

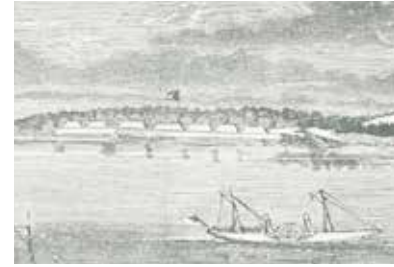
Bald Head Island Timeline

Ownership & Development of Smith Island Complex 1713-2019

Bald Head Island has seen many important dates in its long and colorful history, but few have had the lasting impact of June 14, 1983, when the George P. Mitchell Family purchased the island's unsold land and made a commitment to responsible and sustainable development. Many critical decisions were made in those first few years—to abandon an earlier developer's plans to build a second golf course on the island, but instead dedicate 200 acres of maritime forest as a preserve; to build no bridge to the island, but instead rely on ferry access and golf carts as the primary modes of transportation; and to buck the high-rise building trend overtaking coastal towns, but instead pursue a sensitive land plan that respected the island's natural environment. Further, the Mitchell Family would donate land and funds to help establish the Bald Head Island Conservancy and Old Baldy Foundation, caretakers of the island's ecology and history.

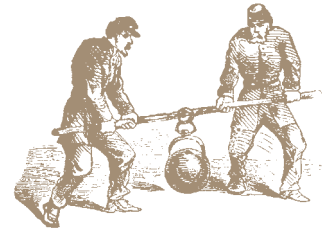
1829

John H. Holmes and John Walker purchase Smith Island complex at public auction.



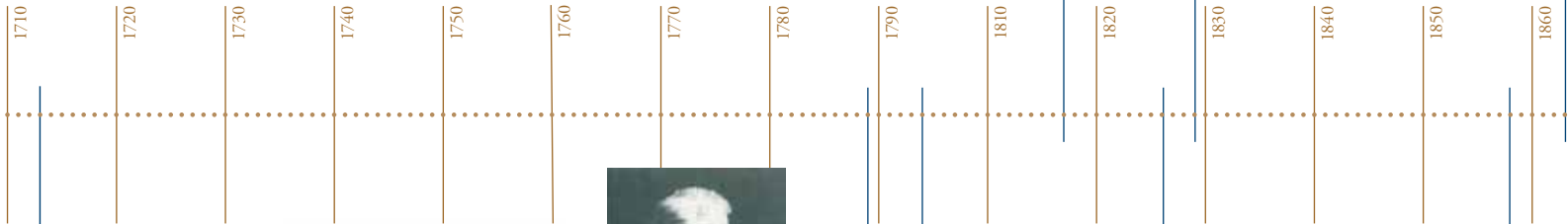
1863

Confederates build Fort Holmes on Bald Head Island.



1817

Second lighthouse, "Old Baldy," is constructed on a bluff overlooking the marsh and Bald Head Creek, approximately one mile north of the original lighthouse site.



1713

Cape Island is granted to Landgrave Thomas Smith, providing one of the names by which the island complex has since been known. The Smith Island complex includes Bald Head Island, Middle Island and Bluff Island.



1789

Benjamin Smith, governor of North Carolina 1810-1811 and last of the heirs of Landgrave Thomas Smith to hold title to Smith Island complex, donates 10-acre lighthouse site to the State of North Carolina.

1794

First Bald Head Island Lighthouse is constructed on southwest point of the island. (In July 1813, due to the encroachment of the sea, it was necessary to pull down the lighthouse on Bald Head Island.)

1826

Brunswick County acquires title to Smith Island through foreclosure following the death of Governor Benjamin Smith.

1858

John Walker purchases undivided shares from a number of heirs of John H. Holmes and becomes sole owner of Smith Island.





1898

United States Government acquires 20 acres for the Cape Fear Lighthouse and the "Federal Road" through condemnation, a legal procedure used to purchase the property when other efforts to negotiate a price with the Walker heirs were unsuccessful. The assessed award of \$4,000 was "paid into court."



1870

1880

1890

1900

1910

1920

1930

1940

1950

1960

1970



1882

Cape Fear Life Saving Station is built on East Beach approximately one mile above the point of Cape Fear. On April 10, 1882, Dunbar Davis, the first keeper assigned to the station, and his six-man crew successfully rescued all aboard the schooner *Minnie*, marking the station's initiation into service.



1903

Cape Fear Lighthouse and Captain Charlie's Station are constructed on East Beach, approximately one mile north of the point of Cape Fear.

1916

Brunswick County forecloses on the Walker heirs. Tax lien is purchased by Thomas Frank Boyd.



1924

T. F. Boyd builds Pavilion pier and hotel on BHI's southwest bank and promotes sales of homesites on "Palmetto Island."

1936

Brunswick County forecloses on the Boyd heirs, who bid \$11,000 for Smith Island but are unable to come up with the money.

1937

At second courthouse sale, Allen C. Ewing is the high bidder. Frank O. Sherrill purchases Smith Island from Ewing for \$45,000.

1917

Thomas Frank Boyd pays \$45,000 to Thomas W. Davis, commissioner for James Alvis Walker, and acquires title to all of Smith Island except the two lighthouse sites and the "Federal Road."



1914

U.S. Coast Guard Station on South Beach replaces Cape Fear Life Saving Station on East Beach.



1963

With a bid of \$133,000 Sherrill buys the two lighthouse sites, and the island complex is under one owner for the first time since 1789.



1972

Carolina Cape Fear Corp. begins construction of Bald Head Inn on South Beach and the island's 18-hole golf course, and applies for permit to construct a 10-acre marina. Major marshlands, six miles of Atlantic eastern shoreline and Bluff, Battery and Striking Islands are all deeded to the State of North Carolina.

1970

Carolina Cape Fear Corp. purchases Smith Island from Sherrill for \$5.5 million.

1974

Marina permit application is approved by State of North Carolina and Federal Corps of Engineers.





1976

Bald Head Island Corporation, a subsidiary of Builders Investment Group, acquires Smith Island title from Carolina Cape Fear. Passenger ferry *Bald Head I* is launched.



1987

Environmental study of Bald Head Island guides development of low-density master land plan. Island-wide phone service installed. Village Chapel of Bald Head Island opens for first Easter service. Bald Head Island Club organizes.



1991

BHI Club hosts grand opening of clubhouse. Installation of island-wide fire suppressant system and construction of Village Fire Station. Construction begins on Village Post Office.



1996

BHI Conservancy opens new campus at East Beach. Harbour Village expands with new homes. Additions and improvements are made to docks, wet slips and island ferry landing. BHI Limited builds new sewer treatment plant on island.



1985

Village of Bald Head Island establishes municipality. Electric golf carts replace gasoline-powered vehicles.



1992

Construction completed on municipal office building for Village of BHI in what will become the Village complex adjacent to Old Baldy Lighthouse grounds.



1982

Construction begins on island marina and ferry terminal



1989

Re-lighting of Old Baldy lantern.

1995

Village of BHI holds first elections.

1980

1990



1983

Bald Head Island Limited, formed by the George P. Mitchell family, buys out Cambridge Properties and Walter R. Davis.



1990

Opening of Indigo Plantation and Marina ferry landing in Southport.

1997

New water treatment plant with reverse osmosis system is built.



1984

BHI Limited constructs first mainland ferry terminal in Southport and begins operating passenger ferry service to and from the island. Administrative offices are built on the island. Roads and electricity create better access for property owners. BHI Limited contributes initial funds to assist with organization of the Bald Head Island Conservancy.



1994

BHI Limited donates land for expansion of BHI Conservancy's East Beach Campus.



1979

Cambridge Properties, headed by Walter R. Davis, purchases remaining property and improvements from Builders Investment Group.



1986

Old Baldy Foundation begins efforts to restore and preserve North Carolina's oldest lighthouse.



1988

Volunteer Fire Department is established. Conservancy day camp opens first season.



1993

BHI Limited deeds 178 acres of maritime forest to the State of North Carolina.



1999

Dedication of Bald Head Woods—178 acres of maritime forest—to North Carolina Coastal Reserve.



2017

Old Baldy Lighthouse celebrates its 200th anniversary. *Southern Living* Idea House constructed at Cape Fear Station.



2018

BHI Public Safety complex completed.

2000

Completion and dedication of the Smith Island Museum of History. First homesites released in Cape Fear Station.



2003

BHI Limited celebrates 20th anniversary of development and stewardship of Bald Head Island.



2007

Crew's Quarters along Maritime Way—residential and retail spaces—opens. Kent & Mark Mitchell on behalf of the George & Cynthia Mitchell Foundation donate \$50,000 to the BHI Conservancy toward construction of a proposed Barrier Island Study Center.



2012

Barrier Island Study Center officially opens.



2004

Grand opening of the Shoals Club near Cape Fear Point. The Island Hardware store opens. New catamaran ferry, *Patriot*, is put into service.



2013

BHI Limited celebrates 30 years as stewards and developers of the island.

2000

2010



2002

Two Idea Homes constructed at Cape Fear Station. DSL Internet service provided for island residents.



2001

The Maritime Market full-service grocery store opens. Water line installed under Cape Fear River to provide Brunswick County water source to island residents. Grand opening of Bald Head Association Center. The Bald Head Island Yacht Club formed.



2009

Deep Point mainland ferry terminal opens.



2006

New catamaran ferry, *Ranger*, is put into service. Merchant's Row commercial space completed.



2015

Southern Living Inspired Community opens in Cape Fear Station on the east end of the island.



2014

Timber bridge crossing the marsh and connecting North Bald Head Wynd and Keelson Row is constructed and opens for island traffic.

After nearly four decades of stewardship, the Mitchell Family remains committed to its original vision:
To create a viable premier island community where people may live in harmony with nature and each other.

