

2013 South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards

Michael Allen (Governor's Award)

Michael Allen, of Mount Pleasant, was awarded the 2013 Governor's Award. Allen has been a major figure in promoting African American history and Gullah Geechee heritage in South Carolina throughout his career. Allen is currently the Community Partnership Specialist for the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor/Fort Sumter National Monument and Charles Pinckney National Historic Site. He began his career as a Cooperative Education Student with the National Park Service in 1980, and has served as Park Ranger and Education Specialist. In that role he has developed interpretative programs and exhibits which involve local communities and history.

Allen has been a key figure in the creation of the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. He played a leading role in the National Park Service's Gullah-Geechee Special Resource Study which began in 2000. The Study examined the feasibility and suitability of establishing educational centers as well as determining ways to increase interpretation and preservation of this valuable cultural thread of American history. In October 2006 the U.S. Congress established the Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor and in October of 2009, Allen was formally appointed as the Coordinator to provide ongoing inspiration and guidance to the Corridor's Commission. Since that time he has assisted in the development of a formal Management Plan for the preservation, interpretation, cultural tourism, economic development, and sustainability of the Corridor.

Allen has also served on many other organizations including: the S.C. African American Heritage Commission, the African American Historical Alliance of South Carolina, S.C. Council for African American Studies, S.C. Civil War Sesquicentennial Committee, Sweetgrass Cultural Arts Festival Association and the International African American Museum. Allen was recently appointed to the National Park Service Cultural Resource Advisory. He and his wife also cofounded Bridge of Hope, a nonprofit organization which assists North Charleston's underserved community.

William Barnet III (Elected Official Award)

William Barnet III, who served as the mayor of Spartanburg from 2002-2010, received the 2013 Elected Official Award for his advocacy for the preservation of Spartanburg's historic districts. Barnet assisted the Preservation Trust of Spartanburg in its revitalization of the Hampton Heights historic district and worked with others in the community to garner funding to restore the ca. 1886 Queen Anne style Bishop Duncan DuPre House. In 2008, Barnet and his wife Valerie purchased the 1925 Water Works Building in the Spartanburg Historic District and renovated it as their home, retaining the original exterior appearance. Before moving in, they opened the house to the Spartanburg Historical Alliance for its use as a fundraiser. Barnet's other community involvements are numerous, as he played a key role in the state's education reforms, was voted into the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, and was named Spartanburg's Citizen of the Year in 2008, among other accolades.

Modjeska Simkins Scholar-in-Residence Program (Preservation Service Award)

Historic Columbia Foundation, received a 2013 Preservation Service Award for the Modjeska Simkins Scholar-in-Residence Program, which piloted in May 2012. The ca. 1895 Modjeska Simkins House dependency cottage was rehabilitated as a live-work space for Historic Columbia's Modjeska Simkins Scholar-in-Residence program, financed in part by a Save America's Treasures grant. Guided by the Boudreaux Group, the building received structural upgrades, new electric, HVAC, plumbing, and security systems, plaster repairs, in-kind interior decoration replacements, interior paint analysis, and a reconstructed porch based on archival photographs. Caitlyn Verboon, a doctoral student from Yale University, was the first scholar-in-residence and lived and worked in the cottage for four months while she researched Columbia and Richland County during Reconstruction. This program, which fulfills Historic Columbia's educational mission, restored the building to its original live-work use and will continue to produce not only invaluable research materials, but also increased heritage tourism and educational and interpretive products.

Horry County Local Historic Sites and Structures High School Video Contest (Preservation Service Award)

The Horry County Board of Architectural Review received a 2013 Preservation Service Award for its Local Historic Sites and Structures High School Video Contest, which took place in November 2012. The contest, open to all high school students in Horry County, awarded \$500 to videos featuring Horry County's historic sites and structures. These three minute videos were judged on their incorporation of local history, creativity, originality, impact, informational content, entertainment value and interest level, accuracy of information, and production quality. Of nine eligible videos, the winner was a Socastee Swing Bridge rap by seniors Natalie Horstmeyer and Madison Iseman, followed by the Rivoli Theater in second place and the Ocean Forest Hotel in third. The winning videos, all from Myrtle Beach High School, were presented at a school assembly and covered by the local news. All of the videos were published via YouTube, Facebook, email, press releases, the Horry County website, and the county's television channel. The video project was praised for including a new demographic into local history and for inspiring similar required class projects about local history.

Little Mountain Elementary School (Honor Award)

Little Mountain Elementary School, Newberry County School District, and McMillan Pazdan Smith Architecture, LLC received a 2013 Preservation Honor Award for the renovation of Little Mountain Elementary School in Newberry County. This two-phase renovation project modernized the 1909 building and its 1920s dependencies, adding much needed classroom space and safety. Phase II was completed in June 2010 and included the detailed restoration of the original historic floor plan, windows, wood floors, ceilings, doors, sidelights, transoms, and exterior masonry by experienced craftsmen. The gymnasium and auditorium were also reclaimed for their original function. This project preserved buildings' historic integrity, engaged the community, reinforced the small town's only school as the center of community life, and allowed Little Mountain Elementary School to continue to educate the town's students in a new century.

Old Florence Library (Honor Award)

Key Architecture, Inc. and Libris, LLC, were awarded a 2013 Preservation Honor Award for the restoration of the Old Florence Library in Florence County. This centrally-located National Register-listed library was built in 1925 and was the educational and cultural center of Florence until a new, larger library was constructed in the 1980s and insufficient maintenance threatened its integrity. In 2008, a team of local developers chose the library as the focus of their rehabilitation of Florence and uncovered the historic fabric hidden by a 1978 addition and years of neglect. Key Architecture restored the library's grand entrance and the auditorium's ornate ceiling, repaired the plaster cornice in the reading room, matched the wrought iron balustrades and exterior brickwork, repaired the limestone roof parapets, and constructed a complimentary office space addition for the new tenants, Turner Padgett Law Firm. This project demonstrated the viability of using historic structures and tax credits and has encouraged other restoration projects in Florence.

Lowman Hall (Honor Award)

Watson Tate Savory, Inc. and South Carolina State University were given a 2013 Preservation Honor Award for the rehabilitation of Lowman Hall, a former men's dormitory on the university's campus. This National Register-listed icon was designed in 1917 by South Carolina's first African-African architect, Miller F. Whittaker, and built by his students. Despite neglect and severe damage, including warped and rotten wood, fallen plaster ceilings, and pressure to demolish all but the masonry shell, a 2004 repurposing plan for administrative offices retained the design and layout. Water damage and structural issues were fixed with a minimal impact new steel endo-skeleton and the buckled exterior masonry was reinforced with rods. Interior transoms, doors, windows, hardwood floors, and plaster walls were restored or replaced with new to match the originals. Exterior details were all replaced according to archival photographs and historically appropriate substitutes. This restoration preserved the simple design of the building and made it once again the pride of the university.

Olympia Mill (Honor Award)

PMC Property Group and Garvin Design Group received a 2013 Preservation Honor Award for the rehabilitation of Olympia Mill in Columbia. This project converted the old mill building into 200 apartments. Windows and door openings that had been bricked in during the mid-1900s were reopened and new historically appropriate yet modern windows were installed, based on historic photographs and similar projects. Heavy timber columns, beams, and roof decking were constructed and the original maple floors were sanded and refinished. Each apartment is designed with a second floor sleeping loft that capitalizes on the light from the 12 foot high windows. The apartments are linked by generous common spaces along the building's spine that retain a sense of the large mill work spaces. Exterior terra cotta details were reconstructed using cast stone molds of surviving pieces. Salvaged brick from demolition areas was used and custom-mixed mortar matched the existing red mortar. The transition from old to new is seamless throughout this 600,000 square foot adaptive reuse project.

Preston C. Lorick House (Honor Award)

Attorneys Butch Bowers, Todd Carroll, and Kevin Hall (of Womble Carlyle Sandridge and Rice, LLP), Celtic Works, Inc., and L. Edgar and Lee Lorick Prina were given a 2013 Preservation Honor

Award for the restoration of the Preston C. Lorick House in Columbia. This National Register listed ca. 1840 house was donated by its private owners, the Prinas, to the National Trust for Historic Preservation with a perpetual preservation easement. Bowers, Carroll, and Hall purchased the property from the National Trust, and in 2010 began a large-scale restoration, completed in June 2012, which converted the property from a single family home into law offices. The highly deteriorated slate roof was fully replaced and craftsmen repaired, repainted, and replaced in-kind the extensive decorative woodwork, doors, windows, stucco siding, chimneys, porch floors, and steps. This rehabilitation of a historic home, garage, and playhouse on 1.27 urban acres is a successful adaptive reuse according to a preservation easement and recognizes the stewardship and dedication of both its previous and current owners.