As part of their mission to preserve and develop cultural and historical resources in York County, York County Forever has provided regular funding assistance for the restoration of the White Home and grounds in Rock Hill. For further information, visit the SC Department of Archives & History website at: http://shpo.sc.gov/properties/
HISTORIC PRESERVATION TAX INCENTIVES

Historic preservation provides benefits to individuals as well as to the whole community. Tax savings are available at the federal, state, and local level for restoration and rehabilitation projects that meet specific guidelines.

Income-producing buildings (offices, stores, or rental housing) that are listed on the National Register are eligible for a 20% federal historic rehabilitation income tax credit. Buildings that meet the federal criteria may also be eligible for a 10% SC state income tax credit. Owner-occupied or income-producing, at a lower property tax rate for a fixed number of years during and after renovation.

Other preservation tax incentives include a credit against local property taxes or state income taxes equal to 25% of rehabilitation expenses for abandoned textile mill buildings. Highland Park Mill in Rock Hill, which dates from the late 19th century and is on the National Register, was an abandoned eyesore for many years before a combination of tax credits assisted with its conversion into apartments for seniors, as well as office space use. The mill renovation will hopefully serve as a catalyst for redevelopment of the mill village neighborhood.

For more information about historic tax incentives, visit the SC Archives & History website at:

www.shpo.sc.gov/grants/

PRESERVE AMERICA PROGRAM

Created in 2003, Preserve America is a federal program that encourages and supports community efforts to enjoy our cultural and natural heritage. Goals of the program include a greater shared knowledge about the nation’s past, strengthened regional pride, increased local participation in preserving our heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of our communities. This program recognizes and designates municipalities, counties, neighborhoods, and tribal nations which protect and celebrate their heritage. To date, more than 760 communities have been designated. Along with promotional benefits and technical assistance, benefits include eligibility to apply for Preserve America matching grants to sustain historic and cultural sites.

York County achieved Preserve America designation in part because of the historical and educational programs and sites managed by the Culture & Heritage Museums, such as Historic Brattonsville and the McElvey Center; the private heritage tourism partnership formed to restore the McCrory Building and Friendship Nine Lunch Counter in Rock Hill; and such annual heritage observances as Yap Ye Iswa, the Catawba festival, Feis Chloobhair in Clover that honors the Scots-Irish influence, and the Battle of Hucks Defeat, a Revolutionary War battle reenactment at Historic Brattonsville.

COMMISSION CORNER

The first York County Forever Commission meeting in 2011 will be held on Tuesday, January 11th. Meetings will then resume the regularly scheduled date of the fourth Monday of each month at the York County Office Complex, 1070 Heckle Boulevard, in Rock Hill. All meetings will begin at 4:30 p.m.

For the most updated information about the Commission, its mission, and projects, please visit the Planning Department’s web page on the York County website at:

www.yorkcountygov.com

and click on the YCF link, or contact Commission staff at:

York County Planning
1070 Heckle Boulevard, A-5
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Telephone: 803.909.7221
E-Mail: jacque.sorrentino@yorkcountygov.com

Correction to The Resource October, 2010 issue:
In addition to the Blackjacks Heritage Preserve in Rock Hill, the federally endangered Schweinitz’s Sunflower also enjoys permanent protection at a ten-acre prairie preserve at Historic Brattonsville.

(Thanks to Dr. Steven Fields, Curator of Natural History, at the York County Culture & Heritage Museums, for the updated information.)