

Call & Response

News from the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Fall 2013 Volume VIII, Number 2

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

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Message from the Chair

Leon A. Love



Greetings,

As 2013 winds down, we are diligently laying foundations for a rich and memorable 2014.

Please save the date: **Friday, March 28th** is when we'll all head to the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia for Annual Meeting. Next year's theme is "Exploring African American History through the Arts." Please make plans to join us, more specifics are forthcoming.

Our **Preserving Our Places In History Awards Luncheon** will be held on March 28th as well. Info on the awards and a nomination form are on pp. 3-4. Help us to circulate the word so that we can recognize those persons and groups that have been laboring hard in the trenches in the spirit of interpreting and preserving SC's African American experience. **The deadline for nominations is Jan. 31st.**

Former Commission member Joe McGill has been tirelessly building **The Slave Dwelling Project**. Check out their new website - <http://slavedwellingproject.org/> and please plan to attend the first conference on Sept. 18-20 in Savannah, GA. See page 5 for updates on the project which by the way, has been getting a lot of attention statewide and nationwide.

Our cherished **sponsor** and **partners** are listed on page 13. We can never thank them enough for their belief in our mission and for their support.

Page 14 is a **SCAAHF membership form**. If you haven't already, please consider joining our ranks as a Foundation member. The Foundation is the backbone of the SCAAHC, and in order for us to continue to grow and continue to build a successful statewide network, we need your support.

Looking forward to seeing all of you in Columbia on March 28th.

Until next time...

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.

SAVE THE DATE !

Annual Meeting 2014

Friday, March 28th

SC Archives & History Center, Columbia

**Exploring African American History
through the Arts**

&

*Preserving Our Places In History
Awards Luncheon*

Keynote Speaker
Mr. Jonathan Green

Mr. Green hails from the South Carolina Lowcountry and is considered to be one of the most important painters of the Southern experience.



South Carolina African American Heritage Commission

Preserving Our Places In History Awards 2014

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 explain and provide 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.

Nomination form is on the next page

Deadline: January 31, 2014

All nominees will be notified by March 14, 2014

**The awards will be presented on March 28, 2014
at the South Carolina Archives & History Center, Columbia**

Nomination Form

Preserving Our Places In History Awards 2014

Award Category (Please select 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, January 31, 2014. Send to: Michael Allen, SCAAHC
c/o National Park Service
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, SC 29482

Preservation Project Profile

The Slave Dwelling Project: Bigger and Better!

Joseph McGill



The *Slave Dwelling Project* was developed out of my desire to bring much needed attention to extant structures that once housed enslaved African Americans. As an employee for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, I would often assist people and entities in saving buildings that were usually iconic, architecturally significant and/or associated with heroes. While these buildings are quite worthy of being saved, they usually exclude buildings that were significant to African Americans. When we take into account that there were 4 1/2 million slaves at the beginning of the Civil War, there should be far more extant structures that housed them than currently exists. Additionally, when we consider that some northern states also had slavery within their boundaries, the possibility for extant slave dwellings increases.

The concept for the *Slave Dwelling Project* is simple, find out where those dwellings are and ask the owners to spend a night in them. I then leverage the attention garnered from the stays to make the public aware that there are hundreds of extant slave dwellings throughout the US that need to be preserved, maintained and interpreted. Additionally, the project acknowledges those individuals and entities that are already great stewards of these places.

As of September 2013, I have spent the night in 48 extant slave dwellings in the states of Alabama, Connecticut, Georgia, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas and Virginia. When I started three years ago, the original intent of this project was to stay within the boundaries of SC, so naturally, most of those stays have occurred here from the Lowcountry to the upstate and points in between.

Momentum, popularity, necessity and importance have dictated that the project be spread to wherever the dwellings exist in the US that have willing owners who want to participate. Because this has always been a personal project, owners have unhesitatingly provided the means for the project to occur at their sites.

I now encourage my hosts to maximize the time that I spend with them and insist that every stay involve public programs, especially those that involve youth. More specifically, as a result of a recent stay at Hopsewee Plantation located on the North Santee River in Georgetown County, SC, I now request youth and their chaperones join me in the stay if the owner and space permit.

The future for the project looks bright. The application to obtain 501 c-3 nonprofit status has been filed. Meanwhile, the SC African American Heritage Foundation is fiscal agent for the project with one proposal already funded! More info on this exciting news and more can be found on our new website - <http://slavedwellingproject.org/>. A committee is currently working on the biggest upcoming event which will be The *Slave Dwelling Project Conference* to be held in Savannah, Georgia next September 18 – 20.

In addition to the upcoming conference, the 2014 schedule of events will add one state, Massachusetts, to the current list of twelve; New York and the District of Columbia are still being negotiated. My first National Park Service site will be Cane River in Natchitoches, Louisiana. Natchez, Mississippi is being negotiated. I will be joined in Charleston, SC by a high school group from Milwaukee, Wisconsin to conduct stays at the two local plantations, the Old Charleston Jail and take a trip to Morris Island. Also, several African American family reunions will receive oral presentations. The complete list of stays and other activities will be released at the end of November 2013.

I would love to hear from you! If you are aware of an extant slave dwelling that I have not yet visited, please contact me. If I visited your site in the past when the project was in its infancy, know that through hands-on experiences the project is now more robust and all kinds of creative education programs can be developed around an overnight stay in a slave dwelling. Lastly, when the list of places that I will stay in 2014 is released, please let me know if you would like to join me so that I can begin to get the permission for that to happen. You can reach me by email at: jmgill769@gmail.com.

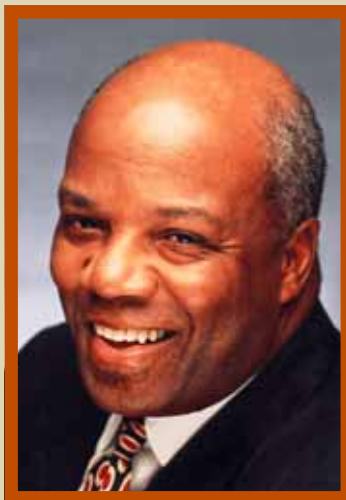


Top photo: Joe McGill often interprets history and culture at Magnolia Plantation & Gardens, Charleston, SC.

Photo at left: Joe stands in the doorway of a former slave cabin at Sotterley Plantation, Hollywood, MD.

Spotlight on...

Joseph J. James Columbia



Joseph J. James is President of Agri-Tech Producers, LLC (ATP), which has commercialized innovative torrefaction technology, developed by NC State University, to convert plant and woody biomass into a superior feedstock from which to make a variety of bio-products as well as a clean, renewable and cost-effective coal alternative. He is also President of Agri-Tech South Carolina (ATP-SC), ATP's operating affiliate, which in late 2014, plans to open a pilot plant in Allendale, South Carolina featuring ATP's first commercial-scale torrefaction unit. One of his other companies, South Carolina Scientific, has commercialized and sells a synthetic insect pheromone, invented by USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

Joe is also founder and President of the Corporation for Economic Opportunity (CEO), a South Carolina-based non-profit, whose mission is to improve the economic condition and the quality of life of disadvantaged individuals and communities of color, in the US and in Africa. CEO's *Greening of Black America Initiative* is at work in the Southeast, developing and implementing strategies to include poor, rural communities of color in the "Green Economy". CEO has also been helping a group of women quilters, based in Liberia, West Africa, market and sell their exquisite, hand-made quilts in the US, under CEO's *Liberia's*

Hope Quilt Initiative.

Mr. James is also one of the founding members of the South Carolina Biomass Council and has served on its Executive Committee. He has been a Governor's appointee on the South Carolina Climate, Energy and Commerce Advisory Committee as well. Nationally, Joe is a member of the Clean Energy Business Network. He has been appointed to the federal Biomass R&D Technical Advisory Committee and is a member of the American Association of Blacks in Energy (AABE).

Joe has had an impressive 37-year career as an economic development professional where he has often been heavily involved in technology-led development. He received a BS in Science from Union College and has studied Law and Business Administration at New York University. He has received numerous awards, including being named a 2008 Purpose Prize winner for CEO's *Greening of Black America Initiative*.

While serving on the SCAAHC, Joe's been happy to learn that his family may have originated in Jamestown, one of the early settlements of freed slaves located east of Florence, SC.



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.

Combahee River Raid/ Freedom Along The Combahee, U.S. Hwy. 17 N over the Combahee River, Gardens Corner vicinity (Front) On June 1-2, 1863, a Federal force consisting of elements of the 2nd S.C. Volunteer Infantry (an African-American unit) and the 3rd Rhode Island Artillery conducted a raid up the Confederate-held Combahee River. Col. James Montgomery led the expedition. Harriet Tubman, already famous for her work with the Underground Railroad, accompanied Montgomery on the raid. (Reverse) Union gunboats landed 300 soldiers along the river, and one force came ashore here at Combahee Ferry. Soldiers took livestock and supplies and destroyed houses, barns, and rice at nearby plantations. More than 700 enslaved men, women, and children were taken to freedom in perhaps the largest emancipation event in wartime S.C. Some freedmen soon enlisted in the U.S. Army. Sponsored by the South Carolina Department of Transportation, 2013

First African Baptist Church, Beaufort (Front) This church, founded in 1865, grew out of an antebellum praise house for black members of the Baptist Church of Beaufort. During the Civil War, after the Federal occupation of the town, it hosted a school for freedmen. Rev. Arthur Waddell (1821-1895), its founding pastor, had come to S.C. from Savannah, Ga. In 1867 Rev. Waddell and two black ministers from Savannah formally organized this church. (Reverse) In 1885 the congregation, with more than 900 members, built this "handsome and commodious" Carpenter Gothic church. Rev. Waddell continued to serve this church until he retired in 1894. At his death in 1895 First African Baptist was described as "one of the most aristocratic colored churches." Robert Smalls (1839-1915), Civil War hero, state legislator, and U.S. Congressman, was its most prominent member. Sponsored by the Beaufort County Historical Society, 2013

Republic Hall, Beaufort (Front) This building was built ca. 1896 by the David Hunter Post No. 9, Grand Army of the Republic (G.A.R.). The G.A.R., founded in 1866, was a fraternal society for veterans of the Union army and navy, with white and black posts. David Hunter Post was founded in 1888 by African-American veterans, many of them former slaves on Sea Island plantations who had been soldiers in the United States Colored Troops in the Civil War. (Reverse) The post was named for Gen. David Hunter (1802-1886), who had organized the nucleus of the 1st S.C. Volunteers (Colored) in 1862. Robert Smalls (1839-1915), Civil War hero, state legislator, militia general, and U.S. Congressman, was a post officer. The post hosted annual Decoration Day services at Beaufort National Cemetery and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War continue that tradition. Sponsored by the Beaufort County Historical Society, 2013

Cherry Hill School, Hilton Head Island (Front) This one-room frame school, built ca. 1937, was the first separate school building constructed for African-American students on Hilton Head Island. It replaced an earlier Cherry Hill School, which had held its classes in the parsonage of St. James Baptist Church. After the black community on the island raised funds to buy this tract, Beaufort County agreed to build this school. (Reverse) This was an elementary school with one teacher, with an average of about 30 students. It had grades 1-5 when it opened in 1937, adding grade 6 the next school year. The black community helped pay for maintenance of the school and also supplemented teacher salaries. Cherry Hill School was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2012. Sponsored by St. James Baptist Church, 2013

Daufuskie Island, Daufuskie Island, (Front) This 5,200-acre island lies between the Cooper and New Rivers. Spanish and English explorers saw it in 1521 and 1663; English arrivals received grants ca. 1700. Indigo was the main crop before the American Revolution, when most planters here were Loyalists. Sea island cotton was the main crop after 1790. In 1861, when Union forces captured the sea islands, planters abandoned Daufuskie Island. (Reverse) Freedmen during and immediately after the Civil War, and then their descendants, made up almost all of the population here until near the end of the 20th century. Many owned small farms or worked in the oyster industry. The island, listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1982, is also part of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor, designated by Congress in 2006. Sponsored by the South Carolina Society Colonial Dames XVII Century, 2013

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News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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Cigar Factory / "We Shall Overcome", Charleston (Front)

This five-story commercial building, built ca. 1882 as a textile mill, was known as the Charleston Manufacturing Company, then Charleston Cotton Mills, in its early years. Leased to the American Tobacco Company in 1903, the plant was sold to that company in 1912. Popularly called "the Cigar Factory," it produced cigars such as Cremo and Roi-Tan until it closed in 1973. The Cigar Factory was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1980.

(Reverse) By the end of World War II the factory employed 1,400 workers, 900 of them black women. In October 1945, 1,200 workers walked out over discrimination and low wages. Strikers sang the gospel hymn "I'll Overcome Someday." Later revised as "We Shall Overcome," it would become the anthem of the Civil Rights Movement. The strike ended in March 1946 with a settlement giving workers raises and promising better treatment. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston, 2013

James Simons Elementary School / Desegregation of Charleston Schools, Charleston (Front)

This school, built in 1919 and designed by local architects Benson & Barbot, was the fifth public elementary school in the city. It opened for the 1919-1920 school year with an enrollment of 600. In 1955 the Charleston Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) petitioned the Charleston school board to desegregate all public city schools, including this one. (Reverse) In 1960 nine parents, with support from the NAACP, applied for their children's transfer to four white schools, including James Simons Elementary School. Denied by the board and on appeal, they sued in federal court in 1962 and won their case the next year. On September 3, 1963, eleven black students entered this school and Memminger Elementary School and Charleston and Rivers High Schools. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston, 2013

Kress Building / Civil Rights Sit-Ins, Charleston (Front)

This three-story Art Deco building, built in 1930-31 was a 5-and 10-cent store owned by S.H. Kress & Co. until 1980. Kress, with about 400 American stores, designed its own buildings. This store features a yellow brick facade with colorful and decorative glazed terracotta details typical of Kress's Art Deco designs. A 1941 two-story addition faces Wentworth Street. McCrory Stores bought this building in

1980, operating it under the Kress name until 1992. (Reverse) On April 1, 1960, the lunch counter here and those at the Woolworth's and W.T. Grant's stores on King St. were the targets of the city's first civil rights "sit-in." Black students from Burke High School were denied service but refused to leave. Arrested for trespassing, they were later convicted and fined. This youth-led protest was the beginning of a broader civil rights movement in Charleston. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston, 2013

Hospital Strike of 1969, Charleston (Front) Civil rights marches on Ashley Ave. and elsewhere occurred during strikes at two hospitals from March 20 to July 18, 1969. Workers, mostly black women, cited unequal treatment and pay when they organized and walked out of the Medical College Hospital (MCH) on Doughty St. and Charleston County Hospital (CCH) on Calhoun St. Some picketers were arrested, the state of S.C. refused to sanction a union, and talks stalled. (Reverse) The Southern Christian Leadership Conference joined the strike in its first major campaign since the death of Martin Luther King, Jr. Protests were marred by violence, and Gov. Robert McNair called out the National Guard and set a curfew. In May King's widow Coretta Scott King led 5,000 marchers down Ashley Ave. A settlement at MCH in June and CCH in July gave workers raises and promised better treatment. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston, 2013

The Progressive Club, Johns Island (Front) The Progressive Club, built in 1962-63, was a store and community center for Johns Island and other Sea Islands until it was badly damaged by Hurricane Hugo in 1989. The club had been founded in 1948 by civil rights activist Esau Jenkins (1910-1972), who worked to improve educational, political, economic, and other opportunities for blacks on the island and in the lowcountry. (Reverse) Jenkins, Septima Clark (1898-1987), and Bernice Robinson (1914-1994) founded the first Citizenship School in 1957 to encourage literacy and voter registration. Its success led to many similar schools across the South, called "the base on which the whole civil rights movement was built." The Progressive Club was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Sponsored by the Preservation Society of Charleston, 2013

Jonathan Jasper Wright Law Office, Charleston (Front) Jonathan Jasper Wright (1840-1885), the first African American in the U.S. to sit as a justice on a state supreme court, practiced law here from 1877 until his death in 1885. Wright, a native of Pa., was educated at Lancasterian Academy in Ithaca, N.Y. He came to S.C. in 1865 as a teacher for the American Missionary Association and was later a legal advisor to freedmen for the Freedmen's

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News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

Continued

Bureau. (Reverse) Wright wrote that he hoped to “vindicate the cause of the downtrodden.” He was a delegate to the S.C. constitutional convention of 1868 and a state senator 1868-70. Wright, elected to the S.C. Supreme Court in 1870, resigned in 1877 due to political pressure. After he left the bench he practiced law, helped Claflin College found its Law Department, and became its Chair in Law. He died of tuberculosis in 1885. Sponsored by the S.C. Black Lawyers Association, 2013

Hartsville Graded School / Mt. Pisgah Nursery School, Hartsville (Front) The first public school for the black children of Hartsville and vicinity operated on this site from about 1900 to 1921. It was renamed Darlington County Training School in 1918. A new school was built on 6th St.

south of this site in 1921.

Rev. Henry H. Butler (1887-1948) was principal at both sites for a combined 37 years. The 1921

school was re-named Butler

School in Butler’s honor in 1939. (Reverse) Mt. Pisgah Presbyterian Church grew out of a Sunday school started on this site by Rev. T.J. James in 1922. The church was organized that same year, and a new church building was erected nearby in 1926. Rev. James also founded Mt. Pisgah Nursery School, which operated in the old graded school here for many years. Rev. James’s family later donated this property to the city for Pride Park, established in 1986. Sponsored by the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, 2012 (Editor’s note: See *the Fall 2012 issue of Call & Response, p. 9, for an article on this marker unveiling.*)



This historic marker unveiling occurred in Hartsville, Oct. 2012. Photos on pp. 9-10 by SCDAH

New Hopewell Baptist Church, Hartsville vicinity (Front) This church was formally organized soon after the Civil

War. It was founded by 20 black members of Antioch Baptist Church, who received letters of dismissal to form their own congregation in 1869. Slaves and free blacks had belonged to Antioch Baptist Church since its organization in 1830. (Reverse) This church held its first services in a brush arbor. In 1871 Mrs. Lottie Cosom donated an acre on this site, later expanded to four acres for the church and cemetery. New Hopewell built its first permanent church here in 1886, renovated in 1887 and 1917-18. The present sanctuary was built in 1962. Sponsored by the Darlington County Historical Commission, 2013

The Lynching of Frazier Baker, Lake City (Front) In 1898 a building here was the scene of a lynching that sparked outrage across the nation. Frazier Baker, an African American who had recently been appointed postmaster of Effingham, was appointed postmaster of Lake City in 1897. Whites who resented Baker harassed him, even burning the post office in an attempt to make him resign and leave town. An old school on this site became a temporary post office and Baker’s home. (Reverse) On the night of Feb. 21-22, 1898, a mob set the house on fire and shot Baker and his family when they ran out. Baker and a baby daughter were killed, his wife and three of their children were wounded, and an editorial called it “the most horrible crime ever committed” in S.C. Local and state officials did nothing. Eleven men were tried in federal court in 1899, but a hung jury resulted in a mistrial. Sponsored by the Town of Lake City, 2013

Springfield Baptist Church, Greenville (Front) This is the oldest black Baptist congregation in downtown Greenville. It was founded in 1867 by members of Greenville Baptist Church (now First Baptist Church), which had been a combined congregation of whites and blacks before the Civil War. Rev. Gabriel Poole, known as “Father Poole,” was its first pastor. The new church worshipped in First Baptist Church until it built its own church here in 1872. (Reverse) The congregation purchased this site from the estate of Vardry McBee in 1871 and completed its first church, a frame building later covered in brick veneer, in 1872. That church was replaced by a brick Gothic Revival church in 1959. Springfield Baptist Church hosted many significant meetings during the Civil Rights Movement. The 1959 church burned in 1972 and was replaced by the present church in 1976. Sponsored by the Congregation, 2013

Bushy Pond Baptist Church, Norway (Front) This church was organized during or just after the Civil War by black members of Willow Swamp Baptist Church, a combined congregation of whites and blacks before the war.

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News from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History

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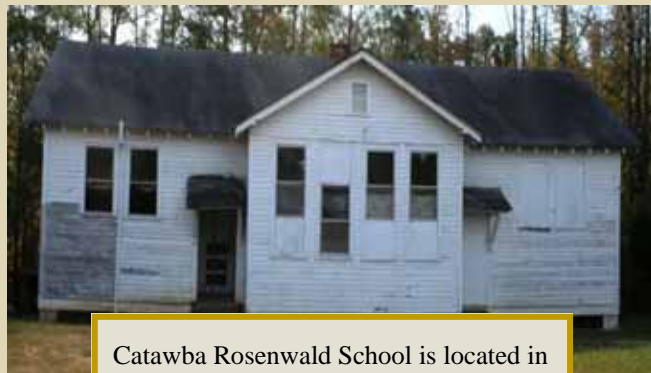
In 1869-70 members received formal letters of dismissal to organize their own church. They named it Bushy Pond for the bush arbor they built nearby for their first services, and the pond close to it. (Reverse) Rev. John Fitzsimmons was the first pastor. By 1871 Bushy Pond Baptist Church had 103 members. In 1905, during the pastorate of Rev. W.O. Carmichael, the congregation built its first permanent church, a frame Gothic Revival sanctuary, on this site. The church also sponsored the Bushy Pond School, built nearby. The present brick church was dedicated in 1974. Sponsored by the Congregation, 2013

Rocky Swamp Rosenwald School, Neeses vicinity (Front) This is the site of Rocky Swamp Rosenwald School, a frame three-room school built here in 1920-21 for African-American students in Neeses and vicinity. An elementary school with two to three teachers in grades 1-9, it was one of more than 500 schools in S.C. funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Foundation. (Reverse) This school was built at a total cost of \$4,100, with contributions from the black community, the white community, Orangeburg County, and the Rosenwald Fund. It opened for the 1921-22 school year with 199 students, averaging 145 students until 1942. Rocky Swamp closed after the 1950-51 school year. Sponsored by the Rocky Swamp Rosenwald School Historical Marker Committee and the Orangeburg Chapter of The Links, Incorporated, 2013

New National Register of Historic Places Listing

The **Catawba Rosenwald School** in Catawba in York County was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on July 3, 2013. Built in 1924-25, the two-room frame school is significant for its association with African-American public education and as an example of an architectural design typically associated with schools funded in part by the Julius Rosenwald Fund. It was known as the Catawba School on official lists of Rosenwald schools, but is generally known as the Liberty Hill School locally because of its association with Liberty Hill Missionary Baptist Church nearby. It was one of twenty schools built in York County with funds from the Rosenwald program between 1917 and 1932. Of these schools, only two, the Catawba Rosenwald School and the Carroll Rosenwald School, are known to be extant.

The school served the African American community in the Catawba area from 1925 until 1956, when it was closed.



Catawba Rosenwald School is located in York County.

Inland Rice Fields Website

As a result of consultation with the SHPO on a recent road construction project, Charleston County has sponsored the creation of a website on inland rice fields <http://inlandrice.ccroadwise.org/>.

Staff News

The Confederation of South Carolina Local Historical Societies presented Tracy Power, historian in the SHPO, with the A.S. Salley Professional Service Award. Dr. Power has served as the co-coordinator of the National Register of Historic Places program, and coordinator of the state historical marker program. The Salley Award



Dr. Tracy Power (far left) recently received the A. S. Salley Award.

recognizes those who "have contributed significantly to some aspect of history or historic preservation and must have professionally advanced the cause of state and/or local history." Tracy has worked on hundreds of National Register nominations and historical marker texts that document historic places in every part of the state. When he became marker coordinator in 1995, only 31 of the markers were associated with African American history. Today over 200 markers recognize African American history. Dr. Power will be leaving the SHPO at the end of 2013 to accept a position with Newberry College where he will teach history and serve the college archivist.

Guest Corner

Civil Rights Sundays at Columbia's Nickelodeon Theatre have been a hit

Sherard Duvall

"When you have the voice to say something, then say something." As a 16-year old youngster growing up in Columbia, SC those words by hip-hop artist Jeru Da Damaja resonated with me. For years, I grew up with somewhat of an anti-establishment mindset and I always felt that if the adults running these "establishments" would only listen to Jeru, the world would be a better place. Fast forward 19 years, a college degree, life experiences and a whole heap of maturity later – not only do I find that many adults, including myself, "say something," and I find myself working for an organization that strongly supports that mindset.

The Nickelodeon Theatre is South Carolina's only non-profit art house movie theater. Since 1979, "The Nick" has been at the center of South Carolina's media arts scene - showcasing film that otherwise would never screen publicly in this part of the country, hosting conversations on a wide range of social and political topics, and supporting the spread of media literacy skills across the region. With an eye toward making a larger impact on our city, The Nick regularly works with other, um, "say something" community partners like the Columbia Museum of Art and Appleseed Legal Justice Center, to name a few, to offer thought-provoking film-going experiences for our guests.



In fact, in January of this year we established a partnership with the city's Columbia SC 63 initiative - a yearlong commemoration of the 50 years since the height of the Civil Rights Movement and a celebration of the contributions South Carolinians made toward this aim. Under the vision of Mayor Steve Benjamin, Columbia SC 63 joined with the Columbia Metropolitan Convention & Visitors Bureau,

Historic Columbia Foundation and the University of South Carolina to make this initiative a reality.

Since joining the Nickelodeon in January of this year, I've discovered a group of like-minded people that understand the power of film and the moving image not only to inform and entertain, but educate. We not only screen films, but we also engage our audiences in dialogue that allow them to explore the topics that these films raise. This part of the film-going experience is a great way to "say something" about the multi-faceted history of the Civil Rights Movement in South Carolina, and with the assistance of Dr. Bobby Donaldson, Ramon Jackson, Beryl Dakers, SCETV and others, we created the *Civil Rights Sunday* program.

One Sunday each month throughout 2013, the Nickelodeon has screened a film and has hosted a post-film discussion that allows viewers to engage with filmmakers, participants and experts on the film's subject. Since March 10th, we've shown features like *The Education of Harvey Gantt*, a documentary by SCETV producer Betsy Newman about the first African American student to attend Clemson College, to in-depth documentary work and time-sensitive narrative films like *Nothing But A Man* (1964) which highlights the ills of everyday working life for Black men in the 1960s South. In addition, we have had a range of panelists from James L. Solomon, SCAAHC Secretary Jannie Harriot and Dr. Millicent Brown, to Dr. Cleveland Sellers and the relatives of Sara Mae Flemming involve audiences in first-hand experiences and recollections.

With the help of our new Director of Programming Janell Rohan, we're looking forward to continuing *Civil Rights Sundays* as a permanent part of our programming in 2014 and beyond. Because of The Nick's emerging role as a community center, we are focused on using film as an educational tool and a community conversation starter. Civil Rights are human rights, and as a center for thought-provoking discussion in South Carolina, we owe it to our community to be the destination for folks who have something to say.

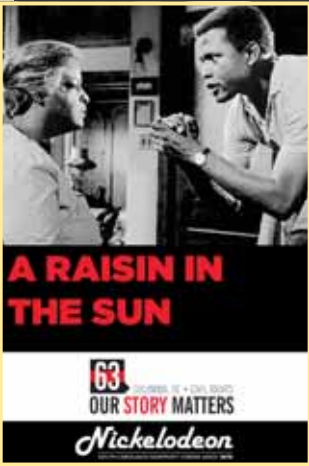
Yeah...Jeru Da Damaja, wherever he is, would be proud.

Civil Rights Sundays are free and open to the public, but seats must be reserved at:

<http://www.nickelodeon.org>.

Continued

The next event will be on December 8th: *A Raisin In The Sun*. Walter Lee Younger is a young man struggling with his station in life. Sharing a tiny apartment with his wife, son, sister and mother, he feels like an imprisoned man - until, that is, the family gets an unexpected financial wind-fall. The post-film discussion will center around African Americans in the Arts in Columbia, SC during the 1960s.



November is ~



Native American Heritage Month

For more information:

<http://www.state.sc.us/cma/nativeai.html>

<http://shpo.sc.gov/res/native/Pages/naresources.aspx>

<http://nativeamericanheritagemonth.gov/index.html>



Sherard Duvall is the Director of Media Education at the Nickelodeon Theatre.

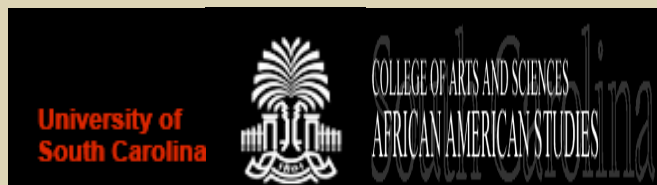
He is a native son of Columbia, SC and is a 2001 graduate of USC majoring in Film/Video and minoring in History. Formerly "DJ Shekeese tha Beast" of Hot103.9 FM, he is 1/3rd of the group that brought Columbia its first Hip Hop Family Day - *Love, Peace & Hip Hop* - in April 2013. He is now an accomplished editor, director, and producer for projects for VH1, Discovery Channel, MTV, BET, The Mungo Companies and the American Cancer Society, to name a few.



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Call & Response is the official newsletter of the South Carolina African American Heritage Commission, A. Shinault-Small, Editor. Views expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH).

South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation

<http://scaaheritagefound.org/>

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 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. Members receive:

- ◆ Invitations to all Commission meetings
- ◆ A copy of *African American Historic Places in South Carolina*
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- ◆ A subscription to *News and Notes*, a monthly online newsletter from the Historic Preservation Division of the SCDAH
- ◆ Notification of special workshops and meetings
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Membership Form

Please complete and return to: South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation ◆
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or e-mail scaaheritagefound@gmail.com .

- I would like to become member of the South Carolina African American Heritage Foundation. Enclosed is my \$25 annual membership; \$75 for families.
- Our non-profit organization or church would like to become a Foundation member. Enclosed is our \$100 annual membership which allows 4 of our members to get discounted registrations.
- Our business or corporation would like to become a Foundation member. Enclosed is our \$150 annual membership which allows 6 of our members to get discounted registrations.
- Enclosed is a contribution to the SC African American Heritage Foundation.

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