

Spanning the Gap

Life at the Kittatinny



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(Left, top) Back veranda of Kittatinny Hotel, looking across the Delaware to Kittatinny Point NJ.

(Left, bottom) The scene in front of the hotel, when trolleys have replaced horse-drawn carriages. The roadway is now Route 611.

The Kittatinny, first of the resort hotels at Delaware Water Gap, opened its still-unfinished premises in 1832 to a capacity 25 guests. By the end of the Civil War, the hotel had expanded to accommodate more than 250 vacationers.



The Kittatinny had a ballroom, a bar and evening entertainment, and a basement kitchen with a stream running through it. From its

riverside veranda 180 feet above the Delaware, guests could command a view of the famous scenery and the many nature-based amusements of the time: constructed trails, fishing and boating on the river and lakes, and moonlight cruises aboard steamboat *Kittatinny*.

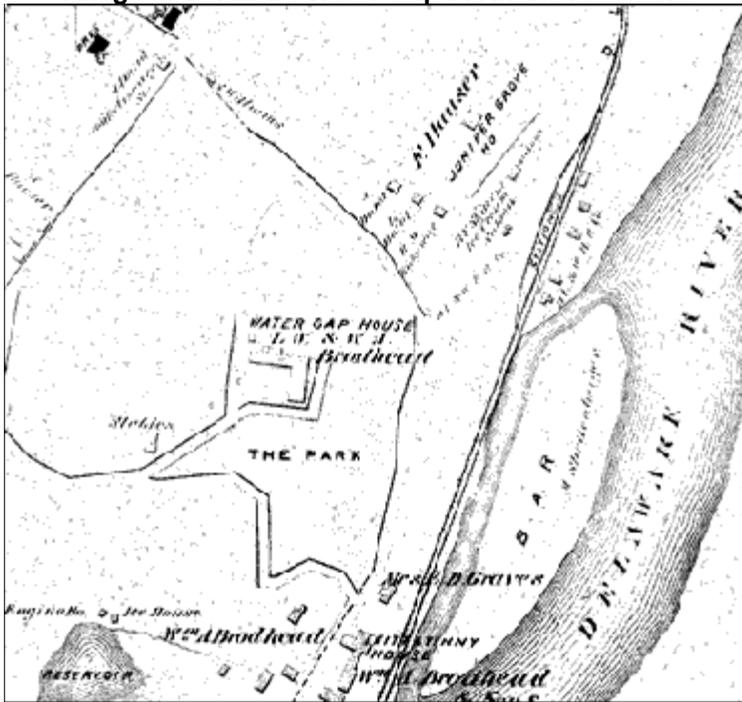


Kittatinny Hotel in the town of Delaware Water Gap PA, seen across the Delaware River at the Water Gap from Kittatinny Point NJ.



Kittatinny Hotel atop Mt. Minsi in Delaware Water Gap PA, seen from Kittatinny Point NJ.

Village of Delaware Water Gap PA in the resort era



Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad tracks running bottom to top of map at right

DL&W (Water Gap) Station at right

Water Gap House in center of map (atop Mt. Minsi PA)

Schellenbergers Island (labelled "Bar")

***Kittatinny House (Hotel)** at middle bottom at river (Reservoir is today's Lake Lenape)*

As railroads continued to promote the Gap as a vacation destination, 15 other hotels and boarding houses sprang up in the area. A notable neighbor of Kittatinny Hotel was Water Gap House, built in 1872 above the Kittatinny on Mt. Minsi, which could welcome 275 guests. (See map above)

With the advent of the automobile, vacation styles changed. The resort industry of the Gap, based on older values of "taking in the air" and enjoying the scenery, fell into decline.

Water Gap House burned in 1915 in one of the largest fires the county had ever seen. The Kittatinny suffered a fire itself in 1931. Some of the foundations of Kittatinny Hotel, as well as the stream that ran through its kitchen, can still be seen at Resort Point Overlook on Route 611 in Pennsylvania. Travellers on Interstate 80's bridge at the Gap often glimpse the stream cascading down Mt. Minsi's cliff after a heavy rain.

(Color images courtesy Monroe County Historical Association)



In front of Kittatinny Hotel (now Resort Point Overlook PA)



The landing in Delaware Water Gap PA, with steamship *Kittatinny II* (1899) passing by.