

**Culture & Heritage Commission
Board of Commissioners Meeting
February 25, 2025
6:00 PM
Museum of York County**

Person Presiding: David Duncan

Members Present: George Sheppard, David Duncan, Margaret Parson-Willins, Annie Laurie Wheat, and Katie Williams

Members Absent: Dorothy Johnson

Ex Officio Members Present: Katie Rutland and Eddie Lee

Ex Officio Members Absent:

Staff Present: Richard Campbell, Dabney Scholler, Jillian Bingham, and Sarah Lewis

Others: Michelle Totherow

Call to Order

- David Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:00pm
- David Duncan presented the minutes from the January 28th meeting and asked for changes or corrections.
 - No corrections to be made, minutes are accepted as written.

Calendar Review

- March
 - Budget Review
 - 990 Review

Reports and Presentations

- Director's Report
 - *Presented by Richard Campbell*
 - Visitation
 - CHM site-wide visitation for the month of January, visitation totaled four thousand, six hundred and twenty-five. Year-to-date visitation totaled thirty-nine thousand, nine hundred and eighty-nine.
 - School Groups
 - For the month of January, school group visitation totaled three hundred and fifty-eight and year-to-date visitation totaled five thousand, five hundred and one.
 - Membership
 - Membership has increased by one hundred and twenty-seven new memberships and sixty-five renewals, with a total revenue of \$10,605. Year-to-

date memberships total seven hundred and seventy and three hundred and forty-three renewals, with a revenue of \$55,510. The CHM overall memberships are at one thousand, three hundred and sixty-four.

- Past Events

- Living History Saturday: "By Way of the Back Door: Daily Life"
 - Every Saturday in February, from 10am to 4pm, Historic Brattonsville hosted "By Way of the Back Door", which focused on the lives of the enslaved people in the 18th century and their contributions to the American Revolution. This month-long event provided visitors with a unique perspective on this often-overlooked aspect of history.
 - We don't have the total yet but will, once we roll up the numbers, including this past Saturday, February 22nd.
- Art for My Valentine
 - On February 1st at the the Main Street Children's Museum, twenty-nine visitors enjoyed a drop-in workshop, making heart-shaped keepsakes for those that they love.
- Feed the Birds with Us
 - Also on February 1st, the Museum of York County hosted a drop-in program from 11am to 1pm, where forty-eight attendees learned about the commonly-seen birds in the Piedmont and the foods that they prefer. Attendees also made pinecone bird feeders to take home.
- How Can You Become a Climate Hero?
 - On February 7th, the Main Street Children's Museum invited visitors to explore The National Children's Museum exhibit, *Climate Action Heroes*. Through interactive displays, visitors discovered their climate hero identities.
- Harry Potter Science Saturday
 - We had a fantastic turnout for Harry Potter Science Saturday at the Museum of York County. Six hundred and forty-nine visitors explored the science behind the magic of Harry Potter. The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback from our visitor surveys.
- In Your Face with the Space Race
 - On February 15th, visitors at the Museum of York County participated in Space Race-themed activities and a moon-themed craft. Forty-nine visitors also enjoyed a planetarium show that focused on the historic competition between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War, and the triumph of the Apollo 11 mission.
- Community Heroes Day
 - From 9am to 11am on February 21st, the Museum of York County hosted community heroes such as the fire and police departments. This gave visitors the opportunity to meet with people who positively impact our community and participants created thank you cards to show their appreciation. Visitors also had the chance to see police vehicles and a fire truck! We will have a final attendance count soon.
- Enslaved Ancestral Burial Ground Reconsecration

- On February 22nd, the Brattonsville Descendants Community held a reconsecration ceremony to honor their ancestors. The majority of the commissioners were in attendance. Margaret Parson-Willins did a great job, Historic Brattonsville staff did a great job preparing the site for the event, and we generated the media coverage that we wanted for the event. A special thank you for Katie Rutland who assisted Marketing with press releases. The public opening will take place on March 15th. We will be holding a meeting to finalize on Friday. We will be preparing invitations for members, Council, and dignitaries. Admission to the site will be free that day and visitors will have the opportunity to speak with those involved in the project, ranging from archeologists to staff to Descendants. A living History Saturday will also be going on throughout the day.
 - David Duncan gave a special shoutout to Margaret Parson-Willins for this awesome event.
 - Upcoming Events
 - The Women of Brattonsville
 - Throughout the month of March, Historic Brattonsville will focus on the lives of the women in the 18th and 19th centuries, both enslaved and free. Each Saturday will focus on a theme ranging from chores to leisure activities, accompanied by a 2pm tour of the site.
 - Gnome Day
 - On March 22nd, the Main Street Children's Museum will host Gnome Day, celebrating artist Vernon Grant and his love for gnomes. Visitors will be able to engage in activities such as music making with Glen the Frog, helping a gnome find his shoe, and creating their own gnome home with paper dolls.
 - CHM Project Updates
 - 2025-2026 Budget
 - We did wrap up our Budgets, they began the first week of February and finished up last Friday, with everything on schedule and on point. We will present the Budget to the Commission at the March Board Meeting, as well as the 990.
 - Enslaved Ancestral Burial Grounds
 - A few finalities remain to be completed over the next week, we will have the public opening on March 15th, as previously discussed.
 - Lowry Family Theatre Repair
 - Bennett Preservation Engineering visited the site on January 29th and 30th to attempt to lift the "house" trusses and identified between the shoring drawings and the actual installation. As a result, the lift was postponed until the issues were addressed. On January 30th, Bennett Preservation Engineering finalized the truss connection templates and the subcontractors are working to correct the inconsistencies. The details for finalizing the lift are projected for mid-March.
 - Col. Bratton Cabin Preservation Project

- CHM Preservation is preparing to stabilize the floor framing around the chimney. The consolidation of the decayed chimney girt is complete, and we are preparing to sister the girt with pressure-treated timbers. Additionally, floorboards in the main room's closet are being removed to facilitate the replacement of the decayed trimmer at the chimney. Once this is completed, work will begin on repairing the decayed log wall. CHM Preservation Specialist Sara Johnson has successfully re-laid the hearth and apron of the fireplace in the east addition.
- Homestead House Preservation Project
 - Midwest Maintenance, Inc. is working to install HydroStop over the second-floor floorboards of the portico. However, the installation requires the temperature to be 45°F or higher. The news came in today that work will be taking place next week.
- National Historic Landmark
 - On August 9, 2023, staff submitted a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the National Park Service to have Historic Brattonsville considered for National Historic Landmark status due to its association with James Williams. On January 31st, we received notification from our regional representative that they are near completing their review of our inquiry and require a few additional details. Staff is currently working to provide the requested information. Once these details are addressed, we will be invited to apply for National Historic Landmark status, which is an important milestone for the site.
 - Richard Campbell asked Eddie Lee to elaborate on the importance of this.
 - Eddie Lee stated that we need to keep our fingers crossed on the preservation funds. If the funds are made available, we need to act on it because the preservation funds will go quickly and we want to make sure that we get it, before it is cut. Same with the McCelvey project, there is \$450,000 in the State Archives Budget that is supposed to be for McCelvey, if that money does not get transferred to the County it will be gone.
 - Richard Campbell said that we will reach out to them, they only wanted to release the amount of the bid that came back and due to the delay and cost, they released those additional funds. That is what is remaining and that's how they wanted to do it.
 - Katie Rutland asked if we knew how long it takes once we've applied for the landmark status.
 - Richard Campbell said that he didn't know. Eddie Lee said it just depends how quickly that the Department of the Interior can move the applications.
 - Richard Campbell said we would reach out to the State to see if we could get the funds released.
- Planetarium Seat Upgrade

- The purchase order for the new planetarium seats has been finalized with Sedia Systems, selections for the finishes have been made, and the deposit has been paid. Installation of the seats is tentatively scheduled for early-April. We expect the planetarium to be closed from April 8th until April 22nd for the seat replacement.
- Hightower Hall Gutter Replacement
 - CHM Preservation has submitted a draft Invitation for Bids for the installation of copper half-round gutters on the north, east, and south sides of Hightower Hall to York County Procurement for review as of February 6th. The project will proceed once feedback on the draft is received from Procurement.
- Jefferson High School Historical Marker
 - The historical marker for Jefferson High School is set to be produced at the end of March and will take two to four weeks to fabricate and ship. Staff met with the Jefferson Alumni group to discuss potential dates for the unveiling ceremony, with Saturday, June 21st or June 28th being the preferred dates. Staff is currently coordinating with the Superintendent of York School District 1 to confirm the availability of those dates.

[Note: A full copy of the Director's Report is attached to these minutes as Addendum A]

Committee Reports

- Collections Committee
 - *Presented by Jillian Bingham*
 - TC454
 - .001- Small (13" x 11.25") quilt, possibly a wall hanging, featuring a brown cat, made or donated by a York County Quilters Guild member in 2005
 - .002- York County Quilters Guild patch
 - Donor Name: Jillian Bingham
 - TC464
 - .001A-G – Vernon Grant illustrated Kellogg's Rice Krispies store display featuring seven cardboard train cars carrying fruit, cereal, and milk; c. 1940
 - Donor Name: Mark Shutte (eBay ID: mattmasoncaptainactionboydrevil)
 - TC469
 - 8-track tape storage case filled with 24 8-tracks, dating from 1969-1979. Found in HB's Preservation Office (1530 Brattonsville Road). Itemized inventory attached.
 - Donor Name: Historic Brattonsville- Preservation Office
 - TC474
 - 3 receipt books for Mackorell Brothers Wholesale Grocers in Yorkville
 - Donor Name: Beth Johnston
 - TC/NA

- 001 – ChristmasVille 2024 square promotional button featuring Vernon Grant’s Santa’s Christmas Wish
- .002 – ChristmasVille 2024 square enamel lapel pin featuring Vernon Grant’s Santa’s Christmas Wish
 - Donor Name: Field Collection
- ED2010.002.001
 - .001- Teacher desk used at York Graded School (present day McCelvey Center), c. 1940
 - Donor Name: James Ramere
- David Duncan asked for any questions, there were none.
 - This group of items has come from the Collections Committee.
 - David Duncan called for a vote to accept the items to the Collection.
 - A vote was taken and the acceptance passed.

[Note: Copy of the above Recommendations for Accession are attached to these minutes as Addendum B]

- 2025-2030 Collecting Plan
 - Jillian Bingham summarized the 2025-2030 Collecting Plan
 - We were accredited in 2016 by the American Alliance of Museums and it was identified that we did not have a Collecting Plan.
 - Purpose of the Plan
 - This can be used by staff as a guide when encountering donations, for the Collections Committee and the Culture and Heritage Commission to see what we collect over the next five years. It is not a policy; it is just a plan.
 - Audience for the Plan
 - Development of the Plan
 - Evaluating and Revising the Plan
 - History of the Organization
 - Mission Statements
 - Organizational Values
 - Accessioning Process
 - Mission Ratings
 - Archives, Art, History, Natural History
 - Deaccessioning Process
 - Collections
 - Anthropology, Archeology, Archives, Art, History, Natural History

- Approved by Collection Committee, presented to the Culture and Heritage Commission for transparency
 - George Sheppard asked if it was a living document or does it have to stay within the five years, can we open it up three years from now and edit it?
 - Jillian Bingham confirmed that it was a living document and can be edited, because it is a plan and not a policy.
- Annie Laurie Wheat asked if we have had objects that were hazardous to the Collection or human contact.
 - Jillian Bingham explained that many objects were treated with arsenic in the past. In 2018, the Collections department worked to inventory an African bird collection and worked with a HazMat company to dispose of. The Culture and Heritage Commission did approve of their deaccession before they were disposed of. Dr. Steve Fields and Jillian Bingham have an arsenic testing procedure in place to test everything in the Naturalist Center if it was donated prior to 1980. Some items have been tagged as non-touchable, and has been stored. The nitrate film that was deaccessioned recently was also a hazardous material.

[Note: Copy of the 2025-2030 Collection Plan is attached to these minutes as Addendum C]

- The Collections Committee is presenting a new member to the committee to fill George Feindel's vacant spot. Sarah Lowry is a descendant of Historic Brattonsville and a volunteer, she would be a great addition to the Collections Committee.
 - David Duncan stated that this recommendation came from the Collections Committee, he called for a vote, a vote was taken, and the vote passed.
- Finance Committee
 - *Presented by Margaret Parson-Willins*
 - Nothing to report, everything looks good
- Governance Committee
 - *Presented by Annie Laurie Wheat*
 - Nothing to report, everything looks good

Executive Session

- Executive Session not necessary

Old Business

- None

New Business

- None

Commission Member New/Non-agenda Comments

- George Sheppard wanted to thank Margaret Parson-Willins for the phenomenal presentation of the Reconsecration of the Enslaved Burial Grounds and wanted to express his gratitude.

Adjourn

- David Duncan entertained a motion to adjourn
 - Annie Laurie Wheat made a motion
 - Margaret Parson-Willins seconded the motion
 - Meeting adjourned at 6:49pm

Prepared by: Dabney Scholler

Submitted by: Margaret Parson-Willins, Secretary/Treasurer

Culture and Heritage Museums Director's Report February 25, 2025

Mission: to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.

Total Served – January 2025

- Total Served: 4,625
 - Museum of York County: 2,402
 - Historic Brattonsville: 227
 - Main Street Children's Museum: 1,914
 - Historical Center of York County: 82
- Total Served year-to-date: 39,989
 - Museum of York County: 18,049
 - Historic Brattonsville: 7,288
 - Main Street Children's Museum: 16,659
 - Historical Center of York County: 993

School Groups – January 2025

- Total school group visitation: 358
 - Museum of York County: 347
 - Historic Brattonsville: 11
 - Main Street Children's Museum: 0
- Year-to-date: 5,501
 - Museum of York County: 2,994
 - Historic Brattonsville: 2,254
 - Main Street Children's Museum: 253

Membership – January 2025

- New memberships: 127
- Renewal memberships: 65
- Membership revenue: \$10,605
- Year-to-date memberships: 770
- Year-to date renewal memberships: 343
- Year-to-date membership revenue: \$55,510
- Total Memberships: 1,364

Past Events

Living History Saturday: "By Way of the Back Door: Daily Life" (HB)

Each Saturday in February, historic interpreters and costumed volunteers led our annual living history program, focusing on the lives of enslaved people in the 18th century and their contributions to the American Revolution. "By Way of the Back Door" took place from 10am to 4pm, providing visitors with a unique perspective on this often-overlooked aspect of history.

Art for My Valentine (MSCM)

On February 1, young guests participated in a workshop during the morning play session, creating heart-shaped keepsakes using their thumbs, ink, and paper. A total of 29 children joined in on the fun to make these personalized, memorable gifts.

Feed the Birds with Us (MYCO)

Also on February 1, visitors took part in a drop-in program from 11am to 1pm, learning about the birds commonly seen in the Piedmont region and the foods they prefer. Participants made their own pinecone bird feeders to take home, and we had 48 individuals join the activity.

How Can You Become a Climate Hero? (MSCM)

On February 7, the Main Street Children's Museum invited visitors to explore The National Children's Museum's *Climate Action Heroes* exhibit. Through interactive displays, participants discovered their climate hero identity—whether as a Community Captain, Arbor Avenger, Pollinator Patrol, Water Warrior, or Mighty Meteorologist.

Harry Potter Science Saturday (MYCO)

Held on February 8, this annual special event attracted 649 visitors who explored the science behind the magic of Harry Potter, including potions (chemical reactions), herbology (real-world herbal medicine), and fantastic beasts (real creatures with amazing abilities). The event received overwhelmingly positive feedback.

In Your Face with the Space Race (MYCO)

On February 15, from 11am to 2pm, guests participated in Space Race-themed activities and a craft centered around the moon. The event featured the planetarium show *CAPCOM GO! The Apollo Story*, which focused on the historic U.S.-Soviet competition during the Cold War and the eventual U.S. triumph with the Apollo 11 mission. A total of 49 attendees joined the program.

Community Heroes Day (MYCO)

On February 21, from 9am to 11am, the Museum of York County hosted an event that allowed visitors to meet and interact with local community heroes, including law enforcement, firefighters, and more. This collaborative program offered a chance for attendees to connect with the people who positively impact their community, and participants created thank-you cards to express their appreciation.

Enslaved Ancestral Burial Ground Reconsecration (HB)

On February 22, the Brattonsville Descendant Community held a reconsecration ceremony to honor their ancestors, marking the return of the original headstone for Watt, an enslaved man and American Revolutionary figure. This rare headstone, placed by the Bratton family, commemorated Watt and his wife Polly. The ceremony was closed to photography and audio/video recording but was followed by a media opportunity for interviews and site photos.

Upcoming Events

The Women of Brattonsville (HB)

Throughout the month of March, our Living History Saturdays will focus on the lives of women in 18th and 19th century Carolina Piedmont, both enslaved and free. Activities will explore various aspects of women's social lives, responsibilities, and pastimes, as well as highlight notable women from the Bratton Plantation. Each Saturday will feature a different theme, accompanied by a 2pm site tour:

- **March 8:** "Many Hands, Light Work" – Quilt piecing and carding wool
- **March 15:** "Making a Home" – Food preservation, pickles, jams; spring cleaning in an 18th-century home
- **March 22:** "Ladies of Brattonsville" – Herbal remedies (Martha Bratton) and cooking – The Influence of the Enslaved People (Rosa Williams)
- **March 29:** "Employ Thy Time Well..." – Watercolor painting and basket making -- make a paper basket to take home

Gnome Day (MSCM)

Join us on March 22, from 9am to 4:30pm, as we celebrate artist Vernon Grant, whose work inspired many of our exhibits. This family-friendly event will highlight Grant's love for gnomes, inviting visitors to engage in activities inspired by his children's art. Guests can try music-making with Glen the Frog, help a gnome find his shoe, and create their own gnome house with paper dolls.

CHM Project Updates

Enslaved Ancestral Burial Grounds (HB)

A few final tasks remain to be completed over the next week before the cemetery can open to the public. We are targeting mid-March for the public opening and are currently planning a special event to mark the occasion. Further details will be finalized shortly.

Lowry Family Theatre Repair (McC)

Bennett Preservation Engineering (BPE) visited the site on January 29 and 30 to attempt lifting Trusses 2, 3, 4, and 5 (located above the "house"). During their review of the shoring installed by Scaffolding Solutions, BPE identified discrepancies between the shoring drawings provided by D.H. Charles and the actual installation. As a result, the lift was postponed until these issues are addressed. On January 30, BPE finalized the truss connection templates for the reinforcement plates for Trusses 2-5. Project contractor Midwest Maintenance (MMI) is working with Scaffolding Solutions and D.H. Charles to correct the inconsistencies. BPE, MMI, and Oswalt & Sons (the lift subcontractor) are coordinating to finalize the details for lifting the trusses in early March.

Col. Bratton Cabin Preservation Project (HB)

CHM Preservation is preparing to stabilize the floor framing around the chimney. The consolidation of the decayed chimney girt is complete, and we are preparing to sister the girt with pressure-treated

timbers. Additionally, floorboards in the main room's closet are being removed to facilitate the replacement of the decayed trimmer at the chimney. Once this is completed, work will begin on repairing the decayed log wall. CHM Preservation Specialist Sara Johnson has successfully re-laid the hearth and apron of the fireplace in the east addition.

Homestead House Preservation Project (HB)

Midwest Maintenance, Inc. (MMI) is working to install HydroStop over the second-floor floorboards of the portico. However, weather conditions have been unfavorable, as the product requires installation at temperatures of 45°F or higher. MMI is closely monitoring the weather to determine the best opportunity for installation.

National Historic Landmark (HB)

On August 9, 2023, staff submitted a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the National Park Service to have Historic Brattonsville considered for National Historic Landmark status due to its association with James Williams. On January 31, 2025, we received notification from our regional representative that they are near completing their review of our LOI and require a few additional details. Staff is currently working to provide the requested information. Once these details are addressed, we will be invited to apply for National Historic Landmark status—an important milestone for the site.

Planetarium Seat Upgrade (MYCO)

A purchase order has been finalized with Sedia Systems, and selections for finishes have been made, with the deposit paid. The new seats have been added to Sedia Systems' production schedule, with installation tentatively planned for early April. We expect the planetarium to be closed from April 8 to April 22 for the removal of the old seats and installation of the new ones.

Hightower Hall Gutter Replacement (HB)

CHM Preservation has submitted a draft Invitation for Bids (IFB) for the installation of copper half-round gutters on the north, east, and south sides of Hightower Hall to York County Procurement for review as of February 6. The project will proceed once feedback on the draft is received from York County Procurement.

Jefferson High School Historical Marker (HC)

The historical marker for Jefferson High School is set to enter production at the end of March 2025 and will take 2-4 weeks to fabricate and ship. Staff met with the Jefferson Alumni group to discuss potential dates for the unveiling ceremony, with Saturday, June 21 or June 28 being the preferred dates. Staff is currently coordinating with the Superintendent of York School District 1 to confirm the availability of those dates.



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
N/A	Art	Field Collection

Name of Source:
Field Collection

Description of Accession:
.001 – ChristmasVille 2024 square promotional button featuring Vernon Grant’s <i>Santa’s Christmas Wish</i>
.002 – ChristmasVille 2024 square enamel lapel pin featuring Vernon Grant’s <i>Santa’s Christmas Wish</i>

Overall Condition: ☒ Excellent ☐ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection

Button: 1.75” x 1.75”
Lapel Pin: 1.25” x 1.25”
Both items were received as new and will fit in an existing box with other ChristmasVille items.

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: 5 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

Both items presented in the Recommendation for Accession were acquired by CHM Director of Collections, Jillian Bingham, at the 2024 ChristmasVille Kick-off Breakfast held at the Rock Hill Sports and Events Center (326 Technology Way). The image used are CHM-owned Vernon Grant original paintings titled *Santa’s Christmas Wish* (2006.017.238).

ChristmasVille started in 2006 as a way for the City of Rock Hill to attract tourism to downtown during the holiday season. Since the inception of the festival, through a license agreement between the ChristmasVille Board and CHM, Vernon Grant’s Christmas and Santa Claus images have been used to create promotional, commemorative, and sellable materials for the festival. Over the years, various ChristmasVille related items have been added to the collection, including the annual buttons and lapel pins.

Vernon Grant (VG) was an American illustrator and commercial artist throughout most of the 20th century. Famous for creating Snap! Crackle! and Pop! gnomes for Kellogg’s Rice Krispies cereal, his artwork was seen on a number of magazine covers, magazine advertisements, food packaging, and children’s toy packaging. After moving to Rock Hill in 1947, Grant became involved in the local community serving as the Director of the Rock Hill Chamber of Commerce and then Director of the Housing Authority of Rock Hill in the late 1950s and 1960s. During this time, he created a number of paintings and advertisements for local businesses. His artwork is also the inspiration for two Rock Hill annual events, ChristmasVille and Come-See-Me, as well as CHM’s Main Street Children’s Museum. VG’s personal collection of his artwork was on loan to MYCO as early as 1974. In 2006, two of his children donated most of the large collection to CHM, forming the Vernon Grant Collection.

Potential Uses: ☒ Research ☒ Exhibition ☒ Loan



Both items can be used for research, exhibition, or loan on topics related to Vernon Grant, Rock Hill, ChristmasVille Festival, or Christmas in general.

Restrictions:

None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

Date:

Tracy Bright DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS 1/16/2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

Richard Campbell 2/19/25

Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:

Richard Campbell 3/3/2025



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Object ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
ED2010.002.001	History	Donation/Internal Transfer

Name of Source:
James Ramere

Description of Accession:
.001-Teacher desk used at York Graded School (present day McCelvey Center), c. 1940

Overall Condition: ☐ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection

45.5 " x 26.5" x 30"
Currently stored in McC 318 with other permanent collection items

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: 4 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

The donor bought the desk at an auction at the Episcopal Church Home. The Episcopal Church Home received the desk in 1951 when York's high school grades moved from York Graded School to the new York High School (present day Harold C. Johnson Middle School). The high school furniture from York Graded School was donated to the church home as the school transitioned to York Elementary School. In 1973, The school's named changed again, to McCelvey Elementary School, to honor a late principle George C. McCelvey. Due to growing school enrollment, McCelvey became too small to serve as an elementary school. The last school bell rang on June 4, 1987 with all students being relocated to other schools for the 1987-1988 school year.

The Church Home, established in 1850 by the Episcopal Diocese of SC in Charleston, was the first church supported home for children in the state. On May 13, 1909 the orphanage moved from Charleston to the former Kings Mountain Military Academy in York which had closed a year prior in 1908. The Church Home changed its name in 1949 to the Episcopal Church Home for Children after the Church Home for Ladies in Charleston and the Church Home in York became separate entities. In 1966, the Church Home Administrative Building, originally built in 1857, was replaced with a new modern structure.

In 1969, the Board decided to phase out its regular program by June 1973 and instead devote itself to the treatment of emotionally disturbed children. It was one of the first residential treatment centers for children in the state. Around 1981, in an effort to improve understanding of the Home's new mission and increase fundraising, the agency was renamed York Place: Episcopal Church Home for Children, known locally as York Place. Over the years the campus had grown from its original 10 acres to 120 acres and added more buildings and amenities, such as a gym, indoor pool, tennis court, playground, fishing pond, athletic field, arts and crafts room, as well as nature and bike trails. In June of 2013, York Place merged with Thompson Child & Family Focus which continued to operate the site as a location for psychiatric care for young children as well as assistance to single mothers with substance

abuse issues and their children. In 2015, Thompson decided to close the facility in York and concentrate on its location in Fort Mill.

This desk was officially donated and added to the education collection in 2009/2010. Given its strong provenance to McCelvey and the Episcopal Church Home, it is believed that the desk should be preserved as part of CHM's permanent collection. A non-mission related desk was acquired for the education collection during the MWYC transfer (ED2022.003.395).

Potential Uses: ☐ Research ☐ Exhibition ☐ Loan

The McCelvey desk can all be used for research and exhibition as it relates to McCelvey history, CHM history, York County schools, and history of York.

Restrictions:

None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

Date:

Trish Bright DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS

2/17/2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

Richard Abell

2/17/2025

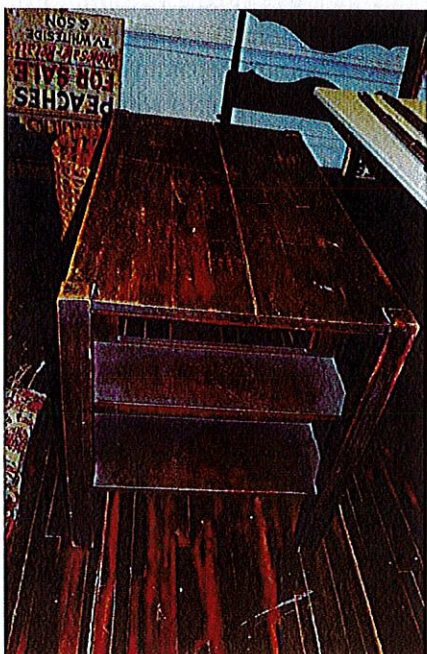
Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:

Richard Abell

3/3/2025



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
TC454	History	Gift

Name of Source:
Jillian Bingham

Description of Accession:
.001 - Small (13" x 11.25") quilt, possibly a wall hanging, featuring a brown cat, made or donated by a York County Quilters Guild member in 2005
.002 - York County Quilters Guild patch

Overall Condition: ☒ Excellent ☒ Good ☐ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection

Wall hanging: 13" x 11.25"
Patch: 3" x 2.75"
Both items will fit in existing boxes with like items

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: 5 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

Both items belonged to the donor's maternal grandmother, Barbara Juan (Williamson) Brunson (1927-present), a founding/charter member of the York County Quilters Guild. Juan was born in Baltimore, Maryland to Elsie May Simpson (1890-1982) and Howard Williamson (1981-c.1975). Juan married Clyffard Lawrence Brunson (1927-2001) on February 26, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland. Together they had two daughters and a son, including the donor's mother Elaina Brooke (Brunson) Matthews (1960-present).

Clyffard was born Eagle Grove, Iowa to Eva Mae Dorum (1899-1961) and Col. Mark Vinton Brunson (1893-1973). Clyffard enrolled in the US Marine Corp in July 1945, two months before his 17th birthday, and two months before the formal surrender of Japan, ending World War II. He was briefly stationed on Parris Island, SC before being relocated to Washington D.C. He was honorably discharged on August 24, 1946. Clyff went on to work with General Motors Oldsmobile for 32 years which caused the Brunson family to move around, living in Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C., and Michigan before retiring and relocating from Lansing, MI to Rock Hill, SC in 1987, building a custom home at 1387 Woodhurst Dr.

Following Clyff's retirement, Juan started her own arts and craft LLC, Juan's Whimsies, where she would travel the Carolina Metro area selling her items at flea markets and art shows. She would go on to be a founding/charter member of the York County Quilters Guild in 1995. While Clyffard passed away from COPD in 2001, Juan continued to live in their home on Woodhurst until 2015, when she sold the house and moved to a retirement apartment community located at 745 Dilworth Lane. She moved again, in early 2020, to Boynton Beach, Florida to be closer to her son, for medical reasons. Both Juan and Clyffard Brunson were members of the Episcopal Church of Our Savior in downtown Rock Hill. Clyff was cremated and buried in the church's Smyth Garden. Upon her passing, Juan will



be buried in the garden as well.

The York County Quilters Guild was formed in 1995 by Rock Hill residents Diane Venters and Sandy McConnell. Those who joined upon the organization's founding, like Juan Brunson, were considered "Charter Members." Meeting notices in *The Herald* advertise the group being open to "anyone who quilts, collects quilts or who would like to learn how to quilt." Their first meeting was held on October 23, 1995 at 7 p.m. in the 2nd floor courtroom of the Federal Building in downtown Rock Hill. There were at least 50 people in attendance.

The donated patch is used and fell off of one of Juan's other YCQG quilts. The small cat quilt's maker is unknown though the patch on the quilt's back states that it was made and/or donated by a YCQG member for the organization's Small Quilt Silent Auction in conjunction with the Jubilee harvest of the Arts Fall Festival in Rock Hill, SC. The festival ran from Friday, September 30 through Sunday, October 2, 2005.

Potential Uses: ☒ Research ☒ Exhibition ☒ Loan

Both items are available for research, exhibition, and loan on themes related to quilting, textiles, and York County clubs/organizations.

Restrictions:

None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

Date:

Nancy Lamberts Director of Archives

2-19-2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

Richard Campbell

2/19/2025

Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:

Richard Campbell

3/3/2025



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
TC464	Art	Purchase

Name of Source:
Mark Shutte (eBay ID: mattmasoncaptainactionboydrevil)

Description of Accession:
.001A-G – Vernon Grant illustrated Kellogg's Rice Krispies store display featuring seven cardboard train cars carrying fruit, cereal, and milk; c. 1940

Overall Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection
Largest train car: 18" x 19.75" All pieces will fit in an existing box with other VG items

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: <u>5</u> (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)
<p>Vernon Grant (1902-1990) was an American illustrator and commercial artist throughout most of the 20th century. Famous for creating Snap! Crackle! Pop! gnomes for Kellogg's Rice Krispies cereal, his artwork was seen on hundreds of magazine covers, advertisements, food packaging, children's books, and toy packaging. Following his USO tour during in 1945, the Vernon and his young family relocated from New York to Rock Hill, SC to live on land inherited by Vernon's wife, Elizabeth "Libby" Fewell Grant (1914-2001) upon the passing of her father. Vernon spent the rest of his life living in Rock Hill while also serving in a few different roles within the community including Director of the Urban Housing Authority (1965-1971), Director of the RH Chamber of Commerce (1959-1965), and soil conservation groups. This City of Rock Hill considers Vernon Grant as their "adopted son" and holds two annual, award winning festivals each year that highlight and utilize Grant's artwork: Come-See-Me Festival and ChristmasVille.</p> <p>In 2006, two of Vernon Grant's children officially donated the Vernon Grant Collection to CHM after it being on loan to the organization since the 1980s. CHM's Main Street Children's Museum was inspired by Grant's nursery rhyme images and opened to the public in 2010 as a place for young children, ages zero to six, to learn through imagination and creative play.</p> <p>In the early 1930s, reached out to Kellogg's with an advertising idea of making the sounds Rice Krispies cereal makes, snap, crackle, and pop, into actual characters thus Mr. Snap, Mr. Crackle, and Mr. Pop were born. The three iconic gnomes started showing up on cereal boxes, advertisements, and promotional items. Grant worked with Kellogg's until 1942. Following his departure with the cereal company a lawsuit was filed, fighting for the rights of the three gnomes. It was determined that the rights for three gnomes created for Kellogg's belong to the cereal company but that they did not own all of Grant's gnomes. He was still free to draw gnomes and use them for other advertising campaigns, he just couldn't use Mr. Snap, Mr. Crackle, and Mr. Pop.</p>

The presented Kellogg's store display is not represented in CHM's Vernon Grant Collection and should be considered very rare since most stores threw displays away once taken down. It is unknown how the seller came into possession of this store display or where it was originally hung. The eBay seller did not reply to CHM's follow up messages on the topic.

Potential Uses: ☒ Research ☒ Exhibition ☒ Loan

The store display can be used for research, exhibition, or loan on themes related to Vernon Grant, railroads, Breakfast and eating habits of 1930s and 1940s, history of advertising, and Kellogg's Cereals.

Though the condition is fair to poor, the double-sided display can be digitized and edited for reproduction purposes if needed for exhibition, programming, or marketing purposes.

Restrictions:


None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

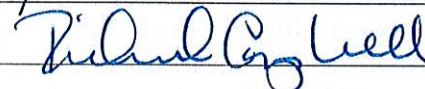
Date:

 DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS

1/16/2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

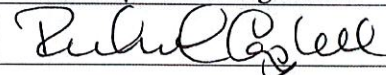


2/19/2025

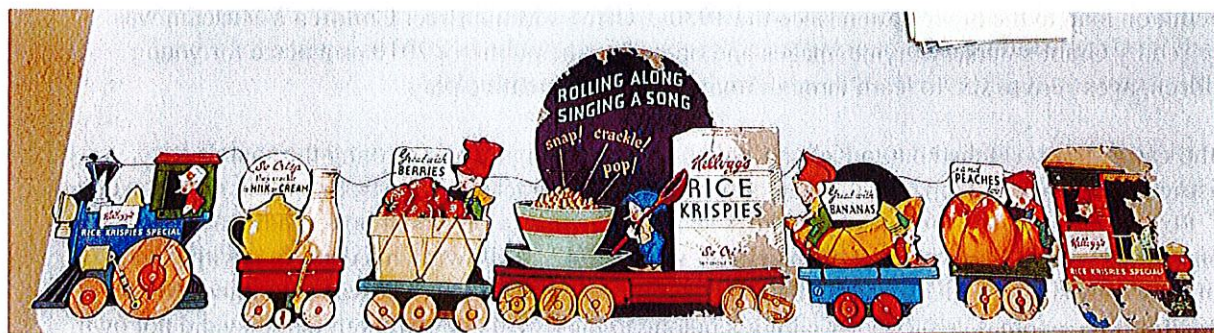
Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:



3/3/2025



RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
TC469	History	Internal Transfer

Name of Source:

Historic Brattonsville – Preservation Office

Description of Accession:

8-track tape storage case filled with 24 8-tracks, dating from 1969-1979.
found in HB's Preservation Office (1530 Brattonsville Rd)

Itemized inventory on page 3

Overall Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection

Storage Case: 17.5" x 7.5" x 6.25"; will fit with like items on shelf in oversized storage and
8-Track tape: 5.5" x 4" 0.5"; all 8-tracks will be stored together in an acid free box.

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: 4 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

The Neely family has a long history in York County, specifically in McConells. having lived in the Brattonsville Homestead house for a short time before receiving land from the Brattons in 1936, building homes on their new property across the street. In Fall 2018, CHM purchased acreage and two houses, included 1530 Brattonsville Road, from James "Tony" Neely. Tony's father, James Barron Neely (1935-2017) was actually born in the Homestead house in 1935 to Claude Mason Neely (1893-1973) and Martha May Clinton (1893-1944).

8-tracks are also called eight-track cartridges, cassettes, or tapes. They are magnetic-tape sound recording technology that were popular in the United States from the mid-1960s to early-1980s and were commonly used in cars. In the 1980s the compact cassette became more popular and ended up replacing 8-track tapes. One advantage of the 8-track tape cartridge when compared to is compact counterpart was that it could play continuously in an endless loop. It did not have to be ejected, turned around or rewound in order to be played again. After about 80 minutes of playing time, the tape would start again at the beginning.

On the front of the case is a Carowinds bumper sticker. Carowinds is a theme park located along the North Carolina-South Carolina state line that opened to the public on March 31, 1973. Over the years, it has had several owners including Taft Broadcasting, Kings Entertainment Company, Paramount, and currently Cedar Fair Parks. Carowinds brings an average of 2 million visitors per year from all over the country, thusly bringing in people to York County. The logo of the bumper sticker was used from 1973-1992.

The 8-track collection was found by CHM Preservation Specialist Sara Johnson in December 2024 when she was cleaning out the "sunroom" of 1530 Brattonsville Road, preparing the building for use as HB's Preservation Office. Multiple 8-track tapes have "Neely" written on them, confirming that they belong to the house's previous owner. Because it is common real estate practice/law that anything left on or inside any property at time of closing is property of the new owner, CHM is the legal owner of the 8-track collection despite the lack of gift agreement. HB Staff has transferred the 8-track collection to the Collections Dept. for addition into the permanent collection.

Potential Uses: ☒ Research ☒ Exhibition ☐ Loan

The 8-track case and tapes can be used for research and exhibition for technology, music/entertainment, and 1970s life in York County.

Restrictions:

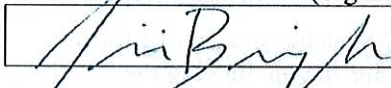
None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

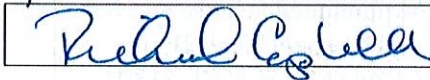
Date:

 DIRECTOR OF COLLECTIONS

2/17/2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

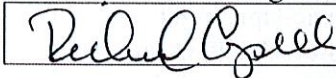


2/19/2025

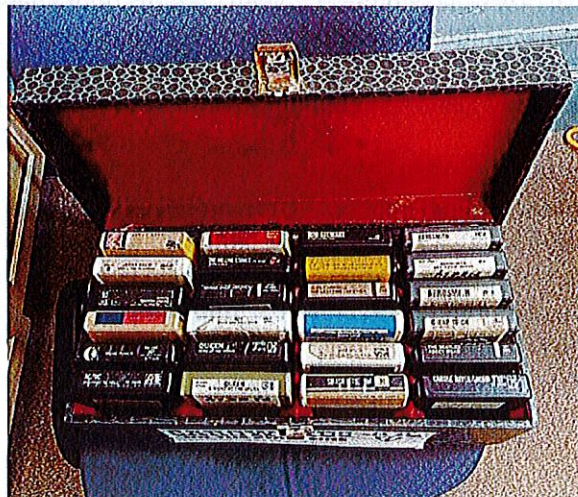
Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:



3/3/2025



TC469 Itemized Inventory

- .001 - 8-track storage case with "CAROWINDS" bumper sticker, c. 1975
- .002 - Jerry Reed 8-track tape, c. 1970
- .003 - Jerry Reed "Smell the Flowers" 8-track tape, 1972
- .004 - Kenny Rogers "Kenny" 8-track tape, 1979
- .005 - Three Dog Night "Naturally No. 306" 8-track tape, 1970 (Has Neely written on it)
- .006 - "Music Power" 8-track tape, 1973
- .007 - AC/DC "Highway to Hell" 8-track tape, 1979
- .008 - The Rolling Stones 8-track tape, c. 1978
- .009 - The Rolling Stones "Some Girls" 8-track tape, 1978
- .010 - Wings "Over America" 8-track tape, 1976
- .011 - Kiss "Rock and Roll Over" 8-track tape, 1976 (Has Neely written on it)
- .012 - Queen "News of the World" 8-track tape, 1977
- .013 - Queen "A Night at the Opera" 8-track tape, 1975 (Has Neely written on it)
- .014 - Rod Stewart "A Night on the Town" 8-track tape, 1976
- .015 - Original Movie Soundtrack "Saturday Night Fever" 8-track tape, 1977
- .016 - Glen Campbell "The Last Time I saw Her" 8-track tape, 1971 (Has David Feemster written on it)
- .017 - The Jackson 5 "Goin Back to Indiana" 8-track tape, 1970 (Has Tony Neely written on it)
- .018 - Elton John "Rock of the Westies" 8-track tape, 1975
- .019 - "Smash Hits Vol. 91" 8-track tape, 1975
- .020 - Aerosmith "Rocks" 8-track tape, 1976 (Has Neely written on it)
- .021 - Aerosmith "Get Your Wings" 8-track tape, 1974 (Has Neely written on it)
- .022 - Aerosmith "Toys in the Attic" 8-track tape, 1975
- .023 - Cheap Trick "Dream Police" 8-track tape, 1979
- .024 - The Beatles "Abbey Road" 8-track tape, 1969
- .025 - Carole Bayer Sager 8-track tape, c. 1977

RECOMMENDATION FOR ACCESSION

Temporary Custody ID:	Collection Type:	Method of Acquisition:
TC474	Archives	Donation

Name of Source:

Beth Johnston

Description of Accession:

3 receipt books for Mackorell Brothers Wholesale Grocers in Yorkville

Overall Condition: ☐ Excellent ☐ Good ☒ Fair ☐ Poor

General/Comparable Size of Collection

All three items will fit into 2 letter sized acid free folders.

Significance/Ownership History Mission Rating: 5 (Scale of 1 – 5; 5 matches mission 100%)

Beth Johnston, a member of Architectural Review Board for York, SC, received the receipt books from the owner of the Towne Tavern located 105 Garner St. The building the restaurant is now housed in—where the receipt books were also found—was once used by the “Mackorell Brothers.”

Mackorell Brothers Wholesale Grocers was located in Yorkville near the Carolina and Northwestern Railroad and Liberty St. It was operated by half-brothers Robert J. Mackorell and Jacob S. Mackorell from around 1900 to June 1915. At that point, Jacob purchased the entirety of the business and renamed it York Wholesale Grocery.

Robert James Mackorell (1859-1930) was the son of John Cameron Mackorell (1834-1871) and his first wife Jane Beard McCarley Mackorell (1834-1871). He was married to Ella Riddle (1871-1962) and they had five sons and three daughters. He and his family moved to Yorkville in March 1900 after he was shot while living in Lancaster, SC in November 1899. He was involved in a variety of businesses, including additional grocery firms, selling farming supplies, and a drug store on Congress St. In 1922, he bought a furniture company in Hickory N.C. and moved there. He died at Mercy Hospital in Charlotte, NC and is buried at West Side Cemetery in Lancaster.

Jacob Stephen Mackorell (1879-1950) was the son of John Cameron Mackorell (1834-1871) and his second wife Ellen “Mary” Bowers Mackorell (1850-1880). Born in Blackstock, SC, he moved to Yorkville when he was seventeen years old. In February 1903 he married Nancy Ophelia Davidson (1876-1960), the daughter of Samuel L. Davidson (1842-1918) and Nancy Elizabeth Walker Davidson (1844-1894). In the 1900 census, Jacob and Ophelia are actually both listed as living at the residence of William H. Herndon—him as one of two boarders and her and Herndon’s sister-in-law. Together, they had three daughters and one son. In addition to operating York Wholesale Grocery, he was president of the Peoples National Bank of York, a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and a member of the Crustbreakers Club. He was also an elder of the First Presbyterian Church for twenty-five years and



superintendent of the Sunday school. Both Jacob and his wife are buried at Rose Hill Cemetery in York.

Potential Uses: ☒ Research ☒ Exhibition ☐ Loan

These receipt books are useful for researching the history of wholesale grocers, commerce, and local businesses in the early 20th century.

Restrictions:

None

Unusual Costs:

None

Staff Recommendation (Signature & Title):

Date:

Nancy Samuels Director of Archives

2-19-2025

Executive Director Recommends (Signature):

Date:

Richard Campbell

2-19-2025

Approved by the Culture and Heritage Commission on:

Executive Director Signature:

Date:

Richard Campbell

3/3/2025





**Culture & Heritage
Museums**

2025-2030 Collecting Plan

Written by: Jillian Bingham, Director of Collections
Approved by CHC Collections Committee: February 20, 2025

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	1
Purpose of the Plan	2
Audience for the Plan	3
Development of the Plan	3
Evaluating and Revising the Plan	3
History of the Organization	3
Mission Statements	6
Organizational Values	7
Accessioning Process	8
Mission Ratings	9
Archives	9
Art	10
History	10
Natural History	11
Deaccessioning Process	11
Anthropology Collection	13
Archaeology Collection	16
Archives Collection	18
Art Collection	23
History Collection	28
Natural History Collection	32
Conclusion	36
Appendix A	37

Culture & Heritage Museums is a family of museums in York County, South Carolina, which includes Historic Brattonsville, the McCelvey Center, Historical Center of York County, Museum of York County, and Main Street Children's Museum. Culture & Heritage Museums (referenced as CHM throughout this document) work together to create a comprehensive system of linked cultural, historical, and natural heritage attractions to serve the citizens of York County, South Carolina and the Carolina Piedmont region. CHM was accredited by the American Alliance of Museums in 2006 and then awarded reaccreditation in 2016. The organization will be going through the reaccreditation process, again, in 2026.

Purpose of the Plan

The purpose of CHM's Collecting Plan is to serve as a guide for making informed collecting decisions by the organization's governing body, York County's Culture and Heritage Commission, as well as CHM staff. When considering to add an item to the permanent collection, the proposed specimen, artifact, artwork, or archival material should:

- Support CHM's mission
- Follow CHM's interpretive efforts
- Enhance CHM's commitment towards preservation, education, and research

CHM staff recognize the importance of a consistent plan and believe that the various collections will be strengthened by the implementation of a consistent set of guidelines that make up the Collecting Plan. While the plan provides guidance in making decisions that affect CHM's various collections, it is understood that there may be reasons for exceptions. Each item being presented for accession or deaccession should be considered on a case-by-case basis, adhering to the approved Collections Management Policy. Similarly, while there may be exceptions to the Policy and the Plan, CHM staff and their governing body, York County Culture & Heritage Commission, recognize the importance of a consistent policy that uses the Collecting Plan as a set of guidelines that will strengthen the collection and further CHM's mission to communicate and preserve the cultural and natural histories of the Carolina Piedmont.

It is understood that various examples of artifacts, specimens, artworks, and archival material may be offered to the organization for accession that may be of better condition than existing items already in the permanent collection. In those situations, CHM has a responsibility to take care of the objects already in its permanent collection before accepting duplicate objects without a specific use or purpose. CHM staff understand that all accessioned items are equally important and will be provided with proper storage, preservation, and research in accordance with professional museum standards.

Audience for the Plan

The Collecting Plan is intended for internal use by:

- CHM staff when evaluating potential acquisitions and deaccessions, and developing exhibitions, educational programs, and interpretive plans.
- The Collections Committee when considering and recommending accessions and deaccessions
- York County Culture and Heritage Commission when approving accessions and deaccessions

Development of the Plan

This plan was developed by CHM's Collections Task Force, which includes the Executive Director, Curator of Natural History, Director of Archives, Director of Collections, Historian, and the Director of Historic Properties. Task Force members filled out a "Developing a Collecting Plan: Questionnaire" (See Appendix A) for the collections that relate to their department. Once the questionnaires were filled out, the Director of Collections compiled the information and wrote the first draft of the plan, referencing several sample collecting plans available through the American Alliance of Museums (AAM) website as well as the book *The AAM Guide to Collections Planning* by James B. Gardener and Elizabeth E. Merritt, published in 2004. Following the completion of the first draft, the Collections Task Force reviewed the document and suggested changes and edits. Upon the task force's approval of the finalized draft, the document was presented to the Collections Committee for final review and implementation. Finally, the plan was presented to the Culture and Heritage Commission, for the sake of transparency, so they are aware of CHM's collecting goals for the next five years.

Evaluating and Revising the Plan

The Collecting Plan is a working document that will need to be updated and revised as key collecting goals are achieved. CHM's Collections Task Force will evaluate the plan every five years to reassess the strengths and weaknesses of the collection as it relates to the Institutional Plan and future exhibition plans. If changes need to be made, all revisions will be presented to the Collections Committee for review and implementation. A copy of this plan will be maintained by the Director of Collections and stored in an appropriately labeled binder in their office with other institutional policies and plans. A digital copy of the plan will also be saved on the York County/CHM SharePoint page where all other institutional documents are stored and maintained.

History of the Organization

The Junior Welfare League opened the Museum of York County in 1950 as the Children's Nature Museum of Rock Hill (CNM) at Fewell Park in Rock Hill. Exhibits and programming included natural history, cultural history, and the arts geared towards both children and adults. The first known exhibit opened in 1952 and featured Catawba Indian Pottery made by active Catawba potters. In the late 1950s, CNM started the Stans African Collection comprised of

multiple African mounts donated or funded by Maurice Stans (1908-1998), an accountant and U.S. Cabinet member under President Richard Nixon. At one point in time, CHM's collection was considered the largest collection of African hoofed animals in the world.

CNM opened a new Rock Hill location in 1965, showcasing the African Collection in a variety of dioramas, on Mt. Gallant Road. In addition to displaying African natural history, the museum also maintained programs and exhibits on local history, regional natural history, and the arts. In 1976, CNM changed their name to the Museum of York County (MYCO), though the mission, programs, and exhibits remained the same. A year later, in 1977, the Settlemyre Planetarium opened, named after the museum's late Executive Director, J. Lee Settlemyre who passed away in 1974. In 1978, MYCO became the official repository of the Vernon Grant collection of illustrations by the creator of Kellogg's Rice Krispies' Snap! ® Crackle! ® Pop! ® through a long-term loan with the artist himself and his family until it was officially donated to CHM in 2006.

On the other side of the county, the York County Historical Commission was formed in 1962 with the mission to preserve and maintain a former York County plantation. The Brattonsville Historical District, located in McConnells, SC was officially listed on the National Register in 1971 with the name of Historic Brattonsville (HB). The historic site opened to the public in 1976. The Battle of Huck's Defeat, a Revolutionary War battle, occurred on the property in July 1780 and serves as a major interpretation event with a reenactment occurring annually. CHM continues to preserve and restore the site with a large interpretation plan being implemented. The 2020 furnishing plans for Homestead and Col Bratton's/Female Seminary are guiding documents to be used, in conjunction with this document, when it comes to collecting objects for HB's Living History Collection. As of 2024, there are a total of 42 structures on the property, 12 of which are original to the site, a historic cemetery, and walking trails spread across approximately 800 acres of woods and farm land.

In 1989, the York County Historical Commission established the Historical Center of York County (HC) located in the McCelvey Center (McC) in York, SC. The HC was created with the purpose to serve as a repository for county court records, in accordance with York County Ordinance 611, as well as having a permanent collection of documents and photographs related to local history, later expanding the collection to include local history artifacts and artwork. Prior to the Historical Center's creation, the McCelvey Center was a school that was built in 1902. The building had a large expansion added in 1922 with an annex building being built on the property in the 1956. The York County School District closed McCelvey Elementary in 1987 and gave ownership of the building and one acre of land to McCelvey Inc., a non-profit that operated the building as a community and performing arts center. The York County Historical Commission rented space in McC to operate the Historical Center of York County.

In 1997, the Museum of York County and the York County Historical Commission agreed to merge and create the York County Culture and Heritage Commission (referred to as the Commission throughout this document), meaning that the Museum of York County, Historic Brattonsville, and the Historical Center of York County all became one organization under the name of Culture & Heritage Museums (CHM). In terms of the collection, the merger meant that

three very different collections were consolidated into one large collection that was stored throughout the county at the various sites. Over the years, a number of collection items from other sites have been relocated into vacant, environmental controlled classrooms for storage in McCelvey Center.

The Museum of York County's Board of Trustees established a permanent Friends of MYCO Endowment Fund in 1995 to support the preservation of collections and exhibits of the Museum of York County. At that time the fund was managed by the Friends of the Museum of York County, Inc. a 509(a)3 support organization which had been recently established for that purpose. The group's original goal was to raise \$300,000, of which was a two-to-one match of \$100,000 by the Stans Foundation. By April 1996, the Campaign Committee received monetary commitments for over \$440,000 with the interest earnings of these funds being restricted for use towards the preservation of the collections and exhibits. Upon the 1997 merger with the York County Historical Commission, the collections and exhibits of both the Museum and the Historical Commission became the property of the merged entity that was renamed the York County Culture and Heritage Commission (CHC). Because the ownership and responsibility of care for all collections and exhibits fell under the merged CHC umbrella, it was determined at that time that the endowment funds could be used for preservation of the collections and exhibits of all CHC sites. The following year, the Friends of the Museum of York County changed its name to the Culture and Heritage Foundation, Inc (CHF). Although, CHF expanded its fundraising activities beyond the initial collections' preservation role, the original endowment and its purpose remained intact as a distinct fund. Following the formal settlement of a lawsuit between the CHC and CHF, the management of these funds was transferred from CHF to the Foundation for the Carolinas (FFTC) in 2014. Collections and archives staff are able to withdraw the income of these funds to preserve CHM collections and exhibits, upon approval of the Commission and a formal request made to FFTC.

Separate from the collections endowment, from 1999 through 2011, under the directorship of Van Shields, CHM planned and fundraised for the Museum of Life and Environment (MLE). While MLE was the centerpiece, the associated capital campaign (governed by CHF) also included capital projects at other sites. The new museum was to go on 60 acres of donated land west of I-77 in Fort Mill, SC. With such a broad mission of creating a museum that connects people and place, staff were acquiring a large array of objects and artwork to fill the new museum's exhibit spaces. The absence of a collecting plan led to a collection that lacked cohesion, which CHM still preserves to this day. For various reasons, the fundraising efforts fell significantly short of the established targets and the funds necessary to make the planned MLE a viable project were not available. As part of the settlement agreement referenced above, the campaign funds that had been raised through 2011 were transferred from CHF to the FFTC to be used exclusively for CHM capital projects. These funds are available for CHM use pending approval from Commission and the FFTC. The FFTC holds these funds separately from the Friends of MYCO Endowment. They are restricted exclusively to capital projects of the CHC.

In 2001, McCelvey Inc. relinquished ownership of the McCelvey Center to York County via the Commission. After the Historical Center of York County operated out of former classrooms

within the main building of the McCelvey Center for a number of years, the McCelvey Annex Building was completely renovated, with construction finishing in February 2014. Upon completion, the HC, including the Southern Revolutionary War Institute, and some archival and collections materials, were relocated into the annex building, officially named as the Historical Center of York County, opening to the public on April 1, 2014. Though offices and public spaces of the HC relocated to the newly renovated 18,000 square foot building, CHM was not able to relocate all collection storage. Staff still utilize a number of third floor rooms in McC to serve as secure collections storage. The 2016-2021 Institutional Plan includes plans to turn the main floor west wing of McC into a small local history museum.

The Main Street Children's Museum (MSCM) opened in Downtown Rock Hill, on Main Street, in December 2010. Inspired by the artwork of Vernon Grant, the museum was designed for young children, ages zero to six, as a place for positive learning through creative play in a unique environment. MSCM experienced extensive water damage in October 2018 due to a ruptured main sprinkler line in the privately-owned space above the museum. Very little of the exhibits were saved, resulting in a complete rebuild of the museum. Main Street Children's Museum reopened to the public in May 2021.

In December 2021, the Museum of Western York County (MWYC), an unaffiliated museum located in Sharon, SC, dissolved and closed its doors to the public. CHM's Collections and Archives staff assisted with the dissolution and accepted the transfer of over 1400 objects and 140 boxes of archival material, most of which had connections to York County. The collection was split between the permanent and education collections, based on a number of factors similar to those being considered when taking in new donations. In addition to transferring collection material, MWYC donated all remaining funds to CHM with the restriction that the funds be used for the care of the MWYC collection.

Mission Statements

Due to CHM being a family of museums, there is a main mission statement for the whole organization while each site also has their own, specific mission statement. Although there is a total of five mission statements associated with organization, it is important to note that all individual site mission statements still speak to the overarching CHM mission statement.

Culture & Heritage Museums (CHM)

To communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning.

Museum of York County (MYCO)

To enhance understanding of our world by collecting and preserving the natural history of the Carolina Piedmont, communicating regional themes and their broader global connections.

Historic Brattonsville (HB)

To preserve and present the history of the Carolina Piedmont and this Revolutionary War site as portrayed through the structures, landscape, and stories of the Brattonsville community.

McCelvey Campus: McCelvey Center (McC) and Historical Center of York County (HC)

To collect and preserve the cultural heritage of York County and the Carolina Piedmont while providing programs and educational opportunities that reflect the regional history through research, exhibitions, and performing arts.

Main Street Children's Museum (MSCM)

To prepare young learners and their families for the future, by providing positive learning through creative play in a unique environment inspired by the art of Vernon Grant.

Organizational Values

1. **Authenticity:** We ensure that the knowledge that we share is accurate and supported through credible documentation or eyewitness accounts.
2. **Professionalism:** We adhere to best practices of the museum field in the care of resources under our stewardship.
3. **Meaningful visitor experiences:** We strive to create memorable experiences enabling those we serve to walk away from our museums not only with new information but with inspiration that they will carry with them throughout their lives.
4. **Respect for those we represent:** As a cultural museum we tell the story of people from various backgrounds and life experiences both past and present. We have an obligation to tell their stories in a fair and balanced manner that fosters greater understanding of their unique perspectives.
5. **Respect for our natural world:** As a natural history museum we have a responsibility to show respect for the natural world and to lead by example.
6. **Transparency:** We ensure our organizational meetings, documents, and records beyond those that pertain to our legal requirements or breach the trust of our donors are available to the public.
7. **Stewardship:** We recognize that all of our assets are held on behalf of the public good and that it is our responsibility to ensure that they are used wisely.
8. **Donor Rights:** We believe all donors should be valued and informed. Promises should be delivered and expectations of confidentiality should be met to the fullest extent of the law.

Accessioning Process

Acceptance of Objects

To ensure all proper paperwork is filled out and all the necessary signatures are received, only approved CHM staff may accept objects on behalf of the organization. The approved staff, who also serve on the Collections Task Force, includes:

- Executive Director
- Curator of Natural History
- Director of Archives
- Director of Collections
- Historian

Acquisition Process

Artifacts for the collection, permanent or education, are acquired through several methods including:

- Donation/Gift
- Bequest
- Purchase
- Field Collection
- Archaeological Excavations
- Transfers and Exchanges
- Abandoned Property

Regardless of the acquisition method, items are assigned a Temporary Custody number while the acquisition is being processed. Objects may be accepted into temporary custody only by the Executive Director and approved CHM staff for a period not to exceed six months, for the purpose of identification, research, or for consideration as an acquisition or loan. Objects placed into temporary custody do not represent a transfer of legal title to or formal loan with CHM.

Should a donated temporary custody be accepted into the education or library collections, the proper legal paperwork would be sent to the donor for signature before being sent to the Executive Director and Department Head for signature. Once all signatures have been received, the Director of Collections will assign an Education Number to the acquisition. If a Temporary Custody is to be accepted into the permanent collection, the donation must be presented to the Commission for approval by filling out and submitting a Recommendation for Accession form. Before being sent to the Commission for approval, recommendations should first be sent out to the Collections Task Force and Collections Committee for review. Once reviewed, the Executive Director or Collections Committee Chairperson (a member of the Commission), will recommend potential acquisitions to the Commission for final approval, as laid out in the Collections Management Policy.

Acquisitions being considered for the permanent collections should:

1. Be relevant to the CHM's mission and scope of collecting with significant historic, scientific, or artistic merit.
2. Ideally be of the highest physical quality

3. Must not pose a hazard to the staff, the public or the rest of the collection.
4. CHM must be capable of caring for the objects according to AAM standards.
5. Be able to ensure legal transfer of title of all acquisitions to CHM and avoid acquiring objects that may have an unethical history of ownership. *CHM will determine the provenance for potential acquisitions by requesting information from donors or vendors concerning the item(s) history of ownership.*
6. Be able to acquire full copyright for appropriate items.

Mission Ratings

In order to determine an object's relevance to CHM's mission, mission ratings have been created for the four distinct collection types: Archives, Art, History, and Natural History. Artistic and historical significance are both considered for anthropology items. Similarly, archaeological items are considered using the history mission rating.

The rating systems are on a five-point scale with objects rated a five (5) or four (4) being considered relevant to the mission and should be considered prime candidates for inclusion in the permanent collection, objects rated a three (3) being generally related to the mission, and could or could not be accepted to the permanent collection, and objects rated a one (1) or two (2) not being considered for the permanent collection due to their lack of relevance to the mission. An item rated as a four or five could still be declined for the permanent collection due to other accession criteria that is outlined in the Collections Management Policy. Any potential donation should also be considered for inclusion in the education and living history collections. The Mission Ratings for the four collection types are:

Archives:

Best	5	Archival materials <u>created & owned</u> by citizens of the Carolina Piedmont and document the history and heritage of the region
	4	Archival materials <u>used/owned</u> by citizens of the Carolina Piedmont and document the history and heritage of the region
	3	Archival materials <u>created in or manufactured for</u> citizens of the Carolina Piedmont and document the history and heritage of the region
	2	Archival materials not originally from the Carolina Piedmont but are <u>relevant</u> to the history and heritage of the region
Worst	1	Not from the area, does not document the history and heritage of the Carolina Piedmont
	0	Unable to rate due to lack of information or needs more research

Art:

- Best 5 The artist lives/lived in the Carolina Piedmont, the subject represents the cultural and natural histories of the region, **and** the artwork was made in the Carolina Piedmont; Vernon Grant artwork and related materials
- 4 The artist lives/lived in the Carolina Piedmont **and** the subject represents the cultural and natural histories of the region **or** the artwork was made in the Carolina Piedmont.
- 3 The artwork's subject directly represents the cultural and natural histories of the region **or** the artist lives/lived in the Carolina Piedmont
- 2 The artworks subject indirectly relates to the cultural and natural histories of the region
- Worst 1 The artist never lived in the Carolina Piedmont region nor does the artwork reflect the cultural and natural histories of the region
- 0 Unable to rate due to lack of information or needs more research

History:

- Best 5 Objects were **made in & owned/used by** the citizens of the Carolina Piedmont **and** represent the history and culture of the region; Objects originally owned by, made by, or used by members of the Brattonsville Community **and** relate to Historic Brattonsville.
- 4 Objects **used/owned** in the Carolina Piedmont **and** represent the history and culture of the region
- 3 Objects were **made in or manufactured** for citizens of the Carolina Piedmont **and** represent the history and culture of the region
- 2 Objects are not originally from the Carolina Piedmont **but** **represent** materials from the region that reflect its history and culture
- Worst 1 Not from the area, not representative of the Carolina Piedmont culture and history
- 0 Unable to rate due to the lack of information or needs more research

Natural History

- | | | |
|-------|---|---|
| Best | 5 | Specimens collected in the Carolina Piedmont that are good representatives of the taxon or of other aspects of the region's natural history |
| | 4 | Specimens collected outside the Carolina Piedmont but are good representatives of taxon or other aspects of the region's natural history |
| | 3 | Specimens collected outside the Carolina Piedmont but represent broad natural history concepts (e.g. adaptation) that can be observed in the region |
| | 2 | Specimens that are representatives of the Carolina Piedmont, but there are already numerous such specimens in the collection |
| Worst | 1 | Specimens collected outside the Carolina Piedmont that do not represent natural history aspects of the region or broader concepts |
| | 0 | Unable to rate due to lack of information or otherwise in need of more research |

Deaccessioning Processing

It is the intent of CHM that objects in the permanent collections be retained as long as they are known to be authentic, relevant to the mission and programs of CHM, are not broken, damaged, or deteriorated beyond repair, and as long as they can be properly and safely stored, preserved, and used. However, changes in the mission and the organization's collecting needs may require inappropriate items to be deaccessioned in order to improve the quality of care and quality of the objects that support the mission. Recommendations for deaccession should be made only after deliberate and scrupulous examination of the object's condition, history, and application to the mission.

Like the accessioning process, all potential deaccessions must be presented to the Commission for approval by filling out and submitting a Recommendation for Deaccession form. Before being sent to the Commission for approval, recommendations should first be sent to the Collections Task Force and Collections Committee for review. Once reviewed by the Committee, the Executive Director or Collections Committee Chairperson (a member of the Commission), will recommend potential deaccessions to the Commission for final approval, as laid out in the Collections Management Policy.

Objects being considered for deaccession must have been in the collection for a minimum of two years, have not been on exhibit for at least two years, and fit into one or more of the following categories:

1. Objects do not meet the mission of the organization.
2. Objects are improperly accessioned or acquired, such as an item acquired for other purposes and mistakenly accessioned.
3. Items represent an unnecessary duplicate of another item in the collection.
4. Objects have deteriorated to the point that they are useless for exhibit or study and are not cost-effective to restore.
5. Objects are impossible to safely store or exhibit.
6. Forgeries, fakes, and objects acquired on the basis of false information.
7. Replaceable objects are needed for destructive analysis, where such analysis is deemed of greater public benefit than preservation of the objects.
8. Objects pose a hazard to other objects or to human health.

Means of Disposition of Deaccessioned Materials

As explained in detail in the Collections Management Policy, there are five methods of disposition for deaccessioned items. They are:

- Transfer to the Education or Living History collections
- Transfer or Exchange with another organization
- Repatriation
- Physical Destruction
- Public Auction

The method of disposition is to be included on the Recommendation for Deaccession that is approved by the Commission.

Anthropology

Collection Overview:

Size: 3693 artifacts

- African:1728
- Asian: 25
- Australian: 21
- European: 26
- North American:726
- South American: 51
- Unknown Origin: 1172

Exhibition Space: N/A

Secure Storage Space: 1,169 sq. ft.

Intended Audience and their use of the Collection

Anthropologists, historians, art historians, authors, students, and scholars use the collection to research and write papers, publish articles and books, and other scholarly pursuits.

CHM Staff are able to use the collection to produce exhibits and public programs throughout all CHM sites.

History of the Collection

The Museum of York County (MYCO) opened in 1950 as the Children's Nature Museum (CNM) with exhibits and programming related to natural history, cultural history, and the arts geared towards both children and adults. The first known exhibit opened in 1952, featuring Catawba Indian Pottery made by active Catawba potters. In the late 1950s, CNM started the Stans African Collection which was made up of multiple African mounts donated or funded by Maurice Stans, as well as his friends and family. Along with the mounts, the collection also includes a large African anthropology collection. Because the museum did not have a focused mission, the anthropology collection grew to include ethnographic materials from six of the seven continents and from various time periods. Since MYCO has focused its mission to collect and preserve the natural history of the Carolina Piedmont, the collection has not grown in recent years. During the summer of 2017, an inventory of the African portion of the collection was completed with the help of Winthrop University Art History professor, Dr. Alice Burmeister, who specializes in African Art. The rest of the collection was inventoried by CHM staff in 2018. The inventory was completed with the intention to deaccession and transfer all non-mission related objects, in accordance with the 2016-2021 Institutional Plan.

Types of Material

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| • Face Masks | • Daggers |
| • Helmet Masks | • Kisi pennies |
| • Bows and arrows | • Ceremonial costumes |
| • Spears | • Knives |

- Jewelry
- Wall Hangings
- Doors
- Drums
- Xylophones
- Sculptures
- Head rests
- Chairs
- Textiles
- Currency bracelets/anklets
- Gourd vessels
- Lutes

- Food covers
- Fans
- Hats
- Purses
- Divining apparatuses
- Projectile points
- Ibeji sculptures
- Edan sculptures
- Shields
- Catawba pottery
- Sweetgrass baskets

Collection Strengths

- African masks
- Currency bracelet/anklets
- Projectile points
- Raffia mats
- Ibeji sculptures
- Edan sculptures
- Catawba Pottery, 1980-present

Collection Weaknesses

- York County artifacts
- Carolina Piedmont artifacts
- Catawba Pottery, up to 1980

Priorities for Anthropological Acquisitions

- York County artifacts
- Carolina Piedmont artifacts

Resources Needed

In order to continue to preserve the collection and create storage room for mission related items, staff need time to deaccession and transfer non-mission related items. Keeping in line with current museum ethics and standards in regards to repatriating African ethnographic items, staff will need time to research and find organizations in the appropriate country of origin that is able and interested in accepting a transfer. A considerable amount of staff time will also be needed to appropriately research the provenance of the collection to ensure it was ethically collected before it was added to CHM's collection. Upon the Commission's approval of deaccession and transfer, staff will need the necessary time and shipping materials to prepare the items for transport. A major resource needed for the repatriation would be funding to secure the necessary permits to transport potentially protected material across international borders and the cost to ship the items overseas. The items that are not deaccessioned will need to be relocated to an environmentally controlled storage room, requiring staff time, archival supplies, and shelving for relocation from MYCO to HC/McC.

Complimentary collections at other museums

CHM understands that it cannot acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above in their priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations. The following institutions have anthropological collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Smithsonian Institute
- Mint Museum of Art
- Michael C. Carlos Museum
- Native American Studies Center at University of South Carolina-Lancaster
- Catawba Cultural Center
- South Carolina State Museum
- Charleston Museum

Archaeology

Collection Overview:

Size: 126 boxes

Exhibition Space:

- HB: 690 sq. ft.

Secure Storage Space: 200 sq. ft.

Intended Audience and their use for the Collection

Historians, authors, students, and scholars use the collection to research and write papers, publish articles and books, write applications for historical markers, and other scholarly pursuits.

CHM Staff are able to use the collection to produce exhibits and public programs and assist with building interpretation, potential donations, and historic structure preservation throughout all CHM sites.

History of the Collection

The archaeology collection predominantly consists of artifacts found at Historic Brattonsville during various archaeological projects over the years with the largest project occurring in 2006. Examples of prehistory artifacts, both real and reproduction, have been acquired since 2020 as a way to educate the public about early human presence in the region through exhibitions and programming.

Types of Material

- Bricks
- Earthenware fragments
- Projectile points
- Metal fragments
- Bullet shells and casings
- Horseshoes
- Flatware

Collection Strengths

- Artifacts related to Historic Brattonsville

Collection Weaknesses

- York County artifacts
- Artifacts related to other CHM sites

Priorities for Archaeological Acquisitions

- Artifacts found on CHM sites during construction and/or research projects
- York County artifacts with documentable data

Resources Needed

In order to continue growing and preserving the current collection, a Cultural Resource Management Plan (CRMP) should be written, with staff time to research and write the document being necessary. In addition to needing a CRMP, money, staff, and time are needed in order to properly process and catalog the current collection. Funding is needed in order to purchase archival storage materials to properly house the collection. More staff and time are necessary in order to appropriately process and catalog the current archaeological collection. In order to appropriately acquire and document new archaeological artifacts found on CHM sites, archaeology tools, funding staff, and time are needed.

Complimentary collections at other museums

CHM understands that it may not acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above as priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations. The following institutions have archaeological collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Schiele Museum of Natural History
- State Historic Preservation Office
- University of South Carolina
- South Carolina State Museum
- Catawba Cultural Center
- Smithsonian Institute
- Native American Studies Center at University of South Carolina-Lancaster

Archives Collection

Including the Southern Revolutionary War Institute (SRWI) and Corporate Collections

Collection Overview:

Size:

- Archival Boxes: 3002
- Ledgers: 598
- Map Drawers: 40
- Microfilm Reels: 1584
- Books: 6581
- 4-Drawer File Cabinets: 29
- Circulating Periodicals: 243 containers
- Genealogical Periodicals (individual issues): 2445

Exhibition Space:

- HC: 83 sq. ft.
- HB: 7,901 sq. ft. spread throughout 10 buildings
- McC: 3,730 sq. ft. (future exhibit space as outlined in 2016-2021 Institutional Plan)

Publicly Accessible Storage Space: 2,785 sq. ft.

Secure Storage Space:

- HC: 2,168 sq. ft.
- McC: 2,469 sq. ft.

Intended audience and their use of the Collection

Genealogists and family historians use the collection to conduct their family history, create family trees, and publish family history books.

Historians, authors, students, and scholars use the collection to research and write papers, publish articles and books, write applications for historical markers, and other scholarly pursuits.

Members of heritage organizations and cultural institutions use the collection to research histories related to the American Revolution as well as family histories.

Local, state, and federal government agencies use the collection to educate the public but also to research local history as it relates to government projects.

The Yorkville Historical Society uses the collection to research their Rose Hill Cemetery Tours, Holiday Tour of Homes, and publish books about the City of York.

The general public, government agencies, and other cultural and heritage organizations use the collection to apply for historical designations and programs, such as South Carolina historical marker program and the National Register of Historic Places.

CHM Staff are able to use the collection for research, to produce exhibits and public programs, and assist with building interpretation and structural preservation throughout all CHM sites. Staff also use the collection to conduct research for scholarly publications and potential donations.

History of the Collection

The Historical Center of York County was established in 1989 to serve as the repository for York County government records in accordance with sections 32.35 through 32.42 of York County's Code of Ordinances. There have been two amendments made to these ordinances since their establishment in the late 1980s. Ordinance No. 611 was adopted by York County Council in May 2011 while Ordinance No. 3816 was adopted in August 2016.

Along with the receipt of county records, a major donation of family genealogies compiled by Joseph E. Hart helped establish the Archives Collection. Since its creation, the archival collection has grown to also include family papers, historic photographs, local business records, local newspaper publications, rare books, and cemetery records, among others. Most of the archival material, along with a large collection of library books, are available for public access in the non-lending public Search Room. Though the library books are not added to the permanent collection, they are all cataloged and tracked with Book ID's. The Archives Department also maintains education and local surname files to assist with research requests that are received via phone, email, or walk-in visit.

In 2006, the Southern Revolutionary War Institute (SRWI) was added as a special archival collection to house and make available the research of Revolutionary War Historian Bobby Gilmer Moss which includes Patriot and Loyalist military records of those who fought in the Southern Campaign. Since its creation, the collection has grown to also include the Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection, the Cornwallis Papers, and the published papers of Henry Laurens and Nathanael Greene. All collections, as well as a number of published books about the Revolutionary War, are available for public use in the non-lending public search room in the SRWI.

The Corporate Archival Collection maintains, and will continue to add, Board Minutes, Committee Minutes, property deeds, photographs, news articles, and press releases about all CHM sites, as well as historical documentation, floor plans, and construction/restoration documentation for all sites.

Types of Material

- Photographs
- Maps
- Ledgers
- Documents
- Film, Audio, Video, and Digital Media
- Newspapers
- Church Records
- Cemetery Records
- Family papers
- Education Files
- Local Surname Files
- Books
- Periodicals
- Microfilm
- City Directories
- Deeds
- Postcards
- Diaries/Journals
- Diplomas/Certificates
- School Annuals/Yearbooks
- Local Business Records
- Social Organizations Records

Collection Strengths

Archives:

- York County Court Records
- Hart Genealogy Collection
- Newspaper Collection
- Photograph collection
- Church ledgers/records
- Family papers
- Local social organizations
- Local businesses and industries
- County education
- Bratton Paper digital collection

Library:

- Surname files
- Education files
- Library reference books
- Family history books
- Ancestry.com subscription
- Fold3.com subscription
- Newspapers.com subscription
- Local history publications
- Maps

Southern Revolutionary War Institute:

- Rev. War books
- Rev. War periodicals
- Lyman Draper microfilm collection
- Cornwallis Papers microfilm collection
- Horatio Gates microfilm collection
- Loyalist wartime claims microfilm collection
- North Carolina Army Accounts and Pay Vouchers microfilm
- Photocopies of military and government records from US, United Kingdom, and Canada
- Dissertations and theses
- Thomas Sumter wartime correspondence

Corporate:

- McCelvey history
- Historic Brattonsville history
- Museum of York County history
- Cultural & Heritage Commission history

Collection Weaknesses

Archives:

- Modern wars (Korean – Present)
- Under-represented populations (Native Americans, African Americans, etc.)
- Western York County (Sharon, Hickory Grove, Smyrna, Bullocks Creek, Clover)
- Gaps in court records, 1950-1980
- Gaps in City Directories for York, Rock Hill, Chester, Fort Mill, and Gastonia
- Oral histories and videos

SRWI:

- Original Rev. War manuscripts
- Original correspondence from Rev. War
- Books published before the Rev. War (pre-1800)

Priorities for Archival Acquisitions

Archives:

- Family papers
- Court records
- Church records
- Deeds
- Maps
- City Directories
- York County School memorabilia
- Documents related to Historic Brattonsville

Library:

- Surname files
- Cemetery surveys
- Family history books
- Local history books

SRWI:

- Primary source material
- Rev. War microfilm
- PhD Dissertations
- Master Theses
- Out-of-print books
- Newly published books and articles

Corporate:

- Board minutes
- News articles
- Historical documentation of CHM sites
- Building Preservation and Renovation Documents

Resources Needed

In order to continue growing and preserving the current collection, adequate collections storage is needed, not just physical storage space, but also archival storage materials and digital storage space for archival digitization. In conjunction with space, funding is also needed. Though a major portion of the Archives Collections is obtained through donation, funds are needed to purchase library books, digitize microfilm and other records, and to buy archival storage materials. The other needed resources are staff and time. The Archives Department consists of three full-time employees while the SRWI only has one employee, CHM's Historian.

Complimentary collections at other museums

CHM understands that it may not acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above in their priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations. The following institutions have archival collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Dacus Library at Winthrop University
- Fort Mill History Museum
- The White Home in Rock Hill
- Rock Hill Public Library
- South Carolina State Archives
- South Caroliniana Library at USC
- Charlotte Museum of History
- York County Government
- Local Churches
- USC Lancaster Library
- National Archives and Records Administration
- Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University
- Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection at the Wisconsin Historical Society
- National Archives of the United Kingdom
- Clements Library at the University of Michigan
- Library of Congress
- New York Public Library
- New York Historical Society
- Revolutionary War Visitors Center

Art

Collection Overview:

Size:

- Vernon Grant: 2985
- Non-Vernon Grant: 570

Exhibition Space:

- MYCO: up to 2,636 sq. ft.
- MSCM: 2470 sq. ft.
- HC: 80 sq. ft.
- HB: 7,901 sq. ft. spread throughout 10 buildings

Secure Storage Space:

- HC: 1,650 sq. ft.
- McC: 780 sq. ft.

Intended audience and their use of the Collection

Art historians, artists, authors, students, and scholars use the collection to research and write papers, publish articles and books, and other scholarly pursuits.

Local businesses, non-profit organizations, and government agencies request to use the collection for local marketing campaigns

CHM Staff use the collection to produce exhibits, public programs, and marketing throughout all CHM sites and to conduct research on potential acquisitions.

History of the Collection

Aside from a couple random pieces of artwork, the art collection started in 1982 with the purchase of two ceramic jugs from the 1982 South Carolina Crafters Guild Third Annual Juried Exhibition and a donation of twenty dog prints by the late MYCO Director J. Lee Settlemyre. The collection continued to grow through small donations until the early 2000s when artwork was purchased from a wide variety of sources, including a number of "purchase awards" at juried shows, with the intention of the artwork to be displayed at MLE upon its completion.

In the late 1970s, Vernon Grant (VG) started to loan his artwork, magazine covers, advertisements, children's books, sketches, video recordings, and papers to MYCO where it was used in a number of exhibits. Licensing was also done with the artist and his family to create products to sell in the museum's store. The artist passed away in 1990, with his wife passing away in 2001. In 2006, two of the artist's children donated the collection to CHM on behalf of their late father, though the VG Estate was on loan to CHM for decades. Along with receiving full clear title and ownership of the collection, CHM also received the copyrights of all works that Vernon Grant himself had copyrights of, in accordance with US Copyright Law, Title 17.

CHM continues to actively purchase and collect Vernon Grant works to add to the collection while also preserving the artist's legacy through proper management of its intellectual property.

CHM staff worked with the City of Rock Hill to create ChristmasVille in 2006, an annual Christmas festival held in Downtown Rock Hill that utilizes Vernon Grant's paintings of Santa Clause throughout their events, decorations, and marketing. CHM and ChristmasVille of Rock Hill, a local 501(c)3 non-profit organization, have a license agreement through 2028 that dictates which Grant artworks can be used and how. Of the entire art collection, the Vernon Grant Collection makes up about 85% of the overall art collection, making CHM the premier destination to see and research Grant's artwork. In accordance with the 2016-20221 Institutional Plan, CHM is working to identify and acquire a gallery space for which Vernon Grant artwork can be exhibited year-round. As of 2024, a space has yet to be acquired for a number of factors, though it is still a goal that staff are striving for.

In 2010, the Main Street Children's Museum opened, turning the artist's artwork into life-size, interactive, hands-on exhibits for young children to explore through creative play. The museum experienced a catastrophic flood in 2018 due to a ruptured water line in the privately-owned space above the museum. Most of the exhibit pieces were damaged beyond repair. Staff used the renovation as an opportunity to reimagine exhibits that were underutilized by the visitors, creating new exhibit spaces inspired by Grant's artwork. MSCM staff continue to use the Vernon Grant Collection as inspiration for their exhibits, programs, and marketing. It is important to note that there is no original Vernon Grant artwork on display in MSCM.

In 2018, 100 folk art pieces were deaccessioned due to the lack of relevance to CHM's mission and were transferred to the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina. Staff continue to research and identify non-mission compliant artwork in the collection so it can be deaccessioned in accordance with the 2016-2021 Institutional Plan.

Types of Materials

- Gouache on Board (paintings)
- Watercolor on paper (paintings)
- Oil on canvas (paintings)
- Newspaper covers and articles
- Magazines
- Advertisements
- 35mm film
- Audio recordings
- Books
- Scrapbooks
- Record players
- Children's toys
- Cereal boxes

- Reproduction prints
- Christmas tree ornaments
- Holiday cards
- Figurines
- Paper mâché figures
- Sketches
- Drawings on paper and/or board

Collection Strengths

Vernon Grant:

- Rice Krispies Advertisements
- Rennet Junket Advertisements
- Utah Radio Advertisements
- Magazine Covers
- Original Santa Clause paintings
- Original Gouache paintings
- Children's Books
- Sketches
- Come-See-Me Promotional Items
- Holiday cards
- Christmas Tree ornaments

Non-Vernon Grant:

- Gene Merritt artwork
- Kay Cloniger paintings of Miss Kitty
- Grace Ebersold Ulbrecht woodblock buildings
- J. Lee Settlemyre Jr. artwork
- *Disappearing Farmsteads of the Piedmont* series by William Elder
- Richard Sloan Bird Prints

Collection Weaknesses

Vernon Grant:

- Original Kellogg's Rice Krispies artwork
- Original Come-See-Me artwork
- Pre-Kellogg's Rice Krispies artwork and advertisements
- World War II USO Watercolors

Non-Vernon Grant:

- Natural History themed artwork

Priorities for Art Acquisitions

Vernon Grant:

- Original Paintings, any subject matter
- WWII USO Watercolors
- Advertisements not already represented in the collection

Non-Vernon Grant:

- Carolina Piedmont related Natural History artwork
- Art by Carolina Piedmont Artists on themes related to the cultural history of the region

Resources Needed

In order to continue growing and preserving the current collection, adequate collections storage is needed, not just environmentally controlled storage space, but also archival storage materials. Funding is needed to digitize and color correct the larger paintings, conserve the flaking and crazing artworks, and purchase any original paintings that go up for sale or auction. Staff time is needed in order to conduct a thorough inventory and re-house the Vernon Grant Collection.

Complimentary collections at other museums

CHM understands that it may not acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above in their priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations, or private collectors. The following institutions have art collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Winthrop University Galleries
- Louise Pettus Archives and Special Collections at Winthrop University
- South Carolina State Museum
- Kellogg's Corporate Archives

History

Collection Overview:

Size: 7295 artifacts

Exhibition Space:

- HC: 80 sq. ft.
- HB: 7,901 sq. ft. spread throughout 10 buildings
- McC: 3,730 sq. ft. (future exhibit space as outlined in 2016-2021 Institutional Plan)

Storage Space:

- HC: 3,801 sq. ft.
- McC: 7,401 sq. ft.

Intended audience and their use for the Collection

The general public use the collection to research and learn about the material culture of York County and the Carolina Piedmont.

CHM Staff use the collection to produce exhibits, public programs, and marketing throughout all CHM sites and to conduct research on potential acquisitions.

History of the Collection

The Junior Welfare League opened the Museum of York County in 1950 as the Children's Nature Museum of Rock Hill (CNM) in Fewell Park. Exhibits and programming included natural history, cultural history, and the arts geared towards both children and adults. In 1965, the museum moved into a new facility on Mt. Gallant Road. Included in the new exhibits was *The Hall of Yesteryear*, a local history exhibit that was available for the public to see through the late 1980s, when the focus of the museum shifted towards natural history and artwork by Vernon Grant.

Elsewhere in the county, the York County Historical Commission was established in 1959 with the mission to preserve and maintain a former York County plantation. Historic Brattonsville (HB) opened to the public in 1976. The sites' historic buildings were furnished with period appropriate furniture and home goods that were donated, loaned, or purchased for display purposes. In 1989, the York County Historical Commission expanded and established the Historical Center of York County (HC) that was operating out of rented classrooms in the McCelvey Center. The HC was created with the purpose to serve as a repository for county court records, in accordance with York County Ordinance 611, as well as having a permanent collection of documents and photographs related to local history, later expanding the collection to include local history artifacts and artwork.

In 1997, the Museum of York County and the York County Historical Commission merged, creating the Culture & Heritage Commission. In terms of the collection, the merger meant that three very different collections were consolidated into one large collection that was stored throughout the county at the various sites. Over the years, a number of collection items from other sites have been relocated into vacant classrooms within environmental controlled storage at the McCelvey Center.

CHM continued to build the history collection through donations, loans, and purchases. In 2008, the museums acquired two significant pieces of York County history. Through donation, CHM received a 1920s Draper E industrial loom, a piece of local history that helps illustrate the county's textile history. CHM also purchased a very rare 1921 Anderson Motor Company Model C automobile that was made in Rock Hill, SC.

In April 2014, the Historical Center of York County opened a newly renovated facility in the McCelvey Annex, immediately adjacent to the McCelvey Center. In addition to offering big public search rooms, the facility featured state-of-the-art environmentally controlled collections storage areas. Part of the collection previously stored at McCelvey was relocated to HC Secure Storage while still maintaining a number of third floor classrooms at McCelvey as collections storage.

Upon adoption of the 2016-2021 Institutional Plan, the Collections Dept. started researching the provenance of the history collection to identify non-mission compliant items that could be deaccessioned. Non-mission compliant pieces were then assessed for their potential education and exhibition use throughout all CHM sites. A large number of history items have since been deaccessioned and transferred to the education/living history collection for permanent display at Historic Brattonsville, where the historic structures lack environmental control.

The history collection grew significantly in 2021 upon the closure and dissolution of the Museum of Western York County, an unaffiliated museum located in Sharon, SC. Over 1400 objects were transferred to CHM with them being split between the permanent and education collections. In addition to transferring collection items, MWYC donated all remaining funds to CHM with the restriction that the funds be used for the care of the MWYC collection. Collections and Archives staff are able to use these funds to buy archival supplies and tools, upon approval from the Executive Director and Commission.

Types of Materials

- Transportation Vehicles
- Wood furniture
- Textiles (quilts, coverlets, and clothing)
- Ceramic crocks
- Glassware
- Weapons
- Cast iron cookware

- Jewelry
- Hats/headwear
- Flatware
- Historic building fragments
- Metal tools and equipment

Collection Strengths

- 19th century quilts and coverlets
- Medical and pharmaceutical equipment
- 20th century clothing
- WWI and WWII uniforms
- 19th century furniture
- Agricultural tools
- Transportation Vehicles
- Cameras
- Pianos/Organs

Collection Weaknesses

- African American related objects (owned, made, etc.)
- Civil Rights material cultural
- Textile Industry items
- Military items from York County citizens' participation, pre-WWI and Post WWII (Korea to Present)
- 19th century material culture other than furniture
- Local government
- Women in the military
- York County Schools

Priorities for History Acquisitions

- African American related objects
- York County Schools
- Local Government
- Civil Rights items
- Bratton family/Brattonsville Community items
- Military items from Pre-WWI and Post-WWII
- 20th century quilts and coverlets
- 19th century material culture

Resources Needed

Given the size of the history collection, one of the most needed resources is dedicated history exhibition space. The 2016-2021 Institutional Plan identifies this need with the solution to put history exhibits in a main floor wing of the McCelvey Center. Before opening any exhibits, CHM staff need to establish the curatorial direction for the exhibits and programming. Funding is

needed to not only plan and build exhibition space, but funding is also needed for the collection's preservation, conservation, and growth through acquisition. Dedicated, environmentally controlled storage is needed for collections growth as well. There are vacant 3rd floor rooms in McCelvey that are available but shelving and updated HVACs are needed before utilizing those spaces. Regular maintenance of McCelvey's elevator is crucial if CHM staff continue to utilize McCelvey's third floor for collections storage.

Complimentary collections at other museums

CHM understands that it may not acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above in their priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations. The following institutions have history collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Levine Museum of the New South (Farm to Industry)
- McKissick Museum (Bratton materials)
- Gaston County Museum
- Fort Mill History Museum
- Historic Rock Hill
- Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts (MESDA)
- South Carolina State Museum
- South Carolina Military Museum
- North Carolina State Museum
- South Caroliniana Library
- Smithsonian Institute
- Chester County Historical Society Museum
- Charlotte Museum of History
- Historic Rosedale
- Walnut Grove Plantation
- Fairfield County Museum
- Union County (SC) Museum
- Historic Camden
- Catawba Cultural Center
- Native American Studies Center at University of South Carolina-Lancaster
- Louis Pettus Archives and Special Collections

Natural History

Collection Overview

Size:

- Carolina Piedmont Specimens: 2,468
- Non-Carolina Piedmont Specimens: 690
- Naturalist Center Collection: 2,461

Exhibition Space:

- Permanent Exhibit Space: 13,245 sq. ft.
- Changing Exhibit Space: 2,636 sq. ft.

Storage Space:

- Permanent Storage Space: 1,910 sq. ft.
- Temporary Storage Space: 1,524 sq. ft.

Intended audience and their use of the Collection

Local schools, camps, and daycares use the collection to learn about Carolina Piedmont natural history and its global connections, with staff using South Carolina Curriculum standards as a guide for exhibit and program planning.

The general public use the collection to research and learn about the Carolina Piedmont natural history and its global connections.

Scientists and students use the collection to research and write papers, publish articles and books, and other scholarly pursuits.

CHM Staff use the collection to produce exhibits, public programs, and marketing throughout all CHM sites and to conduct research for scholarly publications and potential acquisitions.

History of the Collection

The Junior Welfare League opened the Museum of York County in 1950 as the Children's Nature Museum of Rock Hill (CNM) in Fewell Park. Exhibits and programming included natural history, cultural history, and the arts geared towards both children and adults. In the late 1950s, CNM started the Stans African Collection which was made up of multiple African mounts donated or funded by Maurice Stans (1908-1998), an accountant and U.S. Cabinet member under President Richard Nixon. Stans worked with CNM Director J. Lee Settlemyre (1916-1974) to conduct a number of hunting expeditions in Africa to build out the natural history collection. CHM maintained a relationship with the Stans family until 2010. At one point in time, CHM's collection was considered to be the largest collection of African hoofed animals in the world. Another major benefactor of the natural history collection was Mellon Foundation with the working relationship starting in the late 1970s through the 1980s.

The Children's Nature Museum opened a new building in 1965, showcasing the African Collection in a variety of dioramas, on Mt. Gallant Road. In addition to displaying African natural history, the museum also maintained programs and exhibits on local history, regional natural history, and the arts. In 1976, CNM changed their name to the Museum of York County (MYCO), though the mission, programs, and exhibits remained the same with the primary natural history focus being of African fauna. It is important to note that the natural history collection includes specimens that are considered endangered by 2024 standards but those specimens were collected prior to the creation of the Endangered Species act of 1973 or had the proper hunting permits obtained.

Since 1994, MYCO has had a specimen trade/exchange agreement with Clemson University's Bob and Betsy Campbell Museum of Natural History. CHM's Curator of Natural History works with Campbell Museum staff to exchange non-mission compliant specimens with specimens from the Carolina Piedmont. However, there are situations where the Campbell Museum staff provide taxidermy and specimen prep services in exchange for CHM's non-mission compliant specimens. From 1994 through 2023, CHM has deaccessioned and transferred at least 429 non-mission compliant specimens to the Campbell Museum of Natural History. In return, CHM has received over 500 Carolina Piedmont specimens.

Through the use of grant funds from Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (IMLS), CHM created the Museum of York County Naturalist Center in 2010. The Naturalist Center is a hands-on learning laboratory that contains over 2,400 specimens. Though CHM's mission no longer includes African animals, the Naturalist Centers maintains African-themed dioramas as examples of global ecosystems and biomes. These dioramas adhere to South Carolina education curriculum standards.

In 2022, the Commission approved of upgrades to a secure collections' storage room at MYCO for designated use as a fluid preservation room and a large walk-in freezer for specimen isolation. The project will allow CHM to actively collect specimens to be stored in ethyl alcohol and made available for research. In 2023, Winthrop University's Biology Department transferred over 300 lots of fluid preserved fish which includes an estimated 1000 individual specimens. With the accession of the transfer, CHM's collection contains almost 80% of the known fish species from the Carolina Piedmont, and over 86% of the known fish species from York County. In addition to accepting transfers from Winthrop University, CHM has also deaccessioned and transferred at least 114 specimens to Winthrop for the university's use in classes and campus museums. The fluid preservation room and freezer are expected to be complete in late 2024, which will allow for active growth of the fluid collection.

Types of Materials

- Taxidermy whole mounts
- Taxidermy head mounts
- Taxidermy models
- Study Skins

- Skeletons
- Fossils
- Rocks and Minerals
- Reproduction casts
- 3D printed models
- Fluid preserved specimens
- Shells
- Bird nests and eggs
- Insects
- Image Vouchers
- Botanical specimens

Collection Strengths

- Carolina Piedmont vertebrates
 - Fish
 - Amphibians
 - Reptiles
 - Birds
 - Mammals
- Naturalist Center Collection
- Pleistocene Collections (fossils, reproductions, models)

Collection Weaknesses

- Geology
- Botany
- Invertebrates
- Planetarium collection

Priorities for natural history collection

- Carolina Piedmont vertebrates
- Pleistocene specimens
- Miocene/Pliocene specimens
- Image Vouchers

Resources needed

In order to grow the natural history collection, staff and time are needed for field collection and processing of specimens. Financial resources are needed for archival storage supplies, shelving, and cabinets. Funding will also be needed to repair or replace aging HVAC units in natural history storage rooms. Ideally, there would be enough funding available to hire another

collection specialist with emphasis on natural history to assist the curator with processing and researching the collection.

Complimentary collections at other museums

It is understood that other regional natural history museums have collections that compliment CHM's. To prevent duplication and competition among regional museums, the collecting priorities identified above were created with this in consideration. CHM may not acquire all items pertinent to their mission or listed above in their priorities for acquisition. Therefore, when practical and necessary, CHM will seek out loans from other organizations. The following institutions have natural history collections that compliment those held by CHM and can be viewed as potential lenders.

- Charleston Museum
- Clemson University Campbell Museums
- North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences
- Schiele Museum of Natural History
- Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History
- Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum
- South Carolina State Museum

Conclusion

Since 2013, Culture & Heritage Museums' mission has been to communicate and preserve the natural and cultural histories of the Carolina Piedmont, inspiring a lifetime of learning. CHM is able to achieve this mission through active collecting, dynamic exhibits, and interactive programming. Collections and archives staff will continue to build on the collection using this plan as a guide, helping them build a more cohesive collection that has a long and storied history with the community, going as far back as 1950. While having adequate amount of staff, time, and funding would make this monumental task easier, the collections and archives staff will continue to further CHM's mission with current available resources while also adhering to museum standards and best practices.

Appendix A

Developing a Collecting Plan: Questionnaire

Answer the following questions as they related to your departmental collection.

1. **What does your site aspire to be?**

2. **What is the intended audience?**

3. **What are the audience's needs?**

4. **How will the audience use the collection?**

5. **What influences the collection (exhibits, programs, research)?** See paragraph below for explanation (Source: Gardner, James B. and Elizabeth E. Merritt, *The AAM Guide to Collections Planning*, 2004: American Association of Museums, Page 8).
 - *Collecting goals and interpretive goals:* Is your museum's collecting driven largely by exhibition and program goals or are there separate and distinct collecting goals? Should you develop collections around exhibit plans, or is that too limiting? Do you have the responsibility and the resources to build collections for documentary or research purposes? Answering such questions is critical; for example, a research collection must be more comprehensive than one used largely for exhibition or interpretation, which can rely on more representative, selective objects.

6. **What are the strengths of your departmental collection?**

7. **What are the weaknesses of your departmental collection?**

8. What is your “ideal” departmental collection?

9. What resources are needed to accomplish the department’s “ideal” collection?

10. How does your “ideal” collection compare to the real/current collection?

11. What is the central theme of your departmental collection?

12. What are the sub-themes of your departmental collection?

13. Are there any themes you would like to add?

14. What are your acquisition priorities?

15. Can you identify any major acquisitions that CHM should try for?

**16. Can you identify complementary collections held by other museums or organizations?
Please list.**

