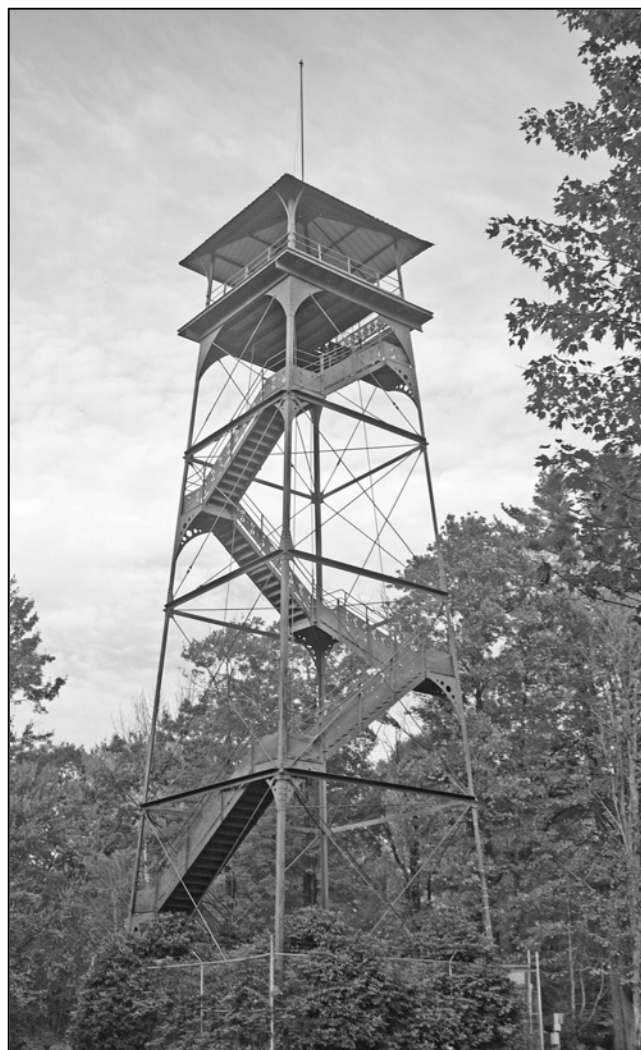


## *Then... and Now*

### **The Mount Joy Observation Tower**



Valley Forge Postcard, 1920's or 1930's. *Photographer unknown.*



Pine Creek Gorge. *Photographer: Mike Bertram, 2007.*

John Rogers built the first observation tower on the top of Mount Joy in Valley Forge National Historical Park around 1850 (before the Park came into existence). A new 75' high observation tower (shown on the postcard) was built in 1909. By the 1980's, the surrounding trees had grown so high that they obscured the view. The tower was dismantled in 1988<sup>1</sup>. It was then sold and reconstructed at the Grand Canyon of Pennsylvania, where it stands today. You can still climb to the top of the tower. It is unmanned; you need a credit card to get through the gate at the base. The access road to the summit of Mount Joy was recently torn up, along with the parking lot that formerly surrounded the tower. The entire area has been replanted, and soon there will be no trace of the tower's existence in Valley Forge.

<sup>1</sup>Lorette Treese. *Valley Forge: Making and Remaking a National Symbol*. (Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995)