

News from U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC)  
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## **Spratt Announces \$330,000 for Robert Mills Courthouse in Camden**

WASHINGTON – U.S. Rep. John Spratt (D-SC) announced today that Congress has appropriated \$330,000 to restore the Robert Mills Courthouse in Camden, S.C. Spratt delivered the following remarks at a meeting of the Kershaw County Chamber of Commerce:

“For years, as I traveled down Broad Street, I have admired Robert Mills’s elegant old courthouse, and I was delighted when Buddy Clark told me it was about to be restored. After the lowest bid came in well above budget, Buddy Clark and Vincent Sheheen called to ask about federal aid, and I in turn called Senator Hollings. The senator and his staff suggested that we go for an earmark in the ‘Save America’s Treasures’ program, which seemed a natural fit for this fine old building.

“In the House, I took our request to Rep. Norm Dicks, the Ranking Democrat on the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee. Norm’s wife has worked for the U.S. Capitol Historical Society, so he was amenable and willing to help. In the Senate, Senator Hollings is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, and his clout on the committee was critical to our success.

“We asked for \$500,000, but in the end were pleased to win an appropriation of \$330,000 earmarked to this project. We hope that these funds will help make this handsome old courthouse a first class restoration, and useful to Camden for centuries to come.”

The “Save America’s Treasures” program is administered by the National Park Service and the National Endowment for the Arts. Since 1999, 238 grants totaling \$94 million have been awarded to save treasures that include historic buildings, cultural artifacts, and archival collections. Grants for historic buildings range from \$250,000 to \$1,000,000, and last year averaged \$249,000. For all projects, a dollar-for-dollar non-federal match is required.

Most of the grants are competitively awarded, but the \$330,000 grant to the Robert Mills Courthouse comes by direction of Congress as an item legislated in the Interior Appropriations Act for 2002.

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