

Executive Summary

Since its formation in 1990, through the hard work of volunteers and a small paid staff, Preservation South Carolina, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, has preserved many of South Carolina's at-risk historical landmark including homes, churches, slave cabins, cotton gins, textile mills, and airport hangars.

Some twenty years ago, we asked for and received a nominal grant from the State of South Carolina in the amount of \$50,000 to support our program. Now, for only the second time in our thirty plus years of existence, we are asking the State to help properly fund our organization. **We wish the State to provide us with a grant of \$1.5M, which will fund the organization with an amount adequate (a) to sustain and accelerate the organization's preservation of significant historical properties throughout the State, and (b) over the long-term, facilitate the development of an appropriate operating infrastructure.**

With the \$1.5M grant, we will:

- Increase our capacity to assist our State's smaller communities in converting historic downtown districts into functioning economic assets that put such properties back on the property tax registers, eliminate blight, reduce places for criminal activities, invite tourism, and provide opportunities for commercial enterprises to operate and private homeowners to live.
- Complement the Liberty Trail team by identifying non-battlefield Revolutionary War landmarks such as historic homes, churches, and cemeteries, which will encourage tourists to spend time in cities such as Cheraw, Winnsboro, Abbeville, and many other small communities that are unable to take on these complicated tasks without outside assistance.
- Help the African American Commission save its historic heritage and buildings across the State. Two of our current projects, one in Berkeley County and one in Edgefield County, involve African American properties of national significance.
- Expand our "Sacred Spaces" program. Churches, once the center of community life for every South Carolina community, are among the most important and historic elements in our State. Many are at risk where membership has declined to a scant few or none at all. We need to be proactive with this segment of our State's preservation needs.

Our State has a history that is second to none, and we wish to help preserve and actively promote that standing. If we had been organized in advance of our nation’s bicentennial – a time that our country began to think about our at-risk historic buildings in earnest – today, Preservation South Carolina would look much more like our robustly active peers in the South.

State	Organized	Staff	Staff Functions
GA	1973	13	President & CEO, Sr. Director of Communications, Sr. Director of Development, Director of Events, Director of Preservation, Historic Properties Coordinator, Membership and Finance Manage (and others)
NC	1939	7	President, Marketing and Membership Manager, Outreach Manager, Director of Development, HR, and Properties Director (and others)
VA	1922	12	CEO, CFO, Director Development, Community Outreach Manager, Accounting, Education Coordinator, Administrative, (and others)
SC	1990	1	All of the above, but we have to significantly limit our engagements.

For our entire history, our paid staff has consisted of only one to two employees. To function at an appropriate level and equal the effectiveness and stature of our peers in NC, GA, and VA, we need to:

- Hire an Executive Director, a position that has been vacant since April 2022.
- Hire one or two “Circuit Riders,” a person(s) to oversee the preservation needs in defined geographic areas of the State.

Once fully implemented, we will then operate a self-sustaining organization.

- Property donations, the lifeblood of most preservation organizations, will increase.
- Memberships and cash donations will increase.
- We will have a professional organization much like those of far more established groups in [Virginia](#), [North Carolina](#), and [Georgia](#).

In summary, we wish to help small towns in our State attract business through historic preservation, expand the landmarks of the Liberty Trail beyond the battlefield, help the African American community identify and save its landmarks, and expand our Sacred Spaces initiative.

On behalf of our board of directors, we thank you for your consideration of our request.