SAVANNAH, GA – September 18, 2020 – During the month of October, the Davenport House Museum will stage stories of Savannah as they were being experienced by the city’s residents 200 years ago. Though only one household and family, the Davenport’s experiences were common to Savannahians of the time.

This special program, “1820 House,” coincides with the Davenport House Museum’s 200th birthday, which is being observed throughout 2020. According to DHM Director Jamie Credle, there were many reasons for planning the monthlong initiative, but among the most prominent is the correlation to the tumultuous times people are living in right now.

“We are having a difficult 2020, that’s for sure. Many are struggling with COVID-19, civil unrest, financial instability – it’s really a recipe to test one’s faith. And that’s precisely what the Davenports and, honestly, all of Savannah went through 200 years ago when they were plagued by yellow fever, a catastrophic fire that destroyed half the city, economic uncertainty, and the loss of their spiritual leader,” Credle said. “This is a way for people today to see that folks have struggled with the same or similar problems for centuries, but we have a way of prevailing. Hopefully, the ‘1820 House’ tours will serve as source of encouragement for our community as well as visitors – we all need that right now.”

1820 House tours will be offered Monday through Saturday 10 a.m. with the last tour beginning at 4 p.m. Sunday tours begin at 1 p.m. with the last tour beginning at 4 p.m. On Fridays, living history interpreters will accompany tour guides in recounting life in the port city 200 years ago. All guests must continue to adhere to health and safety precautions put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing masks, social distancing and hand sanitizing.

HSF saves buildings, places, and stories that define Savannah’s past, present and future. Following its formation in 1955, the nonprofit organization started a Revolving Fund to save endangered historic properties – now totaling nearly 400 buildings – throughout several Savannah local historic districts. HSF is committed to continuing to build capacity within HSF’s
operations, secure new financial resources, improve HSF’s image and visibility, and increase
public policy efforts to protect Savannah’s historic districts.

For more information about HSF, please visit www.myHSF.org.

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