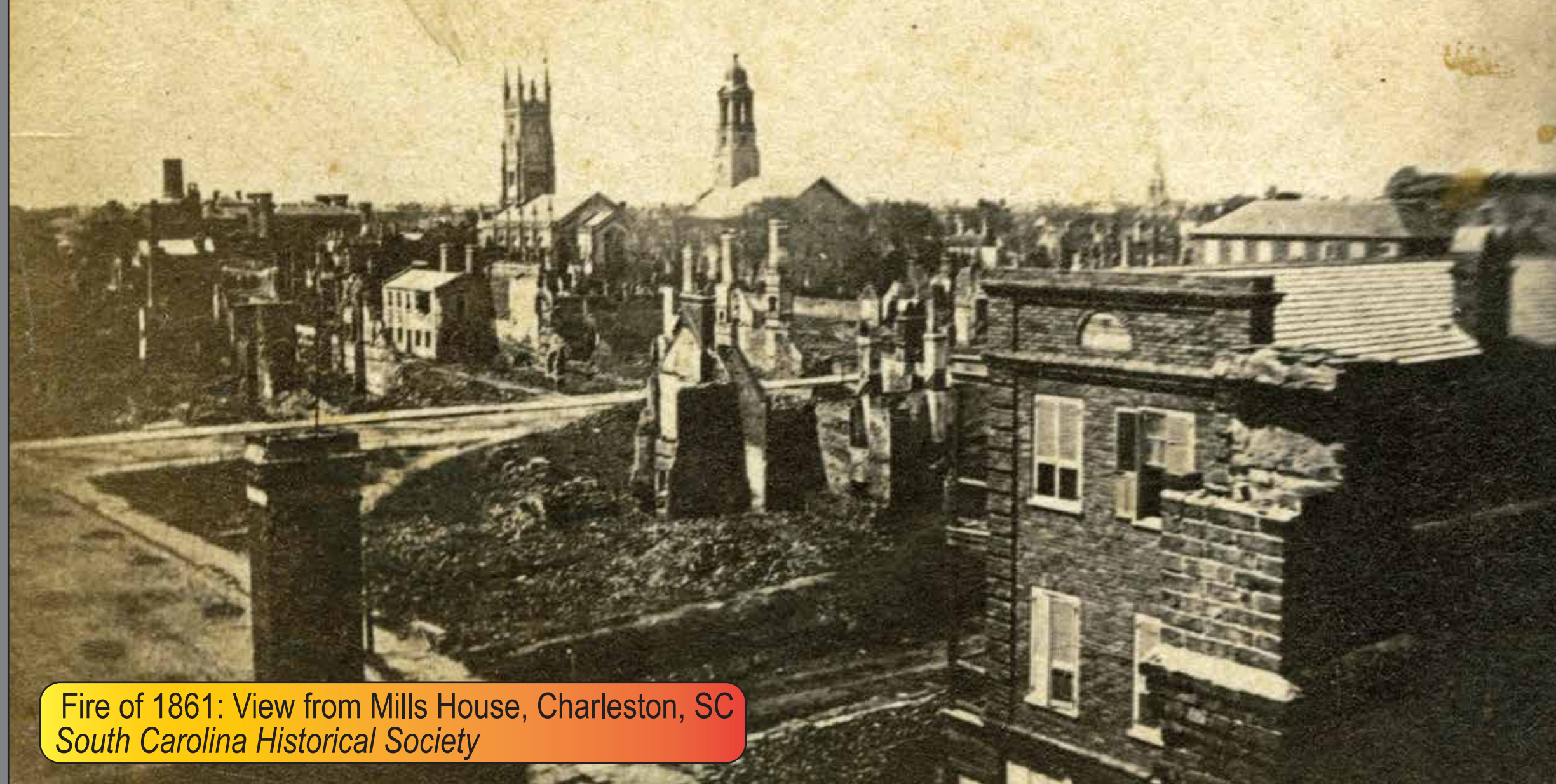


# SE R V I C E



Fire of 1861: View from Mills House, Charleston, SC  
South Carolina Historical Society



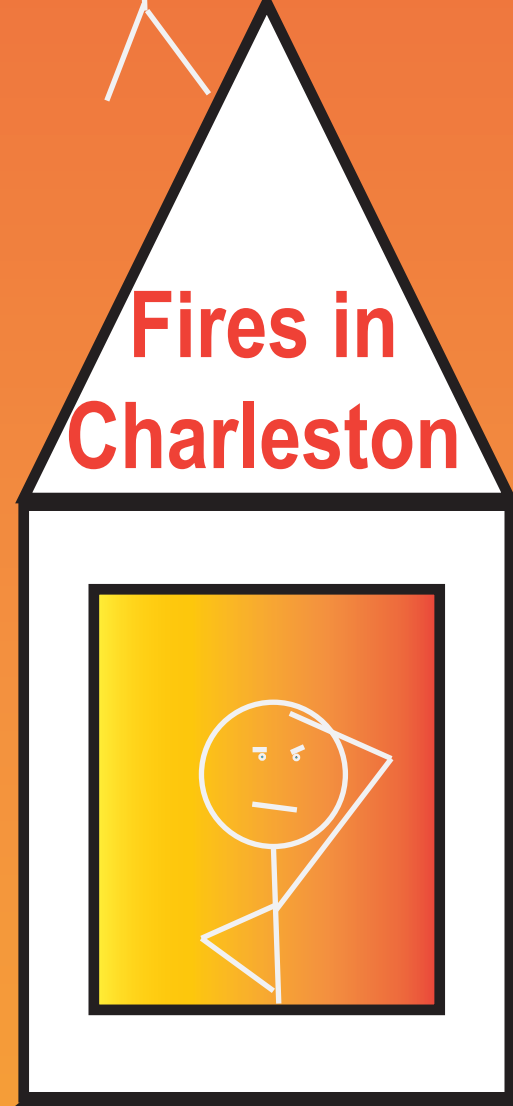
Fire of 1861: St. John's Cathedral, Charleston, SC  
South Carolina Historical Society



Fire of 1861: St. Michael's Church, Charleston, SC  
South Carolina Historical Society



Fire keeps me warm,  
gives me light, and helps  
me cook my food.  
Fire can also be dangerous.



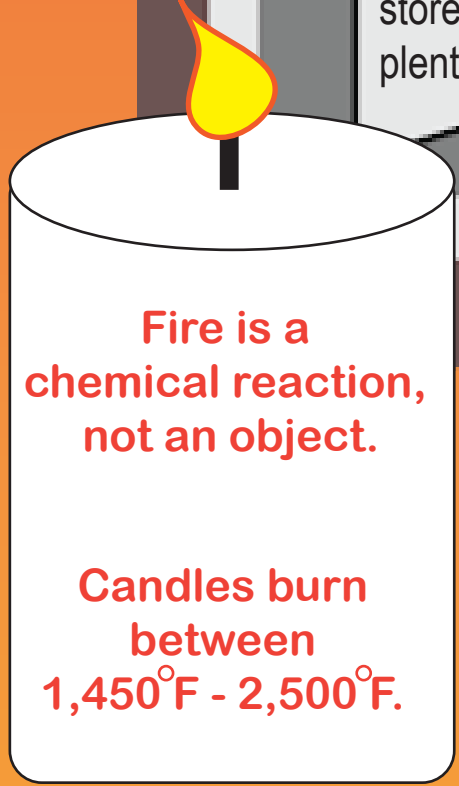
## Fires in Charleston

After each major fire in Charleston, residents made changes to make life safer.

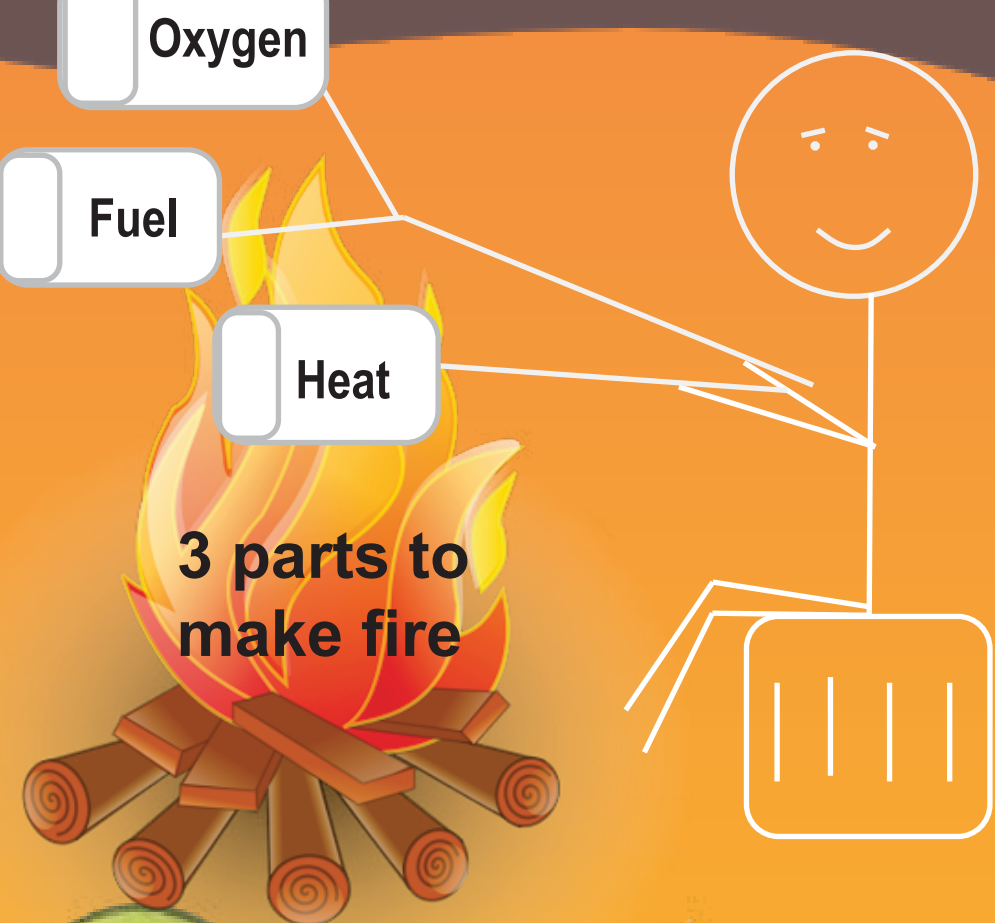
- 1698 fire** - city collected taxes to buy ladders & buckets. All houses had to keep buckets of sand.
- 1740 fire** - built houses with better chimneys and tried using more fire resistant materials like brick.
- Late 1700s** - guard kept watch for fires in the city from a post in the St. Michael's church steeple.
- Spring 1778** - dug deeper wells for a better water supply.
- 1838 fire** - 1,000 buildings destroyed. Residents rebuilt homes & businesses in Greek Revival style creating an architectural charm that attracts today's tourist.
- 1886 earthquake** - City rebuilds fire stations to include sleeping quarters & wired alarms through telegraph.

The flame's color reveals the temperature of the fire!

900°F - 1,100°F
1,100°F - 1,650°F
1,650°F - 1,800°F
1,800°F - 2,100°F
2,100°F - 2,500°F
2,500°F - 2,900°F
Really Hot! Not naturally occurring; usually seen in welding.




- Three ways to put out a fire.
1. Remove the fuel source
  2. Smother to remove oxygen
  3. Pour water to remove heat (Don't use water on stove top fires!)



### Robert Mills, America's First Architect

Born in Charleston in 1781, Robert Mills trained with White House architect, James Hoban. In 1820, Mills returned to South Carolina and designed courthouses, jails, and the Lunatic Asylum in Columbia.



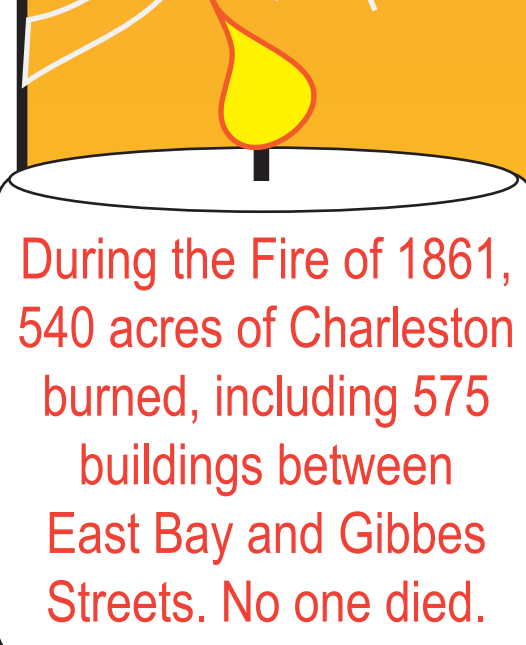
Between 1804 and 1833, Robert Mills designed and built at least six structures in the Charleston area.

Mills experimented with fireproof designs and construction methods, and used these ideas when designing a "fireproof" facility to safely store county records in a city that had seen plenty of fires.

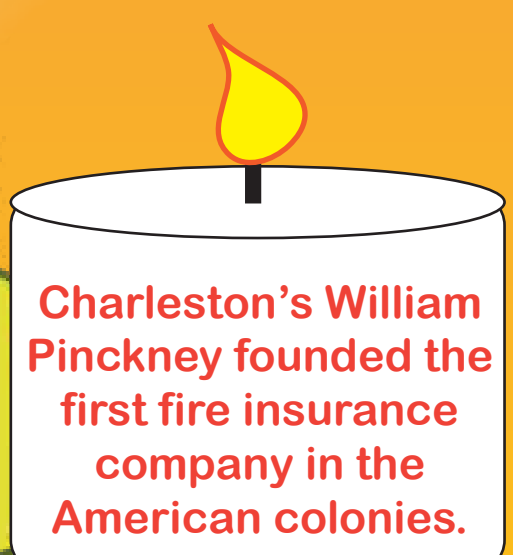
### The Fireproof Building



With streets lining two sides of the building, Mills incorporated a park, called Washington Square park, on the other two sides to create an effective firebreak. The South Carolina Historical Society calls this building home.



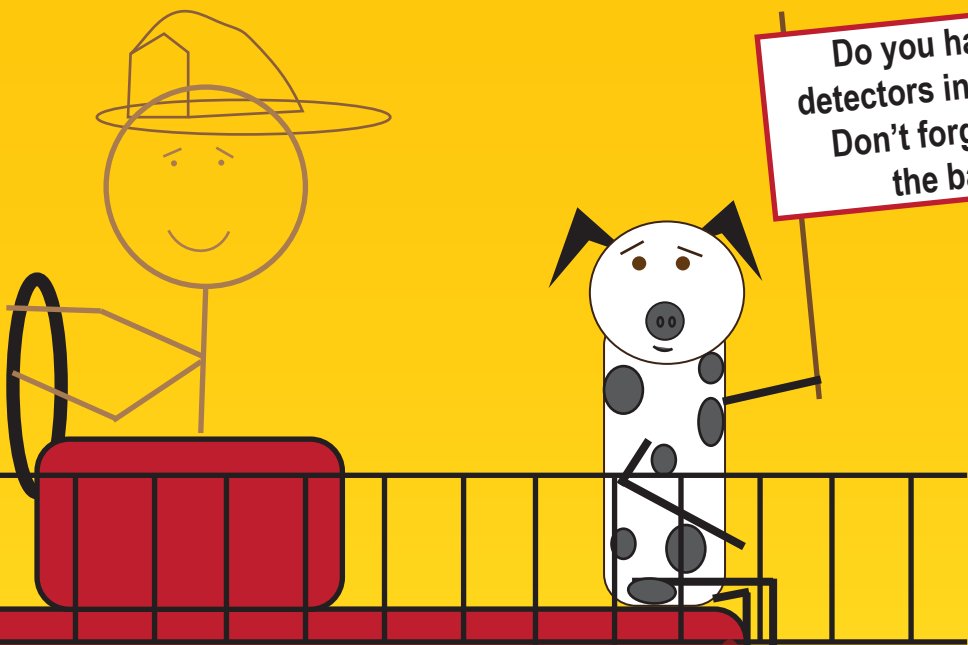
**Nature creates life with fire.**  
Underbrush and overgrowth on the forest floor keep sunlight from reaching the ground and allowing new trees to grow. Pine trees need the extreme heat from fire to open pinecones and release the seeds.



**Mother Nature knows that the forest needs fire to grow.**  
Lightning strikes can set the forest on fire, releasing seeds and clearing out dead brush. These wildfires are dangerous and not easily contained or controlled by firefighters.

**Forest rangers study the forest and carefully set fire to one section at a time.**  
In South Carolina, the rangers at Francis Marion National Forest burn about 10,000 acres between fall and spring each year. By setting fires, the rangers actually prevent wildfires from threatening our state.

Moisture inside trees can cause them to explode during fires when the water becomes steam.



Do you have smoke detectors in every room?  
Don't forget to check the batteries!

Does your family have a fire escape plan?  
For help with your plan, visit:  
[www.sccemd.org](http://www.sccemd.org)

