

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Interpretive programs are available throughout the year on a variety of historical topics. Schools and other groups should make advance reservations to request programs for specific interests and group needs. Contact the museum for dates and details on public interpretive programs and workshops or check the calendar of events at [ArkansasStateParks.com](https://arkansasstateparks.com).

Special events include an annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show held the Saturday after Labor Day and a holiday open house in December. The museum is also a popular stop for cyclists along the Harper’s Loop Route and a rest stop for the annual Tour de Rock bicycle race.

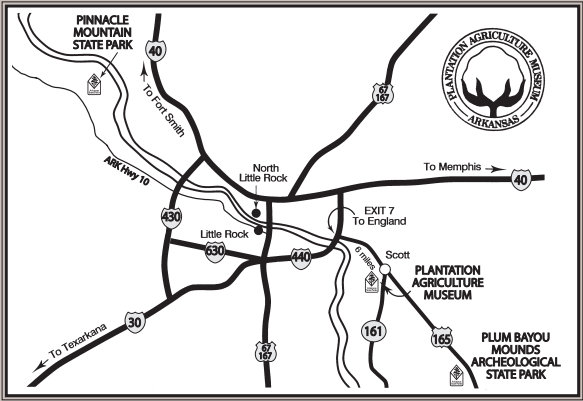


Plantation Museum 1960s, photo by Robert Dortch

HOURS OF OPERATION

Wednesday – Saturday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Sunday 1 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Closed Mondays and Tuesdays (except for Memorial Day, Labor Day, and Fourth of July when required)
Closed New Year’s Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.



LOCATION

The museum is 14 miles east of Little Rock at the junction of U.S. Highway 165 and Arkansas Highway 161 at Scott. Take exit 7 of I-440, turn south on U.S. Hwy 165, go 5 miles to museum and turn south on Arkansas Hwy. 161 for one block.

For further information, contact:
Plantation Agriculture Museum
P.O. Box 87
Scott, Arkansas 72142
(501) 961-1409
email: PlantationAgriMuseum@Arkansas.com



All park services are provided on a nondiscriminatory basis.
Arkansas State Parks is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PLANTATION
AGRICULTURE
MUSEUM



ARKANSAS DEPARTMENT OF
PARKS, HERITAGE, AND TOURISM

WELCOME

Plantation Agriculture Museum collects, preserves, and interprets Arkansas's rich history of cotton farming from Arkansas's statehood in 1836 through World War II, when tractors, mechanized cotton pickers, and new chemicals rapidly replaced traditional ways of farming and life on plantations and small farms.

THE STEELE-DORTCH STORE MUSEUM BUILDING

The general store, originally constructed in 1912 by Conoway Scott, was run first by the Brown family and then by the Fosters. In 1929, the smaller north wing was added to house the Scott Post Office. During the 1960s, a local planter named Robert L. Dortch and his daughter Floride Rebsamen converted the store into a museum about local agriculture. Arkansas State Parks acquired the property in 1986 and renovated the structure, opening it as Plantation Agriculture Museum in 1989.

Exhibits in the main gallery tell the story of cotton and the people who grew it before mechanization. From the preparation of the fields in late winter through planting, harvesting, ginning, and baling almost a full year later, the museum allows visitors to follow the labor-intensive process through farming tools and equipment on display. Exhibits in the post office gallery change regularly and may cover a variety of subjects. Contact the museum for information on the current exhibit.

COTTON PENS

Leaving the museum a pathway guides visitors past two cotton pens which could be pulled by mules or a tractor close to the fields being harvested. Laborers would put freshly picked cotton into these pens, where it was stored until wagons could transport the crop to a gin.

DORTCH GIN BUILDING

The Dortch gin building houses a fully restored ginning system including two 80 saw gin stands, a two-bale press, blowers, and belt driven line shafts (together called a Munger system) that were operated by the Dortch Gin Company. The gin was powered by steam when built in 1919. Dortch made several upgrades, including the installation of a diesel engine, new gin stand feeders, and electric motors. By 1938, he had built a brand-new gin facility, rendering the former equipment outdated and no longer needed within just a few years.

SEED WAREHOUSE NO. 5

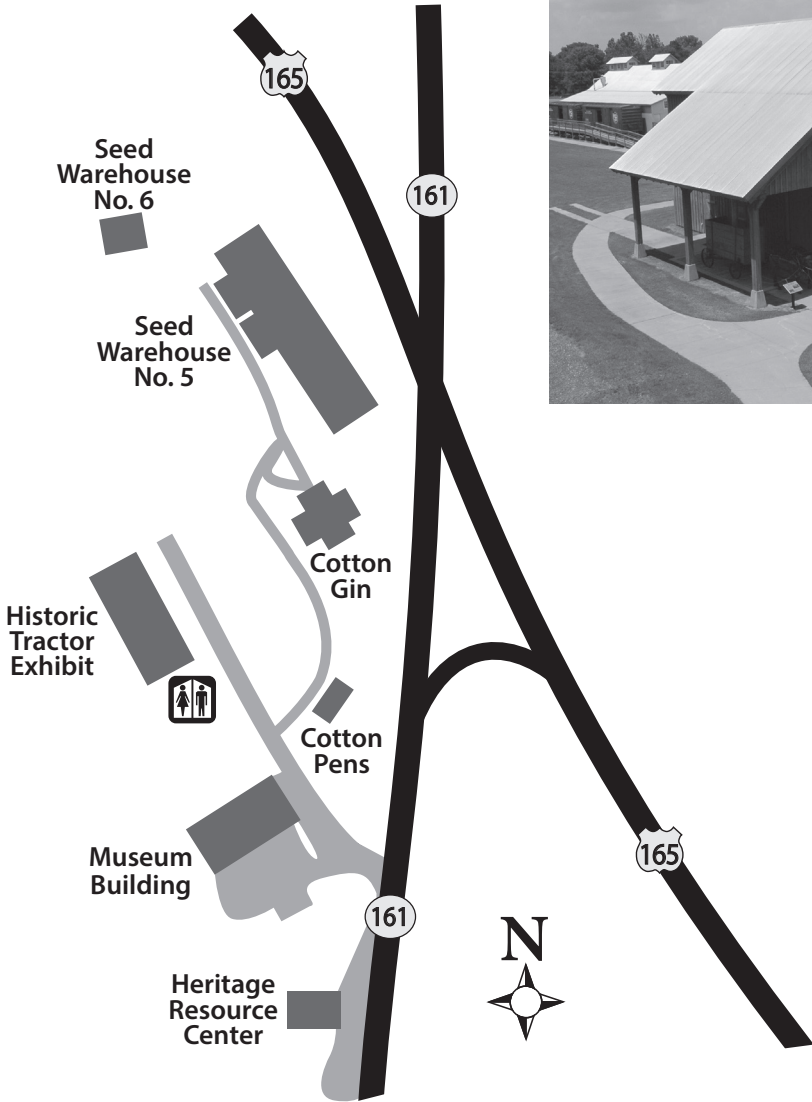
Built in 1948 and listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2010, the seed warehouse served as a storage and bagging facility for the Robert L. Dortch Seed Farms. Its design includes truss construction, eliminating the need for interior support columns, a floor-to-ceiling auger system, improved ventilation, and slanting sides to accommodate the shape of large seed piles. This warehouse had a Cotton Belt Railroad spur beside it to transport seeds. Today, visitors enter the restored warehouse through vintage Cotton Belt boxcars.

HISTORIC TRACTOR EXHIBIT

The historic tractor exhibit is a covered outdoor area down the lane from the museum, just past the restroom building. It displays vintage tractors, cotton pickers, harvesters, and a hay baler. These machines serve as examples of the early mechanization that changed farming practices and the way of life in small farming communities across Arkansas around the period of World War II.

THE HERITAGE RESOURCE CENTER

The Heritage Resource Center, just south of the museum, is used for educational programs and workshops. It is also available for rent by civic organizations, families, and other groups of up to 45 people. Rental fees apply; contact the museum for details and to make reservations.



Restored cotton gin



Rust cotton picker



Historic Seed Warehouse No. 5



EXPLORE THE BEAUTY & HISTORY OF ARKANSAS!