

Steamtown

National Historic Site

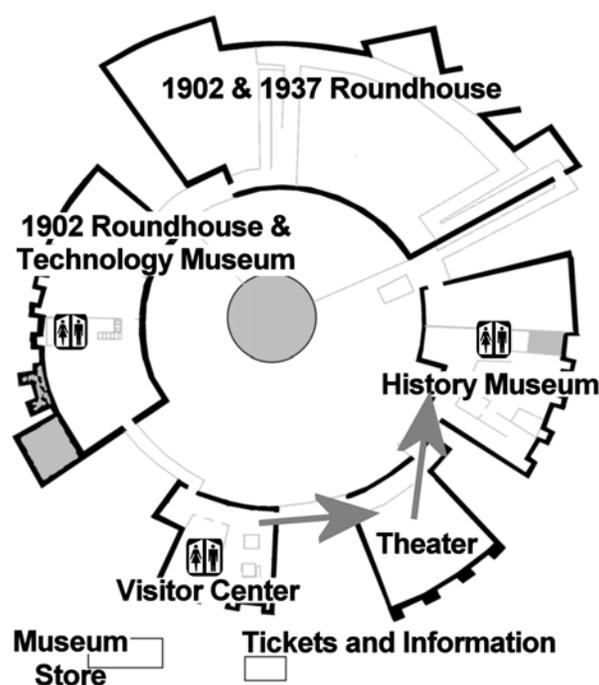


Guide to the Museum Complex

Track 4: Visiting with Students

Welcome to Steamtown National Historic Site! This guide contains a map of the museum as well as some suggestions for your visit. The National Park Service preserves America's special places, many of which have links to your state academic standards. Steamtown NHS was established in 1986 to preserve and interpret railroad history and the people who made it possible.

For each visitor's enjoyment and safety, and to ensure the preservation of this site for future generations, educators and chaperones must stay with the group, and are responsible for the safety and behavior of the group at all times.



YOU ARE IN THE VISITOR CENTER

An orientation map, restrooms and drinking fountains are located here (Restrooms are also located in the History and Technology Museums, near the elevators). Teachers and students are invited to explore the railroad objects on the "Touch and Feel" table. A time line of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad's Scranton Yard (now Steamtown NHS) can be explored before proceeding up the stairs/elevator to the second level. On the second level, turn right and proceed through two sets of doors.

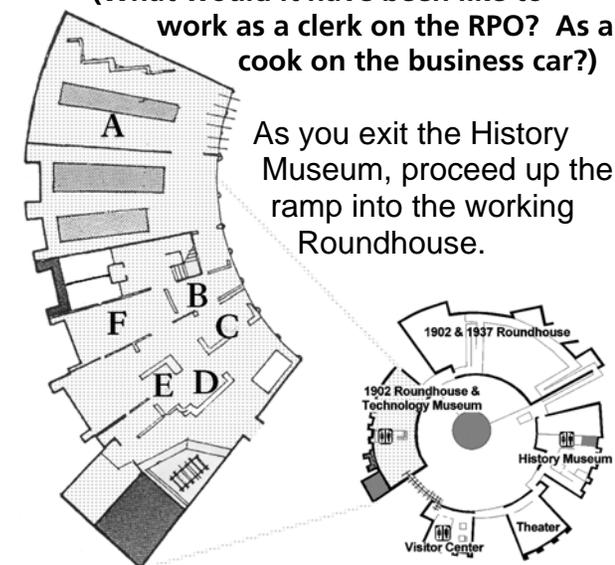
YOU ARE IN THE THEATER

View the 18-minute movie "Steel and Steam" in the Theater and follow the story of a young boy named Pete, and the way the railroad affected his life. The movie shows every 30 minutes. After viewing the movie, exit on the top floor and turn right.

YOU ARE IN THE HISTORY MUSEUM

- Students can follow the timeline to gain an understanding of railroad development and its affect on United States and world history. **(How would America be different without railroads?)**
- Students will enjoy walking through the "Life on the Railroad" exhibit where life-size figures depict the various railroad jobs. **(What job would you like on the railroad and why?)**
- Next, enter the "Station Room," where there are various styles of railroad stations. Contrast the simple Tobyhanna country station on the left with the more elaborate Buffalo, New York station on the right. **(Experience the sights and sounds of the railroad stations.)**
- Walk into the next section of the History Museum where two railroad cars may be toured. Read the exhibit panels and then walk through the Louisville and Nashville Railroad Railway Post Office (RPO) #1100 car. See the environment where mail was sorted, slotted, picked up and delivered. Enter the Erie Railroad Business Car #3 to view the elegance that existed as important business meetings were conducted on the rails as railroad officials traveled from one destination to another.

(What would it have been like to work as a clerk on the RPO? As a cook on the business car?)

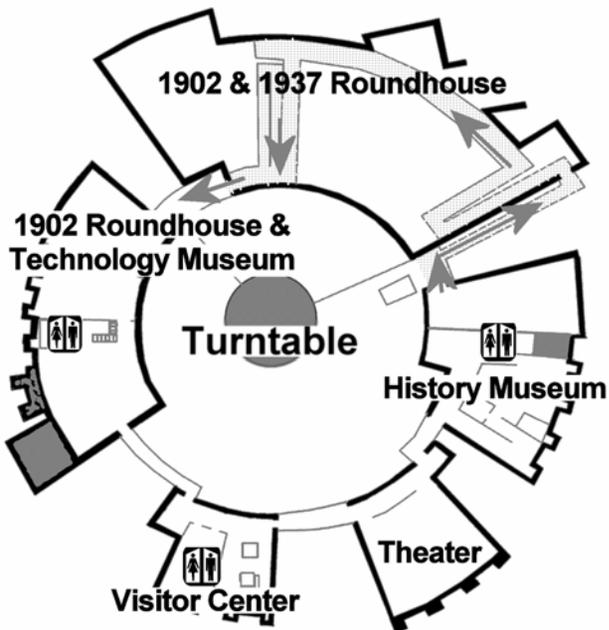


YOU ARE IN THE 1902 & 1937 ROUNDHOUSE

Students will enjoy visiting the 1902 & 1937 Roundhouse which is still used today for routine inspections, maintenance and repairs on steam locomotives. It was expanded over the years as steam locomotives were made larger and the roundhouse grew to accommodate the larger equipment. In the Roundhouse are pieces of equipment positioned on the rails below the walkway. Some of them are still operational.

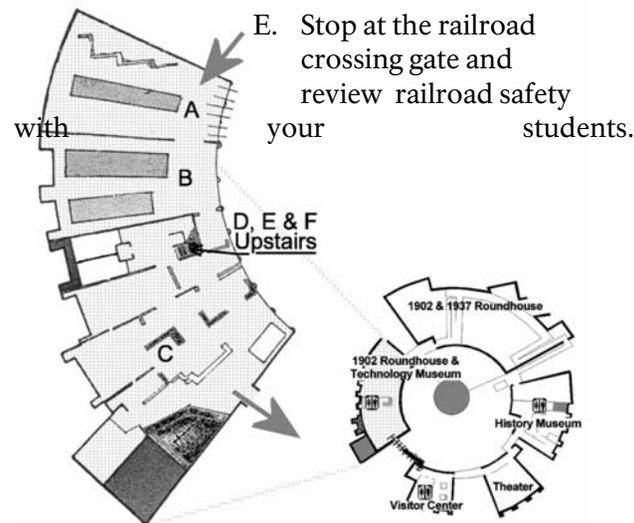
(What might it have been like to work in the Roundhouse? Was it cool in the summer and warm in the winter?)

Exiting the Roundhouse will lead you to the entrance of the Technology Museum.



YOU ARE IN THE TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

- A. Your first view is that of a locomotive, once operational, which has been “sectioned” to display its inner workings. Light blue represents water, white is steam and yellow is fire and smoke. **(Every nut and bolt was inspected every day. How long do you think that took?)**
- B. Students may walk through the caboose which was the conductor’s office and temporary home for crews on a freight train. **(Can you find the stove, table, and restroom?)** Sit in the Boxcar and learn about the different types of freight cars. **(Can you think of something too big to travel on any of these cars?)**
- C. There are various activities in the main part of the museum: guess the meanings of different hobo signs; what do the whistle signals mean; open the drawers for old photos and post cards. Visit the “Architecture and Engineering” display with its focus on the Tunkhannock Viaduct, still the largest reinforced concrete railroad bridge.
- D. Upstairs, view the model train layout of this railroad yard in 1935. **(What has changed? What is the same? Why has it changed?)**



Exit the Technology Museum and walk across the bridge. You will find yourself back in the Visitor Center.

TURNTABLE

View the turntable, where locomotives are turned to move in and out of the Roundhouse. This turntable still operates. Additional information is found near the turntable pit and on the second level outside the Theater.

Thank you for visiting Steamtown National Historic Site! We hope you and your students have enjoyed your visit, and we look forward to seeing you again!

If you have time, please visit our Museum Shop & Bookstore. The store does have limits on the number of students allowed in the store at any one time.

Picnic tables are provided in the grassy area to the South of the Parking Lot.