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**Our State So Rich in Architectural Heritage:  
Documentation Efforts in South Carolina, 1933-  
1940.**

The Historic American Buildings Survey hired teams of architects and photographers to systematically document historic buildings throughout the United States in the 1930s, creating an unparalleled record that captured the character of the nation's architecture while providing insight into the cultures that built it. Whereas the documentation produced by the early HABS teams remains a well-known and much-used resource, the office records of the undertaking are held at the National Archives, where little research has been completed. These primary resources can be analyzed to better understand the early preservation movement, including how buildings were selected for inclusion in the HABS collection.

Prior to the establishment of HABS, Charleston architects Albert Simons, Samuel Lapham, and Samuel Stoney had published the *Octagon Library of Early American Architecture* (1924) and *Plantations of the Carolina Low Country* (1928). The subsequent involvement and collaboration of these architects with the HABS Washington office (which included pioneering preservation architects Thomas T. Waterman, Frederick D. Nichols, and Charles Peterson) reveal relationships between local and national preservation efforts and the role of South Carolina in the HABS initiative.

More than two hundred buildings documented during the 1930s were mapped to determine which are still extant. By viewing these buildings both individually and as a group, changing attitudes concerning historical significance are revealed.

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# Our State So Rich in Architectural Heritage: Documentation Efforts in South Carolina 1933-1940

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On November 4, 1940, Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) field crews thanked Charleston Mayor Lockwood and Samuel Lapham, the local HABS district officer, packed their station wagon with drawing boards, cameras, and measuring equipment, and drove back to Richmond, Virginia, signifying the end of the Works Progress Administration (WPA)-era HABS documentation in South Carolina. The HABS effort, a nationwide survey, contributed to a public and standardized collection of drawings and photographs representing the varied architecture of the United States. This pioneering endeavor helped establish the federal government's role in the incipient historic preservation movement and represented the first attempt at a nationwide survey of significant historic sites, pre-dating the establishment of the National Register of Historic Places. In South Carolina, a campaign parallel to the HABS initiative was carried out by the Charleston architectural firm of Albert Simons (1890-1980) and the aforementioned Samuel Lapham (1892-1972). The partners studied Lowcountry plantations and parish churches to inform their architectural practice and to create published portfolios. This paper analyzes the relationships between state and national preservationists, the way buildings were selected for HABS, and how that selection ultimately affected the twentieth-century interpretation of South Carolina history.

The Historic American Buildings Survey was initiated by the National Park Service (NPS) in 1933 as a federal program to employ out-of-work architects during the depression. The impetus for the program came from a desire to record vanishing architectural resources and to create a publically accessible archive that was comprehensive and national in scope. Even

prior to the establishment of HABS, architectural documentation efforts were gaining momentum nationwide, as architectural schools emphasized Beaux Arts curriculums that included recording historic buildings. Architectural offices distributed and collected measured drawing plates to serve as inspirational graphic standards. The colonial revival style and the burgeoning national historic preservation movement, spurred in part by the scholarly approach to restoration at Williamsburg, Virginia<sup>1</sup> (begun 1927), inspired American Institute of Architects (AIA) members from the Committee for the Preservation of Historic Buildings<sup>2</sup> as early as 1918 to propose a national documentation project. Envisioned as a series of reference books, this AIA venture used standard orthographic projections (plan, section, and elevation), de-emphasizing renderings and perspectives.<sup>3</sup> The drawings were to inform the professional architect, and the act of measuring was considered an essential part of architectural training.<sup>4</sup> Simons and Lapham completed the only book from this series, intended to be called *The Octagon Library of Early American Architecture*; it was published as *The Early Architecture of Charleston* in 1927. The nation's bleak economic situation spelled the end of the AIA book initiative, but the HABS effort effectively subsumed and continued the project.

## EARLY DOCUMENTATION EFFORTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

At the start of the Great Depression, there were approximately thirty architects in the state of South Carolina.<sup>5</sup> Two of these architects, partners Albert Simons and Samuel Lapham (Fig.1) were very



Fig 1. Albert Simons (left), mid-20th century (Courtesy Margareta Childs Archives, Historic Charleston Foundation) and Samuel Lapham (right), mid-20th century (Courtesy Ernest Everett Blevins, private collection).

much involved with the nascent historic preservation movement both nationally and locally. Indeed, by the time the Historic American Buildings Survey was initiated in 1933, Simons and Lapham had already been recording historic structures in the Charleston region for a decade, in part for the AIA's projected *Octagon Series*, in part for local heritage publications, and in part for their own interests.<sup>6</sup>

Charleston natives, Simons and Lapham both attended the College of Charleston but completed their architectural education at the University of Pennsylvania and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, respectively. Prominent in local social circles, both had ties to the national architecture scene through their northern educations. Simons was a member of the AIA's Committee on Preservation of Historic Monuments, Buildings and Natural Resources. Simons served as president of the South Carolina chapter of the AIA and Lapham as the secretary and treasurer. Simons also served on Charleston's pioneering historic review board (established 1931) and on the city's planning and zoning board for forty-three years. Their architectural practice flourished throughout the depression as they received commissions from the Federal Administration of Public Works for projects such as the Memminger Auditorium, the gymnasium at the College of Charleston, the Robert Mills Housing Project, and the conversion of the Planters Hotel into the Dock Street Theater. They

also worked for a number of northern clients, who were interested in creating or restoring Lowcountry houses and plantation structures. Lapham's 1916 thesis from MIT, entitled "A Design for the Family Mansion of a South Carolina Plantation," presaged these commissions.

In 1930, Simons founded the AIA Committee for the Safeguarding of Charleston Architecture (CSCA), which was established with a \$5,000 grant from William Emerson, the dean of the architecture program at MIT, and his wife, Frances. The CSCA's purpose was to call attention to an emerging crisis in Charleston, with Simons estimating that approximately one thousand buildings of architectural merit in the city were in danger of being lost to neglect and demolition. The Emersons traveled to Charleston in 1928 and became the patrons for a new measured-drawing book on Lowcountry plantations (Stoney, Simons, and Lapham 1938).

The profusion of art, literature, and music in Charleston in the early twentieth century was in large part inspired by the streetscapes and culture of the city. This movement, known as the Charleston Renaissance, emphasized the quantity and quality of the region's antebellum buildings. Stephanie Yuhl, the author of *A Golden Haze of Memory* (2005), comments that the artist community during the Charleston Renaissance commercially packaged aristocratic charm in an attempt to transform the formerly isolated and declining port city into a tourist destination. In addition, the movement marked the celebration of architecture through marketing. Alice Ravenel Huger Smith published *Twenty Drawings of the Pringle House on King Street* in 1914, which was soon followed by *The Dwelling Houses of Charleston* (1917). While the early images were romanticized renderings, Albert Simons contributed twelve plates of measured architectural drawings for *Dwelling Houses*, marking his first commercial venture in building documentation. From this point forward, Simons and Lapham methodically recorded historic buildings around the Lowcountry and were known for their Sunday measuring excursions with family and friends (Stoney, Simons, and Lapham 1938). Their efforts were published in a series of articles between 1923 and 1926 in *Architectural Record* and *Architectural Forum*: "The Rice Mills of Charleston," "The Development of Charleston Architecture," "Early Iron Work in Charleston," and "Minor Charleston Houses."

### THE FIRST HABS CAMPAIGN: 1934

When federal money became available for HABS state surveys in 1933, South Carolina was well positioned, primarily due to Albert Simons's appointment to the HABS advisory committee. South Carolina was designated District #13,<sup>7</sup> and Lapham was selected to serve as the district officer, since Simons was serving on the national committee.

The HABS work in South Carolina occurred in three stages. During the first phase, federal money was allocated for use by architectural teams in South Carolina to coordinate a documentation campaign. This effort lasted for four months in 1934. Between 1934 and 1940, no federal money was directed toward South Carolina, as the individual districts were tasked with raising their own funds (Lapham 1936). During this second period, sporadic HABS photography and drawings in South Carolina were undertaken by NPS architects from the Washington, D.C., office. The third phase of documentation occurred in South Carolina in 1940, utilizing teams of NPS architects from the Richmond, Virginia, HABS regional office.

Architects were in the field by the beginning of January 1934. This fast mobilization was a result of a planning phase that was coordinated by Samuel Lapham. Bulletins and circulars were sent from Washington to the district to disseminate information and provide direction, with the first one requesting Lapham to create a list of the most important threatened buildings. The directive requested that a broad range of building types be selected, with emphasis on indigenous structures. To comply, a state advisory committee was created in 1933, consisting of three architects and two non-architect members, the secretary of the South Carolina Historical Commission (Columbia), and a professor of history from the College of Charleston.<sup>8</sup> The South Carolina committee prioritized the buildings that were most important architecturally, with emphasis on high style rather than vernacular structures. The committee cross-referenced previously published drawings to prevent duplications. The list of previously published buildings contained more than thirty structures from *Great Georgian Houses of America*, volumes I and II; the aforementioned volume I of the *Octagon Library*,

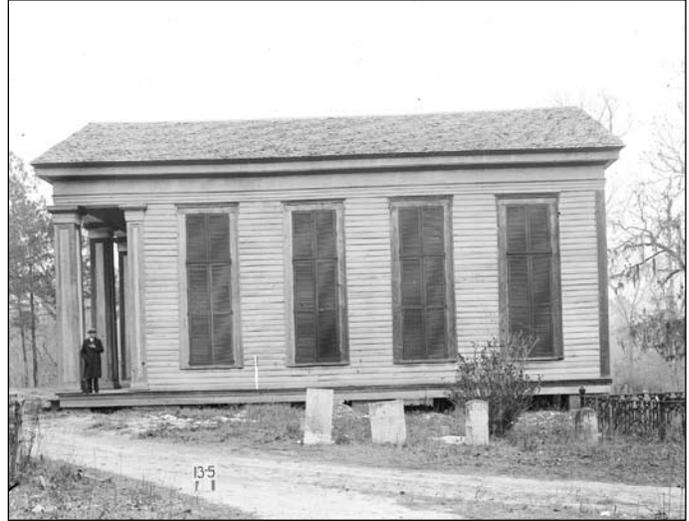
*The Georgian Period*; and the *White Pine Series*. Another thirty properties that Simons and Lapham were in the process of documenting in preparation for their projected work on the plantation and parish churches (1938) of the Lowcountry were also listed.<sup>9</sup>

As prescribed by the HABS administration, the South Carolina advisory committee originally divided the state into five districts and assigned to each a team of qualified draftsmen. However, only enough unemployed, skilled draftsmen could be found to staff four teams, and the district comprising the eastern coast above Charleston was eliminated. The four remaining teams, based in Charleston, Sumter, Columbia, and Greenville, recorded a total of sixteen buildings with drawings and photographs (Fig. 2) between January and April of 1934. These selections focused on public and civic buildings (Fig. 3), including six by Robert Mills (Fig. 4), three monuments, and two dwellings.<sup>10</sup> None of the buildings had been recorded previously, and only one of them, Robert Mills's state powder magazines



Fig. 2. Dr. David Ramsay House, 92 Broad Street, Charleston, April 1934. This is the first photograph taken by HABS in South Carolina (Photograph by M. B. Paine, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-13-1).

*Fig. 3. High Hills Baptist Church, Kings Highway, Stateburg, 1934. The survey card reads "This church was built in 1787, and though of no real historic value, it is a typical church of this period in this section" (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-13-5).*



*Fig. 4. Kershaw County Courthouse, Broad and King streets, Camden, April 1934. Robert Mills, architect, 1826, described this building as..."superior in design to any in the state" (Photograph by M. B. Paine, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-13-9).*



*Fig. 5. State powder magazines and administrative buildings, Charleston, April 1934. Originally nine magazines, a house, and barracks, Robert Mills Architect, 1826 (demolished) (Photograph by M. B. Paine, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-13-13).*



(Fig. 5), on the northern neck in Charleston, was on the original list submitted by the South Carolina advisory committee. Directives from the Washington office had prioritized public buildings and endangered building types. The reason for the discrepancy between the Washington office directive and Lapham's priority list is uncertain. Likely, the sixteen buildings selected for documentation were easily accessible at the time of the survey, and the participants fully expected the program to continue beyond the original four months.

### **SPORADIC EFFORTS: 1934-1940**

With only sixteen buildings recorded when the federal funds lapsed, Lapham stated in his district report that in Charleston alone there were five to seven hundred buildings worthy of surveying, at least eighty-five to one hundred plantations statewide, and fifty to seventy-five chapels and churches. Only a small percentage of these were well preserved, and many of the minor domestic types were in danger of disappearing. With the funds depleted, Lapham continued to "work" as the district officer (paid \$12 per year), but there were no field crews to coordinate, and he considered himself an inactive participant (Lapham 1935; Simons 1937). While other states, such as Massachusetts, were able to raise private funds to maintain their HABS teams during this period, the level of poverty in South Carolina precluded any such efforts. Lapham's only immediate duty was to create a history of South Carolina architecture, which he wrote with Albert Simons as a collaborator-at-large (Lapham and Simons 1936). The HABS Washington office intended to compile the histories from each district to form a national text on architectural development, but the project was never fully realized. Simons and Lapham continued to personally record colonial architecture in South Carolina during this period for their anticipated publication.

The HABS office in Washington was managed by architect John P. O'Neill and staffed with junior Park Service architects Charles Peterson, Frederick Nichols, and Thomas T. Waterman (assistant director). These men traveled widely to orchestrate the requisite

field work. NPS architects from Washington worked sporadically in the state between 1934 and 1940, taking photographs and notes for potential future documentation. With the broad perspective gained from managing the program nationwide, they built a more inclusive list of buildings to document, and they developed personal research agendas. For example, Thomas T. Waterman became interested in the Brick House Ruins (Hamilton House) on Edisto Island (Figs. 6, 7) and recorded it in 1936, seven years after it was destroyed by fire. He collaborated with Simons and Lapham and searched for a connection to a northern brickyard that had potentially supplied the brick.<sup>11</sup> Waterman was also interested in slave cabins and "primitive" architecture that survived into the 1930s. He analyzed wood frame cabins with clay chimneys that he had viewed outside of Sumter (Fig. 8), comparing these buildings to written descriptions of several Virginia cabins that no longer existed (Waterman 1936).

As the depression waned, Lapham reported in 1935 that it was likely that qualified HABS draftsmen would not be available. Intra-office HABS correspondence stated that because Charleston had such an inexhaustible supply of survey structures threatened by Emergency Relief Administration (ERA)- sponsored slum clearance, all HABS efforts should be limited to the city.

In September 1938, a series of tornadoes struck Charleston. Simons sent a letter to Thomas T. Waterman describing the damage to important buildings, such as the City Market (1840), the Miles Brewton House (1769), and St. Philip's Church (1838), stating that more than two hundred significant buildings south of Broad Street were in danger of condemnation. Estimating that it would take twenty to twenty-five architects six months to record the damage and noting that South Carolina had no trained architects to accomplish the work, he asked to borrow architects from other states. The HABS Washington office responded that it would send a photographer, but it did not. In 1939, Albert Simons sent a letter to Leicester Holland, then HABS chair, stating that scaffolding had been erected at St. Michael's Church, creating an ideal opportunity for a HABS team to document the building (Simons



Fig. 6. Paul Hamilton House (ruins), Russell Creek, Edisto Island, June 1939. This early 18th-century structure burned in 1929 (Photograph by Thomas T. Waterman, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-1).



Fig. 7. Paul Hamilton House (ruins), Russell Creek, Edisto Island, 1936-1937. Thomas T. Waterman produced a set of conjectural, restored elevations, in addition to the existing condition drawings (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-1).



Fig. 8. Cabin, Cross, Berkeley County, June 1939 (Photograph by Thomas T. Waterman, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-35).

1939). In fact, St. Michael's was not documented until 1962, with the HABS drawings based on Simons and Lapham's own 1938 drawings for *The Georgian Period*.

Three months later, the president of the Society of Old Dwellings (now the Preservation Society of Charleston) sent the HABS Washington office a letter noting that "our state so rich in architectural heritage is receiving unsatisfying coverage from HABS since there are no available architects in the state to complete the work" (Means 1939). He suggested the possibility of student collaboration with the newly founded architecture program at Clemson Agricultural College (now Clemson University), which had a curriculum that included field work with historic buildings. In actuality, in 1934, HABS had corresponded numerous times with Professor Robert E. Lee at Clemson College inviting the students to participate. Prior to the establishment of HABS, Professor Lee's students had measured "some of the old buildings in this neighborhood" (Lee 1934), and he believed it would be beneficial for them to use the HABS standards and borders. The HABS Washington office sent Professor Lee the specifications for final record drawings and instructions for compilation. However, these eager Clemson students were unable to secure government pay for their travel expenses, as they were not government employees. They sought assistance from the National Youth Administration, which was not forthcoming (Simons 1937). Ultimately, the university students did not submit documentation to the HABS office, and any records of documented buildings have been lost.

As the Federal Emergency Relief Act continued, HABS priorities were directed toward historic buildings threatened by new WPA construction. A young Strom Thurmond and other state legislators convinced President Franklin D. Roosevelt to fully fund the longest earth dam in the world, creating jobs and electricity for South Carolina, where ninety-three percent of its rural population was still without electricity. The Santee Cooper River hydroelectric and navigation project employed almost 13,000 workers, including Thomas T. Waterman. Hired in June of 1939, Waterman described buildings that were to be

demolished or relocated by the massive 175,000-acre land clearing project. His report documented eighteen buildings with plan sketches, historical reports, and photographs. Of these buildings, one was relocated, at least twelve were demolished, and four were not disturbed.<sup>12</sup> The relocated building, Hanover (1716), was considered the only house of national importance (Fig. 9). It was moved to



Fig. 9. Hanover, Pinopolis, c. 1939-1941. Thomas T. Waterman wrote on the index card that it belonged to the "great hall" plan type but "the mannerisms of the Huguenot builder are so pronounced as to give the building a character entirely its own. It recalls the houses of Guadeloupe in the French West Indies..." (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS,SC-36).

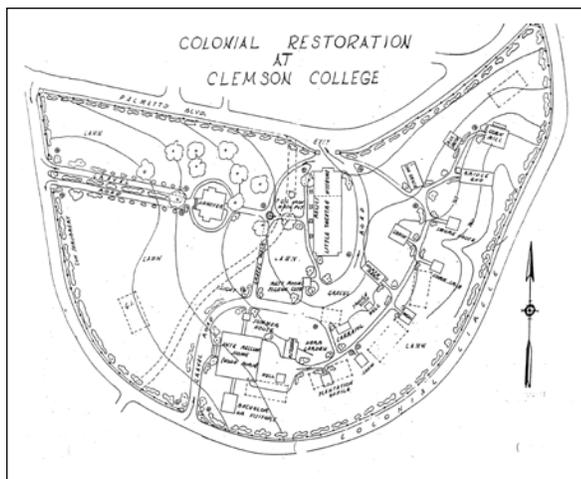


Fig. 10. Proposed colonial restoration at Clemson University, Professor Robert E. Lee, c.1940 (Hanover House Collection, Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina).

Clemson College in the Upstate as the centerpiece of Professor R. E. Lee's proposed open-air museum on the campus<sup>13</sup> (Fig 10).

### THE SECOND HABS CAMPAIGN: 1940

In 1940, the sixty-seven HABS district offices from around the country were disbanded and reorganized into four regional centers located in Boston, Richmond, St. Louis, and Santa Fe (Simons 1940). From these centers, teams in station wagons, each carrying an architectural working squad and a photographer, set out on protracted surveying and measuring road trips. Frederick Nichols was on the South Carolina station wagon campaign that departed from Richmond in 1940. He traveled in May to plan the upcoming documentation, and in his memo to Thomas Vint, Chief Architect of the NPS, he stated that while the 1933 South Carolina priorities had been laid out with considerable architectural taste, they were not material for the present survey.

It is not necessarily our policy to record only buildings likely to be destroyed as under previous programs, since this is an opportunity for filling gaps to give the survey a well rounded character. In South Carolina however, so little has been done that there can be no possibility of accomplishing a program that would illustrate comprehensively the history of its architecture. For this reason we believe that we can rightfully limit ourselves to measuring buildings of particular significance that actually are in danger of disappearance.<sup>14</sup>

Thus, the buildings selected for this final documentation effort were considered to be threatened. In Charleston, the focus was on buildings outside of the 1931 "Old and Historic District." Of the thirteen buildings drawn and photographed during the 1940 campaign, six have been lost or survive only as ruins<sup>15</sup> (Figs. 11, 12, 13, 14).

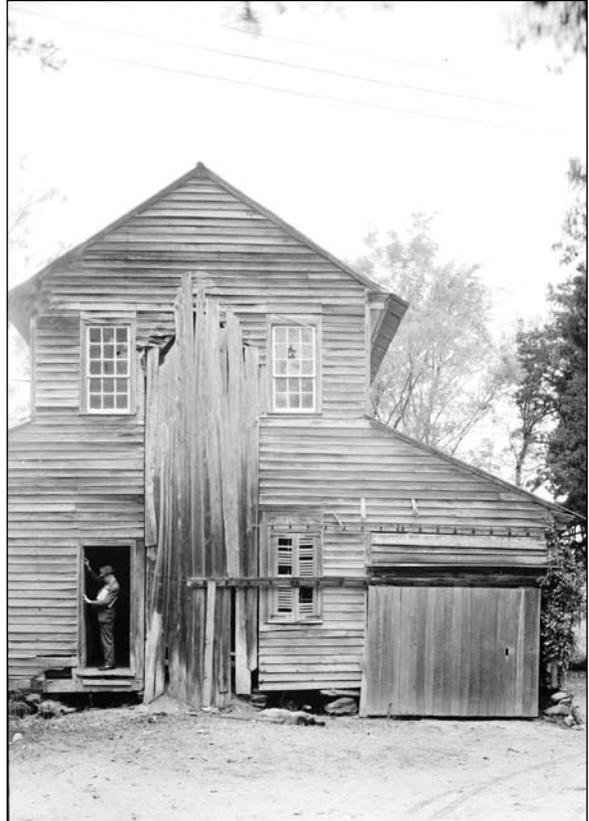


Fig. 11. Varennes Tavern, Anderson, April 1940. One of the HABS architects can be seen at work in the doorway of this neglected early 19th-century tavern (Photograph by Frederick D. Nichols, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS, SC-5).



Fig. 12. Exeter, Moncks Corner, Berkeley County, September 1940. Half gambrel roof structure, 1726, with Flemish bond and H-shaped plan (Photograph by C. O. Greene, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS, SC-12).



Fig. 13. Lynch House, McClellanville vicinity, September 1940. The 1730 plantation had two extra rooms added on the second floor, "squaring it up" around 1758 (Photograph by C. O. Greene, Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS, SC-10).



Fig. 14. Morris Gadsen House, 329 East Bay Street, Charleston, 1940. Built soon after 1800, this mansion was considered vulnerable, as it was located outside of the Old and Historic District in a commercial area (Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs Division, Historic American Buildings Survey, Reproduction Number HABS, SC-14).

## THE HABS LEGACY

Overall, 202 buildings were documented in South Carolina between 1934 and 1940 by HABS. All but one (the Samuel Edward Axson House) were photographed, and thirty-two were drawn. There were, in total, 651 photographs and 263 drawing sheets. Nationwide, approximately 7,000 buildings were recorded in forty-two states, Puerto Rico, and the District of Columbia. Thus, despite its wealth of historic resources, relatively little was accomplished in South Carolina.

In comparison, Simons and Lapham recorded eighty-four buildings between 1914 and 1938 (twenty-two were drawn and photographed). The two campaigns overlapped on forty-five buildings, fourteen of which were drawn by both.<sup>16</sup> Of the buildings recorded by HABS, 124 were residential, twenty-one were civic, seven were commercial, seven were ruins, ten were agricultural outbuildings, and twenty-eight were ecclesiastical. Three university buildings and two monuments were also recorded. Documentation occurred in nineteen out of the forty-six South Carolina counties (Fig. 15). Of the sites that could be identified today, fifty-nine are no longer extant.

Architectural documentation in South Carolina during the 1930s consisted of two distinct but parallel efforts: Simons and Lapham's illustrative material for their publications and the documentation by HABS. Despite the rich wealth of architectural resources in the state, and the precedent-setting early documentation efforts in the 1920s, the HABS output was relatively minimal. The lack of production can be attributed to the scarcity of architects, limited funding, and the remote and predominately rural nature of the state. Simons and Lapham, for their own publications, were able to complete a substantial amount of documentation, but their original drawings have disappeared.<sup>17</sup> They were inclined to document buildings that inspired them personally or that could serve as precedents for their design practice. They focused on buildings with English vernacular precedents, but as advisors to the HABS team, they embraced a broader vision, suggesting that more than nine hundred buildings in the Lowcountry were worth documenting. The architecture program at Clemson College was unsuccessful in its attempt

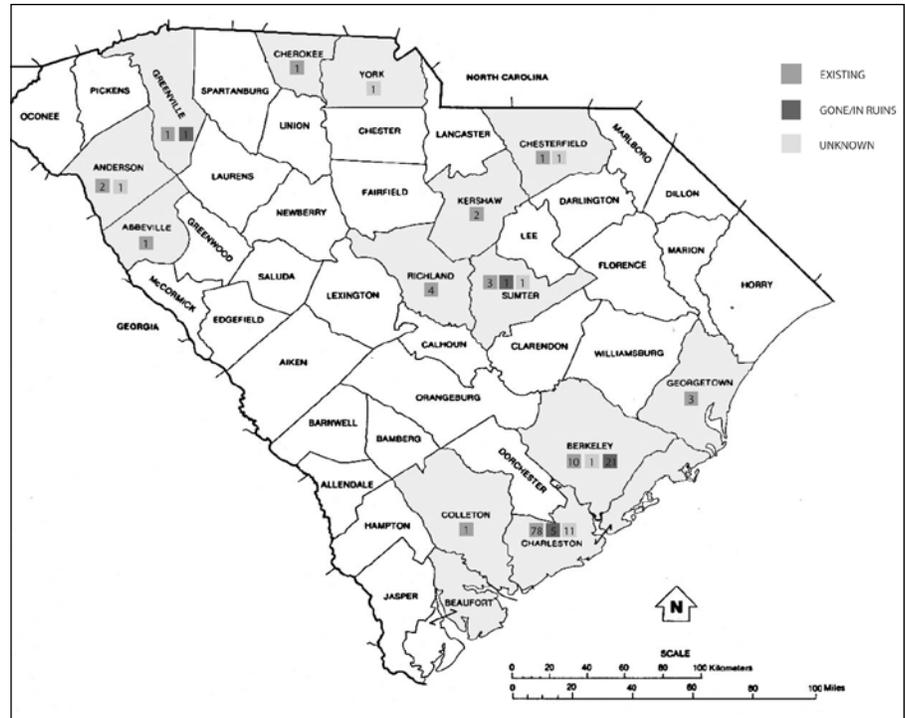


Fig. 15. Map of South Carolina, 2010, illustrating counties with HABS-documented buildings from 1933-1940 (Illustration by Erin McNicholl and Laura Beth Ingle, Clemson | College of Charleston Graduate Program in Historic Preservation).

to participate in the HABS survey. Clemson ultimately became the steward of Hanover, the building relocated to campus because of the Santee Cooper River dam project.

The HABS teams focused on a wide range of buildings, including many in danger of disappearing. They integrated neglected and vernacular building types, such as slave cabins, small residences, and outbuildings. They were also more inclusive geographically, surveying areas of the state beyond the Lowcountry. Still, historic port cities such as Georgetown and Beaufort were underrepresented due to the lack of qualified and unemployed architects in those regions. As per directives from Washington, the South Carolina HABS teams paid little attention to buildings constructed after 1860. Likewise, Simons and Lapham expressed their personal disdain for the “jig-saw” era.<sup>18</sup>

The HABS Washington office, conscious of national architectural trends, became the best vernacular specialists in the country. With trained eyes, the architects discerned patterns that developed as a response to local needs, climate, custom, availability of materials, or regional values. Looking backward, there

are evident holes in the 1930s collection: antebellum freedman cottages, industrial architecture, engineering works, and sites with social (but not necessarily architectural) significance. While Simons and Lapham’s measuring efforts concentrated on the exceptional British-inspired architecture, the reconnaissance approach adopted by HABS better represented South Carolina’s entire architectural landscape.

After the Second World War, the practice of rigorously documenting the physical elements of a historic structure declined as an essential element of architectural education and practice. The triumph of international style modernism eschewed the use of precedence in architectural design. Not only in South Carolina, but nationwide, the HABS program was mostly dormant during the late 1940s and 1950s.

Following this lull, however, the confluence of a number of trends over the past half-century has led to a revival in the field of building documentation. The rise of the historic preservation movement, epitomized by the establishment of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Civil War centennial, and the new influx of tourists to Charleston made possible by the interstate highway system, contributed to an increased

appreciation of the state's historic assets. More specifically, the National Park Service's Mission 66 program and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 made funds available for HABS documentation. Graduate programs in public history at the University of South Carolina and in historic preservation at the College of Charleston / Clemson University have been established, with building documentation an essential component of the latter.

Today, the HABS collection for South Carolina consists of more than 1,100 individual sites, ranking ninth among the states, and is considered an essential resource for students, scholars, preservationists, and others interested in South Carolina's history. Despite the limited scope and accomplishments of the original HABS effort, eighty years later the two hundred sites documented by the 1930s HABS teams are considered an invaluable record of the early architecture of the state, as well as of South Carolina during the depression.

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**ENDNOTES**

1. For a parallel discussion, see McDonald's (2006) argument that architectural and archeological field work that emerged in the 1920s created more informed restorations. Today, measured drawings, research, and comparative analysis comprise the accepted scholarly approach.
2. The committee changed names five times between 1924 and 1935, all variations of Committee on the Preservation of Historic Monuments and Scenery or Committee on the Preservation of Historic Monuments and Natural Resources (Houghton 1990).
3. Previous measured drawing campaigns often included conjectural, idealized, and perspective renderings, from which scaled information could not be extracted. Uniform documentation ensured the usefulness of the drawings as a study collection for imitation and scholarship. The most accessible documentation before HABS was *The Monograph Series: Recording the Architecture of the American Colonies and Early Republic*, commonly known as *The White Pine Series of Architectural Monographs* published between 1914 and 1940. This series was distributed to architects as advertising brochures for a wood company. This architectural resource was absorbed as a feature in the architectural journal *Pencil Points* in 1932.
4. Vint (1936) explained the difference between HABS and other measuring campaigns. "The technique of the Historic American Buildings Survey differs somewhat from other architectural recording programs in that a strict adherence to architectural realities is everywhere the rule. No rendered drawings or sketches accepted. Each set of drawings and photographs is made to satisfy the requirements of a professional architect, rather than the momentary needs of a publisher. With this conception of the record as a starting point it was demonstrated early in the program that the benefits in participation in such work to the young architect or architectural draftsman are so great that they would seem to form a necessary part of any well considered program of architectural education and training."
5. In 1924, there were thirty institute members; in 1930, there were seventeen; and by 1932, there were only ten (Petty 1963).
6. Architect Samuel Gaillard Stoney (1891-1968) collaborated with Simons and Lapham in *Early Architecture of Charleston and Plantations of the Lowcountry*. Trained at the Georgia Institute of Technology, he was the brother of Albert Simons's wife. According to the June 22, 1942, report prepared on Hanover by Simons and Stoney (Hiott 2008), it was essential to measure and make good restoration drawings of Lowcountry houses that were in a very bad state of repair. "Their interest was so great that Sunday after Sunday they

- prepared picnic dinners and went to various sites of these houses and measured them very carefully, trying at all times to discover positive evidence of original work.”
7. The HABS district numbering system (Holland 1941) was based on the system the AIA employed to designate regional offices. “In order to cover the country as thoroughly and rapidly as possible, the organization of the American Institute of Architects has been adapted. This body comprises 71 chapters, dividing among them the whole area of the United States and its territories. For each chapter area a district officer is selected, fitted by antiquarian interest and architectural experience to conduct the Survey within his district.”
  8. The AIA chapter selected the committee, which included H. Olin Jones, AIA, Greenville; H. D. Harrall, AIA, Bennettsville; J.W. Cunningham, Sumter; A.S. Salley, Secretary of the South Carolina Historical Commission, Columbia; and Prof. Harold Easterby, College of Charleston. The committee created a list of 125 buildings it considered the most important statewide (Lapham, December 23, 1933).
  9. The committee created Supplemental List (a): List of Buildings already measured and recorded in South Carolina up to Dec. 1933 (RG 515, HABS, State files, NACP). The Architects Emergency Committee published two volumes of recorded buildings (1933, 1937). The intent, similar to HABS, was to employ out-of-work architects. Seven important properties were recorded in South Carolina. John Mead Howells, who trained in survey work with SPNEA, coordinated the South Carolina work and owned the Colonel John Stuart House on Tradd Street, Charleston. The delineators were not from South Carolina. John Mead Howell continued to work in Charleston with Simons, R. Huger Smith, and S.T. Stoney to create *This is Charleston*, 1944.
  10. The sixteen structures were the Dr. David Ramsey House (Charleston), County Records Building (Charleston, Robert Mills), DeBruhl Marshall House (Columbia), Gen. Thomas Sumter Tomb (Stateburg), High Hills Baptist Church (Stateburg), Christ Episcopal Church (Greenville), Bennett’s Rice Mill (Charleston), Baron DeKalb Monument (Camden), Kershaw Country Courthouse (Camden, Robert Mills), Old Marine Hospital (Charleston, Robert Mills), University of South Carolina Library (Columbia, Robert Mills), Farmer’s Hall (Pendleton), State’s Powder Magazine and Administrative Buildings (Charleston, Robert Mills), Church of the Holy Cross (Stateburg), Old Jewish Orphanage (Charleston), and Ainsley Hall Mansion (Columbia).
  11. Waterman corresponded with Prof. Emerson at MIT after asking Albert Simons for permission to share drawings of the Brick House that Emerson funded. Simons complied but requested that Waterman refrain from circulating drawings until the publication of the *Plantation* book. Face Brick Sales Corporation of 250 East 43<sup>rd</sup> Street, NYC, corresponded with HABS about the origin of the Edisto Island Brick. The local legend suggested that the brick was imported from Holland, but after receiving a brick sample from Thomas T Waterman, Face Brick determined it was a water-struck brick from New England. More likely, the brick was made at the site. Correspondence regarding the Brick House is located at RG 515, HABS, State files, NACP. These records include letters between the Face Brick Sales Corporation, Simons, Waterman, and Emerson, December-April 1936.
  12. The demolished buildings, all plantation houses, included Belvidere, Pond Bluff, Somerset, Springfield, Ophir, Poshee, Bunker Hill, Indianfield, Cedar Spring, and Woodlawn. White Hall was destroyed later, and The Rocks was lost to fire in the 1990s.
  13. The southeastern section of the campus was to contain Hanover, a blacksmith’s shop, a covered bridge, a corn mill, a corn crib, a plantation office, and other structures, as well as an herb garden. The relocation of Hanover was financed with a grant of \$1,270 to Clemson College, August 19, 1941. The class of 1915 donated funds to support an open-air museum; it was one of the nation’s earliest (Hiott 2008).
  14. Nichols noted on March 22, 1940, that the landscapes at Middleton should be recorded, and the regional HABS landscape architect V.R. Ludgate requested documentation at Crowfield Plantation, indicating that HABS was aware of the significance of the vanishing cultural landscape. Neither was completed by HABS.
  15. The lost buildings were Vareness Tavern (Anderson), William McElwee House (York County), Crowfield Ruins (Goose Creek), Melrose Plantation (Wedgfield), Limerick (Cordesville, burned 1945) and Exeter Plantation (Moncks Corner, burned 1967). The other buildings drawn and photographed were St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church (Charleston), Oakland Plantation (Mt. Pleasant), Lynch House (Fairfield Plantation, McClellanville), Middleburg (Huger), Morris-Gadsden House (329 East Bay, Charleston), Thomas Hepworth House (214 New Street, Beaufort), Hanover (Pinopolis relocated to Clemson), and Hawthorne House (Clover).
  16. This number includes the buildings published in *The Octagon Series* and *Plantations of the Lowcountry*.
  17. Simons and Lapham Architects donated their office archives to the South Carolina Historical Society and the College of Charleston, but the measured drawing plates are not in these repositories. The Carolina Art Association, now the Gibbes Museum of Art, originally published the *Plantations* book but no longer has the plates or photographs.
  18. In *Outline of Early American Architecture* (RG 515, HABS, State file, NACP), Simons and Lapham refer to the period after the Civil War dismissively as the “jig-saw” era.

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