



# Historic Preservation State Grant Fund

The purpose of the Historic Preservation 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.



Bull Swamp Colored School  
Orangeburg County, ca. 1945.



Bull Swamp Colored School  
Orangeburg County, ca. 2018.  
Before stabilization.



Bull Swamp Colored School  
Orangeburg County, March 2024.  
After stabilization.

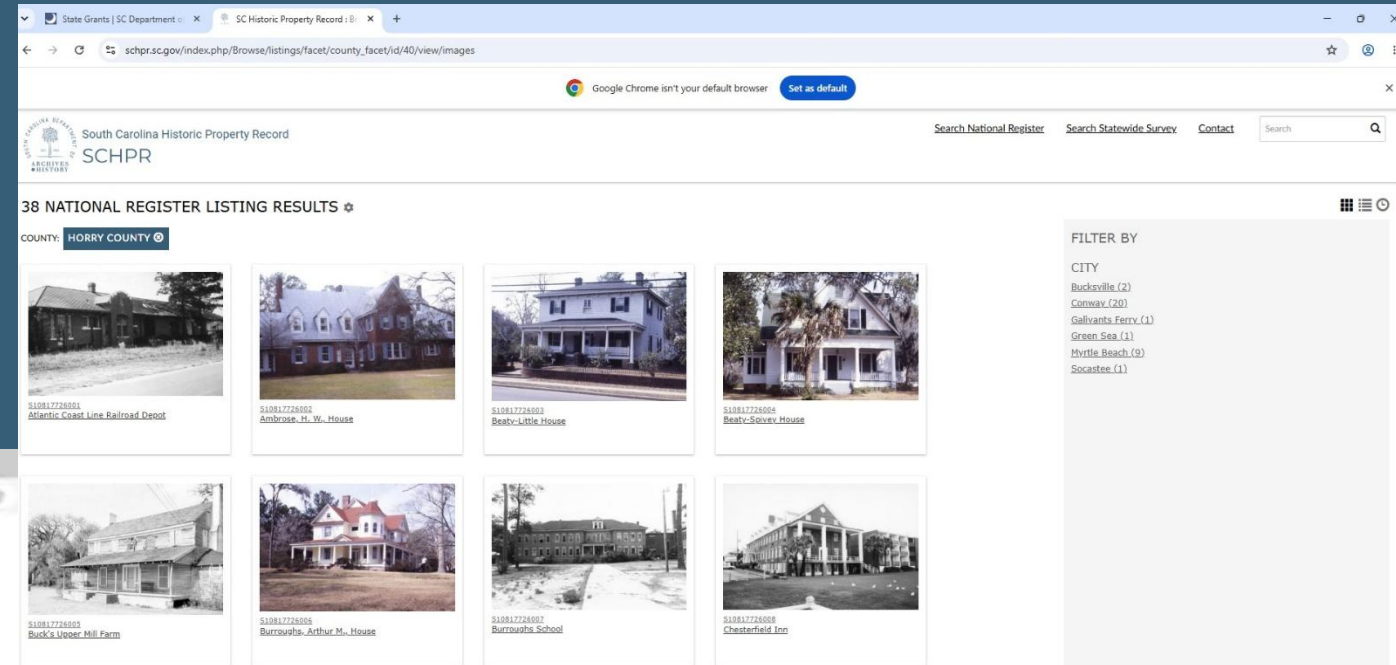
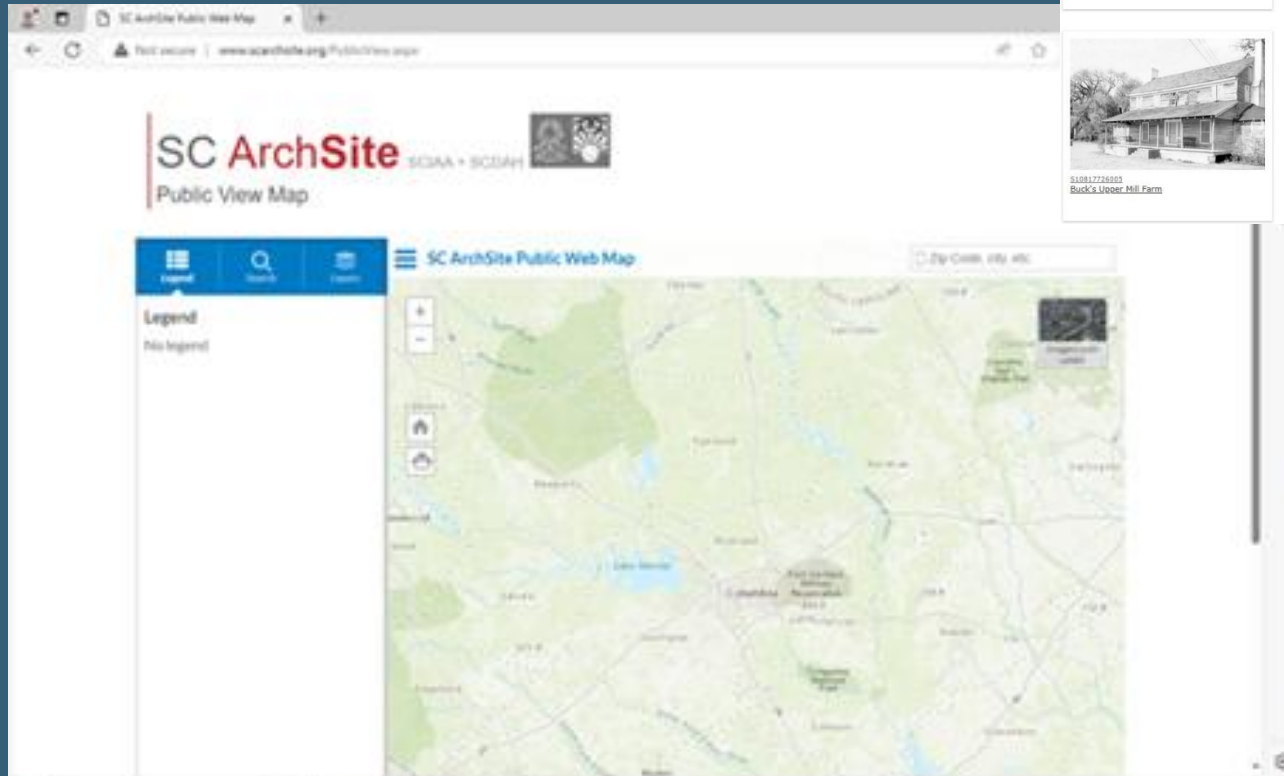
To qualify, buildings (such as a house, barn, church, hotel, or similar construction that was created principally to shelter any form of human activity) must be

- listed as a contributing resource in a National Register of Historic Places district, or
- listed individually in the National Register, or
- determined by the SHPO to be individually eligible for listing in the National Register.



National Register of Historic Places-listed Walnut Grove Plantation, Spartanburg County.

Find information about historic buildings in the SC Historic Properties Record at <https://schpr.sc.gov/> and SC ArchSite at <https://scdah.sc.gov/historic-preservation/historic-properties-research/archsitegis>.



Contact the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) at the SCDAH if you have questions about National Register status at 803-896-6179 or 803-896-6182.

If the building has NOT been previously evaluated for the National Register of Historic Places, you MUST complete a Preliminary Information Form (PIF) and return the form and required attachments to the SCDAH by July 29, 2026.

# WHAT TYPES OF PROJECTS ARE FUNDED?

**Planning Grants** are awarded to assist applicants in the development of conditions assessments and/or “bid-ready” plans and specifications for stabilization and weatherization of the historic building.

Planning Grants up to \$50,000 will be awarded.

- No cash match is required.
- Grant funding is reimbursable.
- Project and all associated administrative tasks including final reimbursement must be completed and the project closed out by December 1, 2027.

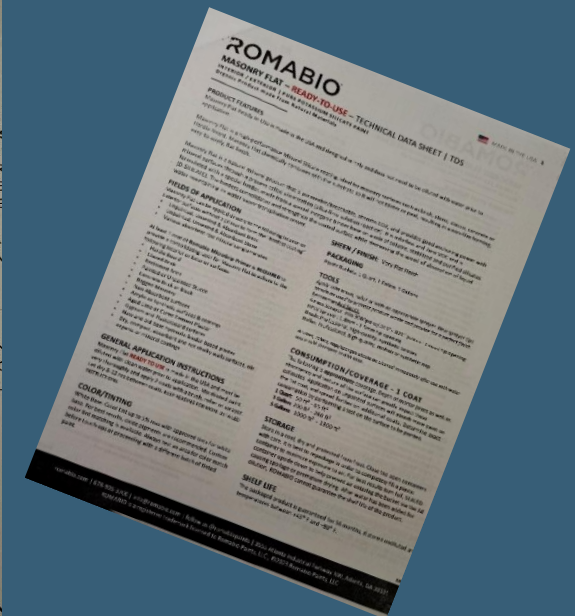
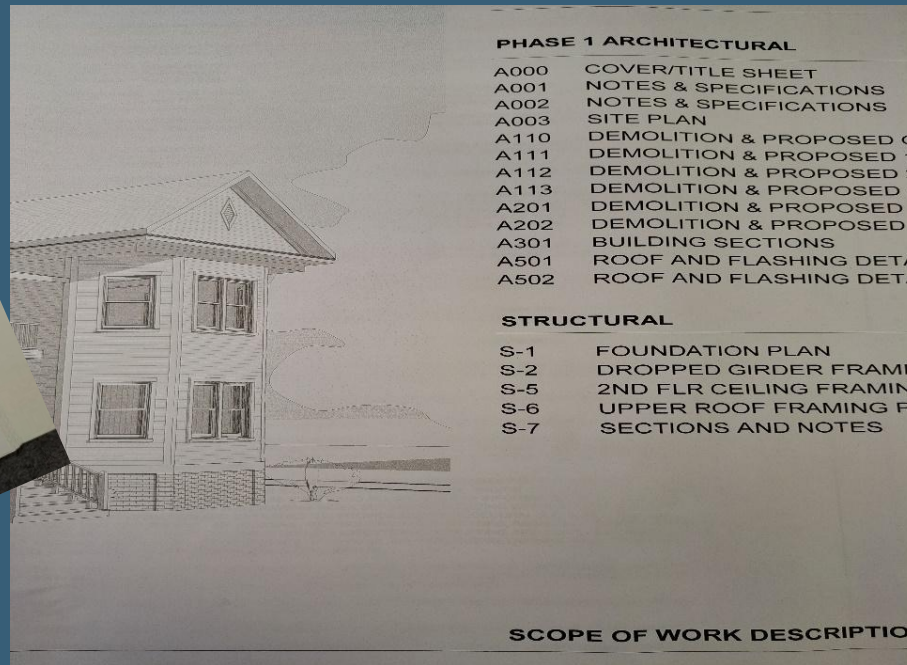
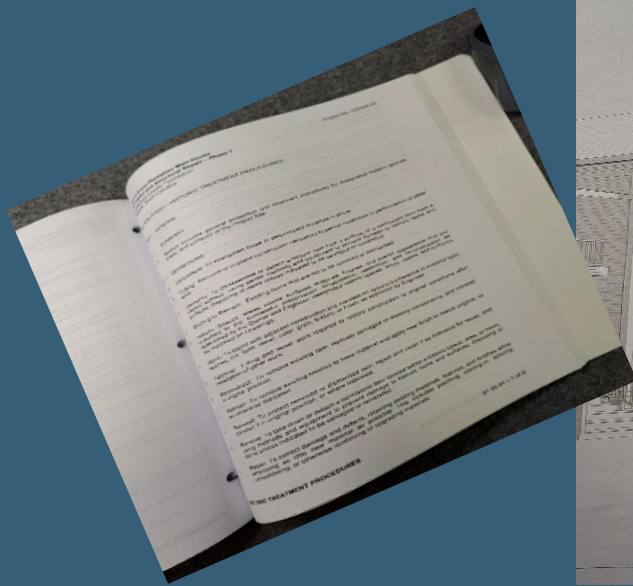
**Stabilization Grants** are awarded for “bid-ready projects” for the stabilization and weatherization of historic buildings.

Stabilization Grants ranging from \$40,000 to \$200,000 will be awarded.

- A minimum 20% cash match of the Total Project cost is required.
- Grant funding is reimbursable.
- A preservation Covenant Agreement is required at the completion of the project.
- Project and all associated administrative tasks including the final reimbursement must be completed and the project closed out by March 1, 2028.

# Planning Grants will support

the development of conditions assessments and/or “bid ready” plans and specifications for the stabilization and weatherization of the historic building by a qualified professional with appropriate expertise in historic building rehabilitation such as a historic architect and/or structural engineer. The documents may include an initial conditions assessment that describes and prioritizes needed repairs and must include “bid ready” plans and specifications to complete the prioritized stabilization and weatherization work.



# Stabilization Grants will support

projects that stabilize and weatherize historic buildings.

- The focus is on structural elements that keep the building watertight and upright.
- Only projects that have developed “bid-ready” plans and specifications are eligible.
- A copy of the plans and specifications must be included with the grant application.
- Projects must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Rehabilitation (Standards), and the SCDAH will review draft and final plans to ensure that the proposed stabilization and weatherization work meets the Standards.

# All grant-funded work must meet The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces, and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces, and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place, and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.
5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.



# WHO CAN APPLY?

## Eligible applicants are

- Nonprofit organizations,
- Entity of local governments, and
- Federal or State recognized Native American tribes

located in South Carolina.

## Ineligible applicants are

- Individuals,
- Businesses,
- For-profit entities, and
- Federal and state agencies.

# HOW TO APPLY?

Complete a Historic Preservation State Grant Fund application, which is available online on the State Grants page at <https://scdah.sc.gov/historicpreservation/programs/grants/state-grants>.



The image shows a sample of the Historic Preservation State Grant Fund Application form. The form is titled "HISTORIC PRESERVATION STATE GRANT FUND APPLICATION" and features the South Carolina Department of Archives & History logo. It includes a deadline notice: "Applications must be received by 5:00 PM, Wednesday, September 2, 2026. This is not a postmark deadline. Late applications will NOT be considered. Please read the 'Historic Preservation State Grant Fund Application Guidance' document before completing this application. All sections must be answered." The form is divided into sections for "PROJECT CATEGORY" (Planning or Stabilization), "AMOUNT REQUESTED" (State Grant Fund Share, Cash Match, Total Project Cost), "PROJECT NAME", "APPLICANT ORGANIZATION", and contact information (Address, City/State/Zip, SC Vendor Number, Authorizing Official Name, Title, Email, Phone). A footer note states: "2026-2027 Historic Preservation State Grant Fund Application - p. 3".

**\*\* Please be sure to read the complete application and accompanying instructions and requirements. \*\***

- You may NOT enter into a contract with any professional before a grant is awarded or enter into a contract with any professional before approval of a public procurement process approved by the SCDAH.
- Grant recipients may NOT begin grant-funded project work until they have completed the necessary administration steps including, but not limited to, execution of Award Letter and Funding Agreement, reverification of project funds, written notice of approval by SCDAH to proceed with bid process, and/or approval of project plans and specifications (stabilization grant).

# GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW

## Threshold Criteria

- Building must be listed as a contributing resource in a National Register historic district or individually listed or determined eligible for listing by the SHPO.
- Application is completed. All questions answered and required attachments provided. (Not all questions may pertain to your organization. Your application will not be disqualified if you cannot completely fill out an answer to a question.)
- Application is signed by the Authorizing Official.
- Application received on time. Late applications will NOT be considered.



Remember to provide good, clear, sharp, color photographs that document current conditions.

Provide up to 30 digital photographs, which must include the overall setting, the exterior, and the interior of the building, as well as detailed close-up photographs of damage to be repaired.

See page 6 of the application for additional instructions.

# GRANT SELECTION CRITERIA AND REVIEW

## Selection Criteria

- **Organizational Capacity:** Priority will be given to applicants who lack financial resources to carry out the proposed work without grant assistance and who demonstrate a long-term commitment to the historic building and its preservation through prior project planning, fundraising, completed projects, and plans for future use and maintenance.
- **Location:** Priority will be given to projects located in rural areas of smaller population size. Geographic distribution of all awards will be considered.
- **Building Significance:** Priority will be given to buildings that have a high degree of significance, local uniqueness, or rarity within the community.
- **Site Threats:** Priority will be given to buildings facing significant threats from physical deterioration.
- **Project Plans and Budget:** Priority will be given to projects that are well-planned, will meet the Standards for Rehabilitation as proposed, will be carried out by qualified personnel with experience in historic preservation, and have an appropriate itemized and justified budget and timeline.
- **Public Benefit:** Priority will be given to projects involving buildings that have or will have a public use and/or are regularly open to the public, will have a positive impact on the surrounding community, and increase awareness of historic preservation.
- **Previous Grant History:** Where applicable, previous grant projects with the same building and/or the applicant's past performance on grant projects will be considered, both in terms of positive or negative effects on the historic property from earlier grant projects.

# SUBMISSION DEADLINE

The deadline to receive completed applications is 5:00 pm  
Wednesday, September 2, 2026.

This is NOT a postmark deadline. Late applications will NOT be considered.

# SUBMISSION

We strongly encourage applications to be submitted electronically. If possible, please combine application, photographs, and supporting materials into one PDF. The electronic file(s) name should include the name of the historic property.

Electronic Submittal Directions: Send a PDF of the signed copy of the application and all attachments electronically via email or online file transfer service to [sgf@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:sgf@scdah.sc.gov). Application files submitted via email may not exceed 35MB file size. Applications with file sizes exceeding 35MB should be delivered via an online file transfer service.

**All applications will receive an emailed receipt.**

Note: Application materials will not be returned. All application materials, including photographs, become the property of the South Carolina Department of Archives & History and may be reproduced by the SCDAH without permission; appropriate credit will be given for any such use.

# TIMELINE FOR APPLICATIONS

July 2026

Applications open.

Wednesday, September 2, 2026

Application deadline.

October 2026

Applications reviewed.

Mid-November 2026

Applicants notified of their status.

# QUESTIONS

For questions or assistance with your Historic Preservation State Grant Fund Application, please contact SCDAH staff by email at [ALee2@scdah.sc.gov](mailto:ALee2@scdah.sc.gov). The SCDAH staff will be glad to schedule consultations, review drafts of applications, or talk through proposed projects and ideas.