



The story of American industry and technological innovation is told at many national parks. The textile mills of Lowell National Historical Park (Massachusetts) were a cradle of the Industrial Revolution.



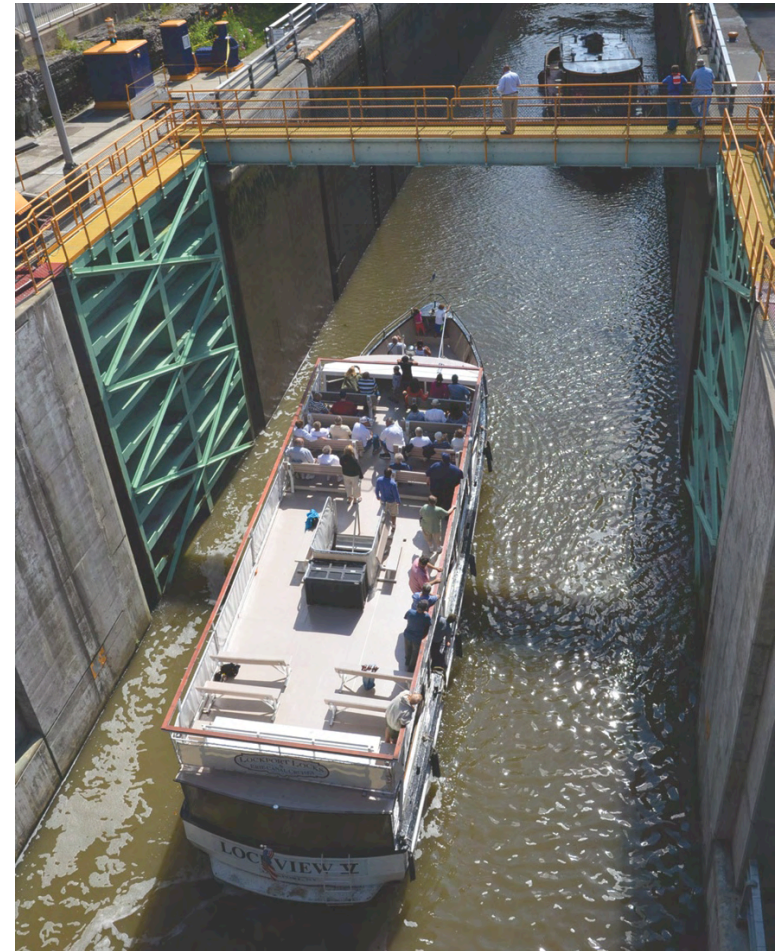
Mining history, corporate paternalism, and the influx of immigrants from different ethnic groups are some of the focal points at Keweenaw National Historical Park (Michigan). Pictured is the Quincy Mining Company headquarters.



San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (California) interprets America's seafaring heritage.



The name of Thomas Edison is synonymous with American inventiveness. His laboratories are preserved as Thomas Edison National Historical Park (New Jersey).



The Erie Canal was a 19th-century marvel of transportation and commerce. Much of its route across upstate New York is part of the Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor.



Steamtown National Historic Site (Pennsylvania) occupies the former roundhouse and railroad yard of the Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad in Scranton. Steamtown has a collection of historic locomotives, freight cars, and passenger cars — many still operating for visitors. National park system sites that operate historic vessels, machines, and equipment such as the rolling stock and locomotives at Steamtown face another challenge. Operating historic artifacts requires staff and volunteers with very specialized maintenance and repair skills. Pictured: an air pump on a steam engine.



World-changing experimental flights were made by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, which is now preserved as Wright Brothers National Memorial.



A replica of Union Pacific Railroad engine 119 always draws attention at Golden Spike National Historic Site (Utah), the place where the first transcontinental railroad was completed in 1869 by driving the last spike to complete the line.



Military technology is on display at numerous parks. (left) Some of the military aircraft preserved at Floyd Bennett Field, Gateway National Recreational Area (New York / New Jersey). (right) Disarmed Minuteman missile in launch silo, Minuteman Missile National Historic Site (South Dakota).



The social impacts of military production and technology are part of the parks too. Tuskegee Army Airfield National Historic Site (Alabama) commemorates the U.S. Army Air Corps' program to train African American pilots during World War II — a program known as the “Tuskegee Experiment” because (in the parlance of the time) many whites doubted Negroes could fly airplanes. At the Oak Ridge, Tennessee, one of three units of Manhattan Project National Historical Park (New Mexico / Tennessee / Washington), the mobilization of civilians for the nuclear bomb effort is interpreted.