



WHAT DOES ZOAR LEVEE & DIVERSION DAM PROTECT?

Zoar Levee provides flood damage reduction benefits to Zoar Village and provides protection when Dover Dam is retaining a pool above elevation 890 ft. (a 3-year event). As such the original crest elevation of the Zoar Levee was designed to correspond to the spillway elevation of Dover Dam at 916 ft., with an additional 3 feet of freeboard for a resulting crest elevation of 919 ft. Following work in 1951 the crest elevation was raised to 928.5 ft.

The federal government still maintains flowage easement upstream of Dover Dam to elevation 916 ft. Without Zoar Levee and Diversion Dam, all portions of Zoar Village located at or below elevation 916 ft. would have been evacuated at the time of Dover Dam's construction.



Zoar Village is a living community with noteworthy historical significance. Zoar Village is located in east central Ohio, along the Tuscarawas River in Tuscarawas County, about 70 miles south of Cleveland, Ohio. Zoar Village was established in 1817 by a group of German separatists called Zoarites, seeking a new home where they could freely practice their religion without oppression. The Society of Separatists of Zoar existed from 1817 to 1898, and at its height, included over 300 members and held several thousand acres of land surrounding

the Zoar Village. Although founded primarily as a religious community, the separatists introduced a communal system to pay their debts for land and guarantee their economic and social security.



Much of Zoar Village was documented in 1936 by the Historic American Building Survey (HABS). In the 1960s, the Ohio General Assembly appropriated \$300,000 to purchase significant buildings in Zoar Village to preserve, restore and interpret them. The Ohio Historical Society (OHS) now manages several buildings

in the Zoar Village as a State Memorial Site.

In 1967, the Zoar Community Association (ZCA) was founded to ensure the preservation of the Zoar Village and the surrounding areas and to assist in the maintenance of the economic vitality of the Zoar Village area.



The Zoar State Memorial Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1969 (Pratt 1969) and its boundary was increased in 1975. The community was listed under Criterion A for its association with the 19th century German separatist movement and under Criterion C for its outstanding examples of nineteenth century architecture. As currently listed, its period of significance extends from 1817 to 1898.



The historic District measures 176.7 total acres, 54 acres of which is located behind Zoar Levee within



elevation 916. Approximately one-fifth of the historic District is above elevation 916. Key institutional buildings, such as the church, school, and weaving house, along with several residences are located above elevation 916.

Today, Zoar Village stands remarkably intact with numerous



buildings from the period of significance still standing and it continues to be a heritage tourist asset as a result of its unique history, the quality of surviving historical integrity, and an active and thriving community. Zoar Village association hosts several festivals and events each year. The ZCA is now under contract to manage and run tours of several of the buildings in Zoar Village for the OHS. Zoar Village is also listed as an important component of the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor. For more information concerning Zoar Village or the Ohio & Erie Canal National Heritage Corridor, please visit <http://www.zca.org/home.html>, <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/ne10/index.shtml>, or www.ohioeriecanal.org.

The District has engaged and been engaged by a large array of stakeholders, all of which have significant concerns about Zoar Village. These stakeholders not only include local residents and governmental and elected officials, but regional and national level stakeholders including the Ohio Historical Society, the Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Heritage Ohio, Ohio Archeological Council, the Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and the President’s Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

The USACE is working closely with the residents of Zoar Village and other stakeholders to ensure that we understand and take into account their concerns while formulating, evaluating, and comparing various long-term risk management alternatives.



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