PRESERVATION: Working for Savannah for 60 Years
Dear HSF Member:

If you’ve ever wondered what preservation in action looks like, just gaze upon the array of HSF’s activities reflected in this 2015 Annual Report. And if you’ve ever questioned the value of historic preservation, just imagine what Savannah would look like if HSF had not been working so hard over the past 60 years. In a word, it’s remarkable. Historic Savannah Foundation is unlike a lot of other advocacy organizations. We don’t just lob in comments from the “peanut gallery.” We put our own money on the line and we directly intervene to make a measurable difference. We don’t live in theory; we live in reality—in the here and now. So when HSF uses its Revolving Fund to save endangered historic buildings on Whitaker Street and Meldrim Row; when HSF hosts the National Preservation Conference for an unprecedented third time; and when HSF helps rehabilitate facades along Broughton Street...we’re improving Savannah and making a measurable difference. And that’s just in the last year alone. When you couple that with what we’ve accomplished over our 60-year history, it is more than remarkable...it’s transformational.

And whom do we have to thank for this record of achievement? You—our members, supporters and volunteers. Take a victory lap! You’ve earned it. But when you come back around, be aware that plenty of work awaits us. So don’t rest on your laurels. Chip in and give us a hand. We need your continued financial support to continue our successes well beyond our 60-year mark.

Thanks and congratulations for making 2015 so remarkable.

Sincerely,

Daniel G. Carey   Kathy Horne
President & CEO   Chair, Board of Trustees

PRESERVATION: Working for Savannah for 60 Years

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The GuideStar Exchange is an initiative designed to connect nonprofits with current and potential supporters. With millions of people coming to GuideStar to learn more about nonprofit organizations, the GuideStar Exchange allows nonprofits to share a wealth of up-to-date information with GuideStar’s many audiences. Becoming a GuideStar Exchange participant is free of charge. To join, organizations need to update their report pages, completing all required fields for participation. The GuideStar Exchange level logos, acknowledged as symbols of transparency in the nonprofit sector, are displayed on all Exchange participants’ nonprofit reports.
Best of Advocacy

BEYOND TOURISM
As considerable effort and expense, HSF undertook an economic study to quantify preservation's impacts on Savannah's economy and a final report was released last May. The 60-page report (available through HSF) affirms the premise that historic preservation is a valuable industry to Savannah and Chatham County—something that should be encouraged, not thwarted. Entitled "Beyond Tourism," the research and findings make a credible case for preservation as a freestanding and respected engine for the local economy.

Donovan Rypkema of PlaceEconomics in Washington, DC, and his team of consultants worked with an advisory committee of local experts who provided data and insights into the economy of Savannah and Chatham County. Their valuable input steered and shaped the final report which includes easy-to-understand text, charts and graphs.

The conclusion of the report is this: in virtually every measurement—jobs, revenues to local governments, foreclosure rates, walkability and quality of life—preservation has meaningful and positive impacts.

"The impact of heritage tourism in Savannah and Chatham County captures the headlines and is certainly important and widely recognized. But the impact of historic preservation on the everyday lives of its citizens is less understood and perhaps even more profound."

Preservation is good for Savannah. It provides jobs, a robust tax base, and stable property values. It's the kind of industry that should be strongly supported by the government and local elected officials. HSF's report adds to the weight of evidence that preservation is good for Savannah and Chatham County.

FROGTOWN COTTAGES: THE POWER OF TWO
HSF partnered with the Coastal Heritage Society (CHS) to save two historic buildings in an area once known as Frogtown—adjacent to the Roundhouse at the Georgia State Railroad Museum complex. HSF granted $20,000 to CHS in exchange for easements on the modest workers' cottages. CHS used the grant to make repairs towards the completion of the restoration of the two Railroad Ward houses. CHS will use the buildings to help visitors better understand the lives of African-American railroad workers in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

WILLIAM H. STUEBE
In spite of what was an otherwise near perfect year, a little rain fell on HSF and Savannah this past fall when we lost our friend, advisor and Architectural Review Committee member, William H. Stuebe. Bill was a knowledgeable, dedicated and tireless advocate for the Landmark Historic District. His keen awareness of details in height, mass, scale and setback (not to mention windows) helped shape and improve many new infill buildings in downtown. Bill's family established a memorial fund for Bill at HSF, and donations will be used in an appropriate way to advance the principles that Bill stood for during his decades of service to HSF and Savannah. We miss you Bill, but thanks for the memories (and the lessons).
Meldrim Row

It’s often said that preservationists don’t compromise. Well that’s just flat wrong. When we argue against something or say “no,” we do so while working constructively towards another way to get to a different kind of “yes.” That was the case with Meldrim Row this past year.

Our community lost an important part of its history and architecture when the City of Savannah demolished Meldrim Row, which did not sit well with us. There can be no satisfaction in seeing the removal of one of the city’s earliest affordable housing rows. But in the face of an epidemic of crime, and the City’s overriding interest in policing Cuyler-Brownville and the Metropolitan neighborhoods, it was City Council’s decision to purchase Meldrim Row and make way for a new Central Precinct police station.

In order to preserve an important remnant of Meldrim Row, HSF intervened and committed substantial financial resources to save a two-story building on the southeast corner of 34th and MLK. Working with the City, HSF will help restore and repurpose that historic building for community use.

Tourism: “Are we there yet?”

Those of us with kids have often heard that when taking a road trip or a long drive. Coincidentally, those are the same words used on a regular basis when inquiring about the status of the City’s development and adoption of an overdue and much-needed Tourism Management Plan. Are we there yet?!

When HSF hosted the National Preservation Conference last fall, we featured a Tourism Summit that included representatives from four other cities that contend with many of the same issues as Savannah. What did those people from Annapolis, Charleston, New Orleans and San Antonio have to say? Those with tourism management plans use them. Those without want them. The National Trust for Historic Preservation facilitated the Summit and recorded the panel discussion. The proceedings from the meeting are available in a report entitled: Living with Success Revisited: Summit on Heritage Tourism in our Nation’s Most Beloved Historic Cities available via HSF’s website.

The report provides “takeaways” (solutions and approaches) that can be used to address problems... but they are only useful if actually used. Until that time, HSF keeps asking, “Are we there yet?”
Looking back over Historic Savannah Foundation’s last 60 years, it’s easy to account for the contributions volunteers and community partners have made to this organization. Founded in 1955 by visionaries who saw what could be instead of only what was, today’s leadership at HSF may look a little different but they remain true to protecting what makes Savannah unique. 2015 was a remarkable year for HSF volunteers and staff. At the top of the list, Savannah hosted—for an unprecedented third time—the National Preservation Conference. This meant calling upon HSF’s loyal volunteers and community partners to prepare a first class experience for 2,000 attendees from around the country. To plan and execute such a feat, more than 120 volunteers came together to produce a four-day conference. From staffing information booths in the exhibit hall to hosting hospitality stations throughout the Landmark District, and from providing programming and docents for the Candlelight Home Tour to leading tours, our Blue Ribbon volunteers worked more than 500 hours and demonstrated their devotion to HSF, preservation and Savannah’s famous hospitality. In addition, we recruited over 80 additional volunteers to help with HSF’s annual events, including Savannah’s most-loved event, simply known as the Gala; HSF’s Race for Preservation; the Savannah Preservation Festival; clean-up at one of HSF’s Revolving Fund properties; Sustainativity’s Mattress Dash in Forsyth Park; and the first Optim Orthopedics Skidaway Island Marathon.

Sustainativity, a nonprofit organization with a mission of improving the vibrancy of Savannah’s communities through direct philanthropic investments, donated $11,624 for energy saving improvements to the historic Sheftall House at 321 East York Street which serves as Historic Savannah Foundation’s administrative building. HSF Staff and members of 13th Colony volunteered for multiple Sustainativity fundraising events including the first annual Optim Orthopedics Skidaway Island Marathon.

Sustainability, a nonprofit organization with a mission of improving the vibrancy of Savannah’s communities through direct philanthropic investments, donated $11,624 for energy saving improvements to the historic Sheftall House at 321 East York Street which serves as Historic Savannah Foundation’s administrative building.

Kimberly Newbold, who contributed countless hours to HSF, received the Nichola Parker Coe Volunteer Award for her unwavering generosity and flexibility throughout the year.

Historic Property Clean-Up
On a chilly day in January, HSF and several volunteers took the first step of rehabbing 2313 Whitaker Street, a Revolving Fund Property located in the Whitaker Street corridor.
Best of Davenport House

Davenport House Wallpaper Project: From Marble Ashlar to Ribbon Trellis

You must be saying, “Wallpaper? Really. How hard can it be to put new wallpaper up?” It is pretty hard, at least in the case of the Davenport House Museum. It was expensive and it required soul searching, digging deep, aesthetics, public opinion, craftsmanship, scholarship and risk.

Even as the DH was receiving a Preserve America Providential Award from President Bush in 2005 for private restoration for its authentic restoration, its new hand-blocked, period accurate entrance and stair hall wallpaper was beginning to fail. What was to have lasted forty years was splitting and coming unglued. Over the next nine years, stop gap measures were taken but to no avail.

The failing wallpaper in the marble ashlar design, which dressed the entrance of the home, provided the first impression of master builder Isaiah Davenport’s 1820 model home. Paint analysis found that while there was no remaining evidence of the original patterns, wall surfaces retained their original glue size revealing wallpaper first covered them. In restoring the house, community members, led by their noted scholar on early 19th century interiors, Page Talbott, Ph.D., chose the period appropriate pattern. Though expert opinion confirmed that this pattern was the most compelling paper for understanding period taste and aesthetics in an early 19th century entry way, it was roundly disliked if not outright hated by visitors, as well as a good many volunteers and museum leaders.

In 2014 the Davenport House received a matching grant from the Cynthia Wood Mitchell Fund from the National Trust for Historic Preservation to do an analysis to determine the cause of the problem. While it seemed to be a study in aesthetics, it was primarily a preservation issue. Jesse Cooper smith of Alan Cooper smith Wallpapers of Charleston, SC conducted the study. He concluded that insufficient prep work, poor adherence of the oil primer layer on the wall surfaces, exacerbated by environmental conditions, including the new air conditioning system, caused the problem. In order to correct it, the old paper had to be taken off; the wall surfaces had to be repaired and prepped correctly as well as a liner paper installed to the back on new paper.

As the only museum property owned by Historic Savannah Foundation, the DH must adhere to the highest preservation standards. DH leaders felt compelled to use hand-blocked papers produced using traditional methods by the only remaining company in the United States doing such work, Adelphi Paper Hangings of Sharon Springs, New York.

Although our original intent was to put back a marble ashlar paper, we were informed it had been discontinued. This provided the museum with an opportunity to find something which potentially could be more pleasing and more specific to Savannah. At the time the museum was trying to figure this out, a descendant of Major John Berrien was beginning to restore his ancestral home (ca. 1795), which had stood derelict for half a century and was located just around the corner from the Davenport House. We had heard that there were layers and layers of old wallpaper still adhered to the walls amongst the refuse. Project managers allowed museum staff access to the building, as well as to the information they uncovered. What they found were 15 to 20 layers of wallpaper from the earliest residents through the 19th century. Instead of putting up a version of the ashlar paper that was taken down, Davenport House leaders decided unanimously to have created a custom paper replicating one that the Davenports and Savannahians would have known during the 1820s.

Acquiring the papers, doing the plaster work, commissioning the best paper hanger in the Southeast, Jesse Cooper smith, the museum spent a jaw dropping $65,000 to complete this project. There is no guarantee that DH visitors will like this new wallpaper pattern any better than the previous one, but it is authentic and shows the lengths to which the DH will go to solve complex issues and continues its mission.

The Enslaved Servants of Isaiah Davenport’s Household

EARLY 19TH CENTURY URBAN SLAVERY IN A MECHANIC’S HOUSEHOLD IN SAVANNAH, GA

Over the past year the DH has expanded its interpretation on urban slavery. In the fall of 2014 the DH offered an intense docent training class on the subject and developed a program on the topic following the urging of Armstrong State University Road Scholars coordinators. In the spring of 2015 the Davenport House presented a new multi-sensory program to Road Scholars travelers throughout the season. The program continues in the fall of 2015. Additionally, the museum created a handout containing general information about urban slavery in Savannah and specific information about the Davenport’s slave history at their home on Columbia Square. This media is intended to supplement the museum’s tour information and to answer questions visitors may have.

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Hosted in Savannah in 1968, and again in 1998, the National Preservation Conference, PastForward, returned for an unprecedented third time! From November 11th through 14th, this dynamic educational forum provided rich content and thought provoking conversations for the nearly 2,000 participants. The National Preservation Conference is the preeminent gathering of architects, planners, developers, students, public and private-sector professionals, and community activists working to save America’s historic places. These participants share a commitment to ensuring that historic places not only celebrate our rich heritage, but also contribute mightily to the economic vitality of our communities. PastForward featured in-depth Learning Labs, on the ground exploration through Field Studies, Intensive Workshops and live demonstrations, tours, films and exhibits. PastForward engaged new audiences in Savannah and world-wide virtual participation with live-streaming marquee presentations that explored preservation through new lenses including climate change, real estate, and data mapping. The Candlelight Home Tour was one of the most anticipated components of the Conference. Historic Savannah Foundation served as the primary organizer of this educational event. The focus of the tour was Warren and Washington Wards, showcasing the impacts of good infill, rehabilitation and collaborative planning. The Tour allowed access to private residences and showcased the groundwork that was laid in the name of this city’s early and on-going preservation efforts. This remarkable collaborative conference was made possible by HSF’s committed staff, invaluable community partnerships, loyal corporate sponsors and city and county leaders. The 2014 National Preservation Conference, PastForward, was produced by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in collaboration with Savannah College of Art and Design.
In June 2015, the National Park Service sponsored Georgia’s first ever Preserve America Youth Summit in Savannah. HSF and SCAD served as local coordinators for the summit with help from the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and the Historic Preservation Division of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources. Designed for high school students, the 4-day summit convened students from across Georgia who investigated issues of preservation while exploring Savannah’s diverse cultural heritage. The primary goal for the summit was to help students to develop an appreciation for Savannah history, while also encouraging them to cultivate a unique perspective for sharing insights about preservation in their own hometowns.

Over the course of the program, students visited various historic sites and rehabilitation projects, participated in workshops, and interacted one-on-one with preservation professionals and SCAD faculty. The students also completed a service project by doing a street clean-up on West 42nd Street in Cayler-Brownsville (near one of HSF’s Revolving Fund properties and a recent infill project with Habitat for Humanity). The summit culminated with a charrette and presentation to community leaders, where the students shared their impressions and insights on how to make history and historic preservation relevant to younger generations.

HANDS ON HISTORY PROGRAM
During the 2014-2015 school year, HSF’s Hands on History Program has continued to grow. With underwriting from Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation, we have seen increased numbers of students at both Woodville-Tompkins High School and Savannah Early College, where the year-long program is currently implemented. This year’s activities included participation in the Black History Month program hosted in February. The Hands on History Program was also highlighted at the Savannah Preservation Festival with the exhibition of the annual Pennies for Preservation Poster Contest and the 2014-2015 Box City projects during the Festival’s Block Party. Both were available for public viewing and brought deserved recognition to the students’ work. Also in 2015, HSF forged a partnership with the City of Savannah’s Department of Cultural Affairs through their support of our annual Hands on History Camp with a grant from the W ease-A-Dream initiative. Additionally sponsored by Rives E. Worrell Co., (a JE Dunn Construction Company), the camp saw its largest participation numbers yet and even included the participation of family members for our first Family Day.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROGRAM
HSF hosted a Black History Month program for students from both Woodville-Tompkins High School and Savannah Early College in February. The program included nationally recognized author and columnist, Stephanie Deutsch; and local history enthusiast Vaughnette Goode-Walker. Deutsch provided the keynote address and discussed the history and inspiration for Rosenwald Schools—the informal name applied to more than 5,000 schools, funded by Julius Rosenwald, primarily for the education of African-American youth in the rural south during 1917-1948. Savannah residents, Bob and Jeanne Rosenwald (relatives of Julius Rosenwald) were in attendance. Goode-Walker led a tour which included the King-Toole Cottage, Savannah’s only black history house museum and the Beach Institute, the first school built in Savannah for the education of African-Americans.
**Best of Preservation**

### Big Saves over 60 Years

1955 – The Isaiah Davenport House is saved from demolition and Historic Savannah Foundation is formed.


1965 – The Pulaski Square/West Jones Street area redevelopment project is launched—the largest undertaking of the organization at the time. HSF options scores of properties in the 15-acre area and secures them for resale.

1983 – The Catherine Ward House, one of the key houses in HSF’s Victorian District project, is saved and restored as a designer show house to bring attention to this emerging historic district.

1983 – The Pulaski Square/West Jones Street area redevelopment project is launched—the largest undertaking of the organization at the time. HSF options scores of properties in the 15-acre area and secures them for resale.


2005 – HSF launches the Lincoln Street Initiative in the Thomas Square neighborhood revitalizing the area through a combination of rehabilitation and compatible infill construction of over a dozen properties.

2013 – Ultimately, CAT rehabilitates the Greyhound Bus station on Oglethorpe Avenue and constructs the new transfer center on this site.
Preservation Awards

Since 1965, when HSF first awarded the distinguished Davenport Trophy to recognize outstanding preservationists, HSF has been celebrating the crème de la crème of preservation in our community. HSF’s Preservation Awards program emphasizes good models of growth and progress in Savannah and the surrounding area. The awards challenge property owners to aspire to greatness in restoration and infill construction.

In 2015, HSF recognized sixteen projects with Preservation Awards, which achieved success in the preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and interpretation of our architectural and cultural heritage. Additional recognition was bestowed upon Mrs. Ardis Wood, who received the Lee & Emma Adler Award for Preservation Advocacy; Mrs. Kimberly Newbold, who received the Nichola Parker Cox Volunteer Award; and three young individuals who received Davenport House Museum Service Scholarships: Kate Bosen, Catie Morris and Cierra Smith.
HSF Membership

*Active Members as of September 30, 2015*

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Mr. Martin Karp
Mr. Charles Taylor and Mr. Samuel Lefkovic
Mr. Billy M. Stone

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The Reverend and Mrs. George M. Maxwell
Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Monahan
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Mrs. Jane A. Felser
Dr. and Mrs. Roland Summers
Mr. Morgan Dent
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Dickinson
Mrs. Jane A. Felser
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Mr. Morgan Dent
Dr. and Mrs. Kevin Dickinson
Mrs. Jane A. Felser

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Mr. and Mrs. Matthew K. Albert
Mrs. Kate Ballew
Miss Rebecca G. Bittson
Mr. Rebecca C. Bittson
Mr. Andrew J. Doss
Mr. and Mrs. Ali M. Nasr
Mr. Jesse J. Napoli
Mr. and Mrs. J. Wilson Morris
James A. D. Cox and Ronald C. Melander
Mr. and Mrs. Joel Lynch
Mrs. Wallace Lynah
Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Kennedy
Dr. Russell Ivy
Mr. and Mrs. Sam Inglesby, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hiott
Mr. Lynford B. Hadwin
Mr. and Mrs. E. Howard Hackney
Mrs. Robert Groves, Jr.
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hiott
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Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hiott
Mr. Lynford B. Hadwin
Mr. and Mrs. E. Howard Hackney
Mrs. Robert Groves, Jr.
The administrative offices of Historic Savannah Foundation spanning 60 Years:

1955–Historic Savannah Foundation (HSF) received its charter as a non-profit organization dedicated to developing a long-range plan of preservation and restoration. November 9, 1955, the first general membership meeting of Historic Savannah Foundation was held in the ballroom of the DeSoto Hotel.

To save it from demolition, HSF purchased and began rehabilitating the Davenport House. In 1961, the Davenport House became the official office of HSF and remained the headquarters until 1976.


1955

Scarborough House: 1976 – early 1990s

1976

Broughton Street: early 1990s – 1997

1997

Sheftall House: 1997 – present
calendar of events
2015-2016

October
Gala and Raffle Drawing

November
Annual Meeting

February
Black History Month - Lecture: Stephanie Deutsch

February
Race for Preservation

March
31 - April 1-3
81st Annual Savannah Tour of Homes and Gardens

May
National Preservation Month

May
Savannah Preservation Festival

May
- June
Hands on History Camp

PAST PRESIDENTS
2013-2015 Kathleen Horne
2011-2013 William (Bill) H. Lovett
2007-2009 W. John Mitchell
2005 – 2007 Susie Clinard
2003-2005 Zelda Tenenbaum
2001-2003 Helen D. Dawning
1999-2001 Graham P. Sadler
1997-1999 Susan Riley Myers
1995-1997 Lawrence B. Lee (Deceased)
1993-1995 Lee C. Mundall
1991-1993 Donna R. Butler (Adamson)
1988-1991 Joseph A. Webster, Jr. (Deceased)
1983-1984 Mrs. Henry Garlington (Deceased)
1981-1983 John Allen (Deceased)
1979-1981 Mrs. Elizabeth C. Sprague
1977-1979 Arnold Tenenbaum
1976-1977 John E. Cay III
1975-1976 J. Wiley Ellis
1973-1975 Mrs. Lawrence Lee, Jr.
1971-1973 Mrs. Elliot A. Cobb (Deceased)
1969-1970 Walter C. Hartridge II (Deceased)
1968-1969 Robert D. Gunn (Deceased)
1965-1967 Walter C. Hartridge II (Deceased)
1963-1964 Walter C. Hartridge II (Deceased)
1959-1961 Albert Stoddard (Deceased)
1958-1959 Mrs. Anne C. Hunter (Deceased)
1956-1958 H. Harwell Hillyer (Deceased)
1955-1956 J.J. Rauer (Deceased)
OUR MISSION IS TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT SAVANNAH’S HERITAGE THROUGH ADVOCACY, EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT