

1998 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 April 30, 1998, the following projects, individuals, and organizations were recognized at the fourth annual South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards ceremony at the Lace House, Governor's Mansion Complex.

Honor Awards

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

Fort Hill Documentation Project, Clemson *Clemson University*

Fort Hill was the home of John C. Calhoun, a key national political figure from 1810 to 1850. He served as vice-president and United States senator, and put states rights and nullification at the forefront of American political debate. Much of Calhoun's writing was done at Fort Hill. Today, Fort Hill is on the National Park Service's list of endangered landmarks due to its deterioration. Using alumni donations and a grant from the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Clemson University completed a Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) documentation project at Fort Hill. A team of professionals studied, measured, and recorded every feature of the house and produced finely detailed drawings.. The team also made large format photographs of the building. The documentation is a first step toward a full-scale restoration of Fort Hill, and it has already been used to create a preservation plan for the building and helped Clemson secure funding for the restoration.

McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House, Abbeville *Abbeville County Historical Society*

General Samuel McGowen, a Civil War leader and Associate Justice of the South Carolina Supreme Court, built this exuberant Queen Anne House in 1888. In 1989, J.D. Bundy donated the house to the Abbeville County Historical Society. The Society made extensive exterior and interior repairs with much effort focused on stabilizing the front porch. Data from a historic paint analysis was used to return the house to its original Victorian color scheme. To help fund the project the Society raised private donations and received grants from the South

Carolina Department of Archives and History, the South Carolina Department of Transportation, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Today the McGowan-Barksdale-Bundy House is the headquarters for the Abbeville County Historical Society and the home of the Jane Greene Derrick Center for the Arts.

Fairforest IV Project, Union
Landmark Asset Services, Inc.

The Fairforest IV project included the rehabilitation of three storefronts in the Union Downtown Historic District. Two of the buildings had been covered with a sheet metal facade. The drivers of this project removed the metal fronts to reveal the buildings' true facades. In keeping with the theory that bringing people back to live downtown is a key to revitalization, the project managers converted the buildings into retail spaces and nine apartments accessed from the rear of the building. The rehabilitation included restoring the rear facades and adding landscaping to enhance the rear entrances. With this project, Landmark Asset Services, Inc. has now rehabilitated twelve historic buildings in downtown Union.

Old Powder Magazine, Charleston
Historic Charleston Foundation

The Old Powder Magazine is South Carolina's oldest public building and the only public building still standing from the days of the Lords Proprietors. Built in 1712, it stored gunpowder for use in the defense of the city of Charleston and was used as a magazine during the Revolution. In 1899, the Colonial Dames acquired the building and restored it as a monument to Charleston's early years. By the 1990s, however, a leaking roof and water infiltration were threatening to collapse the Old Powder Magazine. Historic Charleston Foundation recognized the threat and entered into an agreement with the Colonial Dames to restore it. The Foundation carefully researched, restored, and interpreted the building. Today, the Old Powder Magazine is once again strong, and houses an exhibit that provides visitors with a glimpse of Charleston during its earliest years, 1670-1740.

The Buildings of Charleston
Jonathan Poston, Historic Charleston Foundation

This award is for a publication, The Buildings of Charleston, by Jonathan Poston of the Historic Charleston Foundation. A field guide to the historic buildings of the city, it offers a street-by-street inventory of structures with descriptions, maps, photographs, and essays. These elements combine to place Charleston's

buildings in their historical context. The book has been highly praised for its comprehensive history of the built city.

Two Suns Inn Bed and Breakfast, Beaufort
Ron and Carroll Kay

Ron and Carroll Kay converted their 1917 home in Beaufort's downtown historic district into a bed and breakfast lodge. The Neoclassical Revival home has a rich history as a private residence, a group home for young teachers during World War II, offices for the Board of Education, and now as the Two Suns Inn. Extensive renovation and restoration were necessary to stabilize the structure and then adapt it for use as a bed and breakfast. The owners reinforced the foundation, repaired the roof, and replaced the electrical, heat, and air systems. One of their greatest challenges was adding numerous guest baths without disturbing the integrity of the floor plan. They succeeded, and today the Two Suns Inn is one of Beaufort's most popular bed and breakfasts.

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.

**Olde English District---South Carolina's Backcountry
Revolutionary War Trails**

This award recognizes an industrious project, the creation of a link among South Carolina's Revolutionary War sites. The Carolina's Backcountry Revolutionary War Trails tie together colonial era historic sites from Camden into North Carolina. Through this project, the Piedmont region recognizes its contributions to the Revolutionary War and the founding of the nation. The trails encourage visitors to travel across the state through areas where historic preservation has played a key role in interpreting the colonial and Revolutionary War experiences for tourists. From Camden to Winnsboro to Historic Brattonsville to Kings Mountain and Cowpens, the trails tell the story of the southern campaign of the Revolution while celebrating and preserving the region's cultural heritage.

Governor's Award

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

Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr.

Herbert A. DeCosta, Jr. was born in Charleston, where he attended Avery Normal Institute. He received a B.A. in Architectural Engineering from Iowa State College and worked for a time as an architectural engineer for the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics. DeCosta returned to Charleston in 1947 to work for his family's construction company, which had been active since the 1890s. He assumed the presidency of the family company in 1960, and under his direction the company began to undertake major renovation projects aimed at preserving the historical landscape of Charleston. Some of Charleston's most recognized and most important buildings received new life under DeCosta's guidance. His commitment to good preservation practices and attention to detail earned him a statewide, even national reputation. In 1979, the H.A. DeCosta Company was named to the "Top 100 Black Businesses in the Nation" by Black Enterprise Magazine. DeCosta retired in 1989, but he continues to be active in the field of preservation as a restoration consultant and project manager for preservation projects statewide. He has served on the Charleston Board of Architectural Review and on the National Register Review Board. DaCosta is on the boards of Historic Charleston Foundation, Spoleto Festival USA, the Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the South Carolina Archives and History Foundation, and Penn Center.