



Preservation South Carolina

*Dedicated to Preserving and Protecting the Historic
Structures of South Carolina*

A Non-Profit Membership Organization Working for South Carolinians Since 1990

Headlines + Happenings

February 21, 2023



David Drake "Dave the Potter" | *Celebrating Black History Month*

Located at the Charleston, McKissick, South Carolina, and (recently) the Metropolitan museums, you will find exhibits showcasing large pairs of stoneware vessels, some big enough to hold over 40 gallons. Their mass and craftsmanship beg the question: Who created them, how were they coiled, lifted, carried to a kiln, and still survive over 200 years later?

David Drake, also known as Dave the Potter, among many other nicknames, was one of such artisans from the 19th century whose skill and craftsmanship is unparalleled. Drake was born into enslavement around 1801 in Edgefield, SC. Little is known of Drake's life. What is known can be taken from his large stoneware vessels.

Taking the surname of Harvey Drake after emancipation, Drake worked in the potteries of Landrumsville, an enterprise of both enslaved and freedman in Edgefield that produced and sold the alkaline glazed stoneware across much of the northeast. Located just a mile from downtown Edgefield, this pottery village was opened by Harvey Drake and his uncle, Abner Landrum. There, young Drake learned how to

make stoneware vessels. He also learned another skill: reading and writing.

In the decades to come, Drake would make many pots indeed for utilitarian use, and on them, short, poetic inscriptions.

Drake's first known poem was written on a jar produced at Landrumsville (now known as Pottersville), it reads:

*put every bit all between
surely this Jar will hold 14
July 12, 1834*

These remarkable pots created by David Drake tell a story of southern history unique to Edgefield, and reminds us of the many enslaved craftsmen from Edgefield that we will never know.

And one last note—Preservation South Carolina is proud to be working with the town of Edgefield in the restoration of the last remaining structure of Pottersville and by doing so, ensure that the name David Drake is always remembered.

A few Black Landmarks to visit this Black History Month

For the last few decades, many significant African American landmarks have disappeared or are at-risk. In efforts to tell the full American story, these places must be saved. Here's a few that you should visit -



- **Aiken Rhett House** - Slave Dwellings, Downtown Charleston
- **Penn Center**, St. Helena Island
- **Robert Smalls House**, Beaufort
- **Rosenwald Schools** in South Carolina
- **St. Thomas Church**, Eastover
- **Carver Theatre**, Columbia

Browse more African American cultural sites at: **The Green Book of SC**, a travel guide to over 400 heritage sites across SC.



Preservation SC Event at the Curtiss-Wright Hangar in Columbia

DATE: March 1st

Behind-The-Scenes Tour of the Curtiss-Wright Hangar in Columbia! Join us at the Hangar, the one-time host to personalities such as Amelia Earhart and President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as we learn about its history and adaptive-reuse into a popular brewery.

Event includes 2 complementary drinks and appetizers | Free to PSC members (Please RSVP with Joanna Rothell at Joanna@PreserveSC.org or by calling 803-729-7782 | Get your **tickets** today!

2023 South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards

Nominations are open!



We are excited to once again team up with the **South Carolina Department of Archives and History** and the **Office of the Governor** in sponsoring SC's statewide Historic Preservation Awards.

Each year thousands of South Carolinians work to preserve the state's legacy that is reflected in our historic buildings, structures, and sites. Since 1995, the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Preservation South Carolina, and the Office of the Governor, have recognized exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage with a series of statewide awards.

Deadline is April 1, 2023 | [**SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATION HERE**](#)

We can't do all of this amazing work without your continued support. Please join us in our efforts to ensure South Carolina's historic places are not lost!

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