

## NPS CLEARINGHOUSE

### FUNCTIONAL STATEMENT

Universally museums and other repositories of Cultural Resources share a common problem. As collections are assembled and refined extraneous materials either inappropriate to the collections or totally worthless are accumulated. The disposition of these extraneous materials has long been a topic of discussion and concern.

The National Park Service recognizes this universal problem and has taken positive steps to eradicate the problem. The National Park Service Clearinghouse as a function of the Division of Museum Services, Harpers Ferry Center, has as its basic purpose the responsibility to secure the most effective distribution of artifacts within NPS.

The Clearinghouse serves as a limited and administrative central repository for artifacts which have been determined excess to the needs of parks. By interaction with Harpers Ferry Center's Division of Reference Services and Division of Exhibits; Regional Curators and individual parks, the Clearinghouse acquires artifacts through transfers, exchanges, purchases, or donations. These acquired artifacts are then used to fulfill new exhibit requirements, upgrade existing exhibits, complete furnishing plans and help parks upgrade and refine collections within their respective scope of collections statements. Procedures are being formulated which will allow artifacts which are not needed by the National Park Service to be transferred or exchanged with other Federal museums, state, county or small community museums, or dealers.

The NPS Clearinghouse function will save time and money currently expended by parks to care for cultural materials the park neither needs or wants.