

WATERLOO VILLAGE STATE HISTORIC SITE



INTERPRETIVE TRAIL GUIDE

13 Canal Museum (1860)

The canal museum, located in one of the village's residential homes, is where the Canal Society of New Jersey created an informative and interactive experience for visitors. Canal Society volunteers care for and interpret photos, working models of the Morris Canal's inclined plane system, videos and many artifacts.

14 Library (1860)

Moved to its current location in the mid-1900s from another location within Waterloo Village, little is known about the use and configuration of the library. The construction of this building is similar to the adjacent canal museum, which leads many to theorize that it served as either a tenant house or private residence. Since its relocation, the library has undergone two phases of renovations. Today, the library serves as an office and houses a collection of books.

15 White Barn Boat Exhibit (1870s)

The only surviving Morris Canal boat that we know of was found far from the canal in Highlands, N.J. near Sandy Hook in 2016. A well-preserved section of the boat was discovered when a house was lifted onto piers. The boat bow is on display in the white barn and the Canal Society of New Jersey developed artistic and informative interpretive displays for the exhibit. During the era of the Morris Canal, the white barn was a carriage house for the large Samuel T. Smith house adjacent to it.

16 Cottage (Late 20th Century)

Little is known about the cottage. Physical evidence from the building's foundation shows that the structure either dates to or was reconstructed during the late-1900s. Historical research concludes that it is unclear if this current building was based upon an existing structure from the Smith era or not. Today, the cottage is used for special exhibits.

17 Blue Barn (1870s)

This was the carriage house for Peter D. Smith. Carriage houses were usually located behind the main house and were used to store carriages, equipment, livery accessories, horses and hay.

18 Rutan Cabin & Farm Site (1790)

The Rutan cabin was likely built sometime between 1790 and 1800 on farm property in Frankford Township, N.J. in northern Sussex County. The cabin and property had a long list of owners and there are many generations of the Rutan

Rutan Cabin & Farm Site 18 continued...

family on the list. The cabin was originally a one-room, one and a half-story cabin. Sometime later, an additional room was added to each floor of the cabin. In 1988, to preserve, restore and make the cabin available to the public, it was moved to Waterloo Village. The original chestnut logs and clay chinking are visible on the front side of the cabin. The corners are dovetailed for expelling rainwater and the first-floor ceiling beams project out through the front wall to hold up the overhanging porch roof.

19 Mule Barn (1970s)

Historic photographs show a large barn in the vicinity of this current structure that likely sheltered horses and mules belonging to boarders, lodgers and guests of the nearby hotel. This mule barn was built here in the late 1970s as a gathering space. It is currently used for exhibit space, special programs, small gatherings and staff meetings.

20 Interpretive Center (1870s)

This was the carriage house for the Seymour Smith House. There are many exhibits, antiques and curiosities inside. Waterloo Village staff will often start walking tours and other programs at this location.

21 Restrooms, Meeting House & Pavilion

The restrooms, located between the meeting house and pavilion, are open to visitors. The meeting house and pavilion, built in the 1980s, are banquet halls. Many weddings and events take place here.

Please take only pictures, be aware of changing trail conditions and report any trail issues to the park.



ALLAMUCHY MOUNTAIN STATE PARK
Waterloo Village
Waterloo Road
Stanhope, NJ 07874
973-347-1835



State of New Jersey
Department of Environmental Protection
State Park Service
State Historic Site



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The Village of Waterloo

Waterloo Village is historically significant for being the only place where visitors can stroll through a small village located on the bank of the Morris Canal. The Morris Canal is world renowned for its use of inclined planes to lift and lower heavy coal and cargo boats out of the water and up and down the hills of the Highlands Region. The boats traveled more than 100 miles across New Jersey from Phillipsburg to Jersey City and overcame an impressive elevation change of 1,674 ft.

The Morris Canal opened in 1831. The peak year for tonnage and income was 1866. The boats traveled the locks, levels and inclined planes for almost 100 years and in doing so, the Morris Canal changed the landscape of the region. The Andover Forge Farm, complete with orchards, crops and livestock, was owned by the Smith family. Because the route of the Morris Canal ran through the Smith's property, the waterfront became a place of commerce, industry, lodging, education and worship - a village. As owners of the property and buildings, three generations of Smiths pursued education, business, banking, public office, climbed the economic ladder and prospered. The Smiths changed the name from Andover Forge Farm to Waterloo sometime between 1840 and 1860.

1 Waterloo Village Historic Site Entrance/Morris Canal

The most significant feature at Waterloo Village Historic Site is the Morris Canal. As you enter the site and begin your journey through Waterloo Village, enjoy the view of one of the last water-filled sections of the Morris Canal.

2 Waterloo Methodist Church & Parish House (1859)

The Smith family donated the property and funds to build the church. The patriarch of the Smith family, John Smith, was the first person to be buried in the graveyard behind the church in 1859. Both buildings are operated by the Church. There is still an active congregation.

3 Tenant House (1840s)

The tenant house is one of two stone houses that was built after the canal opened. Throughout the decades, this two-family house was a home for canal workers, farmers, immigrant laborers and their families. These were the people who made Waterloo Village a functioning and viable community.

4 Seymour Smith House (1876)

This Victorian-era Italianate and Queen Anne style residence was the home of Seymour R. Smith, one of the many descendants of John Smith, who lived and worked in the village. Several generations of the Smith family invested in their property to create the commercial, industrial and residential village.

5 Homestead & Homestead Green Barn

The homestead was the home of Peter C. Smith, with his wife Maria. They had eleven children but only six lived to adulthood. Peter C. was one of John Smith's sons who settled here to help his father turn a farm into a village. The original part of the house was built in 1760 as part of an iron mining business, it was converted into a barn and then back into a house. When Peter C. and his family lived there during the era of the Morris Canal, they added on the decorative windows and porch in the front.

6 Smith Store (1831)

The Smith family built the store into the embankment of the Morris Canal. This allowed canal boats and wagons to load and unload with ease due to the openings on all three levels of the structure. The store carried a variety of goods for the village residents, travelers and canal boat workers. Seymour Smith served for a time as the store clerk and postmaster.

7 Blacksmith

This is the only blacksmith shop on the route of the Morris Canal that still operates today. Blacksmiths were needed to repair or forge iron bars into many types of tools, such as farm equipment, wagon wheels and hinges. They also made new shoes for horses, mules and oxen. The iron was heated in a coal-fired hearth until malleable, then pounded against an anvil to achieve a desired shape.

8 Gristmill & Sawmill

The stone gristmill building operated during the era of the Morris Canal. Gears housed inside the structure turned heavy round stones, one spinning on top of another, to grind corn, wheat and rye into usable grain or meal. There was a plaster

mill and sawmill adjacent to the gristmill. The plaster mill is no longer standing. The current wooden sawmill building is a reproduction built in the 1970s and is a loosely interpreted reproduction of the original. All the mills in Waterloo Village used waterpower rushing in from the mill pond on the east side of the buildings to spin a water wheel and power the gears that made the machinery function.

9 Waterloo Hotel & Tavern (1761)

Located on what was once a well-traveled crossroad intersection, Waterloo Hotel and Tavern served as a temporary lodging as well as a place for long-term living during the era of the Morris Canal. Census records indicated the boarders were of diverse backgrounds and trades, such as mill workers, farm laborers, telegraph operators and canal workers. Through most of the 1800s, different families took turns at operating the establishment. It was common for the father or eldest son to be the bar keep, while the mother and daughters handled the cooking, cleaning and laundry.

10 Schuman House (1840)

The Schuman house gets its name from the last family that privately owned the home up until the 1980s. It was built at the same time and for the same purpose as the tenant house.

11 Peter D. Smith House (1870)

Peter D. Smith, grandson of John Smith, had this elaborate home with its fashionable Mansard roof and Second French Empire architecture built circa 1870. Peter D. married Ann Elizabeth Sandford of Newark and they had four children. Sadly, but not uncommon for the times, their two daughters died during childhood. Their oldest son married his childhood friend and love, Claribel Stackhouse, on his deathbed and died at the age of 26. The surviving child, Sandford Roy Smith (1887-1982), lived in Waterloo Village in his younger years and inherited his father's estate.

12 Samuel T. Smith House (1760s)

One of three original 1760s stone two-family houses, the Samuel T. Smith House served as the home of Samuel T. Smith, the oldest surviving son of Peter, and his wife Frances Murray Dunning. Samuel T. purchased the family businesses from his father and managed operations of the Smith Store and gristmill. Samuel T. added a front addition to this residence in the 1870s.



Welcome to Historic Waterloo Village

Throughout the second half of the 20th century, Waterloo was transformed from a quiet residential area with old houses of varied architecture into a tourist destination. Since 2010, New Jersey Parks, Forests & Historic Sites has been working to rehabilitate this unique historic site in its magnificent

natural setting. Our educational interpretive programs and tours have drawn a steady flow of visitors. All of New Jersey's historic sites, including Waterloo, offer visitors the opportunity to journey back through time to experience life of a foregone era.



A panoramic view of Waterloo from the top of the inclined plane.
(Photo: William Henry Jackson, ca. 1890s)

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WATERLOO VILLAGE HISTORY TRAIL

Cover Photos

Top: Mules pulling the canal boat and cradle car to the inclined plane, ca. 1900s.

Middle left: Interior view of the General Store.
(Photo: Henry Charlton Beck)

Middle right: The Stone Grist Mill and historic wooden saw mill/plaster mill (no longer on site), ca. 1863.
(Photo: Canal Society of NJ)

Bottom: The elaborate detailed, Second Empire styled, Peter D. Smith House, ca. 1871.
(Photo: Collection of the State of NJ)