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**The Alabama Historical Commission awards over \$750,000 in grants statewide
52 projects funded in 29 counties**

The Alabama Historical Commission (AHC) recently awarded over \$750,000 in historic preservation grants. Governor Robert Bentley and the state legislature provided a one-time appropriation to establish this grant program.

"These grants help people from every corner of the state preserve their history. Historic preservation develops local economies, provides jobs, and strengthens tourism," said Frank White, AHC executive director.

According to economic development consultant Donovan Rypkema, historic building rehabilitation creates more jobs and has a greater economic impact than an equal amount of investment in new construction and manufacturing output.

Preservation's impact on tourism is also significant. Auburn University Montgomery economics professor Dr. Keivan Deravi estimates that people visiting historic sites in Alabama create 5,900 jobs and \$96 million in payroll each year. He estimates that heritage tourism generates \$5.1 million in state sales and income tax revenue for Alabama.

The response to the grant program was significant, with 277 organizations in 60 counties requesting over \$6.1 million. The AHC funded less than 20% of the proposals.

For a full list of grant awards visit: www.preserveala.org/grantsprogram.aspx.

*To protect, preserve, and interpret Alabama's historic places is the mission of the
Alabama Historical Commission, the State Historic Preservation Office.*