# Call & Response

## News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Fall 2015 Volume X, Number 1

http://shpo.sc.gov/res/Pages/SCAAHC.aspx &
http://scaaheritagefound.org/

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## Message from the Chair

Leon A. Love

It has been a while since I have communicated with you. First, allow me to thank you for your prayers and kind words of support during my fight with cancer. They worked. I am in remission and I feel better daily.

The South Carolina African Commission has been busy during the past year thanks to our partner agencies, supporters and members. We have done much to continue the preservation of the history and culture of African Americans in South Carolina.

We invite you to continue supporting these efforts by either joining the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation or renewing your membership today.

Remember we must know our history which includes both our family and church history.

*The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.*

# SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM S.C. DEPARTMENT OF ARCHIVES AND HISTORY

Hartsville, S.C. – The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation has been awarded a grant from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History for a project "How Did We Get to Here, A History of African American Education in South Carolina". The grant will allow the organization to identify and create a data base of one room schools, Rosenwald Schools, Equalization Schools and those African American schools that closed because of integration in the following counties: Darlington, Florence, Marion, Dillon, Marlboro, Chesterfield, Kershaw, Sumter, Williamsburg, Orangeburg, Calhoun, Bamberg, Allendale, Aiken, Chester, Barnwell, Clarendon, Lancaster, and Union.

The importance of schools to African Americans is a well-known story. Schools were not only used for educational purposes, but for community gatherings as well. Schools were the center of the African American community and their significance should be recorded. Many of these schools remain significant to these communities and continue to serve as community centers.

For so many communities, African American education centers emerged as the embodiment of community progress and achievement. In addition to creating a comprehensive inventory of these sites and dwellings, the project also has potential to identify and collect photographs, uniforms, and ephemera from the respective schools and classes, which might later be displayed.

The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission identify and preserve historic sites, culture and life ways of African Americans in South Carolina.

For more information or to identify a school in your community contact executive director Jannie Harriot at 843-332-3589 or scaaheritagefound@gmail.com.

## SOUTH CAROLINA AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANTS FROM S.C. ARTS COMMISSION

Hartsville, S.C. – The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation has been awarded two grants; one for $15,000 and another for $1,500 by the South Carolina Arts Commission for the 2016 fiscal year. The support will allow the organization to develop a supplement to "A Teacher's Guide to African American Places in South Carolina and present Artist-in-Residence sessions at several school districts throughout the state.

The Foundation will develop standards based lesson plans that are arts-integrated. These curricular developments will help students and instructors better understand arts in various cultures and historical periods in South Carolina's African American History, and make connections between arts disciplines, other content areas, and the world. Additionally we intend to pilot the lesson plans and activities in partnership with the Darlington County School District. A team of teachers and artist from around the state will be identified to develop the arts integrated lesson plans and student activities for selected sites and broad themes as detailed in the booklet "African American Historic Places in South Carolina". Ultimately a comprehensive teacher resource guide with all lessons, activities, and site entries directly correlated with the state standards for the 2010 Visual and Performing Arts Academic Standards will be developed. SCAAHF staff, along with our school district partner will help to share the teacher resource guide (hardcopy and electronically), conduct teacher and artist training for the implementation of the guide, and coordinate artist residencies during the 2015-2016 academic year.

The Black Creek Arts Council, the City of Hartsville and the South Carolina Council for African American Studies are assisting the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation meet its obligation of matching the Arts Commission grant with local dollars.

## 2015 Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina

More teachers in South Carolina can learn how to incorporate certain historic sites into their lesson plans, thanks to the publication this month of the updated "2015 Teacher's Guide to African American Historic Places in South Carolina."

The guide describes more than 400 slave houses, archaeological sites, homes, schools, churches, factories and other locations that span the history of South Carolina, from settlement to modern day. Highlighted are places like the Cigar Factory on Charleston's East Bay Street, where the civil rights anthem "We Shall Overcome" was first sung, and the granite ruins of West Columbia's Saluda Factory, which, built in the 1830s, was one of the first textile plants in the state and was operated by slave labor.

For each of those properties, the guide illuminates appropriate state curriculum standards in social studies, English/language arts and the visual and performing arts, as well as the corresponding time periods. All properties are either listed on the National Register of Historic Places and/or designated with a South Carolina historical marker.

The guide was produced by the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Education and the South Carolina Department of Archives and History. A copy was presented last week to State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman, who called it a "treasured resource" that she will promote and share with educators.

The guide is available to teachers through the S.C. Department of Education or online at the S.C. Dept. of Archives & History State Historic Preservation Office website at http://shpo.sc.gov/pubs/Documents/TGAAHPfull.pdf.

Contact Jannie Harriot for additional information.

# *News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History*

Elizabeth M. Johnson
Deputy State Historic Preservation Office

## Recent South Carolina Historical Markers

The Department of Archives and History recently approved texts for the following historical markers associated with African American history. Please note that all of these markers may not have been erected yet. After the text is approved, the markers must be manufactured and installed. Staff contact: Ehren Foley, 803-896-6182, efoley@scdah.state.sc.us

**QUEEN CHAPEL A.M.E. CHURCH,** 114 Beach City Rd., Hilton Head (Front) The congregation of Queen Chapel can trace its roots to May 1865 when A.M.E. missionaries Rev. R.H. Cain, Rev. James H.A. Johnson, and James A. Handy arrived on Hilton Head Island. They visited the Freedmen's town of Mitchelville and preached a sermon before departing for Charleston. Missionaries like Cain, Johnson, and Handy represented the first official A.M.E. presence in S.C. since 1822. (Reverse) In 1865 Charleston born A.M.E. Bishop D.A. Payne returned to S.C. and brought with him a group of missionaries. When they arrived in Hilton Head they met with Rev. James Lynch, who had come to S.C. in 1863 to perform missionary work among the Freedmen. The A.M.E. denomination experienced rapid growth after the Civil War and Queen Chapel was among the early churches founded. *Sponsored by Beaufort County Historical Society and Queen Chapel A.M.E. Church, 2015*

**ROBERT SMALLS SCHOOL,** 316 Front St., Cheraw (Front) Robert Smalls School was built in 1953 as a segregated school for African American students. Construction was funded as part of South Carolina's school equalization program. While both white and black schools were funded by this program, the purpose was to equalize African American educational facilities and conform with the doctrine of "separate but equal" in order to avoid racial integration. (Reverse) Designed by the firm of Hopkins, Baker & Gill of Florence, S.C., the school's Colonial Revival aesthetic was heavily influenced by Cheraw, Incorporated, a group of local leaders who worked to ensure that new construction in the area was consistent with Cheraw's historic character. The architecture of the building sets it apart from other equalization schools, which were usually built in a mid-century modern style. *Sponsored by Pathfinders United, 2015*

**CONGAREE CREEK EARTHWORKS,** Timmerman Trail, 12,000 Year History Park, Cayce (Front) These earthworks were constructed in early 1865 and were the site of brisk fighting between the Union XV Corps and Confederate forces on Feb. 15, 1865. Approximately 750 enslaved and free African Americans who were responsible for building much of the defensive line, which ran from Congaree Creek to the Saluda Factory four miles north. (Reverse) The Confederate Congress approved legislation authorizing impressment of black laborers in March 1863 because slaveholders were reluctant to provide slaves for service. Still, labor shortages persisted. Maj. John R. Niernsee, S.C. Militia Chief Engineer, complained that he had to begin work at Congaree Creek with only 12 black workers and his request for 2,000 laborers was never met. *Sponsored by S.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Advisory Board and S.C. African American Heritage Commission, 2015*

**FELTON TRAINING SCHOOL & TEACHERAGE,** S.C. State University Campus between Duke's Gym and the Student Services Building, Orangeburg (Front) Felton Training School was completed in 1925 and was financed in part by the Rosenwald Fund (1917-1948). It was a four-teacher school for African American students built according to Rosenwald floor plan no. 400. Felton was a practice school constructed to support Normal School instruction at S.C. State A&M (now S.C. State U.). A Rosenwald supported teacherage was built in 1927 to complete the teacher training center. (Reverse) Felton Training School was named for J.B. Felton, S.C. Supervisor of African American Schools 1919-1948 and advocate for Rosenwald School construction. The school drew students from Orangeburg public schools. For those families who could afford the small attendance fees, the selective program offered here was viewed as the best option for educating their children. In 1964 the original school was replaced by a new facility. *Sponsored by Orangeburg Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, 2015*

## Recent Listing in the National Register of Historic Places

**Lincoln High School**, located at 20 Council Street in Sumter, was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on January 27, 2015. The school was constructed in 1937 for African American students in the city. The modern-style building was expanded in 1952 to include two large wings and around 1967 a two-story white stucco facade was added to the main entrance. Lincoln High School is significant in the area of education as it was the center for African American educational, civic, and community life in Sumter from 1937-1969.

## *News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History*
Continued

### Applications for FY 2016 Federal Historic Preservation Grants

The SHPO will begin accepting applications for FY 2016 federal historic preservation grants in October 2015. Two types of projects are eligible: (1) Survey and Planning —eligible projects include surveys of historic properties, National Register nominations, preservation education, and preservation planning; (2) Stabilization —eligible projects include stabilizing historic buildings or protecting historic buildings from the adverse effects of the weather (only for projects in Certified Local Government (CLG) communities). Any local government, nonprofit, or institution in South Carolina may apply for a Federal Historic Preservation Grant. Grant awards generally range from $1,500 to $25,000. The application will be online at http://shpo.sc.gov/programs/Pages/Grants.aspx. For additional information or to discuss a potential project contact Brad Sauls at 803-896-6172, sauls@scdah.state.sc.us.

### FY2014 Grant Project: Mann-Simons House

A 2014 federal historic preservation grant was awarded to Historic Columbia Foundation to make repairs at the Mann-Simons House in Columbia. Work recently completed at the house included a new wood shingle roof, new wood shingles on roof dormers, reinforcement of floor joists, and repointing of masonry fire boxes. Since 1978 Historic Columbia has operated the Mann-Simons Site, which was a collection of commercial and domestic spaces owned and operated by the same African-American family from at least 1843 until 1970.

### Statewide Preservation Awards

The statewide preservation awards are sponsored by the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the Office of the Governor. The awards recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation and interpretation of South Carolina's architectural and cultural heritage. At a ceremony at the State House on June 5, 2015, Lieutenant Governor Henry McMaster presented the 2015 awards. The following were among the recipients:

The Pendleton Historic Foundation receive Stewardship Award for the **Woodburn Slave Cabin-Sharecropper Project**. One of the original slave cabins was reconstructed to better tell the story of the African American slaves and sharecroppers who worked on the property during the 1800s and 1900s.

## *News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History*

Continued

**Old Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Restoration Committee**

(Simpsonville) received a Stewardship Award for the restoration of what was discovered to be one of the largest cemeteries in Greenville County containing over 600 graves, some d ting back to the early 1800s. The restoration of this African-American cemetery was a true "grass roots" effort, with church members and community volunteers.

The **Charleston Progressive Academy** earned an Honor Award for the rehabilitation and expansion of an urban mid-century school, built during the equalization era. The project intertwined cultural heritage, historic preservation, and modern educational needs at this Equalization School site.

**Woodrow Wilson Family Home: A Museum of Reconstruction in Columbia and Richland County**. After eight years of research and substantial rehabilitation, the Woodrow Wilson Family Home reopened to the public in 2014. The Woodrow Wilson Family Home is South Carolina's only presidential site, and only museum in the United States to focus solely on the Reconstruction era (1865-1876).

The **McLeod Plantation Historical Site**, owned by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Co mission, received an Honor Award for the multi year effort to preserve and interpret this historic plantation site, including the slave cabins and other plantation outbuildings.

Before

After

## Statement following the Shooting at Emanuel AME Church

At the start of the South Carolina Civil War Sesquicentennial, the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) issued a statement that included a reference to President Abraham Lincoln's first inaugural address in which he spoke of "the better angels of our nature." Lincoln hoped these angels would prevail to keep the nation whole and prevent a civil war after seven states, including South Carolina, had seceded from the Union.

The SCAAHC revisits that theme as we reflect on the massacre at Emanuel A.M.E. Church in Charleston on June 17th. Nine people, including state Sen. Clementa Pinckney, the church's pastor, were murdered by a self-proclaimed white supremacist.

The members of the SCAAHC grieve with the state and the nation over the tremendous loss of life and pray for the healing of the families who lost loved ones, the Charleston community, the state and the nation. Words seem woefully inadequate to express the depth of our sorrow and empathy. We resolve that this Commission will honor the legacies of the fallen by continuing its efforts to make our state a place where the better angels of our nature, instead of the kind that apparently guided the shooter, will prevail as we come to terms with our history.

Because our organization's mission includes the examination, documentation, and interpretation of African American history and historic places, this tragedy hits home with the SCAAHC in many ways. The shooting took place in historic Emanuel A.M.E Church, which is affectionately called "Mother Emanuel" because of its long history of being at the center of movements to resist slavery and to gain justice and equality for African Americans.

Mother Emanuel's record of activism includes a visit from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who spoke there in 1962. Seven years later, in 1969, his wife, Coretta Scott King, led a march of hospital workers demanding better pay. The march began on the front steps of the church. Today Emanuel is the oldest A.M.E. church in the South, and houses the oldest African American congregation south of Baltimore.

What historic and sad irony that in 2015, this iconic historic religious institution finds itself at a crossroads of history as the result of an incident that harkens back to its early years, which were some of the worst days of violent racial oppression. It was a time when African Americans were killed arbitrarily and with impunity by racists determined to keep them in various forms of servitude.

In a speech, Winston Churchill uttered a version of the George Santayana quote stating those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it.

South Carolina has arguably the most compelling history of any state in the nation when it comes to issues of race that has put it in the national and international spotlights. It is a profound history with many lessons to teach. Could it be that the massacre at Mother Emanuel was the indirect result of historic lessons that the state itself has ignored?

Have we ignored not just racial inequality and injustice, but the history of violent oppression that some state leaders were often involved in? South Carolina governor and senator Ben Tillman bragged about killing African Americans, claiming that it was necessary to keep them in their place and preserve the Anglo-Saxon way of life. There was the Hamburg Massacre, the Orangeburg Massacre and the lynching of postmaster Frazier Baker and his infant daughter in Lake City. An Equal Justice Initiative report indicates that between 1877 and 1950, 164 African Americans were lynched in 36 South Carolina counties. This is the kind of history one would rather forget, but we do so at our peril, especially when the forces responsible for it still exist.

Such a horrific history and lingering vestiges of racial inequality have earned for the state the reputation as that of a racist, intolerant backwater so stuck in a time warp that many people in the nation do not want to visit, live or invest unless they are willing and able to tolerate persistent and glaring racial inequality and injustice. This consequence of the state's history and its lessons have often gone ignored by state leaders, even though there is significant empirical evidence that it has hurt the state at least economically, if not culturally, and socially.

Despite the presence and persistence of evil forces bent on preserving dubious traditions and values, however, South Carolina's story is one of competing narratives. On one hand, it is a state trying to hang on to values and traditions that exalt its white citizens while devaluing its African American ones. On the other hand, it is a state trying to come to terms with its history and right some wrongs by allowing and encouraging the emergence of the better angels of our nature in symbolic and substantive ways.

There are white leaders and other citizens in South Carolina who admit many mistakes were made in the past, that we still grapple with the legacy of slavery and its impact on the lives of African Americans, and that they have a critically important role to play in the process of ensuring equality and justice for all of the state's citizens. Going forward it will be extremely important that they step up and use whatever they have at their disposal to combat racism and bigotry wherever it raises its ugly head in order to discourage, dissuade and halt the ill intentions of their less enlightened brethren who hate, have no conscience and will go to the extreme of murder in order to advance and preserve their worldview.

African Americans are already disenfranchised and discriminated against due to the color of their skin. Can we call ourselves civilized if we are indifferent to a climate in which we also have to fear for our very lives as our ancestors did in the first half of the 20th century?

The indignation and outrage of white people at racial injustice is imperative because, as the Charleston shooting makes abundantly clear, the process toward true racial justice and equality in South Carolina is a work in progress that is vulnerable and capable of being derailed by ill-intentioned forces, especially when people of good will assume a posture of indifference that indicates all is well. Nine people died in a Charleston church because of the color of their skin. After our emotions settle, do we go back to business as usual or do we honor them by vowing that we will do all we can to prevent racial violence and hate crimes against anybody in our state.

Racial disparities in income, employment, education and health that are historic in nature continue to plaque a large percentage of South Carolina's African residents. These unfortunate conditions won't change until the state completely comes to terms with its history; resolves to avoid mistakes of the past in the present; resolves to ensure a future of opportunity and equal life chances for all of the state's residents, regardless of race, color or creed. The state must also decide what it wants to be and how it will be defined – by violent and unfair treatment of a large percentage of its state's citizens by people acting on the most primitive of instincts or by people of good will who insist on interracial harmony, equality and justice for all.

# South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

## *Preserving Our Places In History Awards* 2016

*The mission of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission (SCAAHC) is to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures, buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives & History.*

*In order to encourage the preservation of the African American experience in SC, the SCAAHC has established the following annual recognition.*

***Award Categories:***

### Individual Award

This award recognizes a person who has demonstrated or made an outstanding accomplishment in preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in SC **during the past year.**

### Group or Organization Award

This award recognizes a group or organization that has demonstrated or made an outstanding accomplishment in preserving and interpreting African American history and culture in SC **during the past year.**

### Project Award

This award recognizes a project that has significantly and dramatically influenced in a permanent way the preservation and interpretation of African American history and culture in SC **during the past year.**

### Lifetime Achievement Award

This award recognizes a person, group or organization that has made a notable, successful, sustained and lasting contribution to the preservation of African American history and culture in SC.

Individuals, groups and organizations can nominate themselves for the awards or be nominated by others who are aware of their work, contributions and achievements in the field. The SCAAHC requires that nominators submit the attached form with documentation that explains and provides evidence to support the nomination. The documentation should include a one-page statement justifying the nomination along with letters of support and other attachments that verify and support it.

**Deadline: December 4, 2015**

***Nomination form is on the next page***

**All nominees will be notified by January 8, 2016**


# Nomination Form

## *Preserving Our Places In History Awards* 2016

**Award Category** (Please circle one)

**Group or Organization Award** **Individual Award**

**Lifetime Achievement Award** **Project Award**

**Nominee** _____

**Address** _____

**City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

**Phone** _____ **Fax** _____

**E-mail** _____

**Nominating person(s) or organization**

_____

**Address** _____

**City** _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

**Phone** _____ **Fax** _____

**E-mail** _____

**Please attach appropriate documentation to this nomination form and mail the packet of information to be received by Friday, December 4, 2015 Send to: Strauss Moore Shiple**
**c/o Olde English District**
**3200 Commerce Dr., Ste. A**
**Richburg, SC 29729-9492**

**The South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation supports the efforts of the South Carolina African Heritage Commission to identify and promote the preservation of historic sites, structures , buildings, and culture of the African American experience in South Carolina and to assist and enhance the efforts of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History.**

**Please consider supporting these efforts by becoming a member of the SCAAH Foundation. Foundation members receive:**

**∗Invitations to all Commission meetings**

**∗A copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina***

***A subscription to *Call & Response*, the Commission's quarterly online newsletter**

**∗A subscription to *News and Notes*, a monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SC Department of Archives & History**

**∗Notification of special workshops and meetings**

**∗Discount registrations for workshops and conferences**

**Join now by printing the form below or go to www.scaaheritagefound.org and join on line. Join today and, in addition to all other benefits, receive a copy of The Gullah Kinfolk, featuring Anita Singleton-Prather's cd "Circle Unbroken" A Gullah Journey from Africa to America.**

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**Membership Form**

**Complete and return to: *South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation, P O Box 1053, Hartsville, SC 29551* or contact Foundation's Executive Director, Jannie Harriot, at 843-332-3589 or e-mail: scaaheritagefound@gmail.com**

**____$25 Individual Membership ____$75 Family Membership**

**____$100 Church/Non-Profit _____ $150 Business/Corporation**

***ALL CONTRIBUTIONS AND MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE***