Baton Rouge facilities in series

Editor's Note—This is the second in a six-part series, outlining the facilities operated in various parts of the state by the Louisiana Office of State Parks. The series will be presented weekly by areas, continuing this week with the facilities in and around Baton Rouge.

Two Civil War sites, the one-time center of state government, a Revolutionary War garrison and a colonial plantation are among the highlights of any trip to Baton Rouge.

These five facilities are all State Commemorative Areas operated by the Louisiana Office of State Parks in and around the Capitol City.

LIKE A MEDIEVAL CASTLE

Resembling a huge Gothic fortress on top of a hill, the Old State Capitol State Commemorative Area preserves one of the state's most significant contributions to American architecture. The four and a half acre site includes the building and the surrounding grounds that slope to the levee at the edge of the Mississippi River.

Located in downtown Baton Rouge, the state house was first used by the Louisiana Legislature on January 21, 1850. For seven years, it was lighted by candles before the installation of gas fixtures.

The building served as the Louisiana State Capitol until the 1930's when Huey Long's new capitol building about one mile north was completed.

Currently the home of the Baton Rouge Visitor information Center and several state offices, the structure will soon undergo another renovation.

LIKE A MEDIEVAL CASTLE—This fortress is located in downtown Baton Rouge and sits on four acres of land, which slopes to a levee at the edge of the Mississippi River.

Abbeville, Thursday
March 8, 1981