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**FORT DERUSSY STATE HISTORIC SITE NAMED TO
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES**

The National Park Service has announced that, effective Sept. 23, Fort DeRussy State Historic Site near Marksville has been added to the National Register of Historic Places. The process, which began in 2010 through a collaborative effort between the Friends of Fort DeRussy and the Louisiana Office of State Parks, puts the State Historic Site among a list of just over 2,500 to receive the highest national award of distinction bestowed upon historic properties in the U.S.

“Fort DeRussy State Historic Site being recognized is another achievement for our department and I look forward to continuing to work toward other state historic sites being named to the National Register of Historic Places,” said Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, whose office oversees Louisiana State Parks and Historic Sites.

Fort DeRussy, an earthen fort built to defend the Red River from Union naval intrusions during the Civil War, is located in Avoyelles Parish, Louisiana, about three miles north of the town of Marksville. It was named after Colonel Lewis G. DeRussy of Natchitoches, the oldest West Point graduate to serve in the Confederate Army and a veteran of the War of 1812 and the Mexican War. Construction of the fort began in November of 1862.

Fort DeRussy was the site of three major Civil War engagements and numerous minor skirmishes. The most important was in March 1864, at the start of the Red River Campaign, when the fort was attacked by Union troops. The fort was captured after a four-hour siege and assault. After the capture by Union forces, Fort DeRussy was used as a recruiting station for African-American troops.

The main redoubt was purchased by *La Commission des Avoyelles* in March, 1996 and the approximately 70-acre property became a Louisiana State Historic Site in 1999. A substantial portion of the earthworks are still in existence, and are available to the public by contacting the Office of State Parks at 225.342.8111 or the Friends of Fort DeRussy at 318.876.3702.

For more information about Fort DeRussy, visit the Friends of Fort DeRussy website at FortDeRussy.org. For more information about Louisiana State Parks visit LaStateParks.com, or follow Louisiana State Parks on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LouisianaStateParks) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/LouisianaStateParks).

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