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The story of the B Reactor begins with expulsion and wartime violence. In 1943, the Wanapum people living along the Columbia River and the residents of the small agricultural towns of Hanford and White Bluffs, Washington, were told they must evacuate to make way for a federal project that needed the land. Set in the south-eastern portion of the state, the town and lands used by the Cayuse, Umatilla, Walla Walla, Yakama, Colville, and Nez Perce peoples became Hanford Engineer Works. The US government sequestered the 586-square-mile area as an essential part of its top-secret Manhattan Project, which began during World War II. It covertly built the B Reactor to create the plutonium for the Trinity test, the first use of a nuclear weapon. This reactor then created the plutonium for the bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki, Japan, on August 9, 1945, killing tens of thousands in seconds and a hundred thousand more over time.

Today, the B Reactor stands as the mechanical jewel of the new Manhattan Project National Historical Park. It is the country’s 409th national park, created in 2014. Over many years, the Department of Energy (DOE), the B Reactor Museum Association (BRMA), legislators, historians, and the Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF) (with help from major corporations such as Bechtel) created the momentum for the park. Along with the Hanford Site, the Manhattan Project National Historical Park includes sites in Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Oak Ridge, Tennessee. This year, as the National Parks Service (NPS) celebrates its centennial,

1 Later it would be most commonly known as Hanford Nuclear Reservation. Given only ninety-days notice, many evacuees lost their harvests and were given only minimal compensation. See Michelle Gerber, On the Home Front: The Cold War Legacy of the Hanford Nuclear Site (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1993); Atomic Heritage Foundation, “Voices of the Manhattan Project,” http://manhattanprojectvoices.org/location/hanford-wa; Hanford Natural Resources Trusteeship Council, “Fact Sheet: Hanford Natural Resource Damage Assessment,” https://www.fws.gov/wafwo/pdf/FactSheetHanfrdfrd12192011.pdf.

it is also undertaking the interpretation at all three sites. NPS has recently underscored the need to further commit to an investment in historical research and interpretation at the many NPS sites where history is central to the visitor experience.\(^3\) The NPS, founded to preserve wilderness, is now challenged to share with the DOE the responsibility for making meaning at Hanford, one of the most contaminated and divisive places in the United States.\(^4\)

On my first visit to the site in 2009, I was stunned by the reverence for the B Reactor in the DOE-led tour. Yet, this makes sense. It is the first large-scale fission reactor ever built, and the DOE’s expertise is nuclear technology. Hanford’s inclusion in the Manhattan Project park in particular was a result of the persistence of the BRMA. This group of former Hanford scientists, engineers, historians, Tri-City boosters, and volunteers was motivated to educate the public about the achievements of Hanford and rescued the B Reactor from DOE plans to dismantle and “cocoon” the reactor core.\(^5\) Cocooning would have encased the reactor core in cement and steel to isolate it for seventy-five years, just as was done with six of the other Hanford reactors, so that the man-made radioactivity could decay to safer levels before demolition.\(^6\)

Instead of being destroyed, the B Reactor was designated a national historic landmark in 2008. Much has changed since. The deconstruction of the many buildings at Hanford has eased much of the harsh visual reminder of what was done there. BRMA, as founders of the museum, provided docents and helped

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5. BRMA’s listed goals include: to “Restore the reactor building and contents to reflect its appearance during operation; add exhibits that reflect the history of the Hanford Nuclear Site; provide public access to B Reactor, including road access from Highway 240; educate the public as to the historical and technological significance of B Reactor and promote other attractions in the area to increase visitors to B Reactor.” See also BRMA, “What to Know before You Tour B Reactor,” http://b-reactor.org/what-to-know-before-you-tour-b-reactor/

create the interpretation, videos, models, and displays. Former Hanford employees and their children conducted limited tours of the B Reactor as it was decontaminated. DOE stabilized or removed toxic remnants, and according to a BRMA slide show, the tour is “free of hazards” and “safe radiation levels are ensured through monitoring.” The interior of the building housing the B Reactor has been reimagined. Not only has the space changed, but tours are no longer guided primarily by former employees and their families, who seemed to seek affirmation for their biases while denigrating questions about radiation safety.

The creation of the Manhattan Project parks has expanded public access to the B Reactor with guided tours several days a week. The DOE offers a separate tour to view the behemoth $150 billion multigenerational Hanford “cleanup.” Nowadays, atomic kitsch and nuclear contamination have cachet: “nuclear tourism” to Chernobyl is growing, as are visits to destinations such as Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, a former Superfund site reinvented as a hipster mecca. Currently the DOE manages the B Reactor tours with contract assistance from Mission Support Alliance, a consortium with Lockheed Martin/Jacobs/Centerra Group Company and other contractors. These are vested interests in nuclear weapons and energy with a stake in how the story is told.

Interpretation ignores radiation exposure risks, starting with the online NPS and DOE registration process for the free four-hour B Reactor tour. In order to sign up, I had to agree to a “disclaimer” that I was aware of all the safety risks from visiting the historical site, while it disclosed none of the possible radiological or contamination risks or dangers. Since 1944, Hanford released at least 142 million curies of...

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7 Since 2002, $3.3 million has been spent to remediate potential hazards, according to the BRMA slideshow, “B Reactor: An Unprecedented Marvel of Science, Technology and Engineering,” http://b-reactor.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/BRMA-SLIDESHOW.pdf. This brings up the qualitative difference between monitoring for safety and ensuring it.


10 Many scientists and activists have argued no dose of ionizing radiation is “safe” and all risks ought to be disclosed. Linus Pauling in particular argued it is scientifically invalid to equate naturally occurring background radiation from uranium in the soil and cosmic rays (which cause health effects) as a measure of safety for artificial radiation. He also thought it was a violation of human rights and international law for nation-states to contaminate citizens, see Linda Richards, “Fallout Suits and Human Rights: Disrupting the Technocratic Narrative,” Peace and Change 38 (2013): 56–82. On the NPS and DOE joint registration page to sign up for the free tour, you can choose either “I agree” or forfeit registering for the tour: “Please read the following statement carefully before continuing: ENTRANCE TO B REACTOR: The B Reactor is a historic building that retains many of its original conditions. It has not been updated to modern building or seismic codes and therefore may pose safety hazards and risks for participants entering the building. You will be escorted during the tour but participants in the public tour acknowledge the potential risks and hazards inherent in visiting...
radioactivity into the air, soil, and Columbia River water. The Atomic Energy Commission and Hanford managers viewed nature as an extension of the industrial facilities, to absorb and dilute radiological and toxic wastes. Because of this one-dimensional relationship with the environment as a sink, Hanford became one of the most intractably polluted places on earth, a nuclear wasted landscape or “nukescape.” There are hundreds of different types of radioactive and toxic products from producing plutonium. Some pollutants exist long enough to meld with the cellular and genetic structures of plants, animals, and people, especially when radioactive particles are ingested or inhaled. Scientists have closely studied only a handful of these radioactive elements, such as Iodine $^{131}$. A group of concerned academics, lawyers, and citizens called Consequences of Radiation Exposure (CORE) doubts there can be a just accounting.

However, now that the B Reactor Museum is under the purview of NPS as part of a national park, the history might be different. The Atomic Heritage Foundation (AHF) met with the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki to assuage their concerns that the park would be celebratory. In November 2015, NPS organized a scholars’ forum to discuss how to interpret the nuclear age at the parks. While the DOE retains administrative authority, NPS is reviewing the docent scripts, holding a historic site and assume the risks of loss, damage, or injury that may be sustained. I have read and am aware of the potential risks inherent in visiting the B Reactor and assume all risks of loss, damage or injury that may be sustained.” DOE and NPS website, “Manhattan Project B Reactor Tours,” http://manhattanprojectbreactor.hanford.gov/index.cfm?tour=disclaimer.


13 CORE’s request for inclusion of the stories of harm and human rights violations into the Manhattan Project narrative was sent to NPS Manhattan Project Park manager Tracy Atkins on August 27, 2015. It stated “One essential, albeit painful, attribute of the legacy of the Manhattan Project is the fact that the US Government knowingly placed its own citizens in harm’s way. . . . We the undersigned respectfully request that the history of environmental contamination and resulting health effects, including cancers, fertility problems, genetic illnesses and early deaths among affected populations be included in the interpretive narratives told by the MPNHP.” CORE website, http://corehanford.nationbuilder.com/. The subsequent nuclear weapons tests led to the need to accept radioactive C-14 as a “permanent man-made modification of the environment” according to the Federal Radiation Council Report, “Estimates and Evaluation of Fallout in the United States from Nuclear Weapons Testing Conducted Through 1962,” Report #4, US Government Printing Office, section 2.1–2.2, National Security File, Charles E. Johnson, box 31, Lyndon Bales Johnson Library, Austin, Texas.
docent trainings, and designing an interpretive strategy for all three sites.\textsuperscript{14} NPS has committed to working with historians, survivors from the bombing in Japan, and nearby communities to create inclusive sites of memory with multiple perspectives to engage the public with questions about the meaning and costs of the nuclear age.\textsuperscript{15} According to the BRMA (an organization that has some members who have long been dedicated to abolishing nuclear weapons), this was their intention all along.\textsuperscript{16}

Today, individuals and organizations such as the International Red Cross and the United Nations are talking about the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapon’s catastrophic violence.\textsuperscript{17} Just this May, President Obama became the first sitting president to visit the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum and Peace Park. He met with Hibakusha (atomic bomb survivors) in Hiroshima and broached the need for some moral resolution. At the museum, the president offered four origami peace cranes he folded as a symbol of his wish to abolish nuclear weapons and heal ongoing suffering. He wrote in the museum’s guest book: “We have known the agony of war. Let us now find the courage, together, to spread peace and pursue a world without nuclear weapons.”\textsuperscript{18} In July, in the wake of mass shootings and incidents of racialized violence in the United States, Vice President Joe Biden implored that it is time for “profound introspection and dialogue” about violence.\textsuperscript{19}

Fifty-two years ago, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. questioned the nuclear age. King felt that racial injustice, poverty, and nuclear war were “inextricably bound” to each other in a continuum of violence. For some, the death of Michael Brown on Nagasaki Day 2014 revealed these relationships.\textsuperscript{20} There is increasing attention to


\textsuperscript{15} Strong statements by the mayors of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, historians representing downwinders, and tribal concerns were included in the Scholars’ Forum Report, along with the more victorious narrative of the positive side of nuclear weapons; see NPS, Scholars’ Forum Report; Atomic Heritage Foundation, Launching the Park, 9.

\textsuperscript{16} For background on the BRMA and its intentions, see “What to Know before You Tour B Reactor.” More information is under the website’s “Special Events” section, which describes its sixtieth and seventieth anniversary celebrations of the reactor’s start-up. Also see B Reactor Museum Association, Moderator 20, no. 4 (October–December 2014): 7.


\textsuperscript{19} “Vice President Biden: ‘This Violence Has to Stop,’” Heritage Florida Jewish News, July 22, 2016.

\textsuperscript{20} Many of the US Hiroshima and Nagasaki vigils focused on these connections, especially for the one-year anniversary in 2015, but just one example is the press release for the commemorations held in Boston by the First Church of Boston and Boston Common, “Boston Remembers: From Hiroshima and Nagasaki to Ferguson and Orlando,” Bay State Banner, August 9, 2016, http://
peace literacy and the slow violence of contamination, hunger, and poverty from the investment made into weapons.\textsuperscript{21} In addition, historians have been critiquing atomic museums in general for their technocratic scope, at least since 1989.\textsuperscript{22} These thoughts were in my mind as I arrived at the Hanford Tour Headquarters and noticed the American flag flying at half-staff for slain police officers in Dallas. I was confident that what was ahead could be more honest than in the past.

The Hanford site is so large that the tour involves gathering at Tour Headquarters before the hour-long bus ride to the actual B Reactor Museum. Mostly black-and-white photographs there and at the reactor explain nuclear science, engineering, and aspects of working life at Hanford in the 1940s. One exception to the visual caliber of the displays and models is oddly endearing: child-size mannequins of nuclear physicists Enrico Fermi (1901–54, often called the “architect of the nuclear age”) and Leona Woods (1919–86, the only female physicist at Hanford in 1944). The tour itself begins with a warm welcome from a friendly docent who is determined to make the history of nuclear science accessible. Once assembled in a large room with a mural of Hanford historical photographs, visitors are greeted with a video made by the BMRA and DOE. This was but the first of the many laudatory videos on the tour (and also available on the BRMA and Ranger in Your Pocket websites), to share the “marvel” of the B Reactor’s science and engineering.\textsuperscript{23} The tour was still predicated on a public deficit model as in 2009: if only people knew enough science and engineering to appreciate this miracle!\textsuperscript{24}

Even so, the sincerity of the docents and the wide-eyed people on the tour gave me pause. The free tours fill up fast. Visitors on the tour seemed to represent a good slice of America, and they were eager to learn. There were women with head

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scarves, young Pacific Northwest National Laboratory interns, families on summer vacations, and Tri-Cities locals. Maybe a visit to the B Reactor could make it easier for people to talk about nuclear weapons. Maybe this was the place to start. On the bus the friendly docent pointed out features such as sacred Rattlesnake Mountain and chatted about what life was like here before and during wartime. The view from the bus window was deceiving, with no evidence of the epic tribulations of the Hanford cleanup or the toxic radioactive groundwater below. Instead, we saw elk.

Up close, the foreboding decrepit factory does not look like a museum. Inside, a corridor leads to the actual three-story reactor of graphite blocks, tubes, and valves. There a DOE docent articulately explained exactly how the reactor worked: the way the fuel was inserted, the neutron reactions that changed uranium into plutonium, and the volume of Columbia River water that soared through it every minute. Between lectures, one is free to look through the building to see the decontaminated work and industrial spaces, from offices to break rooms to huge equipment and pipes. Videos show processes such as fuel discharge and processing and ventilation systems.

Graffiti on a wall left by “Jeager’s crew, 1944” sets a tone of mystery, pride, and comradery. Each space is convincingly restored to present a time capsule of the daily work in the reactor before the bombs were ever used. Wandering from room
to room, visitors see the banality: 1940s-style phones, typewriters, desks, and other furnishings. Union pamphlets are on bulletin boards with safety and security reminders. Gas masks and safety equipment hang from hooks, and cubbies store Geiger counters. There are rows and panels of wires and large unidentified machines and artifacts. There is sparse-to-no textual interpretation: mundane equipment must speak for itself. Docents answered questions as if it were literally 1944, before any bombs were dropped—a strategic choice to show the feat of making plutonium, not actually using it.

The tour denied the original relationship of Hanford with the outside world. For example, docents explain how the building’s intake and exhaust fans helped the workers have a safe working environment inside the plant. There is no mention of how sick many became, or how the government kept nefarious releases from daily operations and experiments at the Hanford complex classified until sick and concerned residents and journalists led tenacious investigations in the 1980s.25 Often called “Hanford Downwinders,” locals and even people living far to the east of the site into Idaho were marred by illness. Sometimes downwinders were marked by what they referred to as a “Hanford necklace,” a scar from surgery to remove their diseased or cancerous thyroid gland, poisoned by Iodine 131.26

This history of nuclear safety is both everywhere and nowhere inside the B Reactor. In the control room, docents explain the fail-safe reactor safety systems. While safety and national security are the most prominent themes in the array of displayed posters, materials, and artifacts, parts of the reactor remain off-limits, with radioactive warning signs and ropes. Although the DOE decontaminated the B Reactor to make it safe for the public, I wondered how much radioactivity might be considered safe by DOE and MSA experts.

In a room surrounded by photos of happy Hanford workers, a long-term Richland resident leaned close to me to whisper in my ear. “They don’t say anything about the negatives here,” she said. Maybe there are too many to list. From the mining of uranium to the use of the weapons, to atmospheric weapons tests, to

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human radiation experiments, to dangerous leaking tanks, to the lawsuits on behalf of sick residents and workers, to any possible exposure risks for those on the tour, consequences literally fall out of view inside the B Reactor Museum.  

As it is now, the tour is in historical purgatory. The B Reactor is still fetishized as an object that ended the war.  

The hallway leading into the B Reactor. Rooms are restored to show what life was like in the building during the 1940s wartime conditions. (Photo courtesy of Jon Dowd)


28 The National Park Service explains its interpretive view on its webpage: “This site tells the story about the people, events, science, and engineering that led to the creation of the atomic bomb, which helped end World War II.” National Parks Service, Manhattan Project National Historic Park, “Dawn of the Atomic Age,” https://www.nps.gov/mapr/index.htm. Also, some historians argue that it was many other factors, including, for example, operational research and communications that won the war, stepping past the traditional dispute of whether the bomb was really necessary; see Stephen Budiansky, Blackett’s War: The Men Who Defeated the Nazi U Boats and Brought Science to the Art of Warfare (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2013).
these 1944 spaces, themes, and tour-risk disclaimers. But they need to. Today, Americans stand at the precipice of a $1 trillion new nuclear arms race. With its current interpretation, the B Reactor is disembodied from lived reality. In the museum, it appears that there is no room for the memories of the first Hibakushas, how they saw people shuffle like zombies, with their arms held away from their bodies as their skin melted in tatters and their eyeballs hung from their sockets. In the main reactor room, two young girls play with an illuminated map of what Hanford Nuclear Reservation looked like in the 1940s. The map also includes a summary of what each facility did. A video and the reactor face are visible to their right. (Photo courtesy of Linda Marie Richards)

29 See Linda Richards, “Rocks and Reactors: An Atomic Interpretation of Human Rights” (PhD diss., Oregon State University, 2014) for research connecting human rights and nuclear technological narratives into one framework.

In the reactor you do not hear the whispers of people begging politely for water as they died.

The themes of science, engineering, and safety in 1944 that are currently interpreted at the site are illusory. The tour evicts the human rights transgressions and toxic trespasses that began at the B Reactor and grew so vast as to include pollution from worldwide nuclear weapons tests that equal about thirty-six thousand Hiroshimas. As it is now, the site is not a place to contemplate the results of the B Reactor, but a place where we are to be astonished by technology. Already tens of thousands of visitors—children included—have walked through the B Reactor building, reliving the moments as something technical was gained and something human was lost. With all the science and engineering lessons, folded origami peace

A photograph in the museum shows Hanford workers standing in front of a motivational poster that depicts a little girl clutching a photograph of her father in uniform. Above her it reads, “What you’re making may save my Daddy’s life.” (Photo courtesy of Linda Marie Richards)

31 This number is an estimate based on the current estimated size of the Hiroshima bomb (15 kilotons) divided into the total kilotons that is declassified and estimated as exploded yield worldwide (540,749), which equals 36,049 or about 36,000 Hiroshimas. For starting numbers, see Wikipedia, “List of Nuclear Weapons Tests,” https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_nuclear_weapons_tests. Some of the extent of effects from the nuclear age are discussed in Colin N. Waters et al., “Can Nuclear Weapons Fallout Mark the Beginning of the Anthropocene Epoch?” Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists 71, no. 3 (2015): 46–57.
The huge pipes that brought the water into the reactor for cooling. Every year, Russian officials visit the site to check the loose covers at the bottom right to confirm that the reactor has not restarted the production of plutonium and that the United States is honoring its nuclear agreements. (Photo courtesy of Jon Dowd)

cranes as prayers, and flags flying at half-staff, here, at the B Reactor, we still don’t have to see how inextricably bound our lives are with the violence of the Manhattan Project.

Linda Marie Richards, Oregon State University


To celebrate the National Park Service (NPS) centennial, the Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum (NPM) recently opened the temporary exhibition, Trailblazing: 100 Years of Our National Parks. Trailblazing highlights the “myriad and sometimes surprising ways that mail moves to, through, and from our national parks.” The exhibit’s careful selection of objects and images allows visitors to see some of those intersections immediately. Curator Daniel Pitti filled cases with interesting objects that reward visitors who lean in and look closely. Themes of tourism wind through Trailblazing. Visitors see stamps, letters, and unusual souvenirs mailed by vacationers at American national parks, and they become “tourists of history,” as the exhibition’s interpretative approach replicates snapshots found

1 Trailblazing: 100 Years of Our National Parks, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington, DC.
on a postcard. Like other exhibitions at the NPM, *Trailblazing* reminds visitors of the Postal Service’s central role, historically, in the everyday lives of Americans as it connected people across the country. A subtle secondary theme examines how the Postal Service supported the work of other federal agencies and projects and even promoted the NPS by printing collectible stamps.

Anyone familiar with national parks will notice that the exhibition design evokes a park aesthetic. The exhibition invites visitors through a lodge-like entrance framed by wooden posts, topped with a corrugated tin roof. While accessible from within the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, *Trailblazing* actually begins from the Postmasters General’s Gallery that sits at the end of the museum’s first-floor lobby. The opening room’s wood paneling, fireplace, and bench feel like a national park visitors’ center. Here the exhibition briefly introduces visitors to the history of national parks, the consolidation of historic battlefields, sites, and parks under one agency by President Franklin D. Roosevelt (FDR) during his first term, and the growth of park tourism in the early twentieth century. Clever graphics throughout three rooms function like park signage. Inside cases, visitors follow dotted lines on

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panels, like those found on a trail map, that connect objects to their labels. Compass symbols alert visitors to related objects in other parts of the museum to explore.

When visitors enter the main exhibit area, they see colorful murals along the walls representing the diversity of parks and historic sites classified under the National Park Service today, including national parks, national historic sites, national monuments, national historical parks, national military parks, and national seashores. Each park type contains a section comprised of at least one large case and summary panel describing the characteristics of those parks. Cases highlight images and objects that reveal interesting stories about the intersections between the Postal Service and parks.

For example, in the National Historic Sites section, visitors encounter a photograph of Japanese Americans working and receiving mail at the Manzanar, California, internment camp post office. Manzanar became a national historic site in 1992. A label explains FDR’s Executive Order 9066 and how the American government incarcerated Japanese and Japanese Americans during World War II. An envelope addressed from one detainee in Manzanar to someone detained at Heart Mountain, Wyoming, speaks to the camps’ remoteness, and to the prisoners’ need to stay connected with others. By incorporating objects and images from places that recently became historic sites, Trailblazing more faithfully represents the histories interpreted across the park system than it would have had it limited its interpretation to the earliest and most-visited national parks (i.e., Yellowstone and Yosemite) selected for their natural beauty and environmental significance.

However, curating objects by park type does not offer visitors many narrative pathways connecting Trailblazing’s objects or means for addressing larger themes.

US post offices operated in Japanese detention camps, such as Manzanar. Prisoners mailed letters to communicate with family and friends, some detained in other camps. (Photo courtesy of Manzanar National Historic Site, Independence, California)
The exhibition celebrates American parks and the Park Service but misses opportunities to discuss conflicts and challenges that the federal government, through the national parks, impose on lands and people. By obscuring conflicts or debates related to conservation, sovereignty, and interpretation, the exhibition does not reflect the most current scholarship in the history of national parks, environmental and cultural history, or Native American studies. For example, visitors learn that Havasupai people who live at the bottom of Grand Canyon need the post office to deliver food supplies that arrive by mule train. This is fascinating, but the interpretation does not address how the establishment of Grand Canyon National Park made this postal trip necessary. The federal government took Native American lands prior to the establishment of parks, and some Native American lands are now surrounded by national parks, but no voices from those tribes appear in the exhibition. In a section about souvenirs, moccasins and a Chinook doll (Skookum) mailed from national parks appear with adequate descriptive labels, but they offer visitors no opportunity to interrogate the objects themselves.

How does the production and availability of these consumer items shape how tourists continue to understand America’s conquest of lands and people across the country? The snapshot approach of the exhibition highlights interesting stories but obscures some major debates and challenges that continue since the establishment of the National Park System.
Place is another subtle theme that weaves its way throughout Trailblazing, making the absence of a large map conspicuous. A Gallery Guide lists each park represented in the exhibition, but a map would help visitors to visually contextualize the park system within the geography of the United States and its territories. Of course, space and design constraints of any physical exhibition make it difficult for curators to treat all issues and interpretive elements they wish to include.

Trailblazing is also available as an online exhibit, which is easy to navigate on a computer or mobile device. Most of the exhibition’s text, photographs, and objects appear online. Users may enlarge all images for closer inspection, which is particularly helpful for objects containing handwriting and small print. The online exhibition includes additional resources such as short bibliographies geared for adult and child readers interested in the history of the NPS. The Gallery Guide printed for the exhibition can be downloaded as a PDF from the website. Rarely do history museums create accompanying websites for their temporary exhibitions, making Trailblazing’s online presence a treat for visitors and an asset for the NPM.

Trailblazing feels like a summer road trip filled with short stops at interesting sites, the kind of trip that encourages travelers to send postcard snapshots noting the places and things encountered along the way.

Sheila A. Brennan, George Mason University