



The South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) was established in 1905. It evolved from two agencies that the legislature created in the late-nineteenth century; the Public Records Commission of South Carolina, which was appointed in 1891 to obtain copies of South Carolina records from the British Public Records Office, and the South Carolina Historical Commission, which was created in 1894 to acquire further historical documents and then was given additional record-keeping duties in 1905. Today the agency is governed by the South Carolina Commission of Archives and History.

The agency's mission is to preserve and promote the documentary and cultural heritage of the state through the state archives, historic preservation, and education programs. The agency has two operational divisions, Archives and Records Management, and Historic Preservation (State Historic Preservation Office), and an Administrative Division.

The Archives and Records Management Division operates the State Archives and Research Room, where the agency preserves and houses nearly 30,000 linear feet of the state's most valuable historic documents dating from 1671 to ca. 2000 and makes them available to the public for research purposes at 8301 Parklane Road in Columbia. The hours of operation for the Research Room are Tuesday-Saturday, 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM. Research Room staff members are available on Mondays from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM to assist patrons by telephone and email.

Additionally, the Archives and Records Management Division is responsible for the State Records Management Program, in which SCDAH works with other state agencies and local governments to properly manage their records with the goal of identifying and preserving for public access those records of historical/archival value. The Records Management Program also operates the State Records Center on Laurel Street in Columbia, which saves state and local government agencies nearly \$1,000,000 annually by storing, free of charge, up to 90,000 linear feet of non-permanent records for over fifty state agencies and commissions.

The agency's other operational division is the Historic Preservation Division, also known as the State Historic Preservation Office. This division encourages and facilitates the preservation of South Carolina's irreplaceable historic and prehistoric places. It manages the National Register of Historic Places in South Carolina as well as review and compliance for other federally-mandated preservation programs as dictated by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. In addition, the State Historic Preservation Office operates the State Historical Marker Program.