

December 28, 2010

## **Plaquemine Lock SHS to Re-open**

PLAQUEMINE - Effective Wednesday, January 5, Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site will be once again open to visitors. Agreements with Iberville Parish and the City of Plaquemine made the re-opening possible, by providing in-kind services for the site.

"I am excited to announce the reopening of the Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site," said Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne. "This site represents an important part of Louisiana's history and waterway culture, and its reopening will restore a valuable tourism opportunity for Iberville Parish and south Louisiana."

The site will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Plaquemine Lock SHS was placed in caretaker status in July 2010, meaning that the site was available by appointment only. Due to budget cuts, Plaquemine Lock SHS and four other sites were placed in caretaker status at the same time, in addition to two sites that were placed in caretaker status in February. Fort Jesup State Historic Site, near Many, re-opened to the public in November 2010 with support of the Sabine River Authority, Sabine Parish Tourist Commission and the city of Many.

"We are grateful to the city of Plaquemine and to Iberville Parish for their support of Plaquemine Lock State Historic Site," said Dr. Stuart Johnson, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of State Parks. "The site likely would have remained closed without these community leaders. We have been encouraged by the support of communities, throughout the state, for our historic sites and our parks."

When completed in 1909, Plaquemine lock was significant for having the highest fresh water lift of any lock in the world -- 51 feet -- and a unique engineering design that utilized a gravity flow principle. The lock served its purpose well by providing a short-cut from the Mississippi River into Louisiana's interior until 1961, when larger locks began operating at Port Allen.

Plaquemine Lock SHS, located in historic downtown Plaquemine, is on the National Register of Historic Places. The site is 13 miles south of Baton Rouge and 19 miles north of Donaldsonville. Entrance fees are \$4 per person, ages 13-61, while children under the age of 12, and seniors 62 and older get in free. For more information about Plaquemine Lock SHS and Louisiana State Parks, visit [www.lastateparks.com](http://www.lastateparks.com).