2015 CAROLOPOLIS AWARDS
The 62nd Annual

CHARLESTON'S ZONING ORDINANCE
A Fresh Look

PICTURING CHARLESTON'S UPTOWN
A Photo Essay by Kevin Eberle
Built in 1810, on high ground overlooking Steam Boat Creek, this house established a distinct style of architecture which was reproduced, with minor variations, in plantation houses subsequently built on Edisto Island. It is the most ornate of the early Republican houses which remain on the island. Tradition attributes design of the house to James Hoban, architect of the White House, who practiced in Charleston during the 1790s. The Marquis de Lafayette visited the home of Captain Seabrook and his wife, Emma Elizabeth, as he toured the U.S. in celebration of the 50th year of the country’s founding. He christened the Seabrock's newborn daughter “Carolina Lafayette Seabrook.”
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The 62nd Annual Carolopolis Awards were held at the historic Riviera Theatre at Belmond Charleston Place on January 20, 2016. Photo by Michael Parks.

Preservation Progress is published by the Preservation Society of Charleston to educate and inform its membership and the public about historic preservation. The Preservation Society of Charleston is dedicated to recognizing, protecting and advocating for the Lowcountry’s historic places. As the oldest community-based historic preservation organization in America, we are the sum total of our members and friends, a dedicated group of residents and supporters of preservation from across the country who believe that some things are worth saving. Individual membership in the Society is $50 and includes a one-year subscription to Preservation Progress. Published continuously since 1956, Preservation Progress (ISSN 0478-1392) is published at a minimum two times per year and includes a subscription to eProgress. For advertising inquiries or article submission, mail to P.O. Box 521, Charleston, SC 29402 or e-mail preserve@preservationsociety.org.

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May is national Preservation Month, and this year we acknowledge an important milestone with the 50th anniversary of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

In 1966, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the NHPA into law, creating the triad of preservation in the US: the National Register of Historic Places, the list of National Historic Landmarks, and the State Historic Preservation Offices. The passage of the NHPA was a watershed moment of the modern preservation movement.

Preservation was not exactly new to the US, least so in Charleston. Important programs like the Historic American Building Survey date back to the 1930s. Farther back we see grassroots efforts to save sites like Mt. Vernon in the 1850s by the Mt. Vernon Ladies Association, founded and directed by Charlestonian Ann Pamela Cunningham (I guess we can say that we have been exporting preservation for over 150 years). The Preservation Society of Charleston was founded in 1920, cementing its place as the oldest community-based preservation organization in America.

While all of these are critical milestones in preservation, none were as sweeping and comprehensive as the NHPA. The NHPA of 1966 was much more far-reaching in its efforts to preserve and protect the nation’s heritage, which was under threat in the wake of widespread demolition caused by the construction of the federal highway system and mostly misguided “urban renewal” projects.

Preservation has come a long way as a result. Today we see countless communities across the country using preservation as an economic catalyst, and Americans generally possess a better appreciation and understanding of the value of our historic places. As public historian Robert Weyeneth has noted, “preservationists have been doing place before place was cool.”

Thanks to Section 106 of the NHPA, federal agencies are required to take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties. This is currently providing the Society an opportunity to enhance numerous local projects such as the proposed Fisher House at 150 Wentworth Street, the former Charleston Navy base, and Union Pier Cruise Terminal. In these instances Sec. 106 is providing the only opportunity for public input and is the only process that will consider (and hopefully mitigate) the potential negative effects these undertakings may have on historic resources.

While the frameworks created by the NHPA help effect positive outcomes, they are fueled by local effort and local expertise. Whether through writing new National Register nominations, consulting on federal preservation tax credits, or serving as a consulting party on the aforementioned Sec. 106 projects, the Preservation Society utilizes the framework of the NHPA to drive for better outcomes for Charleston.

As residents, visitors, and admirers of Charleston, we are beneficiaries of the preservation movement. It is important to remember that the city we experience today has been molded by nearly 100 years of unwavering preservation stewardship and civic engagement. The Preservation Society has been making a difference throughout this time, and we have never been busier. Every week we meet, review, advocate, and collaborate on every project that comes before the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals - Zoning, and both boards of the BAR. In addition to our advocacy work, we fulfill our mission through education programs like the Carolopolis Awards, research, and Seven to Save projects such as the conservation plan for Sheldon Church. And we do all of this with only a full time staff of seven.

I encourage you to use this anniversary as an opportunity to contemplate Charleston’s preservation past and focus on the future. As we struggle with issues such as the Sergeant Jasper, let us not forget the battle, and ultimate compromise, on the development of Charleston Place Hotel. When you live in a community as historic and delicate as ours, contentious projects are inevitable, but we must continue to take the long view and remember that, in Charleston, the preservation of place is the preservation of our brand.

In the spirit of Preservation Month, I ask you to reflect on how preservation has impacted your quality of life and consider upping your support for the Preservation Society. Please visit us in the shop, give the gift of membership, and consider a contribution as we continue to carry the banner for preservation in Charleston.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

KRISTOPHER B. KING
Executive Director
1. Unfortunately, attempts to reach a compromise with the Beach Company failed, and the future of the site remains unclear.

2. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the NHPA into law on October 15, 1966.

3. An unprecedented number of cranes now compete with the Holy City skyline.

4. Charleston residents gathered at the public hearing to listen and comment on the Army Corps’ findings regarding Union Pier Terminal.
February 19, 2016

The Honoroble John M. Tecklenburg  
Mayor, City of Charleston  
80 Broad Street  
Charleston, SC 29401  

Dear Mayor Tecklenburg:  

The zoning ordinance of the City of Charleston, which is the foundation for all planning and development activity that occurs throughout our city, is in urgent need of repair. The language of the ordinance lacks clarity in many places. Within its pages are contradictory statements and a proliferation of variances and exceptions. 

We write today to urge you to address these critical deficiencies. We suggest for your consideration a way to do so. Drawing on the recent Tourism Management Advisory Committee as a template, we propose that you appoint a small Zoning Ordinance Advisory Committee to meet over a period of 3-6 months under the direction of City Planning staff. The group would be tasked to explore critical issues within the zoning ordinance that have proven problematic and to produce a set of recommendations for improving it. Whether it is section 54-206, related to the protection of the single-family residence, confusion as to what actually constitutes “demolition,” the definition of “affordability,” or unclear language that leads to unintended (and often unacceptable) outcomes, such as the recent approvals granted to four hotel projects within a very small geographic area, the ordinance must be updated and clarified if Charleston is to manage effectively the growing challenges to the character of its built environment. From these discussions, the group would produce a set of recommendations for improving the ordinance. 

This “ZOAC” would comprise a cross-section of the stakeholders, interested parties, architects, developers, lawyers, engineers, and preservationists. It might also be advisable to include one or two citizens who are knowledgeable about zoning and citizens with expertise in approaches to affordable housing. We attach a sample list of names, which are suggested merely as examples to spur thinking. 

Both of us served on the Tourism Management Advisory Committee, which was a cross-section of people who had an interest in tourism, from the carriage industry to restauranteurs to hoteliers to neighborhood residents. The work was capably guided by City staff, the discussions were forthright and collaborative, even when committee members disagreed, and the overall experience resulted in a set of recommendations that, if fully implemented, will make a sizable and positive impact on tourism management. We believe that a committee convened to address zoning issues could operate in a similar way, with like results, and we urge you to move this process forward in this way, or in any way you see fit, at the earliest possible opportunity. 

Finally, please know that we stand ready to assist you in this endeavor. 

Sincerely yours, 

Kristopher B. King  
Executive Director  

Elizabeth K. Cahill  
Board Chairman, PSC
CHARLESTON’S ZONING ORDINANCE

Preservation Progress: Focusing on a few issues with the Charleston Zoning Ordinance

When Andres Duany consulted with the City of Charleston to make recommendations for the Board of Architectural Review, many citizens were surprised to hear his scathing analysis of the Charleston Zoning Ordinance. It should come as a shock to no one, however, as Mr. Duany has made a career of promoting his brand of New Urbanism by attacking the deficiencies of traditional zoning. In his unique and theatrical way, Mr. Duany elevated this critically import issue and brought it to the attention of the larger public.

Since working tirelessly with City leaders to create Charleston’s first zoning ordinance in 1931 (the very first preservation zoning ordinance in the United States), the Society has remained a constant advocate and critic of the ordinance. Society staff members attend every meeting of the Board of Zoning Appeals – Zoning (BZAZ) and intimately know the provisions, how they are applied, how they can be abused, and how applicants can work within the framework of the ordinance.

BZAZ Chairman Leonard Krawcheck and the members of the board are charged with considering any variances and special exceptions, of which there are many. Simply put, the ordinance is law and to be excused from the law an applicant must pass a variance test or receive a special exception. The processes are mostly prescribed by the letter of the ordinance, but there is an element of art to working within the established framework. Even if there are provisions that directly undermine the intent of the ordinance and the will of the city and the citizens, the BZAZ is unwavering in its charge to apply the ordinance as it is written.

The ordinance was written in 1931 and has seen periodic updates, witnessing its last major overhaul in 1976. There have been countless revisions and tweaks since, but those can be likened to bandages and tourniquets. Over the years, the ordinance itself has grown into a ponderous document, and as Mr. Duany stated, it is desperately overdue for a revision. A redo should take years, but the city has issues that we should begin to triage immediately. The following are but a few examples of the shortcomings of the Charleston Zoning Ordinance.

Section 54-206(a)

Section 54-206(a) is the provision in the zoning ordinance that guides the BZAZ in determining when a single-family house can be subdivided. The provision is especially problematic when the large single-family dwelling is an exceptional historic house, and this was made painfully clear in an application from last summer. At the June 2 meeting of the BZAZ, a request was heard for a special exception under Section 54-206(a) for 1 Meeting Street to allow three residential units on a property in an SR-3 (Single-Family Residential) zone district. Members of the BZAZ were sympathetic to preservation concerns, even commenting that they didn't like the request but were handcuffed by the wording of the ordinance. The BZAZ voted to approve the request.

The corollary issue with Sec. 54-206(a) is its prescriptive language and, therefore, how it is applied. The board is required to grant the special exception in practically every case because of the verbiage: “Additional dwelling units shall be permitted...where the board, after review, finds that such existing dwelling contains such an amount of space available and suitable for residential purposes that it is unreasonable to require its use as a single-family dwelling.”

Essentially, in cases with houses that have substantial square footages (also not specified), the board must grant the application additional units, opening up dozens of large, single-family historic residences to the potential of insensitive interior alterations as they are converted into multiple dwelling units. Over time, such a trend could erode the character of the city’s invaluable National Historic Landmark historic district. The Society maintains that the single family character of the historic district is as important as the single house.

The Society’s analysis highlights the many properties also at risk. They are to the left, shown in red.
CHARLESTON’S ZONING ORDINANCE

Section 54-301: Height, Area, & Setback Regulations

This major issue with the ordinance came to light as a result of the Beach Company’s “take it or leave it” approach to the Sergeant Jasper project. Instead of working with stakeholders to discuss appropriate revisions to their failed PUD proposal, the Beach Company decided to go the opposite route and max out their rights under the current Limited Business (LB) designation. Our research discovered a significant distinction that exists within LB; that is, there are two LB sub-designations: LB Non-residential and LB Residential. According to official zoning maps, however, there is only one LB!

We queried City staff, because we were concerned as to which category of LB the Beach Company would try to apply. If you study the table above you can quickly see how different LB Non-residential is from LB Residential. The Non-residential category allows no dwelling units and has no setbacks, no lot coverage maximum, and basically unlimited commercial use. Conversely, LB-Residential has more traditional neighborhood setbacks and lot coverage requirements of 50%, and it allows a maximum of 19.4 dwelling units.

So how do people know which to apply? They do not. It is not spelled out in the ordinance and is left to the interpretation of City staff. In the case of the Sergeant Jasper, a property that is nearly 90% residential, it was designated LB Non-residential, allowing unbridled and inappropriate commercial intensification of the site.

![Table 3.1: Height, Area and Setback Regulations](image)

**Table 3.1: Height, Area and Setback Regulations**

A developer’s attempt to increase the number of people living at 61 Vanderhorst St. from 53 to 100 exposed a serious flaw in the ordinance that based parking requirements on the number of units and not the number of bedrooms. The property in this case was an existing non-conforming use (i.e., it was built before the code was applied), meaning that they did not even provide the 79 spaces required by the ordinance for the 53 units. The property has roughly 30 spaces. The developer changed the 53 one-bedroom units into 33 three-bedroom units, doubling the density, all while providing no additional parking.

The Society joined the Radcliffeborough Neighborhood Association and other groups in opposing this request, but the BZAZ never heard the matter as the flawed language in Sec. 54-110 prevented such from happening, except under appeal. The neighborhood association did appeal the approval, which the Board summarily rejected.

In this case, City Council fortunately acted quickly to correct this flaw in the ordinance. City Council responded with an amendment to Sec. 54-110 that would require BZAZ review for any proposal that would increase the number of bedrooms in a dwelling unit. Regardless, the ordinance amendment was not retroactive, and the 61 Vanderhorst St. development was allowed to proceed.
The Definition of Demolition

Demolished? The siding, sash, sills, trim, cornice, terne metal roof, and attic vents were stripped from this Ashley Avenue house.

According to the City of Charleston’s Zoning Ordinance, demolition is defined as “the removal of an entire building or a significant portion of a building, the removal of which may compromise the structure’s architectural character.” By any reasonable account, the residence at 388 Ashley Avenue, as seen above, has had a “significant portion” of its fabric removed and would constitute demolition. Yet, the City, by its interpretation of the ordinance definition of demolition, does not view this as demolition. The house at 388 Ashley Avenue is just the latest in a list of unfortunate examples of egregious loss of historic fabric, which is allowed because of a flawed ordinance definition of demolition.

The house at 65 Saint Margaret Street in Wagener Terrace had nearly 50% of its fabric demolished. This was egregious enough that the City intervened.

Accommodations

Arguably the most visible and most immediate issue requiring attention is the growing accommodations issue impacting the city in the form of new hotels and short term rentals. Both of these are regulated by the zoning ordinance, but both need study and revision.

By now we are all aware of the proliferation of new hotels. “Hotel” should not be a bad word, but like any expanding market, it needs continued study and refinement of the regulations to keep pace with the changing conditions. The accommodations test is the place to start. Let us make sure it is asking the right questions and let us make sure we continue to consider the proportionality of hotel rooms to residents.

Short term rentals also must be studied, much like the City did with bed & breakfasts in the 1980s. The B&B ordinance is also due for an overhaul; any assessment of short term rentals should include a fresh look at the B&B ordinance. We need to better understand the market and the impacts of short term rentals, taking a neighborhood by neighborhood approach, and if we decide to consider some form of it somewhere, it should be regulated and taxed appropriately.

These issues are complex, so much so that the City should study these issues quickly yet carefully. There will not be a one size fits all answer for either.

These are just a few of the many nuanced aspects of the zoning ordinance working counter to the objectives of historic preservation, livability, and the character of Charleston. The Society endeavors to work with Mayor Tecklenburg and City Council to quickly address the problematic areas of the zoning ordinance. Gathering a balanced and informed group of stakeholders proved to be a winning combination for the Tourism Advisory Committee, and it can work here too.
Picturing Charleston’s Uptown

Contributed by Kevin Eberle

For nearly twenty years, any time I have met someone with Charleston ties, I have invariably slid the same questions into our introduction: “By any chance did your family live in the Uptown? They did?! Any chance you have any photos of the Uptown?” Fair warning: Don’t even casually respond that you do if you aren’t willing to endure endless pestering about making them available to others!

When elected president of the Hampton Park Terrace Neighborhood Association in 2000, I put my interest in local history to use to help fill our monthly newsletter. I decided to write a column inspired by the “Do You Know Your Charleston?” feature that once ran weekly in the local paper. Each column would highlight the story of a different house in our National Register neighborhood. The hope was that the column would interest both retirees who had lived in the neighborhood since the 1960s (and might contribute personal knowledge to the project) and newbie residents (who had been attracted to Hampton Park Terrace as an affordable entry into a historical downtown neighborhood).

Every column required many hours of sometimes tedious research. Resources included county deeds, newspaper articles, city directories, obituaries, probate records, building permits, and census forms. In the end, the articles would include biographical sketches of occupants, notes about the design of the houses, and any interesting stories I could unearth.

The one thing for which there was no easy source was an image to accompany the articles. Charleston’s lower peninsula can be documented by a wealth of early views showing some of our greatest buildings (and saddest losses) dating back to the earliest days of photography. But, ironically, finding photographs of houses built at a time when photography was no longer an exotic pastime were nearly impossible to track down.

Finding early photos of the Uptown began as a casual interest and became a hobby, a mission, and finally an obsession. Internet research allowed me to make contact with the grandchildren of many of our earliest neighbors, and I regularly mailed out requests for help in documenting the stories of their families’ houses.

Some of the letters never got a response. But after overcoming some cautious skepticism that a total stranger had researched their family and tracked them down (which, upon further reflection, is perhaps a bit creepy), many people were enthusiastic about the chance to help! Because high-resolution scanning is so easy, descendants were easily convinced to share a copy without having to surrender their prized photos.

The search for visual evidence about the Uptown continues and has expanded beyond Hampton Park Terrace. Almost without exception, anyone who was raised in Charleston before the 1970s has a connection to the Uptown. Neighborhoods like Wagener Terrace and North Central were the places to raise a young family. There are, no doubt, hundreds of photos taken on front porches and back yards showing new houses that are now more than 100 years old waiting in family albums to see the light of day.

In a city like Charleston, it can be hard to get people to think of early 20th century buildings as historic. Moreover, people don’t associate their own family houses as anything others would possibly be interested in; they are just too familiar with the buildings to realize their historical value.

Unfortunately, we are losing the only visual evidence of some buildings with every passing year. Unmarked photos...
in old family albums that no one can identify can be tossed into the trash and lost forever. Even when photos are retained, tracking those images down becomes harder and harder each time a new generation divides a collection and moves away with them.

So, any time I am introduced to anyone with Charleston ties, I make a point to insert my ham-handed plea for photos. And importantly, any photo that I track down isn’t just put in a shoebox but is made available to others with an interest in Charleston history by further sharing the finds. The Historic Charleston Foundation maintains a professional archive used by many researchers, and I always share materials with their full-time archivist, Karen Emmons. Likewise, the Preservation Society has its own storehouse of visual materials.

If each person who reads this article flips through family albums, the collection of Uptown materials available to researchers could likely double in size overnight.

So, how about it? Any chance you have any photos of the Uptown?

(continued to page 9)
Picturing Charleston’s Uptown

The small house at 5 Sutherland Court was built in the late 1930s. This photograph, taken in the early 1940s, was part of a family collection that otherwise included several good images of houses that were lost to the Crosstown in the 1960s.

The house at 248 Congress Street was the home of documented bootlegger Manly Sullivan. His family who had this ca. 1930 photo did not know that a Supreme Court challenge to his arrest on tax charges established the precedent the Justice Department later used to bring down Al Capone.

In 1932, an owner of 501 Huger Street not only photographed his house, but also captured one of the only two known views of a series of brick columns the neighborhood developer built at the main entrances to the neighborhood.

The grandson of one family had this photograph of 6 Elmwood Avenue with him in Columbia, South Carolina. The image was used by contractor Marc Engelke to document missing features of the house during a Carolopolis Award-winning restoration of the house.

This ca. 1917 photograph was supplied by a granddaughter of the builder of 14 Parkwood Avenue. It was used during a recent restoration that received a Carolopolis Award in 2016 for reopening the front porch.
Mark your calendars! The Fall Tours are October 6-30 this year and they include an exciting assortment of new offerings for residents and visitors alike, in addition to the traditional tour programs. The Society’s most important revenue generator, the Fall Tours support the crucially important mission of preserving the unique history and architecture of Charleston. Each year, the indispensable contributions of homeowners and volunteers ensure that the Fall Tours are successful in providing a quality educational product.

All tours are limited and we strongly urge advance reservations. Visit www.thefalltours.org for more information.

WHAT’S NEW:

- Our Living in History lunch series has been a huge success throughout the year. We plan to continue them through October so they become an integral part of the Fall Tours Program. Following selected lectures, guests will build on what they have learned by taking to the field.

- Escape the hustle and bustle of the Peninsula’s dense urban streets with A Day on the Cooper. Join members and guests as we venture north via coach to the scenic landscapes of the Lowcountry, a setting rich in history and important to making Charleston a prosperous city. This tour offers a glimpse into the people and history of the Cooper River plantations as well as today’s stewards who lovingly preserve them.

- On two Thursdays we will offer Four for $40, catering to those guests who want to kick off their weekend with a quick tour of four distinctive private properties. Interiors will be included for each.

- With Up Close and Personal, professional licensed guides will lead tours designed with a specific theme or educational component. Guests will gain access behind the scenes to exclusive spaces.

- Once again, we are pleased to offer guided Walking History Tours each Thursday through Sunday. Back by popular demand are “Invention of Wings,” based on Sue Monk Kidd’s popular book by the same title, and the “Ironwork of Charleston,” a tour focusing on the city’s beautiful wrought ironwork.
The Carolopolis award is presented annually for exemplary exterior restorations or rehabilitations of historic, architecturally significant properties in the Charleston area. Since Jack Krawcheck received the first Carolopolis award in 1953 for the restoration of 313 King Street, the Preservation Society has awarded the distinction to 1,382 buildings. The Society also grants the Pro Merito award to properties that have received a Carolopolis award not less than twenty years ago and have undergone a second major rehabilitation or restoration, or to properties that have displayed a commendable level of continuous preservation. Since first introduced in 1999, the Society has given the Pro Merito award to twenty properties.

On January 20, 2016, at its 96th annual meeting and 62nd Carolopolis Awards ceremony, co-hosted by Belmond Charleston Place and Carriage Properties, the Society presented eleven Carolopolis awards and three Pro Merito awards to properties representing a diverse collection of styles and building types. All project teams, from the owners willing to make the investment, to the architects and craftsmen with the expertise to plan and execute the work, demonstrated that there is value in adhering to preservation standards and that the market supports such admirable efforts.

1. The Riviera Theatre was a full house as our members and guests awaited the presentation of awards.
2. Stephen and Ellen Morse at the 62nd Annual Carolopolis Awards at the Riviera Theatre.
3. Henry Laurens, Richard von Werssowetz, and Melinda Laurens take a break at the reception co-sponsored by Belmond Charleston Place and Carriage Properties.
4. Councilman Dudley Gregorie with the Mother Emanuel AME award recipients for the property at 106 Calhoun Street.

photos by Michael Parks
47 CHAPEL STREET (PRO MERITO) | Jonah M. Venning Tenement

This slightly truncated Charleston single house located in the Mazyck-Wraggborough neighborhood received a Carolopolis Award in 1991. For this current project, the owner sought to restore the house to the period following its original 1840-1850 construction. This included repairing and retaining the two-over-two sash windows and Queen Ann style columns.

OWNERS: Helen Mitternight and Ferris Kaplan
ARCHITECT: Jerry Ballinger, Jerry Ballinger Architect LLC
CONTRACTOR: Joel Kruger, Kruger Construction

18 ANSON STREET (PRO MERITO)

Irish emigrant Margaret Magrath and her husband, Patrick, built this modest single house around 1893. The property sits just removed from the market and received a Carolopolis award in 1981. Some of the work earning it a Pro Merito award included replacing eight non-historic windows with true-divided-light wood sash windows, installing new mahogany shutters, and repairing balusters on the piazza.

OWNER: John LaVerne, Bulldog HQ LLC
CONTRACTOR: Riverland Builders
36 COMING STREET (PRO MERITO)

This ca. 1842 single house received a Carolopolis Award in 1977, and the current project took a holistic approach to perform a high-quality restoration, addressing structural deficiencies as well as the accretion of inappropriate alterations and materials. A materials analysis of mortar, stucco, and exterior paints provided the baseline for the restoration.

OWNER: College of Charleston
ARCHITECT: Meadors, Inc.
CONTRACTOR: Huss, Inc.

2 NORTH ALLAN PARK

A contributing property to the Hampton Park Terrace National Register Historic District, this dwelling was constructed in 1920. Although the property is not within the purview of the Board of Architectural Review, it received a sensitive restoration which included the repair of original elements like windows, siding, and the terne roof, and replacing the porch roof with a traditional standing-seam metal roof.

OWNERS: Clare and Richard Pogue
ARCHITECT: Eric Harrod, Harrod Design Build Studio LLC
CONTRACTOR: Marc Engelke, Engelke Homes

327 KING STREET | Gloria Theater Building

Architects Louis J. Barbot and John H. Seyle designed this building for grocer John Meyer in 1855-1856. The restoration, which included applying an historically appropriate stucco mixture, mostly returned the building to the period from the 1920s when architect Albert Simons made alterations to the primary façade and converted it to a theater. A deviation from Simons’ changes is the configuration of the new wood storefront.

OWNER: College of Charleston
ARCHITECT: Whitney Powers, Studio A Architecture
CONTRACTOR: NBM Construction

14 PARKWOOD AVENUE

Built in 1917 in the Hampton Park Terrace neighborhood, this unpretentious American Foursquare had been abandoned for several years, but not before a second floor addition to the front façade drastically altered its porch and overall appearance. The main goal of the project was to restore the house to its original form, which also required the removal of a 1950s rear addition.

OWNER: Brittain and Sarah Phillips
ARCHITECT: Michael M. Fisher
CONTRACTOR: Jason Chasteen, Artisan Woodworks and Restoration

63 TRADD STREET

A map from the Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. confirms that this building, sitting perpendicular to Tradd Street, was constructed by 1884 and served as a two-story tenement at the time. The one-story porch and ell are both mid-20th century additions, the former of which was removed during the project. All window and door openings were preserved on the historic portion of the structure.

OWNER: John Dewberry
ARCHITECT: Meadors, Inc.
CONTRACTOR: Dewberry Construction

4 SOUTH ADGERS WHARF

Although it serves as a residence, this building’s 19th century industrial past was enhanced by the installation of compatible steel windows designed to, and set in, the full original openings. Significant structural repairs were made to the exterior masonry walls, and the roof system was reinforced to correct poor repairs made after the 1886 earthquake.

OWNERS: Marsha Russell and Lee Tawes
ARCHITECT: Glenn Keyes Architects
CONTRACTOR: Rhode Construction
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121 CALHOUN STREET | Harleston-Boags Funeral Home

A salient aspect of the restoration of this ca. 1915 building was the reconstruction of the original storefront. The scope of work included removal of the asbestos siding and repair of the wood siding beneath, which called for the painstaking remediation of lead paint. Pressed metal details such as the storefront, building cornices, and window headers were carefully mended and painted.

OWNER: Lang Tarrant, Tarrant Commercial Real Estate
ARCHITECT: Neil Stevenson Architects
CONTRACTOR: Charles Blanchard Construction Company

161-161 ½ KING STREET

The rehabilitation of this 19th century commercial building and former mortuary created a new façade more in keeping with the neighboring streetscape. The foundation was repaired and repointed, the roof framing reinforced with traditional mortise and tenon joints, and the masonry walls were cleaned, repaired, and refinished with stuc pierre, a cast technique widely used in Europe and derived from a mix of gypsum plaster, hydrated lime, and stone aggregate.

OWNER: 161 King Street Partners LLC
ARCHITECT: Bill Huey and Associates
CONTRACTOR: Renew Urban Charleston

106 CALHOUN STREET

Housing the offices of Mother Emanuel AME Church, this late-19th century single house had through the years witnessed several insensitive alterations to its historic fabric. The most striking transformation was the restoration of the piazza, which included reopening one of its bays, removing its plywood ceiling and replacing it with tongue and groove board, and removing the brick veneer of the screen and reconstructing it on an historical photograph.

OWNER: Mother Emanuel AME Church
ARCHITECT: Palmer Architects
CONTRACTOR: The Simmons Group

405 KING STREET | Saint Matthews German Evangelical Lutheran Church

Designed by John Henry Devereux and completed in 1872, this church has endured the vicissitudes of time. The extensive scope of the project included restoring the exterior appearance and visible materials such as the slate roof, copper finials and ferrules, and the bell tower. The project also removed layers of cracked stucco, repointed masonry joints with an appropriate mortar mix, and coated the building with a mineral silicate paint over an historical stucco mix.

OWNER: St. Matthews German Evangelical Lutheran Church
ARCHITECT: Marshall F. Clarke, MCA Architecture, Inc.
CONTRACTOR: Hill Construction Company

710 EAST BAY STREET | The Cigar Factory (The Charleston Cotton Factory)

This project utilized state and federal historic tax credits to rehabilitate the prominent 1881 industrial building. Demolition of window infill and a 1970s circulation tower returned the principal façade to its original form. High-quality metal, operable windows were installed, and some structural weaknesses were addressed. The adaptive use of this iconic edifice provides thousands of square feet of office and retail space while conveying Charleston's industrial past.

OWNER: Cigar Factory Development LLC
ARCHITECT: Stevens and Wilkinson
CONTRACTOR: Trident Construction

114 SAINT PHILIP STREET | Westendorff and Sons Hardware Building

Providing an active, adaptive use and thereby retaining this 1905 corner store building is a boon to the historic character of Radcliffeborough. Structural problems that had plagued this long-neglected building were addressed, and the original stucco was restored to reveal a ghost mark of the early-20th century signage. The pressed metal ornamentation was restored, along with the original windows, fireplaces, and piazza.

OWNER: Steve Niketas and Jamie Westendorff, partners, Westendorff Hardware LLC
ARCHITECT: Julia F. Martin Architects
CONTRACTOR: Coward-Hund
Will Cook is an associate general counsel for the National Trust for Historic Preservation’s Law Department. His primary responsibilities include litigation advocacy on behalf of the National Trust in courts across the United States and advising local governments and attorneys working for local governments to strengthen their local preservation laws. Mr. Cook also helps supervise the protection of the National Trust’s trademarks and provides general corporate law support. Before joining the Trust, he taught classes as an assistant professor at the Charleston School of Law and served on the Preservation Society’s Board of Directors from 2005 – 2010.

We would like to extend our sincere appreciation to Mr. Cook for his counsel and dedication to preservation matters vital to Charleston, the Lowcountry, and beyond. We talked with Mr. Cook about his work with the Trust, various preservation issues, and what he sees as the future of the Trust.

What are some of the challenges the Trust faces advocating on a national stage?

“There are two things that rise to the surface. The first is that there is a lack of understanding generally about how preservation law operates and what historic preservation represents. The second overarching problem would be that there is uneven enforcement of preservation laws at all levels of government.”

Expand on that if you would.

“Sure. I’ll give you an example of uneven enforcement at the federal level and at the local level: even though all federal agencies are required to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) whenever they are engaged in an activity that would have adverse effect on historic resources, enforcement varies from agency to agency. The General Services Administration (GSA) traditionally has a very good track record following the procedural protections of the NHPA. By contrast, other agencies, like the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), often find themselves as the subject of lawsuits brought to require the agency to comply with federal mandates.

What are some of the misconceptions of preservation law?

“There is a basic misunderstanding of what the historic preservation movement is about and what it seeks to do. Often times, there is the misperception that the historic landmarking of a building will mean that nothing can ever change regarding that building. This simply is not the case under any preservation law, at any level of government, for any resource.”

Is that a property rights anxiety?

“I think that’s fair to say. As I mentioned, there is an erroneous belief that designation is equated with no change. That is simply not the case; every law has some degree of flexibility, at all levels and forms of regulation. The other misunderstanding has to do with the benefits historic preservation provides, not just in terms of protecting a community’s sense of identity and history, but also in terms of the positive economic effects of preservation in bringing up everyone’s property values and attracting and creating jobs.”
What is DC’s perspective on the cruise issue that got the attention of the National Trust?

Charleston was one of the first three “National Treasures” of the Trust, meaning all resources come to bear to protect them. It was a slam dunk to support Charleston; from a national perspective, Charleston represents, and was being targeted as, a niche market which the cruise industry saw as a model for cruise ports. The cruise industry targeting such places was going to be a national issue, larger than just Charleston. Savannah was targeted, but we now know it won’t work as well there. People were looking to Charleston as a regional and national model about how to handle cruise tourism of this size and scale.

In terms of the cruise issue, what is your take on where we are now?

I’m positive compared to where we were five years ago with no communications with USACE, the State Ports Authority (SPA), and the city. After the litigation success a few years ago, we achieved a huge victory when a federal court revoked the USACE permit. That has put us in a stronger position today as we go through the Section 106 process again. I would add that the change in city leadership has indicated that it is going to be more reasonable in working with residents to find ways to minimize or mitigate the adverse effects everyone experiences every time a cruise ship docks. We don’t know what the outcome of the Section 106 review process will be, but I feel good about where we are.

What do you see going forward as the biggest challenge that you might face, in addition to the two challenges you mentioned earlier? Is there anything on the horizon you see developing?

I think it is too early to say it is a trend, but there have been recent state and municipal efforts to weaken local preservation laws, in terms of landmarking individual properties and creating historic districts. I think there is a very real fear of this move nationally to weaken restrictions on property rights and land use laws; preservation laws are a part of that mix. Because they are misunderstood, it is often a frequent target or lightning rod of those efforts. Unfortunately, preservation law tends to get singled out in ways other environmental or land use laws do not, which warrants a call for greater education for how preservation law operates. We are often dealing with legislators who propose bills that unreasonably target and seek to weaken preservation laws, yet they often have no understanding of what, why, or how preservation laws operate.

To wrap up, how do you see the Trust evolving? How do you picture the trust ten years from now, and how is it staying relevant?

The Trust has gone through a lot of change in the last ten years or so, and I am very bullish about its future. I joined only five years ago right after a change in leadership, but I’ve been very pleased with the direction that we’ve taken, especially with our National Treasures program. It brings together and focuses all divisions of the Trust, whether law, marketing, or preservation, to work with local partners to solve problems. In addition, with this program we’ve seen our portfolio projects expand in ways that increase the diversity of our work, broadening the geography and reach. The National Treasures program helps develop preservation law in ways to keep it relevant and stronger in the 21st century, especially in areas of sustainability.
Recognizing the opportunity to combine experiential learning with an understanding of preservation, the Preservation Society and Charleston Day School (CDS) joined forces in January to create a hands-on Preservation Day during “Charleston Week” at the Archdale Street school.

Preservation Day provided students in grades 1-8 with a variety of opportunities to understand how their classroom learning translates to the world just outside of their windows. CDS’ curriculum director, Mary Allen Edgerton, noted, “We were very interested in demonstrating how the city can influence learning in all subject areas – math and science and the arts, as well as history and social studies. The city of Charleston is a unique classroom, and we all wanted the students to better appreciate the city, no matter their personal interests.”

Charleston Week kicked off with Society staff giving a presentation to the faculty to demonstrate the learning opportunities to be had even as close as Archdale Street. Among the topics discussed were the impact of the German immigrants who settled in the neighborhood, the political influence of the German Friendly Society, the math, science, and historical references in the design of the Unitarian Church, the artistry of Audubon, and the contributions to his art made by Maria Bachman, the wife of the pastor of St. John’s Lutheran church.

Enthused and energized by the learning prospects for their students, the faculty created exciting plans to learn in the city. Fourth graders built a model of the walled city. The sixth grade class worked with measured drawings for an historic house restoration to study area and volume and used their experience to “purchase” flooring for the home after researching what would have been used at the time the house was built. Younger students honed their map skills as they explored the city, making rubbings of the geometric shapes they found along the way. Eighth graders were led by author Harlan Greene to better understand an often overlooked period of the city’s history, the Charleston Renaissance, and how the artists and authors of the time influenced Southern literature and arts.

A mom’s post on Facebook summed up the week’s success when she announced, “I want to go on this tour!” referring to the experience of CDS fifth graders. A scheduled walking tour was briefly detoured when an interested neighbor invited the students into her garden to gain an appreciation the math skills required to plan and execute the special...
Younger students study a model of the walled city in the Provost Dungeon at the Old Exchange Building. Sixth graders work with measured drawings to calculate area and volume of a house.

Steve Hanson with the American College of the Building Arts shows the students the architectural beauty of the Old Charleston Jail on Magazine Street.

CHARLESTON DAY SCHOOL
Charleston Week

space. It was also an opportunity to learn about the science of composting. The surprises continued when a “walk by” of the old jail resulted in an invitation to tour the interior.

The project at Charleston Day School served to remind us all of the untold learning opportunities and surprises that await students of any age as they move outside the schoolyard walls to explore our historic city. The Society’s executive director, Kristopher King, sums up the value of such experiences: “Engaging students of any age in the stories behind our built environment is the best way to create passionate preservationists. When you spark curiosity in a place, people become protective of it. That’s the first step in appreciating the rich historic and cultural tapestry our city offers.”
The Board of the Charleston Heritage Symposium, a three-day decorative arts lecture series of the Preservation Society of Charleston, takes great pleasure in announcing that Peregrine Cavendish, the Duke of Devonshire, will be the keynote speaker at the 2016 symposium. This year’s theme is “Charleston-Family Collections and Inspiring Connections,” and the Duke of Devonshire will speak on the extensive collections at Chatsworth, the family home since 1549.

The Charleston Heritage Symposium is composed of an all-volunteer board, and 100% of the proceeds benefit the Preservation Society’s mission of recognizing, protecting, and advocating for the Lowcountry’s historic places. The fourth annual symposium will be held Friday, October 7 through Sunday, October 9, 2016. The weekend also includes an opening night reception, a Saturday evening soirée at a private residence, and a Sunday brunch.

Robert Leath, Chief Curator at MESDA, is the symposium moderator and Curator-in-Residence. The Duke of Devonshire will be joined by a prominent and exciting group of experts who will present various colonial and international connections and highlight family collections that inspired Charleston life, artisans and architecture:

- Susan L. Buck, Conservator and Paint Analyst: Under the Microscope: Discovering Hidden Paint and Wallpaper Treasures in Charleston Buildings
- Dana Byrd, Assistant Professor of Art History-Bowdoin College: Ebony and Ivory: Pianos, People, Property and Freedom on the Plantation
- Brandy Culp, Curator Consultant: Interwoven Connections: Charleston, Newport and the West Indies
- George McNeely, Vice President International Affairs, World Monument Fund: The Cosmopolitan Middleton’s: A Family’s History as Told Through Their Collections
- Louis P. Nelson: Professor of Architectural History, University of Virginia: The Charleston Single House in the Atlantic Context

Limited to 80 participants, tickets go on sale May 20, 2016. The ticket price is $550 until July 10th and after that will be $600. Tickets tend to sell out quickly.

The Sallie E. Simons Scholarship is available to a current student in the field of historic preservation, art history, history, decorative arts, museum studies or a related field.

For more information, 800-770-1817
www.CharlestonHeritageSymposium.org
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MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

1. Jane Waring, Bessie Hanahan, Craig Bennett, and Jonathan Poston at the April Membership Meeting at the American Theater.

2. The April Membership Meeting featured speaker Jonathan Poston.

3. Tim and Jackie Condo and Matt and Brittany Lavelle Tulla enjoyed the Carolopolis Awards reception.

4. Corie Hipp, Betsy Cahill, Kristopher King, and Steve Hanson during the Carolopolis Awards.

5. Kathy Hudson, co-author of On Walnut Hill, pauses with Susan Epstein, Mollie Fair, and Patti Alexander before our April lunch lecture.

6. The April lunch lecture was held at 82 Queen.
MEMBERSHIP MATTERS

Because when you can’t be there, we are...

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MEMBERSHIP LEVELS

$25 Student
$50 Individual
$75 Family

GIVING LEVELS

$250
$500
$1000
Other

All members of the Preservation Society of Charleston will receive our semi-annual publication of Preservation Progress and a 10 percent discount on Fall Tour tickets and in our Book and Gift Shop. In addition, members will also receive invitations to the quarterly membership lectures and receptions, special events, and educational trips to various historic sites and gardens.
From hosting the Scout Guide Launch Party to new products to a dedicated reading room, there is much to be excited about at the PSofC Shop.

Since January 1, we have focused on increasing the variety of products made by local artisans and craftsmen. The shop now carries goods from an additional 14 local vendors, ranging from edibles to fashion accessories. We also have dramatically increased the selection of products from our existing stock of local vendors like Brackish Bow Ties, J. Stark bags and leather goods, and Hermosa Jewelry.

As for our book selection, we have added over 150 new titles, ranging from children’s books to art and architecture. The expanded bookstore is a perfect fit with our dedicated reading room. We invite you to come by, say hello to Andy and our sales associates, and peruse the titles while enjoying complimentary King Bean Coffee, served daily.

We plan on adding more local products throughout 2016, along with new book titles each month.

From March through June, the store will have extended weekend hours:
Monday–Thursday, 10–5; Friday 10–7; Saturday 10–5; Sunday 11–5

Thanks to our friends at Koozer Painting, we have a fresh new exterior look!

The Shop’s rear space is now a reading room. Stop by and enjoy a fresh cup of local King Bean Coffee.
1. The Scout is Out! Launch Party at the Preservation Society Shop.
2. Director of Retail Andy Archie with Michelle Johnson of The Scout Guide.
3. Brackish Bow Ties are perfect for weddings, formals, or everyday wear!
4. We are featuring many new Charleston Makers and some old favorites!
   Pick up a reclaimed wood piece by PhReclaimed, a genuine leather bag by J.Stark, or a classic sweetgrass basket by our dear friend Henrietta Snype.
5. We are proud to offer Old Whaling Company Soaps - the perfect gift!
Charlestonians and preservation advocates alike collectively lament the devastating loss of the Charleston Orphan House to demolition in 1952 by Sears, Roebuck and Co. Founded in 1790 and officially opened in 1794, the Charleston Orphan House was the nation’s first municipal orphanage, once praised by George Washington himself. However, fewer remember the Charleston Orphan House Chapel which stood at the rear of the property and fronted Vanderhorst Street, across from what is now 10 Vanderhorst. This Neoclassical-style chapel, “considered an outstanding example of small church architecture” was designed and built by Charleston’s very own Gabriel Manigault in 1802. In spite of the fervent efforts of the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings – today the Preservation Society of Charleston – to negotiate with construction crews and company officials, the Orphan House Chapel was razed in June of 1953.

A News and Courier article from 1950 highlights the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings’ attempts to convey the extent of the chapel’s significance to Sears officials; Mrs. Daniel Ravenel, secretary of the society at the time, proclaimed the chapel a “very fine example of the Adam period of architecture,” also emphasizing Gabriel Manigault’s importance as “Charleston’s first native architect of ability and eminence.” The Charleston Orphan House Chapel was one of merely four remaining buildings attributed to Gabriel Manigault’s career, the others being South Carolina Society Hall, the Joseph Manigault House, and the exterior of City Hall.

Independent of exterior architectural significance, the chapel’s sanctuary boasted intricate woodwork, windows, and murals. Most notably the chapel featured a 1763 oil painting by Thomas Coram, a lifelong patron of the Charleston Orphan House, entitled, Christ Blessing the Little Children, as well as a Louis Comfort Tiffany stained-glass window installed in 1929 in memory of Andrew Buist Murray, who spent several years of his youth in the orphanage. After the destruction of the chapel, the painting was moved to the Gibbes Museum of Art, while the Tiffany window was relocated to the Carolina Youth Development Center in North Charleston. Today, the Marcia Kelly McAlister Residence Hall on the southeast corner of Vanderhorst and St. Philip Streets occupies a large portion of the block in which the chapel was sited.
1. The Orphan House Chapel depicted in C.N. Drië's 1872 birdseye map of Charleston
2. May of 1938, after Works Progress Administration refurbishing project
3. Historic American Building Survey Photo (HABS-SC 146)
4. Standing today: the Marcia Kelly McAlister Residence Hall
5. Tiffany stained-glass window, installed 1929
The Preservation Society of Charleston is dedicated to recognizing, protecting and advocating for the Lowcountry’s historic places.

2016 SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR

MAY 14 PICNIC AT THE PLANTATION
William Seabrook Plantation, Edisto Island, 12–4 pm
BBQ by Charleston Bay Gourmet and Music with the Bluestone Ramblers
Tickets are $30 for members, $45 for non members, kids 12 and under, free.

MAY 17 LIVING IN HISTORY LUNCH LECTURE SERIES 82 Queen Street at Noon
Dr. Nic Butler, “George Gershwin and the Sounds of Charleston in Porgy and Bess”

MAY 24 LIVING IN HISTORY LUNCH LECTURE SERIES 82 Queen Street at Noon
Ernest Parks, “Center Stage: Gullah Culture in Porgy and Bess”

MAY 25 SPOLETO FESTIVAL USA
Look for Jonathan Green’s “Porgy and Bess” installations on structures around town significant to African American history. Check in the Shop for more information.

SEP 30 DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR A CAROLOPOLIS AWARD

OCT 6–30 THE FALL TOURS OF HOMES, HISTORY & ARCHITECTURE
Tickets for the 40th Annual Fall Tours go on sale June 1, 2016.
If you would like more information, contact Susan Epstein at sepstein@preservationsociety.org.

OCT 7–9 THE CHARLESTON HERITAGE SYMPOSIUM
“Charleston-Family Collections and Inspiring Connections.” Tickets go on sale May 20, 2016.