



State Historic Preservation Office

South Carolina Department of Archives and History
8301 Parklane Road | Columbia, SC | 29223
scdah.sc.gov

Historic Preservation News and Notes

September 2025

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Historic Preservation State Grant Fund Applications: Due September 24, 2025



HISTORIC PRESERVATION STATE GRANT FUND APPLICATION

The State Historic Preservation Office is now accepting applications for the Historic Preservation State Grant Fund for FY 25-26. The purpose of the State Grant Fund is to support historic preservation projects that benefit local communities through the physical repair and rehabilitation of South Carolina's historic buildings.

This year applicants may apply for either a **Planning Grant** to develop "bid-ready" plans and specifications OR a **Stabilization Grant** to assist with historic building stabilization and weatherization projects.

Instructions, application, and FAQs are available at [this link](#). Applications are due September 24, 2025. Questions? Please email Amanda Lee at alee2@scdah.sc.gov.

Tax Credit Spotlight

This month's spotlight features a c. 1882 two-story, brick commercial building on Abbeville's historic Court Square. Between 2021 and 2024, this rehabilitation revived a vacant building and continued its historic use with new retail on the ground floor and added apartments on the upper floor. The project retained character-defining features including its two types of façade windows (indicative of the two historic tenants who each occupied one of the building's two storefronts), fireplaces, cornices, mosaic tiles, hardwood flooring, and pressed metal ceilings. The pressed metal ceilings were sensitively removed, cleaned, and reinstalled to abate lead as well as provide a fire separation between the tenants and different uses on the first and second floors. Compatible treatments also included retaining the altered storefront, repainting the already painted masonry, reconfiguring vertical circulation in secondary spaces, adding new signage and new sitework.



The applicant, Joe John said, *"Rehabilitating the P.D. Speed's building was an opportunity to create a unique residential product as an example of the vision I have for Abbeville's historic district. The State and Federal tax credit programs were the critical element that enabled uncompromised standards with a reasonable financial model."*

For more information on historic rehabilitation tax credits for income-producing properties, please visit [this link](#).

2026 SCAAHC Annual Conference Call for Proposals



SC African American
Heritage Commission

The South Carolina African American Heritage Commission is accepting proposals for panel sessions their 2026 Annual Conference, which will be held Saturday, February 28, 2026 at the SC Archives & History Center in Columbia. Please [click here](#) for this year's thematic panels and information about how to submit a proposal.

The deadline for submissions is September 29, 2025. Please email agoines@sccdah.sc.gov if you have any questions.

Preservation South Carolina's Endangered Historic Places Program



Endangered Historic Property Form

An Endangered Places Program Initiative

Preservation SC's [Endangered Places Program](#) was created in 1996 as a part of the organization's initiative to support historic preservation in communities across South Carolina. The program was created to save threatened historic buildings, usually by getting the right to purchase the properties, then selling them to people who agree to restore them. To date, more than 40 properties have been protected by the program. The program is made up of two components: the Endangered Places Revolving Fund, and Endangered Places Advocacy.

The Endangered Historic Property Form is a part of the Endangered Places Advocacy component of the Program. The purpose of this form is to identify vulnerable historic properties for potential investment, while advocating and encouraging for their preservation. Preservation South Carolina asks, "Do you know of an endangered historic property that has not received the attention it deserves? Forms are accepted on a rolling basis throughout the year. We will reply to your submission within 60 days."

<https://www.preservesc.org/endangered-historic-properties-form>

New NPS Guidance on Historic Wood Flooring and Substitute Materials

The National Park Service has issued [new guidance](#) that provides information about evaluating historic wood flooring for possible replacement and when it may be acceptable to use a different material than the historic one for replacement consistent with the Standards for Rehabilitation. Substitute materials addressed include engineered wood and Luxury Vinyl Tile (LVT)/Luxury Vinyl Plank (LVP). The principles discussed in this guidance can also generally be applied to the replacement of other types of flooring materials beyond just wood. A companion [webinar](#) is also available on this topic.

Upcoming Conferences/Workshops & Training/Events

SC Historical Marker Program Exhibit - "Know Your State and Make it Known: The South Carolina Historical Marker Program". The [exhibit is on display](#) at the SC Archives & History Center, 8301 Parklane Road in Columbia. It is open Monday through Friday, 8:30 AM – 5:00 PM, except on official state holidays.

Preserving Historic Cemeteries Workshop, September 18, 2025, Columbia. The SC Archives & History Foundation is hosting the 4th annual workshop with presentations on a variety of topics related to historic cemeteries. Details are available on the [SC Archives](#)

[and History Foundation website](#). Questions? Contact Donna Foster at 803-896-0339 or dfoster@scdah.sc.gov.

SE Chapter of the Society of Architectural Historians (SESAH) Conference, September 23-26, 2025, Asheville, NC. More information is on the [2025 conference webpage](#).

ASALH 110th Annual Conference, September 24-28, 2025, Atlanta, GA. Sponsored by the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, the conference will feature panels, workshops, roundtables, papers, posters and more. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information.

NEW Grant-Writing: Creating a Winning Proposal, September 25, 2025, online. Offered by the State Library, the free webinar will cover the basics of writing a grant and what to do after a grant is received. Registration is required and available at [this link](#).

NEW Historic Context Studies: Putting the People in Preservation, September 25, 2025, online. Offered by the National Alliance of Preservation Commissions, this webinar will explore local historic contexts through examples that helped uncover stories that may not be identified in an architectural survey. For additional information and to register [click here](#).

North Carolina Preservation Conference, October 5-7, 2025, Asheville, NC. The program, speakers and registration information is on the [conference webpage](#).

2025 SC Humanities Festival, October 17-19, 2025, Lancaster. Sponsored by SC Humanities and hosted by the Lancaster County Council of the Arts the festival will feature lectures, tours, workshops, and other events celebrating local history and culture. Learn more [here](#).

National Preservation Law Conference, November 5, 2025, Washington DC and virtual. The conference will bring together a roster of national experts to share timely insights, a broad range of perspectives, and strategies for advancing preservation law in a changing landscape. More information is on [the conference link](#).

Georgia Statewide Historic Preservation Conference, November 5-7, 2025, Athens, GA. The conference is hosted by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs Historic Preservation Division and the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation. Visit the [conference website](#) for more information.

Southeastern Archaeological Conference 81st Annual Meeting, November 5-8, 2025, Baton Rouge, LA. Meeting details and registration information is available at [this link](#).

NEW Historic Property Management, November 6-7, 2025, Charleston. In this National Preservation Institute course learn how to read a historic building, search for solutions, and care for the building envelope by maintaining its historic materials. The course covers planning for change, maintenance planning, and disaster preparedness. Click on the [course webpage](#) for more information and registration details.

APT Annual Conference, November 11-15, 2025, Providence, RI. The Association for Preservation Technology International conference includes workshops, field sessions, exhibits, awards, and educational sessions. For information visit the [conference website](#).

State Board of Review for the National Register of Historic Places, November 21, 2025, SC Archives & History Center, Columbia. More information will be available at [this link](#).

7th Annual American Revolution Symposium, November 15, 2025, Columbia. Sponsored by the SC Archives & History Foundation, the event features a wide range of topics related

to the Revolution in South Carolina. The program brochure and registration link is available on the Foundation's [Events webpage](#).

SC African American Heritage Commission Annual Conference, February 28, 2026, Columbia. The Commission is currently accepting proposals for panel sessions, [click here](#) for information about how to submit a proposal, which are **due September 29, 2025**.

NEW Southern Garden History Society Annual Meeting, April 10-26, 2026, Williamsburg, VA. More information is available on the [conference webpage](#).

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

NEW 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. NAPC is accepting [session proposals](#) **until October 6, 2026**. Visit the [conference webpage](#) for more information.

Upcoming Grant Application Deadlines

September 24, 2025 Historic Preservation State Grant Fund. Administered by the SC State Historic Preservation Office, the purpose of the State Grant Fund is to support historic preservation projects that benefit local communities through the physical repair and rehabilitation of South Carolina's historic buildings. This year applicants may apply for either a **Planning Grant** to develop "bid-ready" plans and specifications OR a **Stabilization Grant** to assist with historic building stabilization and weatherization projects. The instructions and application, and Frequently Asked Questions are available at [this link](#). Questions? Please email Amanda Lee at alee2@scdah.sc.gov.

September 26, 2025 at 3:00 P.M. The SC American Revolution Sestercentennial Commission (SC250) is accepting applications for FY26 Major Grants (\$15,000-\$125,000) and Premier Projects (\$125,001+). Information about specific grant programs and requirements can be found at <https://southcarolina250.com/sc250grants/> or email: info@southcarolina250.com.

September 30, 2025 T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program. Main Street America and Smart Growth America have partnered with T-Mobile to help build stronger, more prosperous small towns and rural communities. T-Mobile's Hometown Grant program awards up to 100 towns a year with project funding for a wide range of community development projects like upgrading tech at local libraries, building new hiking trails and revitalizing historic buildings. Applications for grants up to \$50,000 each are reviewed quarterly. More information about the program and the application process is on the [T-Mobile Hometown Grant Program website](#).

NEW October 1, 2025 National Trust Preservation Funds. These grants are intended to encourage preservation at the local level by supporting on-going preservation work and by providing seed money for preservation projects. With funds ranging up to \$5,000 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. South Carolina is one of the eligible states for this application round. For more information visit [this webpage](#).

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.

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 are [available on the SHPO website](#).

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

Click below to subscribe.

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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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