

PART V. CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

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PART V. CULTURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT

This element of the Comprehensive Plan focuses on historical and cultural (arts) resources in Spartanburg County.

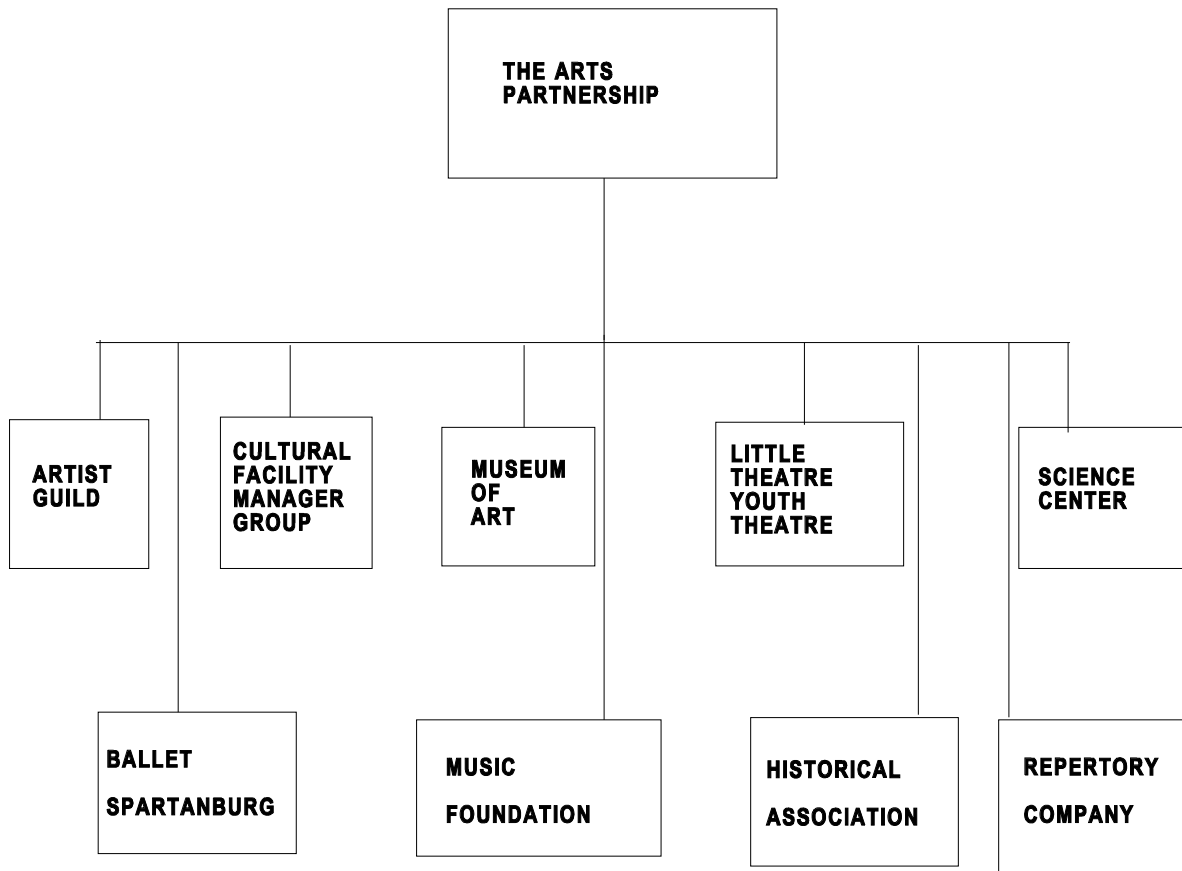
THE ARTS

The “**Arts Partnership**”, created in 1994 is the officially designated local arts agency for Spartanburg County. Its primary goal is to develop and nurture the arts. To this end, the Arts Partnership is responsible for:

- Marketing the arts
- Fund raising and resource allocation
- Professional development for cultural groups
- Long range cultural planning
- Arts education and outreach
- Cultural programming
- Information services

The Arts Partnership functions as an umbrella agency for the various cultural groups in Spartanburg County.

The Partnership is governed by a 25-member Board, and is headquartered in a refurbished school building on Spring Street---the Arts Center. In addition to the Arts Partnership, the 46,000 square foot Arts Center is home to four art galleries, the Science Center, Art Association School, the Dance Center, the Youth Theatre, and Health Resource Center as well as box offices for Youth Theatre, Little Theatre and the Music Foundation. It also contains meeting rooms and a multi-purpose Auditorium. The Center is managed by the Cultural Facilities Management Group of Greater Spartanburg, Inc.



Following is a description of the major groups included in the Arts Partnership.

The **Spartanburg County Art Association** provides exhibits, programs, educational trips, workshops, and classes. Among its major activities are the Art Association School, which offers a wide range of classes for children and adults; the Sidewalk Art Exhibit and Festival, an annual spring event on the fence at Converse College; and the Gallery, which provides monthly exhibitions of local artists.

The **Spartanburg County Historical Association** was founded in 1957 to preserve and promote the historic legacy of the county. It has played an active role in saving and restoring the Walnut Grove Plantation, the Thomas Price House, and the Jimmie Seay House, and is responsible for their management and operation. In addition, the Historical Association established and operates the Regional Museum, presently housed adjacent to the Spartanburg County Library.

The **Spartanburg Little Theatre** was founded in the mid-1940s to stimulate interest in art, music, literature and dramatics. It provides opportunities for trained supervision and direction in amateur dramatics through its presentation of four major productions each year. In addition, it founded the **Spartanburg Youth Theatre** in 1972, designed to provide young people with exposure to all aspects of live theatrical production. In addition to productions, it offers classes in acting, stage make-up, and other areas to children of all ages.

The **Ballet Company of Spartanburg** was formed in 1966 to promote community interest in the art of dance. It has presented a wide range of significant dance companies in Spartanburg and in 1976 established the Dance Center to provide training in classical ballet and jazz dance.

The **Spartanburg Repertory Company** was founded in 1986 to offer the public musicals and opera repertoire performed by local and guest artists. Its goal is to develop and encourage a knowledge and love of professional opera and musical theatre in the community, as well as to nurture and develop community talent.

The **Spartanburg Science Center** provides programs in natural history and science to many different groups of young people including schools, scouts, parks and recreation programs, summer camps, and others. The Science Center serves over 20,000 children each year, providing a wide range of participatory programs.

The **Spartanburg Music Foundation** was formed over 100 years ago to promote music in the area, to offer opportunities for music education for area youth, and to support the School of Music at Converse College and other colleges. It sponsors concerts, supports and presents the Spartanburg Symphony Orchestra, the Symphony Chorus, and the Converse College Opera Workshop, and awards music scholarships.

The **Artists Guild** is an organization of active visual artists designed to encourage the creative growth of its members and to promote an appreciation of art in the community. It sponsors exhibitions of the work of its members and others and runs a gallery in the Arts Center building.

Each of the above agencies has its own governing arrangement with volunteer Boards of Directors, but funding and allocations flow from the Arts Partnership.

The Arts Partnership is a product of **A Cultural Plan** developed for Spartanburg County in 1992. The Plan takes a comprehensive look at cultural needs and issues facing the county, recommending among other things that improved cultural facilities be developed in downtown Spartanburg. This recommendation is now embodied in the proposed Renaissance Project for the area behind the Municipal Auditorium. The Plan also recommends that steps be taken to ensure the continued use of existing facilities (The Arts Center).

Driving the Cultural Plan is a **vision** for the cultural future of Spartanburg County, to wit:

Culture is more than the traditional fine and performing arts. Culture is the sum total of our community's customs, beliefs, and traditions, as well as artistic expressions, formal and informal. It includes folk art and music, traditional crafts, public events, monuments, parks, and buildings that reflect our civic history. It reflects all of our people.

A community thrives through a vital, living connection to its culture--to its traditions and heritage as well as its art, music, theater, dance and literature. Spartanburg is committed to recognizing the central importance of this broad concept of culture. We understand that culture's connection to our past and our future provides opportunities to enhance the quality of life for everyone. But in addition we see other important roles for culture---to bring new insights and learning styles to school children, to bridge the differences among various segments of our diverse population, and to enhance the economic viability of our community.

GOALS

Facility goals and projects in support of this vision include:

- Increase the seating capacity of the Little Theatre (currently

450), and relocate in the proposed Renaissance Project.

- Establish a new regional museum.
- Renovate existing Arts Building.
- Add space for the Science Center.
- Develop community staging facilities as part of outreach initiative in communities of Landrum, Woodruff, and Greer.
- Construct Amphitheater in the proposed Renaissance Project.

ISSUES

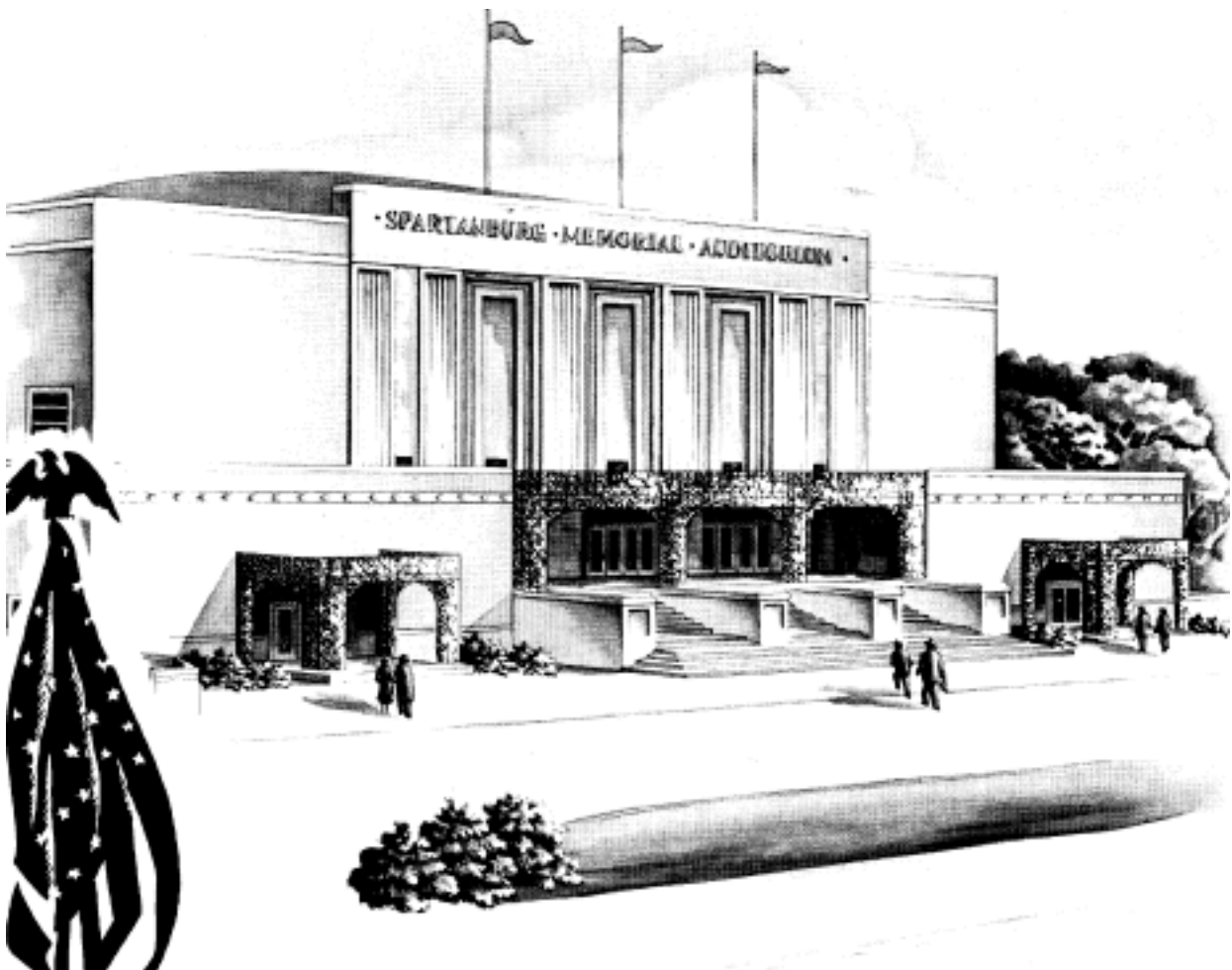
The issue of greatest concern to the arts community is one of funding the many projects recommended in the Cultural Plan and implementing the above goals. In fact, the primary objective in forming the Arts Partnership is to raise money in support of the Arts. Without adequate resources, the plans, goals and vision of the arts community will go unheeded.

THE AUDITORIUM

The Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium is the Carolina's largest theater with 3,400 seats. It opened and was christened in 1951 as the **Showplace of the South** and remains today as one of the community's more significant cultural resources.

Initially, the Auditorium was built and financed (50-50) cooperatively by the City of Spartanburg and Spartanburg County. At the 1945-46 session of the General Assembly, provision was made for a Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium Commission, to be appointed by the Governor, based on equal representation and recommendations of the City Council and the County Delegation.

Today, the Auditorium operates under the direction of an 11-member



Board, nine of whom are appointed by City and County Councils. Two are ex-officio members. But funding comes principally from revenues generated by the facility, and a one-cent hotel tax for improvements begun in 1995. The Auditorium is essentially self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

Following early success with years of neglect, the Auditorium underwent a major renovation in 1985-86, paid for by private contributions and city and county funds. Additional improvements to accommodate the handicapped were made in 1997 with the installation of an elevator.

As a place to provide touring entertainment, local entertainment, performances, banquets, meetings and trade shows, the auditorium is both a major cultural and economic asset, serving over one-half million people annually.

GOALS

What has served the community well in the past may not meet the needs of the future. To ensure that it does, the Board has developed a plan to **prepare the building for the next 25 years.**

To this end, three main areas needing improvements have been identified:

- (1) ADA compliance in the Auditorium
- (2) Building improvements
- (3) Expansion of exhibit space

Much of the work required to meet ADA compliance already has been done, including elevator expansion.

Major auditorium and exhibition space improvements include:

- Expanding the stage
- Expanding the lobby
- Automating the orchestra pit
- Expanding exhibition space, with separate lobby

ISSUES

The cost of these planned improvements, designed to prepare the building to meet the needs of the future, far exceeds existing revenues. But the importance of maintaining a first class facility in the county may be measured both in cultural and economic terms.

An improved and expanded facility would:

- generate additional revenues
- serve as a catalyst to downtown development
- keep local business meetings and group functions in Spartanburg, and would attract new ones from outside the county
- Ensure the continuation of quality programming and productions

At issue is not the need for improving and expanding the Auditorium. Clearly the economic and cultural returns to the community support such a move. At issue is how to fund the recommended improvements.

THE HISTORY

“And if chance thy home Salute thee with a father’s honour’d name, Go, call thy sons; instruct them what a debt they owe their ancestors.”

-Mark Akenside

Spartanburg County was formed in 1785. The name was taken from a militia regiment who called themselves the **Spartans** during the early years of the American Revolution. By 1789 settlers had moved into the area in sufficient numbers to warrant the construction of a courthouse and jail. The site selected soon became a crossroads settlement. A plat map of the area in 1809 shows the courthouse, jail and several commercial and residential buildings clustered around the public square.

Spartanburg grew slowly in the early nineteenth century and by the 1830s contained a population of only 300 which grew to 1,170 by 1850. The public square served as the trading center for farmers of the region. Expansion began when a railroad was completed between Spartanburg and Columbia heralding a new era for local commerce. A new brick Greek Revival courthouse was constructed on Main Street facing the public square. Although the Civil War temporarily halted the community’s growth, Spartanburg emerged after the war as an important commercial center of the Piedmont region.

Beginning in 1870, Spartanburg entered into several decades of rapid growth. Its population tripled to 3,200 and trees along the public square were cut down to make way for the growing city.

The population rose to 11,395 by 1900 and the downtown area was substantially rebuilt with new brick commercial structures.

At the turn of the century, Spartanburg continued to thrive. It became prominent as a railroad town with five major lines intersecting by 1900. The railroads brought new industry and stimulated area mercantile production. In addition, the city’s textile industry began to grow. In 1888 John Montgomery organized the first cotton mill in the city---The Spartan Mill. This was followed by other mills and by 1909 there were nine mills in and around the city. Becoming well known for its textile products, Spartanburg became a major center of the industry in the Southeast.

In 1912 Spartanburg had its first high rise building, later known as the Andrews Building, followed by the six-story Cleveland Hotel. Though both buildings have been destroyed, the nine-story Montgomery Building, built in 1923, continues to grace the skyline. Morgan Square was still the city's center and its streets were lined with stores, banks, professional offices and hotels.

With the depression, growth in the community slowed considerably. It was not until after World War II that Spartanburg again began to prosper. A boom in local peach growing and distribution aided the area, and textile production again became prominent. The popularity of the automobile brought so much congestion to Morgan Square that in the early 1950s it was reorganized with new parking areas.

During the 1960s and 1970s downtown Spartanburg, the historical center of the county was substantially altered by urban renewal projects, resulting in the loss of many of its historical buildings, including the Andrews Building. Neglect and change over time also have impacted the county's historical resources.

Still, much of the county's heritage remains with us today in the physical presence of buildings, structures and sites. An inventory of historical places listed on the National Register is presented on Table 5-1. But the list of places is far from complete.

A survey of historical sites was conducted in 1909 by Mr. Lewis P. Jones, Wofford College. From the survey, 121 sites were identified. A map showing these sites is available from the Spartanburg County Historical Association.

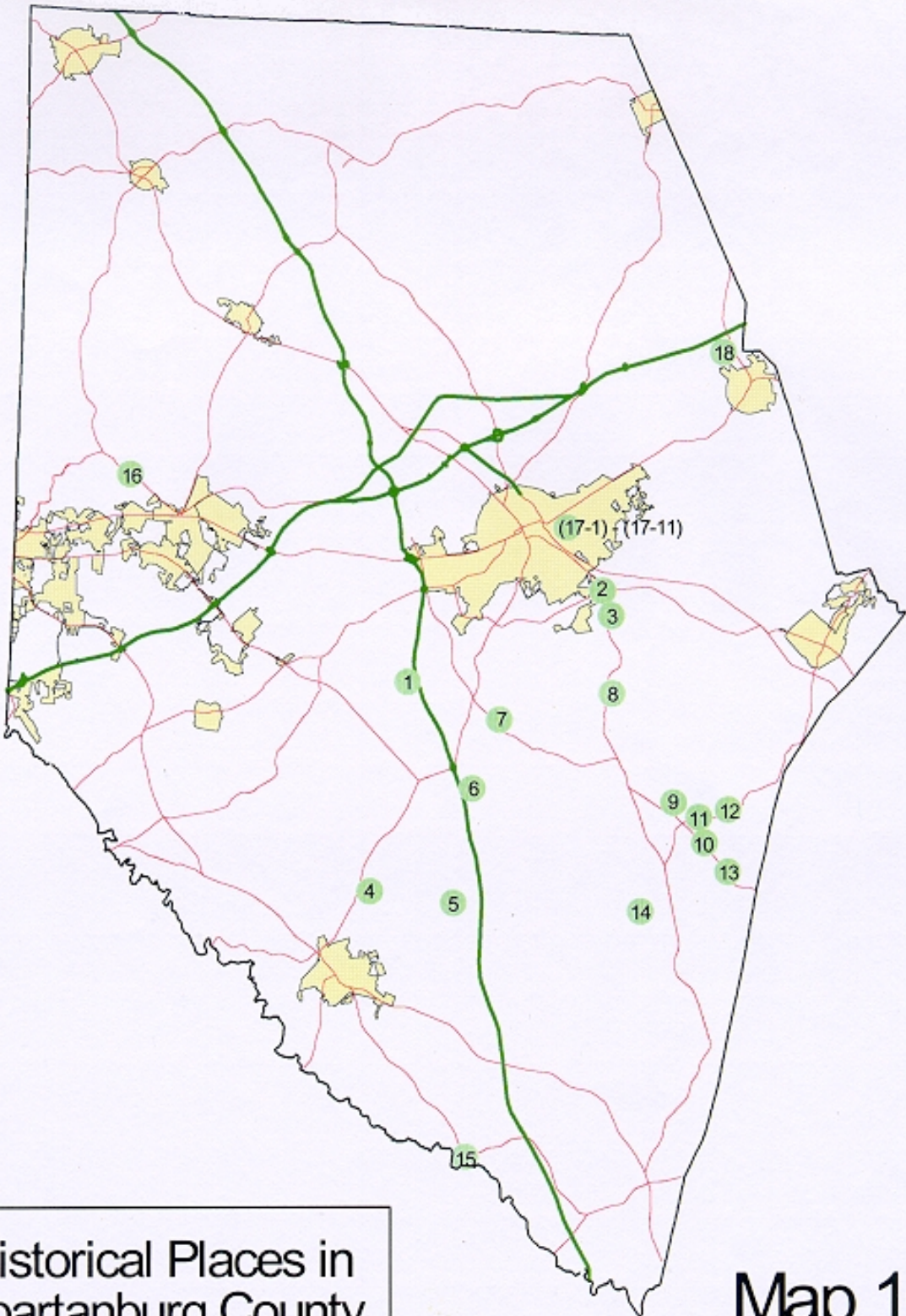
Additionally, four African-American sites, not shown on the Jones map, have been identified in the City of Spartanburg as historically significant. They are:

1. Callaham Funeral Home---site of the first black hospital, on Dean Street
2. Home site of Mary H. Wright
3. Metropolitan AME Church---oldest black church in the city on Chasander Street
4. Cemetery Street Cemetery, created in 1849 "for the purpose of having a burial place for the colored population.

**Table 5-1
Historical Places In
Spartanburg County
(Places on National Historical Register)**

<u>Map No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>General Location</u>
1.	Anderson Mill	N. Tyger River, Landrum
2.	Foster's Tavern	SC 56, south of Spartanburg
3.	Walker Hall	South of SC 295
4.	Nicholls-Crook House	Off US 221, south of Spartanburg
5.	Price Post Office	CR 86, near Woodruff
6.	Walnut Grove Plantation	Off I-26, south of US 221
7.	Smith's Tavern	CR 500, south of CR 88
8.	Golightly-Dean House	SC 56, south of Camp Croft
9.	Glenn Springs Historic District	Glenn Springs community
10.	John C. Zimmerman House	" " "
11.	Calvary Episcopal Church	" " "
12.	Maurice Moore House	" " "
13.	Camp Hill	SC 215, s. of Glen Springs
14.	Williams Place	CR 113, south of CR 111
15.	Mountain Shoals Plantation	Enoree community
16.	McMakin's Tavern	SC 358, north of US 29
17-1	Jammie Seay House	City of Spartanburg
17-2	John B. Cleveland House	" "
17-3	Evins-Bivings House	" "
17-4	Wofford College	" "
17-5	W.W. Duncan-Wallace Dupre House	" "
17-6	Spartanburg Downtown Historic District	" "
17-7	Daniel Morgan Monument	" "
17-8	Hampton Heights Historic District	" "
17-9	Cleveland Law Range	" "
17-10	Converse College Historic District	" "
17-11	Walter Scott Montgomery House	" "
18.	Archaeological Sites, Pacolet Vicinity (access restricted)	Pacolet Community

Source: Spartanburg County Historical Association, compiled by Lewis P. Jones, Wofford College, Spartanburg Historic Sites and Structures, 1989.



Historical Places in
Spartanburg County

Map 10
Reference Table 5-1

Historical buildings and sites are found throughout much of the county, with concentrations in the City of Spartanburg, the Reidville Area, and the Glenn Springs Area.

Eleven of 18 sites and buildings in the City of Spartanburg are on the National Register, which affords a degree protection through recognition and eligibility for financial assistance. A listed property is recognized by the federal government as a valuable resource with historical or archaeological significance. This recognition alerts individuals and the community to the value of their historic and archaeological resources and reinforces preservation efforts.

A listed property is eligible for federal and state historic preservation grants, and an income producing property is eligible for federal rehabilitation tax credits. Listing does not require owners to preserve or maintain their properties unless they apply for and accept federal funding, a federal license, a federal preservation tax credit, or a state funded preservation grant. The National Register program places no restrictions on properties that are listed. But local governments can, and the City of Spartanburg has, through the adoption of historical preservation requirements included in the city's Zoning Ordinance. However, there are no protective regulations or preservation assurances for the **other 87 documented historical places** outside Spartanburg and not on the Historical Register. For these places to survive, it is up to the owners sense of history and appreciation of the structure.

Fortunately, there is a growing public awareness and appreciation of history. And it may be enough to sustain these places for future generations. But the addition of financial incentives and protective regulations would not hurt the preservation cause.

Local efforts and programs designed to preserve and promote the county's historical resources are headed primarily by the Spartanburg County Historical Association. But this is not the only agency or group involved. The Reidville community, with its inventory of historical structures, has organized a local Historical Association. The Town of Cowpens also has an Historical Museum and Civic Center to showcase its memorabilia.

One of the more significant places is the county's Historical Museum, housed in the Arts Center Building. But growing pains are fast rendering this location inadequate to accommodate additional artifacts and future opportunities.

Mission

In recognition of its role and responsibility in preserving the past for the future, the Spartanburg County Historical Association has adopted the following mission statement:

“to promote and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of the region; to bring about a closer relationship among persons in the region who are interested in its history; and to encourage the preservation of historical sites, materials and records of the area.”

To this end, the Association has adopted the following goals.

Goals

Goals of the Association are to:

Goal: Promote and encourage interest in all aspects of the history of the county.

In support of this goal, the association is committed to preserving and maintaining historically accurate properties and increasing public awareness.

Goal: Bring about a closer relationship among persons in the region who are interested in its history.

The goal here is to increase people support and participation in historical preservation.

Goal: Encourage the preservation of historical sites, materials, and records of the area.

Objectives designed to help implement this goal include:

1. Relocation of the Historical Museum to a larger facility.
2. Restoration of selected properties.
3. Formation of a community coalition to work for historic preservation.
4. Education on the importance and benefits of historic preservation.

Goal: Insure a secure financial position.

Without sufficient financial resources, implementation of the other goals will be difficult to accomplish. As a result, the association has established several funding goals, each of which, if achieved, would help secure the desired goal. The targeted sources include both private and public sources, city and county.