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Book Review: The South Carolina State House Grounds

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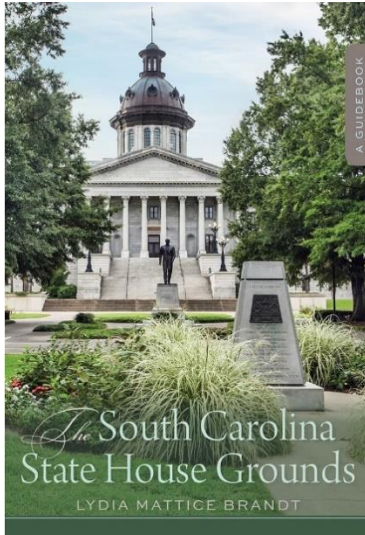
Abstract

Jennifer Gibson reviews *The South Carolina State House Grounds*, written by Lydia Mattice Brandt with photographs by Chandler Yonkers.

Keywords

Public Spaces, Architecture, Monuments, South Carolina State House, Civil War Monuments, Revolutionary War Monuments, Columbia S.C.

The South Carolina State House Grounds



Lydia Mattice Brandt with Photographs by Chandler Yonkers
University of South Carolina Press, 2021
ISBN: 978-1-64336-178-9
List Price: \$19.99 for Paperback or eBook

The South Carolina State House Grounds is a detailed account of the monuments, landscape and buildings located on the capitol complex in Columbia, South Carolina. Lydia Mattice Brandt includes extensive research and sources throughout the book that provide the reader with historical and political insight during the continual construction of South Carolina's State House. Brandt's background in art and architectural history is evident in the detailed timeline, maps, and current and historical images that are included in the book. Those contents help the reader understand the determination of the leadership and private citizens to visually document the history of the citizens of South Carolina since the late 1700s.

While reading this book, I found myself reflecting between the maps in the appendices and notes to get the complete picture of the location and feeling of each item discussed. The notes given throughout the book reinforce the accuracy of the details in the descriptions. One can almost see

themselves on the grounds standing amidst the monuments and buildings. Her descriptions and historical information make the structures come to life and tell their story.

Brandt's previous works include *George Washington's Mount Vernon in the American Imagination* and the co-authored title *The First Forty Years (1966-2005)*, which is a compilation of the recipients of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Architecture.

This book would be an excellent addition to any historian's library, as well as a must for visitors to South Carolina's capital city.

Jennifer Gibson, School Media Specialist, Pine Tree Hill Elementary, Kershaw County School District. Jennifer is a 17-year veteran of the Kershaw County School District, native South Carolinian, and avid researcher of historic sites and architecture of South Carolina.