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COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FORESTS AND WATERS

G. ALBERT STEWART, Secretary  
CHARLES E. RYDER, Chief Engineer

**ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
ALONG  
PENNSYLVANIA RIVERS**

Prepared in Cooperation With the  
United States Geological Survey

John W. Mangan  
District Engineer  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania  
1942

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E L E V A T I O N S   O F   M A J O R   F L O O D S  
A L O N G  
P E N N S Y L V A N I A   R I V E R S

There is no factor in the study of floods that is of more importance than the elevation or altitude which the water surface attained. It is a direct index to the extent of damage and, except where affected by backwater from ice or discharge from a tributary stream, it is an essential factor in the determination of discharge at various places in a river.

For several years the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters and the United States Geological Survey have been collecting records of flood elevations along Pennsylvania rivers. These records, supplemented by authentic data supplied by other agencies, are given in the accompanying tables.

It should be borne in mind that there is always some doubt as to the accuracy of the early flood heights. In later years, particularly since the turn of the century, gages were established on most of our important rivers where daily readings were obtained with more frequent observations at times of floods. Today, all principal river stations are equipped with water-stage recorders that furnish continuous records of river heights and eliminate all uncertainty and questionable accuracy.

From the greater number of flood heights listed for the more recent years, one might mistakenly infer that floods have been increasing in number if not in magnitude, particularly since the latter part of the 19th century. There is no evidence that floods occurred less frequently in the earlier part of the period covered by the record. A more logical

explanation of the predominance of records in recent years is that, in the earlier period, the greatest floods made a more lasting impression and consequently the records have been preserved; whereas those of lesser significance were lost in the intervening years.

River distances in miles are given in the tables for all locations in order that crest elevations may be interpolated for intervening points. Flood profiles may also be developed from the data if desired.

The crest heights are shown as elevations in feet above mean sea level, Sandy Hook Datum. The elevations are based on the latest information available as to the results of adjustments to the precise level nets. All elevations in any one column were taken on the same structure or group of structures.

At locations where river gages have been maintained, the zero of the gage and the flood stage are given where this information is known.

Flood-height tables for the floods of March 1936 covering all major streams in the Susquehanna and Ohio River Basins are given in far more detail in the special state publication, "The Floods of March 1936 in Pennsylvania." The United States Engineer Offices have also developed flood profiles of some of the major floods in their respective districts.

#### SOURCES OF DATA

The Water Supply Commission of Pennsylvania made an exhaustive study of historic floods in Pennsylvania and published the results of their work in Part VIII of the Water Resources Inventory Report in 1914. Many of the flood heights of the earlier floods given in that publication were converted into elevations above mean sea level for use in this report.

It has been the custom of many people living in areas periodically inundated by floods to carefully mark the crest heights at locations where the crests of previous floods were identified. After the disastrous floods of March 1936, this office collected data for the develop-

ment of elaborate profiles of this flood. At that time, the crest heights of previous floods that have been carefully preserved were obtained. Many of the tabulated elevations were derived from these sources.

The United States Engineer Offices of Baltimore, Philadelphia, Wilkes-Barre, and Pittsburgh, and the United States Weather Bureau have aided the United States Geological Survey and the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters in the preparation of the tabulations by furnishing many flood elevations obtained in their respective districts.

There is doubtless considerably more information on flood elevations in possession of other federal, state, municipal, and private agencies. As such data are made known and authenticated, they may very desirably be included in future revisions of this compilation.

July 1942

**Delaware River**, (Morrisville, Pa. to Stockton, N. J.)

(9)

ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

LEVELS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

**Delaware River**, (Lumberville, Pa. to Easton, Pa.)

(10)

**ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN**

(11)

\* Extracted by us

ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

Lackawaxen River  
Dyberry Creek

Miles from Mouth	Location	March 1936	Sept. 1938	May 1942
Lackawaxen River				
0.0	Mouth; junction with Delaware River			695.5
4.2	Rowlands; highway bridge	828.8	824.4	841.2
13.4	P. P. & L. Co.; hydro-electric plant	882.6	876.6	888.9
16.0	Hawley; recorder gage	887.8		893.2
16.2	Hawley; highway bridge; Welwood St.			900.5
16.7	Mouth of Middle Creek	900.8	898.0	907.9
17.2	West Hawley; Riverside Bridge			932.1
20.7	White Mills; highway bridge	960.2	956.4	
24.59	Mouth of Carley Brook	964.6		972.3
25.10	Honesdale; Florence Mills	970.0	965.4	974.8
25.35	Honesdale; Fourth St.	970.8	966.0	977.6
25.52	Honesdale; Sixth St.	972.3	968.6	979.4
25.63	Honesdale; Eighth St.	972.5		979.6
25.78	Honesdale; Court House			
25.95	Junction with Dyberry Creek	977.4	974.0	982.7
26.08	Honesdale; Court St. footbridge			984.3
26.19	Honesdale; Main St.	982.6		988.1
26.46	Honesdale; School	994.4	990.9	999.8
26.95	Honesdale; Clark St.	1,003.9		1,007.8
27.25				

Dyberry Creek

0.00	Junction with Lackawaxen River	977.1	971.4	984.1
.04	Honesdale; highway bridge	978.4		984.5
.31	Honesdale; Fifteenth St.	978.6	974.1	985.2
.58	Honesdale; Eighteenth St.	979.6		985.8
.73	Honesdale; Stanton St.	979.5	974.7	985.9
.88	Penna. Dept. of Highways shed			986.6
1.83				
2.08	Highway bridge	979.5	975.0	986.8

Note.- Three greatest floods since 1908.

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ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN

Lehigh River (Bethlehem to Allentown)

Date	Flood Stage	Beth. Steel Co.	BETHLEHEM, PA.	New St. Bridge	BETHLEHEM, PA.	Reed Millwork Co.	BETHLEHEM, PA.	Fritch Millings Co.	Hill to Hill	BETHLEHEM	Bridge down-slide.	HILL TO HILL	SUE-IT SLIP	C.R.R. of N.J. Ste.	Allentown Creek, PA.	Below Dem #7	Allentown, PA.	Above Dem #7	Allentown St.
1786, October.									228.8	226.8	233.8	230.8							256.4
1839, January.									234.4	230.8	231.3	236.3							
1841, January.									235.5	230.8	231.3	236.3							
1850, Sept....									232.7	236.0	236.2	228.9							
1862, June....									227.3	228.3	228.5	229.5							
1869, October.									224.3	227.3	232.9	232.6							
1894, May....									225.6	225.6	230.8	233.2							
1901, December									224.3	229.8	229.8	231.0							
1902, February									224.3	229.8	229.8	231.5							
1920, March....									224.3	229.8	229.8	238.1							
1924, Sept....									224.3	227.3	227.3	237.5							
1926, November									224.3	227.3	227.3	237.3							
1933, August....									225.6	225.6	230.8	233.2							
1935, July....									225.6	225.6	230.8	231.0							
1936, March 12									224.3	224.3	224.3	231.2							
1936, March 18									224.3	224.3	224.3	231.5							
1942, May.....									229.4	232.1	233.4	236.9							

(13)

\*Affected by dam failure.  
d0.1 Mile above New Street Bridge.

**LEVELS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN**

Lehigh River (Catasauqua to White Haven)

Miles from Initial point	9.6	11.1	14.4	16.8	23.2	28.3	31.0	34.8	37.4	57.3	57.4	59.2	
Zero of Gage													
Flood Stage													
Date													
Above Dam #6	CATASAUQUA, PA.	287.0	288.6	289.7	325.4	341.6	340.5	324.8	323.6	322.6	328.1	297.3	
Above Dam #5	LAWRYS, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
0.35 mi. above COPPLAY Street Bridge	NORTHAMPTON, PA. Hungerfiehn Hall	1786, October.. 1839, January.. 1841, January.. 1850, Sept... 1862, June... 1869, October.. 1894, May... 1901, December.. 1902, February.. 1920, March... 1924, Sept... 1926, November.. 1933, August... 1935, July... 1936, March..12. 1936, March..18. 1942, May....	1124.0	1,054.3	1,054.9	1,055.1	1,054.8	1,058.3	1,054.5	1,054.9	1,055.1	1,054.8	1,058.3
Above Dam #4	TREICHLERS, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Above Dam #3	LEHIGH GAP	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Above Dam #2	BOWMANSTOWN, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Lehighton	WEISSPORT, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Highway Bridge	WEISSPORT, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Above Dam #1	MAUCH CHUNK, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Highway Bridge	WEISSPORT, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Above Dam #1	GLEN-ONOKA, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Tunnel	C.R.R. of N.J.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Highway Bridge	TANNERY, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Record Gage	TANNERY, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	
Above Dam	WHITE HAVEN, PA.	326.1	343.1	341.7	388.3	389.9	440.2	464.7	460.8	459.8	436.3	440.5	

- \* Affected by dam failure.
- a Affected by Mauch Chunk Creek
- b Dam not since rebuilt.

**ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
DELAWARE RIVER BASIN**

## Schuykill River

## North Branch of Susquehanna River

### North Branch of Susquehanna River

17)

\*Affected by ice.  
Affected by backwater from West Branch.

**ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN**

SUSQUEHANNA RIVER

(18)

FLOOD ELEVATIONS  
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN  
LACKAWANNA RIVER

Miles from Mouth	Location	March 1940 (feet)	May 1942 (feet)
0.0	Mouth		
.8	Duryea, Stevenson St. Bridge (D.S.)		565.21
3.2	Old Forge (gage); 150 feet above D.L.W.R.R. bridge	606.94	610.78
3.9	Moosic (gage); River St. Bridge		632.06
10.8	Scranton; Carbon (Clive) St. Bridge; Old U.S.W.B.gage		693.05
11.9	Scranton; Albright St. Bridge; new U.S.W.B. gage	694.75	697.35
17.5	Olyphant (gage); West Lackawanna Street Bridge	766.61	768.38
23.2	Archbald (gage); half mile above mouth of White Oak Run	896.53	899.97
29.1	Carbondale; D & H R.R. Station		1,046.70
36.1	Forest City (gage); 4.8 miles above mouth of Elk Creek	1,429.02	1,430.64
36.5	Forest City (gage); dam of Scranton-Spring Brook Water Co.		1,472.41

Note.- Flood of March 1936 reached an elevation of 765.31 feet at Olyphant.

\*Arrested by ice.

(19)

ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
SUSQUEHANNA RIVER BASIN

## West Branch of Susquehanna River

100

### ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS

- 1 -

\* 100 - 101 2 = 100

ELUVIATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
OHIO BASIN  
ALLEGHENY RIVER

\*Affected by ice.

ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
OHIO RIVER BASIN

OHIO RIVER												
Miles from Pittsburgh	0	6.1	9.6	11.7	13.3	18.6	24.1	24.3	26.2	29.3	31.7	36.5
Zero of Gage	694.00	679.2		690.00	664.5	667.8	662.1			654.9		644.7
Flood Stage	719.0									684.9		674.7
Date	PITTSBURGH, Pa.	Point Point	EMSWORTH, Pa.	LOCK & Dam	DAshFIELDs, PA.	SEWICKLEY, PA.	HIGHWAY BRIDGE	LEGIONVILLE, PA.	FREEDEm, PA.	MONACA, PA.	LOCK & Dam No. 5	LOCK & Dam No. 6
(24)	1762, January..	733.2	735.1	731.1	730.2	730.2	730.2	730.2	730.2	705.8	703.2	701.4
	1763, March..	735.1	731.1	731.1	731.1	731.1	731.1	731.1	731.1			
	1806, April..											
	1810, November.											
	1832, February.											
	1851, Sept.....											
	1882, April.....											
	1886, Sept.....											
	1885, March....											
	1886, March....											
	1888, February.											
	1891, February.											
	1902, March....											
	1903, March....											
	1935, March....											
	1937, January...											
	1937, April....											
	1940, March....											
	1941, June....											

Note. - Flood stage of 719.0 feet at Pittsburgh has been exceeded 118 times since 1762. Only floods exceeding 728.0 feet at Pittsburgh are given in table.

ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS OHIO RIVER BASIN												
Kiskiminetas River and Tributaries												
Miles from Mouth	4.8	10.8	11.5	22.4	26.8	48.8	57.3	69.7	80.3	80.9	84.5	
Zero of Gage		767.14	760.40	805.64	825.80			1,075.64	1,150.00	1,154.0	1,185.84	
Flood Stage		795.	794.4	850.	841.6	940.		1,093.6	1,162.	1,166.	1,198.8	
Conemaugh River												
Date												
1884, February.....												
1888, August.....												
1889, June.....												
1891, February.....												
1902, March.....												
1906, June.....												
1907, March.....												
1908, March.....												
1910, February.....												
1912, March.....												
1915, January.....												
1917, January.....												
1917, March.....												
1918, February.....												
1921, November.....												
1924, May.....												
1927, October.....												
1928, May.....												
1930, February.....												
1933, March.....												
1936, March.....												
1937, January.....												
1937, April.....												
1937, December.....												
1939, February.....												
1940, March.....												
1941, June.....												

(25)

\*Affected by backwater; South Fork dam failure.

ELVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
OHIO RIVER BASIN  
Monongahela River

Miles from Mouth	Date	PITTSBURGH, PA.	Dam No. 1	BRADDOCK, PA.	New Dam No. 2	McKEESEPORT, PA.	National Tube Co.	ELIZABETH, PA.	New Dam No. 3	CHARLEROI, PA.	Old Dam No. 4	BROWNSVILLE, PA.	New Dam No. 5	RICES LANDING, PA.	Old Dam No. 6	GREENSBORO, PA.	New Dam No. 7	Old Dam No. 8	POINT MARION, PA.	New Dam No. 9	90.6	
Miles from Mouth		1.9	11.2	15.0	23.8	25.3	40.9	41.5	56.5	58.9	68.3	82.3	84.8	87.1	90.6							
Zero of Gage				718.25	714.93	716.30	714.5	735.33		741.0		765.17	767.55	774.00	782.5							
Flood Stage				738.2	745.5	745.5																

Notes.— Values for July 1888 flood scaled from U.S.A.E. flood profile.  
All elevations at dams at upper pools.

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ELVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
OHIO RIVER BASIN

Youghiogheny River

Miles from Mouth	0.56	8.84	15.18	19.40	44.65	62.88	72.15	73.05
Zero of Gage			733.14	740.3	860.13	1,198.91	1,302.77	1,307.40
Flood Stage			753.1	760.3	876.1			1,319.4
Date								
1860, April.....								
1868, August.....								
1891, February.....								
1896, July.....								
1897, February.....								
1902, February.....								
1904, March.....								
1907, March.....								
1908, February.....								
1912, February.....								
1912, March.....								
1913, January.....								
1916, March.....								
1917, January.....								
1918, February.....								
1924, March.....								
1928, May.....								
1933, March.....								
1936, March 18.....								
1937, April.....								
1937, October.....								
1939, February.....								
1940, March.....								
1941, June.....								
McKEESPORT, PA.								
Ninth and Rose Street.....								
COULTER, PA.								
SUTTERVILLE, PA.								
WEST NEWTON, PA.								
HIGHWAY BRIDGE.....								
CONNELLSTVILLE, PA.								
CRAWFORD AVENUE HIGHWAY BRIDGE.....								
OHIOVILLE, PA.								
HIGHWAY BRIDGE.....								
CONFLUENCE, PA.								
1 mi. downstream from mouth of Casselman River.....								
CONFLUENCE, PA.								
Baltimore and Ohio R. R. Bridge.....								

\*Affected by ice.

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ELEVATIONS OF MAJOR FLOODS  
OHIO RIVER BASIN

Beaver and Shenango Rivers

Date	Beaver River	Shenango River
1893, May.....	BEAVER FALLS, PA.	WALPUM, PA.
1910, March.....	Hartman Dam	Hightway Bridge
1913, March.....	NEWCASLTE, PA.	PUTASKI, PA.
1920, March.....	Washington Street	P.R.R. Bridge
1927, December...	Highway Bridge	SHARON, PA.
1929, April.....	Wheatland, PA.	Chestnut Street
1936, March.....	SHARPSVILLE, PA.	GREENVILLE, PA.
1937, January...	700 feet upstream from Erie Rail-	Melin St. Bridge
1937, April....	road bridge.	JAMESTOWN, PA.
1939, March.....	2 miles downstream from Jamestown	Troye Bridge, 2 miles downstream from Jamestown
1940, March.....		
1940, April.....		

\*Affected by backwater.  
The construction of the Pymatuning Dam (Mile 86.8) completed in 1934.

**End of  
Title**