

# Andalusia recognized as a national Distinctive Destination

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Andalusia was recently named as a Distinctive Destination by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. It is one of approximately 180 historic destinations to achieve this ranking throughout the U.S. and Caribbean. The home of the Flannery O'Connor from 1951 to 1964, joins Georgia's Old Governor's Mansion in this regard as it has also been recognized as a Distinctive Destination last year.

"These recognitions provide a uniqueness for the college by having two on campus," said Matt Davis, director of Historic Museums at Georgia College. "This recognition is important as it validates the preservation work occurring at the site, opens new audiences for the museum and provides greater national recognition for Andalusia, as well as the university."

The O'Connor home was gifted to Georgia College—her alma mater—over two years ago.

"Since Georgia College began operations at the site, we have completed a full conservation/stabilization project of the main house's foundation and windows," Davis said.

The improvements made include:

- installation of a new gutter system,
- restoration of several rooms to their original use,
- restoration of the site's original flooring,
- brought back original collections,
- development of a new interpretation,
- restoration of several areas of the site's landscaping,
- restoration of original fencing,
- improvement to the site's entrance and signage and
- removal of foliage surrounding the site's calf barn.

Davis began the process by completing an application, which included a narrative description of the history of the site, its architecture and photographs. In addition, he extended the pre-booked admission rate to all Trust members.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation is leading the movement to save places where our history happened.

Andalusia was the home of American author Flannery O'Connor following the onset of lupus. During her time at the farm, she completed the bulk of her literary work, which included two novels, 39 short stories and over one hundred literary critiques. The farm environment served as an inspiration for many of the places and characters associated with her stories and provides a unique window of understanding. Additionally, the farm is a pristine example of a mid-twentieth century dairy farm and gives insights on O'Connor's family and the pivotal role they played in allowing her to pursue her literary endeavors.

To learn more and find out about upcoming events at Andalusia, visit: <https://www.gcsu.edu/andalusia>.

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