

Directions

From 219 and 22 take the Portage exit, follow Route 53, 164 or Munster Road into Portage, go through the railroad arch, and turn right at the light. From Blue Knob follow Route 164, go through Portage, turn left at the light just before the railroad arch. The Portage Station Museum is directly ahead.

Membership

If you are not a member of the Portage Area Historical Society, consider joining now. Help keep the museum alive. Send your \$6.00 check for an annual membership to the Museum today. \$50.00 will make you a lifetime member!

Memorial Plaque

Remember a loved one with a memorial plaque put on display at the museum. Plaques can be purchased for \$50, \$100, \$500, and \$1000.

2008 Events (Tentative)

Apr 13: *Ladies Tea*

May 17: *Miniature Mainline Railroad Display Celebration*

Jun 21: *Community Yard Sale*

June 27-28: *Rummage sale*

Aug 8-10: *Summerfest Weekend*

Oct 12: *PA Humanities Council Performance*

Dec 13: *Christmas Light Tour*

Portage Station Museum

Museum Hours
Wednesday through Saturday
12 to 5
(subject to change)

By Request or
for Group Tours:
Call
814-736-9223
or
814-736-8589

Admission FREE

Portage Area Historical Society

Box 45
Portage, PA 15946



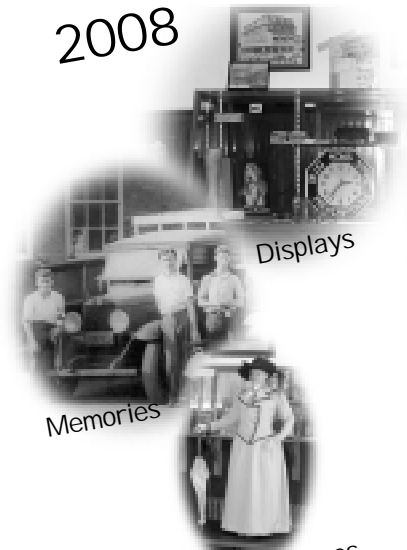
www.PortageStationMuseum.org

Portage Station Museum

400 Lee Street
Portage, PA 15946



2008



Displays

Memories

Performances

Learn about life on the Mainline

Portage

Located 20 Miles east of Johnstown on Route 53, Portage evolved around Plane #2 of the Old Portage Railroad. Established in the 1830s, its industrial heritage included lumber mills, coal mines and transportation.

Portage Station Museum

This two-story brick structure, located at 400 Lee Street, Portage, PA, was built in 1926 by John T. Gray and Son. Until 1954 it served as a train station on the Pennsylvania Railroad. For several years after the station closed, the local Knights of Columbus used the building. Later it was used by Stager Enterprises for storage.

In the spring of 1992, the Portage Rotary Club donated artifacts from the Mainline Mining Museum. Thanks to the generosity of the Stager family, the Portage Area Historical Society now operates the facility as the "Portage Station Museum."

First Floor

The first floor of the museum houses the Station Master's office and the waiting room with its lighting fixtures, oak wainscoting and woodwork, all original to the train station. After purchasing tickets, passengers would leave the building and walk to the railroad underpass. They then walked up a set of concrete steps located at the center of this underpass to a covered waiting area between the sets of tracks where they waited for and boarded the train.



Portage Area Historical Society events are held on the first floor. Items with local appeal are displayed in the vintage show cases, some permanent, others changing on a yearly basis. A full early 20th century kitchen setup depicts a life style of a time gone by.

The Museum Store and Gift Shop is also located on the first floor. It offers a variety of moderately-priced items including T-shirts, sweatshirts, railroad caps, train whistles, toys for the kids, and hard coal figurines.

The shop features collectibles of historic Portage structures, the most recent being the 1909 Caldwell Avenue School, a magnificent educational facility that was destroyed by fire in 1931.



Our award-winning book, *Portrait of a Town - Portage, Pennsylvania 1890-1990* is still available for \$40. A soft covered book titled *History of the Portage Area 1976* is also on sale for a mere \$2.00.

63 MEN DOWN: This national award winning video, filmed locally, tells the story of the Sonman Mine disaster of 1940. **GLORY DAYS:** Tells the story of the Cambria County Industrial Baseball League. Copies of both are available on VHS and DVD for \$20 plus tax. Visitors can view these two films at the museum on a large screen television.

A drawing of Mountain Avenue during the 1920s can be seen on the building next to the museum.

Second Floor

The second floor of the train station was originally used for storage of freight. Today mining artifacts are on exhibit along with a 3D layout of all of the mines once located in the area. A reference section lets visitors look at historical documents, old pamphlets, past museum exhibits, and a collection of hundreds of old photos.

"Miniature Mainline" - A new exhibit, a 173 square foot HO model train display, designed and constructed by train enthusiast Charles Edwards, is drawing crowds to the museum. Local railroad attractions such as the Horse-shoe Curve, the Gallitzin Tunnels, and the Mule Shoe Curve, are a few of the attractions built into the display. The entire project was funded by the late Robert "Bing" James.

Trains from different time periods, including the famous K4 steam engine, can be operated on the various tracks. As many as 40 cars can be seen moving around the tracks on just one train with numerous trains traveling at the same time.



Trains run on the first Saturday of each month from 12 to 5 pm. Arrangements can be made for other dates and times by calling the museum at 814-736-9223. So stop by, bring the kids, and enjoy the delights of the "Miniature Mainline".

Outdoor Viewing Platform

Train enthusiasts can enjoy the view from the new second floor platform as both passenger and freight trains pass close by.