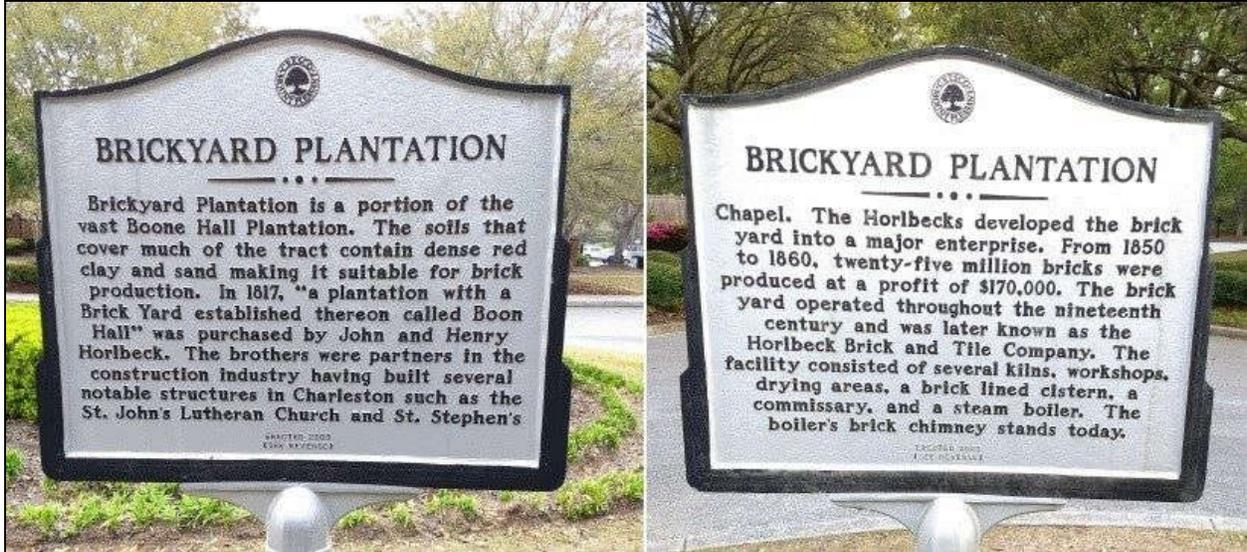


# HISTORICAL MARKERS OF BRICKYARD

## Brickyard Plantation



### **BRICKYARD PLANTATION**

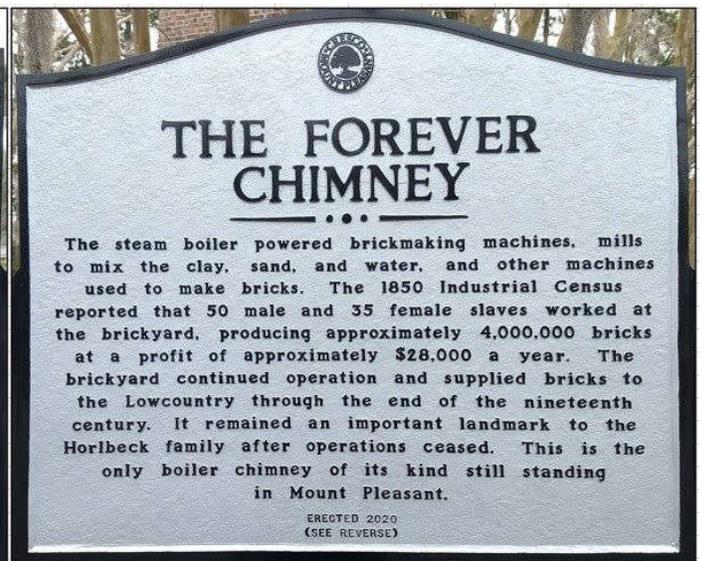
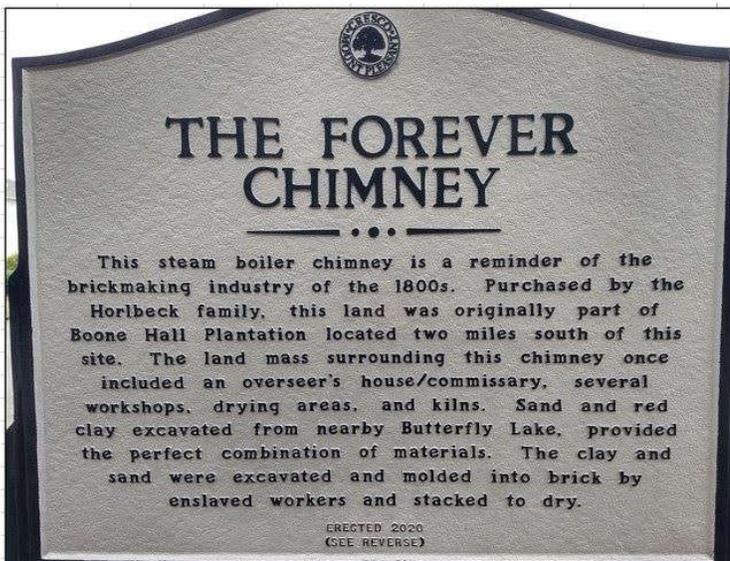
*Brickyard Plantation is a portion of the vast Boone Hall Plantation. The soils that cover much of the tract contain dense red clay and sand making it suitable for brick production. In 1817, "a plantation with a Brick Yard established thereon called Boon Hall" was purchased by John and Henry Horlbeck. The brothers were partners in the construction industry having built several notable structures in Charleston such as the St John's Lutheran Church and St. Stephen's Chapel. The Horlbecks developed the brick yard into a major enterprise. From 1850 to 1860, twenty-five million bricks were produced at a profit of \$170,000. The brick yard operated throughout the nineteenth century and was later known as the Horlbeck Brick and Tile Company. The facility consisted of several kilns, workshops, drying areas, a brick lined cistern, a commissary, and a steam boiler. The boiler's brick chimney stands today. ERECTED 2009*

## The Chimney

Built in 1843, the chimney was designed and built by the Horlbeck brothers, who were well known architects. It was used to vent the gases from the boiler, which was used in the manufacturing of brick. The chimney is considered utilitarian as well as an architect marvel. The beautiful exterior includes a stretch course brick design with a header that is an English Bond design, along with a Queen's Closure brick design. Look toward the corners of the chimney as it reaches into the sky to see the beautiful pattern.

The brick kiln was located 250 feet away from the chimney, toward Horlbeck Creek. An underground brick tunnel carried the gases from the boiler to the chimney for venting. The interior of the chimney has two flues, allowing large volumes of gases to be pulled from the boiler and vented out.

The black iron gate at the chimney entrance was installed in 2016. It was manufactured by the Simmons Foundation and resembles a mid-1800's design. The brick for Ft. Sumter and Castle Pickney, as well as numerous structures in Charleston, were made from this brick manufacturing facility.



### ***THE FOREVER CHIMNEY***

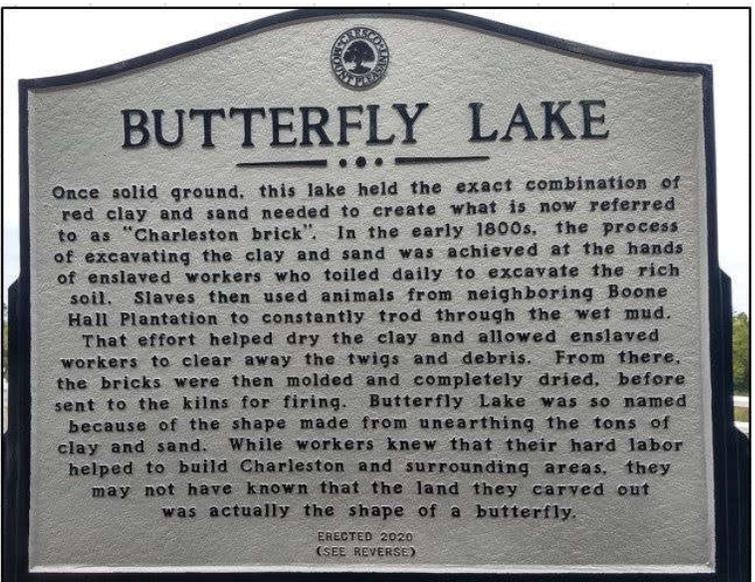
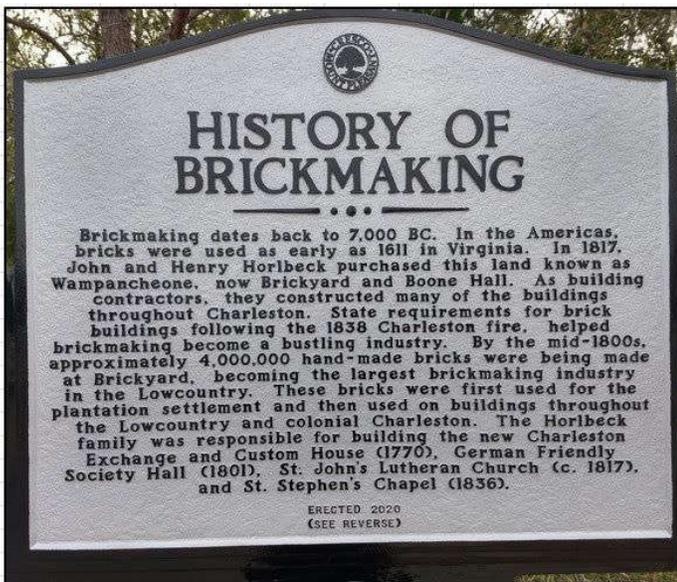
*This steam boiler chimney is a reminder of the brickmaking industry of the 1800s. Purchased by the Horlbeck family, this land was originally part of Boone Hall Plantation located two miles south of this site. The land mass surrounding this chimney once included an overseer's house/commissary, several workshops, drying areas, and kilns. Sand and red clay excavated from nearby Butterfly Lake, provided the perfect combination of materials. The clay and sand were excavated and molded into brick by enslaved workers and stacked to dry.*

*The steam boiler powered brickmaking machines, mills to mix the clay, sand, and water, and other machines used to make bricks. The 1850 Industrial Census reported that 50 male and 35 female slaves worked at the brickyard, producing approximately 4,000,000 bricks at a profit of approximately \$28,000 a year. The brickyard continued operation and supplied bricks to the Lowcountry through the end of the nineteenth century. It remained an important landmark to the Horlbeck family after operations ceased. This is the only boiler chimney of its kind still standing in Mount Pleasant. ERECTED 2020*

### **Butterfly Lake**

Excavations for the clay began in the early 1800's, around the time the Horlbeck brothers acquired Boone Hall/Brickyard and most likely continued into the early 1900's, when ceramic tiles and drain pipe were being fired at Brickyard. The historic name, Butterfly Lake, represents the aerial shape of the lake.





***HISTORY OF BRICKMAKING / BUTTERFLY LAKE***

***History of Brickmaking***

*Brickmaking dates back to 7,000 BC. In the Americas, bricks were used as early as 1611 in Virginia. In 1817, John and Henry Horlbeck purchased this land known as Wampancheone, now Brickyard and Boone Hall. As building contractors, they constructed many of the buildings throughout Charleston. State requirements for brick buildings following the 1838 Charleston fire, helped brickmaking become a bustling industry. By the mid-1800s, approximately 4,000,000 hand-made bricks were being made at Brickyard, becoming the largest brickmaking industry in the Lowcountry. These bricks were first used for the plantation settlement and then used on buildings throughout the Lowcountry and colonial Charleston. The Horlbeck family was responsible for building the new Charleston Exchange and Custom House (1770), German Friendly Society Hall (1801), St. John's Lutheran Church (c. 1817), and St. Stephen's Chapel (1836). Erected 2020*

***Butterfly Lake***

*Once solid ground, this lake held the exact combination of red clay and sand needed to create what is now referred to as "Charleston brick". In the early 1800s, the process of excavating the clay and sand was achieved at the hands of enslaved workers who toiled daily to excavate the rich soil. Slaves then used animals from neighboring Boone Hall Plantation to constantly trod through the wet mud. That effort helped dry the clay and allowed enslaved workers to clear away the twigs and debris. From there, the bricks were then molded and completely dried, before sent to the kilns for firing. Butterfly Lake was so named because of the shape made from unearthing the tons of clay and sand. While workers knew that their hard labor helped to build Charleston and surrounding areas, they may not have known that the land they carved out was actually the shape of a butterfly. ERECTED 2020*