

CHEROKEE COUNTY MUSEUM

SOUTH CAROLINA

Tour Guide Companion



CHAPS

CHEROKEE HISTORICAL & PRESERVATION SOCIETY, INC.

*Preserving our past.
Inspiring our future.*



WELCOME TO THE MUSEUM!

The Cherokee County Museum occupies the historic Central School site. CHAPS secured the property in 1999, and the Cherokee County History & Arts Museum celebrated its grand opening in 2008. Today the campus includes permanent galleries, interactive Kids and Sports Zones, Archives, the Teleporter Experience, and the Mustering Grounds.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Follow the numbered stops. The sequence matches the recommended tour route.

Look for Chappie. His challenges invite you to notice details, try interactives, and think like a historian.

Take your time. Most visitors can complete the route in about 45-60 minutes.

WHILE YOU EXPLORE

Please do not touch artifacts unless an exhibit is clearly marked as interactive.

Keep voices at a respectful level and give other visitors room to enjoy the galleries.

Museum staff and volunteers are happy to answer questions.

VISITING WITH A SCHOOL OR GROUP?

Teachers and chaperones should remain with their group throughout the visit. Use the Chappie Challenges as quick discussion prompts or observation activities.



HISTORY



DISCOVERY



CREATIVITY



COMMUNITY

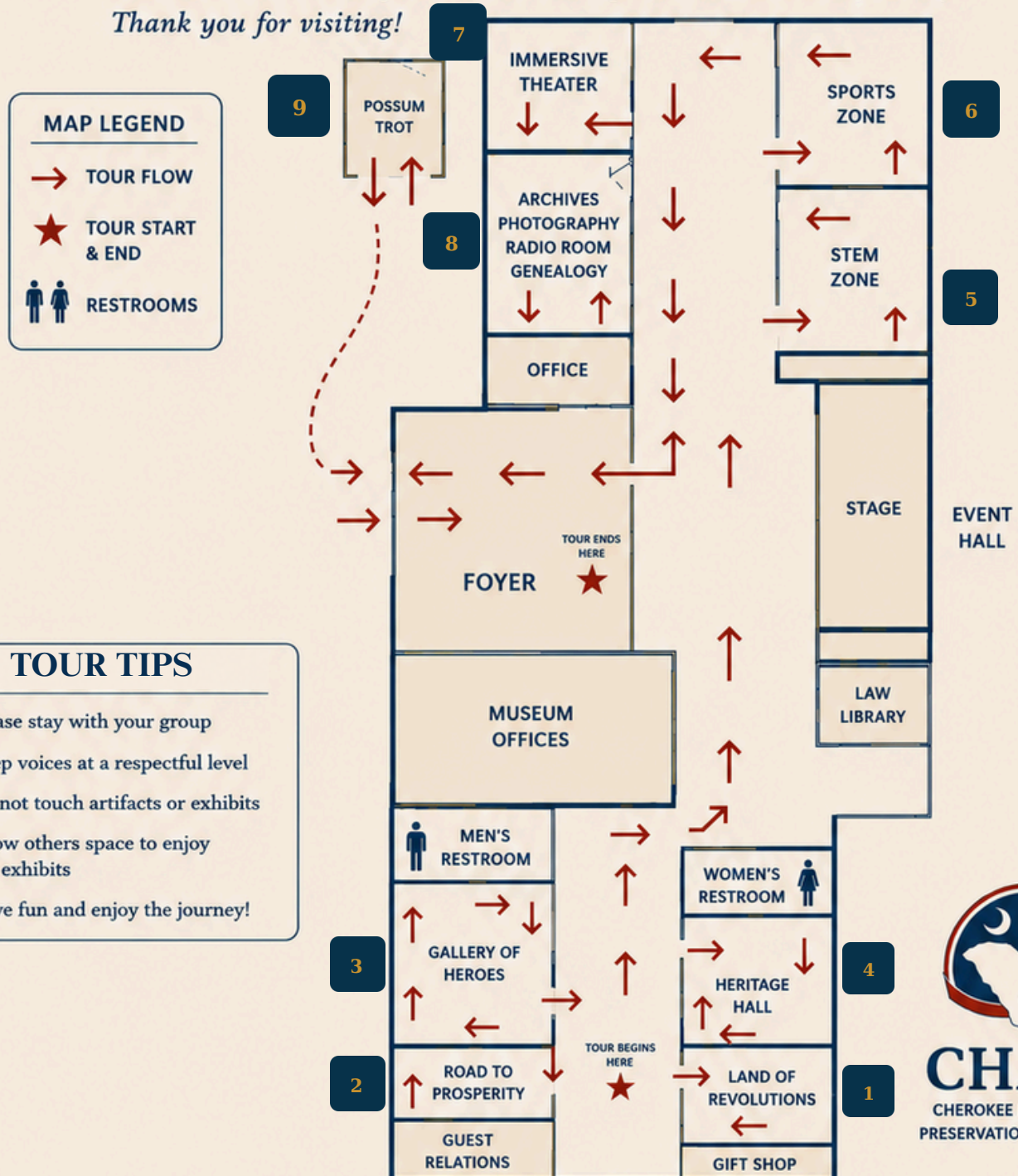
CHEROKEE COUNTY MUSEUM

SOUTH CAROLINA

★ SELF-GUIDED TOUR MAP ★

Follow the arrows through the museum to explore Cherokee County history.

Thank you for visiting!



QUESTIONS?

Museum staff
is here to help!

History Comes Alive.



ALLOW 45-60
MINUTES

For a complete
self-guided tour

ROUTE AT A GLANCE

1

LAND OF REVOLUTIONS

Revolutionary-era history, archaeology, geology and frontier stories

2

ROAD TO PROSPERITY

Transportation, farming, textiles, printing, and industry

3

GALLERY OF HEROES

Military and public service

4

HERITAGE HALL

Family life, local objects, art and community heritage

5

STEM LAB + ARTS EXPERIENCE

Hands-on science, engineering, creativity and performance

6

SPORTS ZONE

Hall of Fame and Training Room Interactives

7

TELEPORTER EXPERIENCE

Immersive STEAM, culture and history

8

ARCHIVES

Documents, maps, photographs, genealogy, and research

9

POSSUM TROT SCHOOLHOUSE

One-room schoolhouse on the Mustering Grounds

TOUR TIP

If a gallery is closed for a program or rental, continue to the next numbered stop and return later. Museum staff can help with alternate routing.

Discover Cherokee County before and during the American Revolution through archaeology, local geology, frontier history, and the stories of people who lived and fought in the Carolina backcountry.

DON'T MISS

- The Last Castle mural. The large mural, inspired by the Battle of Cowpens, was used in the 2001 Robert Redford film *The Last Castle*. Look for artist Bill Briggs painted into the scene.
- Revolutionary-era artillery. Look closely at the cannon display and consider how difficult artillery would have been to move across the backcountry.
- Local collections. The gallery and adjoining hall include artifacts connected with Central School, the Bicentennial, Native American projectile points, and finds associated with the Cowpens area.

DID YOU KNOW?

Fort Thicketty, another CHAPS property, was the site of a 1780 standoff between Patriots and Loyalists. Cherokee County also has a long history of limestone quarrying and iron production.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Can you spot Bill Briggs in the mural? Look carefully for the bald figure painted into the scene.



Land of Revolutions gallery highlights

Explore how transportation, farming, textiles, printing, manufacturing, and changing technology transformed Cherokee County from a rural landscape into an industrial and commercial community.

DON'T MISS

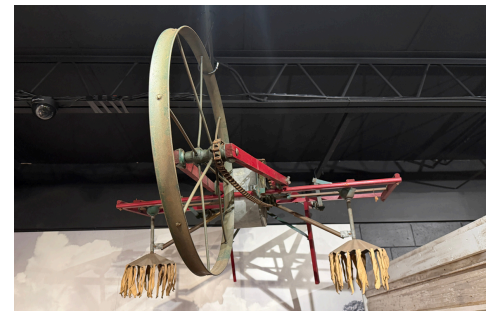
- Grit and Steel. The game-fowl periodical was printed in Cherokee County for more than a century. Look for the cutter and binder used in the printing process.
- The cotton mop. The hanging farm implement was used to apply insecticide to cotton plants during the fight against boll weevils.
- The Kings Creek wagon. This wagon remained in use by a local family into the 1970s.
- The farmhouse. Notice the German weatherboard siding and ask yourself where the bathroom would have been.

LOOK CLOSER

Photographs of children working in textile mills show another side of industrial growth. Their small size was often exploited for dangerous work around machinery.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Find the visitor typewriter. Then look for the racing story: museum interpretation connects early stock-car racing with modified cars used by moonshine runners.



Printing, work, transportation and community life

Meet Cherokee County men and women whose military and public service became part of the county's larger story. Uniforms, photographs, communications equipment and personal objects connect national events to local lives.

DON'T MISS

- The Bright brothers. Five brothers from Cherokee County served during World War II, creating a remarkable family story of service.
- A captured Nazi flag. The flag is preserved as a wartime artifact documenting the defeat of Nazi Germany and the service of those who opposed that regime.

The telephone switchboard. Operators once physically connected calls by plugging lines into the board.

The rotary telephone. If the interactive phone is available, try dialing a number the way earlier generations did.

LISTEN TO HISTORY

Use the gallery QR code to hear an interview with Lawrence Bright and add a first-person voice to the objects on display.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

How many steps does it take to dial a seven digit number on the rotary phone?



World War II and communications artifacts

Step into everyday life in historic Cherokee County. Heritage Hall uses furnishings, family objects, local products, art and architectural models to connect community stories with the people who lived them.

DON'T MISS

- The Michael Gaffney family furnishings. The bed and dresser are associated with the family of Gaffney's namesake. Museum interpretation identifies the wooden dresser as the work of his grandson.
- Local bottles and brands. Look for names connected with Cherokee County dairies and soft drink companies.
- The Mulberry Chapel model. The historic African American church, built about 1880, is recognized in state documentation as the first African American church in what is now Cherokee County.

LOOK CLOSER

Mulberry Chapel stands on Asbury Road near Pacolet. The church and cemetery preserve an important Reconstruction-era story of independent African American worship and community life.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Find the model of Mulberry Chapel. What architectural details can you identify before looking at the photograph beside it?



Heritage Hall furnishings and Mulberry Chapel

These interactive Kids Zone spaces invite visitors to experiment, build, create, perform, and connect local stories with science, technology, engineering, math, and the arts.



STEM LAB

Explore hands-on activities involving engineering, motion, flight, rockets, energy, circuits and design. The exhibits connect scientific ideas with local industries and possible careers.

ARTS EXPERIENCE

Explore music, visual art, theater, dance and performance. Depending on the activity, visitors can try an instrument, make art, or step onto the stage.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Find one activity that uses science, one that uses engineering, and one that uses art. Can you identify an activity that combines more than one of those areas at the same time?

Cherokee County's sports story includes teams, coaches, athletes, racing, and the science behind performance. The Sports Zone combines a Hall of Fame with hands-on activities in the Training Room.

DON'T MISS

- Hall of Fame. Discover local teams, coaches, players, and memorable accomplishments.
- Training Room. Test pitching speed, punch force, and jumping performance through hands-on activities.
- Science of sport. Compare your results with local athletes and notice how equipment and technology have changed over time.



SPORTS ZONE

Interactive museum space

TRY IT

Choose one activity and make a prediction before you begin. Were you faster, stronger, or able to jump higher than expected? What scientific idea helps explain the result?

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Find one piece of sports equipment from the past. What has changed about its design, materials, or safety compared with equipment used today?

7 TELEPORTER EXPERIENCE

Step into an immersive experience that blends science, technology, engineering, arts, math, culture and history - from ancient civilizations to the reaches of outer space.

CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

What did the immersive experience communicate that would have been difficult to show with a single artifact?

8 ARCHIVES & RESEARCH



The Archives is a research center for documents, books, photographs and maps. Interactive displays introduce visitors to textiles, photography, cartography, genealogy and more.

LOOK CLOSER

Maps and photographs can reveal changes that ordinary objects sometimes miss. What evidence of change can you find?

Possum Trot Schoolhouse is a rare surviving one room schoolhouse and one of the museum campus's most important living-history resources.

A SCHOOLHOUSE STORY

- Built in 1880 by Jimmy W. W. Pettit and Tom Whelchel, with other community members assisting in the work.
- The school originally stood in the Midway community outside Gaffney and served generations of rural students.
- Local tradition connects the name "Possum Trot" with a well-worn trail through the woods used by students traveling to school.
- After a 1992 property transfer, the building was moved and preserved. It has since been relocated to the Cherokee County Museum's Mustering Grounds.



POSSUM TROT
Mustering Grounds

EXPERIENCE THE CLASSROOM

Museum education programs use the schoolhouse for slate writing, recitations, mental math, penmanship, reading and other activities that help students compare learning in the past with school today.

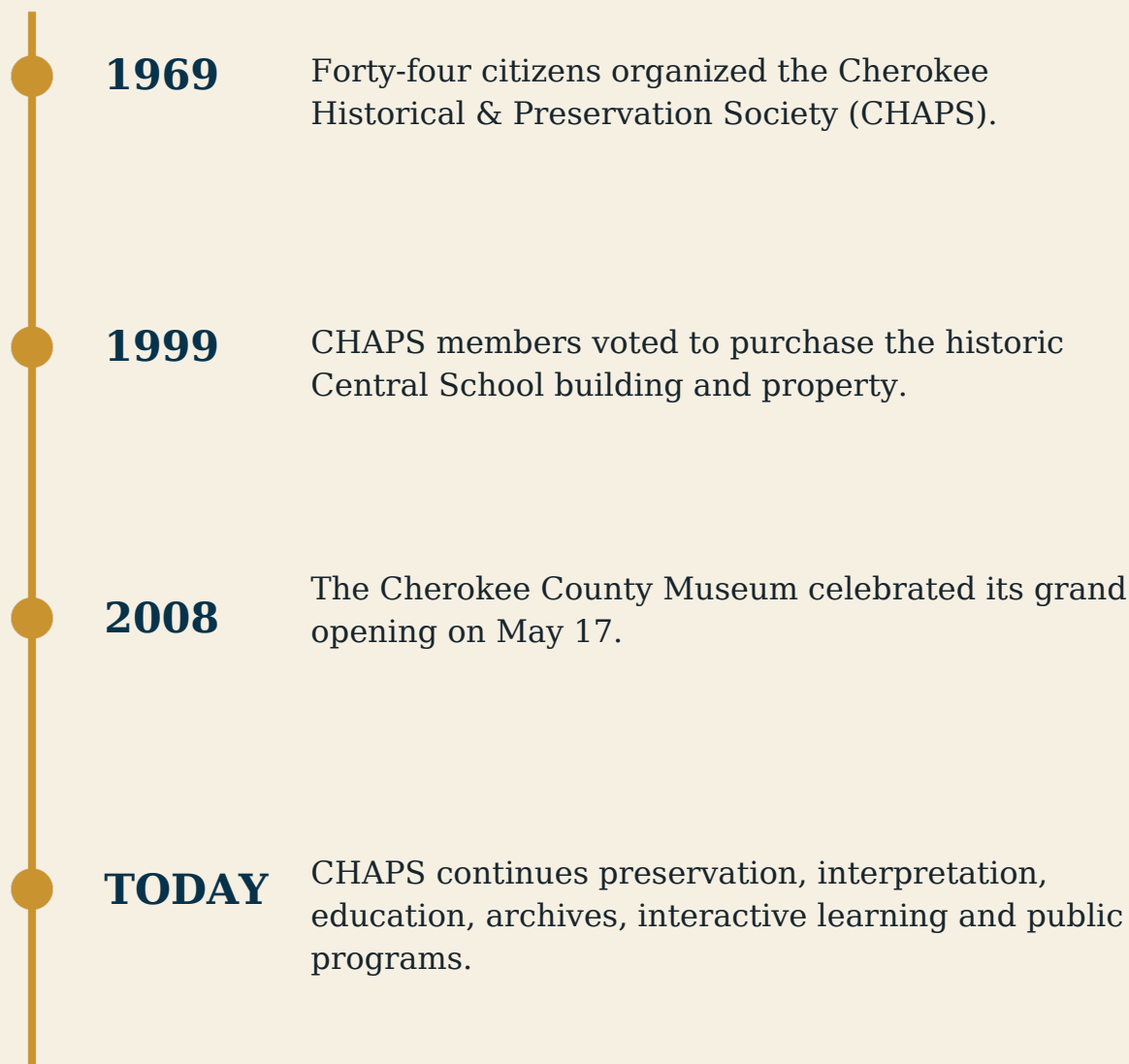
CHAPPIE'S CHALLENGE

Look around the one-room classroom. What three things would make your school day most different if you attended class here?



PRESERVING CHEROKEE COUNTY HISTORY

CHAPS and the Cherokee County Museum



WHY PRESERVATION MATTERS

CHAPS preserves and interprets historic places, objects, records and stories so that Cherokee County history remains available to future generations.



KEEP EXPLORING



MUSTERING GROUNDS

More than three acres of fenced greenspace support living-history programs, community events and outdoor interpretation.



FORT THICKETTY

A CHAPS historic site connected with a 1780 standoff between Patriots and Loyalists during the American Revolution.



VINSON-BLANTON BURYING GROUND

A CHAPS property preserving local family history, including graves associated with early Cherokee County families and military service.



LIBERTY TRAIL GATEWAY

Begin exploring the South Carolina Liberty Trail and the broader story of the Southern Campaign from the museum campus.

EXPLORE MORE

Continue your visit, your research, or your support of preservation.



SCAN TO CONTINUE YOUR VISIT

Visit ccmuseumsc.org for current exhibits, educational programs, tickets, events, historic sites, membership and giving opportunities.

RESEARCH

Ask museum staff about the Archives and genealogy resources if an artifact or story sparks a question.

JOIN CHAPS

Membership supports the nonprofit organization that owns and operates the Museum and its historic properties.

SUPPORT PRESERVATION

Donations help sustain operations, education, exhibitions and care of historic sites such as Possum Trot and Fort Thicketty.

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Information in this guide reflects current museum interpretation, museum talking points, and selected public historical records reviewed for this edition. Historical interpretation may be refined as new documentation becomes available.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING

Cherokee County Museum



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Scan for current visitor information.