

**PRESERVING COASTAL  
GEORGIA'S ICONS**

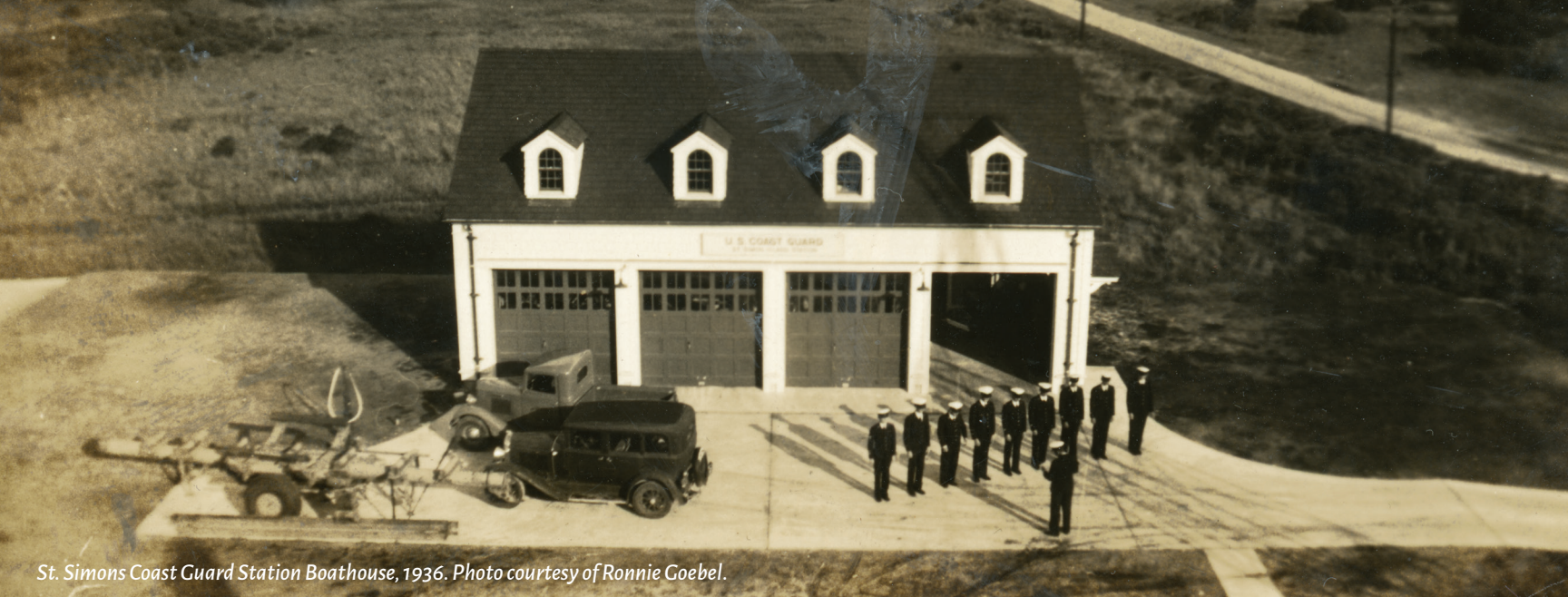


## COASTAL GEORGIA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For over 50 years, the Society has been a faithful steward of the significant collections and buildings entrusted to our care, including the St. Simons Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling and the Historic Coast Guard Station at East Beach, now home to the World War II Home Front Museum.

In 1975, the Society opened the restored Keeper's Dwelling as a coastal history museum and ten years later began managing public access to the Lighthouse tower. Through the National Historic Lighthouse Preservation Act, the Society acquired the Lighthouse in 2004, restoring the tower anew in 2010 followed by the Keepers Dwelling in 2014. The opening of the Home Front Museum in December 2018, which included a 2016 restoration, transformed the Coast Guard Station into a valuable educational asset and cultural attraction.

Under the protection of the Society, these buildings are operated as two of only a few history museums in the state accredited by the American Alliance of Museums. The Society opens both museums to the public seven days a week, welcoming hundreds of thousands of visitors every year and conducting tours for thousands of students of all ages.



*St. Simons Coast Guard Station Boathouse, 1936. Photo courtesy of Ronnie Goebel.*



*Rehabilitation of the original Boathouse, World War II Home Front Museum 2018*

## PRESERVATION FUND

The Society is committed to protecting two of Coastal Georgia's most beloved landmarks, the St. Simons Lighthouse Museum and the World War II Home Front Museum. Due to recent restorations, these sites are in optimal condition and operationally self-sustaining. The condition of the buildings is an outward representation of our commitment to excellence in Historical Preservation. Now is the time to commit to timely maintenance to protect the original fabric of the structures and avoid major repairs and replacement in the future. To fulfill this critical role, we established a dedicated Fund to generate the income required to complete a regular schedule of essential work.

A Preservation Fund is important because:

- Timely maintenance avoids the need for major repairs and replacement.
- Ongoing work will preserve the original fabric of the historic structures.
- A dedicated Preservation Fund will allow the Society to reallocate resources beyond the museums to serve the wider region. We truly want to be the Coastal Georgia Historical Society!

The Fund is overseen by the Society's Board of Directors according to guidelines that restrict its use to preservation projects. It is accounted for as an asset of the Society and managed by a professional investment advisor, who also manages our General Support Fund.

All work will adhere to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and will be overseen by the Curator.



## ST. SIMONS LIGHTHOUSE MUSEUM

Your investment will ensure that future generations can experience the St. Simons Lighthouse and Keeper's Dwelling, symbols of our cultural heritage since 1872. In recognition of their architectural and maritime significance, the buildings are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The Lighthouse and Dwelling were designed under the supervision of noted engineer Orlando M. Poe, famous for his eight, elegant "Poe style" lighthouses on the shores of the Great Lakes. The contractor was architect Charles Cluskey, designer of Georgia's pre-Civil War Governor's Mansion in Milledgeville. For eight decades, the Dwelling was home to lighthouse keepers and their families. Since 1975, it has been open to the public as a history museum. The Lighthouse, which retains its original French-made Fresnel lens, continues to serve as a Federal aid to navigation, guiding ships safely into St. Simons Sound and the busy port of Brunswick.

Each year, more than 50,000 visitors enjoy spectacular views from the top of the tower and explore the fascinating history of our area through exhibits and period rooms in the Dwelling. Annually hundreds of thousands of people stroll through the Lighthouse grounds, photographing the historic structures and experiencing the scenic beauty of the site.





## WORLD WAR II HOME FRONT MUSEUM

Your contribution will secure the future of the Home Front Museum, a tangible reminder of Coastal Georgia's wartime history. The Coast Guard Station buildings, where the museum is housed, were constructed as one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's public works projects in 1936 and remained active until 1995.

Colonial revival in style, the architecture recalls America's rich maritime heritage, and the Station is listed on the National Register. The most significant life-saving effort in the Station's history took place on April 8, 1942, when two merchant ships, *S.S. Esso Baton Rouge* and *S.S. Oklahoma*, were torpedoed by a German U-boat off the coast of St. Simons Island, killing 22 crew members. The Coast Guard immediately launched a rescue effort to save the survivors, who were brought to the Station for debriefing.

In December 2018, the Society reopened the site as a World War II Home Front Museum to commemorate our local story, highlighting the wartime patriotism and enterprise of our coastal community.



## WAYS TO GIVE

Help us preserve these Coastal Georgia icons by contributing to the Society's Preservation Fund. Fund Agreements and detailed Preservation Plans are available upon request.

Give online at [www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org](http://www.coastalgeorgiahistory.org) or mail your tax-deductible contribution to:

**Coastal Georgia Historical Society**

P.O. Box 21136

St. Simons Island, GA 31522

You may also want to consider the Society when planning your estate. Gifts in the form of bequests, property, stock, or making the Society a beneficiary of your IRA are gratefully accepted.

For more information on contributing to the Society's Preservation Funds, please contact:

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