

*Ceremonies Commemorating  
the 150th Anniversary  
of  
Hot Springs Reservation*

11 a.m.  
April 20, 1982  
Arlington Lawn  
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas







As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, parks and recreation areas, and to ensure the wise use of all these resources. The department also has major responsibility for the American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.



The National Park Service was created on August 25, 1916 to "...promote and regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations hereinafter specified by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purpose of the said parks, monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."



The logo for the 150th Anniversary Celebration utilizes an architectural illustration of Bathhouse Row which symbolizes the product and the area of our city and national park which has made our community world famous. The logo was commissioned by the 150th Anniversary Committee and the Hot Springs Advertising and Tourist Promotion Commission.

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# ARLINGTON LAWN CEREMONY

- Master of Ceremonies.....Thomas J. Ellsworth, Mayor  
City of Hot Springs
- Presentation of Colors.....223rd Combat Communications Squadron  
Arkansas Air National Guard
- National Anthem.....Navy Band — Memphis  
Chief Warrant Officer Jerry Clements, Director  
Musician 2nd Class — Carolyn Leech
- Invocation.....Reverend Herbert Wilson  
St. Paul's African Methodist  
Episcopal Church
- Welcome.....Roger Giddings, Superintendent  
Hot Springs National Park
- Introduction of Special Guests.....Thomas J. Ellsworth
- Special Remarks.....Frank White, Governor  
State of Arkansas
- Special Remarks.....Beryl F. Anthony, Jr.  
U.S. Representative
- Special Remarks.....Earl Wells, Garland County Judge
- Introduction of Guest Speaker..... Robert I. Kerr, Regional Director  
Southwest Region  
National Park Service
- Principal Address.....Russell E. Dickenson, Director  
National Park Service
- Musical Selection.....U.S. Navy Band — Memphis
- Benediction.....Nick Garland  
Second Baptist Church
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# HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION

Hot Springs is number one. Its founding preceded Yellowstone National Park by 40 years and predated the establishment of the Department of the Interior. On April 20, 1832, President Andrew Jackson affixed his signature to the legislation which set aside the thermal springs and four square miles surrounding them. It was an unprecedented act. This tangible act set the stage for the development of a uniquely American institution — national parks for all of its people.

Despite the fact that the hot springs were nestled in a remote and unsurveyed wilderness, they were not unknown. Native Americans sought them for ceremonial purposes and resorted to them for health reasons for thousands of years. Later the Spanish and French visited, as did Americans, venturing on land claimed by European countries.

The Louisiana Purchase officially opened up a vast but barely known territory. Significantly, the first effort to learn more about the new land and chart its waterways involved Hot Springs. It was a logical choice because of the esteem in which they were held, and the neutral status conferred by the Indians.

President Thomas Jefferson commissioned William Dunbar, a Mississippi River plantation owner, and Dr. George Hunter, a Philadelphia

chemist, to lead the first expedition to explore the new territory. Dunbar reported to Jefferson that the hot springs were “indeed a very great natural curiosity.” In due course, the Hot Springs Reservation was set aside; shortly afterward, permanent bathhouses appeared.

As momentum picked up, the entire scene changed numerous times. A succession of wooden bathhouses appeared, only to become dilapidated and replaced by others. Grand Formal architecture was conceived and built to later show signs of age. Finally, the greatest array of substantial bathhouses in America emerged one by one.

Although Hot Springs emulated the famous spas in Europe, it developed its own character. Supported by a governmental role, it not only catered to the rich but provided for the poor. Social and recreational pursuits with universal appeal brought a regular and loyal following. People came as much to enjoy life and reap the benefits of staying healthy, as to be relieved of pain and attempts to get well.

These events and motives mark the long history of the Hot Springs Reservation — two-thirds of the time leading to this anniversary date. Hot Springs National Park had a worthy and distinguished antecedent in the Hot Springs Reservation.

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