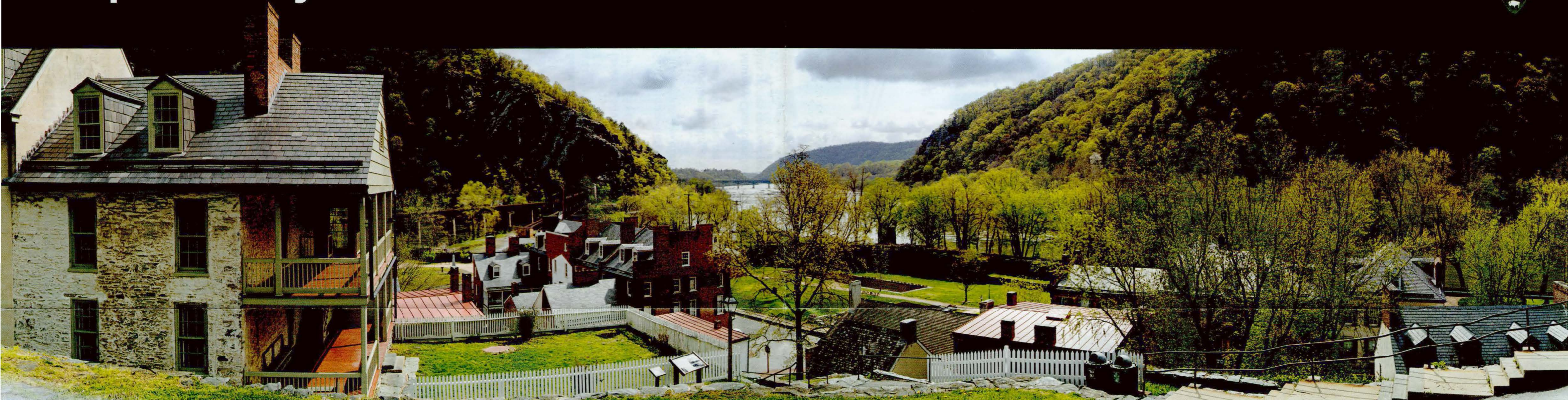


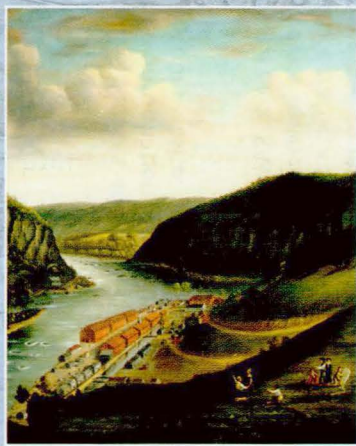
# Harpers Ferry

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
Maryland / Virginia / West Virginia

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



Revolution ☆ Freedom ☆ Civil War ☆ Education ☆ Civil Rights ☆ Revolution ☆ Freedom ☆ Civil War



Here at Harpers Ferry, where the Potomac River cuts through the Blue Ridge, you encounter the past and its stories in magnificent expanses and hidden quarters. In the force of these rushing waters George Washington envisioned military strength and chose Harpers Ferry as the site for a US Army. Factories from the early 1800s witnessed innovations that fueled the Industrial Revolution. Here abolitionist John Brown struck a blow against slavery, and soon the Civil War trapped the town between North and South. In the wake of war's devastation, legendary Civil Rights leaders met at Storer College and claimed "every single right that belongs to a freeborn American."

From **The Point**, where the two rivers meet, you can see the V-shaped water gap. People on the move found their way through this natural corridor—first American Indians, then European settlers. Robert Harper started a ferry across the Potomac here in 1747. By the early 1800s the rivers powered the armory complex and commercial mills. The revolutionary method of manufacturing with interchangeable parts was perfected at the Halls Island rifle factory. See **Industry Museum**, **US Armory site**, and **Virginius and Halls islands**.

In October 1859, determined to arm enslaved people and spark rebellion, John Brown and his followers seized the armory and several other strategic points. The raid failed, with most men killed or captured. Brown's trial and execution focused attention on the issue of slavery and propelled the nation toward civil war. **John Brown's Fort** stands near its original location; nearby is the **John Brown Museum**.



US troops at Bolivar Heights, Schoolhouse Ridge, and the Murphy-Chambers Farm.

John Brown's raid made Harpers Ferry a symbol of freedom. Visit **Black Voices** and **John Brown Museum**. After the war Baptist missionaries founded Storer College to educate students of any race, male or female. Meet alumni like Don Redman and Coralie

Explore wartime Harpers Ferry at **Civil War and 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry** exhibits. Visit the battle sites where Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson forced the war's largest surrender of

Franklin Cook in the **Storer College exhibit** and explore the former **Storer College Campus**. Harpers Ferry also attracted national Civil Rights leaders and organizations. Visit the **Niagara Movement exhibit** and the **Murphy-Chambers Farm**.

Stroll on a level riverside path; climb to a hilltop vista point; join up with the long-distance **Appalachian Trail**, **C&O Canal towpath**, or **Potomac Heritage Trail**. A climb to **Jefferson Rock**, **Loudoun Heights**, or **Maryland Heights** will reward you with vistas of the town and its dramatic natural setting.



**Top:** View toward Lower Town and Potomac River gap, Harper House (town's oldest building) at left. **Left to right:** Armory grounds, late 1820s; John Brown, 1859; New York State militiaman on Camp Hill, 1862; W.E.B. Du Bois, seated, with Niagara Movement leaders at

**Storer College, 1906;** pioneering jazz musician Don Redman, the "little giant of jazz," at his 1920 Storer College graduation.

FROM TOP: HARPERS FERRY-APPS; MARK NURE; 1820S SCENE-MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BROWN AND SOLDIER-LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; DU BOIS ET AL-UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS; NIAGARA MOVEMENT-COURTESY JANE G. CLARK; BELOW FROM LEFT: FERRY AND FLOOD-NPS; UNION TROOPS-NATIONAL ARCHIVES; CAMP AND FUGITIVE-NPS



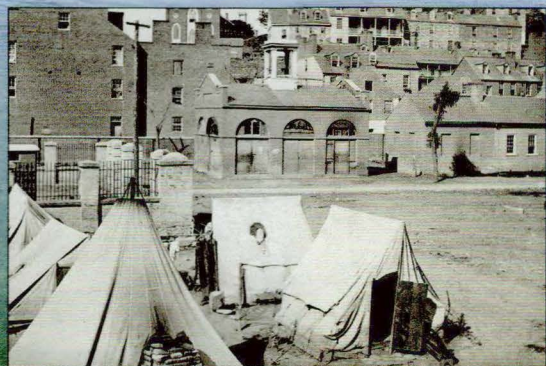
Potomac ferry crossing and US Arsenal, ca. 1803.



Flood damage on Shenandoah Street, 1889.



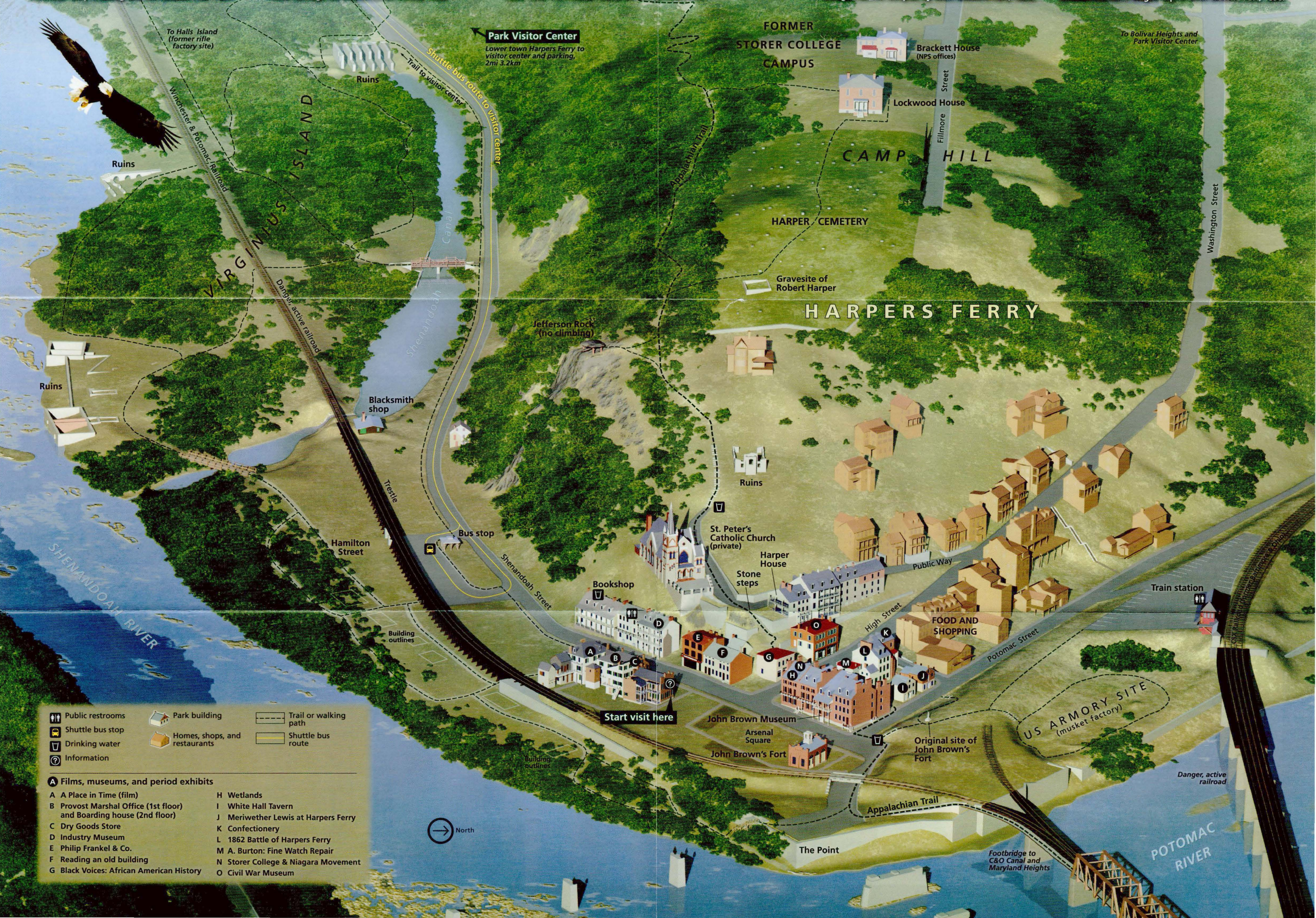
22nd New York State Militia on Camp Hill, 1862.



Refugee slaves camped by John Brown's Fort, 1865.



Colored Women's League trip to John Brown's Fort, 1896.



- Public restrooms** **Shuttle bus stop** **Drinking water** **Information** **Park building** **Homes, shops, and restaurants** **Trail or walking path** **Shuttle bus route**
- A** Films, museums, and period exhibits
- A A Place in Time (film)
  - B Provost Marshal Office (1st floor) and Boarding house (2nd floor)
  - C Dry Goods Store
  - D Industry Museum
  - E Philip Frankel & Co.
  - F Reading in an old building
  - G Black Voices: African American History
  - H Wetlands
  - I White Hall Tavern
  - J Meriwether Lewis at Harpers Ferry
  - K Confectionery
  - L 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry
  - M A. Burton: Fine Watch Repair
  - N Storer College & Niagara Movement
  - O Civil War Museum



Visiting Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

The park is open dawn to dusk every day except Thanksgiving, December 25, and January 1. To visit the Lower Town, park at the visitor center and take the shuttle bus or walking trail. Stop at the visitor center or the Lower Town information center to plan your visit and get site maps of individual park areas and trails. Lower Town buildings are open until 5 pm daily.

EXPLORE THE PARK

**Lower Town** 1800s town, John Brown's Fort, armory site, period shops, films, exhibits, Appalachian Trail, C&O Canal, confluence of Potomac and Shenandoah rivers. Shopping and restaurants nearby. See detailed map on other side.

**Virginius and Halls Islands** Ruins of 1800s industrial complex, scenic views, trails.

**Jefferson Rock** Steep steps and trail to panoramic river view.

**Camp Hill** Harper Cemetery, restored historic buildings, Storer College campus, Curtis Freewill Baptist Church, scenic views, trails.

**Maryland Heights** Panoramic view of Lower Town, Union fortifications, trails.

**Loudoun Heights** Panoramic river views, trails.

**SELF-GUIDING BATTLEFIELD DRIVING TOUR** Exhibit panels at sites give detailed information.

- 1 Bolivar Heights** Site of five Civil War engagements. Panoramic views, trail.
- 2 Lower Bolivar Heights** Site of 1862 skirmish near present-day road. Earthworks, trail.
- 3 Schoolhouse Ridge North** Site of Gen. Stone-wall Jackson's line during 1862 battle. Trail.
- 4 Schoolhouse Ridge South** Site of Confederate flanking maneuver in 1862 battle. Trail.
- 5 Murphy-Chambers Farm** Civil War and civil rights stories came together here. Panoramic views, trails.

**ACCESSIBILITY**  
We strive to make our facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information ask at the visitor center or check our website.

**SAFETY**  
Use caution as you explore the park. Rivers can be swift and dangerous. • Lower Town roads are open to car, bus, and truck traffic. • Some park trails go through rugged backcountry. Be prepared.

**PARK REGULATIONS**  
Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features in the park. • For firearms laws and policies, and for additional park regulations, visit our website.

**MORE INFORMATION**  
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is one of over 400 parks in the National Park System. To learn more about National Park Service programs in America's communities, please visit [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).

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