



January 7, 2025

Dear Commissioners,

On behalf of the Baldwin County Historic Development Commission (BCHDC), I write to express my strong support for the allocation of \$25,000 from the Historic Site Fund to complete the pavilion project at the Swift-Coles Historic Home in Bon Secour.

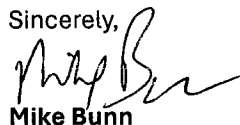
Built in 1882, the Swift-Coles Historic Home is Baldwin County's only publicly owned historic residence. It serves as a cornerstone of our county's cultural and historical identity. Open regularly for tours, the property has become a popular venue for weddings and other community gatherings, enriching the cultural fabric of the region while contributing to the local economy.

In August 2024, the BCHDC, in partnership with the Friends of Swift-Coles, embarked on a capital improvement project to build an on-site event pavilion. This structure is designed to accommodate families, businesses, and other groups for special occasions throughout the year, thereby enhancing the site's ability to serve the residents of South Baldwin County. We have successfully been able to raise over \$75,000 of private contributions towards this project.

To complete this project, the requested \$25,000 from the Historic Site Fund is essential. The pavilion will not only preserve and complement the historic integrity of the Swift-Coles Home but also expand its use as a vibrant community gathering space. This improvement will help ensure the long-term sustainability of the site by increasing its functionality and appeal.

It is important to emphasize that the Historic Site Fund was established precisely for projects like this. Supported by the county's lease/rental tax, the fund—authorized by the state legislature and administered by the Baldwin County Commission—exists to finance capital outlay for historic preservation efforts across the county. The Swift-Coles pavilion project is fully aligned with the fund's mission and represents a sound investment in both preserving our heritage and fostering community engagement.

I respectfully urge the Baldwin County Commission to approve this funding request to ensure the successful completion of this vital project. Thank you for your consideration and your continued commitment to preserving Baldwin County's rich history.

Sincerely,  


**Mike Bunn**

Chairman, Baldwin County Historic Development Commission