

Since 1969, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has offered programs and services to help South Carolinians care for historic buildings and sites. These places reflect our history and serve today's South Carolinians as places to live, work, study, play, and worship. Our historic places are significant contributors to the state's economy, spurring private investment and helping attract some of the 30 million visitors to the state who spend \$9.9 billion and generate over 113,000 jobs.

Tax Incentives

A 20% federal income tax credit encourages property owners to rehabilitate historic buildings for modern income-producing uses while preserving their historic character. The SHPO helps property owners qualify for the credit in partnership with the National Park Service and IRS.

- In the past ten years, over **\$236 million** has been invested in historic buildings all across South Carolina through this program. These recycled buildings contribute to the revitalization of communities across South Carolina providing housing, office and retail space, and adding value to local tax rolls. Nationally, the tax credit has spurred \$85 billion in investments since 1976, and created 1.8 million jobs.

The State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit provides an economic incentive for homeowners to preserve the unique characteristics of their historic homes. Historic homes and districts tend to have stable real estate values, and the 25% state income tax credit helps homeowners to maintain the historic character and importance of their home. The SHPO administers this program in conjunction with the South Carolina Department of Revenue.

- Since the tax credit took effect in 2003, over **\$29 million** has been invested in historic homes and neighborhoods, supporting construction and small businesses. Homeowners have participated across the state, from houses in Charleston's Historic District to farmsteads in rural Marlboro County, to bungalows in the Cottontown Historic District in Columbia and Converse Heights Historic District in Spartanburg.

Grants

While the ability of the SHPO to offer grants has been sharply curtailed in recent years, it continues to run a small grants program and to provide information about other grants for historic preservation projects.

- Since 2001, **\$1.43 million** in grants have been awarded to local preservation projects. In 2007, the SHPO applied for and received a \$150,000 Preserve America grant to create a special grant program that funded 15 additional local projects. The SHPO maintains a financial incentives guide (available online) and shares information about other grant programs in its monthly email newsletter *News and Notes*.

National Register of Historic Places

The National Register of Historic Places is a list of properties significant in our nation's past, maintained by the National Park Service. While listing is primarily honorific, it does help owners qualify for tax incentive programs. Properties are added to the list by nominations submitted by citizens through State Historic Preservation Offices.

- South Carolina has over **1,400** listings in the National Register, ranging from districts with hundreds of properties to individual buildings, from battlefields to ships, from schools to farmsteads. Sites document the breadth of South Carolina history from pre-historic Native American sites, Revolutionary War battlefields, textile mill villages, and the Civil Rights movement. Information about all of the listings is online at <http://www.nationalregister.sc.gov/nrlinks.htm>.

Historical Markers

South Carolina Historical Markers mark and interpret places important to an understanding of South Carolina's past. State law gives the Department of Archives and History responsibility for "the approval of the inscriptions for all historical markers or other monuments erected on state highways or other state property."

- Since 1936, the Department has approved texts for over **1,300** markers. Interest in the program remains strong, with **66** markers approved in FY 2010. Texts are now online at <http://www.scaet.org/markers/>.

Statewide Survey of Historic Properties

The statewide survey of historic properties documents historic resources throughout the state and enables citizens, governments, and businesses to make informed decisions in planning for the community, economic development, and heritage tourism.

- Over **68,000** structures have been photographed, mapped, and recorded in South Carolina since the early 1970s. These records, often the only remaining record of a historic property, are available to the public and government agencies at the Department of Archives and History. Since the 1990s, information from surveys of historic properties has been entered into a Geographic Information System called ArchSite, available online at <http://archsite.cas.sc.edu/ArchSite/>. Over **36,000** archaeological sites have also been recorded. These records, maintained by the SC Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology are also part of ArchSite.

Review and Compliance/Section 106

The SHPO provides assistance and guidance to federal and state agencies and their applicants by reviewing the impacts of permits, funding, licenses, and other projects on historic properties including archaeological sites, as mandated by federal and state laws such as the National Historic Preservation Act, the Coastal Tidelands and Wetlands Act, the South Carolina Mining Act, and the State Owned or Leased Properties act.

- The SHPO comments on over **1,600** state and federal projects a year, helping facilitate the expenditure of millions of dollars in our state. The SHPO has been involved in the management of impacts to Native American archaeological sites, historic buildings, textile mill villages, plantations, rice fields, and historic neighborhoods as part of these laws. Agencies that must comply with the National Historic Preservation Act include the Federal Communications Commission, the Department of Transportation, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, the Department of Defense, the Forest Service, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Corps of Engineers, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

State Owned Historic Properties

The State of South Carolina owns and manages hundreds of historic properties, from the State House, to state parks, to Heritage Trust tracts; from state universities, to the ships at Patriot's Point, to the Civil War-era Fort Johnson. Significant properties owned by the state include archaeological sites, bridges, landscapes, historic districts, plantation homes, and institutional buildings. The State Owned or Leased Historic Properties law recognizes the value of these significant properties to the citizens of South Carolina by encouraging their preservation and responsible stewardship for the benefit of future generations. The SHPO consults with state agencies about planned projects and provides preservation training to state agency personnel.

Certified Local Governments

The Certified Local Government (CLG) program promotes community preservation planning and heritage education through a partnership with the SHPO and National Park Service that facilitates funding, technical assistance, and training for local governments. Through preservation planning, CLGs are better prepared to manage future growth and encourage economic development while protecting the historic resources significant to their communities.

- In South Carolina, **28** local governments are Certified Local Governments. In 1931 Charleston became the first city in the United States to create a local historic district to protect its historic buildings. Since that time, more than two thousand local governments across the country have followed in its footsteps.

Information and Training

The SHPO provides information and advice about historic properties and historic preservation through its website (<http://shpo.sc.gov>), publications, email newsletter, workshops, conferences, and presentations. Staff members also assist hundreds of individuals each year through email, telephone and site visits. To subscribe to our newsletter, email emjohnson@scdah.state.sc.us with your name and organizational affiliation (if applicable).