

# Historically Speaking

VOLUME 46

ISSUE THREE

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF HISTORIC COLUMBIA FOUNDATION

WINTER 2008



*Blanding Street E. from Sumter Street. Columbia, S.C.*

## COMMON GROUND FOR CONTENTMENT

*The Robert Mills Historic District in the 21st Century*

PAGES 4-5



## from the Executive Director

While there are times and places that the respite following the busy holiday season are welcomed, at Historic Columbia Foundation, staff celebrates the advent of each New Year by providing programs and special events that conquer the winter doldrums. In addition to a dynamic calendar of activities that appeals to residents, this winter, with the help of advertising firm Semaphores, Inc., Historic Columbia Foundation will unveil a marketing campaign to promote our unique historic properties to new audiences.

*Discover People, Places, and Progress* merges the organization's broad strategic vision with the promotion of our daily museum tours, neighborhood walks, and weekend-long symposia. We have identified words such as COURAGE, CLASS, and FREEDOM that exemplify the people who have lived and worked at our sites. BEAUTY denotes our unique historic places and spectacular new gardens. Progress is referenced by the VISION of leaders from the late 18th century to today, who guide-change in Columbia and Richland County. These words, coupled with historic images, capture the essence of these people who make history whether through energetic movement or quiet contemplation and of these places that serve as markers of their lives and contributions.

Our historic house museums serve as windows into our shared past through their wealth of material culture that provides intimate glimpses of our diverse population's lives over 200 years. Thousands of visitors from around the world marvel at the Hampton racing trophy; a plethora of archaeological fragments unearthed from the grounds of the Mann-Simons Cottage; a truly unique, Charleston-made, early 19th-century linen press; and the newly-restored Hiram Powers fountain that once graced the gardens of the Hampton-Preston Mansion. In their own way, each of the more than 6500 objects that comprise Historic Columbia Foundation's museum collection remains as a tangible example of courage, class, beauty, and vision.

*Discover People, Places and Progress* by visiting the Robert Mills House, Mann-Simons Cottage and the Hampton-Preston Mansion. Walk in the steps of those whose came before us. Experience the wonder of an earlier time and let the lessons of the past inform our future.



Robin Waites

## Welcome New Board Members

In November, Historic Columbia Foundation's Board of Trustees elected Cal Watson as its President. Watson is a partner and member of Sowell Gray Stepp & Laffitte, LLC and recently received the Best Lawyers in America Award (Woodward/White, 2008) in the Commercial Litigation, Professional Malpractice Law Category. New to the board are Michael Edens and Tiaa Rutherford. Edens is a private banking manager with NBSC and is a graduate of Leadership Columbia. Rutherford is a Neighborhood Planner with the Richland County Neighborhood Improvement Program and is actively involved in the community.

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PRESIDENT  
Cal Watson

1ST VICE PRESIDENT  
Gloria James

2ND VICE PRESIDENT  
Susan Brill

SECRETARY  
Chris Brownlee

TREASURER  
Ed Greenleaf

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Robin Waites

Historic Columbia  
FOUNDATION

### Discover People, Places & Progress

The Mission of Historic Columbia Foundation is to *nurture, support, and protect the historical and cultural heritage of Columbia and Richland County through programs of advocacy, education and preservation.*



Publication of the Winter 2008 issue of *Historically Speaking* is sponsored by



Cover: View of Blending Street east from Simons Street (1908) in the Robert Mills District.

All photos courtesy of Historic Columbia Foundation unless otherwise noted.

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# MUD MATTERS

## Important Local Piece Finds Home at Robert Mills House

By Alexis Thompson, Collections Manager and John Sherrer, Director of Collections and Interpretation

Historic Columbia Foundation has become the owner of an important piece of local material culture – a circa-1860, Stork/Landrum alkaline-glazed stoneware jug manufactured by the Landrum Brick and Pottery Company, formerly located where Brickyard Condominiums now stand in Forest Acres.

Introducing the alkaline glazed tradition to the region, Edgefield, South Carolina's Landrum family became one of the leading producers of southern pottery in the 19th century. Abner Landrum, the first owner of the

enslaved potter Dave whose skill has received nationwide attention in recent years, moved his family Columbia in 1831 and began the Landrum Brick and Pottery Company in 1832. After Abner's death in 1859, his son Linneaus continued the family tradition. The Landrum Brickyard continued its

operation until about 1904 when it then became the Landrum Firebrick Company, responsible for producing nearly 900,000 bricks per year. Seven years later, Raymond Stork changed the name of the company to R.M. Stork Brickyard. Despite the change, the brickyard continued to produce small pieces of pottery until 1950. The chimney from the brickyard and the Landrum-Stork house still stand on Bethel Church Road.

This ovoid, or bulbous, jug is an excellent example of the alkaline glaze tradition perfected by the Landrum family. Three vertical slash marks near the spout indicate the jug's three-gallon capacity. Visitors can view the artifact in the provision room of the Robert Mills House.

This piece represents a significant addition to Historic Columbia Foundation's growing collection of material culture from South Carolina's Fall Line region, of which Columbia and Richland County are a part. The Fall Line Consortium, a group of ten local



This locally made piece of pottery combines the Landrum Family tradition of alkaline glaze with the stoneware pottery of the South. This jug was made in Columbia, circa 1860.

institutions that seek to research and preserve items from this area, began in 2002 and continues to impact the larger South Carolina community. The Consortium's next project will be a comprehensive exhibition highlighting artifacts from the entire Fall Line region, which will run at the South Carolina State Museum in 2009-2010. For more information about this jug and the Fall Line Consortium, please contact John Sherrer, Director of Collections and Interpretation at 803.252.1770, ext. 28 or jsherrer@historiccolumbia.org.



The original chimney was constructed in the 1800s and enclosed with modern brick in 1935 on the site of the original Landrum Brick and Pottery Company on Bethel Church Road in Forest Acres.



The Stork-Landrum house still stands a short distance from the former brickyard.



The 1500 block of Laurel Street (facing east) presents one of the strongest 19th century contexts in Columbia.

# COMMON GROUND FOR CONTENTMENT

## *The Robert Mills Historic District in the 21st Century*

By John Sherrer, Director of Collections and Interpretation



Boozler-Crumpler House, 1529 Laurel Street

It's no surprise that one of Columbia's most treasured aspects is its collection of historic downtown neighborhoods and early suburbs. Celebrated for their architectural distinction and mature landscaping, these places and spaces are natural magnets for citizens interested in both the past and the promise of future developments geared to enhancing their quality of life.

In the midst of the action is Historic Columbia Foundation, which seeks to transform the Robert Mills Historic District into the Robert Mills Garden District through its recently unveiled Cultural Landscape Master Plan. Through the rehabilitation of gardens at six of the seven historic sites under its stewardship, the Foundation plans to create a cohesive campus-like environment featuring an aesthetically pleasing pedestrian linkage system that emphasizes historic and educational elements. Once established, the "garden district" will heighten heritage tourism, spur sensitive redevelopment, and increase a sense of identity for residents of Columbia and Richland County, all goals aimed at improving the neighborhood in which these properties are located.

Community awareness and involvement are essential to this initiative's success. Recently, Historic Columbia Foundation caught up with some of the residents and business people who already appreciate the value of capitalizing upon the district's historic elements. New Foundation members Gregg Harris, Sherri Lydon, and Johnny Gasser established their law firm at the circa-1912 Boozler-Crumpler House. After considerable rehabilitative work, the former residence at 1529 Laurel Street today provides signature office space within an historic setting.

"I have always found old homes beautiful, and although the home had fallen into a horrible state of disrepair, the renovation project became



Richardson Plowden Law Firm, 1900 Barnwell Street

a labor of love," Harris recently reflected. "The three of us could not be happier than we are on Laurel Street. We have been welcomed to the historic district by all of our neighbors. We are actually a law firm with neighbors. It doesn't get any better than that." Harris' sentiments and those of his partners are often repeated throughout the district, whose attractive qualities continue to be appreciated by larger audiences with each passing year.

Just two blocks from the Seibels House, following an extensive transformation, the former Dixie Electronics supply house has been reincarnated as the Columbia offices of the Richardson Plowden law firm. At 32,500-square-feet (plus an additional 24,500 feet available for future growth), the legal center features the latest in technology for its 45 attorney offices and 100 staff offices at 1900 Barnwell Street.

Frank Mack, Managing Shareholder, explained the firm's rationale for relocating, "the neighborhood is undergoing a renaissance similar to that of the Congaree Vista fifteen years ago and we want to be a part of that transformation." Moreover, Mack added, "by becoming a new member of Historic Columbia Foundation, Richardson Plowden shows its support of the Foundation's new garden master plan, which has the ability to transform the district."

Thanks to more neighbors such as Britt Hunt and Alejandro Garcia, there's life in the district after regular business hours. In January 2007, the proprietors of Communicar, which specializes in interpretation services in legal and medical settings, became the new owners of the historic circa-1840 Friday House. After months of

rehabilitation, the Columbia Cottage style, antebellum house was a home again. Hunt finds living in the historic district appealing on many levels, "...the courthouse and nearby hospitals are a reasonable walk from here, and history runs in my blood." The grandson of John A. Montgomery, who published a history of Columbia in 1979, and the cousin of *The Star Reporter's* Warner Montgomery, no stranger to history, Hunt admits he has "always loved old houses." For Garcia, a native of Bogota, Colombia, living downtown is a smart choice because it affords urban amenities in an attractive setting. As members of Historic Columbia Foundation, Hunt and Garcia believe that life in the Robert Mills Garden District will continue to flourish as others make the neighborhood their home, too.



The Friday House, 1830 Henderson Street

## *Celebrating Community through Heritage Gardening*

### 2008 SPRING GARDENING SYMPOSIUM

March 7-8, 2008

Friday

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Clarion Townhouse  
**Reception** 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m., Seibels Garden

Saturday

9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m., Robert Mills House  
 and Grounds

Reserve tickets by calling 803.252.7742, ext. 29 or emailing  
 reservations@historiccolumbia.org

# Welcomes New Staff



Historic Columbia Foundation recently welcomed new staff. Counterclockwise from bottom left: Sierra Holland, Public Relations Assistant; Sarah Blackwell, Director of Programs; Erin Walsh, Development Coordinator; and Eric Becker, Horticulturist.

- Sierra Holland is currently a senior at the University of South Carolina, majoring in public relations. Prior to joining the Historic Columbia Foundation staff, Sierra worked at the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Midlands. She will assist the Director of Communications with public and media relations.
- Sarah Blackwell began her career as an activity coordinator for Sumriner Resort. Soon after, she joined the Boys & Girls Clubs in Redmond, Oregon as their program director. She is excited about putting those experiences into a dynamic new programs department at HCF.
- A native Columbian, Sarah is a graduate of Appalachian State University and holds a BS in history.
- Erin Walsh graduated from the College of Charleston with a BA degree in English in May 2007. Erin is primarily responsible for coordinating the HCF membership program, processing gifts, managing donor information, and assisting with mailings and events.
- Eric Becker will oversee all aspects of grounds development and maintenance for seven historic properties managed by Historic Columbia Foundation. Eric joins the Foundation from the City of St. Louis Department of Parks. He was responsible for the horticulturist operations of the city's park system. He has worked in the field of horticulture for 20 years and is a graduate of Southeast Missouri State University, where he earned a BS in agricultural science.

# 2008 Preservation Awards

## AWARD CATEGORIES

- **PRESERVATION/RESTORATION**  
This category is for projects of historical significance restored to their original design. An example would be a retail store in an historic district, which continues to sell products to the public.
- **ADAPTIVE REUSE**  
Projects in this category have been rehabilitated, while keeping many of the original elements; the structure will also incorporate new elements that will allow the structure to be used for a new function. An example would be an old warehouse now used as apartments or condominiums.
- **NEW CONSTRUCTION IN AN HISTORIC CONTEXT**  
Nominations in this category are new buildings placed in an historic district or adjacent to historic structures that complement the historic context.
- **PRESERVATION LEADERSHIP**  
Nominations in this category recognize an individual, governmental agency, and/or community or neighborhood association that has contributed to the advancement of historic preservation within the city or county.

Historic Columbia Foundation is seeking nominations for its 2008 Preservation Awards. Help us recognize the commendable efforts of Columbia's citizens, architects, developers, and others whose preservation projects provide the distinctive character of Columbia's built cultural landscape. Please nominate based on the following criteria.

Nominations should be limited to recent projects (completed in the last five years) and located in Richland County or Columbia. Only completed projects will be considered. Awards will be presented at Historic Columbia Foundation's Annual Preservation Luncheon on May 1, 2008. Deadline to submit nominations is March 1, 2008. Forms are available online at website, [www.HistoricColumbia.org](http://www.HistoricColumbia.org) or by calling 803.252.7742, ext. 24.

# ANNOUNCING NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND AFFILIATE LEVELS

Beginning in January 2008, members will receive new benefits upon renewing their membership or joining the Foundation. We hope all members will take advantage of all benefits, especially the use of guest passes available at each level allowing members to bring family and friends along on tours to our wonderful historic house museums.

Current members at the Palladium Society level will now be able to join Historic Columbia Foundation at any level as well as renew their Palladium membership at the newly created affiliate level. By

paying the \$15/\$25 affiliate dues, Palladium Society members will be able to participate in networking events such as happy hours and socials, special volunteer opportunities and receive special prices for the Society's signature events, the annual Chilli Cook-Off and Silent Auction.

For more information on the membership program at Historic Columbia Foundation, please call 803.252.7742 x 27 or email [ewalsh@historiccolumbia.org](mailto:ewalsh@historiccolumbia.org).

## HISTORIC COLUMBIA FOUNDATION MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

### INDIVIDUAL \$35

- Free admission to Historic House Museums
- 10% discount at Museum Shop
- Invitations to special events
- Discounts on programs
- Subscription to Quarterly Newsletter
- Recognition in Annual Donor Listing
- Two guest passes for tours - New!

### FAMILY \$50

- Individual benefits
- Two guest passes for tours - New!
- Free admission for children under 18 living in the same household

### FRIEND \$100

- Family benefits
- Four guest passes for tours - New!
- Admission to Southeast Reciprocal Museum Membership Program

### WOODROW WILSON SOCIETY \$250

- Friend benefits
- Four guest passes for tours - New!
- 20% Discount at Museum Shop
- Complimentary magazine
- Invitation to Society event

### MANN-SIMONS SOCIETY \$500

- Woodrow Wilson Society benefits
- Six guest passes for tours - New!
- One gift membership - New!
- Private tour of house museums
- 10% discount on one rental of Seibels or Big Apple (value to be determined on hourly rental rate) - New!

### HAMPTON-PRESTON SOCIETY \$1,000

- Mann-Simons Society benefits
- Six guest passes for tours - New!
- One gift membership - New!
- 20% discount on one rental of Seibels or Big Apple (value to be determined on hourly rental rate) - New!
- Special Recognition in Quarterly Newsletter
- Two complimentary tickets for the Holiday Tours of Homes (\$20 value) - New!

### ROBERT MILLS SOCIETY \$5,000

- Seibels Society benefits
- Twenty guest passes for tours - New!
- Two gift memberships - New!
- Six complimentary tickets for the Holiday Tours of Homes (\$60 value) - New!
- One free holiday rental of Seibels or Big Apple (value to be determined on hourly rental rate)
- Special discount on rental of Robert Mills or Hampton-Preston grounds (value to be determined on hourly rental rate)
- Recognition on Robert Mills Society plaque - New!

## 2008 Preservation Awards

# Preservation Awards

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## AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP LEVEL

### PALLADIUM SOCIETY - NEW!

- \$15 individual / \$25 couple (in addition to membership dues)
- Discounts on Palladium Sponsored events
- Networking and social opportunities for young professionals
- Special volunteer opportunities

### SEIBELS SOCIETY \$2,500

- Hampton-Preston Society benefits
- Ten guest passes for tours - New!
- Two gift memberships - New!
- 50% discount on one rental of Seibels or Big Apple (value to be determined on hourly rental rate) - New!
- Four complimentary tickets for the Holiday Tours of Homes (\$40 value) - New!

## thank you!

- HCF MAJOR DONORS AT \$1,000 AND ABOVE FOR THE 2ND QUARTER**
- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Mr. A. Jenkins Farmer and Mr. Tom Hall      | Richardson, Plowden, and Robinson PA. |
| Lucy Hampton Bestick                        | Mrs. Ardis Savory                     |
| Residuary Charitable Trust                  | Mr. and Mrs. Dean Skinner             |
| Richard A. Harpoollan, P.A.                 | Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Stanland      |
| The Humanities Council SC                   | State Farm Insurance                  |
| Richard Jackson Charitable Trust            | Dr. Joanne C. Suggs                   |
| Oseola Foundation                           | Mr. Robert G. Waites                  |
| Palmetto Health Richland Total Joint Center | Mr. and Mrs. J. Calhoun-Watson        |

# Back to the Apple Big Apple Dance Weekend



Spend the weekend learning the energetic dance that originated in Columbia and spawned a national dance craze. Join expert dance instructors and Swing icon Frankie Manning as they demonstrate “The Big Apple” and other Swing dances. In addition, learn other classic dances including Swing, the Lindy Hop, Jazz Dance, and The Charleston. The weekend also will feature professional jazz and swing bands. Registration is \$130. (On site registration is \$150.) For more information on registration, please call Sarah Blackwell (803) 252-1770, ext. 33 or visit [HistoricColumbia.org](http://HistoricColumbia.org).

*Calling All Chili Lovers and Cooks!*

10TH ANNUAL PALLADIUM SOCIETY

## Chili Cook-Off

Make history and gain bragging rights during this popular annual event.

The Moore Building at the SC State Fairgrounds  
Saturday, February 23, 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Tickets/Advance \$10, \$15 non-members  
Door \$15, \$20 non-members  
Cooker Entry Fee-\$15

For more information on participating in the cook-off or purchasing tickets, call 252-7742 or contact Shannon Whitlaw at [swhitlaw@historiccolumbia.org](mailto:swhitlaw@historiccolumbia.org) or visit [www.HistoricColumbia.org](http://www.HistoricColumbia.org).

# Calendar *of events*

## February

**8th-10th** – Big Apple Dance Workshop  
*Big Apple, 1000 Hampton Street*

**23rd** –Family Day for Members  
Movie, tours and scavenger hunt  
*Robert Mills Carriage House and Mann-Simons Cottage*  
12:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**23rd** – 10th Annual Palladium Society Chili Cook-Off  
*The Moore Building at the South Carolina State Fairgrounds*  
5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

## March

**7th-8th** – Gardening Symposium  
*Clarion Townhouse and Robert Mills House & Gardens*  
Lectures, hands-on gardening workshops, historic garden tours, and reception

Visit

[www.historiccolumbia.org](http://www.historiccolumbia.org)  
for event details and  
registration information  
or call 803.252.7742.

Historic Columbia  
FOUNDATION

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