

# Gettysburg National Military Park - Museum & Visitor Center

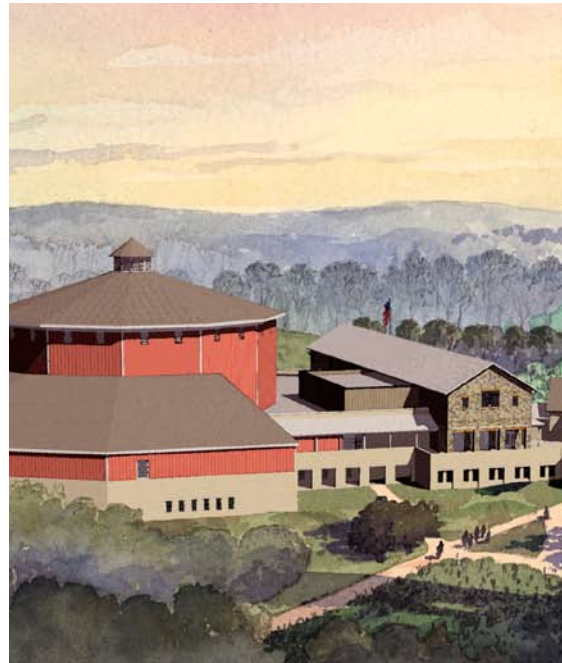
## Gettysburg, Pennsylvania

Project Type: Museum & Visitor Center  
Size: 140,000 sf  
Completion: 2007  
Cost: \$95 million  
Owner: Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation & National Park Service  
Contact: Dr. John Latschar (717) 334-1124

When Dr. John Latschar came to the Gettysburg National Military Park as superintendent in 1994, he realized he had a lot of work ahead. The park facilities were undersized and dysfunctional. The original 1960s structures designed to accommodate 400,000 visitors were overwhelmed by the current 2 million annual visits. The park's world-renowned collections of documents and artifacts were deteriorating in basement storage without proper environmental controls and the museum storyline was out of date. But given current funding streams, how could it be fixed?

In 1997, the Gettysburg National Battlefield Museum Foundation was chosen out of a national competition to design, construct, own and operate a new Museum and Visitor Center. The financial model for this creative public/private partnership would allow the facility to be donated back to the National Park Service within twenty years free of charge.

Since 2001, LSC Design has been partnering with Gallagher & Associates in leading the design team to make this vision a reality. The facility includes over 20,000 sf of interpretive exhibit space, two 150 seat state of the art theatres, food service, museum & book store, visitor center & park and foundation administrative offices. LSC Design has



worked closely with a huge array of stakeholders and the local, state, and national level. This facility will redefine the National Park Service's model for Museums & Visitor Centers

The National Park Service stressed the need for this facility to reinforce the 'sense of place' that already exists so strongly in Gettysburg. This building needed to blend into the landscape rather than compete with it. The design for this new facility utilizes local materials and varied massing to blend into this historic landscape.

This project will lead the way in utilizing sustainable design practices in museum/interpretive facilities including one of the largest geothermal systems in the US. This design initiatives will cut the annual energy consumption and utility cost by over 40%.

