

1999 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 5, 1999, the following projects, individuals, and organizations were recognized at the fifth annual South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards ceremony in Walterboro.

Honor Awards

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

Houses in Bennettsville Historic District

Dr. and Mrs. William E. Altman

Dr. and Mrs. Altman became enchanted with Bennettsville's charm and historic character, and they were alarmed at the number of grand homes that were falling into disrepair. They began a succession of purchases of some of these old homes, stabilizing and mothballing them until extensive restoration could be done. Examples of some of their successful projects are the Altman House, the Manse, 601 West Main Street, the Ellerbe House, and the McColl House. Several of the properties are now used as bed and breakfasts and for special event programming. Not only have the Altmans preserved some of Bennettsville's most distinctive historic architecture, they have made a significant contribution to the revitalization of the town.

Eau Claire Lutheran Survey Building, Columbia

City of Columbia

Curt Davis and Associates

Designed in 1912, the Eau Claire Lutheran Survey Building was the home until 1928 of the **American Lutheran Survey**, a national weekly magazine. From then until 1955, the building served as the Eau Claire Town Hall. Following the town's merger with the City of Columbia, the building housed retail establishments. As the businesses declined, so did the condition of the building. When the Lutheran Survey Building was tagged for possible demolition, the residents of the Eau Claire community rallied to save the architectural centerpiece of the neighborhood. As a result, the building was rehabilitated to

make it functional for a variety of community uses while preserving its historic character. Interior spaces were reconfigured to comply with the needs of a police substation and city offices while preserving important interior features such the dramatic arched staircase. Exterior features were preserved, repaired or replaced with like materials when necessary.

A. Friedman & Brothers Store, Rock Hill

Pam and David Rogers

Pam and David Rogers purchased the A. Friedman & Brothers Store in downtown Rock Hill shortly after the demolition of the roof that once covered Main Street was complete. The Rogers went to work reopening windows that had been bricked over and restoring the building's grand three-story interior atrium. The A. Friedman & Brothers Store is now occupied by First Union Bank.

Octagon House, Laurens

*City of Laurens
DeWayne Anderson*

The 1859 Octagon House is an example of unusual design and construction methods for its time. The building is one of the earliest examples of concrete construction in South Carolina, a technique that did not fully mature in this state until the twentieth century. The eight-sided house is a study in geometry, as square rooms and triangular closets surround an octagonal core, crowned with a large square skylight. The City of Laurens made the rehabilitation possible by using Community Development Block Grant funds for the project. Developer DeWayne Anderson oversaw the project with the goal of preserving the historic character of this threatened National Register property while converting it for modern use as affordable housing.

Restoration of St. Philip Square, Charleston

William A. Bennett

William A. Bennett provided hands-on leadership in the restoration of St. Philip Square, a streetscape of single houses on Charleston's St. Philip Street. Bennett purchased a group of historic houses that were severely deteriorated and located in what was considered a blighted area of the city. He worked with architects, preservationists, and the Historic Charleston Foundation to plan a rehabilitation project that would be sensitive to the historic character of the buildings. Attention to detail and quality craftsmanship was a priority, and the result is a revitalization of part of downtown Charleston that many had written off long ago.

Rehabilitation of the South Carolina State House, Columbia *Senator Verne J. Smith*

For twenty-five years, State Senator J. Verne Smith has been an advocate of historic preservation in the State Senate. His most recent success was as chair of the State House Committee, overseeing the \$60 million dollar rehabilitation of the South Carolina state capitol. As chair of that committee, Senator Smith insisted that the restoration be done in a manner that respected the historic integrity of the building. The result is a State House that once again sparkles with light and colors true to its original design.

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.

City of Mullins

The City of Mullins rehabilitated the city's historic train depot, which is now the Mullins Tobacco and Farm Life Museum and Farmer's Market. The City had three goals: to preserve the depot as an important structure in the history of the community; to interpret the area's culture and heritage, concentrating on the production of tobacco; and to promote Mullins as a destination for tourists interested in heritage. In addition to the tobacco museum, the restored depot is the location of a successful weekend farmers market, promoting locally grown produce, providing educational experiences, and attracting more people to the Mullins area. The City estimates the preservation of the depot and the creation of the museum and market have had a combined direct impact of over \$800,000 for the local and state economy.

Governor's Award

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

Emory Shaw Campbell

The Governor's Award is given each year to one person who has demonstrated a life-long commitment to historic preservation. This year's honoree has made that commitment. His achievements demonstrate that the preservation of historic

places goes hand-in-hand with preserving our culture. Campbell has been the key figure in the preservation of Penn Center on St. Helena Island. Founded in 1862 to help newly freed African Americans receive an education and become self-sufficient, Penn Center has been recognized for its historical value by being designated an National Historic Landmark. As director of Penn Center since 1980, Campbell has lead the effort to rehabilitate the complex's historic structures and put them to use as an educational resource, preserving and promoting the history and lifeways of the Gullah. Under Campbell's leadership, Penn Center has gained an international reputation as a vital resource in preserving a part of the nation's history.