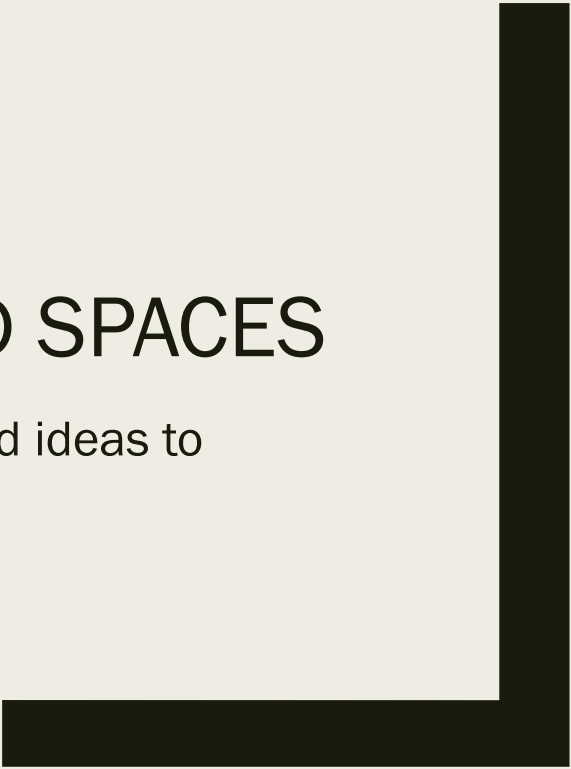




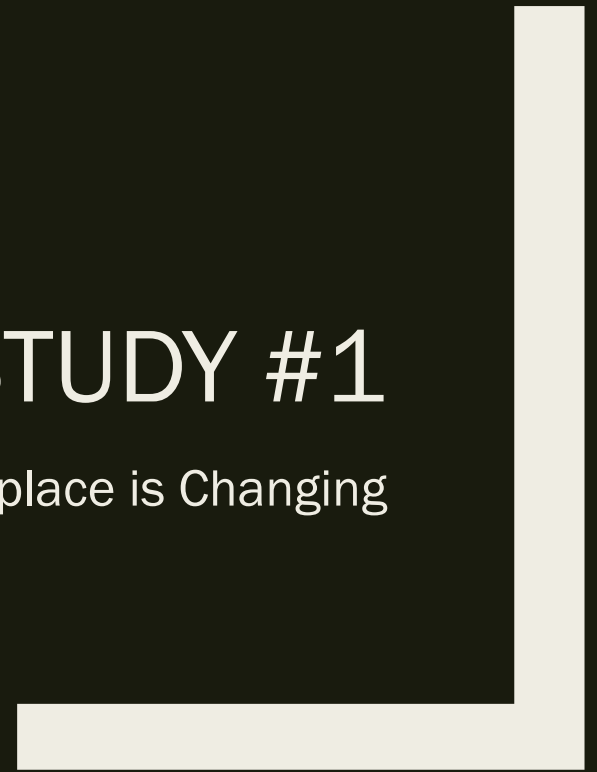
# SOUTH CAROLINA'S SACRED SPACES

What we saved, how we've saved them, and ideas to  
save a lot more.



# CASE STUDY #1

America's Religious Marketplace is Changing





Good Hope Baptist Church-Eastover  
National Register

# Columbia Metro Baptist Association

- Generously donated the abandoned church to Preservation South Carolina.
- Wished to preserve the building in shape and form.
  - *Would have allowed a sale to a non-church entity.*
  - *Preservation easement part of the property transfer.*
- Good Hope, due to its spacious design and location (Garners Ferry Road), could easily be repurposed as a restaurant.
- As a non-profit preservation organization, our mission is to find the “highest and best use,” not the top dollar.
- Within two months time, we found a buyer.

## *Marketplace “repositioning”*

- An 75-member congregation in the Eastover area had been looking for an affordable church home.
- They were delighted to find Good Hope, a church where there ancestors had sat in the still-intact slave gallery.



# Lessons Learned

- Even as mainstream denominations struggle with declining attendance, other communities may be in need of space.
- In the last few weeks, a very similar set of circumstances has allowed us to “reposition” another historic church.
- In both cases, the sale of these (donated) properties (at well below market rates), have allowed us to improve the available funding in our Sacred Spaces program.

# CASE STUDY #2

Preservation for Preservation's Sake







FORT CHARLOTTE RD

ROAD  
END

MT. PLEASANT AME CH →

FORT CHARLOTTE  
AN EARLY SETTLEMENT FOR THE BEECH  
CREEK TRADING POST  
ESTABLISHED IN 1733  
BY JOHN BRADLEY  
AND OTHERS  
THE SITE OF THE  
TRADING POST  
IS NOW THE  
SITE OF THE  
CHURCH



# Mt. Carmel Presbyterian Church

- A single generous anonymous donor wished to restore the long-abandoned church.
- Preservation South Carolina was provided the funds and asked to supervise the work.
- The church restoration is nearly complete.
- The hope is that the iconic church can be used for destination weddings and other events.

# Lessons Learned

- Some number of rural and historic churches, due to the relative low cost of repairs, can be saved through the generosity of a single donor.
- In the absence of a nearby “stakeholder,” the ongoing maintenance of these properties will be an issue.
- While Mt. Carmel is preserved, the randomness of a generous donor will not address the systematic problems across the wide range of South Carolina’s Sacred Spaces.



11 9  
MULBERRY CHAPEL  
METHODIST CHURCH  
This African American church, the  
first in what is now Cherokee  
County, was built likely built  
between 1840 and 1850. It served the  
Wing Hill, Ashery, and Mulberry  
communities of what was Union County  
before Cherokee County was created  
in 1842. Jack Littlejohn donated  
land for the chapel and cemetery.



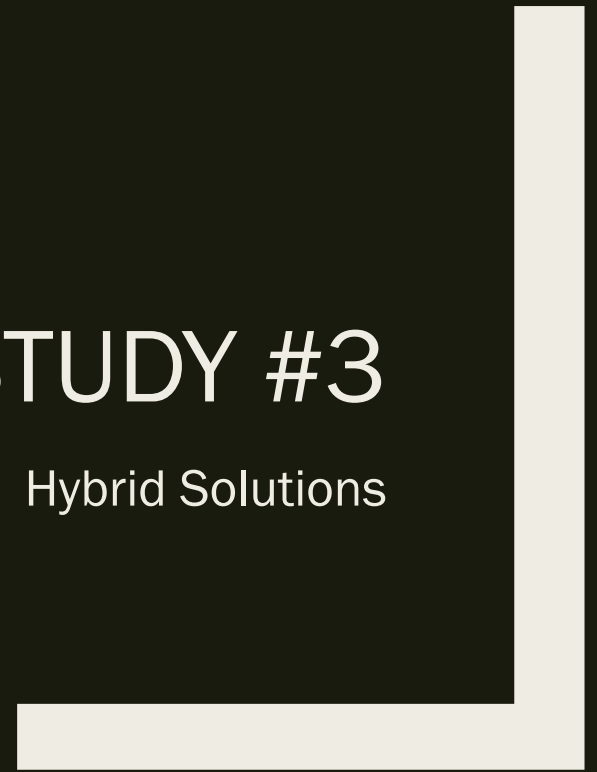






# CASE STUDY #3

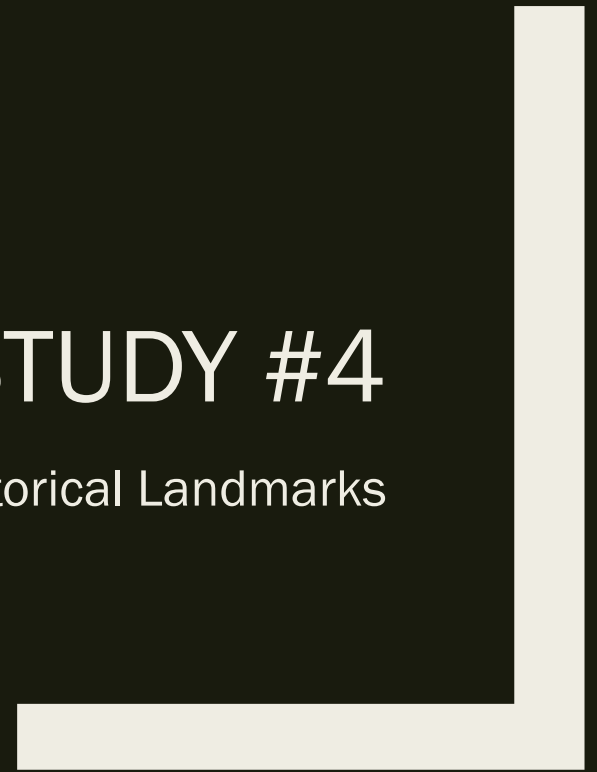
Hybrid Solutions





# CASE STUDY #4

Churches as Historical Landmarks







# It Takes a Community

- Mepkin Abbey
- Berkeley County Museum
- Preservation South Carolina
- United Methodist Cordesville
- The United Methodist Conference
- African-American / Gullah Geechee
- Charleston support

# Our Plans for Sacred Spaces

## ■ 2022

- *Perform exterior surveys of churches that are already listed in the National Register.*
- *Begin the process of identifying churches that may be now eligible for inclusion of the National Register.*
- *Form strong partnerships with related communities that can assist with the effort, such as the Colonial Dames, DAR, and African-American groups.*

## ■ 2022-2023

- *Be in a position to assist with funding of simple repairs to rural and historic churches*
- Determine if there is interest an/or support for a “South Carolina Heritage Church” program.