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## Notes of Gratitude

Thank you to all organizations who contributed toward the restoration of the Charleston County Historic Courthouse and those who provided services, donations or other assistance in planning today's event, including:

Charleston County Capital Projects - restoration project management;  
Friends of the Courthouse - interior restoration, furnishings.

Architects for the project include: NBBJ Architects - exterior and overall project coordinators; Goff-D'Antonio Associates, Ltd. - interior; Glenn Keyes Architects - architectural details; and Historic Charleston Foundation and Colonial Williamsburg Foundation - consultants.

Engineers include: Paul C. Rizzo Associates, Inc. - structural/civil engineers; and Epic Engineering, Inc. - mechanical engineers. General Contractor for construction: Hightower Construction Company, Inc.

Historical consultants and ceremonial assistance provided by: Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, Historic Charleston Foundation, S.C. Historical Society, S.C. Ceremonial Unit, Sumter Guard and Washington Light Infantry.

Ceremonial logistical assistance provided by: County of Charleston - Administrator's Office, Emergency Services, Fleet Operations, General Services, Procurement, Public Information Staff, Public Works Department, Sheriff's Office and Solid Waste Department; City of Charleston - Parks Department, Police Department, Public Information Office and Traffic and Transportation Department; Southtrust Bank, Meeting Street branch.

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### 2001 Charleston County Council Members

Barrett S. Lawrimore, Chairman  
Timothy E. Scott, Vice Chairman  
Curtis E. Bostic      Cindy M. Floyd  
John O. Conlon      A.D. Jordan  
Toi Ahrens Estes      Leon E. Stavrinakis  
Charles T. Wallace, M.D.

Roland H. Windham Jr., County Administrator

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photo circa 1883, courtesy of the S.C. Historical Society

## Charleston County Historic Courthouse Grand Re-Opening

Four Corners of Law

Charleston, South Carolina

Carolina Day - June 28, 2001

12:15 p.m.

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## History of the Courthouse

Originally built in 1753, the building was constructed as South Carolina's first and only colonial statehouse, and included some material believed to have been imported from Great Britain. From 1756 to 1788, the Statehouse was the seat of the Royal British Governor, the Colonial Assembly and the central meeting place for South Carolina politics.

Struck by fire in 1788, the two-story Georgian Palladian-style structure was gutted just prior to South Carolina's Convention for Ratification of the U.S. Constitution. The foundation and some exterior and interior walls were saved and used in the restoration effort that started in 1790. Ironically, the fire came just after the state had decided in 1786 to move the capital to Columbia.

Although still in an unfinished state, the building was visited in the early 1790s by President George Washington as he searched for architectural examples he could use as a pattern for the White House. While in Charleston, Washington met James Hoban, who worked as a local professor of architecture. Hoban would become the architect of the original White House, built in 1792. White House architectural historians have theorized that Hoban's work in South Carolina influenced his White House design, noting that "the similarity between the Charleston statehouse and the first design of the White House is too strong to dismiss."

In December 1792, the United States District Court began meeting in the new building, marking the beginning of its use as a courthouse. Over the years, the Courthouse has housed the Sheriff for the District, Prothonotary, Register of Mesne Conveyance, Register in Equity, all courts for the District, Comptroller General, State Treasurer, Circuit Solicitor, Charleston Library Society, the Library of the Medical Society and the S.C. Bar Association.

The Historic Courthouse structure has undergone a variety of alterations and additions over time. For example, in 1883 the main entrance was moved from Broad to Meeting Street, and in 1941 the building was doubled in size. The building survived, with damage, through the 1886 earthquake and then 1989's Hurricane Hugo. Recent restoration efforts focused on returning the building to its original 1792 appearance in an effort to honor its judicial history and preserve its rich heritage for future generations.

## Re-Opening Ceremony

Welcome ..... Barrett S. Lawrimore  
Charleston County Council Chairman

Presentation of Colors ..... Washington Light Infantry

National Anthem ..... Lynn Boone  
Soloist

Invocation ..... The Reverend Alfred T.K. Zadig Jr.  
St. Michael's Episcopal Church

Posting of Colors ..... Washington Light Infantry

Remarks ..... Lawrimore

Remarks ..... Julie J. Armstrong  
Charleston County Clerk of Court

Remarks ..... Costa Pleicones  
S.C. Supreme Court Justice

Remarks ..... Carl R. Lounsbury  
Colonial Williamsburg Architectural Historian, Author

Closing ..... Lawrimore

Retiring of Colors ..... Washington Light Infantry

Processional parade and artillery provided by the Sumter Guard.  
1787 U.S. flag provided by S.C. Historical Society. Music provided by  
George Shea on drum and Jean McIntyre on violin.