

History & Nature

The early 1800s marked a turbulent era in Florida's history as settlers established plantations on lands that the Seminole Indians believed to be theirs.

In 1821, Major Charles Wilhelm Bulow acquired 4,675 acres of wilderness bordering a tidal creek that would bear his name. Using slave labor, he cleared 2,200 acres and planted sugar cane, cotton, rice and indigo. Soon after the plantation was established, Major Bulow died at age 44, leaving his holdings to his only son, John. Under John's skilled management, production increased and the plantation prospered until the outbreak of the Second Seminole War.

John Bulow did not agree with the U.S. government's intentions to send the Seminoles to reservations west of the Mississippi River. He demonstrated his disapproval by firing a four-pounder cannon at Major Putnam's command of State Militia as they entered his property. Troops took Bulow prisoner. After a brief campaign against the Indians and with most of the troops ill, Major Putnam's command relocated to St. Augustine and allowed Bulow to go free. Realizing that the Indians were becoming more hostile, young Bulow, like other settlers and their slaves, abandoned his plantation and followed the troops northward.

Around January 11, 1836, the Seminoles burned "Bulowville," along with other plantations in the area. John Bulow, discouraged by the destruction, went to Paris where he died three months later at the age of 26.

All that is left today of this plantation are the coquina ruins of the sugar mill, several wells, a spring house and the crumbling foundation of the mansion. The cleared fields have been reclaimed by the forest, and the area looks much as it did when it belonged to the Seminoles.

Florida State Parks

Florida Department of Environmental Protection
Division of Recreation and Parks

Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

P.O. Box 655
Bunnell, FL 32110
(386) 517-2084

FloridaStateParks.org

Park Guidelines

- Hours are 9 a.m. until 5 p.m., Thursday through Monday, closed Tuesday and Wednesday.
- An entrance fee is required. Additional user fees may apply.
- All plants, animals and park property are protected. Collection, destruction or disturbance is prohibited.
- Pets are permitted in designated areas only. Pets must be kept on a leash no longer than six feet and well behaved at all times.
- Fishing, boating, swimming and fires are allowed in designated areas only. A Florida fishing license may be required.
- Alcoholic beverages, fireworks and hunting are prohibited.
- Become a volunteer. Inquire at the ranger station.
- Florida's state parks are committed to providing equal access to all facilities and programs. Should you need assistance to enable your participation, please contact the ranger station.

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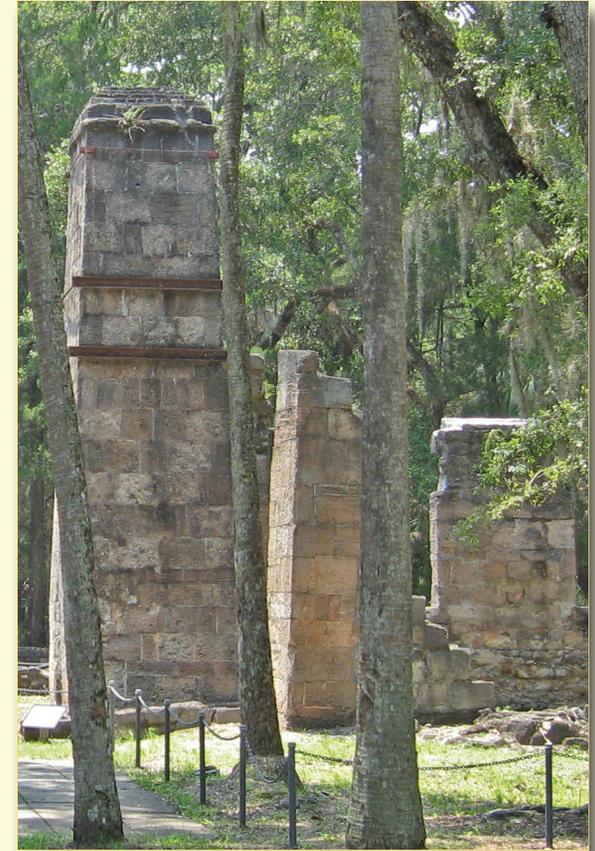
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Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park

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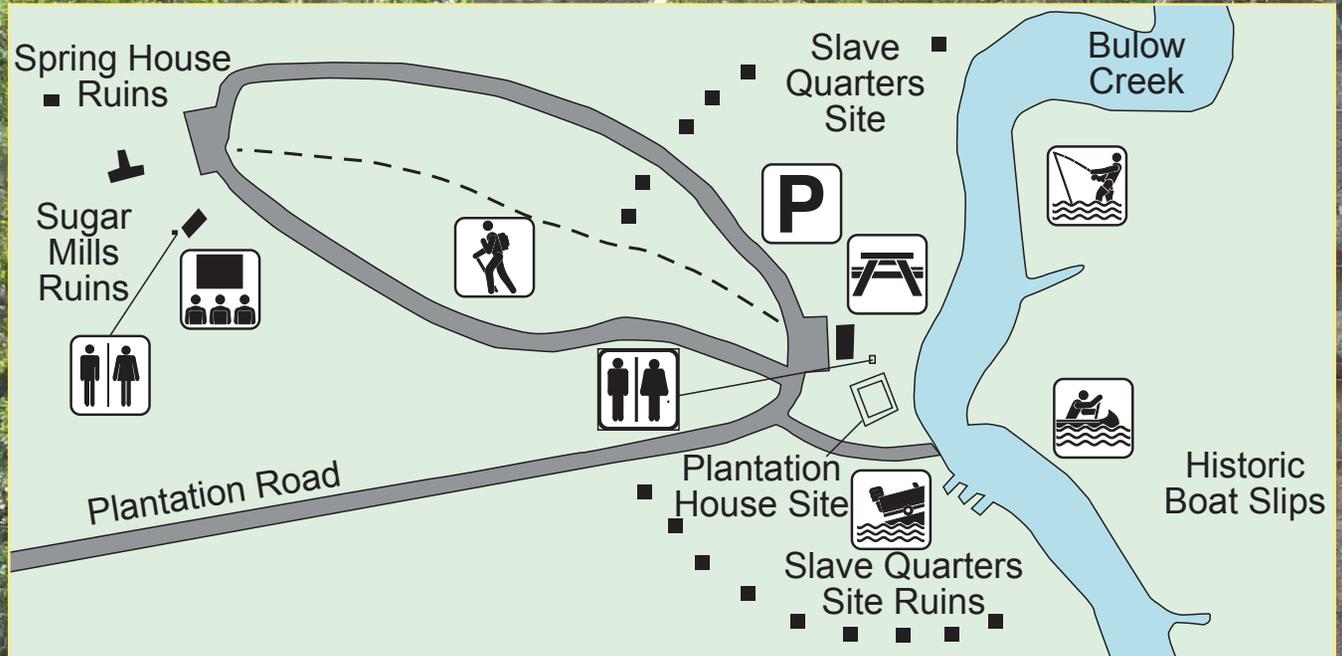
Welcome to Bulow Plantation Ruins Historic State Park.

The sugar mill ruins may be reached by a one-way loop drive or by walking a scenic trail which begins at the picnic area. An Interpretive Center located near the ruins tells the story of Bulow Plantation and the turbulent events that led to its destruction.

A picnic area with grills overlooks the scenic banks of Bulow Creek. A screened pavilion is available for reservations for larger groups, family reunions and birthday parties.

Bulow Creek is recognized as a State Canoe Trail. Each bend of the channel reveals new scenery and opportunity for **wildlife** sightings. Bald eagles, swallow-tailed kites and Florida manatees are occasionally visible. **Canoes** are available for rent by the day or hour from the park office, where the visitor can also obtain a map. A **boat ramp** is available to launch small powerboats, kayaks or canoes.

The 6.8-mile **Bulow Woods Trail** runs from the Fairchild Oak in Bulow Creek State Park to Bulow Plantation Ruins State Historic Site. The northern section near Bulow Ruins is recommended for half-day hikes. Starting from the parking area on Plantation Road, the trail crosses open woods before entering Bulow Hammock where the shaded path winds around massive trunks under the cathedral-like canopy of Live Oaks. White-tailed deer, barred owls and raccoons are commonly seen.



Directions

Located three miles west of Flagler Beach off County Road 2001 (Old King's Road), between State Road 100 and Old Dixie Highway.

