

Stop: Hampton Preston House and Mills House

#### The Groan at the Mills House

While organizing the 1991 Ghost Tour, the PLC worked closely with a member of the Historic Columbia Commission staff named Glynda.

At that time, Glynda had worked for the Commission about a year, and although she had heard numerous stories about "mysterious" happenings at the Hampton-Preston and Mills houses, she remained skeptical. She was in the houses frequently for all kinds of reasons, and had never experienced anything odd.

When the PLC approached her about adding the Mills and Hampton-Preston houses to the 1991 Ghost Tour, Glynda readily acknowledged the "ghost stories" associated with the properties. She just wasn't convinced herself. She hadn't had a ghostly experience yet.

Then one afternoon Glynda had occasion to go over to the Mills House on a routine errand. As she unlocked the door and swung it open, a terrible groan echoed through the entire house. The groan was very human and very loud. Shocked, Glynda stood there for a moment, waiting for another sound. Nothing happened. She called out to see if anyone was in the house and no one answered. Quickly, she locked the door and went back to her office next door for reinforcements. Minutes later she was back at the Mills House door with another staff member. Although both of them unlocked the door again and again, neither the house nor the door made any sound.

From that moment on, however, Glynda took the old houses' ghost stories very seriously.