



**ALABAMA
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION**
THE STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

**ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
2023 HISTORIC SITES GRANT PROGRAM
GRANT APPLICATION**

****Applications must be received with all the attachments to be reviewed. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.****

I. APPLICANT

Name of Organization	Baldwin County Commission, Department of Archives and History
Mailing Address Street	312 Courthouse Square, Suite 26
Mailing Address City	Bay Minette
Mailing Address State	Alabama
Mailing Address Zip	36507
Phone Number	(251) 580-2572
Organization Website	
Type of Organization	☐ Publicly Owned ☒ Non-Profit Organization
Organization Has Employees	☒ Yes ☐ No
If Publicly Owned, what type?	☐ Municipality ☒ County
Date of Incorporation	December 21, 1809
County of Incorporation	Baldwin
FEIN#	
STAARS Vendor Name*	Baldwin County Commission
STAARS Vendor Number	VC000137679
Address as in STAARS	Cannot locate address in STAARS

*If awarded a grant, the organization must register with [STAARS](#)

2. CONTACT PERSON (the person who will handle all aspects of the grant, including reporting and all paperwork)

Title (Dr., Mr., Mrs., Ms., etc.)	Mrs.
Name	Felisha Anderson
Mailing Address Street	312 Courthouse Square, Suite 26
Mailing Address City	Bay Minette
Mailing Address State	Alabama
Mailing Address Zip	36507
Phone Number	(251) 580-2572
Email Address	fanderson@baldwincountyal.gov

3. HISTORIC SITE INFORMATION

Historic Site Name	Baldwin County Bicentennial Park
Street Address (no P.O. Box)	51233 State Highway 225
City/Town	Stockton

State	Alabama
Zip	36579 36579
County	Baldwin Baldwin
Visitation for calendar year 2019	12,802
Visitation for calendar year 2020	2,563
Legislative District for Site	https://www.sos.alabama.gov/alabama-votes/elected-official-map
State Senate District #	#22
State Senator First Name	Greg
State Senator Last Name	Albritton
State Representative District #	#64
State Representative First Name	Harry
State Representative Last Name	Shiver
U.S. Congressional District #	#1
Congressperson's First Name	Jerry
Congressperson's Last Name	Carl

4. GRANT INFORMATION

Grant Amount Requested (\$75,000 maximum)	\$75,000.00
Project Type	☐ Site/Building Improvement; ☒ Educational

Purpose of Grant Funds (check all that apply)		
☐ Correct structural deficiencies	☐ Inhibit moisture	☐ Safety hazard correction
☐ ADA compliance	☐ Mechanical system upgrade/repair	☐ Roof repair/replacement
☐ Painting	☐ Vegetation removal	☒ Educational programming
☐ Interpretive signage	☐ Cemetery cleaning/repair/fencing	☐ Window Repair
☐ Plumbing/Restroom facilities	☐ Monuments	☐ Other:

Would you accept a grant award less than your requested amount?	☒ Yes; ☐ No
Have you received funds from the ETF grant program in the last three years?	☐ Yes; ☒ No
If you have received funds, have they been expended?	☐ Yes; ☐ No
2020 amount granted, amount expended, any balance and explanation:	
2021 amount granted, amount expended, any balance and explanation:	
2022 amount granted, amount expended, any balance and explanation:	

Do you have funds to contribute to this project? ☒ Yes; ☐ No If yes, provide the amount and explain.	The Baldwin County Commission has \$75,000.00 budgeted towards this project.
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What is the Estimate Cost of Total Site Restoration? \$150,000.00

5. HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY

Provide a description of the site's operations and activities, including the ownership and management structure.

Baldwin County Bicentennial Park came into existence based on the desires of the Baldwin County Commission to celebrate the county's Bicentennial. The county celebrated its 200th anniversary in December of 2009 and although celebrations took place throughout 2009 to commemorate this milestone, the Commission visualized something more tangible and lasting than the traditional activities associated with celebrations of this nature. In anticipation of this, the park property which was purchased previously with Coastal Impact Assistance funds was committed to build a historical destination that would capture and commemorate Baldwin County's rich history while addressing the needs of its residents and their current lifestyle. With the idea of historical legacy as its focal point the Baldwin County Commission dedicated a 367-acre tract for the purpose of commemorating the county's history and to provide a means by which locals and visitors alike could immerse themselves in the natural beauty and historical significance of the county in the evolution of the United States in general, and the Gulf Coast in particular. This property includes pristine delta wetlands as well as hardwood/pine forest and has been the site of early plantation efforts by the British, logging operations by American settlers and a hunting and fishing site for European and Indians alike. The Park concept as visualized by the Baldwin County Commission and its Department of Archives and History is to best utilize the property for educational and recreational purposes without compromising the natural beauty. The Park is located on the Alabama State Highway 225 Corridor just south of Stockton, Alabama. This route is already on the "underground railroad" National Bicycle Tour and is a jumping off point for many recreational pursuits in North Baldwin County. The education programming and the park grounds are managed by the Baldwin County Department of Archives and History and Parks Departments.

Explain how the site reflects an education-based mission and concentrates on educational programming.

The Park encompasses 67 acres with the mission of education and valued entertainment for a projected 50,000 plus visitors per annum. The focus of the park expansion project is interpretation of an integral portion of Alabama's History. The Park exhibits follow a timeline that allows a visitor to explore Baldwin County History through an interactive and memorable experience. The village currently incorporates 11 sites that capture the mid to late nineteenth century period. Visitors have the ability to interface with period tradesmen and learn how a variety of goods were produced during this early period of Alabama History. The village is painstakingly replicated and designed for growth. The village remains a "work in progress" that ultimately could rival Virginia's Williamsburg. The structures are open for tours and demonstrate the type of residential and commercial structures common to the Southern Gulf Coast. The intent of the village is to allow not only valued entertainment but to function as an educational laboratory for students and interested visitors to be able to better interpret living and work conditions of an early era.

What days and times is the site open to the public? If the site is not currently accessible to the public, please explain.

Location and Hours of Operation:
51233 State Highway 225, Stockton, Alabama 36579

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Saturday (8:00 AM - 4:30 PM)
Sunday (Noon - 4:00 PM)

6. DATE OF CONSTRUCTION AND HISTORIC DESIGNATION STATUS

Check any that apply to your site:

☐ built before 1840	Year built:
☐ a historic school	Year built:
☐ built between 1841 and 1943	Year built:
☐ post 1943 and significantly contributed to civil rights movement	Year built:

Is the historic site where grant funds are requested listed in a historic register?

Visit our interactive online map to see if your property is recorded:

<https://ahc.alabama.gov/historicpreservationmap.aspx>

National Register of Historic Places ☐ Yes; ☒ No
Name of Property as it is listed

Alabama Register of Landmarks & Heritage ☐ Yes; ☒ No
Name of Property as it is listed

Alabama Historic Cemetery Register ☐ Yes; ☒ No
Name of Property as it is listed

National Register questions: Evelyn Causey / 334.230.2696 / Evelyn.Causey@ahc.alabama.gov

Alabama Register questions: Hannah Garmon / 334.230.2644 / Hannah.Garmon@ahc.alabama.gov

Cemetery Register Questions: Leanne Waller-Trupp / 334-230-2653 / Leanne.Trupp@ahc.alabama.gov

Explain why this site is important to Alabama's history, including the architectural and cultural significance of the site.

Please see attached documentation

History of Bicentennial Park

The first occupants at the park were likely pre-Mississippian Native American cultures. Based on archeological evidence there is a current belief that one portion of the park may have included an active and thriving Indian occupation. Although we do not have the exact date of their activities and occupation the estimate is set in the late Woodland Period. It is believed that these early Native Americans were part of the "mound builder" culture that is predominant in the early period of the Tensaw Delta region. Although no mounds are on this property, others have been discovered on joining properties. The University of South Alabama engaged in archeologic work on the park property and a number of related artifacts have been recovered during excavations.

Around 1772, the property was a portion of the Farmar Plantation. Major Robert Farmar was one of the most prominent Alabamians of the British periods. He commanded the English Regiments at Mobile from 1763-1765. Resigning his commission from the British Army in 1768, he was then elected to every Commons House of Assembly for the Districts of West Florida from 1769 until his death in 1778. We know that Artist/Naturalist William Bartram visited Farmar in 1775 and recorded, eloquently and well, the plant life of the area. It is likely that Bartram spent at least some portion of his time on or near the park grounds. After the American Revolution and determination that Baldwin County was not part of Spanish West Florida, Americans moved into the region and began settling. The first known resident on the park property was Joshua Kennedy. Kennedy commissioned Jesse Embury to build a mill along Rains creek in May of 1811. Based on some evidence as well as oral traditions, Kennedy build not only the mill on Rains creek but a stockade and some housing in the vicinity. In September of 1811, the site was abandoned due to eminent Mr. Kennedy. Archeological surveys suggest that the stockade and housing may have sat on the park properties. Further excavations are planned to interpret the areas in question. The site likely had minimal agrarian use during the mid-1800s. This is evident due to later interest in logging in the vicinity. In one area of the park there appears to be hastily constructed defensive positions that may have been used by Confederate troops of the 15th Confederate Cavalry as they monitored General Steele's advance south from Stockton in the final days of the Ear Between the States. There is no evidence of engagement or authenticated presence of Confederates on this portion of the property; however, it stands to reason that this may have been some type of observation point during early April of 1865. There is evidence that a portion of the property may have served as a reconstruction era farm, but little is known of the occupants or activities during this period.

In the post-Civil War Period, the property became a center for much of the South Alabama logging industry. A rail spur ran through the property to move fallen timber to Hastie Lake. The logs were then floated to other locations. There are remnants of another mill, a holding pond and a flume all associated with the "golden age" of logging. Numerous artifacts of this period have been recovered from the property. In recent years the property was once again the site of logging activity and has since made full recovery to a young forest.

The property carries the very spirit of Baldwin County as it has seen the many cultures and historical events cross its visage over the centuries.

Park Description

Bicentennial Park came into existence based on the desires of the Baldwin County Commission to celebrate the county's Bicentennial. The county celebrated its 200th anniversary in December of 2009 and although celebrations took place throughout 2009 to commemorate this milestone, the Commission visualized something more tangible and lasting than the traditional activities associated with celebrations of this nature. In anticipation of this, the park property which was purchased previously with Coastal Impact Assistance funds was committed to build a historical destination that would capture and commemorate Baldwin County's rich history while addressing the needs of its residents and their current lifestyle.

With the idea of historical legacy as its focal point the Baldwin County Commission dedicated a 367-acre tract for the purpose of commemorating the county's history and to provide a means by which locals and visitors alike could immerse themselves in the natural beauty and historical significance of the county in the evolution of the United States in general, and the Gulf Coast in particular. This property includes pristine delta wetlands as well as hardwood/pine forest and has been the site of early plantation efforts by the British, logging operations by American settlers and a hunting and fishing site for European and Indians alike. The Park concept as visualized by the Baldwin County Commission and its Department of Archives and History is to best utilize the property for educational and recreational purposes without compromising the natural beauty. The Park is located on the Alabama State Highway 225 Corridor just south of Stockton, Alabama. This route is already on the "underground railroad" National Bicycle Tour and is a jumping off point for many recreational pursuits in North Baldwin County.

Natural Resources of the Park

The Park maintains pristine wetlands and water access via Hastie Lake. This translates to recognized opportunities for recreational use of the park. Numerous animal species reside at the park. These include the common black bear, feral hogs, armadillos, raccoons, alligators, a variety of reptiles, game fish and a bountiful variety of birds and waterfowl. The Park has a good variety of native plants and trees. This offers opportunity for park visitors to enjoy and interpret the wetlands from an accessible and safe location.

In 2010 the Baldwin County Commission contracted with Fred Nation Environmental Services to conduct a written inventory of the trees, shrubs, and woody vines within the park area. In doing so the survey allowed the placement of signage along an interpreted nature trail thus enhancing the educational benefit of the David Hastie Nature Trail. The two-mile-long walking trail now has identifying signs indicating some of the more unique and historic local specimens.

Nineteenth Century Village:

The village incorporates 11 buildings that capture the mid to late nineteenth century period. Visitors will have the ability to interface with period tradesmen and learn how a variety of goods were produced during this early period of Alabama History. The village is painstakingly replicated and designed for growth. The village remains a “work in progress” that ultimately could rival Virginia’s Williamsburg.

The intent of the village is to allow not only valued entertainment but to function as an educational laboratory for students and interested visitors to be able to better interpret living and work conditions of an early era.

At present there is a 19th century blacksmith shop on the premises. The shop is a part of the plan to incorporate an interpretive 19th century village concept that will enhance the educational value of the site and the teaching opportunities at the park. The blacksmith shop, along with several other structures represents the cornerstone of the village. Additional buildings proposed for the site includes an interpretive center, a chapel, a “dog trot” style home, Creole Cottage, turn of the century farm house and barn, cotton gin, working sawmill, Civil War era redoubts and fortifications, several other buildings to offer a variety of trade commons to the riverboat industry.

Native American Lifestyle Exhibits:

In our interpretation of the local Indian life, we focus on the transitional period from traditional town life to that of the individual extended family unit that would have occurred around the Mobile/Tensaw Delta. These people would have maintained some elements of traditional Creek life while adopting components of early European commercialism as a means of providing for their families in a changing political and social environment. The exhibit displays the interworking of the Indian family at this crucial time in their lives. Active elements demonstrate the farm techniques and products produced as well as feature the architectural standards employed by the inhabitants. This entails the continued use of wattle and daub in addition to the use of log construction for living quarters and working structures. As further archeological studies are conducted on site, we will feature those in the Native American component of Bicentennial Park. It is the plan to staff this portion of the park with interpretive specialists who can relate the daily routine necessary for Native American life along the delta in the latter part of the 18th century.

Nineteenth Century Working Farm

This section of the park interprets a common yeoman farming operation circa mid to late nineteenth century. The yeoman farm will incorporate a variety of sample subsistence crops as well as export crops commonly grown in Baldwin County during this period. The farm serves a wide-ranging approach to education. Students and visitors can experience the realities of day-to-day life on a farm and be able to better understand the value or need for specific crops and functions on the farm. Students will learn the challenges faced by pioneer agrarians in Southern Alabama. We would like to form a partnership with the Future Farmers of America or similar organizations to allow our future agriculturists to learn earlier methods of farming in their individual development. Crops produced on site is donated to local food banks.

The Working Farm: This would allow students to experience firsthand the many challenges faced by early area farmers. It would instill knowledge of early farming methods; impart responsibility while offering a memorable educational experience.

The Davida Hastie Memorial Nature Trail

The two-mile long walking trail that follows the periphery of the northern one-half of Bicentennial Park invites visitors to experience the intriguing plant and tree life associated with the Mobile/Tensaw Delta wetlands. The trail features an overlook that allows walkers to take a prolonged view of the wetlands and provides a covered area for local students to participate in environmental lectures for a hands-on experience.

The trail was named in honor of former Stockton resident Davida Hastie. Ms. Hastie who passed away in 2009, spent her life as an advocate for the cultural and historical preservation of Baldwin County's past. In addition, she worked tirelessly to preserve the natural beauty of the area as she taught others the value of preservation and conservation. She inspired the construction of Baldwin County's Bicentennial Park and has rendered immeasurable service to the Department of Archives and History with her knowledge of the county and her willingness to share that knowledge with others.

"Freedom is NEVER Free" Memorial Area

This small section of the park has been set aside for the remembrance of the proud military traditions, self-sacrifice, and contributions made by numerous generations of Baldwin County's citizen soldiers. Each monument reflects the local involvement in the conflict and honors the sacrifice of those that gave their all to defend their country and their ideals. The monument erected focuses on the selflessness of the individual when faced with threats to freedom and democracy. The cost for each of the monuments was shared in a partnership with local heritage groups such as the Sons of the American Revolution.

Other sites: Welcome Center, The Little Red Schoolhouse (1919), Historic Montpelier Methodist Church (1895), Post Office (1940), The General Store (1950), 19th century Blacksmith Shop, and a working farm.

In conclusion, there may be a question as to why use this location?

Accessibility – The Park site is located on the Highway 225 corridor with easy access from I-65. The Park fills a niche in local historic interpretation that focus more on the lives of the local Baldwin County residents throughout the county's storied past. The Park does not compete with other historical sites or attractions and is designated to compliment the rich history of southern Alabama and more specifically Baldwin County.

Archeological surveys have been completed on the site which allows all building and recreational use without destruction to existing sites with historical provenance.

The Park offers a concentrated site on which the diverse cultural heritage of Baldwin County can be featured in a tasteful, educational, and fun manner.

7. DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF USE OF FUNDS

Complete the budget table explaining work items. All projects must be completed by September 30, 2025. All work must adhere to the [Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation](#).

Use the following as a guide for major work items. If item is not listed, use "other" and explain in the description.

Correct structural deficiencies	Inhibit moisture	Safety hazard correction
ADA compliance	Mechanical system upgrade/repair	Roof repair/replacement
Painting	Vegetation removal	Educational programming
Interpretive signage	Cemetery cleaning/repair/fencing	Window Repair
Plumbing/Restroom facilities	Monuments	

Major Work Items	Description	Grant Funds	Matching Funds	Sub-Total
Build a mid to late 19th century barn to interpret a common yeoman farming operation.	The farm serves a wide-ranging approach to education. Students and visitors experience the realities of day to day life on a farm and are able to better understand the value or need for specific crops and functions on a farm.	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$ 150,000.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
				\$0.00
	TOTAL	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00

8. **SIGNATURE** of the authorized official of the organization who has the authority to apply for grants and sign grant agreements for the organization.

Signature: _____

Print Name: _____

Title: _____ Phone Number _____

Email _____

9. **CHECKLIST OF REQUIRED MATERIALS:**

- a. Certificate of Compliance with the Alabama Beason-Hammon Act – all applicants
- b. E-Verify Memorandum of Understanding– if organization has one or more employees
- c. State of Alabama Disclosure Statement (Required by Act 2001-955) – all applicants
- d. IRS Tax Exemption Letter – **nonprofits, if applicable**
- e. Completed W-9 form – all applicants
- f. Current, good quality photographs of the historic site (up to 5) – all applicants
- g. Completed application signed by authorized official only – all applicants

DEADLINE JUNE 30, 2022

Applications must be hand-delivered or emailed by 4:00 pm or postmarked by **June 30, 2022**. Faxed applications will not be accepted.

Email, Mail, or Hand-Deliver Applications to:
Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: LaTarra Tetter / grants@ahc.alabama.gov
P. O. Box 300900
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Physical Address:
Alabama Historical Commission
Attn: LaTarra Tetter
468 S. Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36104