

15th Annual Historic Preservation Awards

The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, the S.C. Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor honored winners of the 15th Annual Historic Preservation Awards for 2009 at the annual Landmark and Preservation Conference in Columbia, South Carolina on March 26.

"Historic preservation is an important issue that brings tremendous cultural, economic, environmental, and educational benefits to South Carolina," said Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation, Executive Director, Michael Bedenbaugh. "These awards reflect the tremendous commitments of preservationists to preserve the Palmetto State's proud legacy and assure that the full potential of our state's historic resources are realized."

Award recipients were selected by a panel of preservation professionals with the intent of recognizing outstanding examples of stewardship of the state's historic resources and the significant contribution that historic preservation makes to the landscape and culture of the state. Criteria included: degree of difficulty of the project, obstacles that were overcome, impact in the community or state, and best practices in the implementation of preservation techniques. Recipients represent initiatives from all regions of the state.

Honor Award Recipients 2009

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

From Slavery to Freedom: Magnolia Plantation African-American Cabin Project, Charleston

Magnolia Plantation
Rick Owens
Craig Hadley

This project involved the restoration and preservation of five historic cabins at Magnolia Plantation and Gardens. Utilized from the time of antebellum slavery through emancipation and into the 20th century by both enslaved and free African Americans, the structures were in danger of collapsing due to rot and decay. In December 2008, after two years of research and a year of restoration, these five buildings were restored and interpreted to accurately reflect the experience of African Americans on the plantation from slavery to the civil rights era. The time periods interpreted include the

1850 Slave Cabin, 1870 Freedmen's Home, 1900 Gardener's Home, 1930 Gardener's Home, and 1969 Leech Family Home.

Springfield High School Restoration, Springfield

Town of Springfield

Sylvia W. Hiers

Brad Brodie, SD, Inc.

Springfield High School (aerial view at left) was completed in 1929 and remained open until 1996 when it was shuttered as a result of school consolidation. In 2000, the vacant, derelict school was spared from demolition when ownership was transferred from the Orangeburg School District to the Town of Springfield. A focused collaborative fundraising effort raised one million dollars to help restore the high school. The auditorium which had been significantly altered and concealed by raised floors and dropped ceilings, was carefully restored to reveal original details such as the raked floor and the proscenium arch. Springfield High School has now been revitalized and reopened as a multi-purpose community building with a branch of the Orangeburg County Library, the town's official welcome center for the Heritage Corridor, a market for creations by local artists, and small museum.

Darlington Downtown Revitalization, Darlington

City of Darlington

DeWayne Anderson, The Landmark Group

Campbell, Meek & Associates Architects

The revitalization of downtown Darlington provides a lesson in the potential success of public-private partnerships to invigorate an economy and save the architectural heritage of a community. This four year, \$4 .5 million project led to the restoration of five historic buildings creating lofts, apartments, retail and office space – and perhaps more importantly contributing tremendously to invigorating this historic town square. The rehabbed buildings include the Coleman Building (1903), Coggeshall Grocery Building (ca. 1905), Hill Building (1892), Gibson House (ca. 1877-84), and the former fire station known locally as "Our Pat". The five buildings were in various states of disrepair, with boarded up and missing windows, water and termite damage, and even one collapsed roof. During the project, wooden storefronts were repaired and repainted, windows reglazed or appropriate reproductions installed, mortar repointed, plaster walls repaired, tin ceilings repaired, and partitions inserted to create apartment spaces.

Carlisle Street Revitalization Project, Spartanburg

Preservation Trust of Spartanburg

Over the past fifteen years, much of the Hampton Heights Historic District near downtown Spartanburg has experienced a rebirth. However, part of the neighborhood along Carlisle Street, a street designed in the 1920s as a residential haven for the working class, remained in distress in part because of heavy traffic diverted down the street. When this project began, 14 of the 26 properties on the street were in various stages of condemnation, foreclosure, and vacancy. In 2005, the Preservation Trust created a strategic plan for its first street-wide revitalization project to acquire, restore, market, and sell 14 properties. The completed project injected \$1.3 million into the neighborhood and has added 14 property owners. The revitalization project also included new sidewalk lighting, a "Spot of Pride" (a small landscaped passive park), reduction of traffic, and neighborhood signage. The efforts were commemorated in a community celebration on September 23, 2007.



701 Whaley Street, Columbia

Robert Lewis

Richard Burts

Robert L. McConnell

Constructed around 1903 (photo at left) with later additions, the Pacific Community Association Building at 701 Whaley Street served workers in the Olympia and Granby Mills. The building was a gathering place for many community activities, with a store, auditorium, medical office, sewing room, gymnasium, swimming pool, movie theater, billiards hall, and library. In January 2006 when 701 Whaley Street was purchased by developers, the roof had collapsed and the City of Columbia had it slated for demolition. However, in the two years that followed, 701 Whaley Street underwent a \$6.5 million rehabilitation to restore it as a centerpiece of the community. The project included inserting a new steel frame inside the building, uncovering the original storefront, and replacing 53 bricked up windows with appropriate reproductions. Since its 2008 grand re-opening, the 35,000 square foot building has become a home to offices, retail units, living spaces, and the 701 Center for Contemporary Arts.

Governor's Award

The Governor's Award is presented to an individual in recognition of lifetime achievements in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.



DeWayne H. Anderson, Chairman, The Landmark Group
Presented by Mr. Scott English, Chief of Staff, the Office of Governor Mark Sanford

A trained architect and urban planner, Mr. Anderson has worked to revitalize downtowns, create affordable housing and expand economic opportunities in rural and metropolitan communities throughout the Palmetto State. He has spearheaded the development, construction and management of more than 40 real-estate developments and the rehabilitation of numerous National Register properties in South Carolina. His adaptive reuse practices have saved more than 100 historically significant buildings from demolition across the southeast.

Mr. Anderson has converted historic buildings for adaptive-reuse into loft apartments and retail spaces in several South Carolina communities, including Abbeville, Bennettsville, Chester, Clinton, Darlington, Great Falls, Laurens, Mullins, Newberry, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Union, and York. [Follow this link](#) to see photos of some of these projects.

For example, in Darlington, Mr. Anderson's "Phase I Darlington Loft Apartments" (see [Honor Awards below](#)) have turned five historic buildings into 29 apartments and five new retail spaces. Now, Mr. Anderson is assisting the City of Darlington with "Phase II" to turn the McClellan Retail Building, empty for eleven years, into seven apartments, four retail spaces, and a pedestrian walkway.

Mr. Anderson's personal and professional commitment to preserving the past as a way to build the future has helped him rise to the top among leaders in the field of historic preservation. His vision and enthusiasm have helped many towns in the Palmetto State.

Elected Official Honor Award

The Elected Official Honor Award is presented to an individual elected official in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.



Dr. Belinda Gergel
City of Columbia Council Member

Dr. Gergel has been a tireless advocate for the preservation of historic buildings, properties, gardens, homes, and monuments. Her lifetime of preservation leadership and service include titles of historian, neighborhood leader, educator, author, preservationist, gardener, and city council member. Dr. Gergel is also a former Chairwoman of the Historic Columbia Foundation. Among her notable accomplishments are the advocacy for preservation and appropriate restoration of the Inn at USC, presentations and scholarship on South Carolina, Jewish and women's history, and providing visionary leadership for protecting local neighborhoods.

Heritage Tourism Award

The Heritage Tourism Award recognizes those who best use South Carolina's cultural and historic resources in the promotion and development of tourism or use tourism to directly benefit the preservation of our heritage.

The Voices of Drayton Hall: An Interactive Landscape Tour

Drayton Hall, Charleston

Drayton Hall is one of the oldest unrestored plantations in America that remains open to the public. Released in March 2008, the DVD "The Voices of Drayton Hall: An Interactive Landscape Tour" was produced to share with plantation visitors the property's remarkable landscape at different points throughout its history, and stories of the people

and families, black and white, associated with the site. The DVD has been shown in several venues and can be rented on a handheld portable player from the Plantation's Museum Gift Shop.

Corporate Stewardship Award

The Corporate Stewardship Award is presented to a corporation in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation in South Carolina.



Tree House Site Excavation, Upper Levels, Lexington

South Carolina Electric & Gas

Josh Craig

Sarah Craig

This 8.8 acre archeological site roughly one mile below the Lake Murray Dam is one of the oldest and most well-preserved sites in South Carolina. It includes deposits from Early Paleoindian through Mississippian periods (13,500 to 1,000 years ago.) SCE&G sponsored the work as part of their relicensing efforts for the Saluda Hydroelectric Project, going well above and beyond what was required by law to protect this unique and invaluable archaeological resource. The landowners, who were under no obligation to do so, graciously gave consent to SCE&G to conduct this research on their property. From February through October 2008, approximately 20,000 prehistoric artifacts dating back over 13,500 years were recovered. This site has helped to chronicle human behavior and the environmental changes that have occurred throughout South Carolina's history.

Archaeological Stewardship Award

The Archaeological Stewardship Award is presented in recognition of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of South Carolina's archaeological heritage.



Large Round Building at Site 38GR1

Robertson Farm Project, Greenville & Pickens Counties

Upstate SC Archaeological Research Group

Jodi and Mike Robertson

Jesse and Nikki Robertson

This ongoing archaeological research project was conducted at two different sites in Greenville and Pickens County starting in 2004. Dedicated to the long-term archeological study of the history and artifacts of South Carolina's Native Americans, the project has encouraged collaborations between professional archeologists, volunteers, students, and private landowners. Archeologists associated with the project have presented several programs and papers on their historical findings, each revealing significant achievements and a greater understanding of the last 13,000 years of human occupation in the Palmetto State.