

# Steamtown

National Historic Site



## Guide to the Museum Complex

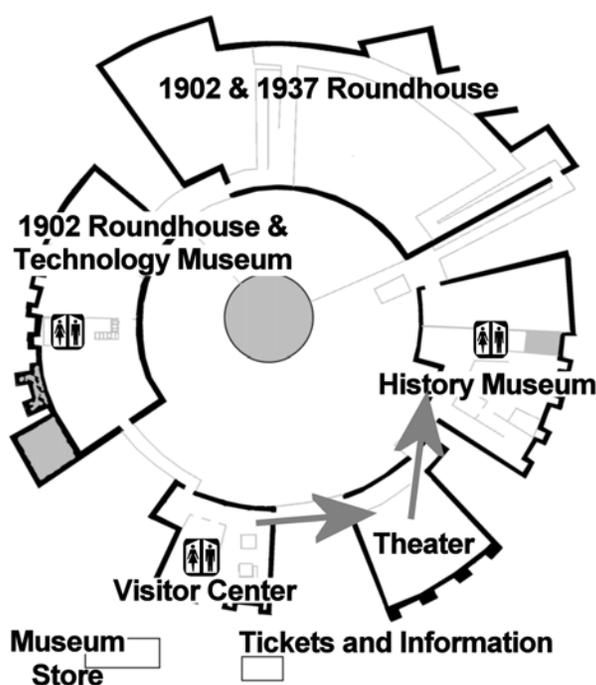
### Track 2: Visiting With Children

Steam engines excite the senses,  
Steamtown keeps their stories alive!

Feel the heat from the firebox. Hear the bell and whistle. Smell the hot steam and oil. Feel the ground vibrate under your feet. See the one ton drive rods turn the wheels. Hear the chuff-chuff-chuff of the smokestack. Today, you can relive the era of steam as the engines come back to life. The cinders, grease, oil, steam, people and stories of railroading have returned.

As you explore the History Museum, Roundhouse and Technology Museum, allow your senses to awaken – the feel, the sounds, the smells, the sights. Now picture a time when 50,000 steam locomotives rode the rails in America; a time when over 2 million Americans worked for the railroad. This is what railroading is about.

Please enjoy exploring Steamtown with your children. We hope to inspire a lifelong fascination with railroading, and America's National Parks.



### YOU ARE IN THE VISITOR CENTER

We first invite children to explore the railroad objects on our “Touch and Feel” table. Afterwards, proceed up the stairs/elevator to the second level. Go right, through two sets of doors to the Theater. Children will enjoy our eighteen minute long movie “Steel and Steam” which begins every half hour, on the hour and on the half-hour.

**After viewing the movie, proceed right to the History Museum and down to its first level.**

### YOU ARE IN THE HISTORY MUSEUM

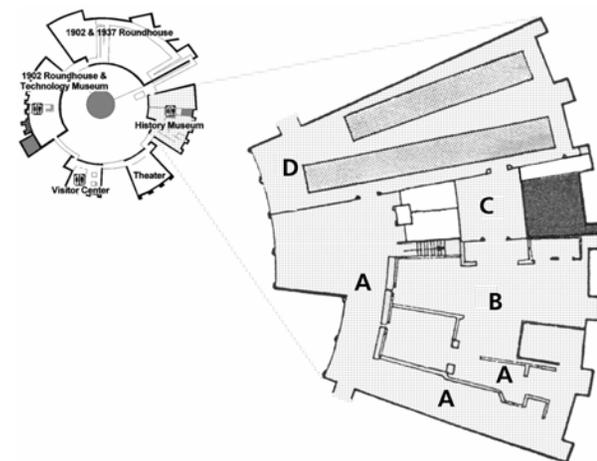
A. Children will enjoy walking through our “Life on the Railroad” exhibit where

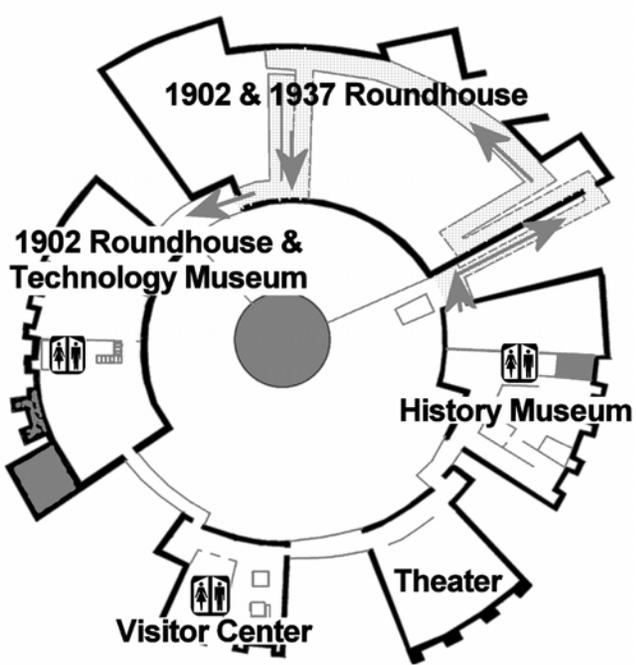
life-size figures depicting various railroad jobs can be seen.

B. Next, enter our “Station Room” where various styles of railroad stations from the simple Tobyhanna country station on the left to the more elaborate Buffalo station on the right, are depicted. Sit on the station benches. Take in the sights and sounds of the railroad stations.

C. Then children will enjoy walking into the next section where two railroad cars may be toured. Walk through the Louisville & Nashville Railroad Railway Post Office (RPO) car. See the environment where mail was sorted, slotted, picked up and delivered. Be sure to read the metal informational exhibit waysides. Exiting the RPO leads you to the entrance of the Erie Business Car #3. View the elegance that existed as important business meetings were conducted on the rails as railroad officials traveled from one destination to another.

**As you exit the History Museum, proceed up the ramp into the working Roundhouse.**





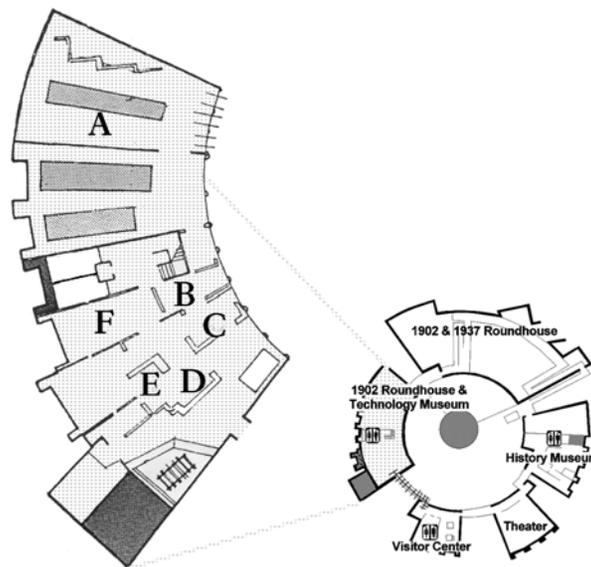
## YOU ARE IN THE 1902 & 1937 ROUNDHOUSE

Children will enjoy visiting the 1902 & 1937 Roundhouse which is still used today to complete routine maintenance and repairs on steam locomotives. It was expanded over the years since steam locomotives were made larger and the roundhouses needed to be larger to accommodate them. As you continue through the Roundhouse, you will see various pieces of equipment positioned on the rails below – some static exhibits and some operational.

**Exiting the Roundhouse will lead you to the entrance of our second museum, the Technology Museum.**

## YOU ARE IN THE TECHNOLOGY MUSEUM

- A. Your first view is that of a cut-away locomotive. At one time, it was a working steam switcher locomotive. View the inner parts of it. Be sure to pick up the information site bulletin regarding the operation of a steam locomotive.
- B. Be sure to allow children time to walk through the caboose (which was the conductor's office on a freight train) and boxcar (which carried freight) in our next section.
- C. Have children play the "Whistle Game" so they may guess what various whistle signals mean. Now, we would suggest you proceed upstairs to view the **(D)** model train layout of the early DL&W railroad yards. Then, step outside onto the **(E)** observation platform for a view of the current yards.
- F. Stop at our semaphore and review railroad safety with your children



As you exit the Technology Museum from the upper level, walk straight across the walkway into the next set of doors and you will find yourself in the upper level of the Visitor Center, once again. Descend the stairs to the main level.

If time permits, during our train operating season, we highly recommend a ride behind a locomotive for the children either on our short yard shuttle or on a longer excursion. Children and adults alike will enjoy the experience of riding a train!

If you have time now, please visit Steamtown's Museum Shop & Bookstore, operated by our partner, Eastern National.

Thank you for visiting Steamtown National Historic Site. We look forward to seeing you again.