

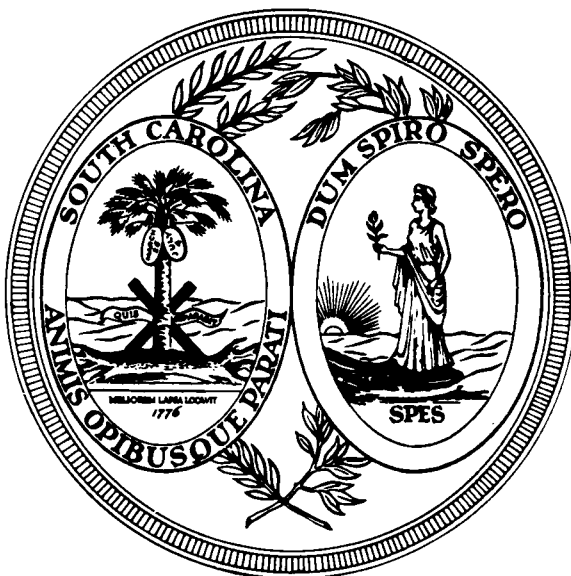
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**SOUTH CAROLINA
OLD EXCHANGE BUILDING
COMMISSION**

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STATE DOCUMENTS



**ANNUAL REPORT
1985-1986**

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THE OLD EXCHANGE

and Provost Dungeon

East Bay at Broad Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29401
Telephone: 803/792-5020

November 11, 1986

Marie Colton Pelzer
Executive Director

Hello:

Historians call the Old Exchange Building and Provost Dungeon "One of the three most historic buildings of Colonial America" with the other two buildings being Independence Hall in Philadelphia and Faneuil Hall in Boston.

The Commission and its staff have dedicated themselves to making this building one that not only all South Carolinians, but all Americans can be proud of.

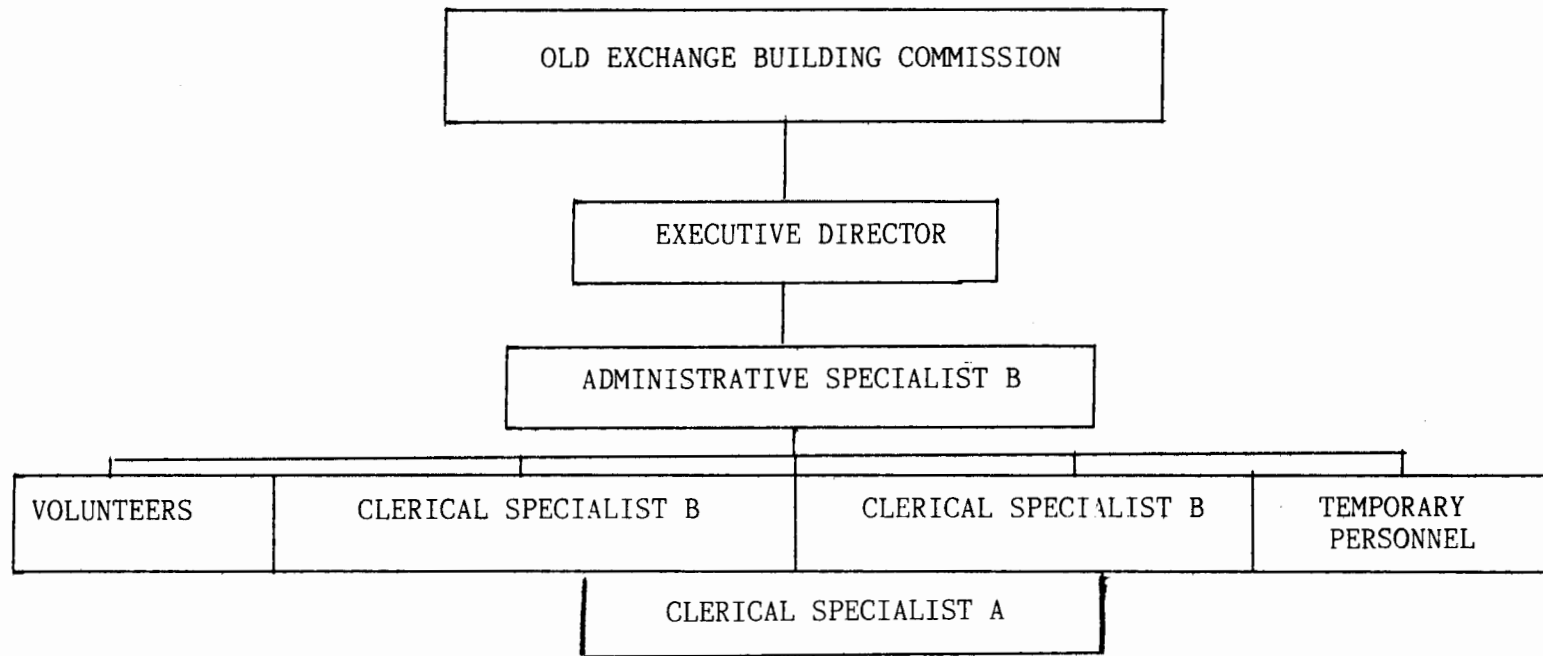
On behalf of the Commission and the staff, this report is respectfully submitted.

Sincerely,

Marie C. Pelzer
Executive Director

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter of Introduction.....Page 1
Table of Contents.....Page 2
Organizational Chart.....Page 3
Staff.....Page 4
Act Creating Commission.....Page 5
History of Exchange Building.....Pages 5-6
Programs.....Pages 6-7



STAFF

Marie C. Pelzer.....Executive Director
Rebecca J. Adams.....Administrative Specialist B
Nina Evans.....Clerical Specialist B
Vacant.....Clerical Specialist B
Sue G. Rodgers.....Clerical Specialist A

The Old Exchange Building Commission was created by Act 678 and amended by R-270 in 1977.

The Commission shall have responsibility for the restoration, development, administration and control of the Old Exchange Building, one of the three great public buildings of colonial America.

(12 members, 3 elected by the General Assembly; 2 elected by the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution; 2 not residents of Charleston Co., elected by S.C. Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution; the Attorney General and the Chairmen of the Dept. of Parks, Recreation and Tourism and the Dept. of Archives and History, or their designees, shall serve ex officio with voting privileges, for 6 yr. terms; 2 ex officio members with voting privileges, 1 Senator and 1 Representative elected by those members of each respective body who are members of the S.C. American Revolution Bicentennial Commission.)

THE OLD EXCHANGE BUILDING AND PROVOST DUNGEON

On April 27, 1767, the Commons House of Assembly passed the Act which granted to his Majesty, the King of England, sixty thousand pounds, to build the Exchange which was to be a customs house and Exchange Building. The money to build the Exchange came from local taxation of wine, rum and basket.

In 1773 meetings were held in the Exchange protesting English encroachment. It was from these first meetings that South Carolina government actually descended.

It was in the cellars (Provost Dungeon) of the Exchange, that our American patriots were held by the British during the Battle for America's freedom.

S.C. signers of the Declaration of Independence were held in the Provost by the British for the treasonous act of signing.

In May the U.S. Constitution was ratified for the State of S.C. in the Exchange.

In 1791 the Exchange is where George Washington, our first president, was entertained on five different occasions during a one-week stay in Charleston.

On February 14, 1818, the City of Charleston sold the Old Exchange to the Federal Government for \$60,000. It then became a post office and remained a customs house along with still being the center of Charleston activity. It fell to disrepair during the Civil War and had to be vacated until the Federal Government could restore it.

In the early 1900's the Federal Government considered selling the building to a gasoline station dealer and sounded the alarm for the South Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution and the Rebecca Motte Chapter, which is the local Charleston Chapter. They took action. Their actions were rewarded on March 4, 1913, when a bill was passed by Congress authorizing the Secretary of the Treasury "to convey, by quit claim deed the Old Exchange... to the Order of the Daughters of the American Revolution in and of the State of South Carolina, to be held by it as a historical memorial in trust for such use, care, and occupation thereof by the Rebecca Motte Chapter of said order...as the said chapter shall in its judgment deem to best subserve the preservation of said colonial building and promote the honorable and patriotic purpose for which the grant is requested." The South Carolina DAR permitted the Federal Government to use the Exchange Building in World Wars I and II.

Owning one of the most significant buildings in American history since 1913 was an awesome responsibility for the Rebecca Motte Chapter of the DAR.

It was this responsibility that led to the organization's request for help from the State of South Carolina. The Old Exchange Building Commission was established by the Act of the General Assembly. The body was given operative and administrative control of matters relating to the Exchange. A lease was signed in December of 1976, giving the Exchange Building Commission effective control over most of the building for the next 25 years. The Commission also had the option to continue control for three more successive 25 year periods.

A contract for restoration was signed on August 10, 1979. The restoration was completed and the building officially opened to the public on October 5, 1981.

Visitors may tour the Old Exchange Building, rent one of our elegant rooms for a meeting or reception, or purchase a souvenir right from our gift shop.

- PROGRAMS -

The Old Exchange Building is a small agency staffed full-time by only five persons, but we have developed a good educational program that teachers may adapt when bringing students to the building.

Teachers are given pre-visit information to properly prepare students for not only the Exchange Building's history, but also Charleston history. The teachers are given post-visit information as a proper follow-up to their visit. This is material suitable for grades K-12.

For the pre-kindergarten through 2nd grades, a special program was adopted using simple hands-on items and a puppet to tell our history. In this way the children are able to learn while creating and listening to a special guide tell our story.

All the projects just mentioned were developed for two reasons: (1) to educate our public on the importance of the Old Exchange Building, thereby creating interest and (2) to increase revenues.