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Mills B. Lane IV: 1942-2001

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Mills B. Lane IV

1942-2001

Mills Lane, a Savannah, Georgia publisher, philanthropist and historian known to Huntsvillians because of his love of and devotion to historic preservation, died in October 2001 at the age of fifty-nine after a brief fight against Hodgkin's lymphoma.

Mills Lane bought and restored his first home at the age of twenty-four and founded The Beehive Press publishing company at the age of twenty-eight. Beehive published books about Southern culture and history. Lane edited and wrote nearly sixty books. The largest undertaking was the eleven-volume series "Architecture of the Old South." Lane spent \$1.5 million of the family's money on preservation and renovation efforts of the Bull Street area and helped finance restorations of many buildings in the Historic district.

Lane served on the Savannah Historic Review Board in the late 1990s and had previously chosen Huntsville architect Harvie P. Jones for twenty-one preservation projects in Savannah. These included restorations of historic structures and the design of appropriate in-fill houses built around several historic squares.

Lane's philosophy on preservation lives on in projects, research, and scholarship:

Preservation [he wrote] is about more than making things look pretty. Its ultimate purpose is to make life better for the people who live in a community. [...] The most enlightened preservationists are not just trying to repair old bricks and mortar but to rebuild an environment in which more human and more civilized values can be restored and flourish.

(Savannah Morning News. 1 Jan 2000.)



Cynthia M. Parsons

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“Buildings are three-dimensional history books that reflect the comings and goings, successes and failures, aspirations and follies of real people.”

—Mills Lane, Architecture of the Old South