Interest in the Acadian culture continues to spread throughout the world. Residents of this area are being asked by the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, which operates three Acadian Culture Centers in Eunice, Lafayette and Thibodaux, to contribute materials and information to be displayed at the three centers.

M. Ann Belkov, superintendent of the park and administrator of the project, describes this major undertaking as "a great opportunity and honor of the National Park Service to interpret, preserve, and perpetuate the Acadian history and culture.

The Acadian Culture Centers operate under the direction of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park, headquartered in New Orleans.

A regionwide search is underway to locate objects, photographs, or paintings for display in the Acadian Culture Centers.

The six categories of materials sought are 1. history and geography, to include old maps, letters, and drawings of early homes and other buildings and materials used; 2. books, letters, and recordings illustrating Acadian French language and speech; and 3. architecture and construction techniques, to include photos, sketches, plans, paintings of examples of early homes and other buildings and materials used; 4. architecture and construction techniques, to include photos, sketches, plans, paintings of examples of early homes and other buildings and materials used; 5. books, letters, and recordings illustrating Acadian French language and speech; and 6. architecture and construction techniques, to include photos, sketches, plans, paintings of examples of early homes and other buildings and materials used.

The Eunice center will interpret the prairie Acadian culture through performances, demonstrations and crafts. The site will consist of the historic Liberty Theatre, restored and adapted Seal building, and a landscaped pedestrian way.

The Lafayette culture center will present the complete account of the Acadian heritage and culture, including the story of their migration to Louisiana.

The historic Lobdell Warehouse in Thibodaux will complete the three-center complex. The Thibodaux center will present an interpretive account of the Wetland Acadians to include boat building on Bayou Lafourche.

Hamilton and Associates of Opelousas were selected from a national search of 42 architectural firms to design the facilities.

Institutional Services, Inc., a world-class museum and specialized exhibit design firm headquartered in Dallas, Texas, has been selected to develop the interpretive exhibits for the three centers.

A team of area professionals, from various educational institutions, were enlisted to provide the historical information.

Two "All Call" weekends are planned for this month in six Louisiana cities and towns, including June 18-19 in Eunice. Park officials will be available at the Eunice City Hall on June 18 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on June 19 from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

An "All Call" weekend is an opportunity for area residents to bring in personal items, photographs, letters, paintings, clothing, fishing equipment, utensils, or photographs of those items.

Those unable to attend the Eunice "All Call", but interested in providing items for display in the centers may write or phone Linda Burns, P.O. Box 51670, New Orleans, La. 70151-1570, 504-629-3646.

The park director asks, if possible, that potential contributors enclose a photo and description of the items. Individuals, families and organizations donating materials will have their name listed in the visitor centers.

Items donated to the National Park Service are tax deductible as charitable contributions. Arrangements will be made to pick up the donated items at a later date, say park officials.