

2000 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 3, 2000, the following projects, individuals, and organizations were recognized at the Sumter Opera House.

Honor Awards

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

Boone-Douthit House, Pendleton *James T. Ligon*

The ca. 1849 Boone-Douthit House is an example of an Upcountry farmhouse with post and beam construction, mortised and pegged, and of sawn heart pine throughout. The house had seen few structural changes in its history, with the exception of a bedroom, bath, and kitchen addition to the rear. Through the years, the house had steadily declined and had suffered damage at the hands of tenants and vandals. In 1994, James T. Ligon purchased the house with plans to restore it as a bed and breakfast. Modifications were limited to those required to provide modern bathroom and kitchen facilities and to meet safety and accessibility requirements. The metal shingle and standing seam roof was repaired, and damaged windows were repaired or replaced with matching heart pine materials. Interesting and historic interior features, such as the Arts and Crafts dining room, were retained.

Caw Caw Interpretive Center, Charleston County *Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission*

The Caw Caw Interpretive Center is a 654-acre parcel in Charleston County containing historical and cultural resources associated with South Carolina's Lowcountry rice culture. Evidence of rice production, plantation life, the lives of African American slaves, and Lowcountry folk life is present here. The parcel also contains a significant representation of Lowcountry wildlife and plant species. The challenge

for the Charleston County Parks and Recreation Commission was to create a park that would offer the public a chance to interact with these resources in a way that respects the resources' historic and fragile character. Access is provided to points of historic and environmental interest while minimizing the impact of visitors. Trail and building designs, as well as construction materials, were chosen for their sensitivity to their historic and natural environments. The Caw Caw Interpretive Center provides the public with a link to a historically significant cultural site, which is also a model of environmental responsibility for the future.

Cherrydale, Greenville County
Furman University

On March 7 and 8, 1999, Furman University moved the ca. 1850 home of its first president to a new site four miles from its original location. The property on which the Greek Revival mansion stood had been sold, and the house was faced with certain demolition to make way for a shopping center. The developer offered the house to Furman University on the condition that it be moved to a new location. As the home of James Clement Furman, the house had great historical significance for Furman University. School officials began months of planning for the move, which took two days and more than \$500,000. A site was prepared at the highest point on the Furman campus, where Cherrydale is the University's new alumni house.

Hagood Mill, Pickens County
Pickens County Museum of Art and History

The Hagood grist mill served the people of the Pickens area from its original construction in 1826 until it closed in the mid-1960s. In the 1970s, the mill became the property of the Pickens County Museum Commission, which made improvements and repairs over the next twenty years, including work on the water wheel, mechanical components, framing, roof, and siding. By 1997, restoration on the mill was complete, and it was the centerpiece of a historic site interpreting the history of Upstate farming and lifeways.

Horry County Courthouse, Conway
City of Conway

The City of Conway has recently completed a decade-long project to renovate the old Horry County Courthouse, designed by Robert Mills and constructed in 1823. Phase one of the project included the

renovation of the upper level chambers. The City next restored the ground level. The goal of the project was to preserve the character-defining features of the ground floor spaces, restoring missing or compromised elements, while providing functional office spaces within the historic context. Inappropriate alterations were removed, original flooring was revealed and restored, and a filled-in window and three fireplaces were reopened. With its recent decision not to join Horry County in constructing a new city/county government complex, Conway City Council has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to using its historic courthouse.

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.

Newberry Opera House, Newberry

Craig, Gaulden & Davis, Inc.

Newberry Opera House Foundation

For more than a century, the Newberry Opera House has been the architectural centerpiece of the town of Newberry. Built in 1882, the performance hall enjoyed a heyday in which some of the nation's top entertainers performed on its stage. The mid-twentieth century saw the opera house decline, and it stood largely unused for many years. Today, the Newberry Opera House is once again attracting top talent to South Carolina. A \$6 million renovation has returned the building to its original use as a full-featured performing arts venue. The rebirth of the Opera House has spurred an economic and cultural renaissance in Newberry, serving as a catalyst for increased tourism and further preservation and rehabilitation activities in the downtown core.

Governor's Award

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

Wade Buice Fairey

Since joining the York County Historical Commission in 1979, Wade Fairey has demonstrated a professional and personal commitment to the preservation of York County and South Carolina History. As the director of the Commission, Fairey oversaw the development and operation of Historic Brattonsville in McConnells. The twenty years he spent with the Commission saw Historic Brattonsville grow into a major attraction for the area. Under Fairey's supervision, the historic village grew to include more buildings, an important battleground, demonstrations, and living history exhibits to illustrate eighteenth and nineteenth century life in the South Carolina Upcountry. He also added educational facilities and programming for school children. Fairey worked with local government to develop land use plans and an historic overlay to protect the area around Brattonsville. Fairey's involvement in historic preservation and the promotion of history goes beyond the grounds of Brattonsville. For example, he has taken programs about York County history into schools and developed a training program for teachers. Fairey has also researched the area's historic cemeteries, and coordinated cleanup and preservation efforts for them.