



State Historic Preservation Office

South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8501 Parklane Road | Columbia, SC | 29225
scdah.sc.gov

Historic Preservation News and Notes

February 2026

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2026 Historic Preservation Conference Registration Open

The poster for the 2026 Historic Preservation Conference features a large background image of a historic brick building. Overlaid on this is a dark blue silhouette of the state of South Carolina. Inside the silhouette, the text "SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE" is written in white, with the year "2026" in large white numerals. Below the silhouette, the event details are listed: "Friday, April 24, 2026", "SC Archives & History Center", "8301 Parklane Road", and "Columbia, SC". At the bottom, it says "Presented By" followed by two logos: the "South Carolina Archives & History Foundation" logo and the "South Carolina Department of Archives & History" logo. There are also three circular inset images: one showing a historic house, one showing a historic building facade, and one showing a historic stone wall.

2026
SOUTH CAROLINA HISTORIC PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

Friday, April 24, 2026
SC Archives & History Center
8301 Parklane Road
Columbia, SC

Presented By

Registration is now open for the 2026 South Carolina Historic Preservation Conference to be held Friday, April 24, 2026 at the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia.

The conference features 10 educational sessions, an optional tour of the archives, lunch, and networking opportunities.

Information about the conference sessions and registration is available at [this link](#). Please register early as space is limited. **The early registration discount ends March 31, 2026.**

Call for Nominations: 2026 SC Historic Preservation Awards

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 six 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 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 Grant Application

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.

State Board of Review Meeting: March 20, 2026

The State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places will meet Friday, March 20, 2026 at 10:30 AM at the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia. The Board will consider the following eight nominations:

- J.S. Wright High School, Abbeville, Abbeville County
- St. Paul Baptist Church, Anderson, Anderson County
- Angel Oak, Johns Island, Charleston County
- River Road, Johns Island, Charleston County
- Chicora Graded School, North Charleston, Charleston County
- Winnsboro Historic District (Additional Documentation), Winnsboro, Fairfield County
- Greenwood Mill Village Historic District, Greenwood, Greenwood County
- Hampshire Mill, York County

The public is welcome to attend the meeting. Draft nominations will be available at [this link](#) two weeks prior to the meeting . Questions? Contact Virginia Harness at vharness@scdah.sc.gov, 803-896-6179 or Edwin Breeden at ebreeden@scdah.sc.gov, 803-896-6182.



Upcoming Conferences/Workshops/Training/Events

NEW 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.

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

- February 25, 2026 at 2 PM - Preserving America's Historic Music Venues
- March 24, 2026 at 2 PM - Preserving America's Historic Main Streets
- 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:

- *Conservation Strategies for Archaeologists*, April 7–8, 2026, Newport News, VA.
- *Archaeological Curation and Collections Management*, April 9–11, Newport News, VA.
- *Conflict Management: Skill Development for Cultural and Natural Resource Managers*, April 14–16, 2026, online.
- *Tribal Cultural Monitors: An Introduction*, April 21, 2026, online.
- *Technology and Cultural Resources: Roundtable Conversation*, April 23, 2026, online.
- *Historic Property Management*, May 11–12, 2026, Atlanta, GA.
- *Traditional Cultural Places*, May 19–20, 2026, Richmond, VA.

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

SC African American Heritage Commission Annual Conference, February 28, 2026, SC Archives & History Center, Columbia. Contact [Ayanna Goines](#) for more information or visit the [conference webpage](#).

National Historic Preservation Advocacy Week, March 2–5, 2026, Washington, DC. Hosted by Preservation Action and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers, Advocacy Week will feature in-depth preservation policy trainings and briefings, member and partner meetings, tours, networking and congressional office visits. More information is on this [Preservation Action webpage](#).

SC Interpreters Mini-Conference, March 5–7, 2026, Columbia. The SC Interpreters Mini-Conference welcomes interpreters from across the state to come together to learn through interactive sessions, Certified Interpreter led excursions, and networking events. More information is available on at [this link](#).

Landmark Conference 2026, March 19–21, 2026, York County. The schedule and registration information is available at [this link](#). To receive more information about the Conference and other South Carolina history events send an email to sclocalhistory@gmail.com to be added to their e-group.

Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting, April 10–12, 2026, Williamsburg, VA. More information is available on the [conference webpage](#).

Main Street Now, April 13–15, 2026, Tulsa, OK. Sponsored by Main Street America, the conference offers education sessions, special events, mobile workshops, and networking. More information will be available on the [conference webpage](#).

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. The conference brochure and registration information is now available at [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 can be found in the on the [VAF Conference webpage](#).

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. Registration will open March 25, 2026.

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](#).

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

NEW Keeping History Above Water Symposium, October 21–23, 2026, Newport, RI. Session proposals related to the theme "Looking Back, Moving Forward" will be accepted through February 27, 2026. [Click here](#) for more information.

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/sc250grants/> 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 March 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.

NEW March 2, 2026 National Trust for Historic Preservation Grant Programs. Two grants administered by the National Trust are currently accepting applications. Click on each link for more about each program's requirements
[Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors](#)
[Joanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation](#)

March 3, 2026 National Fund for Sacred Places. The National Fund for Sacred Places provides technical and financial support for congregations to build capacity to use and preserve historic houses of worship. The National Fund administers monies through planning grants, wrap-around training and technical assistance, and matching capital grants ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000. For more information about eligibility, resources, past recipients, and how to apply visit the [fund website](#).

NEW March 7, 2026 Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor Subgrant Program. The application cycle for the Round One Grant Cycle is open. The program supports initiatives that preserve, promote, and protect the unique heritage of the Gullah Geechee people. The grant program funds projects in these categories: Cultural Preservation, Education and Awareness, Community Development, Environmental Stewardship and

Celebrations and Festivals. For more details about eligible applicants, matching requirements, and application process visit the [grant program webpage](#).

NEW 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.

Partners for Sacred Places Intervention Fund, 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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