
Mississippi Historic Site Preservation Fund

Senate Bill No. 2834
Laws of Mississippi, 2021

Grant Application and Guidelines

**Mississippi Department of Archives and History
Historic Preservation Division
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205
601-576-6940
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.

An organization wishing to receive the grant must provide this application, as well as the documents listed below. After MDAH staff reviews the applications, the proposed grants will be recommended to the Mississippi legislature for approval. The fund only provides up to fifty percent of the appraised value of the property.

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

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 have been previously recognized as significant. It must be individually listed in the National Register of Historic Places, listed in the 1993 Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields, or identified as nationally significant in a National Park Service Special Resource Study.

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 and improvement of land
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 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 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.

Additionally, it is important to include any historical or archaeological factors that would lead to an increased need to preserve the site. 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 in grant selection.

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 approved appraisal of the property. The appraisal must be in accordance with the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions, a copy of which will be provided upon request;
4. a map of the property to be purchased delineated on a USGS Quadrangle Map (1:24,000 scale);
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; and
9. a copy of the title insurance policy.

How are applications submitted?

Applications should be submitted electronically to Hayley E. Smith at hsmith@mdah.ms.gov. A hard copy should also be sent to:

Historic Preservation Division
MDAH
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205
Attn: Hayley E. Smith

The application must be received by September 30, 2021. If you do not receive an email receipt within 48 hours of sending your digital copy, please email us, without attachments, for confirmation.

MISSISSIPPI HISTORIC SITE PRESERVATION FUND GRANT APPLICATION

1. Name and Address of Applicant Organization:

Type of Organization :

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Municipal Government | <input type="checkbox"/> | County Government |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization | <input type="checkbox"/> | 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)

- Individually listed in 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

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

- Historic 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 Hayley E. Smith at hsmith@mdah.ms.gov. A hard copy should also be sent to:

Historic Preservation Division
MDAH
P.O. Box 571
Jackson, MS 39205
Attn: Historic Site Acquisition Fund