

WASHINGTON CROSSING STATE PARK

This park is located in Mercer County eight miles above Trenton on the banks of the Delaware River. It was here that General Washington and the Revolutionary Army made the historic river crossing on Christmas Night, 1776. This movement preceded the Battle of Trenton, which was called the turning point of the Revolution.

Established in 1912, it contains 369 acres and extends about one mile east from the historic river bank. Continental Lane over which the American troops marched on that memorable night, extends nearly the full length of the park. It is flanked on both sides by park drives. A number of historical memorials have been installed by patriotic and similar organizations.

The State Forest nursery, where forest tree seedlings are raised for the reforestation of idle and abandoned lands in the State, is located at the park. The extensive Park Memorial Arboretum of trees and shrubs native to the State is an interesting feature.

To keep the area perpetually attractive, it is unlawful to pick or remove flowers and shrubs or damage any tree or park property.

Wildlife Sanctuary

The park has been dedicated as a wildlife sanctuary. Hunting, trapping, and the carrying of firearms or bows and arrows are prohibited.

Picnic at Sullivan Grove



McKonkey Ferry House

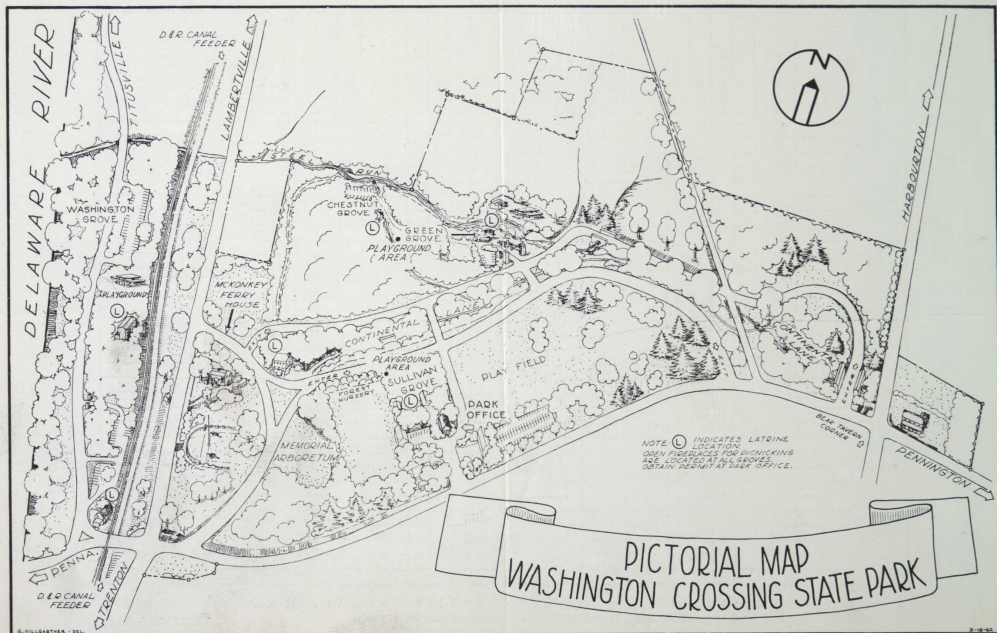
The Ferry House, now maintained as a museum, is open to the public on Sundays from 2 to 5 P.M. and other days, except Mondays, from 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. An admission charge is collected to help defray the costs of operation.

This well preserved old house served the public as a tavern in Revolutionary days. Actually, the McKonkey family lived in Pennsylvania and operated their ferry from that side of the river. The ferry and tavern on the New Jersey side of the Delaware were operated by the following individuals starting with the dates shown: Garret Johnson - 1748, Rut Johnson - 1766, James Slack - 1767, Richard Slack - 1779, Abraham Harvey - 1786, Moses Harvey - 1788, and Samuel Tomlinson - 1801.

The site of Bear Tavern also is included in the park. It was here that the two columns of Continental troops separated on their march to Trenton.



McKonkey Ferry House in winter



Mercer Co. Washington Crossing State Park

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