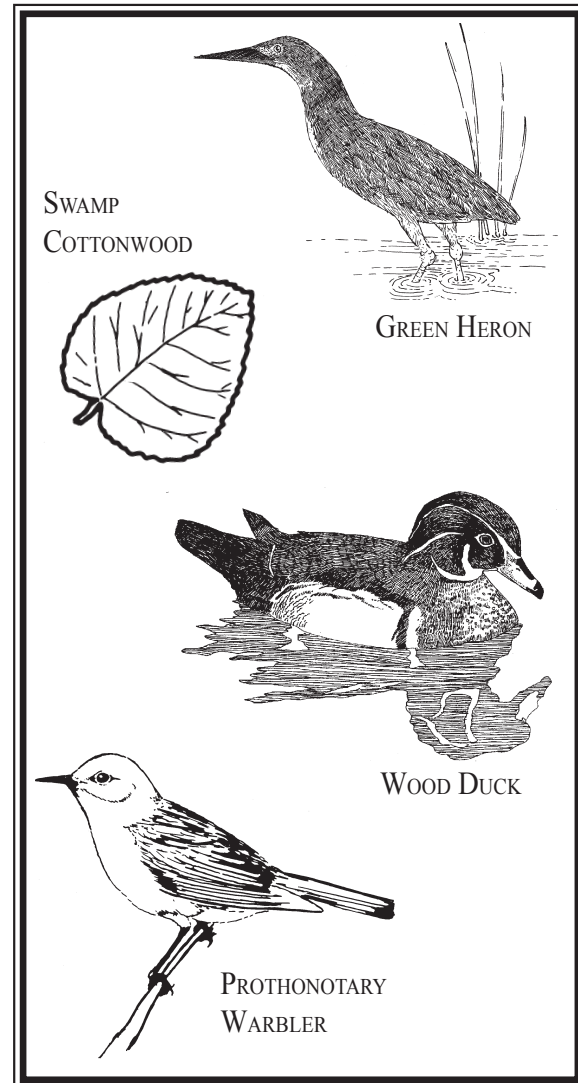


## WHAT TO EXPECT

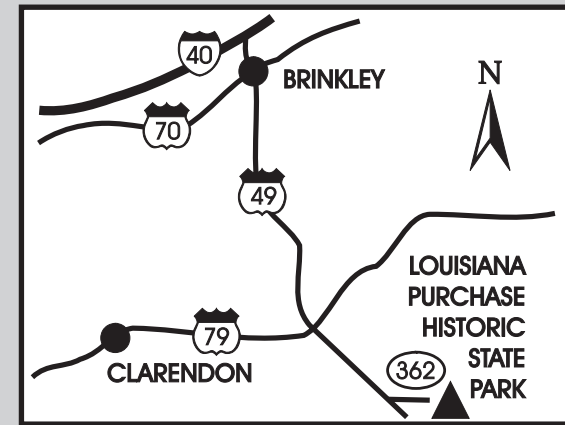
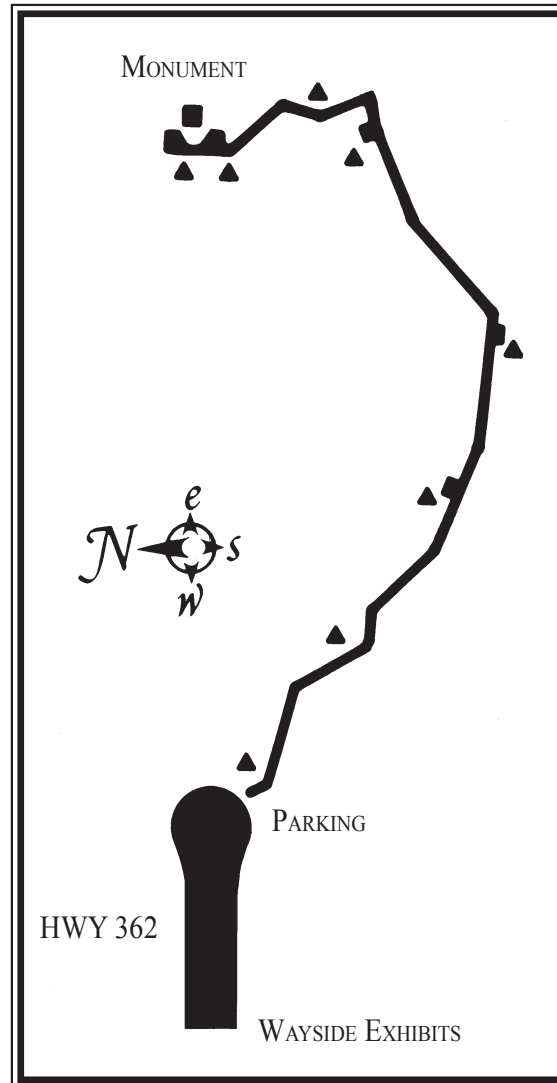
Along the boardwalk you may see a variety of animal and plant life. In spring and summer the bright yellow and gray prothonotary warbler is likely to be the most visible bird. Others you might see or hear are: pileated woodpecker, green heron, and wood duck. Several species of reptiles can sometimes be spotted from the boardwalk and the rare bird-voiced treefrog might be heard from high in the treetops. Swamp cottonwood is found at several points along the boardwalk; it is rarely found elsewhere in Arkansas. Two of the most common trees here are baldcypress and water tupelo, indicators of a true swamp.



## UNDERSTANDING THE LANDSCAPE

A headwater swamp seldom floods deeply, yet rarely dries up. Because of these conditions, unusual plant and animal populations have developed. This habitat was once common in eastern Arkansas before the days of intensive land reclamation when swamps were drained and cleared.

Such swamps have become rare, making it important to preserve this small remnant of an ecological system for us and our children, and for the plants and animals that live only here.



## LOCATION

From I-40 at Brinkley, take Highway 49 south about 21 miles to Arkansas 362, go east 2 miles to the park.

For a self-guided interpretive brochure of the park or further information on this or other fine state parks in Arkansas, contact:

Arkansas State Parks  
One Capitol Mall, 4A-900  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 682-1191  
ArkansasStateParks.com



For information on Arkansas's natural areas, contact:

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission  
1500 Tower Bldg.  
323 Center St.  
Little Rock, AR 72201  
(501) 324-9150



**NOTICE:** To preserve scenic beauty and ecology, fences and warning signs have not been installed in some park locations. Caution and supervision of your children are required while visiting these areas.



As a part of its conservation mission, Arkansas State Parks has printed this brochure on recycled paper and with soy inks. All park services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis. Arkansas State Parks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Arkansas State Parks 2015

# LOUISIANA PURCHASE HISTORIC STATE PARK



ARKANSAS  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS & TOURISM

## LOUISIANA PURCHASE



Louisiana Purchase Historic State Park, a National Historic Landmark, preserves the initial point from which land surveys of most of the Louisiana Purchase Territory were made. This 37.5-acre park protects a headwater swamp - a vanishing natural environment once common in the mid-South. This State Natural Area is at the corner of Lee, Monroe, and Phillips Counties, 22 miles south of Brinkley off U.S. Highway 49, then east on Arkansas Highway 362 just two miles to the park.

A 950-foot barrier-free boardwalk, with wayside exhibits, provides access to the granite monument marking the initial point of the survey of what became 13 states.

With Hernando de Soto's expedition in 1541, Spain became the first European power to send explorers into the vast territory west of the Mississippi River. The Spanish came as treasure seekers rather than colonizers.

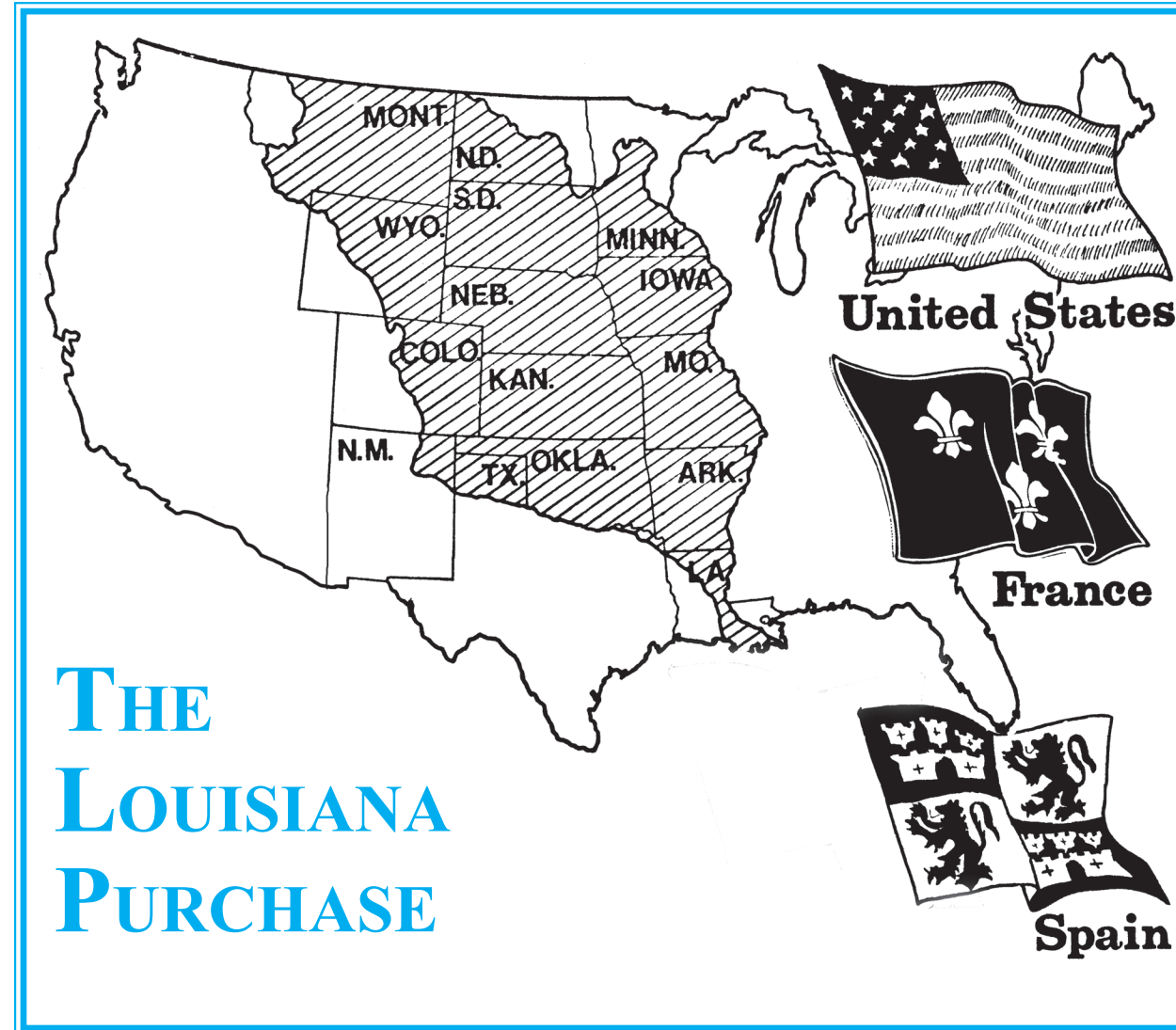
In 1682, La Salle explored the Mississippi from French Canada and claimed to discover the mouth of the Mississippi at the Gulf of Mexico. En route, at the mouth of the Arkansas River, he claimed all the lands drained by the Mississippi in the name of King Louis XIV, of France, naming the region Louisiana. The French controlled this territory until 1762 when the land was returned to Spain in exchange for their assistance against England during the French and Indian War.

In 1800, Spain's King Charles IV returned the territory to France under pressure from Napoleon Bonaparte. In 1803, Napoleon sold the entire Louisiana Territory to the United States for \$15,000,000. The Louisiana Purchase added 830,000 square miles to the United States, at a cost of less than 3¢ an acre!

President Thomas Jefferson was very interested in this new land and sent several expeditions into the territory, including first Hunter and Dunbar, and then Lewis and Clark. These expeditions collected specimens and recorded their observations. The results of their findings stimulated interest in the region and its resources and wildlife.

The movement of settlers west of the Mississippi River increased after the War of 1812 and an official land survey was begun in 1815 to facilitate distribution of the land to war veterans. Prospect K. Robbins and Joseph C. Brown were commissioned by the United States to begin this survey by establishing a point from which other surveys would originate.

For more than 100 years, this site went unnoticed until discovered by Tom Jacks and Eldridge P. Douglass as they resurveyed the Phillips and Lee County lines in 1921. The two surveyors recognized the pair of large trees marked as "witness trees" by



Robbins and Brown in 1815 to initiate the survey of the Louisiana Purchase Territory.

The significance of this find was recognized by the L'Anquille Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Marianna, Arkansas. On October 27, 1926, the DAR dedicated the monument you see in the swamp in commemoration of the United States' acquisition of the Louisiana Territory. The Arkansas General Assembly passed legislation in 1961 designating the area a state park, however, no funds were provided for acquisition or development.

In 1977, the Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission recognized the area's natural value, added it to the Registry of Arkansas Natural Areas, and provided funds to purchase the land. Arkansas State Parks, in turn, granted the Natural Heritage Commission an easement that provided additional legal protection for this natural and historic site.

Today a barrier-free boardwalk meanders through the upland swamp to the granite marker. Along the way, wayside exhibits provide information about this unique habitat and the history of this National Historic Landmark.

Please follow these regulations so others may enjoy the park as much as you.

- ◆ Stay on the boardwalk.
- ◆ It is unlawful to collect, deface or destroy any plants, wildlife, or public property.
- ◆ Cans, bottles, or littering are not permitted on the boardwalk.
- ◆ Horses, motorcycles, and bicycles are not allowed.

