

harpers ferry center

The National Park Service consolidated its curatorial services and interpretive production facilities at Harpers Ferry Center in 1970. With this move, the Park Service brought together many experts working in separate but related fields so that they could use each other's talents and could coordinate projects for the parks. The focus of

Harpers Ferry Center is the interpretive design building overlooking the Shenandoah River. Its location next to Mather Training Center on the old Storer College campus encourages an exchange of ideas between the staff and rangers who come here from parks around the country to attend special classes.



THE PEOPLE who work at the Harpers Ferry Center include a remarkable variety: historians, naturalists, motion picture producers, photographers, engineers, writers, editors, graphic designers, mapmakers, exhibit designers, museum conservators, sculptors, cabinetmakers, secretaries, bookkeepers, and many others.



We produce films, exhibits, and publications and provide museum curatorial services for the nearly 300 areas of the National Park System. We also maintain the National Park Service Archives, and we design and maintain the audiovisual equipment in the parks. We are responsible for planning and acquiring the furnishings for some 200 historic buildings. In a sense, we are a publishing house, a film studio, an exhibit production firm, and a museum conservation laboratory.



Our clients are park managers and the millions of people who visit the national parks each year. Our products are designed to help visitors use the parks safely and enjoyably and to promote interest in and understanding of the parks.

By working on all of the presentations for a park in this one Center we can coordinate them. A film that a visitor sees in a park must support the exhibits, publications, and other presentations. Each medium is assigned a specific job to complement the others.

THE MAIN BUILDING was designed by Ulrich Franzen Associates specifically for our needs. It was completed in 1970. The three large skylights, a prominent design feature, provide daylight for graphic and exhibit designers on the upper floor. Studios, offices, and shops are located on the other two floors.

VISITORS in organized groups may arrange in advance for guided tours of the building. We regret that we can't offer this service to individuals, family groups, or classes below college level. To request a tour, please write to the Manager, Harpers Ferry Center, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry, WV 25425, or telephone (304) 535-6371.

