



Preservation South Carolina

**January 22, 2024
For Immediate Release**

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**Preservation South Carolina to Receive \$75,000 For Taveau Church From African
American Cultural Heritage Action Fund**
\$4 Million Awarded to Help Protect 31 Historic Black Churches across the country.

CORDESVILLE, S.C. — Preservation South Carolina has received \$75,000 in funding from the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund, a program from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

This funding will be directed specifically to restoration planning and long-term stewardship of the historically and culturally significant Taveau Church, which dates to 1835.

Taveau was built for Martha Caroline Swinton Ball Taveau, who wished to worship as a Presbyterian among the Cooper River Anglicans. In 1847, upon the death of Mrs. Taveau, the church became the worship home for Black Methodists. After the Civil War, and when a new Black Methodist Conference was organized, Taveau began a new page in its history. The unique strains of Gullah Geechee culture were reflected in the worship and development of community in this rural area. Taveau stood not only as a sentinel to the trials and accomplishments of its congregants but the activities within its walls helped shape the character of its people and community through Reconstruction, Jim Crow, and Civil Rights eras.

“This grant to Preservation South Carolina from the Preserving Black Churches fund provides much needed funding to move our ongoing restoration work at Taveau Church. The Taveau Church project was selected as one of 31 places nationwide out of more than 550 applications, reinforcing both its historical importance and its promise as a new center of community for the future. We are proud to work with the Taveau Legacy Committee and other local, statewide, and regional individuals and organizations in preserving this place and its story,” said John Hildreth, Board Chair of Preservation South Carolina.

Since 2017, the Action Fund has raised more than \$91 million in philanthropic funding, and serves as the largest U.S. resource dedicated to the preservation of African American historic places.

“We created the Preserving Black Churches program to ensure the historic Black church’s legacy is told and secured. That these cultural assets can continue to foster community resilience and drive meaningful change in our society,” said **Brent Leggs, Executive Director of the African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund**. “We couldn’t be more excited to honor our second round of grantees and ensure that African Americans – and our entire nation – can enjoy an empowered future built on the inspiring foundations of our past.”

“Black churches have been at the forefront of meaningful democratic reform since this nation’s founding. They’re a living testament to the resilience of our ancestors in the face of unimaginably daunting challenges,” said **Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., historian, and advisor to the Action Fund**. “The heart of our spiritual world is the Black church. These places of worship, these sacred cultural centers, must exist for future generations to understand who we were as a people.

See the full list of the National Trust’s grantees and site descriptions [here](#).

Preservation South Carolina is a nonprofit organization operating in South Carolina since 1990, preserves and protects South Carolina’s historic buildings and places, advocating for their productive use, and promoting the state’s diverse cultural legacy.

You can learn more by visiting www.presevesc.org or by finding us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).