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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Multiple Property Documentation Form

This form is for use in documenting multiple property groups relating to one or several historic contexts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900-a). Type all entries.

A. Name of Multiple Property Listing

Coopers Rock State Forest Historic Resources

B. Associated Historic Contexts

Recreational facilities constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp Rhododendron, in Coopers Rock State Forest, 1936-1942

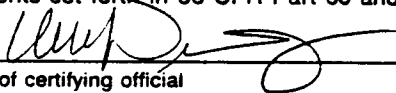
C. Geographical Data

These resources are located off U.S. 48, eight miles east of Morgantown, West Virginia. Coopers Rock State Forest is located in both Preston and Monongalia counties. The majority of the resources are found in the Coopers Rock State Forest park area. The remaining resources are located across U.S. 48 on SR 73.

See continuation sheet

D. Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this documentation form meets the National Register documentation standards and sets forth requirements for the listing of related properties consistent with the National Register criteria. This submission meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60 and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Planning and Evaluation.


Signature of certifying official

March 28, 1991
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

I, hereby, certify that this multiple property documentation form has been approved by the National Register as a basis for evaluating related properties for listing in the National Register.

Signature of the Keeper of the National Register

Date

E. Statement of Historic Contexts

Discuss each historic context listed in Section B.

See continuation sheet

F. Associated Property Types

I. Name of Property Type _____

II. Description

III. Significance

IV. Registration Requirements

See continuation sheet

See continuation sheet for additional property types

G. Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

Discuss the methods used in developing the multiple property listing.

See continuation sheet

H. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional documentation:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency

- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: West Virginia and Regional History Collection, West Virginia University

I. Form Prepared By

name/title Pamela Ball Redmond, Historian date December 14, 1990
 organization Coopers Rock Foundation telephone (304) 296-3013
 street & number 625 Brandon Street state WV zip code 26505
 city or town Morgantown

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RECREATIONAL FACILITIES CONSTRUCTED BY THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS,
CAMP RHODODENDRON, IN COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST, 1936-1942

The two historic contexts for this National Register Multiple Property Nomination are "Camp Rhododendron CCC Rustic Architecture in Coopers Rock State Forest, 1936-1942;" and "Camp Rhododendron CCC Landscape Design in Coopers Rock State Forest, 1936-1942."

The Recreational Facilities built by Camp Rhododendron's Civilian Conservation Corps in Coopers Rock State Forest between 1936 and 1942 are significant under Criteria A through their relationship with the CCC, a Depression-era New Deal public works program developed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Criteria C significance is attained through the Rustic design incorporated in the buildings, structures, and objects of Coopers Rock State Forest. The Rustic design embodies Roosevelt's 'one-with-nature' ideology.

I. Background Information

During prehistoric times, approximately 250 million years ago, sand and pebbles deposited and fused together under water. These sediments that formed the rocks of the Appalachian Plateaus were forming about the same time coal deposits were developing. The Appalachian Revolution thrust the sediments to great heights forming the Appalachian Highlands. This period of mountain building occurred approximately 200 million years ago.

It was during this period that what is now known as 'Coopers Rocks' was formed. The rock is a chip, or piece of the cap rock that crowns the Chestnut Ridge anticline.

The sandstone rock, known as the Upper Connoquesnessing Sandstone of the Pottsville Series, has protected this ridge from dissection and leveling over the years. This resulted from the fact that this particular sandstone type is extremely erosion resistant, compared to the rock strata beneath it. The Cheat River cut through the lower rock strata to form the deep gorge which falls 1,000 feet below the rock cliffs.

This resulting breathtaking view of the Cheat River and surrounding Allegheny Plateau, provide one of the more spectacular views east of the Mississippi River. Generations of people, for over two centuries, have admired this view.

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George Washington explored the Cheat River area in the 1700s. After the Monongalia County area was populated with permanent settlers in the late 1700s, the rock cliffs became an early "tourist" attraction. During the 1800s Morgantown residents considered the trip to the "Rocks" an adventure.

The 1800s excursion to the "Rocks" was quite adventurous. It involved a seven mile horseback ride over rough and unpaved road to Cheat River; then a crossing at Ice's Ferry to the eastern shore. At a point above the shore they abandoned their horses and hiked the rough and steep trail along Quarry Run, past the Henry Clay Iron Furnace, and up to the "Rocks." It was at this point the trip really became interesting and dangerous. At this point you had to scale the face of the rocks. Of course, only the hale, hardy, and dexterous could accomplish this feat.

Even though only the adventurous made this trip, the Cheat Mountain area was heavily populated at that time. Ice's Ferry, located in the vicinity of present day Cheat Lake Bridge, was the hub of a thriving industrial center.

The Cheat Mountain iron industry began around 1800; boomed until 1850; and then declined, due to poor transportation. During the Cheat Mountain iron boom the population was about 2,5000. In 1868 the last iron was produced in the area. The now disappearing population created a landscape that was once again becoming remote. After this time the lands passed into numerous hands.

Eventually, the land (that was to become Coopers Rock State Forest) was purchased by the Lake Lynn Lumber and Supply Company, which was a subsidiary of Hillman Coal and Coke Company of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. This company had extensive holdings in the Cheat area.

Since 1927 the West Virginia Conservation Commission tried to get the West Virginia Legislature interested in purchasing the lands on the east side of Cheat River. The Conservation Commission wanted to purchase the 13,111 acre tract, located both in Preston and Monongalia counties, for development of a state forest and game preserve.

The land was finally purchased by the state, almost ten years later, on March 9, 1936. Since July 1, 1933, the State of West Virginia had made six other large land purchases totaling approximately 50,000 acres.

These purchases were being made for several reasons. During the Great Depression years companies were trying to sell-off part of their holdings in order to avoid paying land tax, and to gain additional operating capital.

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Thus, land was available that heretofore had been unavailable.

Another reason these purchases were being made involved West Virginia's dwindling industrial revenues, and the belief that the tourist trade could increase the tax base. But the most important reason for the land purchases revolved around the development of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

II. Development of the Civilian Conservation Corps

In 1933 the United States of America was in the throes of a Great Depression. After the 'Black Tuesday' stock market crash of October 1929, the U.S. settled into utter despair.

Not only was the economic system eroding, but the land as well. Soil erosion, and destruction of our forest created further economic and social problems.

By 1932, figures of unemployment among young people aged fifteen to twenty-four was one in four. It is estimated that approximately two million men and women were homeless, traveling across the country in freight cars and by foot, looking for work and security. About 250,000 of these desperate souls were young people. They were called "the teenage tramps of America."

This was a dangerous situation for the country. Our democratic way of life was at stake. In 1933, during Roosevelt's first 100 days in office, "New Deal" programs were developed to try and put the country back on its collective feet. The W.P.A. (Works Projects Administration); F.D.I.C. (Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation); N.Y.A. (National Youth Administration); T.V.A. (Tennessee Valley Authority), and CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) were all created as New Deal agencies.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, or CCC, was Roosevelt's personal favorite. It would become his "pet" project over the next nine years.

Roosevelt was spiritually a 'man-of-the earth.' He subscribed to the Jeffersonian ideal of man being best when one-with-nature. Roosevelt's personal philosophy coupled with the fact that the U.S. was succumbing to landscape destruction, helped create the CCC. Additionally, Roosevelt was a friend and ardent follower of Gifford Pinchot, who was the first Chief of the U.S. Forest Service. The CCC program seems a logical result of these facts

Lumber companies had ravaged the forests for many years by cutting timber, without benefit of reforestation. Farmers planted crops, year after year,

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in the same location, without benefit of crop rotation. The end result was serious soil erosion, and deforestation.

Careless stewardship of the land in conjunction with a series of natural disasters, such as flooding, and dust storms, managed to devastate much of America's farmland and virgin forest stands.

The depressed economy set-up a chain reaction that produced a declining social order; that produced a delicate political climate. The American way of life was threatened. It was clear that something was needed that would attack these problems in a multifaceted way.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was Roosevelt's answer to the unemployed young men roaming the streets and roads of America. At the same time, it helped solve the environmental problems.

Even though the country truly felt desperate, there was opposition to Roosevelt's conservation program; this opposition came from several sources. It came from labor unions because they feared a minimum wage would result in wages being lowered over-the-board. Protest was also coming from government circles. Some felt that the program smacked of militarization and could ultimately mean a system of forced labor. Other government officials felt that it was "dangerous" to aggregate large groups of unemployed men; they could possibly organize and cause further unrest throughout the country.

Even with opposition the Emergency Conservation Work Act (the official name, until legally changed to Civilian Conservation Corps on July 28, 1937) was passed by Congress on March 31, 1933.

By April 7, 1933, the first Civilian Conservation Corps enrollee (Henry Rich of Alexandria, Virginia) was selected; on April 17, the first camp (Camp Roosevelt) was established in Luray, Virginia. This speedy activation of a government program was highly unusual. (Inter-government cooperation was usually very slow moving.) Roosevelt chose Robert Fechner, a Boston labor leader to be the CCC director. Fechner's appointment helped to calm labor opposition.

Originally, the CCC enrollees were to be unemployed (at least six months) young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five, and were supposed to come from families on public relief. As time passed the rules were changed to accommodate many groups of men.

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By May 1933 the rules were expanded to include 13,000 Indians; (There were no age or marital restrictions on the American Indian population. From 1933 until 1942 there were a total of 85,000 Indian enrollees, from 33 reservations. Data shows that there were female enrollees among the Indian population. It is said that female Indian CCC members "weaved willow mats; participated in rodent control, and became expert secretaries for the agency offices.") ; 24,000 "L.E.M." or "Local Experienced Men (these were older community men who were normally experienced in woodworking, conservation, and forestry, and thus were hired to supervise work crews); and finally, because of unrest among the WWI Bonus Army veterans, 24,000 veterans were approved for enrollment.

The CCC enrollees were provided free living quarters, food, clothing, medical care (with an emphasis on preventive care), and hospitalization. The salary was \$30.00 per month. The enrollee could only keep \$5.00 of his monthly salary, the \$25.00 balance was sent to his family. If he had no designated family member, it was put into an account and returned at the end of his enlistment period.

Initially the enlistment period was only six months, but by September of 1933 the regulations were expanded to include the option of six month reenlistment, up to a maximum of two years.

There were CCC programs in all U.S. states, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. In the beginning, the camps were racially segregated. Integration was tried in some locations without a great deal of success.

Each CCC camp was composed of one company; each company had approximately 200 men. Generally the average camp had twenty-four buildings. These included a kitchen and mess hall, enrollee barracks, officers quarters, infirmary, school building, recreational building, garage, showers and washrooms, and shop.

The camps were self-sufficient, which was important, since most were located in isolated areas. Religious and educational services were provided at each camp.

During the early days of the CCC, work projects were confined to forestry, park development, and soil erosion control. Later projects included historical restorations, disaster relief, and national defense.

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III. Development of Camp Rhododendron

Nationally the CCC was divided into nine districts. West Virginia was part of the Fifth District, which also included Ohio, Indiana, and Kentucky. The West Virginia district headquarters were located in Charleston, West Virginia.

West Virginia, like most states, did not have a highly developed state park system when the CCC was established. The Depression brought a halt to development. When the CCC started, West Virginia started developing a variety of state parks. Cacapon; Watoga; and Babcock State Parks are good examples of West Virginia park development during the Depression-era.

The Monongahela National Forest lands were also developed during this period. U.S.F.S. administration buildings, fire towers, and parks were constructed by the CCC.

Coopers Rock State Forest was purchased in March of 1936 from Lake Lynn Lumber & Supply Company, a Pennsylvania firm. This land, totaling 13,111 acres, was located both in Preston and Monongalia counties. (Preston County contained 6,000 acres; Monongalia County contained 7,111 acres.)

State of West Virginia Conservation Department officials wanted to develop this land as a game preserve for over ten years. Detailed plans of projected improvements were listed in the local papers in March of 1936. Newspapers stated that improvements would be made if "allocation of a CCC camp can be arranged."

The purchase agreement between Lake Lynn Lumber & Supply Company and the State of West Virginia included a timbering agreement with Summit Lumber Company. Summit had purchased cutting rights from Lake Lynn before the purchase agreement was authorized. This acreage in question included 175 acres of virgin timber surrounding Coopers Rock. The Summit Lumber Company did not cut in the Rocks area, but did cut in an adjacent one. (This land was later reforested by the CCC crews.)

Camp Rhododendron got its start from another earlier camp that existed in Preston County. That camp, located at Caddell (near present day Camp Dawson), on Preston County Country Club property, was started up July 15, 1935. The men in the start-up detachment were brought in from a Jackson,

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Ohio camp. Later, in September the camp started full time operation.

According to local papers, this Preston County CCC camp was originally named Camp Fairfax. Later it was renamed Camp Preston. Initially, this camp was to last eighteen months to two years. Road construction in the Caddell Mountain area, forest clean-up, and telegraph line construction were planned as work projects.

Unfortunately, all this work was never completed. The camp was disassembled and moved to the Cheat area, near Sunset Beach. (By this time the CCC buildings were "portable," thus could be dismantled and moved when needed.)

Six months before the camp was moved (October 1936), Camp Preston men were traveling daily to the Cheat area, to work on the Ice's Ferry-Bruceton Mills Road. According to a Preston County paper "little constructive work was accomplished here." Apparently Camp Preston did build a road from Clearwater Park to Bald Knob, and managed to fight fires and feed wildlife.

A newspaper article mentioned that work on a park at Coopers Rock had been progressing for six months. Thus, construction on the Coopers Rock State Forest park area was started in May 1936.

By June 1936 it was reported that a "rough, but passable trail" from W.Va. Route 73 to Coopers Rock was finished. Additionally, "temporary bridges and ladders are connecting the different ledges of the Rocks, so it may now be reached with comfort and safety." Apparently 25 cars passed over the trail on one day to visit the site.

At this time the work was being done by 45 CCC members who were part of a tent or "spike" camp (established on May 18, 1936) located at the old Keefover Homestead, near the center of the Coopers Rock State Forest, and 90 members of Camp Preston who traveled back and forth each day.

An interesting event took place at the Coopers Rock camp on October 15, 1936. All sixty-five camp enrollees went on "strike" because they "were given bad food." They refused to work on the grounds that "they had been repeatedly fed undigestable, corned beef for a week." The strike lasted one day.

The camp won a first prize in a float contest sponsored by the Mountain State Forest Festival in October 1936. The float was a scale model of the

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Cheat area, from Cheat Lake to Sand Springs Road on top of Chestnut Ridge. It depicted the improvements to be made at Coopers Rock and adjacent areas. After the Forest Festival was over the float was displayed in Morgantown on Court House Square for two days. Reportedly, it was "viewed by hundreds of Morgantown residents."

By the spring of 1937 members of what was now known as "Camp Rhododendron" were busy building permanent structures in the Coopers Rock State Forest park area. Photos taken during the summer of 1937 show men finishing the permanent overlook on the rock.

The members of Company 3527, Camp Rhododendron, were also involved in an interesting educational program during the summer of 1936. The National Forum movement, which started in Des Moines, Iowa by Dr. John Studebaker, Commissioner of Education for the U.S. Department of Interior, chose Camp Rhododendron to be one of the twenty educational centers throughout the country to participate in the program. Evidently, community members were allowed to participate in these National Forums, conducted by outstanding scholars from around the country. The weekly Forum meetings were started in 1936. Forum procedure allowed 45 minutes for the scholar to speak and 45 minutes for questions and exchange of opinion.

Recreation was also an important component for camp members. Baseball was a summer activity. Other CCC camps in the state participated in baseball competitions with Camp Rhododendron. The Charleston District Paper, a statewide CCC newspaper, dated June 1937, shows Company 3527 (Camp Rhododendron) defeating Company 3529 (Camp Waddington of Wheeling) 10-7 on Saturday, June 5. Evidently, the CCC camps were divided into statewide sectors. Morgantown and Wheeling were both part of the Clarksburg Sector. Track, softball, horseshoe, and boxing competitions were also popular organized recreational activities. Occasionally organized dances were held at the camp.

Unorganized recreational activities included drinking at Lulubell's Bar (on Fairchance Road); gambling; fighting; and visiting town. The men at the camp were also known to pull pranks from time to time. According to Jake Hare, a former member of Camp Rhododendron, who still resides in the Morgantown area, pranks were enjoyed, but if caught were severely punished. Evidently some members of the camp painted a neighboring farmer's pig with green paint. The paint had been used earlier in the day to paint a camp barracks building. The irate farmer visited the camp the next day to make his complaints. Since the camp members would not "rat" on each other, they were all punished for the crime. Kitchen Patrol duty was enjoyed by all the men for several months, on a rotating basis.

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An enormous amount of work was accomplished at Coopers Rock State Forest between 1936 and 1942. A road linking the main park area and W.Va. 73 was completed. The overlook/walkway was constructed on the Rock. Three picnic pavilions; stone chalet shelter; stone pump house; living quarters/first-aid station; Fechner monument; fire warning sign; information booth; C.R.S.F. headquarters house and garage, were all constructed.

Many landscaping elements were completed during the 1936-1942 period as well. These included decorative stone walls; stone retaining walls; stone drainage ditches; stone culverts; stone reservoir; stone fountains; stone fireplaces; stone steps, and stone walkways.

Numerous other tasks were also completed such as surveying property lines (completely surrounding the whole forest with single strand wire; 43 miles of wire total); installing warning posters; making hiking and bridle paths; seeding land with black walnut and red pine, and last, but not least, fighting forest fires.

Other facilities were also built by Camp Rhododendron. These facilities were located in the Cheat area on Chestnut Ridge (Sand Springs Road and Darnell Hollow). They include a administration residence and garage; cabins and outdoor bake oven; meeting hall; Sand Springs Fire Tower with fire watcher cabin, wood house, and privy; and Darnell Hollow picnic facility. The Darnell Hollow picnic area was destroyed by fire during the 1960s, as a result of a wild beer party. The picnic shelters are gone but the decorative stone wall remains. The rest of the above named facilities are intact, but are in varying stages of repair.

These additional facilities are located over approximately nine miles of land that is owned by several agencies. The agencies include: West Virginia University Forest; Monongalia County's Chestnut Ridge Camp; and West Virginia Forestry and Timber Department.

All of the CCC-constructed resources share one thing in common: rugged design that was known as "Rustic" style architecture. The resources all remain in their original natural settings, and reflect a 'one-with-nature' styling. This nonintrusive style was accomplished by use of natural buildings materials (stone and timber), low silhouette with horizontal lines, and close attention to proportion.

Since these facilities were basically crafted by hand with minimal assistance from modern machinery, they share a somewhat crude, handmade, but well crafted appearance.

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Craftsmanship standards were high during this period; this is evident while viewing these vestiges of the past. The Rustic architecture style was largely confined to the 1933-1942 time period, because they would not be economically feasible without the Depression-era work program known as the Civilian Conservation Corps.

IV. Summary:

The accomplishments of the CCC, statewide, were many. In West Virginia alone there were 49,222 enrollees between April 1933 and June 1941. West Virginia's state park system was developed and nurtured during this time. Reforestation, conservation, and soil erosion protection were put into practice. Tourism became an important part of the state's economy.

Nationally, families were helped economically and socially as a direct result of the CCC. Together with other Depression-era programs, the CCC helped preserve our democratic way of life. The political system was able to sustain itself against attack. The park systems throughout the country were highly developed during this time, thus tourism became a more important part of the national economy than ever before. Soil erosion was improved, and reforestation programs strengthened our forest lands. From 1933 through 1942 more than two billion trees were planted throughout the country. Roosevelt felt that trees were the "lungs" of the country. It would be safe to say that our lungs became stronger, as a result of the CCC.

Largely because of its stigma as a "relief" agency program, and continuing political opposition, the CCC never became a permanent agency. Congress authorized only periodic extensions to continue its existence. With WWII our new focus, the CCC was thought to be unnecessary.

In 1942 the Civilian Conservation Corp's luck ran out. June 30, 1942 was the last day of operation for the CCC. Their architectural legacy lives on, in the cultural resources of Coopers Rock State Forest; the state of West Virginia, and the United States of America.

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OUTLINE OF COOPERS ROCK STATE FOREST PROPERTY TYPES

1. Administration Buildings
 2. Recreational Buildings
 3. Engineering Structures and Landscape Features
-

1. Administration Buildings

Description:

The Administration Buildings sheltered staff residences, offices, and a first-aid station. They represented the management of the park. These buildings are designed in the Rustic architecture style which was typical of the Depression-era CCC design. Construction technique involved rough-hewn log and sandstone, load-bearing masonry. These buildings are basically symmetrical in overall composition.

The Superintendent's House and Garage remain basically unaltered, thus they display high integrity. What is now the Concession Stand, (originally a combination staff residence, office, first-aid shelter/station), was altered to allow for food service in the 1950s. The building retains the CCC Rustic architecture style in significant quantity to maintain integrity. The Administration Buildings all retain their integrity of environment.

The Concession Stand, Coopers Rock State Forest Superintendent's House and Garage fall under the Administration Buildings category. They all share wood sash windows (generally six-over-six), random sandstone masonry, over-hanging eaves, log wall and rafters.

The Administration Buildings, built between 1936-1942, are still in use. The Superintendent's House and Garage continue being used for their original purpose. The Concession Stand was originally built to be used as a combination staff living quarters and first-aid station. In the 1950s a enclosed wood wall and counterspace addition was constructed along the front pavillion area. This recessed addition is rustic in appearance and blends with the building. It has been used as a Concession Stand only since the 1950s.

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The Superintendent's House and Garage, and Concession Stand are all in good condition. The Concession Stand (1950s addition) is scheduled to be renovated in the near future due to pressure from the WV State Health Department.

Significance:

These buildings, constructed by the CCC, represent an integral part of the functioning of the Coopers Rock State Forest park. They were constructed in the Depression-era Rustic style of architecture which reflected a close relationship with the landscape.

The CCC made a lasting impression on the landscape of America. The development of state parks and forests during this time still affect recreation patterns and conservation of America's natural resources.

The Administration Buildings are significant under National Register Criteria A and C. Criteria A significance is met through association with the Depression-era CCC program. This period in our national, state, and local history affected the economic, social, and conservation patterns in our country. The buildings are significant under Criteria C because they embody the style and qualities that represent CCC's Rustic 'one-with-nature' design. They continue to display integrity of location and setting.

Registration Requirements:

The Administration Buildings were built between 1936 and 1942. They retain sufficient physical characteristics that identify them with the CCC construction techniques. They remain in their original locations with old-growth vegetation.

2. Recreational Buildings

Description:

The Recreational Buildings in Coopers Rock State Forest include an Information Booth; Pavilions 1, 2, 3 ; Rock City Trail Chalet, and the Overlook/Walkway. These buildings were constructed to house recreational activities.

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Construction technique again involved rough-hewn logs, and load-bearing sandstone masonry. These elements reflect the Depression-era CCC Rustic style of architecture prevalent throughout the park. The Information Booth; Pavilions 1,2,and 3; and Rock City Trail Chalet are in nearly original condition. All of these buildings had their roofing materials replaced in the mid-1970s. The Overlook/Walkway has undergone timber replacements, as needed, since 1937. All Recreation Buildings share approximately 55-90 percent integrity. They maintain integrity of environment.

These buildings are unenclosed, and symmetrical in overall composition. The floor plans are generally rectangular in design. Log walls, rafters, and support columns are also evident. All of the buildings, constructed from 1936-1942, are still in use and being utilized for their original purpose.

The Information Booth is in excellent condition. Originally, it had a small wooden sign hanging from the ceiling that noted hours of operation; and a sign reading 'Information Booth.' The original iron hooks that held the hours-of-operation sign remain intact.

Pavilion 1 is in good condition. Several roof support beams are showing minor signs of erosion. Pavilion 2 and 3 are both in excellent condition.

Rock City Trail Chalet is in a very remote location. Only mountain bikers, hikers, and cross-country skiers would probably have occasion to see it. Because it is isolated it has suffered some abuse. This abuse has been minimal, mainly due to the fact that it was so massively constructed. The current damage involves heavily-carved ("obnoxious") graffiti on some timbers, and the removal of all glass from the two windows on the back side of the building. Although there is a 'No Camping' sign on the facility, it is often disregarded by the public, even though a stiff fine exists for the perpetrators.

The Overlook/Walkway is in good, but repaired condition. Numerous timber repairs have been made since it was built in 1937. The Walkway planking boards were replaced in 1976. Additionally, a steel beam was added for support at this time. Half the stone steps leading down to the Walkway were replaced by concrete in the last ten years. Several pylon cap stones are missing. With a yearly 400,000 + visitation rate, replacement of Overlook/Walkway materials is to be expected.

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Significance:

The Recreational Buildings were constructed between 1936 and 1942, by members of Camp Rhododendron, a Civilian Conservation Corps unit. These buildings are eligible under Criteria A. They are excellent examples of CCC Rustic style architecture. The Recreational Buildings exemplify Rustic architecture by virtue of their complimentary and aesthetic placement among natural elements of the earth. The construction materials and design techniques insured a pleasing blend of buildings and natural environment, thus they are eligible under National Register Criteria C.

Registration Requirements:

The Recreational Buildings, constructed between 1936-1942, maintain their integrity of location, setting, workmanship, and design, thus continue to convey their association with the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps.

3. Engineering Structures and Landscape Elements

Description:

Examples of CCC Depression-era Engineering Structures and Landscape Elements at Coopers Rock State Forest include: stone retaining walls; decorative stone walls; drainage ditches; stone culverts; steps and trails; fireplaces; reservoir; stone pumphouse; stone Fire Warning sign, and stone Robert Fechner commemorative monument. All of these maintain integrity of design and environment.

Unlike the Administration and Recreational Building property categories, the Engineering Structures category is not always a visible structure. Some of the functional infrastructure designs such as drainage ditches would fall into this category. These structures are normally constructed with stone or poured concrete.

The more visible structures such as the stone pumphouse, and decorative stone wall, are designed in the same Rustic style as the other buildings that were built between 1936-1942. The construction techniques utilized in this category employ reinforced concrete; sandstone masonry; and chiseled stone.

These structures are still in use, and serving their original purpose. (The one exception to this is the stone pumphouse. It is "mothballed" but is maintained in fairly good condition.)

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All structures are in good repair. The Robert Fechner Monument's chiseled lettering has lost its original depth, due to fifty-plus years of air pollution and weathering, but otherwise has not been abused.

Significance:

The Engineering Structures and Landscape Elements are very important to the development of Coopers Rock State Forest. They have played a great part in environmental maintenance for over fifty years. These structures prevented erosion, and controlled human usage, which is very important considering the park has a current average 400,000 + yearly visitation rate.

One of the original purposes of the Civilian Conservation Corps program was to conserve the natural environment for future generations. The Fire Warning Sign and Robert Fechner Monument allow the conservation message to continue to speak, even today.

The Rustic architecture style, used by the CCC, is evident in the visible structures and landscape elements. These elements are eligible under Criteria A through their relationship with the CCC, and Criteria C through their Rustic architecture style, and CCC engineering construction.

Registration Requirements:

The Engineering Structures and Landscape Elements were constructed by the CCC between 1936-1942. They maintain their integrity of Rustic design, location, and relationship to the environment. Additionally, in their intact and unaltered state they continue to provide social, conservation, and economic information about the Depression-era Civilian Conservation Corps.

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Summary of Identification and Evaluation Methods

A 1986 survey study of Civilian Conservation Corps structures in the Monongahela National Forest, located in West Virginia, contributed a comparative knowledge base for the consultant on this project.

Consultations with regional Civilian Conservation Corps experts, Dr. Kenneth Carvell, and Mr. Larry Sypolt; Coopers Rock State Forest Superintendent Mr. Al Kerns, and former CCC Camp Rhododendron members, have provided the consultant invaluable information that is currently unavailable in the local archival literature.

A concerted effort was made to physically survey the entire Coopers Rock State Forest areas in order to try to find additional resources. This was accomplished by hiking through the various forest locations.

Additionally, extensive archival research was undertaken in order to document and expand information. Preston and Monongalia County newspapers; Civilian Conservation Corps newsletters; magazine articles; maps; local history books, and books chronicling the CCC era were all consulted.

The decision to limit the historical context to 1936-1942 (the years that Camp Rhododendron was operational) seemed appropriate and logical. The further decision to limit the scope of this study to the present Coopers Rock State Forest boundaries was made in relation to time limitations, and cooperation of the various state and county agencies.

Additional resources constructed by Camp Rhododendron CCC members are located throughout a large vicinity of Chestnut Ridge. This area covers approximately nine miles. These areas are under the control of various state, county, and private hands.

Logically, it seems prudent to limit the scope of this study to the current boundaries of Coopers Rock State Forest. A further study at a later date could be undertaken to expand possible historic boundaries.

The typology of significant property types was based on function, since all of the resources were constructed in the Rustic style of architecture. The form of the structures was dictated by function.

Confirmation of CCC construction was obtained through interviews with Coopers Rock State Forest administration officials, photographs, archival literature, and interviews with former Camp Rhododendron members. Unfortunately, original CCC-executed site plans are not currently available.

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National Register guidelines for physical integrity were used to determine eligibility. To date, very little alteration has occurred to the historic resources in Coopers Rock State Forest. The main alteration occurred in the 1970s when all the structures received new roofing materials. The landscape in the park area is virtually the same as it was in the CCC-era - only larger through years of uninterrupted growth.

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Miscellaneous

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Mr. Larry Sypolt, November 1990. Place: WVU Library.
Interviewer: Pamela Ball Redmond. (Mr. Sypolt is an authority on CCC information, especially regionally.)

Mr. Jake Hare, December 1990. Place: Ed's Barber Shop, Morgantown, WV. Interviewer: Pamela Ball Redmond. (Mr. Hare was a member of both Camp Preston, and Camp Rhododendron, from 1936-1938.)

Mr. Al Kerns, December 1990. Place: Coopers Rock State Forest. Interviewer: Pamela Ball Redmond. (Mr. Kerns has been the Superintendent for Coopers Rock State Forest since 1975.)

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