

**HURRICANE IRMA
EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL FEDERAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION GRANTS**

On February 14, 2019, the National Park Service (NPS) awarded to the South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) a Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grant for \$1,946,485 (HIM ESHPF grant, CFDA No. 15.957, Federal Award Identification Number P19AP00015). This emergency grant will assist with the repair of damage to historic properties in South Carolina damaged by Hurricane Irma by reimbursing documented costs of approved repairs and related efforts. SCDAH has awarded grants for the following projects:

**Middleton Place Mill Repairs \$248,850
(Charleston, Charleston County)**

Grant Recipient: Middleton Place Foundation

The proposed project will stabilize and repair damage to the exterior and interior walls of the historic Mill at Middleton Place National Historic Landmark caused by flooding from Hurricane Irma. As a resiliency measure to minimize future damage to the Mill, the project also includes the replacement of the underground culvert which is located just north of the Mill. The Mill is located at the outfall into the Ashley River of a rather large drainage basin that includes a major portion of Middleton Place. The Mill is a brick masonry structure with a dirt floor and a wood framed roof. Its west and north walls extend into the creek bed and it is nearly surrounded by water. On September 11, 2017, Hurricane Irma hit Middleton Place, causing the property to close to the public for 4 days. During the storm the Mill was inundated with flood waters. Flooding from the storm directly damaged the already compromised exterior and interior northwest corner and north wall of the Mill, which had been impacted by major flooding from storms in 2015 and 2016. Flooding from Hurricane Irma further eroded the thick stucco layer applied to the exterior brick masonry and the mortar in the joints, leaving the condition of the structure in fair to poor condition. Externally, low tide reveals cracks in the masonry and separating brick work on the west wall and extends around the corner to the north wall. The loose bricks have invited vegetation to take root, further imperiling the structure's foundation. Internally, flood waters from Hurricane Irma flowing through the interior of the Mill resulted in broken and missing bricks. The adjacent underground culvert was designed to protect the Mill by moving excess water from the Mill Pond into the Ashley River. The culvert can no longer handle the extraordinary amounts of water being produced by the more frequent major weather events experienced in the Low Country. Rain and storm surge from Hurricane Irma caused water, which normally would have been diverted by the culvert, to flow over the top of the earthen dam and pour into the Mill.

**Spanish Mount Point Excavation \$63,757
(Edisto Island, Charleston County)**

Grant Recipient: South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism

Spanish Mount Point (38CH0062) is a Late Archaic Period shell mound site located within Edisto Beach State Park on Edisto Island. The site was listed in the National Register in 1974. The site's location adjacent to Scott Creek, just east of the South Edisto River, is and has been threatened by tidal action, storms, and hurricanes. The site is significant for its potential to yield information about pre-historic people on the South Carolina coast. A retaining wall installed to protect the site in the 2000s was destroyed in 2015 by record flooding and open test units at the site were flooded during Hurricane Irma in 2017. This project will conduct additional site investigation in areas adjacent to the mound site threatened by continuing erosion. This project will also include archaeological investigation and analysis of the site to determine if there is any artifacts present that were not washed away by Hurricane Irma. The project will conclude with public dissemination of findings from the site investigation including short videos interpreting the site.

- Fort Pringle Stabilization Repairs** **\$250,000**
(Charleston, Charleston County)
Grant Recipient: The Charleston Museum
Fort Pringle is a Civil War battery site used by the Confederates to defend Charleston along the Stono River at James Island. It was listed in the National Register in 1982. A stone rip rap system installed in the 1990s to protect the site from erosion suffered severe damage a result of Hurricane Irma in 2017. This project will reinstall additional stone and geotextile fiber to strengthen the rip rap barrier protecting the site.
- Honey Hill Battlefield Earthworks Stabilization** **\$57,500**
(Ridgeland, Jasper County)
Grant Recipient: Town of Ridgeland
Honey Hill (or Boyd's Neck) Battlefield was listed in the National Register in 2004 and is significant for its association with the Battle of Honey Hill (November 30, 1864) where Confederate forces won a victory over Union troops that briefly stalled U.S. Gen. William T. Sherman's efforts to destroy the rail connection between Charleston and Savannah. The Union forces included multiple units of US "Colored Troops" and the 54th and 55th Massachusetts regiments. Winds from Hurricane Irma in 2017 knocked over 23 trees in and around the Confederate earthworks at the battlefield site. This project will result in careful removal of the trees to minimize further damage to the earthworks and minimize further damage to archaeological resources. As fallen trees are prepared for removal from the site, root balls will be carefully inspected for any artifacts. Any artifacts recovered during the tree removal process will be identified and documented. After proper documentation, any artifacts encountered during tree removal will be placed on loan by the Town of Ridgeland to the Morris Center for Lowcountry Heritage in Ridgeland for use in an exhibit about the Honey Hill battlefield. Any information regarding artifact recovery will also be used to update the state archaeology site file for Honey Hill battlefield.
- Beaufort Carnegie Library Repairs** **\$188,500**
(Beaufort, Beaufort County)
Grant Recipient: City of Beaufort
The building was completed in 1917 as a Carnegie Free Library for the city of Beaufort. It is a contributing property in the Beaufort Historic District (NRHP listed 1969) and the district is a National Historic Landmark (1973). During Hurricane Irma in 2017 downtown Beaufort experienced flooding along with high winds. Floodwaters breached the historic windows on the lower floor of the building. This project will repair flood-damaged historic windows and make other historic windows more resilient to future storms.
- Trinity Episcopal Church Stabilization Project** **\$220,000**
(Abbeville, Abbeville County)
Grant Recipient: Preservation South Carolina
The spire of Trinity Episcopal Church in Abbeville incurred serious damage from Hurricane Irma in 2017 when the storm's winds detached and blew away a significant number of the original wooden shingles on the steeple. The loss of these shingles has resulted in water intrusion into the narthex and the sanctuary, compromising internal plaster walls. In addition, the ongoing water intrusion poses a threat of mold within the building while continuing to worsen the condition of the walls. Repair of the spire shingles will require scaffolding the entire 125-foot spire and replacing the shingles.
- Island Breeze Repairs** **\$250,000**
(Charleston, Charleston County)
Grant Recipient: William G. Wilder
The building was constructed c. 1965 and contributes to the Mosquito Beach Historic District, a small collection of properties that convey the history of an African American recreation and entertainment area that developed during the era of Jim Crow segregation on Sol Legare Island

in Charleston County. The building was flooded during Hurricane Irma and this project will result in repairs to storm-related damage and resiliency measures against future storms.

William Johnson House Shutter Replacement **\$9,900**
(Beaufort, Beaufort County)

Grant Recipient: David M. Taub

The William Johnson House at 414 New Street contributes to the Beaufort Historic District which is also a National Historic Landmark district. The house was built c. 1780. The shutters on the house were damaged or destroyed by high winds from Hurricane Irma in 2017. Eight pairs of shutters on the north and south elevations were damaged or destroyed along with two pairs of shutters on the east elevation. This project will replace the damaged or destroyed shutters providing protection to historic windows from future storms.

Pockoy Island Shell Rings Excavation **\$250,000**
(Edisto Island, Charleston County)

Grant Recipient: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

This project will support archaeological investigation of the Pockoy Shell Rings Site (38CH2533) on Pockoy Island in Charleston County, within the Botany Bay Plantation Heritage Preserve and Wildlife Management Area. This site represents the oldest dated Late Archaic shell ring in South Carolina. The purpose of this project is to conduct an archaeological excavation of the plaza and northern side of Pockoy Island Shell Ring 1 (Ring 1) in order mitigate the effects of Hurricane Irma and ongoing erosion of the site into the Atlantic Ocean. Samples collected from the site during the field season will be transported to the laboratory at the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) Parker Annex Archaeology Center (Parker) in Columbia, SC, for processing, analysis, and curation. SCDNR will finalize and submit a National Register nomination for the Pockoy Island Shell Ring Complex (Rings 1 and 2). The SCDNR Archaeology team will excavate 25 contiguous one-meter units at Ring 1. All work will follow the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation and will satisfy standards set forth by the South Carolina Standards and Guidelines for Archaeological Investigations. All artifacts will be processed for analysis and curated at SCDNR's Parker Annex Archaeological Center in Columbia, SC. Lesson plans and short documentary films will be developed, and will be available for free on the SCDNR Heritage Trust website and through the SCETV. A NRHP nomination form for Pockoy Island Shell Ring Complex will be submitted.

Gullah Geechee Fishing Village Archaeological Survey **\$207,978**
(Georgetown vicinity, Georgetown County)

Grant Recipient: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserve (TYWCHP) is a cultural landscape encompassing approximately 24,000 acres including North and South Islands and much of Cat Island in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Located at the mouth of Winyah Bay within the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor, the cultural landscape is significant not only for the role it played in wildlife conservation, but also the history of slavery and rice agriculture in the 18th century plantation economy and the postbellum northern investment in those plantations as hunting lodges and conservation lands. The marsh, managed wetlands, ocean beach, longleaf pine forest and maritime forest lands are operated as a wildlife refuge and research center by the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR), following the tradition established by Tom Yawkey in the 1940s. Determined eligible for the NRHP by the SC SHPO in 2006 as a historic district, the Tom Yawkey Historic District, a cleared landscape of predominately archaeological sites, tells a number of climate stories. Hurricane Irma resulted in a combination of storm surge and flooding that produced maximum inundation levels of 3 to 5 feet above sea level along the coast of much of South Carolina, causing severe beach erosion. Sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, and looting are long-term threats to the cultural resources at TYWCHP. In July 2017 skeletal remains were discovered eroding from the South Island beach on the TYWCHP. SCDNR archaeologists conducted archaeological salvage excavations of the skeleton, which was positioned face down in the beach in the site of a former fishing village. The discovery of YWCSI Skeleton in the fishing village, with black and white landowners and tenants, brings forth

important preservation questions and tells compelling climate stories. The cultural resources at the TYWCHP are the primary sources of data regarding human interactions with climate change and storms, like Hurricane Irma, affect the preservation and maintenance of those cultural resources. Archaeological survey will assess the impacts of Hurricane Irma to this fishing village site and provide additional information on the African American culture at the site. DNA and other studies could connect the YWCSI Skeleton to contemporary Gullah Geechee communities, which combined with archaeology and oral history could provide intimate information about life at the Gullah Geechee fishing village in the antebellum and postbellum periods before it further erodes away.

**Yawkey Heritage Preserve, Shoreline Archaeological Survey
(Georgetown vicinity, Georgetown County)**

\$200,000

Grant Recipient: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center Heritage Preserve (TYWCHP) is a cultural landscape encompassing approximately 24,000 acres including North and South Islands and much of Cat Island in Georgetown County, South Carolina. Located at the mouth of Winyah Bay within the Gullah Geechee Heritage Corridor, the cultural landscape is significant not only for the role it played in wildlife conservation, but also the history of slavery and rice agriculture in the 18th century plantation economy and the postbellum northern investment in those plantations as hunting lodges and conservation lands. Operated by the Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) as a wildlife refuge and research center following the traditions established by Tom Yawkey in the 1940s, it was determined eligible for the NRHP as a historic district by the SC SHPO in 2006. As such, the Tom Yawkey Historic District is a cleared landscape consisting of archaeological sites that tell a number of climate stories. Hurricane Irma resulted in a combination of storm surge and tide that produced maximum inundation levels of 3 to 5 ft above ground level along the coast of much of South Carolina, causing severe beach erosion. Sea level rise, storm surge, erosion, and looting are long-term threats to cultural resources. The proposed collaborative project contributes to SCDNR's mission to make climate change an integral part of strategic and operational planning, builds upon the SCDNR's 2019 Archaeology Month poster campaign, "Heritage at Risk," and includes four components of the National Park Service's (2016) Cultural Resource Climate Change Strategy: connecting impacts and information, understanding the scope, integrating practice, and learning and sharing. The information phase prioritizes revisiting previously recorded archaeological sites, updating site information, and compiling archival research with on the ground site locations, gathering data, including LiDar, aerial photographs, and maps, and identifying stakeholders. To understand the scope, oral history interviews and an archaeological survey along the shoreline are a priority. As a way to integrate practice, significant sites identified during the shoreline survey will be documented via photogrammetry using an aerial drone and a handheld digital camera to create a 3D model of the sites and integrate information about significant vulnerable sites. To encourage learning and sharing, a shoreline monitoring program will be developed. The cultural resources at the TYWRHP are the primary sources of data regarding human interactions with climate change and changing climates, like Hurricane Irma, affect the preservation and maintenance of those historic places. The proposed program would not only provide information about sites eroded from the shore during Hurricane Irma; it would help prevent the loss of irretrievable cultural knowledge and assist SCDNR with management decisions by integrating diverse sources of information, prioritizing resources by vulnerability and significance, engaging a broad array of stakeholders, and recognizing that cultural resources hold an essential role in climate change communication.