

The Main Street Children's Museum

Rock Hill, York County

Preserve America Grant



From top left: completed exterior renovation of the museum; museum signage; wall mural recreating art by Vernon Grant; completed interior of the museum; the bank interior before renovation

The People's National Bank Building, ca. 1909-1910, was Rock Hill's first modern office building and served as a bank from 1910 to 1972. The upper floors have been converted into residential units, and in 2009 the York County Culture and Heritage Museums partnered with the City of Rock Hill and York County to create a new children's museum on the first floor. A Preserve America subgrant administered by the SHPO helped fund the development of plans and specifications to adapt and re-use the first floor space. The resulting project created a magical space for young children based on the drawings of noted Rock Hill illustrator Vernon Grant, while retaining the space's historic plaster finishes (ceilings, brackets, cornice and column capitals), marble columns, historic stair and large bank vault. The museum opened in December 2010 and has attracted national praise and happy visitors. Children can sail away on a ship, play inside a pumpkin house, dress up with costumes in the bank vault, climb a tree house and much more.

SHPO Contact: Brad Sauls
803-896-6172
sauls@scdah.state.sc.us



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