

Media Release



bluffton
HEART OF THE LOWCOUNTRY

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For More Information:

Debbie Szpanka
Public Information Officer
Town of Bluffton
20 Bridge Street
Bluffton, South Carolina 29910
(Office) 843.706.4534
(Cell) 843.540.2274
(Email) dszpanka@townofbluffton.com

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism Awards the Town of Bluffton a \$200,000 Undiscovered SC Grant to Rehabilitate the Historic Garvin House

South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism awarded the Town of Bluffton a \$200,000 Undiscovered South Carolina Grant to rehabilitate the historic Garvin House, which is the earliest-known home built by a freed slave on the May River.

This \$200,000 grant will be used for restoration work on the Garvin House which is scheduled to begin within the year. This preservation work will include stabilizing the structure; constructing a new foundation/new roof and replacing damaged structural supports.

About Garvin House

The Garvin House is the earliest known home built by a freed slave on the May River. Located across from Oyster Factory Park in the Bluffton Historic District, this structure was constructed around 1870. Currently stabilized, but in a state of continuing decay, the structure and surrounding site have the potential to offer further information relating to the life of a freed man during the late 19th century. The Garvin House serves as a strong connection to the town's celebrated past and is an important cultural resource of Bluffton. The preservation and rehabilitation of the Garvin House will ensure this structure is restored to its most recent intact and occupied state during the mid-20th century. This period represents multiple phases of interventions and communicates the full evolutionary history of the structure.

About Undiscovered South Carolina Grant Program

The Undiscovered South Carolina grant program, awarded and administered by the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism (SCPRT), is designed to assist communities and non-profit organizations with the development of publicly-owned tourism products and attractions that will encourage visitation to South Carolina. The applicant must be a county or municipal government with Accommodations Tax distributions of \$500,000 or less, according to data released by the South Carolina State Treasurer's Office.