

Harpers Ferry  
National Historical  
Park (VA, WV)

**Fiscal Year:**  
2009

**Acreage:**  
65.84

**Estimated Price  
to National Park  
Service:**  
\$7,150,000

**Natural  
Resources:**

Jefferson Rock,  
Potomac and  
Shenandoah  
Rivers, eastern  
deciduous forest,  
peregrine  
falcon, bald  
eagle, section of  
Appalachian Trail

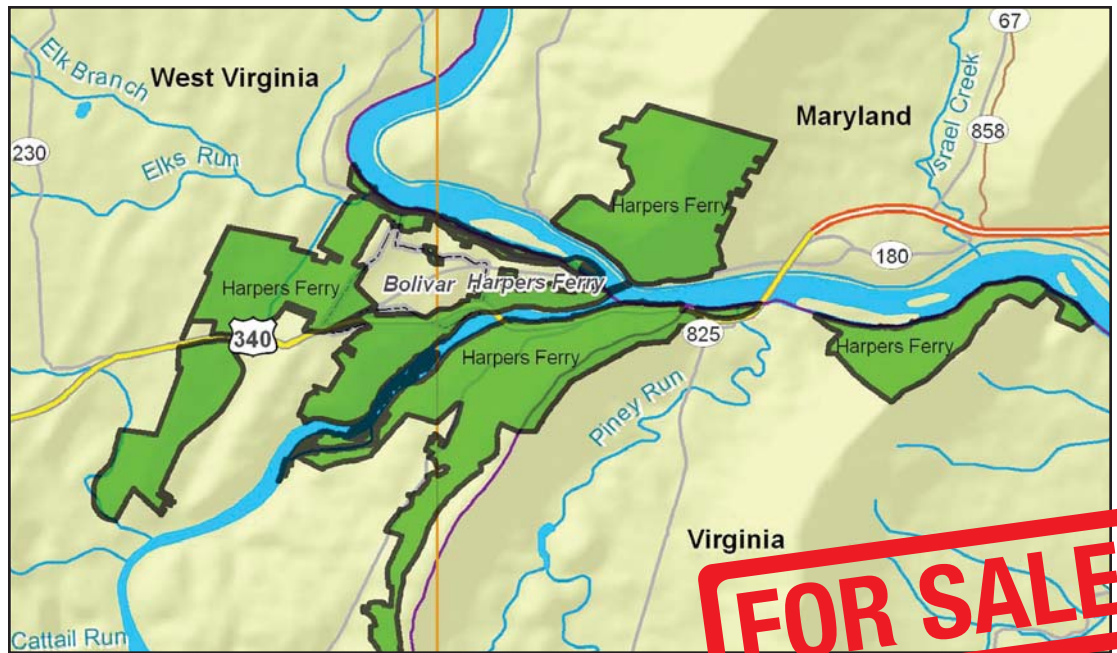
**Cultural  
Resources:**

Historic  
downtown, Civil  
War battlefields,  
site of John  
Brown's raid and  
early meetings  
of civil rights  
movement,  
adjacent to  
C&O Canal

**Programmatic  
Significance:**

Education,  
scenic viewshed  
protection,  
wildlife habitat  
preservation, public  
recreation access

# Harpers Ferry National Historical Park (VA, WV)



Located at the confluence of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, Harpers Ferry witnessed the first successful application of interchangeable manufacture, the arrival of the first successful American railroad, John Brown's attack on slavery, the largest surrender of Federal troops during the Civil War, and the education of formerly enslaved people in one of the earliest integrated schools in the United States.

In order to protect and interpret these remarkable chapters from our American heritage, Harpers Ferry was designated a national monument in 1944 and a national historical park in 1963. Every year more than 250,000 visitors come to Harpers Ferry to explore America's rich cultural heritage and enjoy the picturesque landscape. Visitors stroll back in time while visiting the historic downtown and the surrounding battlefields, and walk in the footsteps of people who made history.

The ability of visitors to enjoy this crossroads of history and the Blue Ridge foothills depends heavily on the preservation of the essential Harpers Ferry landscape, which remains threatened. Key parcels adjacent to and inside of the Harpers Ferry region have been proposed for large-scale development. Through the efforts of a broad coalition and the

actions of neighboring communities, several potentially damaging developments have been averted. However, to tell the full stories of these historic events, key lands in and around Harpers Ferry National Historical Park need to be protected and managed.

To this end, NPCA seeks \$7 million to allow the National Park Service to acquire 65.84 acres. Lands available for acquisition include an essential piece of the view in town from "Jefferson's rock," where an awestruck Thomas Jefferson stood in 1783 and stated "this scene is worth a voyage across the Atlantic." Other parcels are essential to preserving historic views across Bolivar Heights and School House Ridge, the respective Union and Confederate battle lines. These tracts also would help enhance trail corridor protection and connections, river access, Civil War history, and/or opportunities for interpretation.