100 Meeting Street

Owner: South Carolina Historical Society
Architect: Glenn Keyes Architects
Contractor: Richard Marks Restorations
Structural Engineer: 4SE
Exhibit Designers: Healy Kohler Design
(Pro Merito Award and Interior Carolopolis Award)

Known as the Fireproof Building, 100 Meeting Street was designed by renowned architect Robert Mills in 1822 as fireproof storage of state records for the Charleston District. True to its name, the building was constructed entirely of non-combustible materials, including brick, brownstone, stucco. After housing a series of municipal uses, the building became the headquarters of the South Carolina Historical Society in the mid-20th century. The Fireproof Building was awarded an exterior Carolopolis Award in 1972 for a previous renovation.

The purpose of this project was to transform the Historical Society’s facilities from a small research library to a fully accessible museum, while simultaneously undertaking a comprehensive building rehabilitation. On the exterior, the main entry was relocated to the Washington Square elevation, where visitors will now enter at the ground level through the glass-enclosed loggia. The new paint scheme on the outside of the building also now recalls the original exposed brownstone material, and windows and ironwork were returned to their original green color. On the interior, 20th century fixtures, bookshelves, and carpet were removed and an elevator was sensitively installed to avoid impacting historic, vaulted masonry construction. Historic interior shutters and wood flooring were also refurbished.