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October 2004

The Future of the Past: Reflections on Preservation's Continuously Evolving Goals

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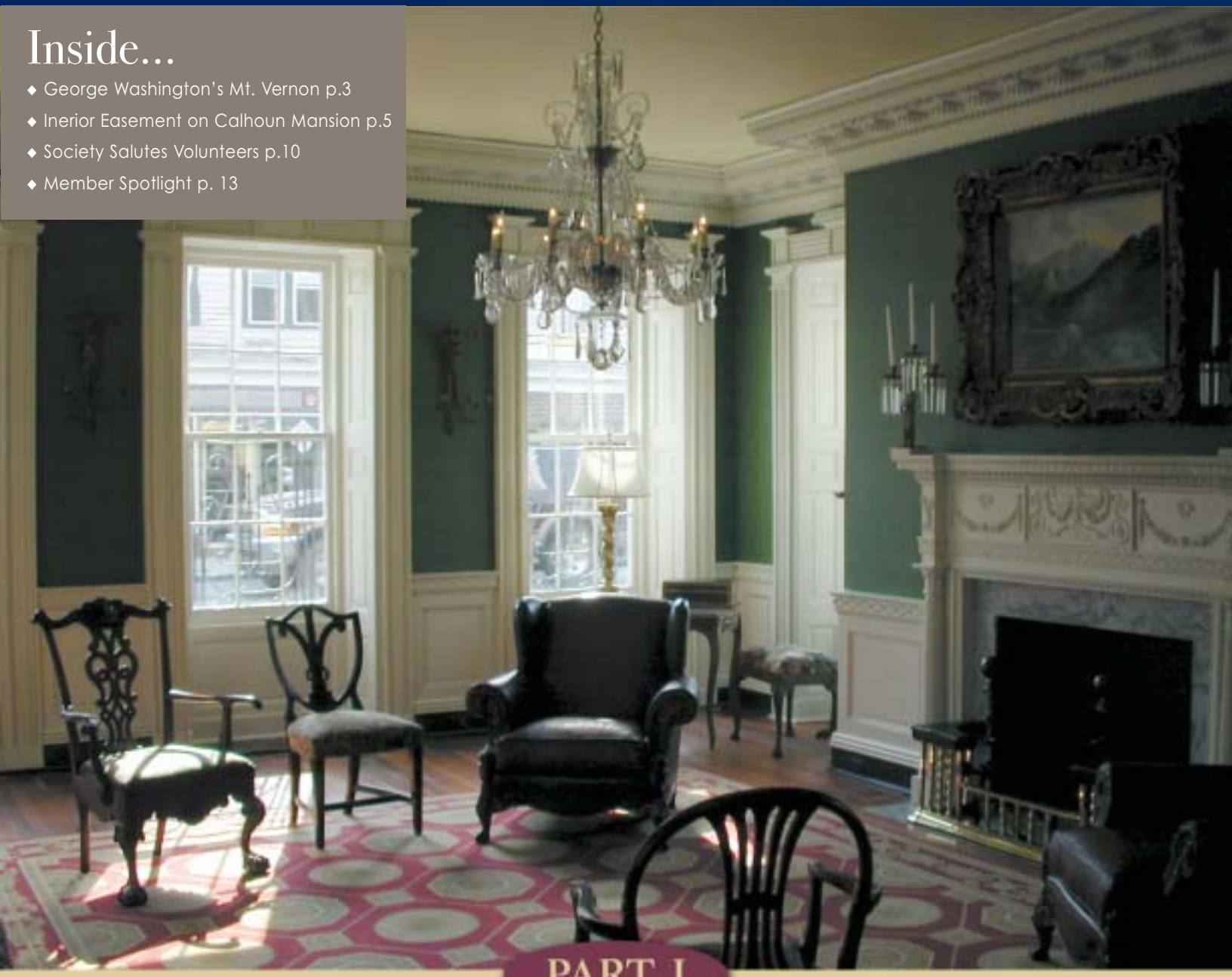
Preservation PROGRESS

FOR THE PRESERVATION SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON

Fall 2004 • Volume 48 • No. 3

Inside...

- George Washington's Mt. Vernon p.3
- Inerior Easement on Calhoun Mansion p.5
- Society Salutes Volunteers p.10
- Member Spotlight p. 13



PART I

THE FUTURE *of* THE PAST

Governor William Aiken House, Charleston, South Carolina interior decorative details were reproduced from the original elements removed from this room ca. 1929 by Southern Railway. The original architectural elements (mantels, cornices, chair rails, etc) were installed and remain in the corporate headquarters of Norfolk-Southern Railroad in Washington, DC.

Preserving the Past for the Future

Glenn F. Keyes

Letter from the President

As we turn the pages of our calendars to the final months of 2004, I'm reminded of an old adage I heard many years ago from a wise and trusted mentor. He said, "To gain a better understanding of where you need to go, first take a good hard look at where you've been." It's in the spirit of that sage advice that Preservation Progress begins a new series of articles reviewing the path taken by the Preservation Society of Charleston.

"The Future of the Past" written by Will Cook is far from a litany of our many successes (and the occasional disappointments we've encountered, as well). Instead, this review takes the form of an on-going conversation with some of the key figures in Charleston's preservation movement - past and present. In Part I, he utilizes their input on what worked and what didn't, what unseen issues reared up to surprise us, and what work remains undone or in need of further thought or even redirection. In particular, the consensus he finds is a challenge to look inward - at the historic interiors we tend to take for granted.

Some of the preservationists interviewed have a decades-long involvement in our work and it's their deeper perspective that helps illuminate our road. Jane Thornhill's name is synonymous with the Society's commitment to preserving Charleston's residential character. Many of our interviewees were on the front lines as theory met reality head-on and the Society's daily priorities were literally "field tested." Former Preservation Society staffer John Hildreth exemplifies those who have taken our values farther afield - in his case, to the regional level. John now heads the Southeastern Regional office of the National Trust. Others we talked to are relative newcomers to Charleston seeking to work within our values in achieving their own preservation goals. Dr. Celeste Patrick and Mr. Charles Patrick are recipients of the National Preservation Honor Award issued from the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It's especially important to garner the reflections of all preservationists as the Society plans for the integrated challenges ahead. But the opinions of these leaders are valuable indicators we need to acknowledge today if we're truly committed to finding a path to success for tomorrow.

As you plan for your year-end giving, I hope you'll consider the work of the Preservation Society. Your gifts allow us to serve as advocates for the preservation of our great city. Our 28th Annual Candlelight Tour of Homes wrapped up another successful year featuring great houses, generous homeowners and wonderful volunteers. As our major fundraiser for the year, we depend heavily on our tour income. However, the threat of four hurricanes in September impacted our attendance. If you love the unique character of Charleston's Historic District, please remember the impact the Society has had for 84 years. Help us continue the work of protecting this incredible place.

Glenn F. Keyes
President

In Memorium

The Preservation Society lost a dear friend and supporter with the passing of **Peter Manigault**. His contributions in the area of conservation and preservation were extensive. The Preservation Society recognized his efforts by awarding him one of the first Susan P. Frost Awards in 1995. This award, named for his aunt, is the Society's highest honor. Our deepest sympathies are extended to his family. The entire community will miss this fine man and civic leader.

The society was deeply saddened to learn of the loss of **Charles Witte Waring, Jr**. In addition to his many accomplishments, Mr. Waring had the great fortune to have married Jane O. Waring, one of the Society's most active past presidents. The Society extends its deepest sympathies to President Waring and the entire Waring family.

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Illustration courtesy of Friends of Mount Vernon

It's on to Mount Vernon with George Washington Revisited

Last spring, when the Preservation Society of Charleston and The Charleston Museum joined forces for the Geo. Washington in Charleston Celebration, the journey of discovery was especially meaningful to all who attended. Not only was retracing the local steps Washington took on his 1791 tour to Charleston and the Lowcountry an enjoyable exercise (213 years after the fact), the collective event offered rewarding insight into the iconic figure who first bore the title "President of the United States."

This year's celebration moves to the heart of "Washington territory" with a visit to historic Mount Vernon, Washington's legendary plantation home on Virginia's scenic Potomac River.

"In 2003, Geo. Washington in Charleston only whetted our appetite for more information on this gifted and complicated man," explained Executive Director Cynthia Jenkins. "Now, nothing could be more insightful than a private tour of Washington's beloved Mount Vernon, the place he often cited as the wellspring of his personal strength and inspiration."

"Our behind-the-scenes tour of Mount Vernon will be led by Jim Rees, the property's charming, capable and longtime Executive Director," she added. "Clearly, nobody could make a visit to Washington's handsome home and beautiful gardens more memorable. With Jim as our guide, I know Mount Vernon will truly come alive in remarkably new and exciting ways."

A colorful post card has already gone out to the Society's membership announcing the weekend of April 15 - 17, 2005 as the scheduled dates for the Mount Vernon trip. It's never too early to reserve a busy weekend in Charleston - especially during the spring. And, the 2005 sequel to Geo. Washington in Charleston is sure to be a "must do" for historians, preservationists and followers of Washington and his fascinating life story.

Wesley Crowe, Projects Coordinator for the Society, says the two-day weekend trip will commence on Friday afternoon in Alexandria, VA where participants will stay. That afternoon attendees will enjoy a special behind-the-scenes tour of Mount Vernon conducted by Jim Rees, followed by a cocktail party at the Director's home. On Saturday, a return to Mount Vernon will feature a look at the curatorial collections with the head Curator as well as a study of the grounds and gardens. Saturday afternoon, the trip continues along the Potomac with a visit to Gunston Hall, home of George Mason, in Mason Neck, Virginia. Saturday's tour concludes in Fredericksburg with a private tour and cocktails at Washington's sisters home, Kenmore. Sunday's schedule includes a field trip to neighboring Oak Hill Farm. This rarely seen, privately owned National Landmark, once the country home of President James Monroe (designed by White House architect James Hoban), offers an interesting contrast and comparison to life as it was lived at Mt. Vernon in Washington's day. Please call or email Wesley Crowe at (843) 722-4630 or wcrowe@preservationsociety.org for complete information and become a participant in this memorable Preservation Society event.

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Society Receives Important Interior Easements on Calhoun Mansion

In July of this year, the Preservation Society received an extensive interior easement on one of the city's most well-known houses, the Calhoun Mansion located at 16 Meeting Street. This important interior easement was granted to the Society through the generosity of current owner Howard Stahl. An exterior easement on the property was donated to the Society in 1982 by the mansion's former owner, M. Gedney Howe III.

The imposing 19th century structure was designed by architect W. P. Russell in 1876 as the home of George Walton Williams, a successful Charleston merchant and banker. Upon its completion, Mr. Williams' new house was described in newspaper accounts appearing in New York and Atlanta as well as in Charleston as being "the handsomest and most complete home in the South, if not the country." Construction costs were said to be more than $200,000 - a staggering sum in the grim economic years following the end of the Civil War. The Calhoun Mansion takes its current name from a later owner, Patrick Calhoun, who was son-in-law of the original owner and grandson of South Carolina statesman John C. Calhoun.

The 25 room, 24,000 square foot house is the largest single family residence in the city. Over many years, meticulous efforts to preserve and restore the home's exterior and interiors have resulted in the rescue of a fine example of Italianate architecture in Charleston. The interiors boast extensive decorative plaster moldings, elaborate gas chandeliers, and each of the principal chambers features paneling of a different wood. The Society's easement protects these and other elements of the historic interior in perpetuity.

The Preservation Society's Executive Director Cynthia Jenkins remarked on the importance of this gift, "An interior easement is the only tool we currently have to save Charleston's treasured interior details."

Exterior of Calhoun Mansion, 16 Meeting Street.

Chandelier, stencil details and Corinthian column in the arch all in the dining room of the Calhoun Mansion.

THE FUTURE *of* THE PAST

Reflections on Preservation's Continuously Evolving Goals

By Will Cook

In the first installment of a *Preservation Progress* series on the challenges facing today's preservationists, Will Cook has compiled the thoughts of pioneers, leaders, and practitioners of the movement – drawing a comprehensive new perspective on the issues currently at hand.

The destruction of historic interiors remains as serious a threat in 2004 as in the 1920s, when organized preservation efforts began in Charleston. Economic prosperity, which has allowed owners of historic structures to restore and maintain them, has led many of these same owners to obliterate the interiors of these buildings in the name of fashion. Popular demand for oversized rooms, massive kitchens, elaborate baths, "master suites" and state-of-the-art technology poses a serious threat to Charleston's historic integrity. In most cases, these changes are irreversible. History is lost forever.

"We must take special care to guard against destroying the look of our city," said Jane Thornhill, Director Emeritus of the The Preservation Society, and a recipient of the Society's highest preservation honor, the Susan Pringle Frost Award. "The role of the Preservation Society today is no different than it was yesterday, or the day before. The role of the Preservation Society is to save and preserve historic buildings. It's as simple as that."

When asked to identify Charleston's most pressing preservation challenge, John Hildreth, Southern Region Director for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, explained: "[O]ne of the biggest issues that the City of Charleston faces today is maintaining itself as a place of opportunity to live and work, without compromising its tangible and cultural historic identity. Increased emphasis needs to be placed on interior preservation."

Likewise, Dr. Celeste Patrick, Charleston resident and leader of revitalization efforts on Upper King Street, sees a need to preserve "both the interior and exterior fabric of all historic structures from the Neck area to the Battery."

The interiors of houses read like textbooks. They are vital to the integrity of a building's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association-all National Register eligibility criteria. The arrangement of spaces, the sequence of paint layers, and the placement of decorative ornament reveal lessons of economy and domestic life that are not always readily apparent. For example, a building's floor plan is important in defining the historic character of the building and the purpose for which it was constructed. The sequence of decorative wall treatments, including paints, finishes, and wallpapers, reflects the evolution of period tastes. Original doors, cabinetry, floors, and windows offer lessons in carpentry and provide evidence of regional preferences for certain woods or styles.

These principles should continue to act as a guide for our community as well as others. They are excellent guide posts for determining future preservation efforts

The Charleston Principles

In an homage to the preservation ethic of the Holy City, the following goals were adopted by the National Trust for Historic Preservation at their 44th National Preservation Conference on October 20, 1990 in Charleston. They are known as "The Charleston Principles," Now widely used as inspiration and direction for preservation groups all across America, these principles "are intended for use by communities as a means by which preservation values can help shape local policies, plans, and development."

1. Identify historic places, both architectural and natural, that give the community its special character and that can aid its future well-being.

2. Adopt the preservation of historic places as a goal of planning for land use, economic development, housing for all income levels, and transportation.

3. Create organizational, regulatory, and incentive mechanisms to facilitate preservation, and provide the leadership to make them work.

4. Develop revitalization strategies that capitalize on the existing value of historic residential and commercial neighborhoods and properties, and provide well-designed affordable housing without displacing existing residents.

5. Ensure that policies and decisions on community growth and development respect a community's heritage and enhance overall livability.

6. Demand excellence in design for new construction and in the stewardship of historic properties and places.

7. Use a community's heritage to educate citizens of all ages and to build civic pride.

8. Recognize the cultural diversity of communities and empower a diverse constituency to acknowledge, identify, and preserve America's cultural and physical resources.

The Minneapolis Institute of Arts, Gift of James F. and Louise H. Bell in memory of James S. and Sallie M. Bell"

Charleston's famous interiors have long been recognized as ranking among the nation's greatest architectural treasures. Here, the ca.1772 woodwork from the John Stuart House at 104 Tradd Street has been showcased in The Minneapolis Institute of Arts as an example of our city's 18th century sophistication. Visitors to the Institute's Gallery of Rooms see the handsome doorways and fireplace with its elaborate over mantle showing French influence. The exhibit was a gift of James F. and Louise H. Bell in memory of James S. and Sally M. Bell.

Although a building's exterior is usually its most prominent visible aspect, the building's interior is arguably a more important record of the building's development over time and should be preserved as an historical document whenever possible. Interior components that merit preservation may include the sequence and flow of a building's plan, the volume of its spaces, architectural features, and the treatments and finishes that make up a room's floors, walls, and ceilings. A double parlor, a stairway, or a mezzanine may comprise a building's most important spaces. They may contain significant architectural features, including cornices, millwork, parquetry, and hardware. Wall coverings, including paints, hung papers, and finishes such as marbleizing or graining, provide color, texture, and pattern that complement the unique character not only of the surrounding room, but also the exterior of the building that contains them.

Because floor plans reveal society's lessons and prevailing social theories, destroying the sequence and volume of a building's primary rooms does violence to a building's intended purpose. Ripping out applied decoration, wooden flooring, and plaster moldings-whether plain or "high style-destroys the features and finishes that define Charleston's patina and character. Large-scale "make-overs" often result in changes to interior spaces that are functionally and architecturally inconsistent with the building's exterior appearance. Reports Society adviser Norman Haft: "I am aware of several instances where the interior historic fabric of a notable structure has been stripped."

Charleston is worthy of more, and there are ways we can protect our city's patrimony. Options include voluntary interior easements, revising the jurisdiction of the Board of Architectural Review, providing tax incentives conditioned on interior preservation, and continued education about the value of historic interiors to realtors and architects. "The Charleston Principles," adopted by the 44th National Preservation Conference in October 1990, should be encouraged as policy and followed.

As the Preservation Society renews its call for preserving the interiors of historic Charleston, let us remember the words of the Society's former president, Liz Young, who continues to define our mission and inspire us. "Charleston's buildings are a legacy," she says, "not owned, but held in trust by one generation for the next."

Next issue: A New Frontier called Interior Easements

William J. Cook, a native of Beaufort, currently practices law with the Hulsey Litigation Group, LLC, a Charleston law firm. Formerly, Mr. Cook served as counsel for an international auction house in New York city.

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Looking Back... Looking Forward

From the mid-19th century until the decade following WWII, the east side of Archdale Street, between Princess and Fulton Streets, was an eclectic mix of humble residences and corner stores. Just northwest of this neighborhood was an area of Charleston then known as "Rottenborough" which had deteriorated into an unsavory and even notorious slum. In what was to be one of America's first efforts at urban renewal, the area was raised and replaced by Charleston Manor, a group of brick townhouses, leased to low-income families by the city. Clearly, Archdale Street was impacted by this "improvement" to the urban landscape. A photo from the Preservation Society archives captures the look of this neighborhood as it appeared in the early 1950s.

Except for the distinctive steeple and portico of St John's Lutheran Church (built in 1817) and the Gothic tower of the Unitarian Church (as remodeled in 1854), Archdale Street is dramatically changed today. By the 1970s, all the commercial buildings and storefronts seen in the earlier photo had vanished. Today, the east side of Archdale Street is flanked mostly by parking lots and architecturally inappropriate residences.

Photos: the Preservation Society Archives

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Spring Party Salutes Society Volunteers

The long, hot summer's many threatening storms were nowhere on the horizon last May 20th when the Preservation Society of Charleston acknowledged their many wonderful volunteers with a festive waterfront party at the city's Maritime Center.

Executive Director Cynthia Jenkins thanked the volunteers for another year of faithful service to the Candlelight House Tours, the Retail Book and Gift Shop operation, and other Society activities. "The success of our efforts," she said, "is directly keyed to your unfailing enthusiasm and your generous gift of invaluable time, work, and moral support."

Guests enjoyed a lovely catered buffet of seafood specialties and other Lowcountry favorites under a cloudless sky while the colorful maritime activity passing by in Charleston Harbor provided entertainment for the crowd. Charleston's Maritime Center is a popular venue for many public events due to its intimacy with the dynamic backdrop of Charleston Harbor. ❦

Special Events Committee Volunteer Allison Lanford-Smith with daughter and future volunteer Clara greeting friends.

Volunteer "Hat Ladies" (l-r) Anne Alster, Marlene Massa, Martha Gomez, Pat Britt, Mary Goddard, Archie Burkel, and Joyce Gump say "hello!"

Membership Committee Volunteer Ellen Leigh Murray greets volunteers.

Volunteers Seabrook Wilkinson and Glenna Greenslit enjoy the harborside get-together.

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BOARD PROFILES

Derrick DeMay is proof that youth and experience are not mutually exclusive. As our youngest Board member, he brings to the Society not only an energetic "can do" attitude, but also a substantial background in the world of finance.

Derrick was raised in Fort Mill, South Carolina, a small town located 15 miles south of Charlotte, North Carolina. Fort Mill is noteworthy as the location of the last meeting of Jefferson Davis and his full Confederate Cabinet in 1865.

A graduate of the University of South Carolina, he received a B.S. in Finance in 1994. Shortly afterwards, he was recruited to work as a financial advisor for a top New York firm. By 2001 Derrick had been promoted to Vice President & Senior Financial Advisor, and had relocated to Charleston. "It had always been my intention to gain my initial financial experience in New York and then move to Charleston," said Derrick. "Fortunately, I was able to realize that goal within my own timetable."

He achieved his most recent goal this past June when he opened his own firm, Kaizen Wealth Management. Explains Derrick, "I chose the Japanese word kaizen, because it denotes the concept of continuous improvement through successful response to ever-increasing challenges. It is a personal and business philosophy to which I subscribe."

Derrick and his wife, Jennifer, are avid boating enthusiasts who often spend their free time cruising Charleston Harbor and the inland waterways.

As the Preservation Society's Treasurer, Derrick serves on the Society's Executive, Finance, and Development Committees. "I am honored and happy to be able to assist the Preservation Society in its mission," he says. "There is no doubt that a positive causality exists between preservation practices and Charleston's economic health. The viability and success of preservation advocacy and stewardship in Charleston is in great part dependent on the strength of The Preservation Society, and our strength lies in numbers. I encourage anyone who is not a member to join us."

Add **Steven Craig** to the Preservation Society's list of energetic "can do" Board Members. With an extremely active work and family life, Steven still finds time to serve on the Society's Executive Committee as First Vice President. He is also Chair of the Development Committee, and he participates on the Finance Committee.

Born in Pickens, South Carolina, he attended Clemson University and graduated in 1988 with a B.S. degree in Finance. By 1993, he had earned a J.D. degree from the University of South Carolina School of Law, concentrating on Business and Corporate Law. Steven concluded his post-graduate education at New York University in 1995 with an LL.M. in taxation law.

A Principal in the law firm of Evans, Carter, Kunes & Bennett, Steven specializes in the practice of corporate, partnership and individual tax planning, probate and estate planning.

Along with his wife Molly (who is also a practicing attorney), and their three children (eight year-old Steven, five year-old Macy and newborn Michael), the Craigs have recently renovated their late 19th century Charleston home — gaining firsthand experience in historic preservation.

When time permits, Steven prefers to spend free time outdoors, with golf and hunting as two of his favorite activities.

Steven's preservation ethic is a synergistic one between public and private responsibility. "The most important role The Preservation Society can play is providing awareness and education to the public on issues of preservation. While the Preservation Society can act as a public mouthpiece in support of important preservation issues, ultimately, the Society needs its members and the community to assist it in preserving the past. Educating the public is a huge part of that equation."

Regarding the preservation challenges facing Charleston today, Steven sees the continuing need to seek a balance between the competing interests of progressive development and historic preservation. "Essentially, Charleston is a functioning museum, and it is our charge to ensure a reasonable balance in the dynamics that have made Charleston a desirable place to live and work" he says. "The key to Charleston's future lies in preserving our historic fabric without inhibiting the necessary functional aspects that all cities need in order to thrive. We owe it to our children to be successful."

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THE LAST GOODBYE

E.P. (Rick) Corrigan, III steps down from the Board of Directors

I joined the Preservation Society when I was in college as a way of keeping in touch with activities at home. The James River Valley of Virginia seemed a long way away from the bells of St. Michaels. That was 28 years ago. In those days the lower King Street district and various buildings south of Calhoun street captured the attention of the preservation community. Preservation was not much of a concern in other neighborhoods because prosperity was just beginning to come to Charleston and those of my age group got to enjoy the gentle pace and growing pride as families with moderate means preserved the lower peninsula. Though some claim it is only nostalgia, there was an unquestionably special time in Charleston's historic district from the late 1950s until somewhere around 1980. East Bay Playground was a hub of activity under the watchful eye of Hazel Parker, corner stores like Pete's sold melted candy bars out of 19th century display cases and an unofficial network of mothers, nannies and business men like Mr. Burbage kept an unobtrusive but careful eye on the young, old and infirm. Sam Stoney peddled his bike and chatted with friends, visitors and children. Mrs. Verner took daily walks with her nurse, and a star from Gone with the Wind painted quietly in her studio on Tradd Street. Farms and the countryside were just across the bridges and the beach just a little further.

Upon returning to Charleston, I found a city consumed with activity from reconstruction and new buildings going up all over. Preservation concerns had reached the cross-town and beyond. You could not park anywhere without the immediate risk of a steep fine and could not dare consider having a child play kickball in the middle of a street. The Austrian accent of the sole horseman with his handsome cab was gone and carts full to over following were everywhere.

Past President Henry Grimball suggested I should join the Planning and Zoning Committee at the Society and I never looked back...until now. This is my last year on the Board. I have served with the incredible Norman Haft who taught me that all gentleman do not start out in the South and literally showed me how to chair a meeting with lively discussion. I then served as Chairman of that committee which put me on the Board. I learned how involved preservation issues can become and how much effort it takes to make any impact on issues of concern in our city. Very reluctantly my next role was as President for two years. I immediately found out how an eighty year old institution moves slowly and with many voices. We were still trying to get initiatives of the two prior presidents in place and working. I worked with former Director John Meffret who is the finest speaker on Charleston preservation I have heard. Efforts to expand the committees and add to the staff created new challenges. Unfortunately most of my time ended up being spent on internal administration as well as the need for a new director, which arose with John's resignation. We were extremely lucky to find Cynthia Jenkins as the new person at the helm. She is truly the Iron Lady of preservation work in the Low Country. She has startled more than one bureaucrat and developer with her ability to list off and quote state and federal regulations from Federal highway department monies to state tax credits. She has never shrunk from controversy and has earned the respect of friends and advisories alike, whether talking about architectural elements or the finer points of BAR procedure. She has an exceptional business mind which she has chosen to dedicate to the nonprofit world. We are also very lucky that her husband Robert agreed to leave his beautiful home in Beaufort to come to Charleston. I also would be remiss not to mention Robert Gurley, the Rock. This man has quietly weathered controversies, storms, financial upheaval and my annoying questions. He is the secret weapon of the Society.

I finished out my first tenure on the board as past president for two years cheering on Lynn Hanlin as President. The Jenkins/Hanlin combination was something to behold. I then left the board and worked on a couple of projects which included assisting Norman Haft with updating the constitution and also serving on the nominating committee. Due to a last minute problem with board nominations, I was put back on the board, against my strong objections, as publication director. I am now stepping down after about 14 full years of work.

There is no question that the Society is in much better condition than it was on its 80th birthday but I still cannot shake the feeling that we are losing many precious things, tangible and intangible. In my time we have lost a number of 19th century structures to development in the city. Many others sit in limbo, some nearly 200 years old, others not as old or historic but beautiful contributors to the over all look of the city. New ordinances are barely used to help them. The demarcation line of concern has gone far past Calhoun to the neck area and beyond. The job of preserving Charleston has grown. Interiors of houses are once again being treated like disposable sheetrock walls instead of priceless antiques. The City has been divided up into a set of political subparts from Old town to Windemere with their separate political voices. Stopping by a relatives house easily results in a traffic fine if you happen to have the wrong parking sticker. Power and money still trump sensible planning and organization. Our institutions spend millions on new buildings with little care for the look, size and impact on the city. The citizens are divided between "reproduction" architecture and suitable contemporary buildings. This is an important question for a city which is now prospering like it did in its first 180 years. Do we want to just look back or move forward?

The city still gleams like gold in the setting sun but there are problems and problems too large for the Society's tiny staff to handle. To get control of these problems preservationists cannot just wait to attend a BAR meeting. Decisions are being made at an endless set of meetings from the State to City level. All of them need to be monitored and the unintended consequence pointed out to the members. Developers and individual property owners need to keep in mind that the purpose of the Society is to point out when they are missing the big picture.

So I leave with these thoughts. The Society needs more volunteers as docents, to attend meetings, to work in the shop, and to write their public officials about important issues.The Society also needs an operating fund to insure its full plate of activities whether tours are conducted or not. The Society needs a litigation fund to finance appeals and other legal actions when necessary. Finally, it needs a revolving fund to be able to purchase the most endangered properties and save them. This is a tall order but if Charlestonians want to keep any feel of the place we fell in love with, whether on a first stroll as a toddler or on a vacation trip as an adult, then I urge you all to become more than members of the Society but advocates for the delicate balance between growth and preservation. I thank the staff and every member of the Society for the opportunity to serve.

E.P. Corrigan, III, Chairman Publications Committee

The Society wishes to thank...

Virginia Beach for her work as editor of *Preservation Progress* this past year. We unfortunately lost her to full time employment with the Nature Conservancy, but are grateful for all of her efforts. Mrs. Beach was instrumental in developing our new look in 2004. In addition, she researched and wrote several central articles, raising the bar for future preservation efforts. We will miss her greatly and hope that she will continue to be a part of our organization for years to come.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution of the Preservation Society of Charleston

Proposed changes in the wording of the Constitution of the Preservation Society of Charleston, adopted at the Annual Meeting on January 17, 2002, are *italicized*. The following proposed changes will be voted on by the membership at the Society's Annual Meeting to be held **Thursday, January 13, 2005** at the Riveria Theatre.

Proposed changes to Section 13 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

• Remove the following two sentences that begin on line ten: "*Any member of the Board who misses three consecutive meetings may be asked to step down at the Executive Committee's request. The Executive Committee may appoint a successor for the un-expired term of the Board Member.*" The sentences removed in this section shall be incorporated into the by-laws.

• The last sentence of Section 13 should read: "*Should a vacancy occur on the Board of Directors, the Executive Committee may appoint a successor for the un-expired term of the Board Member.*"

Proposed changes to Section 17 NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

• Revise the first and second sentences to read: "*The President, with the advice and the consent of the Executive Committee, shall appoint a Nominating Committee at the February Meeting of the Board of Directors. Such committee shall be composed of five members, at least two of whom shall be past Presidents of the Society, the Chairman to be selected by the President.*"

Member Spotlight

Meet Walter and Amanda Barton

It's Monday afternoon at the Preservation Society. The bookstore and gift shop is crowded with late afternoon shoppers– mostly people heading back to their lodgings after a busy day browsing the King Street boutiques and antique shops. The enticement of our window displays combined with the lure of all those fascinating book titles tends to attract even the most footsore of tourists into 147 King. Toward the rear of this Southern smorgasbord, a sign posted on the door of the Society's first floor conference room reads, "Meeting in Progress." This means the Planning and Zoning Committee (known by most of us as "the P&Z") is in session. This also means **Walter Barton** is again at his post - continuing the volunteer service he's given this busy committee of the Preservation Society since 1995.

"Yes, I've been working with the Society's P&Z for a long time," admits this University of Montana graduate with a degree in forestry, "but it never gets old for me." Although Walter Barton was raised in New York, he is the son of a Charlestonian. His mother married a Navy officer briefly stationed in the Holy City during W.W. II. "That's as close to being a 'local' as I can claim."

"My involvement with the Preservation Society started when my wife and I managed and later owned the Sword Gate Inn. The inn was on the fall candlelight tours and ticket-holders back then were served wine and hors de'ouvres for the Saturday night tours. Later on, as head of the Radcliffeborough Neighborhood Association, I worked with the Society on several issues that came up for discussion and I learned how effective the Society could be as an advocate for preservation issues. Today, I'm a realtor and working with the Society helps keep me in touch with the dynamics affecting neighborhoods all over Charleston.

Assistant Director Robert Gurley offers this about Walter Barton's record of volunteerism at the Society. "I've enjoyed working with Walter for more than nine years on the P&Z. He's made a serious commitment to preservation in Charleston with his long record of service. His faithful attendance each and every Monday afternoon combined with his broad knowledge of the city adds significantly to the committee's effectiveness."

Amanda Barton shares her husband's connection to the Preservation Society dating back to the fall tours of the early 1980's. She started as a volunteer tour guide where she enjoyed acting as a bridge between homeowner and guest in showcasing Charleston's legendary lifestyle. Soon, Amanda's people skills found her promoted to street chairman, a role wherein the efforts of many volunteers are coordinated to create a smooth evening for tour guests, volunteers and homeowners alike.

Amanda is also a New Yorker - a graduate of SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry at Syracuse University where her major was landscape architecture. She came to Charleston to work with a design firm and spent the last 14 years of her career with the City of Charleston - as landscape architect and project manager and coordinator of Mayor Riley's Design Review Committee.

Walter and Amanda Barton

"This was an in-house 'watch-dog' entity," she explains, "overseeing the city's and private developers' scheduled improvements to the public realm. We were involved in the redesign of Marion Square and, more recently, the new plans for City Hall."

When not working at their respective careers, the Bartons enjoy traveling. They visited Rome and Tuscany this past summer. At home, they enjoy the culinary arts and they occasionally escape the confines of home for long walks on the beach. Their on-going restoration project is their 1929 Colonial Revival in Riverland Terrace.

Walter's other volunteer activity includes board membership on the Trident Association of Realtor's Professional Standards. Amanda serves on the board of the Cultural Landscape Foundation.

Just this fall, Amanda has begun a bold new phase of her professional career. "I've hung out my own shingle as a landscape architect," she says, "and so far the future looks very promising. I heartily recommend volunteering as a training ground for would-be preservationists - young and old," she ads. "This is where you learn the basics and gain the passions and patience to endure those frustrations and setbacks we all encounter in this work."

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