



EXAMPLE

Request for GAT Book Project Materials

Kindly submit all information to GATBook@NSCDA-SC.org or:

NSCDA-SC
c/o Alan Stello
81 Cumberland Street
Charleston, SC 29401

Submissions will serve as an accurate reference. It is unlikely information will be published verbatim.

1. Name of property or collection feature

The Powder Magazine (Charleston, SC)

2. Contact person (Dames Member or Staff Member) for submitted content

John Young (Museum Operations Manager)
John@PowderMag.org
(843)722-9350

3. If applicable, a one phrase accolade for the feature

South Carolina's Oldest Public Building

4. A brief explanation (100-300 words) of how this feature became affiliated with your corporate society

Note: Focus on your organization's role in the preservation of the property/collection. Perhaps offer a fun factoid that might resonate with our readers.

In 1898, Charleston's "News & Courier" highlighted a few significant historic properties that were in danger of being demolished due to neglect. Fortunately, the NSCDA-SC was established a few years prior (1893) and accepted the challenge of saving one of the featured structures. At the time, it was understood that The Powder Magazine (c. 1713) was a unique relic of the American Revolution; however, the NSCDA-SC had no idea it was about to save the state's oldest governmental building...

The society made plans to resolve structural issues and established a plan for curating historical heirlooms - many of which belonged to NSCDA-SC members. The Powder Magazine was opened as a museum in the summer of 1903 with a 10¢ admission. The old arsenal would continue for the next century as host to both NSCDA-SC functions and community services. Today, The Powder Magazine is regarded as the city's first preservation project and proudly...

5. A historical overview (500-1,000 words) of the feature and its connection to American history

Note: We want to express to our readers that the story of America is not complete without the history of this property/collection. Offer an overview connecting the resource to local history, but also show its relationship to the national stage.

Arsenal of History: The Powder Magazine of South Carolina

When The Powder Magazine was constructed, like many of the early American colonies, South Carolina was still a proprietary colony. This meant that royal officials, including military, were not involved in supporting and managing South Carolina. The colony was owned by eight proprietors and functioned under the leadership of a private governor who...

South Carolina exemplifies how America was largely a result of early globalism. By 1708, Charleston was a thriving international trade hub. Negative byproducts of this circumstance included continuous concerns with European rivals and managing a population whose majority was enslaved. The War of Spanish Succession (1702-1713) extended European fighting worldwide. In the American Southeast, Spanish Florida and English South Carolina took part in this early world war. This conflict also produced hostile relations with natives and inspired slave insurrection...

Protection was essential. Without a formal military, the Lord Proprietors authorized the construction of a wall around Charleston that included bastions, drawbridges, and arsenals. These fortifications were used from 1704 to 1730, providing refuge and a defense stronghold. Today, The Powder Magazine is the only remaining component of this early defensive system. The Magazine was designed to house about 5 tons of gunpowder that would provide to cannons mounted along the walled city...In the event of an internal explosion, the arsenal's three-foot-thick-brick walls and might help to direct fire and debris vertically through an attic full of sand (see image #1)...

While the Second Continental Congress was still in session, like other colonies, South Carolina boldly declared itself an independent republic (March 26, 1776) and established its own constitution. Work had already begun to prepare for a British attack. These efforts were continuous throughout the war and eventually included improvements to The Powder Magazine. Just a few days before the Declaration of Independence was ratified in Philadelphia, the British attacked South Carolina at Sullivan's Island...

In spring 1780, South Carolina hosted America's longest siege of the Revolution. The British surrounded Charleston for 42 days sending cannon shot into the city. As a reaction to an artillery shell landing just 10-yards from The Powder Magazine, Continental General William Moultrie ordered that the gunpowder be removed and secretly stowed beneath the cellars of Charleston's Exchange building. Even after the British successfully took Charleston back in their control, the gunpowder was never discovered...

Although the arsenal was not reactivated for the American Civil War, it did serve as a private storage facility for the Manigault family. The day before Abraham Lincoln was elected President (November 6, 1860) an

inventory was created reporting that 2,100 bottles of Madeira wine was placed within The Powder Magazine. From the summer of 1863 through the winter of 1865, Charleston suffered a 587-day siege – the longest of the American Civil War. During this time, there is record of Confederate soldiers being disciplined for breaking into The Magazine and indulging in the Madeira...

6. A focused history (500-1,000 words) - most significant part of the feature's story

Note: Most properties and collections have more than one important story to tell. Consider sharing the most unique stories that make a human connection. People tend to prefer relatable themes and emotional connections over raw data. If it interests NSCDA members and your visitors, it will likely interest our readers.

The Powder Magazine, Piracy, & Our First Revolution

"...the greatest Plague to us now is by Piracy on our Coast." - Gov. Robert Johnson, 1717

South Carolina was conceived during a time that historians refer to as the Golden Age of Piracy. During the colony's earliest years, pirates and privateers provided dishonest merchandise at affordable prices. For this reason, the late-17th century docks of South Carolina unofficially welcomed this illegal commerce...

By the time The Powder Magazine was constructed, the colony had grown wealthier through ever-increasing exports of rice, lumber, and deerskin. This change transformed South Carolina port communities from pirate supporters to pirate victims...

In June 1718 pirates Stede Bonnet and Edward Beard (Blackbeard) blockaded Charles Town harbor with four ships, in order to gain medical supplies and other valuables. Trade was interrupted and influential townspeople were held for ransom. Among those held hostage by Stede Bonnet and Blackbeard were Samuel and William Wragg, the husband and son of Marie Dubose Wragg (see image #3)...

In an effort to end this ordeal, the colonial government decided to comply with the pirates' demands. However, this proved to be the last major exploit for both pirate captains. Colonel William Rhett, who was paid in 1712 for overseeing construction of The Powder Magazine, managed to capture Stede Bonnet off the coast of North Carolina in October 1718. Later, Bonnet was tried and executed in Charles Town. Blackbeard was killed in battle with the Royal Navy the following...

"We...fervently desire that this once flourishing Province be added to those under your happy protection" - SC Assembly, May 1717

Acts of piracy and native disputes influenced political change. Battery walls around the colonial capital and The Powder Magazine within were considered insufficient for defending the colony. Many became dissatisfied with the proprietary government. In 1719 the people of South Carolina petitioned King George I to compensate the Lords Proprietors and accept their province as a royal colony. The Powder Magazine nearly found itself amidst a civil war as tensions heightened between royal and proprietary supporters. Eventually diplomacy prevailed and the Revolution of 1719 was largely bloodless. A decade later the British government was officially installed - a rule that would last until the next revolution in 1776...

7. One or two vignettes (100-300 words) showcasing a special occurrence involving the property and Dames members between the year 1900 and present day.

Knit For Sammie!

Throughout the Great War (1914-18), Americans of all ages were encouraged to knit wool socks, sweaters, and other garments to warm soldiers. The phrase “Knit for Sammie!” became a nationwide movement spearheaded by the American Red Cross. U.S. soldiers were often referred to as Sammies, which is short for Uncle Sam...

Much of this work was accomplished by volunteer-based organizations. Starting in 1914, The Powder Magazine served as a workshop almost every Tuesday throughout the war. NSCDA-SC members met to create hospital shirts, pillows, knitted sponges, bandages, socks, and sweaters. Nearly 2,500 handmade articles were sent abroad during the first twelve months of the war...

Throughout the war, enlisted soldiers were permitted free admission to The Powder Magazine’s exhibition. Service projects and fundraisers were routinely organized on the premises. One campaign supported two hospital ships named Comfort and Mercy. Funds were used to purchase a variety of supplies including a mechanical cow that could dispense powdered milk aboard the vessels (see image #4)...

8. Please submit at least three different images (at least 400 dpi) with captions and credits

Note: Most Societies have hi-quality images of the property/collection, which will be very useful. However, please feel free to submit an image that supports the story you are sharing – even if it’s not in your collection. The goal is to offer materials that form an intriguing narrative.

Hi-resolution images will be difficult to transfer through a MS Word document. A small likeness of the image can be submitted as shown below, but a hi-res version may require a zip-file or PDF emailed separately. We can also use a program such as Drop Box if you would prefer. Please email GATBook@nscda-sc.org to discuss options for transferring images.

Image #1



The Powder Magazine of South Carolina. Courtesy of The Powder Magazine museum.

South Carolina’s oldest public building, the arsenal was completed in 1713 to store gunpowder to defend the colony. Its final wartime use was during the American Revolution. Owned by the NSCDA-SC, since 1903, it has been a museum open to the public.

Image #2



The Powder Magazine Interior, c.1910. Courtesy of The Powder Magazine museum.

This is one page of a 1917 calendar given to NSCDA-SC members. During the Great War (1914-18), NSCDA-SC members hosted activities inside The Powder Magazine to support American soldiers

Image #3



Marie Wragg, portrait by Johnston, 1702. Courtesy of The Powder Magazine museum.

Henrietta Johnston, Colonial America's first pastelists, was commissioned to portray Marie Wragg. These formal portraits are evidence of family wealth.

Image #4



Advertisement for Mechanical Cow, October 1930. Courtesy of author's collection

During the Great War (1914-18), some funds raised by the NSCDA-SC supported a milk-dispensing machine aboard a hospital ship