



State Historic Preservation Office

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Historic Preservation News and Notes

May 2026

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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 [this link](#) for updates.
- Historic Columbia presented its [2026 Preservation Awards](#). Check out these [videos](#) about the award recipients.
- 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.



South Carolina Historic Properties Record Update



The [South Carolina Historic Properties Record \(SCHPR\)](#) has recently released an updated website with improved search speeds and functions, including the ability to search within document text. SCHPR is a searchable database of available online records of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Properties, or above-ground properties recorded in the Statewide Survey of Historic Properties. It provides access to scanned copies of all of the state's National Register nominations including representative photographs.

Historic Preservation Conference Presentations Available Online

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year's Historic Preservation Conference a success - session speakers, attendees, sponsors, and staff. PDFs of the presentations from the conference are now available on the [Conference webpage](#).

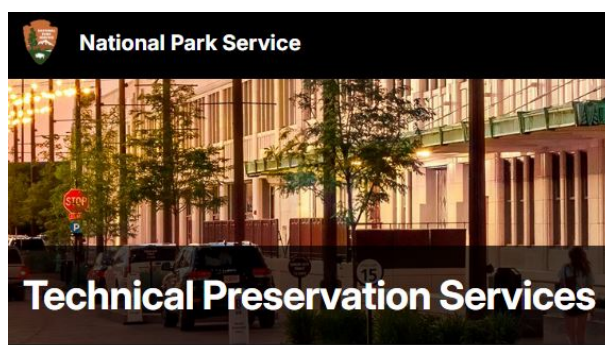
Please mark your calendars for the 2027 Historic Preservation Conference, which will be held April 23, 2027 at the SC Archives & History Center.

Celebrate America's 250th

The South Carolina American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) website features a wide range of resources and event listings related to the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of America's Independence from Britain. Check out the [It Happened Here](#), [Be a Part of It](#), and [Plan Your Visit](#) links on the [SC250 website](#).



New Guidance on the Standards for Rehabilitation



The Technical Preservation Services (TPS) of the National Park Service recently released a five-part on-demand webinar series on the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for

Rehabilitation. This [advanced training series](#) discusses the interpretation and application of the Standards, focusing in particular on the inherent flexibility within the Standards. Although project examples are drawn from the Federal Historic Preservation Tax Incentives Program, the guidance is broadly applicable in other contexts and to the other sets of the Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties. The training is intended for consultants, architects, developers, and other users familiar with the Standards. TPS has also released guidance on [economic and technical feasibility considerations](#) in the application of the Standards.

Upcoming Conferences/Workshops/Training/Events

Preserve the Past, Build for the Future Webinar Series, online. The last in this series offered by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation will be May 27, 2026 at 2 PM - "Preserving America for the Next Generation: Involving Younger People in Preservation." To register visit [this webpage](#).

The **Advisory Council on Historic Preservation** is also offering a variety of Section 106 training opportunities, both in-person and on-line via Zoom in June and September, as well as on-demand webinars. Check out the [Classroom Training Courses](#) and [Section 106 Webinars Curriculum](#) webpages for more details.

National Preservation Institute Seminars and Webinars. For more information about both in-person and online training opportunities in 2026 visit the [NPI website](#).

Vernacular Architecture Forum, May 27–30, 2026, Walla Walla, WA. The Vernacular Architecture Forum's 47th Annual Meeting theme is "Columbia River Plateau: Atomic Space. Native Soil. Geologic Time." More information is on the [VAF Conference webpage](#).

NEW 2026 SC Humanities Festival, June 4–13, 2026, Union County. SC Humanities and Union County Tourism will host the annual Humanities Festival, which celebrates local history, culture, and storytelling. Check out all of the events on [this webpage](#).

"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](#).

NEW State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places, July 24, 2026, SC Archives & History Center, Columbia. The board will consider nominations to the National Register of Historic Places. The public is invited to attend the meeting. Draft nominations will be posted two weeks prior to the meeting at [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. The agenda and registration 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 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. Visit the [conference webpage](#) 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/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.

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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