



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

June 14, 2022



Sacred Spaces Series: A New Life for Pelzer Church

If you ever wondered why our work includes the preservation of historic places of worship - even when there's no active congregation left to run them - the former Pelzer Presbyterian Church is a great example. Though we were not involved with the restoration of this "sacred space," the owners, Celina Weems and Thomas Watson invited us to take a tour, so we could show you one of many possibilities for future use of a building such as this.

Built in 1896, this church was one of five sanctuaries in Pelzer. In 1905, a second story was added to the church for Sunday School. Pelzer was founded in the 19th century as a mill town around several mill sites. But like so many other mill towns, the optimism of the 1920s would dissipate, eventually leaving empty houses and closed churches, such as Pelzer Presbyterian.

In just a few short years, Celina and Thomas have converted office space and Sunday School rooms into a warm and appealing place to say, "I do." While

their work continues, they are already accepting reservations for fall weddings. For those looking for a unique and personal setting, the historic Pelzer Presbyterian Church building, might be the ticket.

Their remarkable story of breathing life back into this church is an example of how to repurpose a "sacred space" and is an inspiration to the preservation community!



Celina and Thomas talk with PSC's Joanna Rothell about the restoration and repurpose of their church.

As we toured the back rooms, we were amazed at the beauty and care with which Celina and Thomas took in their rehabilitation.



The pioneering restoration of Pelzer Church by Celina and Thomas serves as an example of what can be done with a church, even without a congregation.

Please contact Celina Weems at, cel276gvil@aol.com, with your inquires, questions, and congratulations.

Stay tuned for more highlights of groups and individuals doing

the great work of preservation across South Carolina!

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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