The ornate and lavish Fordyce Bathhouse was designed by architects George R. Mann and Eugene John Stern of Little Rock in the Spanish Renaissance Revival style for Samuel W. Fordyce who built the bathhouse as a testimonial to the healing waters to which he believed he owed his life. Intended to be the finest bathing establishment on Bathhouse Row, the Fordyce opened to the public with great fanfare on March 1, 1915 and served the hot springs baths to visitors from around the world until its closure on June 30, 1962. The bathhouse was entered on the National Register of Historic Places on November 13, 1974, and was subsequently designated a National Historic Landmark on May 28, 1987, along with all the other bathhouses on Bathhouse Row.

Today, the Fordyce Bathhouse is being reopened for everyone to enjoy as Hot Springs National Park's Visitor Center.
National Anthem: U.S. Navy Band, Memphis
Chief Warrant Officer Lou Berner, Director

Welcome: Roger Giddings, Superintendent
Hot Springs National Park

Master of Ceremonies: John Cook, Regional Director,
National Park Service, Southwest Region

Invocation: Rev. Royall A. Yount, Jr.,
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Special Remarks: Bill Clinton, Governor
State of Arkansas

Special Remarks: Dale Bumpers
U. S. Senator

Special Remarks: David Pryor
U. S. Senator

Special Remarks: Beryl Anthony, Jr.
U. S. Congressman
Arkansas, 4th District

Recognition of Special Guests: John Cook, Regional Director,
National Park Service, Southwest Region
Melinda Baran, Mayor, City of Hot Springs
Clay Farrar, Jr., Chairman, Governor’s
Advisory Commission on Hot Springs National Park
Mrs. John R. Fordyce, Jr., Representing
the Samuel W. Fordyce family
John Reynolds, Manager, National Park Service, Denver Service Center
Ruth Smith, President, Friends of the Fordyce
David G. Wright, Manager, National Park Service, Harpers Ferry Center

Address: James Ridenour, Director
National Park Service

Benediction: Second Baptist Church Choir
Rev. Keith Clutts, Director

Closing: Roger Giddings, Superintendent
Hot Springs National Park

Ribbon Cutting

Open House: Until 9:00 p.m.
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."