

HOT SPRINGS NATIONAL PARK

GRAND OPENING  
DEDICATION

FORDYCE BATHHOUSE VISITOR CENTER

May 13, 1989



THE FORDYCE BATHHOUSE

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# THE FORDYCE BATHHOUSE

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.

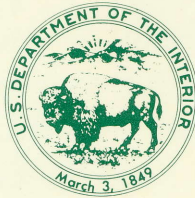
Today, the Fordyce Bathhouse is being reopened for everyone to enjoy as Hot Springs National Park's Visitor Center.

# PROGRAM

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."

