

Vision 2020: The Comprehensive Plan for Rock Hill, South Carolina



VI. Cultural Resources Element

OVERVIEW

Cultural resources include a variety of assets that contribute to defining a community’s character and enhancing quality of life. Cultural resources are important because they inform the general public about the past and help us understand other cultures, appreciate architecture, and recognize past accomplishments. Across the nation, greater emphasis has been placed on the preservation and protection of historic resources and promotion of cultural significance. More and more communities have begun to realize that cultural resource preservation can provide substantial social and economic benefits that enhance the livability and distinctiveness of a community.



Rock Hill has given high priority to the preservation of historic resources and cultural heritage. In late 2008, Rock Hill earned a “Preserve America Community” designation from Preserve America, a White House initiative dedicated to encouraging efforts to preserve cultural and historical resources. This prestigious award recognizes communities that protect and celebrate their heritage; use their historic assets for economic development and community revitalization; and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs. Only 700 places across the United States have earned the award.

The Cultural Resources Element is an essential component of local comprehensive planning, as it generates awareness of and consideration for historical and cultural heritage issues. The purpose of this Element is to inventory the historical resources, institutional facilities and programs, cultural diversity, and arts programs, facilities, and organizations within the City; identify needs; and develop an implementation plan to address identified goals.

Cultural Resources Key Facts	
➤	The name “Rock Hill” originated in 1852 during railroad construction
➤	Rock Hill charter granted in 1892
➤	6 locally designated historic districts
➤	5 historic districts, 17 historic properties and 1 historic complex on the National Register