### Top Ten Highest Historical Crests: Potomac River at Shepherdstown

**Latitude:** 39.435  
**Flood Stage:** 15  
**Period of Record:** 1889-Present  
**Last Flood:** 5/17/2014  
**Longitude:** -77.801  
**Total Number of Floods:** 123

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date of Flood</th>
<th>Crest (ft)</th>
<th>Streamflow (cfs)</th>
<th>Wx Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3/19/1936</td>
<td>42.07</td>
<td>335,000</td>
<td>Two successive rainstorms combined with snowmelt flooded the Eastern Seaboard from Virginia to Maine. A total of 150 to 200 lives were lost and damage estimates were over $1 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/1/1889</td>
<td>39.20</td>
<td>290,000</td>
<td>A mesoscale convective complex caused 9 inches of rain to fall in 36 hours with 4 inches of rain occurring in 8 hours. Most of Williamsport, Lock Haven, Muncy, Jersey Shore and Montgomery were submerged.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/27/1937</td>
<td>33.22</td>
<td>207,000</td>
<td>Heavy rains caused widespread flooding across most of Virginia. The Rappahannock basin was hit the hardest, but the Potomac River at Wisconsin Avenue rose to 14.3 feet. Six people died and total damages were well over $1.5 million.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/16/1942</td>
<td>32.68</td>
<td>201,000</td>
<td>The remnants of the eighth tropical storm of the year produced torrential rains and caused the worst river flooding in the history of Virginia.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/21/1996</td>
<td>32.50</td>
<td>-9,999</td>
<td>Southerly winds, high dewpoints and intense rainfall caused a rapid snowmelt. The resultant flooding was the worst to hit the entire MARFC area since 1972.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/7/1985</td>
<td>31.44</td>
<td>187,000</td>
<td>Hurricane Juan produced more than 1 inch of rain in VA with more than 7 inches reported in higher elevations. A coastal low pressure system produced an additional 1-7 inches of rain and caused widespread major flooding in Virginia and Maryland.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/13/1924</td>
<td>29.80</td>
<td>168,000</td>
<td>The weather summary is unavailable at this time.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/8/1996</td>
<td>29.00</td>
<td>-9,999</td>
<td>Hurricane Fran produced up to 16 inches of rain in the western part of Virginia and up to 7 inches in the Juniata Basin in Pennsylvania. Fran was the worst flood even to hit Maryland since Hurricane Hazel and the January 1996 Flood.</td>
</tr>
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**Drainage Area:** 5936 sq mi  
**Gage Datum:** 281 ft MSL  
**County of Gage:** Jefferson  
**Potomac Basin**  
**County of Forecast Point:** Jefferson

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<td>10/29/1937</td>
<td>26.78</td>
<td>138,000</td>
<td>The weather summary is unavailable at this time.</td>
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Potomac Basin

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