

November 5, 2010

Fort Jesup SHS to Re-open to the Public

Many, LA - Effective Friday, Nov. 12, Fort Jesup State Historic Site will be once again open to visitors. Agreements with the Sabine River Authority, the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission and the City of Many made the re-opening possible, by providing funding and services for the site.

"I am excited to announce the reopening of the Fort Jesup State Historic Site," said Lt. Governor Scott Angelle. "This site represents an important part of Louisiana's history and its reopening will restore a valuable tourism opportunity for Louisiana. The re-opening of Fort Jesup also marks the third opening of a facility this year."

Earlier this year, the Office of State Parks opened the Bogue Chitto State Park in Washington Parish and the Palmetto Island State Park in Vermilion Parish.

The site will be open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. Fort Jesup SHS was placed in caretaker status in July of this year, meaning that the site was available by appointment only. Due to budget cuts, Fort Jesup 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.

"We are grateful to the city of Many, the Sabine River Authority and to Sabine Parish for their support of Fort Jesup," said Dr. Stuart Johnson, the Assistant Secretary for the Office of State Parks. "The site likely would have remained closed without the partnership of these community leaders."

From 1822 to 1846, Fort Jesup was the premier military garrison on the western frontier and headquarters of the Western Department of the U.S. Army; the largest military installation west of the Mississippi, originally encompassing 16,907 acres.

Fort Jesup SHS, the only National Historic Landmark in Sabine Parish, is located six miles east of Many off of LA 6, and is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, email fortjesup@crt.state.la.us, or call 1-888-677-5378 toll free or 318-256-4117 in the Many Area.