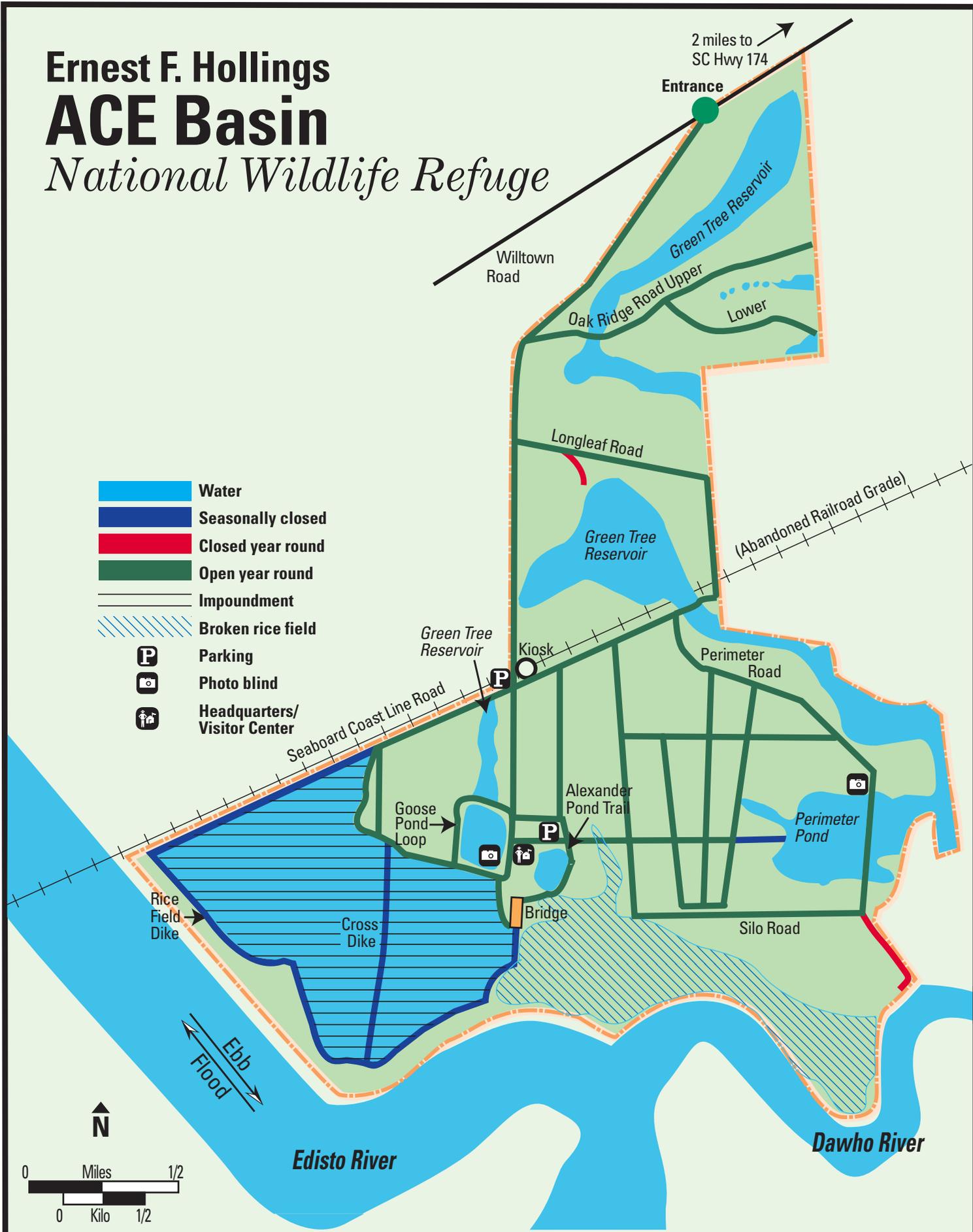


Ernest F. Hollings ACE Basin *National Wildlife Refuge*





A Land Grant to Robert Fenwick

The area now known as the Grove Plantation was originally a land grant to Robert Fenwick in 1694. It has had many owners through the years, unlike most plantations which belonged to the same family for numerous generations. From 1695 until 1825, the property changed hands nine times. In 1825, George Washington Morris purchased the land and named it Grove Plantation. Historical records indicate that approximately 150 enslaved people lived and worked on the Grove Plantation throughout the antebellum period.

Built in 1828

George Washington Morris built the Grove House about 1828. It is built in the late-Federal-period plantation style of architecture and has the unusual feature of polygonal rooms and projecting symmetrical polygonal bays. G.W. Morris died on August 22, 1834, leaving his wife, a son, and three daughters. After his death, his wife, Maria, kept control of the Grove. By 1837, she had not only paid off her husband's debts, but she had also had the house plastered.

G. W. Morris' son, George Jr., was not a good business manager. After his death, the plantation was sold to John Berkeley Grimball in 1857.

Pinebury and the Grove Combined

John Berkeley Grimball married Margaret Ann (Meta) Morris, G. W. Morris' niece, and owned the adjacent plantation, Pinebury. He combined Pinebury and

the Grove into one large property and the family moved into the Grove House early in 1858. During the Civil War, John, Meta and the five younger children went to Spartanburg. Both Pinebury and the Grove were sites of military activity and the Grove House was at one time occupied by Confederate troops. Since the Grove was considered abandoned, it was confiscated.

On January 24, 1866, John Berkeley Grimball made application to the Bureau of Refugees, Freedmen, and Abandoned Lands for restoration of his property. He took the amnesty oath of loyalty to the United States and was able to regain ownership of the Grove and Pinebury. After the war, John was unable to make his mortgage payments and the land reverted back to G. W. Morris' heirs, Josephine M. Porter and Sabina Ann Morris in 1870.

Massive Restorations in 1929 and 1964

The property changed hands numerous times until it was purchased by Owen Winston, President of Brooks Brothers, in 1929. He did a massive restoration of the house, adding dormer windows on the roof, installing two bathrooms on the north porch (the back of the house), changing the polygonal walls in the hallway to straight ones. He added the herringbone brickwork under both porches, installed wainscoting and doors salvaged from the Bischoff house, and built outbuildings, including stables, an ice house, a three car garage, a barn, two residences, and a kitchen house.

After Winston, the plantation once again had several owners until Thompson Brown purchased it in 1930. Between 1934 and 1951, the Browns planted pecan, persimmon, cedar, palmetto, magnolia, and azaleas around the house. In 1947, the South Carolina Power Company ran power lines to the house. The Browns sold the property in 1953.

R. Carter Henry purchased the Grove in 1964. The Henrys did an extensive renovation on the house, changing the interior stairwell to an open design, placing the duck tiles around the fireplace in the conference room, and doing extensive renovations to the outbuildings.

National Register of Historical Places

Mr. Henry sold the Grove to A. Leigh Baier in the early 1970s and later sold it to Ralph (Tad) and Margaret B. Hendricks who placed it on the National Register of Historical Places. The Hendricks owned the Grove until The Nature Conservancy purchased it in 1991.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service purchased the Grove 1992 as part of the ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge. The Grove Plantation House is one of very few antebellum mansions in the ACE Basin area to survive the Civil War. Today it houses the offices of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Earnest F. Hollings ACE Basin National Wildlife Refuge.

