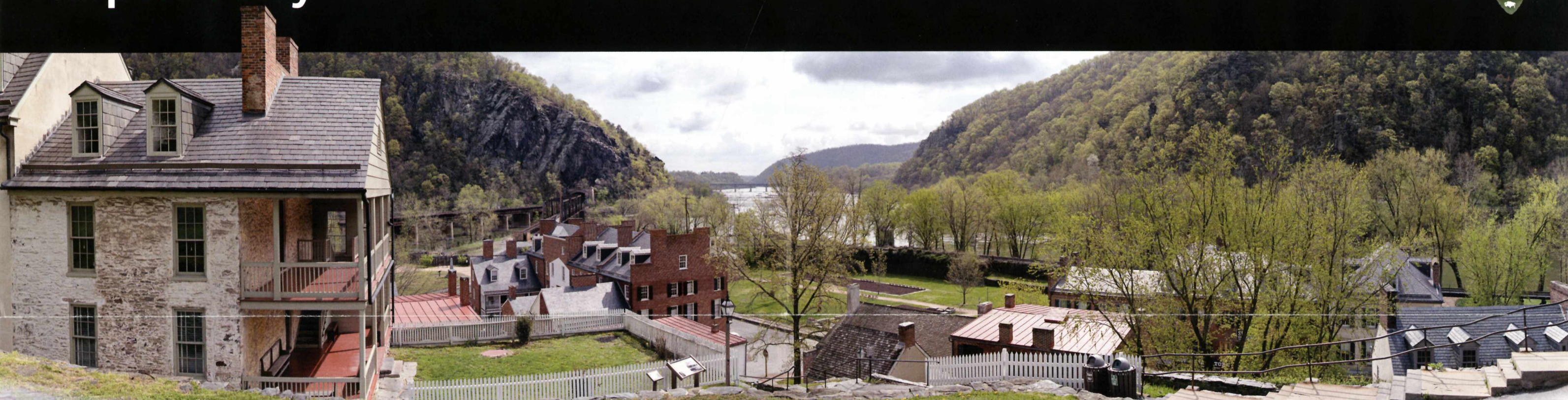




Revolution ☆ Freedom ☆ Civil War ☆ Education ☆ Civil Rights ☆ Revolution ☆ Freedom ☆ Civil War



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 an 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."



Potomac ferry crossing and US Arsenal, about 1803



22nd New York State Militia on Camp Hill, 1862



Freedom seekers' tents near John Brown's Fort, 1865



Flood damage on Shenandoah Street, 1889



Colored Women's League at John Brown's Fort, 1896

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 Indigenous people, then European settlers. 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 Hall Island rifle factory. Visit the **Industry Museum**, **US Armory site**, and **Virginius and Hall 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**.



US troops at Bolivar Heights, School House Ridge, and the Murphy-Chambers Farm.

John Brown's raid made Harpers Ferry a symbol of freedom. Visit **Black Voices** and the **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

Explore wartime Harpers Ferry at the **Civil War and 1862 Battle of Harpers Ferry** exhibits. Visit battle sites where Gen. Thomas J. "Stonewall" Jackson forced the war's largest surrender of



Coralie Franklin Cook in the **Storer College** exhibit. Explore the former **Storer College Campus**. Harpers Ferry also attracted national civil rights leaders and organizations. Visit the **Niagara Movement** exhibit and **Murphy-Chambers Farm**.

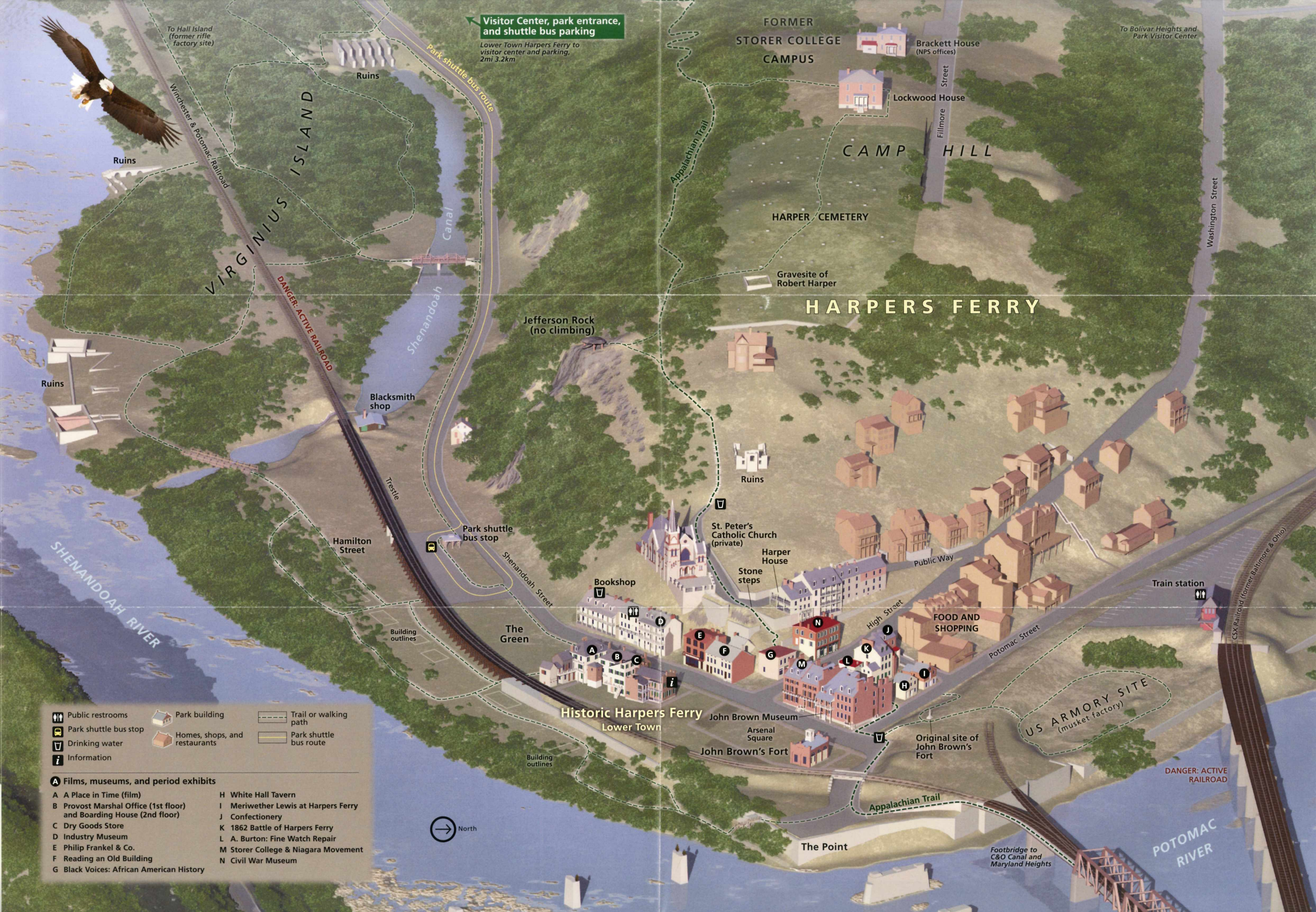
Stroll on a level riverside path; climb to a hilltop vista point; or join up with the long-distance **Appalachian Trail**, **C&O Canal towpath**, or **Potomac Heritage Trail**. A climb to **Jefferson Rock**, **Loudoun Heights**, or **Maryland Heights** will reward you with vistas of the town and its dramatic natural setting.



Top: View of historic Harpers Ferry and the Potomac River gap; Harper House, the town's oldest building, is at left. **Left to right:** Armory grounds, late 1820s; John Brown, 1859; a New York State militiaman on Camp Hill, 1862; W.E.B. Du Bois, seated, with Niagara Movement

leaders, Storer College, 1906; pioneering musician Don Redman, the "little giant of jazz," at his 1920 Storer College graduation.

ALL IMAGES—UNLESS OTHERWISE CREDITED—HARPERS FERRY—NPS; HARPERS FERRY 1859—JANUARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY; BROWN SOLDIER—LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; DU BOIS—UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS; HARPERS FERRY—COURTESY JANE O. CUMM; CAMP HILL—NATIONAL ARCHIVES



Visiting Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

The park is open dawn to dusk daily except Thanksgiving Day, December 25, and January 1. Buildings are open 9 am to 5 pm. To visit historic Harpers Ferry, park at the visitor center and take the park shuttle bus or walking trail. Stop at the visitor center or the historic town's information center to plan your visit and get site maps of individual park areas and trails.

EXPLORE THE PARK

Historic 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.

Virginus and Hall 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 Harpers Ferry, 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 School House Ridge North** Site of Stonewall Jackson's line during 1862 battle. Trail.
- 4 School House 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 facilities, services, and programs accessible to all. For information ask at the visitor center or check the website.

SAFETY
Use caution as you explore the park. • Rivers can be swift and dangerous. • Park roads are open to car, bus, and truck traffic. • Railroads are active. • Some trails go through rugged backcountry. Be prepared.

REGULATIONS
Federal laws protect all natural and cultural features in the park. • For park and firearms regulations check the park website.

MORE INFORMATION
Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is one of over 425 parks in the National Park System. To learn more, visit www.nps.gov.

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Harpers Ferry, WV 25425
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National Park Foundation
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www.nationalparks.org

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