

2007 South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards

Each year the Office of the Governor, the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage. On March 16, 2007, the following individuals and organizations were recognized at the thirteenth annual South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards ceremony in Beaufort.

Honor Awards

The Honor Awards celebrate successful and exemplary historic preservation projects in South Carolina.

Highland Mill Apartments, Rock Hill

Landmark Asset Services, Inc.
Rehab Builders, Inc.
Campbell Meek & Associates, Architects

The Highland Park Manufacturing Plant was an important element in the development of the textile industry in Rock Hill. The mill buildings were constructed from 1889 to 1907 and were in operation until 1968. The complex is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. An innovative partnership, Highland Park Mill, LLC, was created to convert the mill into 116 housing units. The renovated complex also includes a senior services center and an industrial kitchen to provide meals to seniors throughout York County. An important focus of the project was retaining the rare original wood windows, the industrial feel of the site, and the integrity of the floor plan. Today, these handsome buildings once again serve the Rock Hill community.





Old Exchange Building, Charleston

Liollio Architecture

Originally completed circa 1771, the Old Exchange Building is considered to be one of the most historically significant Colonial buildings in America and is a National Historic Landmark.

Extensive research and careful analysis of existing conditions revealed that incompatible brick had been used in prior renovation efforts, causing cracking on the exterior. This allowed water infiltration leading to accelerated deterioration of the eighteenth century materials. In addition, a stucco coating applied during a previous renovation was a high Portland cement mix incompatible



North Elevation After Preservation

with the historic fabric, and a coating on top of the stucco prevented the building from breathing. Finally, stonework and exterior trim had deteriorated and needed repairs. The solutions to these problems included replacing the incompatible new bricks, applying new stucco compatible with the historic stucco, stone patching and restoration, and preservation and replacement of roofing slates and lead-coated copper flashing. This careful rehabilitation ensures that the Old Exchange will remind us of South Carolina's colonial history for many more years..



Table Rock Lodge

South Carolina State Park Service
S.C. Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism

Table Rock Lodge, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1938, is located at Table Rock State Park in Pickens County. Built of hand-hewn timbers and native stone, it is a fine example of rustic park architecture. Over the years the building had undergone a series of unsympathetic alterations, driven largely by its use as a restaurant. In 2003 the State Park Service determined that the restaurant and its modern kitchen had harmed the building's integrity and created potential for damage from fire and moisture. Over the next 3 years the Park Service reversed these changes. The rear porch, which had been enclosed, was restored, and a roof of pine shakes which more closely matched the original was installed. The modern kitchen was removed and a modest catering kitchen installed in the area of the original kitchen so that the property can be rented for special occasions. The Table Rock Lodge once again stands as a proud reminder of the work of the CCC in South Carolina.





Newberry Conference Center

The City of Newberry
McMillan Smith & Partners, Architects

Shortly after 1900, the City of Newberry built a 2-story brick firehouse. During the Great Depression, Works Progress Administration expanded the firehouse by superimposing a twofold larger, Art Deco style addition. In 1986 the fire department moved out. After the rehabilitation of the Opera House next door, the building was used to store props, signage and other materials for the Opera House and city. But city leaders believed it could be much more than a storage facility, and embarked on a project to transform the building into a conference facility. Many challenges were overcome as contracting crews embarked on the comprehensive conversion of the building. The steel frame windows were carefully repaired, and upgraded in energy efficiency with an insulating backup pane. ADA compliant elevator, life-safety and multi-screen AV equipment were installed. The result is an 11,500 square foot facility that retains its historic character with state of the art systems. Advance bookings are underway for conferences, weddings and other group events. With this project Newberry has saved a beloved landmark and created an asset that will prove to be an excellent tourism and economic development tool.



First African Baptist Church

First African Baptist Church
Amanda Griffith, Architect
Beekman Webb Construction Company

The First African Baptist Church congregation organized in 1863, and the current building was constructed around 1885. It is believed to

be the first church in Beaufort entirely built and paid for by an African American congregation. This complex restoration project began in 1999. At the time the building was in peril from a badly leaking roof; sagging foundation and sinking piers; cracks in the plaster walls; deteriorated and leaning columns that supported the porch roof, parapet and bell mount; rotted wood siding; and window frames with broken and missing panes. The project included restoring and re-pointing each pier and replacing rotted sills. This involved jacking up the building to allow the repairs to take place and then carefully easing the building back down. The massive windows were repaired, rotted weatherboards replaced, and the porch rebuilt. The



completed project stands as a commitment to exemplary preservation techniques by the congregation and its architect and contractor.

Heritage Tourism Award

The Heritage Tourism Award recognizes the best use of South Carolina's cultural and historic resources in the promotion and development of tourism or use tourism to directly benefit the preservation of our heritage.

Preservation Society of Charleston's

30th Annual Candlelight Tours of Homes and Gardens

The Fall Tours are a unique way to see and experience the historic city of Charleston. The Preservation Society showcases a different downtown historic neighborhood each evening. Between 8 and 10 historic and architecturally significant private homes, gardens, churches, and public buildings are featured for each Tour. Trained volunteers provide guests with information about the history, architecture and antiques of each property. In 2006, the Society featured 21 different Tours. As you can imagine, planning the tours requires hundreds of hours of staff and volunteer time. Two hundred houses and gardens were featured during the tours, and over 600 volunteers were recruited and trained. The impact on tourism is significant. The tours attract many out-of-state visitors to Charleston. During the Fall 2006 Tours, approximately 75% of the guests were from outside of South Carolina. The income raised from the Fall Tours allows the Preservation Society to continue its purpose to cultivate and encourage interest in the preservation of buildings, sites and structures of historic or aesthetic significance. The Tours also help the Society carry out its educational mission by showcasing examples of good preservation, adaptive use

of historic structures, appropriate additions, and appropriate new construction in the historic districts.

Corporate Stewardship Award

The Corporate Stewardship Award is presented to a corporation in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.

Security Federal Bank of Aiken

Security Federal Bank undertook a comprehensive rehabilitation of this building in downtown Aiken to serve as its corporate headquarters. Believe it or not, the building was built around 1880 but had gone through several "modernizations." Over the years it had many tenants, and in 1958 the building was purchased by Security Federal. In May of 2005 Security Federal decided to do a complete renovation of the building. This included removal of the stucco from the building's exterior and repairing the brick underneath. Inside, historic elements from the building were restored including the existing pine floors. Security Federal has made a substantial investment in this building and in downtown Aiken. For this commitment to their historic downtown Security Federal Bank is this year's recipient of the 2007 Corporate Stewardship Award.



Archaeological Stewardship Award

The Archaeological Stewardship Award is presented in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of South Carolina's archaeological heritage.



Mann Simons African American Archaeology Project

Historic Columbia Foundation

The Mann Simons Cottage is one of Historic Columbia Foundation's historic house museums.

When the

site was initially investigated in 1998, it was the first study in South Carolina to focus on the archaeology of a free black household of the antebellum period and the only excavation of an African American household in Columbia. This multi-year project will provide a deeper understanding of how the material world shapes social relations and present an alternate history of the complexities of everyday life as African Americans and middle class residents living within a culture of segregation.

Excavations in 2005 and 2006 have revealed the presence of several structures and yard features including a trash pit, fence lines and potentially a well. Oral histories will provide context for interpreting the archaeological investigations. This project will enable Historic Columbia Foundation to provide a unique new look at middle-class African American life in the urban South. It will result in a revised exhibit gallery housed in the cottage, along with a revised furnishings plan for the period room displays.



Elected Official Honor Award

The Elected Official Honor Award is presented to an individual elected official in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.



Benjy Rogers, Mayor of Bennettsville

Mayor Rogers began his political career in 1973 when he was elected to County Council. From 1985 to 1995 he served as a City Council Member for Bennettsville. Since he was elected mayor in 1999, Mayor Rogers has been a strong supporter of the Bennettsville Downtown Development Association. Through several partnerships between the City and the Association, historic buildings

have been saved and rehabbed and a marketing campaign is underway promoting Bennettsville's historic attributes.

In 2003 the City of Bennettsville, under the guidance of Mayor Rogers, applied for an Opportunity Grant for the South Carolina Department of Commerce. The City was one of three winners. With the grant the city undertook an ambitious preservation agenda to:

- Rehabilitate 100 building facades in downtown.
- Develop a way-finding sign system for the city.
- Train workers in the art of window and brick restoration.
- Develop an ongoing marketing campaign.
- Implement phase II and III of the streetscape.

The City also established a Visitor Center. Instead of constructing a new building, Mayor Rogers pushed to have the city purchase the historic D. D. McColl house and renovate it for use as the Visitor Center.

As Mayor of Bennettsville, Mr. Rogers has traveled extensively throughout the state extolling the virtues of downtown Bennettsville and its historic treasures. Because of his enthusiasm, the folks in Bennettsville, including City Council members, have rallied behind the efforts to preserve downtown.

Governor's Award

The Governor's Award is presented to an individual in recognition of lifetime achievements in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.

George D. Fields, Jr.



George Field's leadership has led to the preservation of more than 560 acres of battlefields. He has been extraordinarily successful in getting the National Park Service, the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT), land trusts, city and county governments, historical societies, chambers of commerce, and many others to work together to achieve permanent protection of significant battle sites. He has also initiated the Cradle of Democracy Project with SCPRT and the Back Country Revolutionary Heritage

Project with Spartanburg County Foundation.

As director of the Military Heritage Program of the Palmetto Conservation Foundation, George has negotiated easements and purchases of battlefields, overseen archaeological work, provided interpretation, and been involved in landscape restoration. He first became involved at Musgrove Mill, when he discovered that part of the core battlefield was slated for development. He negotiated the sale of 39 acres that Palmetto Conservation Foundation donated to SCPRT in 2005. George also helped raised funds to pay for exhibits in the Visitors Center.

George negotiated as easement of 70 acres on Snow's Island, the site most identified with Francis Marion. He also helped develop wayside parks at Fort Charlotte and Earle's Ford, and was involved in the landscape restoration project at Cowpens. George coordinated an inventory of Revolutionary War sites in the

Ninety Six region which resulted in the development of a Heritage Tourism Plan. One result of the plan was the gift of 40 acres adjacent to the star fort at Ninety Six where Lighthorse Harry Lee and Andrew Pickens laid siege. Lee's trenches will be donated to the National Park Service this year.

At Blackstock's where Thomas Sumter defeated Banastre Tarleton, 107 acres are preserved because of George's ability to wheel and deal with timber companies and a private investor. The property was turned over to SCPRT in 2005 for the state's newest historic site. George was also quite successful in raising money for archaeological work and to provide interpretation at the battlefield.

The biggest and most involved project George has taken on is the preservation and restoration of the Battle of Camden. Despite efforts going back as far as 1916, only the 6 acres owned by the Daughters of the American Revolution were safe. George organized a coalition of 20 agencies and organizations to help preserve the site. He got grants from the National Park Service to develop a preservation plan and do archaeological research. He negotiated an easement with a timber company on 310 acres of the site. He oversees a half million dollar grant to restore the site to longleaf pine, do further archaeological research, and develop trails with interpretation.

Not content with preserving and restoring the sites, George spends countless hours interpreting the events that happened so that fellow citizens also become enthused and gain a better understanding of our rich heritage. He has organized sold out bus tours in the Upcountry and gives dozens of talks each year to community groups and school classes. His contagious enthusiasm and well-researched knowledge make him a great ambassador for this segment of our history.



Reenactment of Morgan's March to Cowpens