

SAMPLE RELEASE

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Local Contact: [local press contact]

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SMITHSONIAN BARN EXHIBITION TOURS SOUTH CAROLINA

The Williamsburgh Historical Museum, in cooperation with the South Carolina, will host the local showing of the Smithsonian's traveling exhibition *Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon*. Exploring barns in all segments of American life, from their agricultural forms to their use in advertising, *Barn Again! Celebrating and American Icon* will open on Jan. 23, 2004 and will continue through March 6, 2004 and will give the Williamsburgh Historical Museum an opportunity to celebrate the region's agricultural heritage.

The Williamsburgh Historical Museum and the surrounding community has been expressly chosen by the South Carolina Humanities Council and the Smithsonian Institution to host *Barn Again!* as part of the Museum on Main Street project – a national/state partnership to bring exhibitions and programs to rural cultural organizations. The exhibition will tour six communities in South Carolina through Nov. 6, 2004. The tour itinerary is attached.

Organized by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) and the National Building Museum and in cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Barn Again!* looks at the origin and fate of the barn in its various roles as warehouse, factory and legend. *Barn Again!* Is a registered trademark owned by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Meredith Corporation.

Barn Again! gives exhibition visitors new ways to consider a familiar icon. The exhibition surveys the agricultural changes that led to architectural adaptations on the farm, following major movements in American history such as 19th-century European immigration and westward migration. Industrial farming in the 21st-century has rendered many traditional barns obsolete because they cannot accommodate the enormous machinery and harvests of today's large-scale farms. The loss of these architectural structures is changing forever our rural landscape and depriving us of important historical

monuments. Even as barns disappear from the countryside, their iconic role in American culture remains constant.

“We are very pleased to be able to bring *Barn Again!* to our area,” said **[venue spokesperson’s name, title]**. “We hope that it will inspire many to become even more involved in the cultural life of our community.”

The exhibition, which also examines regional barn styles, will be augmented by locally-produced exhibitions such as **[insert exhibition highlights here]**. Public programs will include **[list program highlights]**.

Barn Again! is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Federation of State Humanities Councils. Support for Museum on Main Street has been provided by the United States Congress, the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, and The Hearst Foundation. Additional funding for Barn Again has been provided by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Smithsonian Institution Special Exhibition Fund, and the Smithsonian Educational Outreach Fund, along with assistance from the National Building Museum and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Barn Again! is a registered trademark owned by the Meredith Corporation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service (SITES) has been sharing the wealth of Smithsonian collections and research programs with millions of people outside Washington, D.C., for more than 50 years. SITES connects Americans to their shared cultural heritage through a wide range of exhibitions about art, science, and history, which are shown wherever people live, work, and play, including museums, libraries, science centers, historical societies, community centers, botanical gardens, schools, and shopping malls. Exhibition descriptions and tour schedules are available at www.sites.si.edu.

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[Insert local sponsor information, if applicable]

Williamsburgh Historical Museum, 135 Hampton Street, Kingstree, SC 29556

Contact Joanne Brown at 843-355-3306

Barn Again! Celebrating an American Icon

2004 Tour Schedule – South Carolina

January 23 - March 6	Williamsburgh Historical Museum Kingstree SC
March 13 - April 24	Agricultural Heritage Museum Blackville SC
May 1 - June 12	Fairfield County Museum Winnsboro SC
June 19 - July 31	Colleton County Memorial Library Walterboro SC
August 7 - Sept. 18	Pickens County Museum of Art and History Pickens SC
September 25 - Nov. 6	Calhoun County Museum and Cultural Center St. Matthews SC