

## ADMINISTRATION

Both Johnstown Flood National Memorial and Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site are administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which these parks are units, is dedicated to conserving the great historical, natural, and recreational places of the United States for the benefit and enjoyment of the people.

A superintendent, whose address is Box 216, Johnstown, Pa. 15907, is in charge of both parks.

**THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**—the Nation's principal natural resource agency—has a special obligation to assure that our expendable resources are conserved, that our renewable resources are managed to produce optimum benefits, and that all resources contribute to the progress and prosperity of the United States, now and in the future.

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U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# Johnstown Flood Allegheny Portage Railroad

NATIONAL MEMORIAL  
NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, PENNSYLVANIA

An immense earthen dam, weakened by days of steady rain, gave way on the afternoon of May 31, 1889, and poured millions of tons of water down the narrow valley of the Little Conemaugh River in western Pennsylvania. The flood devastated the thriving steel center of Johnstown and its nearby communities and gave the Nation an enduring legend. Some 2,200 persons perished within a few hours, and other thousands lost everything but their lives.

To commemorate what until then was the Nation's worst natural disaster, Congress in 1964 authorized a 55-acre Johnstown Flood National Memorial to be established at the site of the old dam on the South Fork. The dam was originally constructed by the State from 1836 to 1846 to feed water during dry spells to the western division of the Pennsylvania Canal, a 395-mile waterway between Philadelphia and Pittsburgh.

Only a short distance from the site of the dam are the remains of the Allegheny Portage Railroad, built between 1831 and 1834 to cross a forested mountain divide and link the eastern and western divisions of the canal. Congress has designated these structures as the Allegheny Portage Railroad National Historic Site "to illustrate the significant role of the...Portage Railroad and the Pennsylvania Canal in the Nation's history."

The memorial and the historic site will consist of five areas totaling more than 1,000 acres. Once sufficient land has been acquired, the National Park Service will begin developing both parks for the visiting public. One important mission is to safeguard surviving earthworks, structures, and buildings associated with the canal, railroad, and flood. Another will be to interpret through a variety of means the chapter of Pennsylvania's transportation and social history represented by these physical remains.

THIS BUILDING AT MAIN AND CLINTON STREET WITH THE CORNER MISSING WAS REPAIRED AND STANDS TODAY.



THE CAMERA SHOP

