

Fort Necessity National Battlefield Pennsylvania



Fort Necessity National Battlefield commemorates the events surrounding the start of the French and Indian War in 1754. George Washington, commanding a detachment of Colonial troops, encountered his first military action here in the mountains of western Pennsylvania. On May 28, 1754, Washington engaged a French detachment at a site now known as Jummonville Glen; on July 3, 1754, the French and their Indian allies attacked and forced the surrender of Washington's defensive position, Fort Necessity. In 1755, British General Edward Braddock was mortally wounded and was buried along the crude road, between Fort Necessity and Jumonville Glen.

With the eventual British victory, the region was available for settlement from the seaboard colonies. After the Revolution, the government began to recognize the need for good roads across the mountains; and by the 1820's the government-financed National Road carried passengers and freight to and from the West. The Mount Washington Tavern, built on a hill overlooking the site of Fort Necessity, is typical of the road-side accommodations of the day.

What To Do

You may tour the tavern, visit the reconstructed stockade and learn about the historic events which occurred here through the exhibits and slide program at the visitor center.

You may stroll through the battlefield or walk in the woods on the old Braddock Road or a hiking trail. There are cross-country ski trails to use in the winter. A ranger is on duty in each building to provide information and assistance. Directions to Braddock's Grave and Jumonville Glen may be obtained at the visitor center.

Hours and Location

Fort Necessity National Battlefield is located on U.S. Route 40, 11 miles east of Uniontown, PA. The park is open year around with the exception of Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. The hours of operation vary according to the season. The picnic area is open from spring through late fall. Accessible restrooms are available all year at the visitor center.

Fort Necessity National Battlefield, and Friendship Hill National Historic Site, about 20 miles away, are jointly administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of Interior. For more information contact the Superintendent, Fort Necessity NB/Friendship Hill NHS, The National Pike, RD 2, Box 528, Farmington, PA 15437.

