

RE: Federal Historic Preservation Fund

Dear [Senator/Member of Congress],

I am writing to bring your attention to critical issues impacting Georgia's historic places. The Administration's Fiscal Year 2026 Discretionary Budget Request proposes eliminating nearly all funding for the Historic Preservation Fund (HPF), which is the lifeblood of historic preservation in the state, supporting essential activities such as the nomination of properties to the National Register of Historic Places, public education and outreach, and legally required review for Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit projects. Importantly, The Historic Preservation Fund does not rely on taxpayer dollars. It is funded through fees for oil and gas leases on federal lands; therefore, elimination of the funding does not save taxpayers' money.

Equally troubling, Fiscal Year 2025 funds have yet to be released to State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and competitive grant programs funded by the HPF. These funds have already been appropriated by Congress and are relied upon for the critical functions of preserving Georgia's historic main streets, battlefields, and historic sites. Without timely funding, the State of Georgia may be forced to cut federally required staff responsible for reviewing federal projects, identifying and protecting historic properties, and supporting local communities in preservation efforts. This current delay threatens private economic development, as projects pursuing historic tax credits cannot move forward if pending National Register and tax credit reviews are delayed. From 2019 – 2023 (most recent available data), this private investment totaled \$690,556,249 into projects across the state.

As a Georgia resident, I urge you to facilitate the immediate release of the FY 2025 Notice of Funding Opportunity and ensure swift review and approval of applications. Additionally, I respectfully request your leadership in securing FY 2026 appropriations that empower the State Historic Preservation Office to meet the obligations of the National Historic Preservation Act as we head into the 2026 Semiquincentennial.

Continued bipartisan support of HPF funding is essential not only for preserving Georgia's rich history but also for strengthening our communities through revitalization and job creation. I am grateful for your service and hope I can count on your strong advocacy for this vital funding.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]