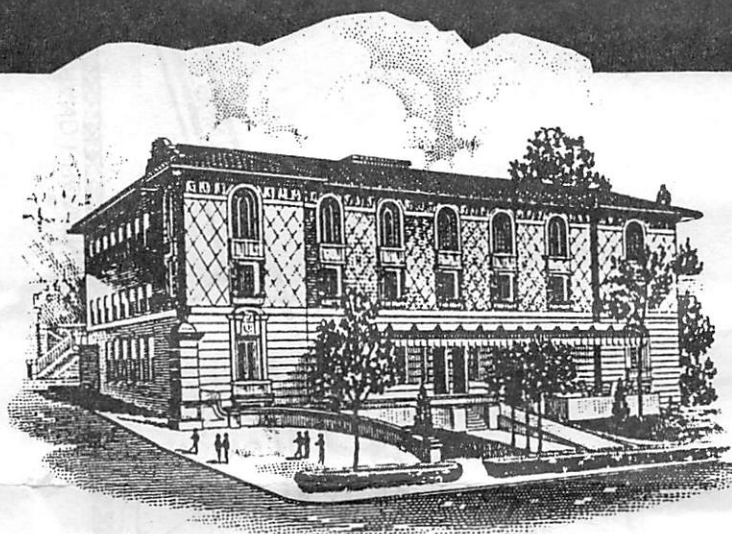


# HOT SPRINGS

National Park  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

## Finding the Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center



Welcome to Hot Springs National Park. You are invited to visit the Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center. Located in the middle of Bathhouse Row in downtown Hot Springs, it is easily seen on the south side of the park's old carriage entrance which is marked by bronze eagles atop limestone pylons. Its ornate copper and glass marquee will also catch your eye as you look for this three-story tan brick building.

### TRANSITION

The Fordyce Bathhouse was built in 1915 to be "the most practical, complete, and luxurious bath house in the world." It operated until 1962. By that time, modern medicines and transportation were carrying visitors to other vacation spots. With fewer bathers coming, the bathhouses in town experienced a decline in business that caused many to close from 1962 to 1985.

After it went out of business, the Fordyce Bathhouse was purchased by the National Park Service and designated as a tour building to be converted into the park Visitor Center. With special appropriations from Congress, that conversion finally materialized. Opening May 13, 1989, the Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center offers a glimpse of the "Golden Age of Bathing" during 1915-1923 in Hot Springs. You can tour the ground floor on your own, viewing the park's introductory movie, the historic bathing area, and browse in the bookstore. The second floor exhibit rooms are accessible by marble stairs or elevator. The rest of the second and third floors are refurnished and available to be seen by guided tour. Ask at the information desk for tour schedules. The basement offers restrooms, drinking fountain, and pay telephone, as well as the Fordyce Spring and exhibits of the machinery that operated the original elevator and old boilers. Because all floors of the Fordyce Bathhouse Visitor Center contain valuable artifacts, we must ask that there be no smoking in the building and that no food or drinks be brought inside.

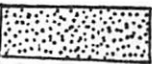
### PARKING

The map on the opposite side shows parking lots in the Bathhouse Row area. There is also free streetside parking on the west side of Central Avenue and metered parking on Reserve Avenue and Fountain Street. For more information, call (501) 623-1433.

# BATHHOUSE ROW AREA PARKING



PAY PARKING LOT  
PRIVATE CO.



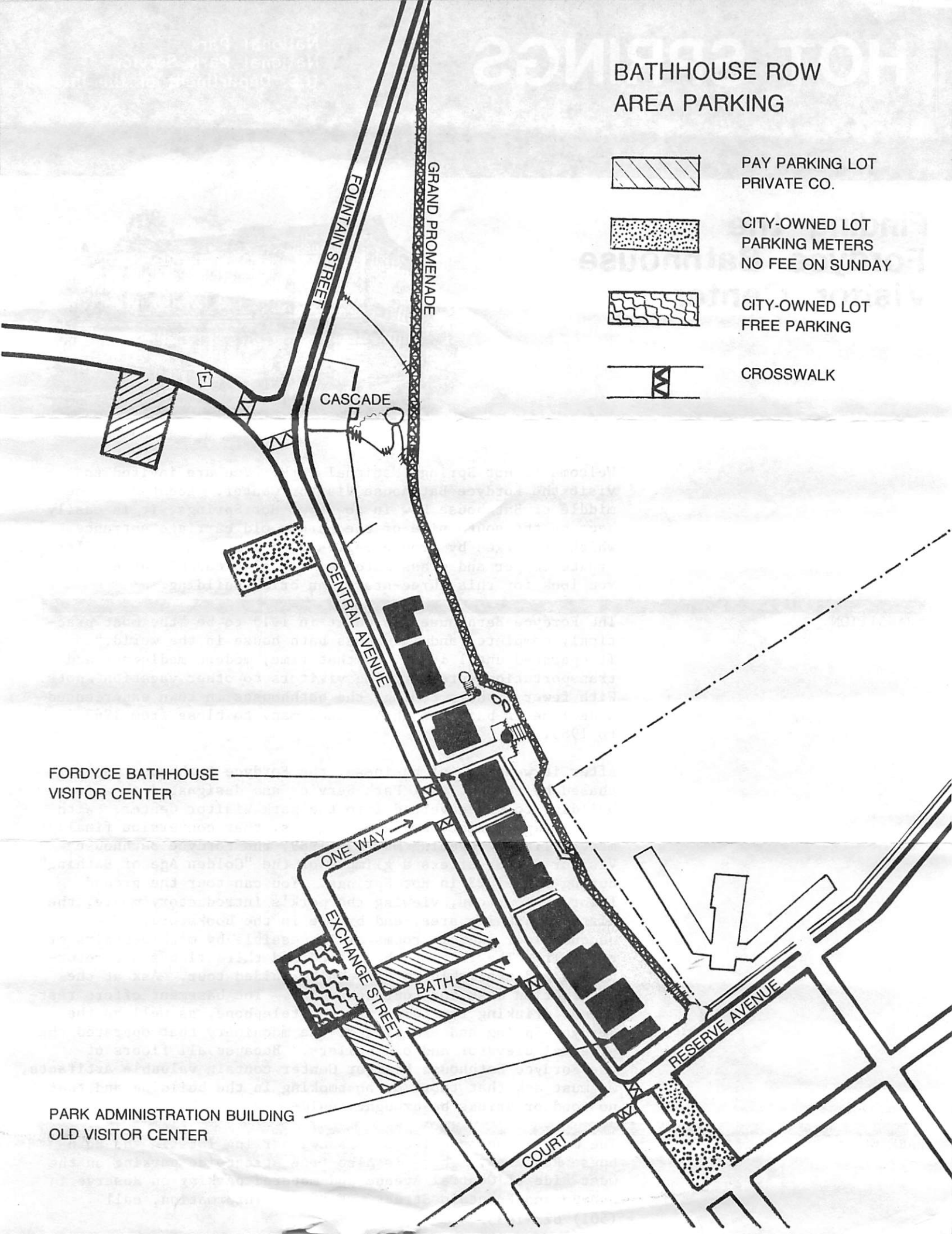
CITY-OWNED LOT  
PARKING METERS  
NO FEE ON SUNDAY



CITY-OWNED LOT  
FREE PARKING



CROSSWALK



FORDYCE BATHHOUSE  
VISITOR CENTER

PARK ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
OLD VISITOR CENTER