

NOTICE OF REVISION/CHANGE

TO

POLICY AND PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM #1

SUBJECT: STATE HISTORIC SITE USE CRITERIA

TO: ALL POLICY & PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM HOLDERS

EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 19, 1978

REVISION DATE: MAY 21, 2002

This revision supersedes and replaces all previous information included in PPM #1 originally issued April 19, 1978. The current PPM is to be replaced in its entirety by this revised issue.

Recently House Bill 462 (Act 709 of 1999) changed the name “State Commemorative Area” to “State Historic Site” in all statutory provisions that referenced state commemorative areas.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY

This is Revision No. 1 of this PPM with an original effective date of April 19, 1978.

IMPORTANT:

Insert this revision notice in the PPM file preceding all other information on this subject in order to maintain a current document file.

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EFFECTIVE DATE: APRIL 19, 1978

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Purpose:

This policy authorizes the Office of State Parks to establish certain criteria pertaining to the use of a "State Historic Site".

Policy :

By definition as outlined in the Louisiana State Parks Plan, 1975 - 1990 and HB 462 (Act 709 of 1999), a "State Historic Site is an area which possesses a historical, cultural, or memorial significance when judged on a statewide basis." The State Historic Area is established to allow the visiting public an opportunity to experience man's past through the resource preserved at the area.

It is necessary that development on a State Historic Site be limited to that which is essential for visitor accommodation and enjoyment of the area's theme or feature. Day-use facilities should be limited to these activities which are not in conflict with the historic theme of the site, and confined to areas of the grounds set aside for usage of this nature.

As important as the artifactual evidence existing on the areas is the atmosphere created around these objects which make their study by the public more conducive. While we do not wish to limit the visitor's enjoyment of the Historic Site in order that the greater interest and primary function of the area be served, it is necessary to limit or cancel certain incompatible activities from the sites. Organized sports such as baseball, football, field hockey, soccer and the like cannot contribute to a greater understanding of the historical, cultural, or memorial theme of the area and therefore cannot be condoned by this office on any of our historic sites.

It has also been determined that the use of State Historic Sites for such activities and events as fairs, circuses, carnivals, amusement rides and other promoter sponsored, commercial activities and events is not deemed in the best interest of the State Historic Sites. Such use fails to achieve the intent outlined in the State Parks Plan as well as increasing the potential for serious damage to the quality and character of the area and adversely affecting the experience of the visitor.

Organizations offering support to Historic Sites, either one in particular or on a general basis through such things as historical societies or service groups, may be permitted special functions at a Historic Site if a written request is made and written permission obtained from the Assistant Secretary of the Office of State Parks. Such functions may not be specifically for the benefit of an individual, but must be held to benefit the Historic Site either directly or indirectly through greater public awareness of the site or history of the area.



ASSISTANT SECRETARY