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Historic Augusta Receives Intervention Grant For Goodale House



Historic Augusta, Inc., in Augusta, Georgia, is pleased to announce that it has received a National Trust Intervention Grant to be used to develop a stabilization plan and structural analysis for Goodale, a historic house located at 745 Sand Bar Ferry Road east of Downtown Augusta. The grant of \$5,000 is available to Forum level members of the National Trust, and also comes through Historic Augusta's association as a Local Partner of the National Trust.

The structural integrity of the historic building was compromised in August 2011 when the west wall and chimneys began to fail, resulting in large sections of brick separating from the building. The current owner of the

property is Wes A. Sims of Birmingham, Alabama. Mr. Sims has been working toward establishing a nonprofit organization charged with preserving the structure.

Goodale was constructed circa 1799 by Charleston attorney Christopher Fitzsimons, as the center of a large working plantation. Listed in the National Register of Historic Places, it is one of the oldest existing buildings in Richmond County. Families associated with the house in the 19th Century include Eve, Hampton, Whatley and Miller.

Historic Augusta believes Goodale can still be saved, but should be properly restored, which will require professional analysis and evaluation. The National Trust Intervention grant is the first step in achieving this goal following the initial shoring that was done shortly after the wall failed. Once a full understanding is gained of the structural needs of the house, a plan will evolve along with a budget that will be required to restore the house to its original condition.

"It is gratifying that the National Trust recognizes the importance of Goodale as an irreplaceable historic resource, and is willing to partner with Historic Augusta and the property owner to save it," says Erick Montgomery, Executive Director of Historic Augusta. "We have been concerned about the house for many years, and had already decided to list it on our annual Endangered Properties List when the wall failure occurred. Consequently it became our cover photo when the new list was released last October."

The mission of Historic Augusta is to preserve historically or architecturally significant structures and sites in

Augusta and Richmond County. The National Trust for Historic Preservation provides leadership, education and advocacy to save America's diverse historic places and revitalize our communities. This project has been funded in part by a grant from the Daniel K. Thorne Intervention Fund of the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

For more information, contact Robyn Anderson at Historic Augusta, 706-724-0436 or robyn@historicaugusta.org.