



# Preservation Month 2016

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

My background is from teaching high school history in northern Ohio and here in South Carolina. Enjoyment of learning history was a major motivator for me in taking the course Inside Rock Hill, and in March of 2008, I was appointed to the Board of Historic Review. Love of history continues to be a catalyst for me accepting the responsibility of my job. Through attending meetings, workshops, and other gatherings I try to put my best foot forward in sharing ideas and coming to a consensus.

As chairman I start each meeting with the following words: As we gather here at this meeting, open our eyes that we may see what is shown, open our ears that in our dialogue we may hear from each other, open our minds to new learning and our hearts to deeper compassion and at the end of our session let us be able to say we leave better people, richer in wisdom and understanding in making appropriate decisions. This is my guiding focus in all of my group interactions. I have gained a greater satisfaction in knowing this helps people achieve their goals.

Phil Jerauld, Chair

## THE ROCK HILL BOARD OF HISTORIC REVIEW

The Rock Hill Board of Historic Review was created in January 1989 to oversee and aid in the preservation of the City of Rock Hill's identified historic structures, both within districts that have been locally and nationally designated as historic, and structures individually listed as historic.

If you live in or own an historic building, the City has a wealth of information available to assist you in preservation and rehabilitation work online at [cityofrockhill.com/historic](http://cityofrockhill.com/historic).



520 Aiken Avenue

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- National Park Service 100th Anniversary
- “Uncoverings” in Downtown Rock Hill
- City of Rock Hill Historic Preservation Information [cityofrockhill.com/historic](http://cityofrockhill.com/historic)



## KNOWLEDGE PARK

As part of Knowledge Park, the former site of Rock Hill Printing & Finishing (The Bleachery) is being redeveloped into a technology-centered mixed-use community located near the Downtown area of Rock Hill. Beginning at East Town Neighborhood along Elizabeth Lane and continuing to Cherry Road, Knowledge Park will create an urban connection between the historic Downtown area and Winthrop University.

The first phase of the project includes renovations of the Low-

enstein Building that will allow for over 200,000 square feet of office space. Additional phases include the construction of different types of housing, including student and multi-family, several office, retail and restaurant locations, a hotel, and a two-story indoor sports complex. The project will also provide greenways and parks to become an active connection between Winthrop University and Downtown.

For more information, go to [knowledgeparkrockhill.com](http://knowledgeparkrockhill.com).

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*“It’s not good because it’s old, it’s old because it’s good.” - Anonymous*

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### 100<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The National Park Service celebrates a centennial of achievements this year. Yellowstone National Park was established in 1872 as the first recognized park; in 1916, Congress passed the act creating the National Park Service to preserve the natural and cultural resources for education, enjoyment, and inspiration of these resources for this and future generations.

## HISTORIC ROCK HILL

The mission of Historic Rock Hill is “to preserve and protect the historic resources of Rock Hill, and to enhance the livability of its historic areas,” but what does that mean in practical terms?

In 2005, HRH purchased the White Home at the corner of White Street and Elizabeth Lane, built in 1839. The house is used for HRH board meetings and events, and by other local individuals, organizations and businesses. A private gift allowed historic garden designer Jenks Farmer of Columbia to develop a garden plan, so it’s a popular site for prom photos, weddings and parties.

HRH has helped with restoration of other local properties, supports and advises owners of historic homes and buildings, assists them in writing grants, and serves as a community advocate. Recently, Program Director Lindsay Stuber spoke to the City’s Board of Historic Review in support of historic status for a property being considered for removal from historic designation. (The historic status remained intact.) HRH maintains photographs and papers which document the City’s past. Stuber, a trained preservationist, cares for the collection. HRH presents Preservation Awards each spring for work done saving, renovating or restoring historic properties.

The White Home and gardens are open for tours. About 200 eighth grade students will visit the home this spring as part of their local history curriculum.

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## HISTORIC ROCK HILL (CONT)

Cathy Floyd joined HRH as executive director in January. She hopes to inspire existing members and bring in new supporters through new programs and events. The big new events this year were a Downton Abbey event held in March and a craft beer festival, Historic Rock Hill Presents: Tap the Rock 2016, planned for Sept. 24.

Floyd, who has experience in business development and public relations, said the job enticed her because of the excitement she saw in current board members, and the challenge she anticipated in making the White Home financially sustainable while increasing programs and awareness in the community. Floyd and her husband, Charlie, moved to York County in 2015. "I saw this as an immediate way to be part of the community," Floyd said. "This is where we're going to put our roots down. It's the perfect opportunity for me personally and professionally."

Financial sustainability is a challenge for the non-profit organization, which is funded by donations from the public as well as local, state and federal grants.

Since 2014, the organization has received grants from Rock Hill Parks, Recreation and Tourism, The Humanities Council SC and Rock Hill's Accommodations Tax/Tourism Commission. HRH is awaiting confirmation of a grant from the SC Historic Preservation Office.

For more information, visit [HistoricRockHill.com](http://HistoricRockHill.com) or call 803-329-1020.

*Ashley Barron*



Original Transom Windows, 109 Hampton Street

Cremo Sign, 139 East Main Street



### "UNCOVERINGS"

Recent work in the Downtown area has revealed several interesting facets of Rock Hill's history.

In February of 2015, the demolition of the Woolworth building (139 East Main Street) uncovered several painted wall signs that had not seen the light of day since the mid-1920s.

Cremo was touted the "Finest in the World" at only 5 cents a bottle. Although covered by the construction of 139 Main Apartments, the painted sign will remain on the wall of the McCrory/Realtor Building.

Directly across from the Cremo sign can be seen the remnants of another famous soft drink, Coca-Cola. This sign will remain in the open as part of the public art installment in the open walkway designed by Groundworks Studio.

Replacement of an awning at 109 Hampton Street (White Office Furniture) allowed the unveiling of the original transom windows on one section of the building.

These "uncoverings" allow us to have a glimpse at what once was an important feature of a building.



## FUNERARY ART



Most monuments marking graves today are composed of flush memorial stones or standing gravestones. However, in the City's older cemeteries, you will find a wide array of grave markers, including statues, obelisks, carved angels, child-like figures, wreaths, and open books. Known as funerary art, these symbolic three-dimensional images adorn many graves in Laurelwood Cemetery, listed on the National Register of Historic Places in July 2008, and in Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (ARP). Many of these date to the mid-1800s during the Victorian era when stone carvings were more artistic in nature.

Funerary art was a mark of status, showing the economic prosperity of the family as well as symbols carved as representation of the deceased. In Laurelwood, for example, the stone of James M. Ivy includes a carving of ivy and urns, while two small children grace the stone of Jennie and Connor Ivy, who died in 1876 at the ages of eight and four. Other carvings include the statue of a woman with a cross and crown of thorns, a large marble sphere, obelisks appearing to be draped with cloth, several tree stumps, and intricately engraved urns. Laurelwood Cemetery is maintained by the City of Rock Hill and is open to the public daily.

Adjacent to Ebenezer Presbyterian Church (ARP) is a community burial ground that has been in place since the time of the area's first settlement. The first marked burial site is that of Stephen McCorkle, who died in September 1790. A large and ornately carved stone bears the names of sisters Jane Lucretia and Mary Elizabeth Alexander. Along with figures, many stones are engraved with beautiful poems about the deceased, including that of Martha M. Barry Barnett, who died in 1836 at the age of 26:

"Husband, children, friends, farewell  
No longer can I stay.  
At God's right hand I hope to meet  
You on the judgment day."

The cemetery is maintained separately from the church by The Ebenezer Memorial Association.

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Stained glass windows of Mount Prospect Baptist Church, built ca. 1915