

Exhibit 1

HISTORY OF THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE MUSEUM

The State Museum idea took root in the late 1960s, as the state prepared to celebrate its Tricentennial. Encouraged by Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, director of the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, the University of South Carolina invited Dr. Eugene Kingman of the Joslyn Museum in Omaha, Nebraska, to visit the state and appraise the prospects of creating a state museum. After interviewing a number of museum directors and state officials, Kingman endorsed the idea of a central museum dealing with science, history and art. A steering committee of interested museum professionals was appointed to promote the idea.

As part of its Tricentennial observance, the state sponsored an exhibition dealing with South Carolina history. Housed in two temporary geodesic domes on the grounds of the Hampton-Preston House in Columbia, the exhibits attracted 135,000 visitors and gave evidence of the public's interest in the state's heritage. As the Tricentennial closed, the steering committee, more committed than ever to the state museum concept, actively lobbied the legislature and the governor.

In 1971 Gov. John C. West appointed a committee of legislators and citizens to study the feasibility of establishing a state museum. Having determined that the functions of a state museum were not being fulfilled by any commission, department or agency of state government, the committee concluded: "if we want a society which is concerned with more than the barest necessities, and if we want our children and citizens to know something of their heritage, the assets of our state and the direction of South Carolina's progress into the future, A STATE MUSEUM IS ESSENTIAL FOR THESE PURPOSES."

With that statement in mind, the General Assembly in 1973 enacted H1612 as the enabling legislation for a state museum. The act created a South Carolina Museum commission of nine members, one from each of the six congressional districts and three at large. Governor West appointed Guy F. Lipscomb, Jr. of Columbia as chairman and named seven prominent South Carolinians to work with him.

To begin its work the Commission named William E. Scheele as director, approved a staff of three to assist him and authorized the engagement of appropriate consultants and part-time employees to carry out initial surveys and planning.

The staff quickly set out to assess the museum-related resources of the state and to establish contacts with institutions of higher education, with private collectors, and with museums and related organizations in South Carolina and other states. These efforts helped the staff and the Commission to crystallize their thinking about the proper role of the future State Museum.

In support of the state museum concept, the trustees of the Columbia Museums of Art and Science generously offered to the state their land, their physical plant and the use of their collections. Consequently, initial planning efforts focused on the site of the Columbia

Museums, the block bordered by Senate, Bull, Gervais and Pickens streets. The Commission planned for the State Museum to be part of a cultural complex that would include a performing arts auditorium built by the University of South Carolina and a new headquarters for South Carolina ETV. By the end of fiscal year 1976-77, consultants for the Commission had completed schematic plans for the site and building and a draft of an exhibit plan.

In that same year William Scheele resigned as director and was replaced by David C. Sennema, a former director of the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Both the staff and the commission members recognized that further architectural and site planning was necessary in order to assess the practicality of the schematic architectural design. After obtaining a federal grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Commission engaged E. Verner Johnson and Associates, Inc., of Boston, specialists in museum design, to guide the staff through the initial stages of a master plan. With the assistance of Johnson and 19 museum professionals from around the country who served as consultants, a five-year plan was prepared and the initial sections of a master plan brought to a well-developed stage.

This process eventually led the Commission to conclude that the Columbia Museum site was inadequate. After considering a number of alternative locations, the Commission selected a 53-acre tract on the west bank of the Saluda River opposite the Riverbanks Zoo.

In the spring of 1979 the Commission received a \$59,000 capital appropriation to complete a master plan for the Saluda River site.

Working closely with the staff, the consultants completed the master plan in January 1980. At that time the cost of the new museum, including the development of nature trails and the construction of an aerial tramway linking the museum and the zoo, was estimated at \$24 million. One year later, when the Commission applied for capital funds, inflation had pushed the cost to \$26 million.

In this time of double-digit inflation and fiscal stringency, Gov. Richard Riley opposed the construction of a new building. He suggested instead that the Commission rehabilitate an existing structure. Several buildings were inspected, but none provided the high ceilings and large open spaces that contemporary exhibit techniques require. For a time it appeared that no available building in the Columbia area was suitable; then an exciting new opportunity arose.

In the fall of 1980 Mount Vernon Mills, Inc., announced plans to close its old cotton duck mill in Columbia. While accepting a donation of some of the mill's materials to the State Museum, Dr. Rodger Stroup, the curator of history, had an opportunity to see the facility. His report of the vast spaces available in the building led Sennema and some of the Commission members to consider the possibility of locating the State Museum there. Museum planner Verner Johnson gave the building an enthusiastic endorsement.

Governor Riley also recognized the mill's potential and encouraged the Commission to pursue it.

With the governor's support the Commission applied for capital funds to acquire and renovate the mill. Some tense legislative maneuvering ensued, and for a time the museum's prospects looked dim. Then Governor Riley personally intervened, arranging for the Mount Vernon Mill Company to give the mill to the state. Four months later, on December 7, 1981, a day that in South Carolina history will live not in infamy but in gratitude, officials of Mount Vernon Mills formally donated the mill complex and site to the state.

Following the donation of the building, the Commission took steps to develop schematic plans for locating the museum within the structure.

Recognizing that the building had more space than the museum could effectively use, the planners set aside an entire wing for possible use by other state agencies. They decided to locate the museum in the east portion of the L-shaped structure, an area that encompassed about 225,000 square feet.

In view of the limited budget, the staff planned to develop the museum in three phases. The first phase, projected at about 80,000 square feet, would include office space, some storage, about 30,000 square feet of exhibits and an exhibit workshop located in an adjacent warehouse building. The second phase would add about 40,000 square feet, mostly exhibits and storage space. The third phase would bring in an auditorium, multi-purpose meeting room, a discovery room (an area where visitors could handle objects), a museum store and a large changing gallery for art. It was estimated that the three phases would take 10 to 15 years to complete.

Then in late 1984, the project took a dramatic new turn. The State Budget and Control Board announced that it was selling the former mill to a group of private investors, which would renovate the entire building and lease it back to the state. This arrangement gave the Commission the opportunity to develop a programmatically complete facility in the opening phase.

The Budget and Control Board arranged tenants for the non-museum areas of the building. They were the South Carolina Tax Commission and the State Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped. The Board also agreed to provide space for the City of Columbia's Tourist Information Bureau and Welcome Center, a development of particular interest to the museum since it promised to bring large numbers of visitors to the museum's doorstep.

Governor Riley announced this innovative financial arrangement to the public in July 1985 and the way was cleared for construction to begin. Several weeks after this agreement was consummated, David Sennema resigned as director and was replaced in November 1985 by Dr. Overton G. Ganong, former deputy director of programs for the State Museum.

A significant advancement in the project was made in November 1986 when the staff of the State Museum actually moved into the renovated building. With the occupation of the building's offices, work continued at a steady pace during the remainder of 1986-87. During 1987-88, staff members were even busier as the opening of the museum on October 29, 1988 approached.

Since that opening, to the Commission and on the staff, the public response to the museum has been most gratifying. More than 240,000 visitors from every county in South Carolina, from all 50 states and from 39 foreign countries visited the museum in its first year, including about 84,000 students who have taken advantage of free study visits and tours. The State Museum is a success made possible by many.

Mission:

Through innovative partnerships, comprehensive collections, and stimulating exhibits and programs, The South Carolina State Museum provides educational environments that entertain, inspire imagination and creativity, and enrich the lives of visitors.

Vision:

The South Carolina State Museum is an ever-changing, innovative institution reflecting the essence and diversity of South Carolina, a catalyst for the cultural and educational development of our state and a model among museums nationally.

Values:

We are committed to our Guests.

We value creativity, integrity, scholarship and innovation.

We are committed to the educational improvement of all of South Carolina's school children.

We provide opportunities for people to learn and have fun.

We create an open, learning, engaging environment for families and community to gather.