



# 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*

January 19, 2023



### One of Union's Oldest Homes The Dawkins House

Located at the end of N. Church Street in downtown Union is an unassuming building that does not outwardly show its history as the one-time state capital of SC during the Civil War. The Dawkins House, circa 1845, is a 4,500+ square-foot Federal-style home tucked away on the University of South Carolina-Union campus. It is also a “terminus” home in that it is located and its front door is at the end of N. Church Street, which connects to Highway 176, the main route from Union to Columbia.

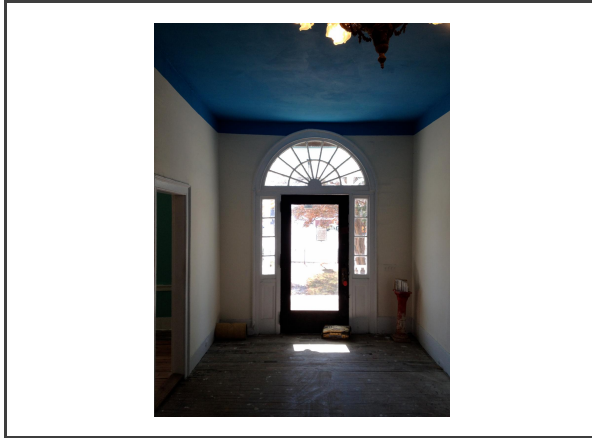
The Dawkins House is most notably regarded as the former home of Judge Thomas N. Dawkins and his second wife, Mary Poulton Dawkins. Initially named "the Shrubs" after Mary Poulton's childhood home in England, this two-story, clapboard building has a grand stature, with five bedrooms, two parlors, and eight fireplaces.

During the Civil War, the state capitol would move four times with the intent of avoiding capture and destruction. Though Judge Dawkins was overtly a Unionist, he

was held in high regard by his peers, including friend, Gov. Andrew Magrath. In 1865, Dawkins offered "the Shrubs" as the temporary state headquarters of SC.

Judge Dawkins, despite his personal residence in the South, was a staunch Unionist amongst many Secessionists of the time. He remained cordial, however, and would continue to serve as an elected official during the Reconstruction era.

When Judge Dawkins built his house in 1845 with Federal and Georgian architectural attributes, it was added onto a pre-existing structure. Portions of the pre-existing structure may date back to as far as the 1790s, making it one of Union's oldest homes, existing at the time of George Washington's and John Adams' presidencies. Much of the historic fabric is still intact today.



**In October 2022, Preservation South Carolina acquired the future rights to the Dawkins House at a property tax sale. It is our intent to work with the community to not only find a purpose for this significant building, but also to ensure it will be standing for another 177 years.**

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## Preservation News

### 35 Historic Black Churches to Receive \$4 Million

Out of the 35 black churches across the United States to receive funding through the National Trust's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, is one close to home.

The First African Baptist Church in Beaufort, SC is to receive funding from the National Trust. Initially used as a praise house in 1863, and later a school during the Civil War, this sacred space tells the story of the Reconstruction era, and is an anchor to the community. Funding will be used for major repairs that will ensure the church's use as a worship center and tourist destination for future generations.

To view entire list [click here](#).

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## PreservationSC Advocacy

St. Helena Island / Pine Island

As South Carolina's only statewide historic preservation organization, we advocate for the preservation and

protection of our state's architectural heritage.

We were recently informed by our Gullah-Geechee and Coastal Conservation partners of a proposed development on St. Helena/Pine Island that would impact the island's historic and cultural significant sites.



*Penn Center of St. Helena Island*

The Pine Island development, located within the ACE Basin, will, if approved, pose a direct threat to not only the significant sites but also to landscapes important to Gullah culture, one of SC's most distinct cultural expressions. We stand with the Coastal Conservation League, the Gullah-Geechee community, Penn Center, and residents of the island in opposing updates to zoning policies that would allow for destructive development.

The proposed zoning amendment will go before City Council January 23, 2023.

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## Giving Back to South Carolina is Good for Business

### PSC Business Member Highlight



Since 1990, generous contributions on the part of the business community have helped Preservation South Carolina save our state's historic landmarks.

**Charleston Underground Archaeological Services** | For over 20 years, Charleston Underground Archaeological Services has worked throughout the southeast with private landowners as well as multiple nonprofit organizations to document and preserve the archaeological resources under their care. A principal focus of CUAS is the locating, marking, and mapping of lost or unmarked burials at historic cemeteries, both public and private. You may contact our office at 843-817-2769 or online at [Charlestonarchaeology.com](http://Charlestonarchaeology.com). ***Thank you for supporting PSC!***

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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!