

# SCSL Digital Collections

## 2011 historic preservation awards

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## 2011 Historic Preservation Awards

The 2011 Historic Preservation Awards recognize the exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage. The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor sponsor the awards.

Please note: The following descriptions are based on the award nominations submitted by project supporters.

**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.*

### **Louise Miller Cohen**

Governor Nikki R. Haley presented the Governor's Award for lifetime achievement during a ceremony at the State House on April 1, 2011 to Louise Miller Cohen. As dozens of supporters looked on, her contributions to sharing and preserving Gullah culture were honored. A native of Hilton Head Island, Ms. Cohen performs at schools, churches, regional festivals, colleges and makes presentations to charitable and civic organizations. She teaches children in the Beaufort County schools as an artist-in-residence, helping to preserve the Gullah culture through quilting, storytelling, singing, and movement. In 2003, she founded the non-profit Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island and now serves as Director. The museum recently restored "The Little House" built in 1930 with the help of local builders and volunteers. Ms. Cohen also serves on the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Commission and was the recipient of the Jean Laney Harris Folk Heritage Award in 2007.

**HERITAGE TOURISM AWARD:** *The Heritage Tourism Award recognizes those who best use 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.*

### **The Oaks Plantation History & Nature Trail and The Lowcountry Trail Recipient: Brookgreen Gardens**

Brookgreen Gardens received the 2011 Heritage Tourism Award for the investigation, preservation and interpretation of two archaeological sites on its property--the Oaks Plantation and Brookgreen Plantation. Excavations began at the two sites in 1992 and unearthed nearly 50,000 artifacts, and located the slave villages associated with the plantations. Now, interpretive signs, sculptures, paths, walkways and an elevated boardwalk enable visitors to experience these sites and adjoining rice fields while learning about the history and culture of the area, including the lives of enslaved

Africans and African Americans. In 2010, more than 51,000 visitors from across the country and around the world toured the sites.

***CORPORATE STEWARDSHIP AWARD:*** *The Corporate Stewardship Award may be presented each year to a corporation in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.*

### **Old Aiken Post Office**

**Recipients: Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, Todd Lista, Senator W. Greg Ryberg**

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, Todd Lista, and Senator W. Greg Ryberg received the Corporate Stewardship award for the ongoing preservation of the old Aiken Post Office. Built in 1912, the classically designed building is an anchor for downtown Aiken. It served as a post office until 1971, and Senator Strom Thurmond had his Aiken Office in the basement for decades. Both Senator Ryberg and later Mr. Lista owned the building and worked to ensure its preservation. In 2008 Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, LLC, the management entity for the Savannah River Site, leased the main floor of the building, and invested its corporate profits into creating state of the art offices, conference rooms, and kitchen facilities in this graceful landmark.

***ELECTED OFFICIAL HONOR AWARD:*** *The Elected Official Honor Award may be presented each year to an individual elected official in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.*

### **Elaine Harris, Mayor of Pacolet**

A native of Pacolet, Mrs. Harris is currently serving her third term as mayor. She has worked tirelessly to save and protect the Town of Pacolet's historic and natural resources, seeing them as keys to the future viability and success of this former textile community. She encouraged the nomination of key properties such as the Pacolet Mills Office, Cloth Room, and Marysville School to the National Register of Historic Places, as well as the Pacolet Mill Village Historic District. Under her leadership the Pacolet Mills Office became Town Hall and home to the Pacolet Mills History Museum, Pacolet gained designation as a Preserve America community, and preservation guidelines were developed for the Mill Village historic properties. Mrs. Harris has inspired not only her community, but leaders from other communities across the state with whom she has shared the vision and excitement of using history and historic places as building blocks for the future.

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL STEWARDSHIP AWARD:** *The Archaeological Stewardship Award may be presented each year in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of South Carolina's archaeological heritage.*

**Horry County Cemetery Project**

**Recipients: Horry County Board of Architectural Review, Adam Emrick, and Christopher Klement**

Since the Horry County Cemetery Project began in 2007, it has inventoried nearly 200 cemeteries through digital photography and GPS coordinates. A Ground Penetrating Radar Unit has been used to locate nearly 1,000 unmarked graves. To date, 7,210 individual gravesite locations have been inventoried and posted online via a link from the county's website <http://www.horrycounty.org/cemetery.asp>. In addition to documentation, the project has gathered community support from Conway High School, Eagle Scouts, church groups, and the Waccamaw Indians. To date, 113 of the cemeteries have been added to the Horry County Historic Property Register. Sixteen individual properties have also been added to the local Register in part due to the publicity generated by the Cemetery Project. Emrick has also written a book about the project detailing the hurdles, surprises and successes, which will be published later in 2011.

**HONOR AWARDS:** *The Honor Awards celebrate successful and exemplary historic preservation projects around the Palmetto State. No more than five Honor Awards will be presented in one year.*

**"The Little House" Duey's Home, Hilton Head Island**

**Recipient: Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island**

The Gullah Museum of Hilton Head Island is on land acquired after the Civil War by former slave and Union Soldier William Simmons. Located on the museum property, this 1930s small frame house was in danger of collapse before local volunteers and builders working with the Remodelers Council of the Hilton Head Island Area Home Builders Association, brought it back to life for the Museum. Holes were patched, rotten boards replaced, the original tin roof repaired, the chimney stabilized, later additions removed, windows and shutters installed, and the porch rebuilt. To cap it off, volunteers of all ages painted the house its original vibrant blue.

**Seashore Farmers' Lodge 767, James Island**

**Recipient: The Seashore Farmers' Lodge African American Museum and Cultural Center**

Built around 1915, for decades the Seashore Farmers' Lodge 767 on James Island was the hub of the surrounding African American farming community. However the two-story frame building had fallen into disrepair by the late 1980s and was further battered by hurricanes and tropical storms. It was in fragile condition when listed in the National

Register of Historic Places in 2007. Since that time, through a grant from the Town of James Island and other contributions, and countless volunteer hours, the building has been extensively repaired and can once again welcome neighbors and visitors as a museum and cultural center.

**Grace Episcopal Church, Charleston**

**Recipients: Grace Episcopal Church, 4SE, Inc, and Cummings & McCrady, Inc.**

Grace Episcopal Church on Wentworth Street in Charleston, completed in 1848, is an early example of the Gothic Revival style. The church and tower, built of load-bearing brick masonry had survived damage from the Great Earthquake of 1886 and Hurricane Hugo nearly a century later. However in 2001, a crack in a wall led to detailed investigations revealing significant structural damage. To stabilize and strengthen the tower a complex series of steps were undertaken, including filling the masonry walls of the tower with grout, installing very high strength stainless steel rods to tie the tower walls together horizontally and vertically, and making structural timber repairs to framing that supports the spire. In addition, an elastomeric coating covering the tower and failing stucco were removed and new stucco applied and rescored.

**Goodall Environmental Studies Center (Glendale Mill Office Building), Glendale**

**Recipients: Wofford College, McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, LLC**

The Wofford College Environmental Center is an example of how historic preservation and sustainable design can work together. In use since July 2009, the Center restored the Glendale Mill Office Building to an exciting new use as an educational center, and also opened the beauty of Lawson's Fork Creek to the public, a view hidden for 100 years. The project is platinum LEED certified but also retained significant historic materials such as the plaster walls, original woodwork and hardware, fireplace, and heart pine floors. Later modifications were removed and the original layout restored. This turnaround is significant for the community, which was devastated by the loss of the historic mill building in a fire in 2004.

**The Church of the Holy Cross, Stateburg**

**Recipients: The Church of the Holy Cross, 4SE, Inc., and Cummings & McCrady, Inc.**

Built in 1850, this Gothic Revival building is constructed of pise de terre, or rammed earth. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973. In 2000, extensive termite damage was discovered in the wooden roof trusses, wooden framing supporting the plaster ceiling of the chancel, wooden lath in the plaster walls and wooden bond timbers in the rammed earth walls. The building was deemed unsafe to occupy. Funded in part through a Save America's Treasures grant, the project team undertook a major restoration to strengthen the steep roof, replace in kind as needed the damaged wooden trusses, framing, lath and timbers, install a new slate roof, recoat the exterior pebbledash coating and repaint, repair interior plaster, preserve Minton tiles, and replace the existing HVAC. The church was rededicated in 2010.