

MDAH

MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund

2026 Grant Application and Guidelines

Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205
601-576-6941
www.mdah.ms.gov

General Information

The Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund is used to defray costs for land acquisition to protect historic properties. A one-to-one match is required. For example, an organization receiving \$50,000 from MDAH must provide \$50,000 in matching funds or other eligible equivalent, which cannot be from other state sources. The fund will only provide up to fifty percent of the appraised value of the property.

An organization wishing to receive the grant must provide this application, as well as the documents listed below. Projects will be scored by qualified MDAH staff, and their selections will be presented to the MDAH Board of Trustees for approval.

As part of acquisition, a preservation easement will be granted to MDAH or to another approved organization in perpetuity. A copy of the template easement is available upon request.

What organizations are eligible?

Colleges and universities, historical societies, state agencies, local governments, and 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are eligible to receive a grant through this program.

What acquisitions are eligible?

Properties must either be historic battlefields, archaeological sites significant to Native American history or prehistory, or sites associated with the Civil Rights Movement. A property may have significance in more than one area, such as a battlefield with a recorded archaeological site within its boundaries, which will be taken into consideration in scoring applications.

In addition, the property must be recognized as significant. Properties may have an existing designation, such as being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, identified in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, or determined to be nationally significant in a National Park Service Special Resource Study. Properties without designation will be evaluated by qualified staff, and those that are deemed eligible will be considered for award.

What costs are eligible?

All expenses must be associated with the acquisition and preservation of the property itself and may not be used for the rehabilitation of structures. The eligible costs are:

1. Acquisition of land, improved or unimproved
2. Permanent protective interests
3. Conservation easements
4. Appraisals
5. Environmental reports
6. Surveys
7. Title searches and title insurance
8. Closing costs not listed here.

What information should be included in the statement of historical significance?

The statement of historical significance should primarily include the history of the property as it regards the reason the property is to be preserved. For a Civil Rights site, it should include only the events of the era that happened on or near the property; battlefield sites should be restricted to the battle in question. Archaeological sites should include reference to any surveys conducted on the property. If a site has more than one area of significance (e.g. a Civil War battlefield that overlaps an archaeological site), please include that information in the statement.

Additionally, it is important to include any historical or archaeological factors that make preservation of the site crucial or urgent. For example, a site with known human remains, a site associated with a major Civil Rights leader, or a site containing Civil War earthworks may warrant special consideration.

What documentation is required?

The following items are required with all applications:

1. a statement of the historical significance of the property (see above) of no more than two pages;
2. a proposed budget with applicable itemized costs (including appraisal costs, land survey costs, title insurance, and closing costs) for the total amount of the grant award. The applicant should identify the amount and source(s) of matching money to be contributed to the project;
3. an appraisal of the property, conducted by a qualified, licensed real estate appraiser;
4. a map of the property to be purchased delineated on a USGS Quadrangle Map (1:24,000 scale) or, for urban or suburban areas, an appropriate street map;
5. photographic documentation of the property;
6. a legal boundary description of the property to be purchased;
7. a copy of the purchase contract;
8. if a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, U.S. Internal Revenue Service Certification of current non-profit tax status;
9. and a copy of the title insurance policy.

How are applications submitted?

Applications should be submitted electronically to Eric Reisman at ereisman@mdah.ms.gov. A hard copy should also be sent to:

Historic Preservation Division
MDAH
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205
Attn: Eric Reisman

The electronic application must be received by October 2, 2026. If you do not receive an email receipt within 48 hours of sending your digital copy, please email us, without attachments, for confirmation. Physical copies may arrive after the deadline.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION

1. Name and Address of Applicant Organization:

Type of Organization :

Municipal Government

County Government

Non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization

College/University

2. Name, phone number, and email address of project coordinator

3. Tax Identification Number

4. Location and Description of Property to be Acquired (please include acreage, list of standing structures, and legal description, if available):

5. Please list the factors that are currently threatening the site (e.g., insensitive development, sale, ecological issues. If the property has been purchased, list the factors that led to the purchase, as well as the state of the site now.)

6. Which categories are applicable to the property to be acquired? Choose all that apply.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

Listed in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's

Civil War Battlefields

Identified as nationally significant in a National Park Service Special Resource Study

Not yet evaluated

7. Which option describes the significance of the property? Choose all that apply.

- Civil War battlefield
- Native American archaeological site(s)
- Civil Rights Movement site

7. Has an approved appraisal by a qualified appraiser been obtained for the property?

Yes No

8. Has the property already been purchased?

Yes No

If so, was the purchase completed in the last twelve months?

Yes No

9. Name, mailing address, and phone number of the current property owner (if property has not yet been acquired)

10. What grant, if any, will this money provide matching assistance for? (e.g., the National Park Service Battlefield Land Acquisition Grant)

Funding opportunity number, if applicable:

11. Estimated total cost of property acquisition (includes eligible, associated purchase costs) :

Total project cost \$ _____
Amount provided by grantor (or N/A) \$ _____
Match provided by applicant \$ _____
Amount requested from MDAH \$ _____

12. I confirm that the information on this application is correct and that the funds will be applied to the grant in question.

Signature _____ Date _____

Return all materials to Eric Reisman at ereisman@mdah.ms.gov. If you do not receive a confirmation email, please send a second email without attachments to confirm. A hard copy should also be sent to:

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