

*The Chesterfield County Historic Preservation Commission  
% 230 Third St.  
Cheraw, SC 29520  
Feb. 10, 2023*

The Hon. Patricia M. Henegan  
338 B Blatt Bldg.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Representative Henegan:

We are very concerned about Old St. David's Church Historic Site. Old St. David's is one of the most prominent historic buildings in your district. Built in 1770 as the last "state" church in South Carolina, Old St. David's is one of the very few documented colonial area buildings left in the Pee Dee. It sheltered soldiers of both armies during the American Revolution and the American Civil War. In addition, it was one of the few churches which had both black and white members and played a prominent role in the history of this area.

In 1976 it was deconsecrated by the Episcopal Church and restored as a museum. Old St. David's has been a symbol of Cheraw for generations and has the unique ability to connect Cheraw to 250 years of American History. Over the almost 50 years since the Bicentennial, it has been the site of numerous weddings, concerts, group tours and historic reenactments and is an important driver of tourism.

The building is in dire need of a new roof. Before the pandemic, a professional architect estimated the roof replacement would be approximately \$80,000 to \$100,000. The Chesterfield County Historic Preservation Commission applied for and received a grant from the SC Department of Archives and History to cover \$35,000 of this, the maximum grant amount. The low bid for this project came in at \$289,000! While the church building does have financial support and a great deal of community support, we also received a bid for repainting of close to \$70,000. These bids didn't include repairs to the shutters, doors and steeple. While we will conduct an extensive fund-raising campaign, the sum far exceeds our local capabilities. We are hoping that we might get a state grant of \$300,000. We think that we can raise the other \$100,000.

As South Carolina prepares for the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the American Revolution, Old St. David's Historic Site will be an important part of that celebration, but right now threats to the building pose a short- and long-term risk to the structure and to visitors.

This is one of the most historic sites in South Carolina, and I hope that you can help us secure state funding to assist us with this important work. We do appreciate all the work that you do to help our district and Cheraw. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

Sarah C. Spruill  
The Chesterfield County Historic Preservation Commission

P.S. I will be away, but can be reached by email at [sspruill@roadrunner.com](mailto:sspruill@roadrunner.com). Rob Wolfe is also assisting with this project.