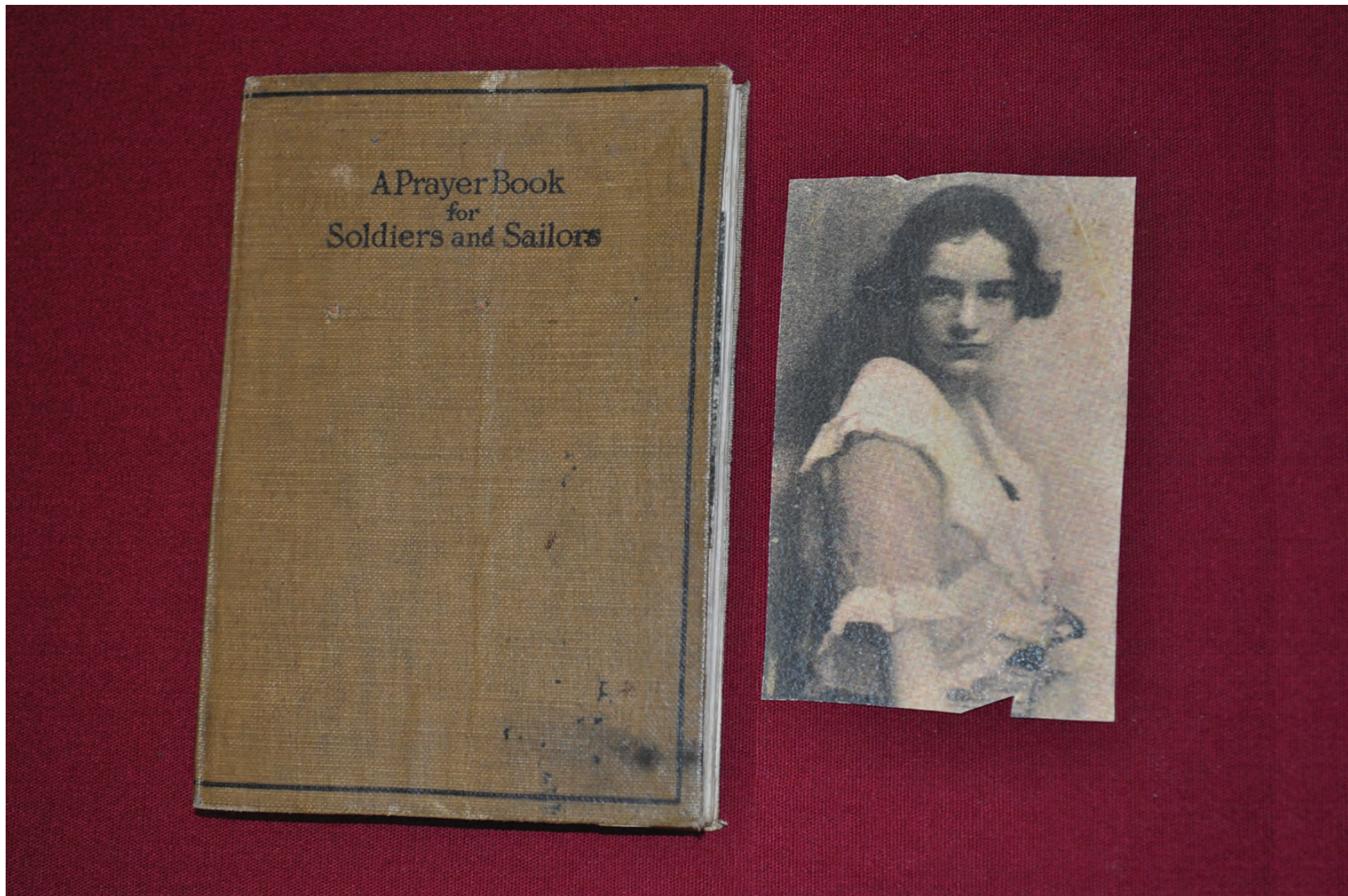


The National Park Service is responsible for over 150 million objects, documents, and artifacts in its museum collections scattered across more than 400 national parks. There are extraordinary objects and documents as well as many humble, ordinary artifacts that equally valuable because of their survival and association with nationally significant resources, people, and events. Some examples illustrating the variety of national park collections: (clockwise from upper left) Token from Magnolia Plantation Store, Cane River Creole National Historical Park (Louisiana); Oglala Lakota child's shirt with beadwork, Agate Fossil Beds National Monument (Nebraska); Derringer used by John Wilkes Booth to assassinate President Lincoln, Ford's Theatre National Historic Site (Washington, D.C.); Specimen of ornate shrew, Point Reyes National Seashore (California); Fossil of extinct baenid turtle, Fossil Butte National Monument (Wyoming).





Some of items are especially poignant. Theodore Roosevelt's son, Quentin, carried this prayer book and photo of his fiancée with him when he went off to fight in World War I. But he never came home; he was killed in aerial combat. They are part of the museum collections of Sagamore Hill National Historic Site (New York).





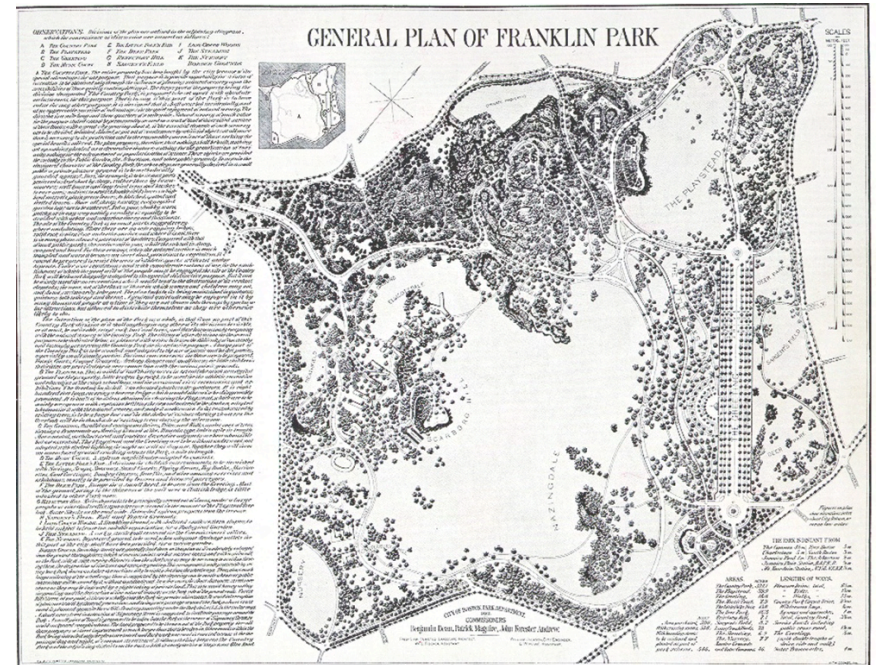
At Morristown National Historical Park (New Jersey), which has one of the most important collections of objects related to George Washington and the American Revolution, you can see historic buildings such as Wick House — and the suit Washington wore the day he took the oath of office in 1789 as the first president of the United States.



Irreplaceable artwork is under Park Service care. Here is a detail from the Gettysburg Cyclorama by Paul Dominique Philippoteaux, Gettysburg National Military Park (Pennsylvania).



4 U.S. Marshal Boles, Dr. H. Stone & Co. Dr.		U.S. Marshal Boles, Dr. H. Stone & Co. Dr.	
1883	Jan 17 (1) One pound thread	\$ 1 50	
	" 26 (1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
	" 29 (2) Two White Wash Brushes @ 75¢ each	1 50	
	" 29 (40) Forty pounds Salt @ 1 1/2¢ per lb	60	
July 33	(1) One Boy Soap	4 50	
March 10	(1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
" 16	(1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
" 17	(1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
" 30	(1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
" 30	(1) " Boy Soap	4 50	
Jan 31	1 lb. Salt	2 00	
Dresses made out of Putnam		\$ 26 85	
Again April 7/83... Paid			
April 30	1 Boy Soap	4 50	
" 24	4 Wash Boards @ 35¢ each	1 40	
" 30	1 lb. Salt	2 00	
May 3	1 " "	2 00	
" 7	2 Dig. Overalls @ 1 1/2\$ per pair	2 40	
" 11	3 " Drawers 50¢ "	1 50	
" 11	3 " " " @ 1 1/2\$ each	3 60	
" 11	1 " " " @ 1 1/2\$ per pair	1 50	
Jan 11	45 Yds Crank @ 5¢ per yd	2 25	
" 12	4 Course Combs @ 25¢ each	00 90	
" 12	2 " " " @ 15¢ "	30	
" 18	(1) lb. Salt	2 00	
Dresses made out of Putnam		\$ 117 10	
July 3/83.			
1883	July 11 1 Boy Soap	4 50	
" 18	2 Wash Boards	4 50	
" 19	110 Yds Domestic @ 8¢ per yard	8 80	
August 9	1 lb. Thread Blank	4 10	
" 15	1 Boy Soap	5 00	
Sept 4	25 Yds Crank @ 10¢ per yard	2 50	
" 14	1 Boy Soap	4 50	31 50
" 18	2 Wash Boards	2 50	
Oct 17	2 Cedar Buckets @ 1 1/2\$ each	3 00	
" 11	100 Yds Hoop Buckets @ 25¢ "	1 00	
" 11	1 Boy Soap	4 50	
" 23	1 lb. Salt	2 00	
" 25	3 Pair Shoes	8 75	
Nov 5	1 Dig. Overalls	3 50	
" 11	25 Yds Crank	2 50	
" 23	1 Boy Soap	4 50	31 50
" 18	18 Pair cutballs @ 1 per pair	18 00	
" 18	18 " " " @ 50¢ "	9 00	
" 24	34 " " " @ 1 1/2\$ "	30 00	
" 24	1/2 Yd. Shute @ 50¢ each	12 50	
" 12	12 Pair Blankets @ 4 per pair	48 00	
Dec 31	1 Boy Soap	4 50	
" 27	2 Wash Boards	5 00	50 00
Total		\$ 77 50	
Dresses made out of Putnam			
Again Jan 4/84 Paid Jan 18/84			



Historic documents are an important part of national park collections: (left) Pages from U.S. Marshal Thomas Boles' Record Book, ca. 1880s, Fort Smith National Historic Site (Arkansas, Oklahoma); (right) Original 1885 drawing of plan for Boston's Franklin Park, Frederick Law Olmsted National Historic Site, (Massachusetts).





Twelve million immigrants passed through Ellis Island, part of Statue of Liberty National Monument (New York / New Jersey), between 1892 and 1954. Exhibits of photographs and objects tell the story of those immigrants—their hopes for the future as well as the culture and traditions they brought to American shores. Pictured here: the Great Hall at Ellis Island.





Nez Perce National Historical Park (Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington) preserves the tribal culture of this Native nation. (left) A horse model in the Spalding Visitor Center displays examples of Nez Perce artistry; (right) A park employee pins together a historic buffalo-hide tipi.





Large numbers of Park Service museum objects are on display in visitor centers, many of which have a museum/exhibit space such as this one at Cape Cod National Seashore (Massachusetts).





Historic houses in the national parks sometimes are museums in themselves, filled with curated historic objects. A good example is Longfellow House—Washington’s Headquarters National Historic Site (Massachusetts).





Some parks are charged with maintaining a huge variety of objects and sites. The Mesa Verde Visitor and Research Center at the entrance to Mesa Verde National Park (Colorado) houses over three million artifacts of the Ancestral Puebloan people who lived in the region from approximately A.D. 600 to 1300. Of course, the park also preserves world-famous cliff dwellings. (left, upper and lower) Examples of ceramics; (right) Spruce Tree House.