



State Historic Preservation Office

South Carolina Department of Archives and History
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Historic Preservation News and Notes

April 2026

In this issue:

- Historic Preservation Conference April 24, 2026
- SC Historic Preservation Awards: **Nominations Due May 1**
- FY 2026 Federal Historic Preservation Grants: **Applications Due May 7**
- Celebrate Preservation Month in May
- Southeastern Cemetery Consortium
- Online Building Care Manual
- Upcoming Conferences / Workshops / Training / Events
- Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines
- Subscription Information

Historic Preservation Conference April 24, 2026

We look forward to welcoming a record-setting crowd at the upcoming South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference. If you are attending, please note that conference registration opens at 8:45 with the first sessions at 9:30. Overflow parking will be available at the rear of the Archives & History Center.

Due to overwhelming interest we have reached capacity for the event and registration is now closed. Please contact Donna Foster at dfoster@scdah.sc.gov to be added to the contact list for future conferences.

Presentations from the Historic Preservation Conference will be posted on the [Conference webpage](#) after the event.



SC Historic Preservation Awards: Nominations Due May 1

Nominations are now being accepted for the 2026 South Carolina Historic Preservation Awards. Sponsored by Preservation South Carolina, the SC Department of Archives and History, and the Office of the Governor, the Historic Preservation Awards recognize exceptional accomplishments in the preservation, rehabilitation, and interpretation of South Carolina's architectural and cultural heritage. The award categories are: Honor Awards, Stewardship Awards, Preservation Service Awards, Heritage Tourism Award, Organizational Excellence (new this year), Elected Official Honor Award, and the Governor's Award. [Click here](#) for the 2026 nomination form and here for a [list of previous recipients](#). Questions? Contact Joanna Rothell, 803-944-9425 or joanna@preservesc.org.



The nomination deadline is May 1, 2026.

FY 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Grants: Applications Due May 7

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 PM, May 7, 2026

Please contact Brad Sauls at 803-896-6172 or bsauls@scdah.sc.gov to discuss your project before you apply.

FY 2026 HPF Grant

Applications and instructions for the FY 2026 federal Historic Preservation Fund subgrants are now available at [this link](#). Administered by the SHPO, these matching grants assist two types of projects:

- **Survey and Planning Projects:** eligible projects include surveys of historic properties, National Register nominations, preservation education, and preservation planning.
- **Stabilization Projects:** eligible projects include stabilizing historic buildings or protecting historic buildings from the adverse effects of the weather, and are limited to projects located in South Carolina's Certified Local Government (CLG) communities.

Any local government, non-profit, or institution in South Carolina may apply for a Survey and Planning Project. Local governments, non-profits and institutions located in a CLG community may also apply for a Stabilization Project. At least ten percent of the state's annual allocation from the National Park Service must be awarded to CLGs. Grant awards generally range from \$2,500 to \$35,000.

Celebrate Preservation Month in May



Organizations around the state are planning events to highlight and celebrate historic preservation in May. For example:

- The City of Columbia Preservation Office will offer several events, check for updates at [this link](#).
- Historic Columbia will present its [2026 Preservation Awards](#).
- The Preservation Society of Charleston will feature tours, workshops, lectures, and more, visit their [Preservation Month webpage](#) for details.

Also check out resources available on the National Trust's [Preservation Month webpage](#) for ideas on how to celebrate the historic sites, neighborhoods, and landmarks that tell the full American story.

Southeastern Cemetery Consortium

This recently formed organization serves to connect and coordinate organizations, institutions, project teams, private firms, and individuals working to document, restore, preserve, and memorialize historic cemeteries. On the [Southeastern Cemetery Consortium](#) website you can:



- Explore resources and guides on cemetery preservation
- Read Success Stories of African American cemeteries projects
- Become a Consortium Partner and have your organization listed as a contact for projects in your area
- Submit a listing to the directory of CRM and preservation firms
- Submit a project support request, which the SCC board will review. They can provide recommendations for next steps on your project, suggest useful resources, and connect you with Consortium Partners in your area who may be of assistance.

For questions or comments about the SCC, please reach out to: southeasterncemeteries@gmail.com.

Online Building Care Manual

Check out the [Illustrated Building Care Manual](#) developed by the Office of Cultural Heritage at the US Department of State Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations. Created in a graphic novel format with preservation experts, science writers, and artists, the guide aims to demystify historic building care with chapters on causes of damage to buildings, cleaning methods, and building materials such as wood, metal, mortar, and masonry.

Upcoming Conferences/Workshops/Training/Events

Native American Studies Center Lunch and Learn Series, monthly. The Native American Studies Center of USC-Lancaster offers a lecture series on a range of topics both in person and virtually. Check out their [Upcoming Events page](#) for more information.

Preserve the Past, Build for the Future Webinar Series, online. The Advisory Council on Historic Preserving is offering four free webinars this spring.

- April 21, 2026 at 2 PM - Preserving America's Revolutionary-Era Sites
- May 27, 2026 at 2 PM - Preserving America for the Next Generation: Involving Younger People in Preservation

To register visit [this webpage](#).

National Preservation Institute Seminars and Webinars:

- *Tribal Cultural Monitors: An Introduction*, April 21, 2026, online.
- *Technology and Cultural Resources: Roundtable Conversation*, April 23, 2026, online.
- *Section 106: An Introduction*, April 28–29, 2026, Charleston, SC.
- *Historic Property Management*, May 11–12, 2026, Atlanta, GA.
- *NAGPRA Essentials*, May 12-13, 2026, Austin, TX.
- *Traditional Cultural Places*, May 19–20, 2026, Richmond, VA.
- *Cultural Landscapes: Understanding, Planning for, and Managing a Dynamic Resource*, Mill Run, PA, June 16-17, 2026.

For more information about these and other training opportunities in 2026 visit the [NPI website](#).

SC Historic Preservation Conference, April 24, 2026, SC Archives & History Center, Columbia. The annual conference features ten educational sessions on a wide range of historic preservation-related topics. Due to the overwhelming interest in the 2026 Historic Preservation Conference, we have closed registration. If you would like to be on the waiting list, please email Donna Foster at DFoster@scdah.sc.gov.

National Historic Marker Weekend, April 24–26, 2026. Sponsored by the William G. Pomeroy Foundation, this free event encourages volunteers to help clean and care for markers while learning about local history. Learn more about planning a project at [this website](#).

NEW New Dollars / New Partners Information Session, May 12, 2026, online. Learn about the New Dollars / New Partners training program offered by Partners for Sacred Places to help congregations manage and make the most of their historic spaces. Registration for Fall 2026 and Spring 2027 is now open. More information the training, dates, and cost, and to register for the information session can be found at [this link](#).

ARMAste Records & Information Governance Annual Conference, May 13–15, 2026, Greenville. The Palmetto Chapter of ARMA is holding its first ever conference. For more information about the agenda, speakers, and registration visit [this link](#) or contact Shante Ellis at shante.ellis@ccprc.com.

NEW "Making the Case: Economic Impact Studies for Historic Preservation," May 14, 2026, online. The National Alliance of Preservation Commissions is offering this live or on-demand webinar about how Economic Impact Studies can help make the case for preservation at the local level. Registration is free for NAPC members, \$15 for non-members, for more information visit [this link](#).

Vernacular Architecture Forum, May 27–30, 2026, Walla Walla, WA. The Vernacular Architecture Forum invites paper and poster proposals for its 47th Annual Meeting, "Columbia River Plateau: Atomic Space. Native Soil. Geologic Time." More information will be on the [VAF Conference webpage](#).

Association for Gravestone Studies Conference 2026, June 23–28, 2026, Grand Rapids, MI. More information will be available on the [2026 conference webpage](#).

NEW "Shared Heritage, Shared Future: Preservation, Stewardship, and the Next Generation," July 8–10, 2026, Philadelphia, PA. The ICOMOS-USA 2026 Symposium will bring together practitioners in preservation, policy, and cultural heritage to explore how heritage is defined, interpreted, and protected. For more information visit [this link](#).

FORUM 2026: Preservation Currents, July 22–26, 2026 Minneapolis, MN. FORUM is sponsored by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions and is the only national conference focused on local historic preservation district boards and commissions. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information.

National Association of Tribal Historic Preservation Officers 26th Annual Conference and Sacred Places Summit, August 24–26, 2026, Albuquerque, NM. This year's theme is "Living Cultures, Living Landscapes." Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information.

Historic Cemetery Workshop, September 9, 2026, SC Archives & History Center, Columbia. Save the date for the Historic Cemetery Workshop sponsored by the SC Archives & History Foundation. More information will be posted on the Foundation's [Events webpage](#) and announced in this newsletter.

Joint Conference of the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) and National Council on Public History (NCPH), September 16–19, 2026, Providence, RI. For the first time these organizations are coming together for a joint conference of sessions, workshops, tours, and discussions focused on the theme "The Work of Revolution." More information is available on the [conference webpage](#).

Preserving the Historic Road International Conference, September 30–October 1, 2026, online. The 13th Annual Conference will bring together transportation professionals, preservationists, historians, planners, engineers, advocates, and scholars to explore the past, present, and future of historic roads. For more information visit [this link](#).

9th Annual Slave Dwelling Project Conference, October 1–3, 2026, North Charleston. The conference theme is "250 Years and Counting: Reckoning, Resilience, and Remembrance." For more information visit [this link](#).

Keeping History Above Water Symposium, October 21–23, 2026, Newport, RI. This year's theme is "Looking Back, Moving Forward." [Click here](#) for more information.

Preservation North Carolina's Annual Conference, October 25–27, 2026, High Point, NC. Visit [this link](#) for more information.

Georgia's Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, November 4–6, 2026, Decatur, GA. Proposals for speaker sessions and speaker nominations are being accepted through May 1, 2026. More details about the call for proposals are at [this link](#).

Association for Preservation Technology (APT) Annual Conference, October 26–30, 2026, Indianapolis, IN. The conference theme is "The Crossroads of Preservation: Where Industry and Craft Come Together." For more information visit the [conference webpage](#).

Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines

Monthly, The SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) is accepting applications for FY26 Monthly Grants (up to \$15,000). Information about

specific grant programs and requirements can be found at <https://southcarolina250.com/grants/> or email: info@southcarolina250.com.

Quarterly, SC250 also offers Major Grants (\$15,001 to \$125,000) and Premier Project Grants (\$125,001) with quarterly deadlines. Deadlines are posted on the [Grant Details](#) webpage. **The next deadline is June 26, 2026.**

The Commission is also offering grant opportunities through May 2026 to support community engagement around [Carolina Days](#) from June 27 - July 5, 2026. Projects do not have to be limited to the traditional Revolutionary War era of 1770-1783 to be eligible, but must connect meaningfully to one of the established Carolina Days themes and help local communities celebrate the state's American Revolution history. Use the existing grant applications to apply, questions: email info@southcarolina250.com.

February 2 – May 1, 2026 SC State Historical Records Advisory Board (SC SHRAB) Microgrant and Scholarship Program. The SC SHRAB is accepting applications for grants (up to \$1,000). Please see the [program webpage](#) for more details about eligible applicants and projects and applications. Contact Erin Lowry with questions at SCSHRAB@scdah.sc.gov or 803-896-6128.

May 7, 2026 Historic Preservation Fund Grants. The application and instructions for the FY26 Historic Preservation Grants are available at [this link](#). Administered by the SHPO, the matching grants can assist two types of projects: Survey and Planning, and Stabilization. Any local government, non-profit or institution in South Carolina may apply for a Survey and Planning Project. Eligible applicants located in a Certified Local Government (CLG) community may also apply for a Stabilization Project. (At least 10% of the state's annual allocation from the National Park Service must be awarded to CLGs.) Grant awards generally range from \$2,500 to \$35,000 and must be matched. For more information, contact Brad Sauls at 803-896-6172, or bsauls@scdah.sc.gov.

NEW June 1, 2026 National Trust Preservation Grants, are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by supporting on-going preservation work and by providing seed money for preservation projects. These grants help stimulate public discussion, enable local groups to gain the technical expertise needed for preservation projects, introduce the public to preservation concepts and techniques, and encourage financial participation by the private sector. Grants generally start at \$2,500 and range up to \$5,000. For more information about eligible applicants, projects, and how to apply visit [this link](#).

Partners for Sacred Places Intervention Fund, is an emergency grant under the umbrella of the [National Fund for Sacred Places](#) that supports historic sacred places with building repair and recovery funds after an unanticipated emergency from extreme weather, property destruction, or urgent health and safety hazards. To learn more about the program and its grantees, please refer to the [Intervention Fund information flyer](#) or contact the Fund Director, Rachel Galton at rgalton@sacredplaces.org.

Online sources of grant information:

[Historicfunding database](#)

[National Park Service State, Tribal, Local, Plans & Grants Division](#)

[National Trust for Historic Preservation Grant Funds](#)

[State Library](#) Grants Research Assistance including online webinars

[SC Grantmakers Network](#)

[Federal grants](#) Grants.gov

Subscription Information

Thank you for reading our newsletter. Please forward to others who may be interested in reading. Past issues of News and Notes are [available on the SHPO website](#).

Please send any comments or suggestions to Elizabeth Johnson at ejohnson@scdah.sc.gov.

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The South Carolina Department of Archives and History is an independent state agency whose mission is to preserve and promote the documentary and cultural heritage of the Palmetto State. The department houses one of the most comprehensive state archival collections in the nation, spanning more than 325 years of South Carolina history. The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), a program of the SCDAH, encourages and facilitates the responsible stewardship of South Carolina's irreplaceable historic and prehistoric places.

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