

Ware Shoals Inn Dedication

By Michael Bedenbaugh
Executive Director
Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation

The Palmetto Trust for Historic Preservation is the statewide non-profit organization that has been given the task of advocating for the protection of South Carolina's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

As its Executive Director, I stand here before you in the shadow of a building that is truly irreplaceable.

All over this state I hear questions like: "Why do we save these buildings? Why are they irreplaceable?"

We do this because we as South Carolinians have inherited a rich legacy that is reflected in those structures built by the visionaries of our past. Here is where people of a "Mill Town" gathered and strengthened the relationships that created the community of Ware Shoals.

Just as a simple structure called a "house" becomes through the binding effects of love, hearth and family a home...it is structures like this, that transform towns into healthy and vibrant communities.

They are irreplaceable because their loss tears at the fabric that binds us all together. Without this building here... where would we be? What would these crossroads represent?

Its emptiness would be a stark contrast to all the richness of life and relationships that came here in the past... That paused... That lived... That loved... and that built.

But thankfully, the emptiness is not the way this story ends here... at this place... at this corner!

It is appropriate that my friend Frank Warlick and his partners named their company Vision Ware Shoals!... because just like the visionaries of the past, these "developers" came here respecting what has come before and what is necessary for this town to be a strong and viable community for generations to come.

In a time where vision is too often neglected for quick profits and easy money, it is refreshing to stand in the company of leaders who are willing to make the long term investment and commitment, to ensure for this town that anyone arriving at these crossroads will always know where the Community of Ware Shoals stands!