

October 15, 2010 - Otis House at Fairview-Riverside SP Closes Temporarily for Renovations

MADISONVILLE - Otis House will be closed to the public effective October 20, according to the Office of State Parks. The building, located on the grounds of Fairview-Riverside State Park, is undergoing extensive restoration of parts of the house and some furniture pieces.

The exterior of Otis House will undergo a lead abatement treatment, followed by a replacement of rotting boards and a new coat of paint. Additionally, contractors will repair the porch areas damaged by hurricanes and tropical storms over the past few years. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-July 2011.

Otis House, originally built in the 1880s, was the family home for sawmill owner William Theodore Jay. It was later purchased and renovated in the 1930s by Frank Otis, serving as his summer home until his death in 1962. Mr. Otis left the property to the State of Louisiana to be developed into a recreational site for visitors. The house was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Fairview-Riverside State Park features 81 improved campsites, excellent fishing, canoeing and picnicking. A nearby boat ramp offers access to the park and Lake Pontchartrain. For more information, visit www.lastateparks.com or call 1-888-677-3247 toll free or 792-4652 locally.