

Pennsylvania Trails of History

In Pennsylvania, all roads lead to history.

To help find your path, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) has blazed several special-interest trails leading to some of Pennsylvania's most historic sites. We invite you to explore one site at a time, travel an entire trail or create your own road trip to Pennsylvania's past. No matter whether you choose one of our classic trails, a trail based on PHMC's annual themes or blaze your own, we're sure it will lead you to experience and embrace the people, places and events that make Pennsylvania so special.

Begin your journey online at
www.PATrailsofHistory.com

Hours of Operation

The museum's operating schedule changes seasonally. Please call or visit the website for the most up-to-date information.

Tours & Site Rental Options

Special tour programs designed for schools, scouts, or other groups are available. Museum facilities, including our program room with attached prep-kitchen, may be rented for special events or meetings. Contact the museum for more information and to make reservations.

Special Events

The museum offers a variety of events & programs year-round. Visit the website for full details and a current event schedule.

The information presented here is subject to change. Please contact the museum before making visitation plans. Individuals with disabilities who need special assistance or accommodation should call in advance, Wednesday through Sunday, to discuss their needs. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech impaired who wish to contact a hearing person via Text Telephone can use the PA Relay Center at 800-654-5984.

Pennsylvania Lumber Museum

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 Ulysses Twp, PA 16922
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www.lumbermuseum.org

The Pennsylvania Lumber Museum is administered by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission in partnership with the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum Associates.



Pennsylvania Lumber Museum

Ulysses Township, Potter County



Pennsylvania
 Historical & Museum
 Commission

Visitor Guide

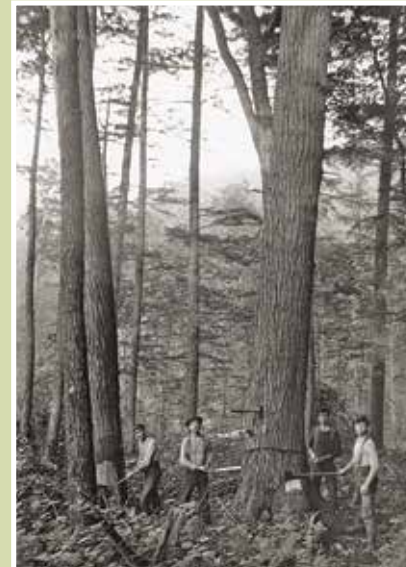
Welcome to the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum!

Aptly named "Penn's Woods," Pennsylvania was about 90 percent forested when the first European colonists arrived. Lumbering is one of the oldest industries in the Commonwealth, beginning with water-powered sawmills and white pine rafted to shipyards along the Delaware River in the 18th century. By 1870 Pennsylvania led the nation in lumber production. In the next thirty years the state became the largest producer of rough-tanned leather, manufactured by a process that utilized hemlock bark. Most of Pennsylvania's forests were harvested to exhaustion by the early 20th century. Through 100 years of active conservation and scientific management, Pennsylvania restored its forests and again leads the nation in hardwood lumber production.

Twenty-first century forests are managed for sustained yield along with other purposes such as recreation, a concept known as multiple use.

Today, 60 percent of Pennsylvania is covered in forests; 17 million acres of woodlands that offer a wide variety of recreational activities, stewardship responsibilities, and employment opportunities. The forests here are world-renowned for quality hardwood timber: maple, oak, black cherry, and ash. The forest products industry accounts for 10 percent of the state's manufacturing income. Professional foresters assist public and private landowners and the industry in making intelligent decisions regarding the management of forests.

This museum preserves and interprets the heritage of Pennsylvania's robust lumber industry and examines the long-term relationship between its people and the forest.



1. Visitor Center

Location of admissions desk, restrooms, museum and tourist information, orientation film, core exhibit "Challenges and Choices in Pennsylvania's Forests," gift shop, and administrative offices.

2. Engine House

Houses the museum's 70-ton Shay locomotive, delivered to the Davis-Aken Lumber Company in Erbacon, WV in 1912. Last used by the Ely-Thomas Lumber Company in Fenwick, WV, it was retired in 1962. The Shay joined the museum exhibits in 1972.



3. Loader Shed

Location of the Barnhart Model 10 Log Loader. This model was introduced in 1906 and is the only known example of a fully restored Model 10 in existence.

4. Log Cars

Early log cars were loaded by a dozen men using hand tools and draft animals. These cars had smaller wheels, making them lower to the ground for ease of loading. The added weight of mechanized loaders required heavier log cars with stronger axles and larger wheels, typically 28 to 33 inches in diameter.



5. Stable and Hay Storage

The average Pennsylvania lumber camp included 60 men, and half-as-many horses. Teamsters worked a pair of horses that would skid logs from the woods to where they could be loaded for transport to the mill.

6. Filer's Shack

Crosscut saws required expert attention to maintain proper performance. A sawfiler could sharpen and repair about 12 eight-foot-long saws daily, for a wage of about \$2/day at the turn of the 20th century.

7. Blacksmith Shop

Because most lumber camps were remote, new tools were not always easy to come by. The camp blacksmith was essential in making and repairing iron tools and hardware needed in camp. Many blacksmiths also shod the horses. His average daily wage in the early 20th century was about \$2.50.

8. Jobber's Residence

The jobber was the foreman of the lumber camp, and often the only man to bring his family with him, necessitating a separate residence. To save costs, a jobber might have his wife and children cook and keep his camp instead of hiring others to do the work.

9. Laundry Shed

Woodhicks were responsible for doing their own laundry, often on Sundays, the only day-off. Laundry was hung over branches or bushes to dry.

10. Bunkhouse, Mess Hall, Kitchen

The bunkhouse, mess hall, and kitchen of a lumber camp were commonly located in a single large, two-story structure. The museum's mess hall is located on the first floor of the building and furnished with long tables and benches to feed the camp's crew of men. Women could gain employment at lumber camps as cooks or kitchen assistants, known as cookees. The second floor is divided between the lobby, where workers gathered during off-hours, and the bunkhouse or sleeping quarters.



11. Circular Sawmill

The museum's mill is typical of a medium-sized facility capable of sawing 12,000-15,000 board feet of lumber daily. The two-story structure houses sawing equipment above and steam-powered drive engines below. Logs are moved from the mill pond to the log deck using a jack ladder. The logs are then run through the head saw, edger saw, and cut-off saw. Finished boards are stacked in high piles using the drying ramp at the rear of the building for curing before sale and transport.



12. Boiler Room

Steam boilers replaced water wheels in most Pennsylvania sawmills by the mid-1850s. Waste wood and sawdust from the mill were used to fire the boilers, often kept in a separate building due to risk of fire and explosion.

13. Log-Holding Pond

Logs were easier to manipulate when floating in water. Keeping the logs saturated also helped to prevent cracking and splitting of timber waiting to be sawn.

14. Shingle Mill and Saw Carriage House

White pine shingles were a common roofing material in Pennsylvania during the 19th century. Shingle mills operated near sawmills to take advantage of left-over materials too small to be sawn into boards. This large saw carriage, powered by steam, was used in a bandsaw mill during the early 20th century.

15. Birch Still

Extracting birch oil known as "spirits of wintergreen" from the bark of black birch was done using expediently constructed box stills until the mid-twentieth century. After that, chemists were able to synthesize the same compound and the need for birch stills disappeared.

16. Sustainable Forestry Trail

This trail passes through regrowth forests surrounding Commissioner Run. It is about one mile in length and can be completed in one hour. Sixteen interpretive waysides explain elements of the Sustainable Forestry Initiative such as harvesting treatments, forest management practices, and ecological principles. Signage also identifies various tree species in the forest.

17. CCC Cabin

This cabin is one of eight built for public recreation purposes by enrollees at CCC Camp S-135, known as Dyer Farm, in southeast Potter County. Scheduled for demolition in 1992, the cabin was relocated to the museum and restored. The cast bronze CCC worker statue is part of a national recognition program designed to honor the legacy of the CCC program.

18. Brookville Building

Houses a 15-ton switch engine manufactured by the Brookville Locomotive Works in 1945. An exhibit about hemlock bark leather tanning and a highly detailed HO scale model train layout depicting the 1920s era of logging in Pennsylvania can be viewed inside.



19. Picnic Pavilion

Have your lunch here and start your walk to the Webber cabin.

20. Webber Cabin

This 500-square-foot cabin with no electricity, plumbing or running water was home to forester and outdoor enthusiast Bob Webber and his wife, Dotty, for more than 50 years. Exhibits tell the story of their contributions to Pennsylvania's forests.

