

A BRIEF HISTORY OF VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

Varner-Hogg State Historic Site offers visitors a chance to explore diverse historical, cultural, and natural resources near the historic town of West Columbia.

Martin Varner first came to this site in 1824 as one of the first Anglo-American settlers in what was later to become Texas.

In 1834, Varner sold his property to the Patton family from Kentucky. They built a prosperous sugarcane empire using the labor of their enslaved population. After the Civil War, the plantation economy began to decline, as the use of enslaved labor was no longer legal. The plantation changed hands many times from the 1870s to the 1900s until Governor James Stephen Hogg purchased the property in 1901.

After Governor Hogg's death in 1906, oil was discovered on the property in 1917 and the Hogg children amassed a fortune. With the money generated from their oil profits, they made many changes to the interior and exterior of the plantation house. The two oldest Hogg children, Will and Ima, passionately collected American decorative arts as a hobby. They furnished the house with antiques dating from the 19th and 20th centuries.

As the last remaining survivor of the Hogg children, Ima Hogg donated the property to the State of Texas in 1958.



PLANNING YOUR VISIT

All materials fees help fund interpretive programs.

One adult chaperone per 10 students is required. Chaperone fees will be waived. Restroom facilities and picnic tables are available on site, but are limited. Please make reservations a minimum of 30 days in advance of desired visit if possible. Payment arrangements will be made at the time of the reservation.

Contact: Program Coordinator
Office: (979) 345-4656
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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

State Historic Site

2008

YOUTH PROGRAMS



VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

2008 YOUTH PROGRAMS

GENERAL SITE TOUR

Consists of tour of **Plantation House** (*Décor and More*) and **Grounds** (*The Lines that Divide*)

Pre-K – 12th grade

Cost: \$2/student

No minimum Maximum: 60 students

Approximate length: 3.5 hours

DÉCOR AND MORE

Students will learn about the history of the three main families that lived on this land and their contributions to it. They will then be guided through the 1835 antebellum plantation house that was built by enslaved workers during the Patton era. Students will be introduced to decorative arts through the home furnishings collected by the Hogg family.

THE LINES THAT DIVIDE

Pre-K – 12th grade

This outdoor tour will allow students to walk the grounds of the plantation and enjoy the site's natural and cultural resources. They will visit the sugar mill ruins, the location of the slave quarters, and the buildings used to house ranch and oil hands. The students will engage in a discussion comparing and contrasting the lifestyles of the different classes and cultures that lived and worked on this land.

Additional Interpretive Programs

WHEN SUGAR WAS KING

2nd grade – 12th grade

Materials cost: \$2/student

Minimum: 10 students Maximum: 30 students

Approximate length: 45 minutes

Available September to December

Through a live demonstration, students will learn the process used to convert sugarcane into sugar during the Patton era. They will be guided through a sensory exercise that will help them appreciate the labor intensive production of sugar and how the work of enslaved peoples directly contributed to the Patton's wealth. (PROGRAM DEPENDENT ON SUGARCANE SUPPLY.)

FOLKWAYS OF THE PAST

K – 6th grade

Materials cost: \$3/student

Minimum: 10 students Maximum: 42 students

Approximate length: 2 hours

Available January to May

Students will participate in activities such as rope making, washing, butter churning and more to learn how such tasks were performed in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They will gain an appreciation for how technology has made our lives easier and allowed us to enjoy more leisure time.

GONE TO TEXAS: EARLY TEXAS TRAVELS

2nd grade – 12th grade

Materials cost: \$2/student

Minimum: 5 students Maximum: 25 students

Approximate length: 1 hour

Available year-round

Experience life in 1840s and '50s Texas as a costumed interpreter demonstrates the skills necessary for survival on the early Texas frontier. (PROGRAM DEPENDENT ON AVAILABILITY OF PRESENTERS.)



WHERE'S THE BATHROOM: HYGIENE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

K – 6th grade

Materials cost: \$2/student

Minimum: 10 students Maximum: 25 students

Approximate length: 45 minutes

Available year-round

Journey back in time to the days of the chamber pot and discover how people kept themselves tidy with limited resources, as well as how American society's views on cleanliness have changed over time.

MIND YOUR MANNERS: FASHION AND ETIQUETTE IN THE 1850s

2nd grade – 12th grade

Materials cost: \$3/student

Minimum: 10 students Maximum: 25 students

Approximate length: 1 hour

Available year-round

Learn how ladies and gentlemen dressed, dined and socialized during the Victorian Era as students make calling cards, try on period clothes and set the table for tea time. Tea and cookies will be provided upon request. (PUNCH MAY BE SUBSTITUTED FOR TEA AT THE TEACHER'S REQUEST.)

Traveling trunks are also available.