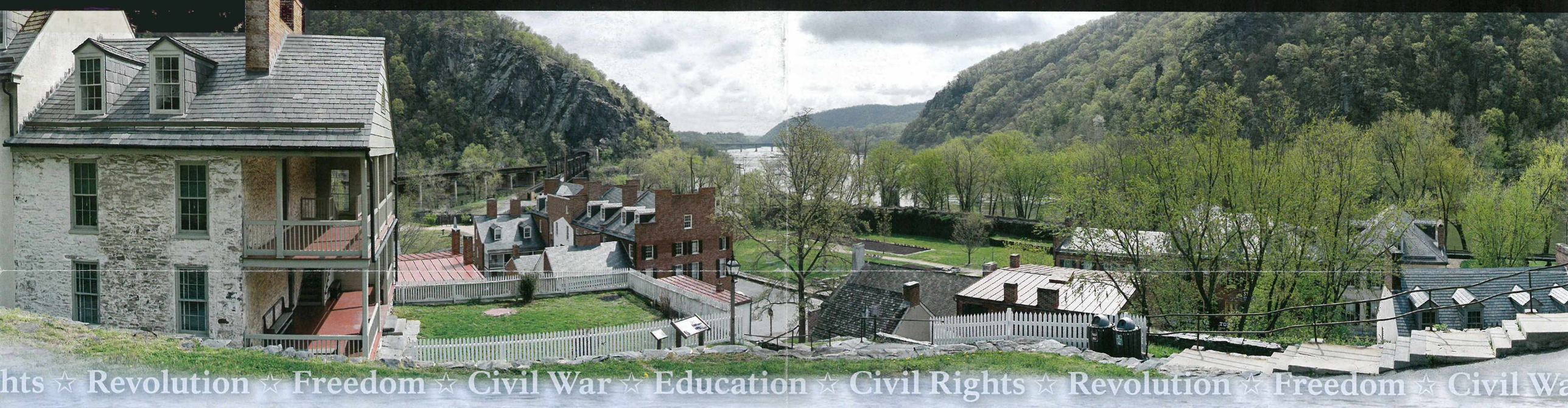
Harpers Ferry

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park
Maryland / Virginia / West Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



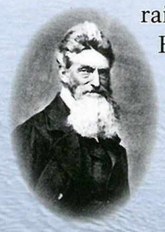
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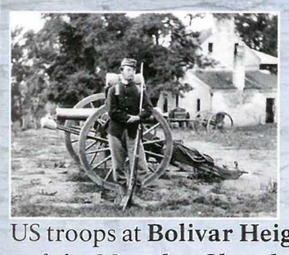


Here at Harpers Ferry, where the Potomac River cuts through the Blue Ridge, you encounter the past and its stories in magnificent expanses and hidden quarters. In the force of these rushing waters George Washington envisioned military strength and chose Harpers Ferry as the site for a US Armory. Factories 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 frontier folk. 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**.

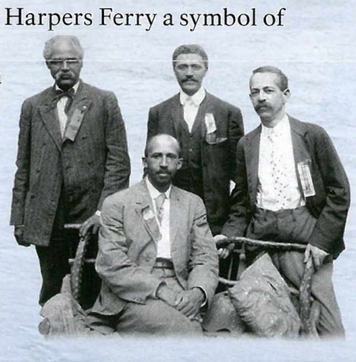
In October 1859, determined to arm enslaved people and spark rebellion, John Brown and his followers seized the armory and several other strategic points. The raid failed, with most men killed or captured. Brown's trial and execution focused attention on the issue of slavery and propelled the nation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





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 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 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.**

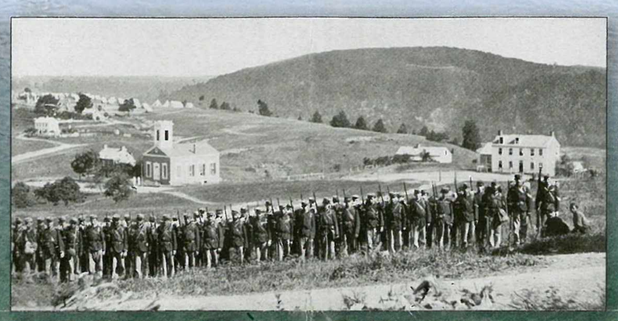
FROM TOP: HARPERS FERRY–NPS / MARK MUSE: 1820S SCENE–MARYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BROWN AND SOLDIER–LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; DU BOIS ET AL–UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST; REDMAN–COURTESY JANE O. CLARK. ***BELOW FROM LEFT:*** FERRY AND FLOOD–NPS; UNION TROOPS–NATIONAL ARCHIVES; CAMP AND PILGRIMAGE–NPS



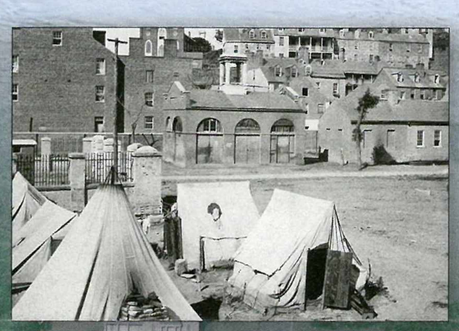
Potomac ferry crossing and US Arsenal , ca. 1803.



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.



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. Stonewall 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.

Harpers Ferry
National Historical Park
PO Box 65
Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
304-535-6029
www.nps.gov/harpersferry
Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.

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To Kennedy Farm
636ft 194m
Fort Duncan site
0.4mi 0.7km
Pleasantville Road
Harpers Ferry Road
Baketon Road
C&O Canal Towpath
Elks Run
CSX Railroad (Baltimore & Ohio)
Rotomac Street
Dam 3 ruins
POTOMAC RIVER
The Needles
Gate
Lock 34
Hoffmaster Road
MARYLAND
BLUE RIDGE
Breastworks
Stone Fort overlook 1453ft 443m
1.2mi 1.8km
100-Pounder Battery overlook 1388ft 423m
1.1mi 1.8km
0.8mi 1.2km
Stone Fort Trail
Naval Battery overlook 679ft 207m
1181ft 360m
30-Pounder battery
0.2mi 0.4km
Overlook Cliff Trail
295ft 90m
MARYLAND HEIGHTS
PLEASANT VALLEY
To Frederick
To Sandy Hook Road
Three National Park System areas use this trail section: Appalachian National Scenic Trail, Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, and Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail.
Sandy Hook Road
To Weverton Cliffs 2.5 mi 4.0 km
0.5mi 0.7km
627ft 191m
Overlook Cliff
Harpers Ferry Road
Railroad Tunnel
Train station
Lock 33
Lock 32
256ft 78m
THE POINT
John Brown's Fort
Lower Town
Parking at visitor center, 2 miles
White Horse Rapids
POTOMAC RIVER
Waterfall
Potoma wayside
340
Overlook 607ft 185m
Piney Run
Harpers Ferry Road
671
LOUDOUN HEIGHTS
850ft 259m
Overlook
1.0mi 1.6km
Loudoun Heights Trail
0.7mi 1.1km
0.5mi 0.9km
Chestnut Hill Road
32
0.9mi 1.4km
0.2mi 0.4km
1129ft 344m
WEST VIRGINIA
VIRGINIA
BLUE RIDGE
LOUDOUN VALLEY
Appalachian Trail
Pinney Run
To Leesburg and Blue Ridge Center for Environmental Stewardship
Post Office
ATM
Appalachian Trail Visitor Center
Overlook 499ft 152m
Gazebo
Washington Street
Gate
Fillmore Street
Mather Training Center (former Storer College)
Lockwood House
Harper Cemetery
High St
Church St
Shenandoah Street
Jefferson Rock
Shuttle stop
Appalachian Trail
HALLS ISLAND
VIRGINIUS ISLAND
Staircase Rapids
Shoreline Drive
Shuttle Route
SHENANDOAH RIVER
Entrance Rapids
Bull Falls
Old Furnace Road
Prospect Avenue
Union Street
Whitman Avenue
BOLIVAR
Bolivar Community Park
HARPERS FERRY
BOLIVAR HEIGHTS
Overlook 623ft 190m
Jefferson County Visitor Center
Traffic light
Campground Rd
Murphy Rd
Murphy-Chambers Farm Trail
Visitor Center Park entrance
505ft 154m
1.6mi 2.6km
Trail to Lower Town
Private campground
Dangerous intersection. Do not cross US 340 here.
To WV 230, Charles Town, and Shepherdstown
WEST VIRGINIA
MURPHY-CHAMBERS FARM
Murphy House
Overlook
0.6mi 1.0km
0.2mi 0.4km
Combined loops 1.1mi 1.8km
Earthworks
John Brown Fort foundation
Overlook 502ft 153m
Winchester & Potomac Railroad
Millville Road
Flowing Springs
Allstadt ruins
397ft 121m
SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE NORTH
SCHOOLHOUSE RIDGE SOUTH
Baketon Road
27
374ft 114m
Lower loop 1.1mi 1.7km
Upper loop 1.3mi 2.1km
Loop 0.3mi 0.5km
0.8mi 1.3km
Loop 0.9mi 1.5km
0.8mi 1.4km
Old Standard Quarry

North
0 0.25 0.5 Kilometer
0 0.25 0.5 Mile

NPS land
Hiking trail
Distance indicator
0.8mi 1.3km
Shuttle stop
Parking
Restrooms
Information
Picnic area
Restaurant

1859 1860 1861 1862 1863 1864 1865 1866
John Brown's Raid
Battle of Harpers Ferry
Battle of South Mountain
Battle of Antietam
Lincoln elected president
South Carolina secedes
Lincoln takes office
Arsenal Burned
Battle of Bolivar Heights
Emancipation Proclamation
West Virginia becomes US state
Battle of Gettysburg
Battle of Monocacy
Sheridan's Valley Campaign
Civil War ends
Lincoln assassinated

1740 1760 1780 1800 1820 1840 1860 1880 1900 1920 1940 1960 1980 2000
Evidence of first human occupation here 10,000 years ago
1747 Robert Harper begins ferry service across Potomac
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR
1783 Thomas Jefferson visits
AMERICAN REVOLUTION
1796 George Washington proposes federal armory site
1799 Armory construction begins; armory is soon producing small arms
1803 Meriwether Lewis buys arms for expedition
WAR OF 1812
1823 John Hall's rifle works makes breech-loading rifle
1833–34 C&O Canal, B&O Railroad reach Harpers Ferry
MEXICAN WAR
1848 Cotton factory opens on Virginius Island
CIVIL WAR
1867 Storer College opens
1870 Flood kills 42, destroys mills and homes
1894 Maryland Heights railroad tunnel completed
1896 Colored Women's League pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort
1906 Niagara Movement holds first public meeting at Storer College
WORLD WAR I
1925 Potomac hydroelectric plant built on paper mill flumes
1936 Record flood 36.5 feet
GREAT DEPRESSION
WORLD WAR II
1944 Harpers Ferry National Monument established
1955 Storer College closes
1963 Harpers Ferry National Historical Park established
1991 Hydroelectric plant closes, ends Harpers Ferry water powered industry