

Demolition of the Former Gettysburg Visitor Center



Demolition is now underway on the old National Park Service visitor center at Gettysburg National Military Park. The structure was built originally in the 1920s and operated for 50 years as a private home and tourist attraction owned by the Rosensteel family. The NPS purchased the building in the early 1970s and continued to operate the Electric Map there until April 2008, when the National Park Service's new Museum and Visitor Center opened at 1195 Baltimore Pike, 2/3 of a mile from the former facility.

One of the goals of the Cemetery Ridge rehabilitation project has been to remove the two outdated visitor facilities from an important part of the battle line of the Union Army in July 1863. Where the NPS operated two visitor facilities and two parking lots, more than 900 soldiers became casualties during the heavy fighting on July 2 and 3, 1863.

Demolition of the old visitor center is the first phase of the Cemetery Ridge rehabilitation project and is being funded and managed by the Gettysburg Foundation. Demolition of the former Cyclorama building will not occur until the resolution of a federal lawsuit by plaintiffs who want to preserve the 1962 structure. In a later phase of the Cemetery Ridge rehabilitation project, the Gettysburg Foundation and the NPS will bring back missing features that affected the fighting of the battle, including Ziegler's Grove, fence lines, orchards and meadows.

Photo: Demolition equipment razes the former National Park Service visitor center building along Taneytown Road. Photo Courtesy of Barbara Adams.