

## **Seth Prior's Tavern**

### Front

Road to revolution led through taverns, a British cultural tradition transferred to the colonies. It has often been said the Spanish in their colonies built churches, the Dutch built forts, and the British built taverns. Prior's Colonial Tavern was in SC a crucible of the American Revolution. Taverns played an especially important role as a venue to meet like-minded individuals. They functioned as clearinghouses and tests of revolutionary ideas. As the colonies took shape, taverns became central locations for many aspects of colonial life. This tavern was located at the corner of Dorchester Road and Shady Lane from 1757 to 1842. Situated on the Charleston/Augusta Road, it became an inn and stage coach stop for travelers, locals, and revolutionary military units.

Private Prior was a Soldier, Planter, and Tavern Keeper in the Revolutionary War. Seth served in the First Council of Safety and in the SC Provisional Troops under Captain Charles Brownes Volunteer Company of Dragoons and Captain Darius Dalton's Company of Light Dragoons "the Swift and Bold". He is buried at Colonial Dorchester St. George Parish Church Cemetery, dates on his marker: 1734 to 1796.

### Back

According to the U.S. Postal Service, early colonists adopted a practice used frequently in Europe and established taverns as places to collect and distribute mail. Much like today in England Taverns or Public Houses/Pubs were also "utilized as meeting places for assemblies and courts" and became a central location for discussion and debate. In taverns across the colonies, literate patriots drank and read the news of the day aloud to their fellow revelers, thereby stoking revolutionary fervor. Likely the taverns' most important role in society (and American history) is the role they played in the beginning of the Revolutionary War. As anger spread throughout the colonies, many took to the tavern to discuss, argue, and debate what needed to be done.

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