

## 2012 Historic Preservation Awards

The eighteenth annual Historic Preservation Awards, sponsored by the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor, recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of South Carolina's architectural and cultural heritage.

### Governor's Award

*The Governor's Award is presented to an individual in recognition of a lifetime of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation.*

Dr. Ernest "Chip" Helms: Born and raised on a tobacco farm near the Great Pee Dee River, Dr. Helms has long been an advocate for historic preservation in the area. He has saved four Darlington County homes from deterioration: the Caleb and Hannah Lide Coker House, the Dr. S. H. Pressly House, Society's Hill's Bellevue, and the fully restored 1830s Greek Revival farmhouse he calls home. The annual Public Day at the Johannes Kolb Site is a result of Dr. Helms' initiation and support of archaeology in the Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve, and his efforts have preserved and maintained Pleasant Hill Cemetery and the cemetery at Trinity Episcopal Church in Society Hill. To raise statewide interest in the area, he founded the Welsh Tract Historic Properties Association and sponsors tours of Society Hill. Dr. Helms' lifelong support of historic preservation in the Pee Dee and Society Hill has been a significant contribution to South Carolina's material history.

### Heritage Tourism Award

*The Heritage Tourism Award recognizes those who best use cultural and historic resources in the promotion and development of tourism or use tourism to directly benefit the preservation of our heritage.*

Connecting Communities Through History: Historic Columbia Foundation: Historic Columbia Foundation was awarded the Heritage Tourism Award for its investigation of six local historic neighborhoods, including Arsenal Hill, Cottontown, Heathwood, Hollywood-Rose Hill, Lower Waverly, and Old Shandon, and development of the resulting diversified educational products. Interactive web pages, wayside signage, historical walking and driving tour brochures, and public programs were able to effectively reach visitors to Columbia and better enhance their experience in the historic districts. Another outcome of the project was an increased engagement with the neighborhoods' residents "in their own backyard" and generating public interest in the local history of Columbia. The Foundation predicts its interpretive web resources and printed media tools, using education to promote historic preservation, will become a model for other heritage tourism organizations.

### Honor Awards

*The Honor Awards celebrate successful and exemplary historic preservation projects.*

Randolph Hall, Porters Lodge, and Towell Library Exterior: The College of Charleston and Cummings & McCrady, Inc. were awarded an Honor Award for the exterior renovations to Randolph Hall, Porters Lodge and Towell Library on the College of Charleston campus. These three buildings, dating from the nineteenth century and listed in the National Register of Historic Places, were repaired by qualified professionals in order to preserve and retain the historic character of the campus. The project used only historically appropriate materials in its structural and roofing repairs, and treatments of wood windows and shutters, stone masonry, terra cotta capitals, brick masonry, stucco, ornamental iron, and paint finishes. The terra cotta capitals on

Randolph Hall's south portico were handcrafted in Massachusetts and are the earliest pieces of architectural terra cotta in the country, dating to 1850. The project, began in 2009 and completed in 2011, paid careful attention to historic details and extends the usable life of the buildings and grounds.

Lancaster County Courthouse: Lancaster County, South Carolina Association of Counties Property and Liability Trust, and Boykin & Munnerlyn Architects & Associates were given an Honor Award for the restoration of the Lancaster County Courthouse. The Georgian Classical courthouse, built in 1828 and attributed to the architect Robert Mills, was severely damaged by a 2008 fire. The second floor courtroom was essentially destroyed, and the water damage from fire hoses and severe thunderstorms contributed to further deterioration. The building's windows, including the large Palladian window in the judge's chamber, slate roof, and brick chimneys were completely restored. Wall portraits drawn by Civil War prisoners were cleaned and restored, revealing works that had deteriorated with time, fire, and mold. The building was also updated with restrooms, HVAC system, sprinklers, and ADA elevator. The expert work on this building brought beauty and function back to the historic Lancaster County Courthouse.

Irwin House: Dr. Vivian Fisher and Mr. Jim Newcomb, RRS Restorations, and Martin E. Meek were awarded an Honor Award for the restoration of the Irwin House, a pre-1891 Queen Anne home in the Hampton Heights Historic District in Spartanburg. The house, with a high quality of exterior and interior architecture, had been restored by the owners over the past 27 years. A 2010 attic fire caused significant damage. RSS Construction retained all surviving woodwork, and while the historic plaster was lost, the original pine floors were saved. Architect Martin Meek updated the master suite and added plumbing and HVAC throughout the home. Dr. Fisher's photos of the previous restoration of the building were invaluable documentation guiding the project and testify to the couple's unwavering dedication to the maintenance of their historic home.

93 & 97 Broad Street: Meadors Inc., Wills, Masslon & Allen, LLC, and Ben & Kelly Navarro received an Honor Award for the restoration of 93 & 97 Broad Street in downtown Charleston. The buildings were severely dilapidated and presented a safety hazard and eyesore, until James Meadors purchased the properties from the city in 2005 with the intent to restore and sell them as commercial office space. 93 Broad Street, the c. 1783 Bocquet-Simons House, was heavily damaged by Hurricane Hugo, and 97 Broad Street, the 1835 Mordecai Cohen Tenement, was used as a Piggly Wiggly loading and storage facility before sitting vacant since the 1980s. Mr. Meadors' efforts to preserve the structures began with intense research and documentation, cataloguing, and retaining historic materials. The restorations met the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation, the requirements for state and federal tax credits, and became the first restoration projects in Charleston to adhere to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The project demonstrates that even the most damaged buildings can be preserved, and combining the strict standards of historic preservation and the technological innovations of energy efficiency can serve as a model for future restoration projects.

If Walls Could Speak- Williams-Earle Slave Cabin: The Greenville County School District - Roper Mountain Science Center, Thomas Riddle with the Greenville County Historic Commission, and Mountain Sturdy Oak Restoration were given an Honor Award for the restoration of the 1840s Williams-Earle slave cabin. The project preserves and interprets the history of African Americans in Greenville from 1790 to 1930 through one of the few remaining Upcountry slave cabins. The cabin, originally part of a National Register property, was planned for demolition but was dismantled, relocated to the Living District Farm of the Greenville County

School District, and reconstructed by student volunteers. Middle and high school students are involved in the interpretation process, creating artifact displays and interpretative panels, and gaining hands-on experience in preservation. The project also included a new social studies curriculum incorporating virtual field trips and video and photographic documentation by students. "If Walls Could Speak" tells the overlooked story of slavery, Reconstruction, and Jim Crow through a single structure and provides social studies teachers with a new, innovative venue to teach their students about the contributions of Upcountry African Americans.

### **Stewardship Awards**

*The Stewardship Awards recognize those who have ensured the ongoing preservation of historic buildings, structures or sites through long-term care, planning, management, protection, or continuous ownership.*

Penn Center, Inc. National Historical Landmark District: On its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Penn Center on St. Helena Island received a Stewardship Award for its continued preservation of the material culture, architectural history, environmental stewardship, and ethnography of the Gullah people on the Sea Islands. It was founded in 1862 by Northern missionaries Laura M. Towne and Ellen Murray as the first school in the South to provide education to former slaves. In the 1960s, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference used the site for training and strategic planning for the Civil Rights movement. Penn Center created the Land Use and Environmental Education Program to assist locals in maintaining ownership of their land, and donated 250 acres to a conservation easement. It nominated itself as the state's only African American National Historic Landmark District, and its campus was converted into a conference center, public museum and cultural center, and early childhood learning center. The York M. Bailey Museum interpreting the site's history is the first African American museum in Beaufort County. Penn Center's continued preservation of Gullah heritage has been a successful public-private partnership meeting the needs of its community.

Boxwood Manor: The Lewis-Moorhead Home: Annette Buchanan received a Stewardship Award for the restoration of her family home in Pendleton, c. 1790. While the house had been updated, it had fallen into disrepair by 2007. The project became a community effort, as family, volunteers, and local craftsmen came together to renovate the building over fourteen months. A family and friends work day began the process, and more than 120 volunteers made 300 bricks for the chimney during a brick-making workshop. As they peeled away layers of renovation, they discovered log walls, hand-hewn paneling, and historic windows. A vaulted ceiling in the kitchen reveals an impressive log wall and historic building materials were recycled throughout the home. The restored Boxwood Manor is a partner of the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor and allows access to visitors.

### **Preservation Service Awards**

*The Preservation Service Awards recognize projects and activities that make exemplary contributions to the advancement of historic preservation.*

City of Conway Historic Design Review Districts: Community Appearance Guidelines: The City of Conway was awarded a Preservation Service Award for its "Historic Design Review Districts: Community Appearance Guidelines." These codes, review processes, and design guidelines created three local historic design review districts, including Commercial, Main Street, and the Waccamaw Riverfront. The document also provides information about development in the city's two National Register of Historic Places historic districts. It is intended to guide property owners on the historic preservation process and tax incentives, and to aid the Community Appearance Board in protecting the historic character of Conway. The Conway City Council adopted the

guidelines on December 12, 2011, after two years of time, effort, and participation from many stakeholders, and is a valuable preservation tool for the Conway community.

Richland County Conservation Commission: The Richland County Conservation Commission was given a Preservation Service Award for its Historic Preservation Grant Program. The program, created in 2006, is unique among South Carolina's local governments and has awarded \$1,163,789 to twenty-nine restoration and education projects throughout Richland County. Such projects include the restoration of the 1880 Harriet Barber House and the renovations of Richland County's oldest African American school (Monteith School) and last remaining Rosenwald School (Pine Grove). Other projects were the stabilization of the Lindler House (a pre-Revolutionary War log cabin) and the restoration of Sesqui Log Cabin (potentially the oldest existing structure in the county). The funds given by the Richland County Conservation Commission's Historic Preservation Grant Program have facilitated the preservation of Richland County's built heritage and encourage future education about its people, places, and values.