

Quitman County Awarded MDAH Preservation Grant

The Quitman County Board of Supervisors was awarded \$184,792 toward renovations to the 110-year-old courthouse. At the regular meeting on January 22, the Board of Trustees of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History awarded nearly \$3 million on behalf of the Community Heritage Preservation Grant program to eighteen preservation and restoration projects from across the state. The Community Heritage Preservation Grant program, authorized and funded by the Mississippi Legislature, helps preserve and restore historic courthouses and schools in Certified Local Government communities and other historic properties.

"The Legislature has saved hundreds of significant Mississippi properties through this program," said MDAH director Katie Blount. "The Department of Archives and History is grateful for the Legislature's support and pleased to be able to help preserve these local treasures."

Grant awards are paid on a reimbursable basis upon the successful completion of the entire project or at the time of the completion of pre-established phases of the project. Prior to application, all buildings must have been designated Mississippi Landmarks. Only county or municipal governments, school districts, and nonprofit organizations granted Section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status by the Internal Revenue Service are eligible to apply.

Manuel Killebrew, the Board's president stated; "these funds will help with the overall restoration of the courthouse, which will help preserve this building and more importantly improve the quality of services for the people living in Quitman County.

The County Economic Development Director, Velma Wilson indicated the Board will be working with the firm of Belinda Stewart Architects, Eupora, Mississippi on this project. Wilson stated, "this firm has extensive experience with planning and construction of historic properties, and they will be a valuable partner in this significant project for the renovation to the Quitman County Historic Courthouse."

The work on the courthouse include; the installation of an elevator, replacement of windows, exterior painting and limited interior work. The renovations are scheduled to commence by summer of this year. These grant funds will be combined with the 2020 Legislative Bond funds of \$400,000 to fund this project."