

## 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.**

Restroom facilities and picnic tables are available on site, but are limited. Please make reservations a minimum of 30 days in advance of your desired visit date if possible. Payment arrangements will be made at the time of the reservation.

Contact: Program Coordinator  
Office: (979) 345-4656  
option 5, ext. 3  
Fax: (979) 345-4412

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TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE

## VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION

*State Historic Site*



# VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION STATE HISTORIC SITE

## ADULT PROGRAMS

### GENERAL SITE TOUR

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

Cost: \$6 per person

No minimum

Maximum: 60 people

Approximate Length: 3.5 hours

### DÉCOR AND MORE

Visitors 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. Visitors will be exposed to decorative arts through the home furnishings collected by the Hogg family.

### THE LINES THAT DIVIDE

This outdoor tour will allow visitors 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. Visitors 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

Materials cost: \$2 per person

Minimum: 10

Maximum: 30

Approximate length: 45 minutes

Available September to December

Through a live demonstration, visitors 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.)

#### GONE TO TEXAS: EARLY TEXAS TRAVELS

Materials cost: \$2 per person

Minimum: 5

Maximum: 25

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.)

#### THE VICTORIAN LADY: FASHION AND ETIQUETTE IN THE 1850s

Materials cost: \$4 per person, (\$6 with optional Victorian Tea)

Minimum: 15

Maximum: 40

Approximate length: 1.5 hours

Available year-round

Let a Victorian hostess be your guide as you are introduced to the ways that ladies and gentlemen dressed, dined and socialized during the antebellum era. A Victorian Tea will accompany the program upon request (OPTIONAL).

#### GOOD EATS: FOODWAYS OF THE 19th CENTURY

Materials cost: \$20 per person

Minimum: 5

Maximum: 10

Approximate length: 2 hours

Available fall only

Learn to prepare a hearty meal fit for 19th century Texas settlers! Participants will experience baking cornbread in a Dutch oven, as well as making sauerkraut and butter. Class members may also choose to take part in the preparation of a roasted hog (OPTIONAL).