

News Release



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Contact:: Ted Jackson
(559) 822-2332

Coincides With 25th Anniversary

RESTORATION WORK BEGINS AT ALLENSWORTH STATE PARK

EARLIMART, Calif. – The largest restoration project to date at Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park will begin later this month, coinciding with the park's 25th anniversary, State Parks officials announced today. A ceremony will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, 2001, to mark the park's 25th anniversary and break ground for the restoration effort.

“The rededication celebration is an opportunity for park users and supporters to renew their commitment to the park and its symbolic representation of self-determination for African-Americans,” said State Parks San Joaquin District Superintendent Ted Jackson.

The rededication event will feature commemorative groundbreaking ceremonies to highlight the start of work on three historic structures at the park. The Hackett house, Ashby house and Carter house, and their outbuildings, constitute the most ambitious reconstruction and restoration activity seen at the historic park in its 25-year history as a state park.. The work is part of a \$4 million capital outlay project for the park that is intended to restore and/or reconstruct many of the historic structures that were present when the town was thriving in the early 1900's.

Allensworth is the only California town to be founded, financed and governed by African- Americans. Colonel Allen Allensworth founded the town in 1908 with four other black men who were dedicated to the principle of improving the economic and social status of blacks.

The rededication event, which is open to the public, will be held at the park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The event will include entertainment, speakers, tours of the park and other activities. The park charges an entry fee of \$2 per passenger vehicle and \$10 - \$20 per bus, depending on the number of passengers.

Colonel Allensworth State Historic Park is located in Tulare County, approximately 75 miles south of Fresno and 38 miles north of Bakersfield, off Highway 99.

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