

Classical American Homes Preservation Trust 20th Anniversary

1993 – 2013

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One of the most dramatic changes has been the steady increase in visitation. We have had more than 200,000 visitors in twenty years -- our properties attracting individuals with a range of interests from the decorative arts to landscape architecture to hiking. Of all demographics the baby boomers are the most popular now that they are now retired and have more free time.

We began with providing public tours at Ayr Mount in 1993 and have expanded them to Millford. We also host events at the properties such as receptions, lectures, concerts, picnics -- to name a few. The houses take on a new vitality when acting as the backdrop at these types of events. Recent happenings such as *Music at Millford* and the 20th Anniversary Reception at Ayr Mount reflect how many of our supporters enjoy connecting in a new way with these houses.

There have been many other significant changes in the last twenty years. Classical American Homes began with a staff of two (Bill and Schatzie Crowther at Ayr Mount), and now has 14 employees. The Board of Directors has also expanded to a dedicated group of 14 Directors. There are [four publications associated with these houses](#), and a fifth, *Columns by the Sea*, written by Dick Jenrette, provides an in-depth look at Roper House in Charleston, which will soon be published. Over the last two decades, it has been rewarding to see many art acquisitions in particular, with objects original to the houses finding their way "home." Along with these acquisitions, the collection's scholarship has also expanded. Through the years we have also formed friendships and alliances with both local and national, like-minded organizations, which has been gratifying. To preserve the past, our use of technology has expanded to include a social media presence such as Facebook and Pinterest. In the next few weeks, stay tuned for the launch of our newly designed website!

We look forward to sharing the next 20 years with you, which also promise to be filled with more preservation adventures with old and new friends.

