The National Historic Preservation Act & The National Register of Historic Places

A lesson plan designed for 8-9th grade students
About This Lesson

This lesson was developed in partnership with the Preservation50 initiative as a component of the 50th anniversary commemoration of the National Historic Preservation Act. The curriculum is structured around material from the National Park Service with supplemental primary sources, images, and maps related to historic preservation from the State of South Carolina, South Carolina Legislative Services Agency, City of Charleston, and the James Fenimore Cooper Society.

The goal of this lesson is to teach students the value and significance of America’s historic places through the study of how we as a country have worked at the federal, state, and local level to preserve our heritage through legislation and law. For more information about Preservation50 and Next Exit History, please visit their websites:

www.Preservation50.org
www.NextExitHistory.com

The primary focus of this lesson is the foundation of modern preservation law in America, the National Historic Preservation Act and one of its key creations, the National Register of Historic Places.

This National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation’s historic places worthy of preservation. Many historic homes are listed on the National Register, as are many other kinds of properties – commercial buildings, schools, urban and rural historic districts, bridges, archaeological sites, monuments, and more – encompassing 1.4 million individual resources. The National Historic Preservation Act has helped encourage the renovation, repair, rehabilitation, and restoration of historic homes and other properties throughout the nation, enhancing our quality of life. Property owners and investors benefit from grants, tax incentives, and technical assistance made available through the law and related programs over the years.

President Lyndon Baines Johnson signed the NHPA into law on October 15, 1966
Learning Objectives
Lesson Plan Steps

1. Introduce the Inquiry question to get students thinking about the topic
2. Read through readings as a class (when appropriate, have students read aloud)
3. Go through the zoning map with students to show the location of districts
4. Assign activities and reading questions

Where This Lesson Fits into the Curriculum

Topics: This lesson could be used in teaching units on colonial history, the American revolution, the Civil War, the National Historic Preservation Act, and contemporary historic preservation at a local level.
Time period: Colonial to 21st-century America

Relevant U.S. History Standards for Grades 5-12

These social studies standards provided through the National Park Service’s Teaching with Historic Places, the UCLA Department of History, and the National Curriculum Standards for Social Studies.
Era 3- Standard 2: The impact of the American Revolution on politics, economy, and society

Era 5-Standard 2: The course and character of the Civil War and its effects on the American people

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension A- Identify the author or source of the historical document or narrative and assess its credibility.

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension B- Reconstruct the literal meaning of a historical passage.

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension C- Identify the central question(s) the historical narrative addresses.

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension D- Differentiate between historical facts and historical interpretations.

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension E- Read historical narratives imaginatively.

Standard 2: Historical Comprehension F- Appreciate historical perspectives.

Relevant Curriculum Standards for Social Studies

Theme 2 Time, Continuity, and Change

Standard A. Studying the past makes it possible for us to understand the human story across time.

Standard B. Knowledge and understanding of the past enable us to analyze the causes and consequences of events and developments, and to place these in the context of the institutions, values and beliefs of the periods in which they took place.
Learning Objectives

1. Explore the history of Charleston, South Carolina

2. Evaluate the changes made to the preservation movement by the National Historic Preservation Act

3. Analyze primary sources and compare historic perspectives

4. Interpret maps and images to answer discussion questions

5. Develop and Implement research and writing skills throughout the activities
Inquiry Question

Have you ever seen this sign on a house or building in your area? How do you think buildings earn this plaque? What is the significance of the National Register of Historic Places and why are buildings preserved?

The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966

In response to the destruction of older buildings and neighborhoods in the immediate post-World War II years, the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) signaled America’s commitment to preserving its heritage.

The NHPA established the framework that focused local, state, and national efforts on a common goal – preserving the historic fabric of our nation.

You can access and read the entire NHPA at http://www.nps.gov/history/40th/.
**What the NHPA Accomplished**

1. Conceived the national historic preservation partnership involving federal, tribal, state and local governments and the private sector.

2. Fostered the system by which federal agencies survey and identify districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects significant in American history, architecture, archeology, engineering, and culture, and use this information to plan projects so that, where possible, historic places are preserved.

3. Established the National Register of Historic Places as we know it today. The National Register identifies the significant national patrimony and provides federal recognition to properties of state and local, as well as national, significance.

4. Created the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation – charged with advising the President and the Congress on historic preservation matters and working with federal agencies to address historic resources in the fulfillment of their missions.

5. Authorized matching grants, now called Historic Preservation Fund grants, to states, Certified Local Governments, and Indian tribes for historic preservation surveys, plans, and projects.

*Teachers can find a listing of local buildings on the National Register of Historic Places from: [http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/](http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/)*

**The History of Charleston**

After Charles II was restored to the English throne, he granted the chartered Carolina territory to eight of his loyal friends, known as the Lord Proprietors, in 1663. It took seven years before the Lords could arrange for settlement, the first being that of Charles Town. The community named for the King Charles I was established by English settlers in 1670 across the Ashley River from the city’s current location.

It was soon chosen by Anthony Ashley-Cooper, one of the Lord Proprietors, to become a “great port towne,” a destiny which the city fulfilled. By 1680, the settlement had grown, joined by others from England, Barbados, and Virginia, and relocated to its current peninsular location.

The capital of the Carolina colony, Charleston was the center for further expansion and the southernmost point of English settlement during the late 1600s.

The settlement was often subject to attack from sea and from land. Periodic assaults from Spain and France, who still contested England’s claims to the region, were combined with resistance from American Indians as well as pirate raids. Charleston’s colonists erected a fortification wall around the small settlement to aid in its defense. The only building to remain from the Walled City is the Powder Magazine, where the city’s supply of gunpowder was stored.

A 1680 plan for the new settlement, the Grand Modell, laid out “the model of an exact regular town,” and the future for the growing community. Land surrounding the intersection of Meeting and Broad Streets was set aside for a Civic Square. Over time it became known as the Four Corners of
the Law, referring to the various arms of governmental and religious law presiding over the square and the growing city.

St. Michael’s Episcopal, Charleston’s oldest and most noted church, was built on the southeast corner in 1752. The following year the Capitol of the colony was erected across the square. Because of its prominent position within the city and its elegant architecture, the building signaled to Charleston’s citizens and visitors its importance within the British colonies. Provincial court met on the ground floor, the Commons House of Assembly and the Royal Governor’s Council Chamber met on the second floor.

While the earliest settlers primarily came from England, colonial Charleston was also home to a mixture of ethnic and religious groups. French, Scottish, Irish and Germans migrated to the developing seacoast town, representing numerous Protestant denominations, as well as Catholicism and Judaism. Sephardic Jews (of Spanish and Portuguese ancestry) migrated to the city in such numbers that Charleston became one of the largest Jewish communities in North America. The Jewish Coming Street Cemetery, first established in 1762, attests to their long standing presence in the community. The first Anglican church, St. Philip’s Episcopal, was built in 1682, although later destroyed by fire and relocated to its current location. Slaves also comprised a major portion of the population, and were active in the city’s religious community. Free black Charlestonians and slaves helped establish the Old Bethel United Methodist Church in 1797, and the congregation of the Emanuel A.M.E. Church stems from a religious group organized solely by African Americans, free and slave, in 1791.

By the mid-18th century Charleston had become a bustling trade center, and the wealthiest and largest city south of Philadelphia. Rice and indigo had been successfully cultivated by gentleman planters in the surrounding coastal lowcountry, while merchants profited from the successful shipping industry. As the relationship between the colonists and England deteriorated, Charleston became a focal point in the ensuing Revolution.

In protest of the Tea Act of 1773, which embodied the concept of “taxation without representation,” Charlestonians confiscated tea and stored it in the Exchange and Custom House. Representatives from all over the colony came to the Exchange in 1774 to elect delegates to the Continental Congress, the group responsible for drafting the Declaration of Independence; and South Carolina declared its independence from the crown on the steps of the Exchange. Soon, the church steeples of Charleston, especially St. Michael’s, became targets for British war ships.

A siege on the city in 1776 was successfully defended by William Moultrie from Sullivan’s Island, but by 1780 Charleston came under British control for two and a half years. After the British retreated in December 1782, the city’s name was officially changed to Charleston. By 1788, Carolinians were...
meeting at the Capitol building for the Constitutional Ratification Convention, and while there was support for the Federal Government, division arose over the location of the new State Capital. A suspicious fire broke out in the Capitol building during the Convention, after which the delegates removed to the Exchange and decreed Columbia the new State Capital.

By 1792, the Capitol had been rebuilt and became the Charleston County Courthouse. Upon its completion, the city possessed all the public buildings necessary to be transformed from a colonial capital to the center of the antebellum South. But the grandeur and number of buildings erected in the following century reflect the optimism, pride, and civic destiny that many Charlestonians felt for their community.

As Charleston grew, so did the community’s cultural and social opportunities, especially for the elite merchants and planters. The first theater building in America was built in Charleston in 1736, but was later replaced by the 19th-century Planter’s Hotel where wealthy planters stayed during Charleston’s horse-racing season (now the Dock Street Theatre). Benevolent societies were formed by several different ethnic groups: the South Carolina Society, founded by French Huguenots in 1737; the German Friendly Society, founded in 1766; and the Hibernian Society, founded by Irish immigrants in 1801. The Charleston Library Society was established in 1748 by some wealthy Charlestonians who wished to keep up with the scientific and philosophical issues of the day. This group also helped establish the College of Charleston in 1770, the oldest college in South Carolina and the 13th college in the United States.

Charleston became more prosperous in the plantation dominated economy of the post-Revolutionary years. The invention of the cotton gin in 1793 revolutionized this crop’s production, and it quickly became South Carolina’s major export. Cotton plantations relied heavily on slave labor. Slaves were also the primary labor force within the city, working as domestics, artisans, market workers or laborers. Many black Charlestonians spoke Gullah, a dialect based on African American structures which combined African, Portuguese, and English words.

By 1820 Charleston’s population had grown to 23,000, with a black majority. When a massive slave revolt planned by Denmark Vesey, a free black, was discovered in 1822, such hysteria ensued amidst white Charlestonians and Carolinians that the activities of free blacks and slaves were severely restricted. Hundreds of blacks, free and slave, and some white supporters involved in the planned uprising were held in the Old Jail. It also was the impetus for the construction of a new State Arsenal in Charleston.

As Charleston’s government, society and industry grew, commercial institutions were established to support the community’s aspirations. The Bank of South Carolina, the second oldest building constructed as a bank in the nation, was established here in 1798. Branches of the First and
Second Bank of the United States were also located in Charleston in 1800 and 1817. While the First Bank was converted to City Hall by 1818, the Second Bank proved to be a vital part of the community as it was the only bank in the city equipped to handle the international transactions so crucial to the export trade. By 1840, the Market Hall and Sheds, where fresh meat and produce were brought daily, became the commercial hub of the city. The slave trade also depended on the port of Charleston, where ships could be unloaded and the slaves sold at markets.

In the first half of the 19th century, South Carolinians became more devoted to the idea that state’s rights were superior to the Federal government’s authority. Buildings such as the Marine Hospital ignited controversy over the degree in which the Federal government should be involved in South Carolina’s government, society, and commerce. During this period over 90 percent of Federal funding was generated from import duties, collected by custom houses such as the one in Charleston. In 1832 South Carolina passed an ordinance of nullification, a procedure in which a state could in effect repeal a Federal law, directed against the most recent tariff acts. Soon Federal soldiers were dispensed to Charleston’s forts and began to collect tariffs by force. A compromise was reached by which the tariffs would be gradually reduced, but the underlying argument over state’s rights would continue to escalate in the coming decades. Charleston remained one of the busiest port cities in the country, and the construction of a new, larger United States Custom House began in 1849, but its construction was interrupted by the events of the Civil War.

In 1860, the National Democratic Convention convened in Charleston. Hibernian Hall served as the headquarters for the delegates supporting Stephen A. Douglas, who it was hoped would bridge the gap between the northern and southern delegates on the issue of extending slavery to the territories. The convention disintegrated when delegates were unable to summon a two-thirds majority for any candidate. This divisiveness resulted in a split in the Democratic party, and the election of Abraham Lincoln, the Republican candidate. On December 20, 1860, the South Carolina legislature was the first state to vote for secession from the Union. They asserted that one of the causes was the election to the presidency of a man “whose opinions and purposes are hostile to slavery.”

On January 9, 1861, Citadel cadets fired the first shots of the Civil War when they opened fire on a Union ship entering Charleston’s harbor. April 2, 1861, shore batteries under the command of General Pierre G. T. Beauregard opened fire on the Union-held Fort Sumter in the harbor. After a 34-hour bombardment, Major Robert Anderson surrendered the fort. Cadets from the Citadel, South Carolina’s liberal arts military college, continued to aid the Confederate army by helping drill recruits, manufacture ammunition, protect arms depots, and guard Union prisoners.

The city under siege took control of Fort Sumter, became the center for blockade running, and was the site of the first submarine warfare in 1863. In 1865, Union troops moved into the city, and took
control of many sites, such as the United States Arsenal which the Confederate army had seized at the outbreak of the war.

After the eventual and destructive defeat of the Confederacy, Federal forces remained in Charleston during the city’s reconstruction. The war had shattered the prosperity of the antebellum city. Freed slaves were faced with poverty and discrimination. Industries slowly brought the city and its inhabitants back to a renewed vitality and growth in population. As the city’s commerce improved, Charlestonians also worked to restore their community institutions.

In 1867 Charleston’s first free secondary school for blacks was established, the Avery Institute. General William T. Sherman lent his support to the conversion of the United States Arsenal into the Porter Military Academy, an educational facility for former soldiers and boys left orphaned or destitute by the war. The William Enston Home, a planned community for the city’s aged and infirm, was built in 1889. An elaborate public building, the United States Post Office and Courthouse, was completed in 1896 and signaled renewed life in the heart of the city.

In 1886 Charleston was nearly destroyed by a major earthquake that was felt as far away as Boston and Bermuda. Few buildings escaped damage. Coupled with fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, several wars, and urban renewal in the 20th century, it is extraordinary how many of Charleston’s historic buildings remain. Today the city’s community buildings help to make Charleston one of the most complete historic districts in the country, with more than 1400 historically significant buildings.
Student Readings
It is no accident that Charleston, South Carolina, is a focus for the modern preservation movement. For nearly 100 years, generations of Charlestonians have been aware of this city’s sense of place. Since the turn of the 20th century, individuals, organizations, and government have promoted a preservation ethic. The roots of preservation run deep. In 1783, Charleston established itself with the motto: “She guards her customs, buildings and laws.” Early on, Charleston embraced one important notion of what a city should be: guardian of its cultural, physical, and social structures.

Charleston’s unique environment, people, and circumstances contributed to a tradition of preserving and protecting the physical evidence of past generations. Over the past century, Charlestonians have moved from saving individual buildings to entire neighborhoods to maintain the city.
The Historic Preservation Movement in Charleston

1900 - 1930: PRESERVATION AS NATIONALISM

Early preservation efforts had a specific motivation: saving the city’s remaining colonial structures for educational purposes. In the early 1900s, Charlestonians shared a growing interest in the beginnings of the country. This rise of nationalism is represented by the National Society of Colonial Dames and its sister organization, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). Charleston’s local chapters took up the charge of stimulating interest and pride in the nation through the preservation of the city’s earliest buildings. In 1902 the Colonial Dames acquired the pre-revolutionary Powder Magazine, one of the oldest remaining structures associated with the permanent settlement of Charleston of 1680. Meanwhile, the DAR acquired the Old Exchange one of the city’s most prominent buildings. The motivation was the same: to preserve those buildings associated with past events which would reflect Charleston’s contribution to the development of the nation.

The most notable individual of the time was a real estate agent, Susan Pringle Frost. For nine years she worked independently to save historic residences in the city. She gathered a group of citizens, and in 1920 the Society for the Preservation of Old Dwellings was established.

In the 1920s, cities began to enact local laws regulating property use. In Charleston the city council established a draft ordinance to prohibit specific uses. Upon adoption of the ordinance, the special committee was established as the Committee on Planning and Zoning, now known as the planning and zoning commission. The use of zoning regulations set the standard for hundreds of cities.
1931-1966: FORMALIZATION OF AN ETHIC

In the next 35 years, historic preservation became a formal, ethic. The Society continued to stimulate interest in the preservation of historically important buildings and encourage private involvement in the preservation of individual structures. Existing and newly formed nonprofit organizations focused on increased awareness of good preservation principles, and on securing buildings from inappropriate development. Their efforts, combined with the infusion of preservation objectives into government regulations, would make a significant impact on the city and set an example for the nation.

For the first time groups or areas of buildings were designated as significant and worthy of protection. The blending of planning and preservation goals was unique and a revolutionary concept for its time.

The city council also created the Board of Architectural Review (BAR) and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. Although the powers of the review board were limited to reviewing demolition requests, the formal plan submission and review procedures opened an avenue for negotiation. The board's role was working with applicants to find acceptable solutions to design problems.

As community interest in historic preservation grew, so did the city's organizational interests. The Carolina Art Association inaugurated a citywide survey of historic and architecturally significant buildings. The survey had a far-reaching influence on future work in the city, in other cities, and on the formation of the National Register of Historic Places.

The 1950s brought about several preservation crises, as well as a rethinking of the approach to historic preservation. Historic Charleston Foundation began to focus on the rehabilitation of entire neighborhoods through an aggressive purchase and resale agenda. Although the need to react to immediate threats remained, preservation organizations were now taking a proactive, entrepreneurial role within the limits of available funding.
1966-1989: MATURATION

Charleston in the 1960s struggled with many of the same economic issues as other southern cities. In 1967, the city of Charleston supported the removal of historic buildings for a new civic auditorium and meeting hall to bring conventions and entertainment downtown. The Preservation Society and Historic Charleston Foundation moved eight of the threatened structures to appropriate sites throughout the city the city council voted to expand the boundaries of the Old and Historic District, nearly tripling its size. In 1970, the South Carolina Department of Transportation (SCDOT) sought to expand its highway system west across the Ashley River. The preservation community feared the expansion would have a detrimental effect on the Old and Historic Charleston National Register District (designated in 1966).

The city commissioned Barton-Aschman Associates to develop a commercial revitalization plan for the historic commercial core of the peninsula. In 1978 the city announced that a hotel/convention complex, to be called Charleston Center, would be constructed on a block at the most critical commercial corner in the city.

The proposed complex split the city’s preservation community in half. Those in favor saw the development as much-needed revitalization. Opponents saw it as old style urban renewal that would destroy the quality and character of the historic city. Finally after several developers, architects, compromises, and design changes, the center opened eight years later as Charleston Place.

Within the past decade emphasis has been placed on the preservation planning process. South Carolina now requires historic preservation in the legally mandated comprehensive planning process. Charleston 2000: The City of Charleston’s Comprehensive Plan spells out historic preservation goals as a major component. Since the city’s incorporation 215 years ago, Charlestonians have been aware of the need to preserve its urban environment. For nearly a century, citizens have acted to preserve the city’s most important buildings. And for the past 55 years urban planning have been a means to historic preservation. The work of individuals, organizations, and government have all contributed to the preservation of the city’s resources. More importantly it is the respect and cooperation each has shown to the other that makes the result unique. It is not a collection of buildings or the city’s urban structure that has made this city successful. It is its people.
What do some 2,300 local historic districts in the United States have in common? In each one, a majority of its residents have decided they want to keep the look and feel of the place they call “home” by adopting a local preservation ordinance, then creating a local preservation commission to administer it. Local legislation is one of the best ways to protect the historic character of buildings, streetscapes, neighborhoods, and special landmarks from inappropriate alterations, new construction, and other poorly conceived work, as well as outright demolition.

South Carolina state law allows communities to pass zoning ordinances to protect historic and architecturally valuable districts and neighborhoods by restricting or placing conditions on exterior alterations, additions, demolitions, or relocations of structures in those areas. Read these ordinances to better understand their value to the preservation movement.

SECTION 6-29-710 of the South Carolina Code of Laws. Zoning ordinances; purposes.

(A) Zoning ordinances must be for the general purposes of guiding development in accordance with existing and future needs and promoting the public health, safety, morals, convenience, order, appearance, prosperity, and general welfare. To these ends, zoning ordinances must be made with reasonable consideration of the following purposes, where applicable:

(1) to provide for adequate light, air, and open space;

(2) to prevent the overcrowding of land, to avoid undue concentration of population, and to lessen congestion in the streets;
(3) to facilitate the creation of a convenient, attractive, and harmonious community;

(4) to protect and preserve scenic, historic, or ecologically sensitive areas;

(5) to regulate the density and distribution of populations and the uses of buildings, structures and land for trade, industry, residence, recreation, agriculture, forestry, conservation, airports and approaches thereto, water supply, sanitation, protection against floods, public activities, and other purposes;

(6) to facilitate the adequate provision or availability of transportation, police and fire protection, water, sewage, schools, parks, and other recreational facilities, affordable housing, disaster evacuation, and other public services and requirements. “Other public requirements” which the local governing body intends to address by a particular ordinance or action must be specified in the preamble or some other part of the ordinance or action;

(7) to secure safety from fire, flood, and other dangers; and

(8) to further the public welfare in any other regard specified by a local governing body.

SECTION 6-29-720. Zoning districts; matters regulated; uniformity; zoning techniques.

(A) When the local planning commission has prepared and recommended and the governing body has adopted at least the land use element of the comprehensive plan as set forth in this chapter, the governing body of a municipality or county may adopt a zoning ordinance to help implement the comprehensive plan. The zoning ordinance shall create zoning districts of such number, shape, and size as the governing authority determines to be best suited to carry out the purposes of this chapter. Within each district the governing body may regulate:

(1) the use of buildings, structures, and land;

(2) the size, location, height, bulk, orientation, number of stories, erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, demolition, or removal in whole or in part of buildings and other structures, including signage;

(3) the density of development, use, or occupancy of buildings, structures, or land;

(4) the areas and dimensions of land, water, and air space to be occupied by buildings and structures, and the size of yards, courts, and other open spaces;

(5) the amount of off-street parking and loading that must be provided, and restrictions or requirements related to the entry or use of motor vehicles on the land;

(6) other aspects of the site plan including, but not limited to, tree preservation, landscaping, buffers, lighting, and curb cuts; and

(7) other aspects of the development and use of land or structures necessary to accomplish the purposes set forth throughout this chapter.
Reading Questions & Activities
Reading 1-PRESERVATION AS NATIONALISM
1. What role did Nationalism play in the early preservation of Charleston?
2. Why do you think private organizations and individuals like Susan Pringle Frost worked alone to preserve buildings? Why did most public or larger corporations ignore preservation in the early years?
3. The Charleston Exchange Building was a building in colonial Charleston, where many significant events of the American Revolution and early Federal period occurred. Why do you think organizations wanted to save buildings like this and not others? Why would organizations in the early 1900s avoid saving buildings important to the civil war or other more recent historical events?

Reading 2-FORMALIZATION OF AN ETHIC
1. Why did early organizations think restoring old buildings was important? What was their intent by restoring them?
2. What decisions could the Board of Architectural Review in Charleston make? Do you think Charleston’s preservation efforts would have been successful without the Board of Architectural Review and the Zoning Board of Adjustment?

Reading 3-MATURATION
1. What are some of the struggles that preservationists face when dealing with city and commercial growth?
2. How can preservation be used to help commercial growth?
3. Looking at the quote, “It is not a collection of buildings or the city’s urban structure that has made this city successful. It is the people,” why are individuals the most important driving force in successful preservation?
Activity One

Use what you learned about local ordinance in “The Power of Local Historic Preservation Ordinances” reading to determine whether each image represents a situation that would be deemed an ACCEPTABLE or UNACCEPTABLE regulation of the local historic district.

1 New regulations on speed and travel in a historic district were enforced

2 Blueprints for new construction in a historic district were denied by the local planning commission because the construction did not comply with zoning height limits

3 The local planning commission approved the demolition of a building in the historic district because it was non-contributing to the area’s history.
**Activity Two**

Adaptive use is “the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values.”

Take a look at the images and descriptions of historic sites in Charleston, South Carolina. Try and match up the building with its current use.

Developed in the late 19th century, the **William Enston Home** was comprised of 24 residential cottages. Enston was the home’s philanthropic benefactor, and stipulated that potential residents be the old and sick, from 45 to 75 years old, of “good honest character.”

Previously known as the Citadel Green, **Marion Square** is a 10 acre rectangular plot of land that was conveyed to the colony of South Carolina in 1758. The grounds of the Square served as a muster ground for the State Arsenal.
The **Market Hall and Sheds** are the only surviving market buildings in Charleston. The Market was the commercial hub of Charleston for many years and is an important part of the city’s commercial heritage.

**Dock Street Theatre** is Charleston’s last surviving hotel from the antebellum period. The hotel was used extensively by planters from the midlands of South Carolina, who traveled to Charleston during horse-racing season.

**Hibernian Hall** was built in 1840 to provide a meeting place for the Hibernian Society, an Irish benevolent organization founded in 1801. The first floor of the Hall was used for meetings, while the second floor was filled with hundreds of cots for the delegates.
The Old Slave Mart, located on one of Charleston’s few remaining cobblestone streets, is the only known extant building used as a slave auction gallery in South Carolina.

1. A museum of African American history, arts and crafts
2. The site of a new Holocaust Memorial
3. Serves as the location for many events, including an annual St. Patrick’s Day celebration, society balls and other brilliant social occasions
4. Home to the Charleston Stage Company, South Carolina’s largest professional theater production company, and houses the city’s Cultural Affairs office as well as The City Gallery, an exhibition space for local artists.
5. Occupied by The United Daughters of the Confederacy Museum on the second floor, and various shops underneath
6. Restored cottages are home to persons of low to moderate income
Activity Three

In groups, read this excerpt from Mount Vernon: A Letter to the Children of America written in 1859. Think about the following questions while reading and be prepared to discuss as a class how they relate to the other readings.

1. How does this excerpt compare to Reading 1? Does the author appeal to nationalism?

2. What does the author argue that Mount Vernon brings to the people of America?

3. What is the difference between reading about George Washington and visiting his home?

4. What is the author asking from the readers?

“You have all been taught from your cradles to honor the name of George Washington. Many of you already know that Mount Vernon was his home, where he lived and died. Far away, in the good State of Virginia, an old, gray, stone house, with tall piazza, and peaked roof, and overlooking cupola, stands on an elevated bank, which is beautifully shaded by many different trees, while the broad river Potomac flows grandly below — this is Mount Vernon. Good men love their homes. General Washington loved Mount Vernon very dearly. He loved those gray walls for the sake of the elder brother who had built them — Mr. Lawrence Washington, who, in boyhood, had been kind as a father to him. He loved the great woods, with their noble timber, and all the wild creatures sheltered there; he loved the broad farms with their rich crops, their fresh springs, the patient flocks, and the kindly cattle feeding on the sweet grass of the field. Our Heavenly Father has given many gracious blessings to a country home; and all these were enjoyed by General Washington, with a wisely thankful heart.

It is more than a hundred years since George Washington first lived at Mount Vernon. He went there a youth — a noble youth of fifteen, sound in body, ardent in temper, generous at heart, purely upright in word and in deed. Already, at that early day, he was fitting himself with care for the great work of life — by study, by forming healthy habits of body and of mind, by good thought and worthy action.

Pause awhile, dear children; turn eye and heart towards that quiet country home, on the banks of the Potomac. Remember all you have read, all that has been told to you, of the great man whose noble head was so long sheltered beneath that roof. Remember his honorable youth; see him first crossing the threshold of Mount Vernon, with his surveying instruments, when a growing lad
of sixteen; see him bravely making his way on foot, on horseback, through forests, over mountain and marsh, exposed to all winds and weathers, ever diligent, ever trustworthy, ever faithful to the task of the hour. See him when still a beardless lad, drawing maps, and making surveys, so correct in all their parts, that to this day practised lawyers turn to them in cases of doubt and dispute.

See him watching, in sickness, by the side of the kind brother who loved him so truly; see him intrusted with the guardianship of the little fatherless child, and the large property of that brother — he who was then himself but a youth under age. Well and honorably indeed must his first years of manhood have been passed, to justify such a trust!...

Children of America! brief and imperfect as this rapid sketch of a great life must appear to you, it may yet serve in some decree to warm anew your young hearts towards one of the greatest Christian patriots the world has ever seen. In some beautiful countries of the earth, my young friends, there are mountain heights, raising their hoary heads heavenward with so much of majesty, that even a dim and distant view, even a cloudy vision of their greatness, will deeply impress the beholder. Thus it is with the character of George Washington. The more we examine its just proportions, its beautiful points, its great moral power, the more deeply shall we become impressed with its admirable excellence. But even a brief and imperfect view must reveal enough to fill the thoughtful mind with feelings of very deep reverence.

Children of America! We come to you to-day, affectionately inviting you to take part in a great act of national homage to the memory, to the principles, to the character of George Washington. The solemn guardianship of the home, and of the grave, of General Washington is now offered to us, the women of the country. Happy are we, women of America, that a duty so noble is confided to us. And we, your countrywomen — your mothers, your sisters, your friends — would fain have you share with us this honorable, national service of love. From those of you into whose hands Providence has thrown coin, be it gold, or silver, or copper; we would ask a gift for the purse we are seeking to fill. More than a gift of small amount we should not consent to receive from either of your number. But with far more of earnestness we seek your warm and real sympathy. Whatever you may be enabled to give, be it bright dime, or clean copper, fresh from the mint, we ask that you give it feelingly — as a simple act of love and respect for the memory of the great man. It is the spirit thrown into every work which can alone give it true value. Let us then, my young friends, give to
the pious task in which we are working together, a heart and soul, as it were, in some degree worthy of the purpose. Let this work become, on our part, a public act of veneration for virtue — of respect for love of country in its highest form, pure, true, and conscientious — of loyalty to the Union, the vital principle of our national existence. Let it become, for each of us, a public pledge of respect for the Christian home, with all its happy blessings, its sacred restraints — of reverence for the Christian grave, the solemn mysteries, the glorious hopes, shrouded within it. Let it become a pledge of our undying gratitude to him who lies sleeping so calmly yonder, on the banks of the Potomac. Let it become a pledge of our thankfulness to heaven, for having granted to the country a man so truly great. And, my young friends, let this act become to ourselves a pledge that we shall endeavor — each in the natural sphere allotted to us by an All-wise Providence — to make a worthy use of the life and faculties granted to us by God; a pledge that we shall seek, in truth and sincerity, to follow all just and generous principles — striving to serve our God, our country, our fellow-men, with something of the uprightness, the wisdom, the fidelity, the humility, to be learned from the life of George Washington.”
Activity Four

Read the National Register of Historic Places nomination form for Charleston's Old Slave Mart. Understand what categories make this building significant to the National Register.

Then, think of a historic building in your area. Research why the building is historically or architecturally significant to your town, and write a brief statement of significance. Write this statement as if you were nominating this building or site to be included on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information on historical sites in your area, visit the following websites:

National Park Service Travel Itineraries document historic sites by state
http://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/onlineitin-trav.htm#alpha

The National Register of Historic Places provides many examples of historic sites and buildings already listed in each state and county
http://www.nps.gov/nr/research/

<table>
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<th>Present Use</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Residential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>Private</td>
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<td>Commercial</td>
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**1. Owner of Property**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs. Judith Wragg Chase and Mrs. Louisa Wragg Graves</td>
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<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>6 Chalmers Street</td>
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**5. Location of Legal Description**

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<tr>
<th>Courthouse</th>
<th>Registry of Deeds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Charleston</td>
<td>Register of Mesne Conveyance</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Street &amp; Number</th>
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<tr>
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**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

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<td>1973</td>
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<tr>
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<td>South Carolina Department of Archives and History</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City / Town</th>
<th>State / County / Local</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1430 Senate Street, Box 11,669 Capitol Station - Columbia, South Carolina</td>
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# DESCRIPTION

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAIR</td>
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### EXTERIOR:
Built in 1853 by Thomas Ryan and his partner, James Marsh, the Slave Mart has a stuccoed facade with octagonal pillars at either end. In *Slave Trading in the Old South*, Frederic Bancroft describes the building as "44 by 20 feet (with a) 22 by 78 foot yard in the rear. The facade resembles nothing seen elsewhere. On either side is a octagonal pillar more than 20 feet high, with a graceful arch between them. The Mart, a salesroom with a 20 foot ceiling, was light and airy, for the space below the arch was open, so that the auction table, about ten feet long and three feet high, might be placed lengthwise near it and allow room for the spectators to pass in and out and stand either inside of the building or in the street, according to the weather."

Stuccoed facade of the Slave Mart is unchanged. Alterations include extension of the rear of the building about 22 feet in 1922. In 1937 a wooden facade was inserted within the arch, a second floor added below the original roof, and the tile roof replaced with a tin roof.

Between the pillars is a central elliptical arch. Above the arch is a recessed panel. Area within the arch is of wood, and on the first level there are two doors flanking a 12/12 window. Above these bays is a recessed balcony of wood sheltering two plain wooden doors separated by 6/6 paired windows.

Following the War Between the States, the building was used as a tenement house and about 1922 was converted into an automobile salesroom. Old Slave Mart Museum was established in 1937.

### INTERIOR:
First floor consists of one room measuring 19 by 67 feet divided by a partition to separate office in the rear from the gift shop. Just inside the front door is an unenclosed staircase. Second floor (presently a museum) also consists of one room with a sloping roof and open-timbered ceiling. In the rear is a partition to enclose a storage area. Walls are of brick and stucco.

### SURROUNDING:
The Old Slave Mart, 6 Chalmers Street, is located within Charleston's Historic District. Chalmers Street is paved with cobblestones and has blue flagstone sidewalks. To the west of the Slave Mart is the German Fire Engine Company building, constructed in 1851. Brokers' offices once occupied the surrounding buildings. Area is presently residential and commercial.

Mart originally included two additional lots and three additional buildings, a jail or "Barracoon" to house slaves prior to sale, a kitchen, and a morgue. The back two lots were cut off in 1875 and the jail, kitchen, and morgue were demolished in the 20th Century. A parking lot is now located to the rear of the museum.

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SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD

PREHISTORIC
1400-1499
1600-1669
1800-1899
1900-

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE - CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

ARCHAEOLOGY PREHISTORIC
ARCHAEOLOGY HISTORIC
AGRICULTURE
ARCHITECTURE
ART
COMMERCIAL
COMMUNICATIONS

COMMUNITY PLANNING
CONSERVATION
ECONOMICS
EDUCATION
ENGINEERING
EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
LAW
LITERATURE
MILITARY
MUSIC
PHILOSOPHY

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
RELIGION
SCIENCE
SCULPTURE
SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
THEATER
TRANSPORTATION
OTHER (SPECIFY)

Black History

SPECIFIC DATES

1853

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Now a museum devoted to preserving and interpreting black history, the Old Slave Mart was originally a commercial building used for slave trading and other transactions from 1853 until the War Between the States. The stuccoed building with its rounded arch entrance, an integral part of the Charleston Historic District, is a visual reminder of commercial activities of antebellum South Carolina.

ARCHITECTURE: The Old Slave Mart, built in 1853, has elements of Gothic and Romanesque revival architecture with its massive octagonal pillars and arched entrance. The building is a vital part of the streetscape and contributes to the overall quality of the Charleston Historic District.

BLACK HISTORY: This building is probably the only extant building used as a slave auction gallery in antebellum South Carolina. Built for former Charleston sheriff and alderman Thomas Ryan, the Mart was also used by other principal brokers (auctioneers) of the time. Goods sold at the Mart were probably varied since most of the auctioneers also advertised as "agents for the purchase and sale of real estate, stocks, and bonds." During this period, advertisements for auctions held at the Chalmers Street Mart appeared in newspapers of New Orleans, Memphis, and Galveston.

The Old Slave Mart is today a museum of black history and slave crafts, as well as a gift shop. Collections of the upstairs museum are being catalogued as a research source for projects on black history through a grant from the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1/100 of an acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

0 0 0

C

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE
Nenie Dixon Elias B. Bull

ORGANIZATION
South Carolina Department of Archives & History

DATE
February 12, 1975

ADDRESS
1430 Senate Street Box 11,669 Capitol Station

(803) 738-5816

STATE Historic Preservation OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL _____ STATE _____ LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Pub. Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

FEDERAL AGENCY

TITLE
Charles E. Lee

State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE 2/29/76

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5/1/76

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 5-2-76
Answer Key

Activity 1

1. **Acceptable** (“restrictions or requirements related to the entry or use of motor vehicles on the land”)
2. **Acceptable** (“the size, location, height, bulk, orientation, number of stories, erection, construction, reconstruction, alteration, demolition, or removal in whole or in part of buildings and other structures”)
3. **Acceptable** (“construction, reconstruction, alteration, demolition, or removal in whole or in part of buildings”)

Activity 2

1. F
2. B
3. E
4. D
5. C
6. A
Sources


Glossary

Alterations—the act or process of changing something

Chapters—the people in a certain area who make up one section of a large organization

Commercial—concerned with earning money

Demolition—deliberate destruction of a building or other structure

Detrimental—causing damage or injury

Economic—relating to the process or system by which goods and services are produced, sold, and bought

Entrepreneurial—a person who starts a business and is willing to risk loss in order to make money

Ethic—a belief that something is very important

Inaugurate—to introduce

Mandate—an authoritative command

Nationalism—a feeling that people have of being loyal to and proud of their country often with the belief that it is better and more important than other countries

Nonprofit—not existing or done for the purpose of making a profit

Ordinance—a law or regulation made by a city or town government

Rehabilitation—to bring (someone or something) back to a good condition

Renewal—the state of being made new, fresh, or strong again

Revitalization—to make (someone or something) active, healthy, or energetic again

Zoning—the act of distinguishing sections in a city or town that are used for particular purposes