

The Church of the Holy Cross

Stateburg, Sumter County

Save America's Treasures Grant



Clockwise from top left: Exterior before & after restoration; interior roof trusses in the sanctuary; termite damage along the base of the interior walls

Built in 1850, this Gothic Revival building is constructed of pisé de terre, or rammed earth. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1973. In 2000, extensive termite damage was discovered in many parts of the building and it was declared unsafe to occupy. Financed with a combination of money from a Save America's Treasures grant and funds raised internally by the church from its membership, the project team undertook a major restoration to strengthen the steep roof, replace in kind as needed the damaged wooden trusses, framing, lath and timbers, install a new slate roof, recoat the exterior pebbledash coating and repaint with the historic colors, repair interior plaster, preserve Minton tiles, and replace the existing HVAC. Under a covenant placed on the building during a prior grant project and through Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the State Historic Preservation Office consulted with the National Park Service, the church, and the project team on appropriate repair techniques for this unique building. The building was rededicated in 2010, and the project received one of the 2011 state preservation Honor Awards.

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