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Restoring Richland County's Heritage

Formed in 1998, the Richland County Conservation Commission was charged with identifying and promoting the development and preservation of historical resources. The rich stories of our county's people are best told in the places where they lived, learned, worked and worshipped. Who we are and what we value can be seen in the buildings that tell these stories. The Commission is proud to be able to help preserve this county's heritage and to educate future generations about the accomplishments and sacrifices that influence our lives today.

Realizing that a public-private partnership was essential to save some historic buildings, the Commission created a competitive grants program in 2006. Applicants must demonstrate that their buildings are historically significant, will provide public benefit, and can meet the 20% match required. In the five years of the program, \$847,500 has been allocated to 19 different restoration and education projects throughout the county. Matching investment tops seven million dollars and returns these buildings as a vibrant part of the community.



Harriet Barber House (1880) Barberville Loop, Hopkins

Freed slaves Sam and Harriet Barber bought 40 acres from the SC Land Commission and built a two-room house which is still owned by the heirs of the Barber



family. A National Register property, the house had deteriorated significantly and was the inspiration for the creation of the grants program. Funding has been used to restore the house for use as a teaching center and a meeting place for the Hopkins High School Alumni (first principal was a Barber) and the community.



701 Whaley Street (1904) Olympia

The Company Store was built in 1904 for the Olympia and Granby mill workers and their families but was soon put to other uses and became a true center of the community. RCCC agreed to assist in the restoration of the façade, which entailed removing the cinder block infill and replicating new windows and storefronts. Now eligible for the National Register, 701 Whaley houses an art gallery, work/live units, and office/retail space, once again bringing vibrancy to Olympia.



Lindler House (mid-late 1700s) 10801 Broad River Road, Ballentine

Hidden under the siding of this Dutch Fork vernacular two-story house is a pre-Revolutionary log cabin that was discovered just before being torn



down. Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation was able to have it donated to them and the adjacent property for its relocation. RCCC

provided funds for moving costs, stabilization, deconstructing and rebuilding the chimneys, and the masonry and carpentry work to make it usable for office space.



Monteith School (1890) 6818 N. Main Street

The New Hope School, as it was originally called, is the oldest African-American school in the county. It has connections to three generations of African-American women pioneers in the areas of education, health care reform, and community activism. RCCC has been involved with the Monteith School since the late 90s, helping fund its moving, architectural plans, roofing, and interior and exterior renovation.



It is now home to the Booker T. Washington Foundation and a community and teaching center.

Sesqui Log Cabin (mid to late 1700s) Sesquicentennial State Park

Potentially the oldest structure still standing in Richland County, this cabin was moved to Sesquicentennial State Park



in 1970. RCCC has assisted SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism in restoring this cabin with funds for hand-hewn logs, a wood shingle roof, floor joist replacements, window repairs, chinking/daubing, and new porches.

Randolph Cemetery (1871)

Randolph Cemetery was named for SC Senator Benjamin Franklin Randolph who was assassinated in 1868 while campaigning for the Republican Party in Abbeville County.

The cemetery is a National Register site that contains the remains of at least ten Reconstruction-era legislators.



Overgrown and vandalized, the RCCC grant was the first money spent to identify the boundaries and to clear the grounds of debris and deal with diseased trees. In 2010, the cemetery looks very different and the repair of 34 gravesites has just been completed.

Old Killian School (1875) 2621 Clemson Road

The little red schoolhouse that served as a center of cultural life in the Northeast community until the late 1940s is owned by Richland School District 2 and designated to become a "living" museum for students.



Grants have provided for a preservation specialist to guide the restoration, purchase of furnishings, and curriculum development.

Slave cabin in Lower Richland (1830-1852)

Funding was provided for a conditions assessment of a slave cabin in Lower Richland. The report included priorities for stabilization, estimated budget, recommendations for future preservation, and potential for moving the structure. Remaining grant money was used to build a 1/2 inch scale model of the cabin.



Pine Grove Rosenwald School (1923) 937 Piney Woods Road

Julius Rosenwald, founder of Sears Roebuck, provided matching funds to build African-American



schools in the south between 1917 and 1932. Of the 13 built in Richland County, Pine Grove is the last remaining one, is listed on the National

Register, and is being restored by Richland County Recreation Commission. Grants have been used to remove additions, replicate the original battery windows, and restore foundations and siding.

Bethel AME (1921) 1528 Sumter Street

Designed by the "Dean of Negro Architecture," John Anderson Lankford, this Romanesque church is listed as a National Heritage Tour Site. The Renaissance Foundation is using grant funds to help with the stained glass restoration for a Cultural Arts Center with a 500-600 seat performing arts facility and museum.



Ladson Presbyterian Church (1896) 1720 Sumter Street

This African-American church was first organized in 1828 and a chapel built in 1838. When it was destroyed by fire, the current structure was built in 1896 and is listed on the National Register. In recent years it has suffered from deterioration due to a leaking roof. Grant funds replaced the roof.



SC PTA House (~1890) 1826 Henderson Street

This two story house is one of the few examples of Stick architecture left in Columbia. It is listed on the National Register as a contributing property to the Columbia Historic District II. SC Congress of Parents and Teachers uses the house for its office and requested a grant for exterior restoration of siding, porch flooring, gable vents, and masonry repair.



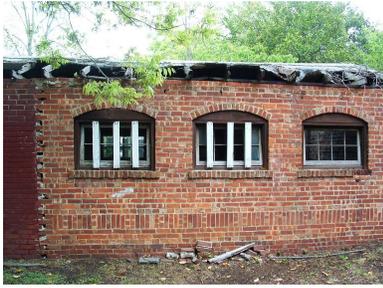
Farmers & Merchants Bank (1910) Eastover

This commercial brick and cast-stone building with its angled corner entrance and mansard roof served as post office, library, doctor's office and cornerstone of the community. The Eastover-Lower Richland Business Association plans to use it for a cultural arts center with an adjacent local artisans shop and leased office space on the 2nd floor. Grant funds are for architectural studies and roof repair.



Visanska-Starks Carriage House (~1910) 2214 Hampton Street

The brick carriage house is one of the oldest structures in the Waverly District. The main house has had a fascinating mélange of owners



that includes prominent Jewish leaders and the first African-American president of Benedict College. Funds have been used for a historical marker, website development, and architectural plans for restoring the carriage house.

Educational Grants

In addition to preserving and restoring sites, the RCCC recognizes the importance of interpreting our heritage, preserving oral histories, and providing educational opportunities. A grant to Hope Academy will capture and present the historical contributions of Lower Richland County through digital storytelling. Monteith School has one room that replicates a typical classroom between 1921 and 1947. A curriculum is being developed for student field trips to the school. Historic Columbia has undertaken a large project to document six Columbia neighborhoods with oral histories, four-panel exhibits, self-guided neighborhood tour brochures, and web-based virtual tours. At the Barber House, students explore what farming life was like in the early 1900s and



experience the historical journey from Africa, through slavery to freedom, to purchasing the Barber tract.

Goodwyn Cemetery (~1880s) Hopkins

RCCC grant funds are being used to help inventory and clean up this neglected cemetery that is the final resting place of Mrs. Keziah Goodwyn Hopkins Brevard, Reconstruction-era Rep. William Lowman, and probably many plantation slaves.



Historic Inventory and Website



The Richland County Cultural Heritage Inventory and Website Directory is an RCCC project that created an online inventory of known historic properties in Richland County SC and a public website to search, view, and print information about historic properties. The overarching goals of the project are to 1) educate the county's citizens to the historical resources present 2) help preserve the quality of life, heritage, and culture of Richland County and 3) advance heritage tourism as an economic development tool. This is an ongoing project that will require volunteer and intern help to continually update the website.

www.HistoricRichlandCountySC.com

For more information on the Historic Preservation grants program or the Inventory website, please contact Nancy Stone-Collum at 771-0870 or nancy@palmettoconservation.org