

Pennsylvania Trolley Museum



Visitors admiring the 1711 & 4398
at Richfol.
PA Trolley Museum.

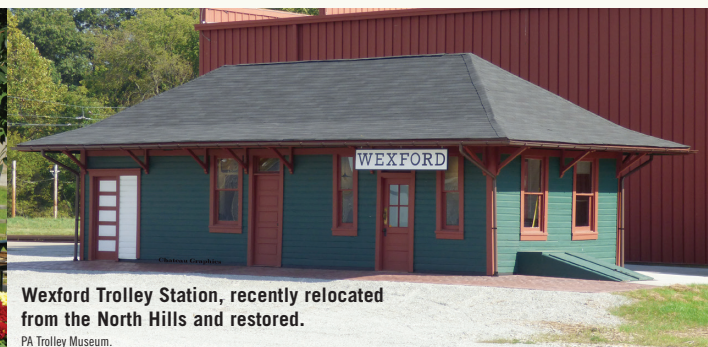
- The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum is a non-profit, educational institution located on 30 acres in picturesque Washington County, Pa., adjacent to the Washington County Fairgrounds and close to the Meadows Racetrack and Casino.
- The museum was founded in 1953 by visionary trolley enthusiasts at the Pittsburgh Electric Railway Club or PERC. Its mission is to “communicate the story of Pennsylvania’s Trolley Era to a diverse audience,” and it does that superbly well through a combination of static and interactive displays and exhibits that take visitors back to a time when electric trolleys revolutionized life in Industrial Age America. The museum experience includes the thrill of riding on a beautifully refurbished electric street car and a tour of the facilities given by one of the museum’s docents.
- The museum has 50 vehicles, three miles of track, a 28,000-square-foot display building, a restoration and maintenance shop, and a variety of historic buildings from the era, as well as archives, library, and visitor and education center. The archives and library, which are available to scholars and students for research by appointment, preserves the rich history of the Trolley Era through its significant collection of books, documents, and photos.
- A recent addition to the museum’s collection of historic structures is the Wexford Station, which was meticulously restored after being relocated from the North Hills, a northern suburb of Pittsburgh. Visitors are able to stand in the 650-square-foot building and imagine what it might have been like to travel on “The Harmony Line,” which at one time linked Beaver Falls, Butler, Harmony, New Castle, and Pittsburgh. The building is part of the overall museum experience and it is used for educational talks, workshops, and special programs for all ages.
- The museum’s collection of rolling stock includes vintage streetcars from Boston, Cincinnati, Columbus, New Orleans, Pittsburgh and Southwestern Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, and Toledo. Two of its prized possessions are the *Streetcar Named Desire*, a beautifully restored car that was featured in a 1947 *Life* magazine article. The other, a car manufactured in Rio de Janeiro, resembles the toy trolley on *Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood* and the full-size version of the car seen in the movie, *Meet Me in St. Louis*, starring Judy Garland.
- The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum has over 600 members, 150 enthusiastic volunteers, and four permanent staff of experienced and highly dedicated museum professionals.
- In addition to its regular program, the museum offers a wide array of special events throughout the year, including Boy Scout Merit Badge workshops, classic car and truck shows, extremely popular seasonal events in the fall, Christmas, and Easter, and annual events for railroad and trolley enthusiasts. The museum also rents its Events Room to the public for birthday and cocktail parties, classes, and meetings for groups as large as 75 people.
- The museum welcomes volunteers to help in the areas of maintenance and restoration, train operation (training and uniforms are provided), special events, historical interpretation, marketing, archives, and tours. Previous experience is not required. Over 25,000 hours of service were donated by volunteers last year!
- The Pennsylvania Trolley Museum is 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, off I-79 at One Museum Road, Washington, Pa., 15301. It’s also 19 miles southeast of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, about a 30-minute drive. For additional information, visit www.patrolley.org or call (724) 228-9256.
- The museum is open 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. daily between June and August. It’s closed Mondays for tours and trolley operations, but the Visitor Education Center, Museum Store, and film are available. During April and May, and September through mid-December, the museum is only open Saturdays and Sundays. The museum is also open on Memorial Day and Labor Day.

The History Center Affiliates Program, HCAP, is a membership-based network that allows local and regional historical societies and museums access to museum professionals and best practice standards through the Senator John Heinz History Center.

To find out more about HCAP or to apply for membership for your organization, please contact Robert O. Stakeley, HCAP Coordinator, at rostakeley@heinzhistorycenter.org or (412) 454-6359.



1711 at the Washington County Fairgrounds.
Photo by Bill Monaghan.



Wexford Trolley Station, recently relocated
from the North Hills and restored.
PA Trolley Museum.