



HFC *on* MEDIA

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This new facility identification sign for Horace M. Albright Training Center was installed in January 2007. The sign is the largest component of a package of about 20 new park identity and wayfinding signs fabricated by NPS Servicewide sign program contractor Bunting Graphics. Learn more about these signs on page 5. (NPS Photo by Bob Clark)

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New & Noteworthy

"I absolutely love the video for the upcoming listening sessions for the National Park Service Challenge! They say a picture is worth a thousand words, but your video could be worth two billion dollars to our parks and programs over the next ten years. By inspiring the discussions at our listening sessions, and by fanning the flame of philanthropy, your work can help ensure a bright future for the parks as we mark our first century of service to America. Well done!"

— Mary Bomar, Director, National Park Service

"National Parks Panorama" is a 5½ minute video produced by HFC's Tim Radford and Chuck Dunkerly, with production assistance from Amber Perkins. The video celebrates the National Park idea and presents a multifaceted look at the history, culture, and diversity of the park system, while revealing the American heritage and values we represent and preserve.

The video was produced for the NPS Director's Office and will be used in conjunction with the Centennial Initiative. Beginning in March 2007, Director Bomar will host a series of town hall meetings across the country to meet with community leaders, businesses, conservation groups, service organizations, philanthropic groups, private citizens, etc. to promote the Centennial Initiative and to seek input on "signature projects."

Digital Imaging Project

Harpers Ferry Center's Media Assets workgroup has recently embarked on the "Digital Imaging Project" for the National Park Service Park Museum Management Program. The initial 18-month-long phase is the beginning of a multi-year project which will document cataloged museum collections through the capture of high quality digital images. The project is being funded through the National Parks Pass 30% Program.

Benefits of the project are numerous. The project will provide digital images for a variety of park uses, reduce risks to objects, and increase public access to park collections. The object photos will be associated with catalog records and can be accessed over the Internet to meet the needs of researchers, educators, students, and other public users. Object photos may be available through established Park Service information systems, including NPS Focus and the National



Park Service Web Catalog. Parks can also use the images for their ANCS+ catalog records.

An important component of the Digital Imaging Project is the service Harpers Ferry Center provides to parks. HFC typically provides a photographer and a museum technician who travel to the park and work with the park's curator to take all the necessary object photos. This team brings their own camera equipment, lighting, and object mounts.



The Digital Imaging Project captures photos of objects both large and small. Top: Manassas National Battlefield Park catalog number 184 is a Union eagle breastplate worn on a cartridge box strap or cross belt. Above: Manassas catalog number 873 is a three-inch Confederate rifle made at the Nobel Brothers Foundry in Rome, Georgia. It was captured at Cedar Creek, Virginia on October 10, 1864.

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Send questions and comments to David T. Gilbert either by email at david_t_gilbert@nps.gov or call 304 535 6102.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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If part of a park's collection is housed in a regional repository such as the Western Archeological Center (WAC) or Southeast Archeological Center (SEAC), the HFC team will also schedule photo shoots at those locations. Visits to these regional centers are typically scheduled to include photo shoots of multiple park collections. Depending upon the size of a park's collection, the HFC team may take from as little as a day to as long as a week to complete their photo shoot.

HFC subsequently provides digital asset management for the park's captured project object photos for the duration of the project, following established standards for naming, organizing, color managing, and archiving the images. The system even supports multiple layers within single image files, allowing increased flexibility in how images may be retrieved and displayed. The additional layers might include a watermark or catalog information, for instance.

Digital object photos are provided to parks in two different resolutions on archival gold standard CDs or DVDs—72 dpi and 300 dpi. Seventy-two dpi images are appropriate for use with computer cataloging systems or websites where access is provided through an LCD or CRT computer screen. Three hundred dpi images, on the other hand, are ideal for placement in print publications such as site bulletins, park brochures, collection catalogs, or publications developed and sold by cooperating associations. HFC stores all the original digital images in Camera RAW format and maintains an archival record in TIF format.

There are a few guidelines for objects that can be photographed through the Digital Imaging Project. Parks may submit a list of up to 300 objects. Parks with fewer objects, however, are also encouraged to participate. Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, for instance, has submitted



Above: Digital Imaging Project team member Darryl Herring photographs an object in the EZ Cube while team member James Carey observes. This was one six different photo set-ups used during the Manassas National Battlefield Park shoot, enabling the team to capture all of the images in a consistent manner.

Left: Manassas catalog number 443 is a tin container with lid half full of musket caps. The lid of the tin indicates it contains "250 Water Proof Musket Caps". The object was photographed in the EZ Cube shown above.

just one object—a ledger book comprised of some 300 pages. Other parks have submitted as few as 18-24 individual objects. Your regional curator can assist with your object selection process.

The objects must be owned by the park, must be free of copyright or other use restrictions, and must be catalogued in ANCS+. Object types may be catalogued as archeological, archival, cultural or natural history. Objects subject to NAGPRA (Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act) such as human remains or ceremonial objects cannot be photographed. Objects can be large, small, flat or three-dimensional, and may even be located outdoors.

A sample of the broad range of objects that will be included in the Digital Imaging Project are cultural artifacts from the Civil War at Gettysburg National Military Park and Manassas National Battlefield Park, natural history specimens from Catoctin Mountain Park, and totem poles at Sitka National Historical Park, where the use of boom lifts and other specialized accessories will be required.

This project is open to all parks, but geared specifically toward parks that lack the resources to implement projects of this kind on their own. Targeted are fee collection parks that retain 100% of their park entrance fees and parks that do not collect entrance fees. The 80% fee retention parks can also benefit from these projects through application to the PMIS system.

How does the project work:

- Each park designates a contact person
- The park provides a list of up to 300 objects to be photographed
- The park's list is approved by a designated regional contact—typically the regional curator
- The approved list is forwarded to HFC project coordinator Alice Newton

Harpers Ferry Center will contact the park to schedule a site visit and arrange for an appropriate work area. The park will need to provide catalog cards for all objects being photographed. For more information on the Digital Imaging Project, please contact Alice Newton (phone: 304-535-6717; email: alice_newton@nps.gov).

Top to bottom: Manassas catalog number 2155 is a surgical kit in a polished wooden case with a red velvet lining. The case has two removable trays containing a variety of surgical instruments. Catalog number 22013 is a hand painted floral china dinner plate allegedly acquired by Dr. Isaac Henry while serving on the USS Constellation. It survived the battle of First Manassas at the Henry House. Catalog number 797 is a .31 caliber, six-shot Marston & Knox percussion pepperbox with revolving barrel made in New York in 1854.



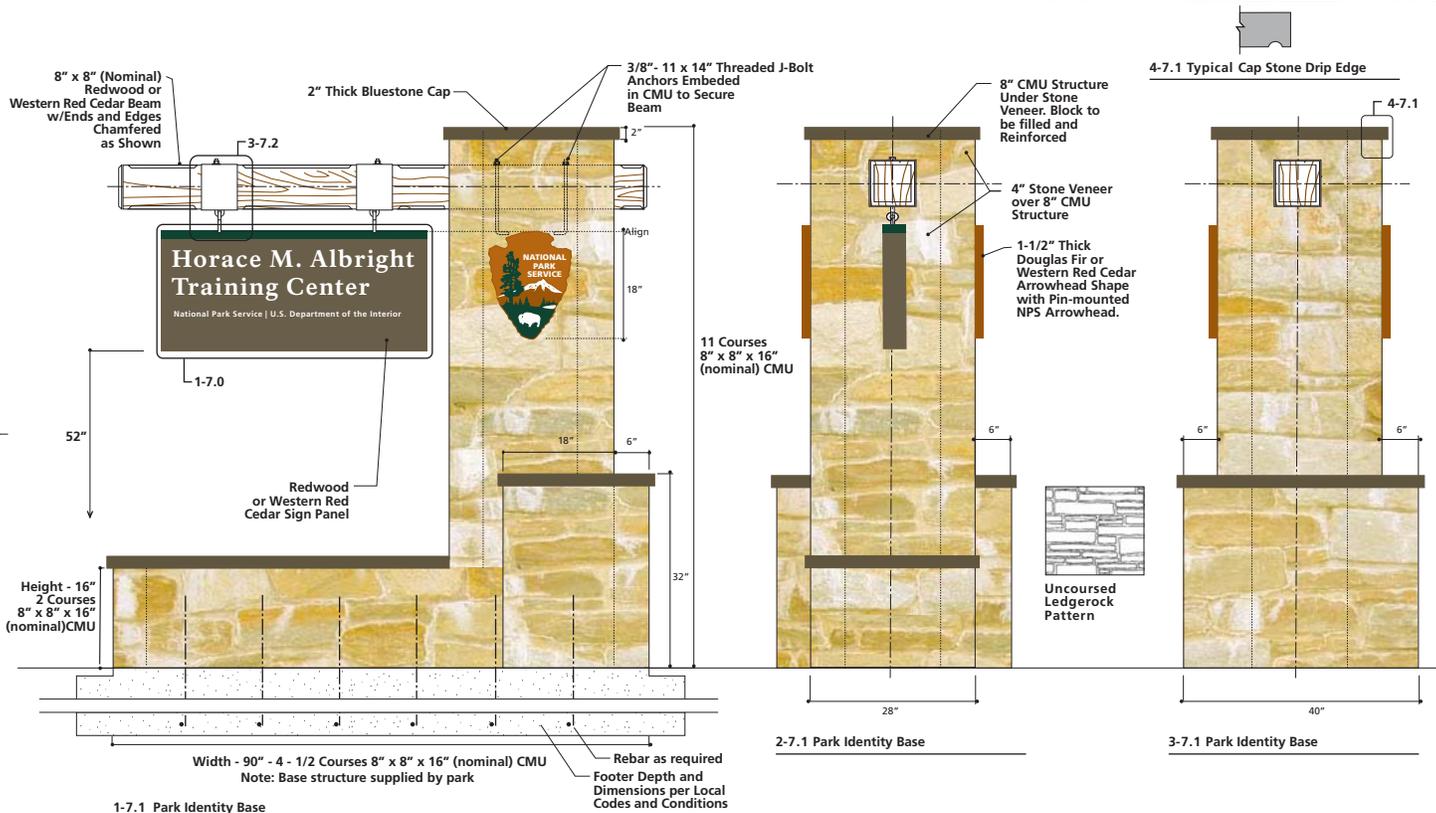
New Signs For Albright Training Center

NPS Sign Program Delivers Park Identity and Wayfinding Signs

Approximately 20 new signs were recently delivered to the Horace M. Albright Training Center at Grand Canyon National Park, including building identification signs, facility identification signs, roadway signs, and site directional signs.

The new signs are the product of a planning process that began in May 2003, when NPS Sign Program Manager Bob Clark attended Fundamentals training at the Grand Canyon. Clark compiled preliminary site notes, took dozens of site photographs, and prepared a comprehensive site diagram.

According to Clark, effective park signs are most often the result of a broad, deliberate, and well-documented sign communication strategy, not a piecemeal sign-by-sign acquisition approach. Successful park sign planning looks at the needs of an entire park—or a selected area within a park—and allows signs to be designed, specified, and purchased in a logical, coordinated manner.



After an extensive review process and multiple revisions, the final version of “Park Identity & Wayfinding Signs” for the Horace M. Albright Training Center was completed on April 7, 2006. This comprehensive sign plan included the detailed drawings and other specifications needed to acquire the individual signs. The sign plan will also greatly assist Albright Training Center in accounting for signs after they are purchased and in maintaining them over time.

The crown jewel of the new signs is the site identification entrance sign (*see photo and drawing on previous page*). The new sign is comprised of a custom uncoursed ledgerrock pattern stone structure topped with a two-inch thick bluestone cap. An 8-inch by 8-inch wood beam, which extends from the stone structure, supports

the western red cedar routed, two-sided sign panel. The base for the new entrance sign was completed in January 2007. Harpers Ferry Center coordinated the work through Servicewide sign program contractor Bunting Graphics. The balance of the training center’s new signs will be installed by Park Service personnel later this Spring.

If you wish to develop a sign plan for your park, begin by contacting NPS Sign Program Manager Bob Clark (phone: 304-535-5022; email: Robert_H_Clark@nps.gov). Bob will describe the various options for creating this important document and help develop a strategy that matches your needs.

Below: Facility and building identification signs for Horace M. Albright Training Center.



Retirees

Tom DuRant

Harpers Ferry Center Photo Archivist Tom DuRant has retired after 35 years of federal service, including 26 years with the National Park Service. DuRant came to the NPS from the Navy Historical Center at the Washington Navy Yard in 1980, joining the Branch of Graphics Research in Springfield, Virginia. In 1989, the Springfield office closed and was moved to Harpers Ferry Center, becoming the Office of Graphics Research. DuRant moved much of the office’s photograph collection to Harpers Ferry himself.

As photo archivist, DuRant conducted extensive graphics research for the interpretive media products developed at Harpers Ferry Center. He was known for his comprehensive knowledge of the NPS photo collection, and for his ability to find just the right photos for use in HFC’s media products. His trips to the National Archives, Library of Congress, and other repositories uncovered rare and unique images of national parks that have been added to the NPS photo collection. More importantly, DuRant was able to use his broad network of NPS contacts to identify places and people in hundreds of these photos.

Asked to recall some highlights of his career, DuRant remembers finding 1928 photos of Stephen Mather at Pipe Spring National Monument that the park had never seen before. Says DuRant, “The park was surprised and extremely gratified. These photos helped document the names and faces of key people who helped save and preserve Pipe Spring.” He also takes pride in a collection of slides he pulled together for the 75th Anniversary of the National Park Service in 1991.

Just one week before DuRant’s retirement, photo researchers from Florentine Films traveled to Harpers Ferry Center to cull through dozens of NPS photo for the upcoming Ken Burns

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HFC Revises Accessibility Guidelines

Document provides comprehensive guidelines for media

How the National Park Service provides programmatic access in its interpretive efforts to communicate with people with disabilities is a challenging and complex topic. Harpers Ferry Center is helping to address this challenge with the completely revised *Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for NPS Interpretive Media*. The new guidelines will be available in March 2007.

The 60-plus-page document, formally called *Special Populations: Programmatic Accessibility Guidelines for Interpretive Media*, is written for media specialists, interpreters, rangers, superintendents, and other National Park Service employees and contractors who approve or develop interpretive media. The new document provides guidance about how to apply guidelines and best practices in accessibility Servicewide. Audiovisual programs, audio tours, exhibits, publications, and web-based media are all discussed in the new guidelines. The document also briefly discusses key areas of concern, with practical information organized by media product type for ease of use.

The new accessibility guidelines include:

- highlights of the new Americans with Disabilities Act and Architectural Barriers Act Accessibility Guidelines (ABAAS), which the NPS is required to abide by. ABAAS takes the place of the Uniform Federal Accessibility Standards (UFAS).
- new chapters on the laws, regulations, and policies that govern accessibility in interpretive media.
- useful links to laws and best practices in accessible media.

- park and Harpers Ferry Center accountability for accessible media.
- the latest pictographs and links for pictograph downloads.
- how to plan and scope for accessibility.
- accessibility for web-based media.
- updates on new technology.
- how to prepare a report or document so that computers can read the text content aloud.
- how parks can get the word out about their accessible sites and programs.
- lots of diagrams to help NPS employees and contractors understand the specifications.

Successful interpretive programmatic accessibility begins with comprehensive parkwide interpretive planning so that all media can work together. Where one medium may not be accessible to all persons, other media can fill the gaps. Early recognition of, and sensitivity to, accessibility issues will result in the most successful visitor experience.

Copies of the guidelines will be available in Acrobat PDF format on the Harpers Ferry Center website at www.nps.gov/hfc.

NPS policy is to “provide the highest level of accessibility possible and feasible for persons with visual, hearing, mobility, and mental impairments, consistent with the obligation to conserve park resources and preserve the quality of the park experience for everyone.”

—NPS Special Directive 83-3, *Accessibility for Disabled Persons*

Continued from previous page

film documentary, “America’s Best Idea: Our National Parks.” This was their sixth visit to HFC. According to Mike Hill, photo researcher for Florentine, “Tom has been invaluable in finding and identifying important photographs for us. I can’t tell you just how grateful we are for all the help Tom has provided.”

Jerome A. Green

Jerry Greene, Historian and Historic Furnishings Curator with the Denver Service Center and Harpers Ferry Center, retired on March 2, 2007 after 38 years of government service. Jerry began his career with the National Park Service in 1968 as seasonal Ranger-Historian at Custer Battlefield National Monument. His first permanent position was with Denver Service Center in 1973. During his career Jerry served as Historian, Senior Historian, Chief of the Eastern Team Cultural Resources Section, and HFC Historic Furnishings Staff Curator from 1998-2007.

Jerry authored dozens of NPS plans, studies, and reports, and is widely recognized throughout the Service and beyond for his research skills, writing, and expertise in trans-Mississippi west history and the Indian War era. Jerry has authored many historical articles and books with a special concentration on the Indian Wars of the trans-Mississippi West between 1860-1891. Two of his award-winning books include *Nez Perce Summer, 1877: The U.S. Army and the Nee-Me-Poo Crisis*, and *Morning Star Dawn: The Powder River Expedition and the Northern Cheyennes, 1876*.

One of the highlights of Jerry’s NPS career was his key role on an interdisciplinary team that, through research and field investigation, determined the exact site of the November 29, 1864 Sand Creek Massacre in Kiowa County, Colorado. This effort led directly to the 2000 legislation signed by President Clinton that established Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.