

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

October 3, 2016

For More Information:

Marc Orlando, ICMA-CM

Town Manager

(Office): (843) 706-4511

(Email): morlando@townofbluffton.com

Re: Town of Bluffton to Acquire 1.47 acres in the Bluffton Historic District

The Town of Bluffton is set to acquire a 1.47 acre parcel of land, located at 68 Boundary Street.

Located between Dubois Park and the Bluffton Historical Preservation Society's Heyward House, the property will be utilized as public open space and will provide additional public parking spaces in the Bluffton Historic District.

Bluffton Town Council approved this purchase at the June 14th Town Council meeting and passed a resolution to support the closing of this property at the September 26th special Town Council meeting. The property will be transferred to the Town of Bluffton the week of October 3rd.

The Town is purchasing the property from Marsh Rentals, LLC for \$1,095,000.00. The Town used proceeds from the recent sale of Town-owned property at Bluffton Village as well as existing fund balance.

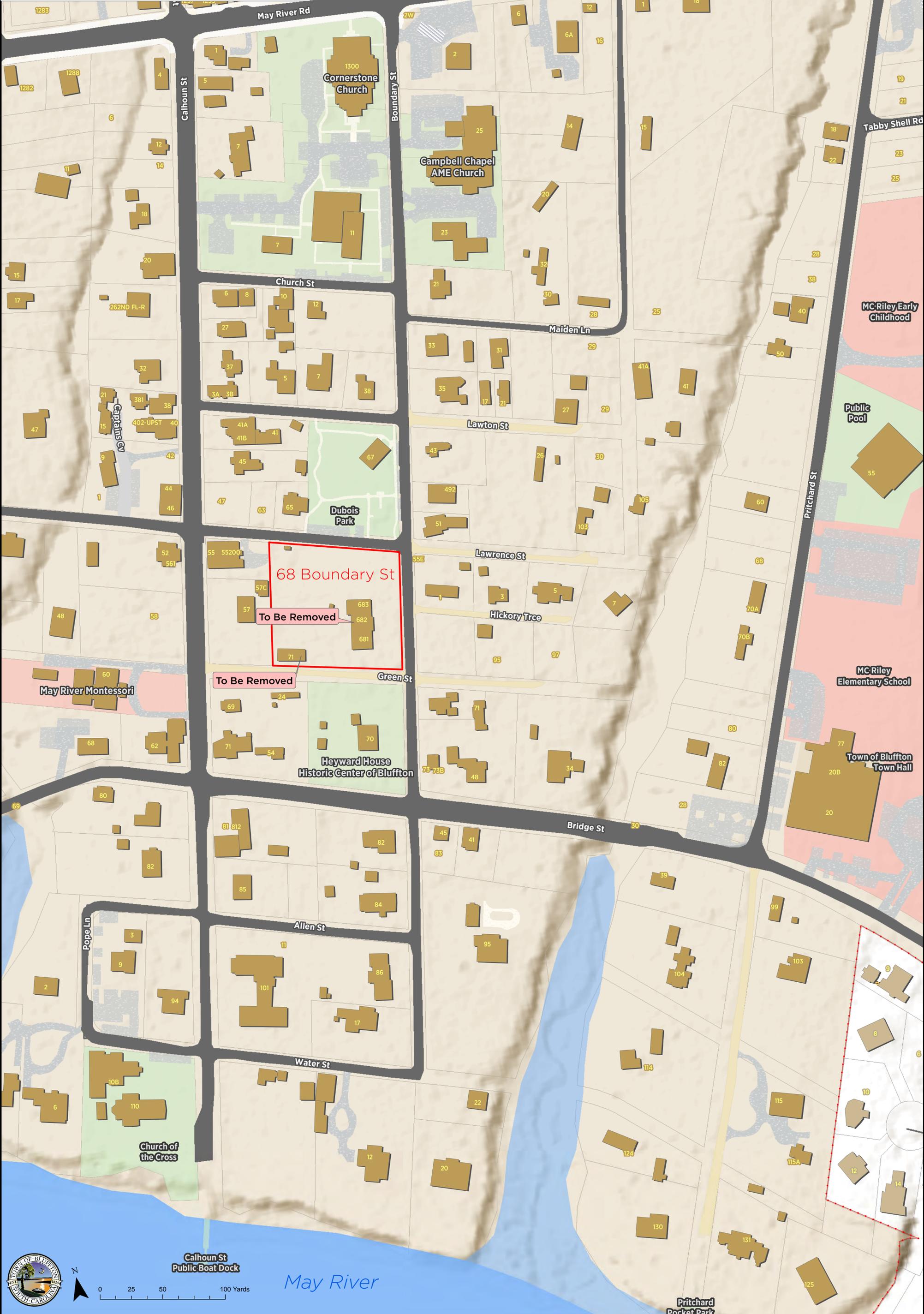
The site is situated in the Neighborhood Center – Historic District, which provides for retail shops, residences, restaurants, offices, and other highly-intense land uses.

Preliminary discussions to establish conceptual plans for this property will be brought to Town Council for consideration at an upcoming Town Council Workshop in October. Community members will be invited to provide input for the planning and design of this site at this time. Capacity studies illustrate opportunities for community events, civic open space and the installation of more than 55 parking spaces. This is an important opportunity to preserve a significant canopy of Live Oaks, some of which are more than 100 years old and would be impacted if the property was redeveloped. Two existing structures will be demolished. The Town will assess the feasibility of an adaptive reuse of a small structure on Lawrence Street as a public restroom," Orlando said.

Mayor Lisa Sulka added, "This purchase along with the Cornerstone Church parking agreement provides an opportunity for more than 100 additional public parking spaces in the Historic District, south of May River Road. We are excited to provide an expansion of our public park network and provide much needed public parking spaces for those visiting our beloved Historic District.

"Bluffton's Historic District is the soul of our town; it is a rare opportunity to improve our civic culture by expanding public amenities. Town Council believes this is an important purchase at this point in time," Sulka said.

68 Boundary St Purchase Town of Bluffton, SC



Calhoun St
Public Boat Dock

May River

Pritchard
Pocket Park