

2015 Historic Preservation Awards

Sponsored by the Palmetto Trust, the S.C. Department of Archives and History and the Office of the Governor, the awards recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation and interpretation of South Carolina's architectural and cultural heritage.

The Governor's Award which is presented to an individual in recognition of a lifetime of significant achievements or landmark efforts in the support of historic preservation.

Robert R. Weyeneth As a practicing preservationist over the last 30 years, Robert Weyeneth has undertaken numerous and wide-ranging historic preservation projects in South Carolina, as well as on the West Coast and Hawaii. Over 23 of those years, Weyeneth has been teaching historic preservation at the University of South Carolina and completing community preservation projects throughout the state. As a faculty member, Weyeneth has cultivated a steady stream of high quality preservation projects and has trained an entire generation of preservation students who have completed path-breaking National Register nominations, cultural resource surveys, and historic context reports. The Public History Program, which Weyeneth directed or co-directed for 22 years, has launched the careers of alumni who have worked all over South Carolina and the United States in public, private, and nonprofit sectors having a daily impact on preservation. In addition, among many facets of preservation that Weyeneth has been directly involved with, Weyeneth designed and implemented multiple studies that engage historic preservation from the perspective of African-American heritage, that call for preserving places associated with the civil rights movement, and that illuminate opportunities for remembering chapters of the past that are difficult. All of these significant contributions and much more, make Weyeneth a deserving choice for this year's Governor's Award.

The **Elected Official Award** is presented in recognition of significant achievements in support of preservation.

Dr. J. Edward Lee, Mayor, York, SC for his outstanding achievements in support of historic preservation in South Carolina. Not only was Mayor Lee significantly instrumental in forming a coalition of city leaders to address the critical preservation needs of the York County Courthouse, but Mayor Lee has taught history at a number of universities, he has authored countless history books, and has remained very involved with historical associations and preservation organizations.

Stewardship Awards which recognize those who have ensured the ongoing preservation of historic buildings, structures or sites through long-term care, planning, management, protection, or continuous ownership.

Since 2009, the **City of Lancaster** has been directly involved in the restoration of Lancaster's second oldest brick structure, an 1862 church and early 1800s cemetery for purposes of historic preservation, downtown revitalization, culture and heritage tourism, and economic vitality. This project, to receive a Stewardship Award, is ongoing with the City of Lancaster playing a major role in providing resources for nearly five years to restore the ravages of time, wildlife infestation, vandalism, and neglect. The site was reopened in 2011 as The Cultural Arts Center.

Old Pilgrim Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Restoration Committee (Simpsonville, SC) has won a Stewardship Award for the restoration of what was discovered to be one of the largest cemeteries in Greenville County containing over 600 graves, some dating back to the early 1800s. The restoration of this African-American cemetery was a true "grass roots" effort, with church members and community volunteers stepping up to serve the church, the cemetery, and those buried at the site.

The **South Carolina State Museum** (Columbia, SC), which opened in 1988 in the Columbia Mills Building, a former textile mill that operated between 1894 and 1981, has been recognized with a Stewardship Award. In 2012 the museum broke ground on "Windows to New Worlds," the first renovation in 27 years. The \$23 million project consisted of renovating and expanding 75,000 square feet of the building to bring a new planetarium, observatory, 4D theater, telescope gallery, lobby, store, meeting and office spaces, and a student lunch room to the State Museum.

The Ponds Conservancy (Summerville, SC) received a Stewardship Award for their work of more than ten years managing the historic, mid-nineteenth century Ponds farmhouse and grounds, for their superb stewardship in making the property available for cultural events in the greater Summerville area, for their adaptive reuse of the historic farmhouse into a workable and sustainable centerpiece for the community, and for their exemplary work in connecting the past with the present.

The **Woodburn Slave-Sharecropper Project** (Pendleton, SC). To better interpret the Woodburn Plantation site, one of the original slave cabins was reconstructed to better tell the story of the African American slaves and sharecroppers who helped maintain that property during the 1800's and 1900's.

Historic Preservation Honor Awards celebrate successful and exemplary historic preservation projects around the Palmetto State.

The **Charleston Progressive Academy** earned a Honor Award for the rehabilitation and expansion of an urban mid-century school, built during the equalization era. The project intertwined cultural heritage, historic preservation, and modern educational needs.

The team spearheading the renovation of **Converse College's Pell Hall**, one of Spartanburg's oldest buildings, went to great lengths to recreate some of the exterior's lost elements, to preserve various interior features, and to address many substantial structural issues. For this, Converse College's Pell Hall received an Honor Award.

Also, an Honor Award was given to the **McLeod Plantation Historical Site** (Charleston, SC) which exemplifies the history of the low country, contextualized by its connection to Sea Island agricultural heritage, it's role in the Civil War, it's significance in African-American history, and now it's role as a historical site owned by the Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission. Over the past four years, CCPRC has stabilized, preserved, and restored McLeod Plantation and it opens to the public this month.

The **Schuyler Apartment Building** in Spartanburg received an Honor Award for its masterful restoration and renovations. The design of the 1950 Schuyler Building illustrates the Art Moderne and International styles and is associated with noted Spartanburg architect, David William Cecil, who designed several other housing developments in the region between 1948 and 1950.

Originally constructed in 1823 and designed by South Carolina-born architect, Robert Mills, the **Williamsburg County Courthouse** (Kingstree, SC) was presented with an Honor Award. Recent renovation entailed improvements and modernizations to allow the structure to continue as a functional courthouse, while maintaining the historic character and prominent main street presence of the facility.

The **Heritage Tourism Award** honors the **Woodrow Wilson Family Home: A Museum of Reconstruction in Columbia and Richland County**. After eight years of research and substantial rehabilitation, the Woodrow Wilson Family Home reopened to the public in 2014. Funding from grants, private donations, and Richland County equaled \$3.6 million and facilitated an unprecedented physical rehabilitation and a total overhaul of the site's interpretation. The Woodrow Wilson Family Home is not only South Carolina's only presidential site; it is also the only museum in the United States to focus solely on the Reconstruction era (1865-1876).