

## 2005 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 31, 2005, the following projects, individuals, and organizations were recognized at the eleventh annual South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards ceremony at the Archives and History Center.



**2005 Historic Preservation Award Winners**

### Honor Awards

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

#### **Walker Hall, South Carolina School for the Deaf and the Blind, Spartanburg**

*S. C. School for the Deaf and the Blind  
McMillan Smith & Partners Architects, PLLC*

Walker Hall was designed by Charleston architect Edward C. Jones and originally constructed in 1859 to house the South Carolina School for the Deaf and Blind. Since then it has undergone several renovations and additions. In 2002-2004 the 67,925 square foot building was completely rehabilitated. The project successfully maintained the distinctive historic features and character of the

building while meeting current code standards. Today, the building exceeds the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act and continues to house services and programs for deaf, blind or sensory multi-disabled children and adults.



**Lee Library and Tingley Memorial Hall, Claflin University, Orangeburg**  
*Claflin University, Dr. Henry N. Tisdale*



Lee Library was built in 1898 and Tingley Memorial Hall in 1908 on the campus of Claflin University. Both buildings were designed by William Wilson Cooke, superintendent of vocational training at Claflin and a pioneer African American architect in South Carolina and the nation. Lee Library and Tingley Memorial Hall have been carefully rehabilitated over a two-year period. The



**Lee Library, Claflin University**

work included removing insensitive alterations that had occurred over the years and restoring the buildings to their original beauty. Today Lee Library and Tingley Memorial Hall provide character and a sense of place to the Claflin campus that no new buildings could imitate.

**Myrtle Beach Train Depot, *Myrtle Beach***

*City of Myrtle Beach*

*Myrtle Beach All Aboard Committee*

*A. Dale Gilliland, Architect*



The Myrtle Beach Train Depot was built in 1937 and used for three decades. In 1999 when the abandoned and deteriorated building was threatened with demolition, the Myrtle Beach All Aboard Committee came to its rescue. The Committee obtained National Register listing for the depot and, working with the City, raised more than \$650,000 in

grants and private donations to restore the structure and improve the site with parking facilities, lighting, and landscaping. Today the old depot serves as a community center.



**Our Lady of Mercy Church,  
Charleston**

*The Most Reverend Robert J. Baker,  
Bishop of Charleston  
Cummings & McCrady, Inc.*

Our Lady of Mercy was built in 1912 for a Methodist church and was purchased by the Catholic Diocese in 1928. It is located on a prominent corner in Charleston's East Side, one of the city's poorest neighborhoods. After sustaining major damage from a fire in 2002, the church was carefully rehabilitated with repairs to restore or replace-in-kind historic surfaces and materials. New building systems such as heating, air conditioning, and lighting were sensitively integrated.



The stained glass windows and the original 1912 pews were also restored. The preservation work was completed and the church rededicated by Bishop Robert J. Baker on August 24, 2003. Our Lady of Mercy Church building once again serves as a beautiful and inspiring house of worship, and houses a soup kitchen for the neighborhood.





**Julius A. Dargan House,  
Darlington**  
*City of Darlington  
Administrative Offices  
Sandy Kendall, Building Official*

The Julius Dargan House, which was constructed in 1856, is one of the oldest residences in the city of Darlington. Seeing the need to preserve this architecturally important structure, city leaders partnered with community and civic organizations, businesses, and interested individuals to rehabilitate the local landmark for a city office facility. Today the building serves as a showplace for the community and houses offices of the mayor, the city manager, the planning department, the city clerk, and the codes enforcement officer.



**Poinsett Hotel, Greenville**  
*Packwood Management*  
*Campbell Meek & Associates, Architects*  
*John Laurens, Preservation Consultants*

The twelve-story Poinsett Hotel was designed by premier hotel architect W.L. Stoddard of New York and built in 1925. It operated as a hotel until the 1970s. The Poinsett had been condemned when it was purchased by the Packwood Management Company. During the rehabilitation of the old hotel, all public spaces were restored to the 1925 design and a concerted effort made to retain original finishes and design elements. On the exterior 90% of the original windows were retained, and damaged terracotta decorative pieces and ironwork were restored. Today the Poinsett, restored to its former splendor, provides gracious accommodations on Greenville's Main Street as the Westin Poinsett.





## Heritage Tourism Award

*The Heritage Tourism Award recognizes the use of South Carolina's cultural and historic resources in the promotion and development of tourism.*



**Kaminski Building, Rice Museum,  
Georgetown**  
*Jim Fitch, Director*



The Kaminski Building dates from the 1840s and is located next door to the Rice Museum. It was used for many years as a hardware store and has undergone several renovations throughout its history. The renovation of the building as part of the Rice Museum complex was completed in 2004.

Today the building houses a Maritime History Gallery and four new permanent exhibits on Georgetown County history as well as an art gallery and a gift shop. With the opening of the Kaminski Building, the Rice Museum has documented an increase in annual visitors from 15,000 to approximately 35,000.

## Corporate Stewardship Award

*The Corporate Stewardship Award recognizes a corporation that has made significant achievements or landmark efforts in support of historic preservation in South Carolina.*



### **Palmetto Bluff, LLC, Bluffton**

Palmetto Bluff, LLC is the developer of an approximately 20,000-acre tract of land known as Palmetto Bluff. When surveys of the Palmetto Bluff property revealed over 150 archaeological sites, the local management team realized that such a rich history should be opened to the scrutiny of scholars and the discoveries passed on in accessible ways to the public. To coordinate these efforts Palmetto Bluff, LLC has employed an on-site archaeologist who oversees a technical team and works with researchers at academic institutions. The company has protected archaeological sites with easements and developed a cemetery master plan. Palmetto Bluff, LLC also provides hands-on educational opportunities for boy scouts, girl

scouts, local school groups, and the general public. The company has demonstrated a preservation ethic that substantially exceeds regulatory requirements.



## Archaeological Stewardship Award

*The Archaeological Stewardship Award recognizes significant achievements or landmark efforts in support of South Carolina's archaeological heritage.*

### **Johannes Kolb Project, Darlington County**

*S.C. Department of Natural Resources/John Frampton, Director  
Christopher Judge, Heritage Trust Archaeologist, S.C. Department of Natural Resources*

*Carl Steen, Archaeologist, Diachronic Research Foundation  
Paul Sandifer*

The Johannes Kolb site is located on the Great Pee Dee Heritage Preserve, a 2,800-acre tract of river hardwood bottomland acquired in 1991 by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Johannes Kolb was one of the earliest Europeans to settle along that stretch of the river. Following Kolb's occupation in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the property was used



as a plantation center for enslaved African Americans in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and as a free black settlement in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Annual excavations of the site, supervised by Chris Judge, Heritage Trust Archaeologist, and Carl Steen, archaeologist with the Diachronic Research Foundation, began in 1996. These excavations have revealed important information about the history of the Pee Dee area of the state. By participating in the annual excavations, hundreds of students have been exposed to proper archaeological techniques. In addition, each year a public day with various living history demonstrations and entertainment raises awareness of the excavations and local heritage.

## **Governor's Award**

*The Governor's Award recognizes an individual for lifetime achievements in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.*

### **Paul Moffatt Gettys, Rock Hill**

Paul Gettys, a native of Catawba, S.C., recently retired as Senior Planner with the Catawba Regional Council of Governments. In this capacity he assisted local governments and civic organizations in Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York counties with a wide variety of services, many of which drew upon his background in land use and environmental planning. During his tenure as Senior Planner, Paul also displayed an abiding interest, knowledge, and passion for history and historic preservation. His assistance to historic preservation projects is extraordinary. Paul has written 26 National Register nominations, helped Rock Hill and York develop preservation ordinances, and prepared grant applications for many historic preservation projects. As a writer Paul has authored Historic Properties of Lancaster County and has published a history of the First Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Rock Hill. He is also the author of a series, "Getting to Know Rock Hill," which appears in The Lantern, a local community newsletter. Paul is actively involved in a number of historical and patriotic organizations and is always willing to assist them in any way possible. Through his achievements Paul has strengthened the role of historic preservation in Chester, Lancaster, Union, and York Counties.