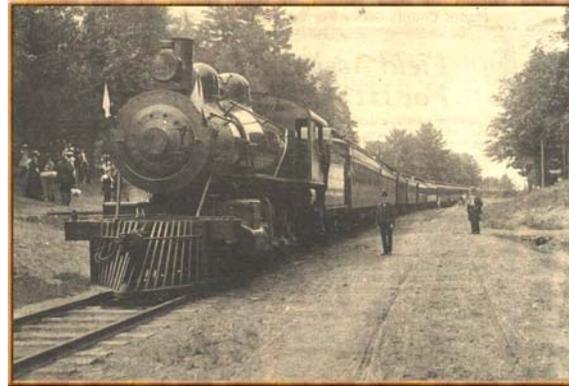


A Short History

The FJ&G (Fonda, Johnstown & Gloversville) railroad started operations in 1870. The 16-mile track section to Northville was built independently. It was completed in 1874 and acquired by the FJ&G through bankruptcy in 1881. This "Northern Division" included depots in Mayfield, Cranberry Creek, Sacandaga Park and Northville. The FJ&G then built a spectacular resort community in Sacandaga Park: the "Coney Island of the North", with luxury hotels such as the Adirondack Inn, rental cottages and (later on) a large amusement park. The 750 acre park had water & sewer, electricity, Broadway-level entertainment and one of the first golf courses in the nation. The park opened in 1884; it reached a peak summer visitor attendance of 90,000 in 1912. The Northern Division was lost when part of the Sacandaga valley was intentionally flooded in 1930 to create a flood control reservoir to protect towns along the Hudson river. After years of litigation, the railroad was compensated for the loss of the Northern Division as well as a large section of its amusement park. But times were bad in general and the economics of the region (and the nation) were changing. The FJ&G declared bankruptcy in 1933. Many of the assets including the cottages were sold in 1938. The FJ&G emerged from bankruptcy in 1944 and operated then mostly as a freight transporter. It was acquired by the D&O railroad in 1979 and was closed down altogether in 1984. The remainder of the 750 acre Sacandaga Park property was sold in 1952; and again a year later to the DeLia brothers. They sold off the prime assets such as the golf course, the Adirondack Inn, Heeswick Lodge, the Dance Pavilion, The Beach Club and the Rustic Theatre. The Theatre burned in 1955 and the Inn in 1975. A new theatre was built in 1956 but it operated for only five seasons - the rural resort era had passed. The present Sacandaga railroad station was built in 1922. It is one of a few remaining FJ&G public structures. In 2003 it was placed on the National Register of Historic Places.



Train arriving at Sacandaga Park



Riverside Boulevard - Amusement Park era

For guided tours of Sacandaga Park, Northville or the hamlet of Fish House contact the Town Historian (836 2628) or visit the Northville/Northampton Historical Museum. The Museum is located on South Main Street, next to Town Hall.

**Historic Landmarks Commission
Town of Northampton**



This brochure describes a walking tour through the historic hamlet of Sacandaga Park. The tour is an easy one hour stroll along the remaining cottages nestled among giant white pines. The map on the back shows the tour overlaid on an early 1900's map of the park.



Entry to the former Adirondack Inn from the "Circle"

From a late 1800's booklet of the FJ&G railroad:

The grounds of Sacandaga Park are beautifully laid out, and it is discoverable at a glance that money has been lavishly expended in landscape ornamentation.

The eastern section presents one of the prettiest pictures of cosy home life that is imaginable. Here are noble groves of pine, and beneath their sheltering foliage are well-kept walks and lawns, which form a most enticing promenade. Here, too, are the cottages, a very essential feature of the Park, and which constitutes an inestimable privilege for visitors

