

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District
Name of Property
Kanawha County, West Virginia
County and State
93000228
NR Reference Number

State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this ___ additional documentation ___ move ___ removal
___ name change (additional documentation) X other

meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

Signature of Certifying Official/Title: Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Date of Action

National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ___ entered in the National Register
- ___ determined eligible for the National Register
- ___ determined not eligible for the National Register
- ___ removed from the National Register
- ___ additional documentation accepted
- ___ other (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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The purpose of this Additional Documentation submission is to correct erroneous information that was included in Section 7 of the National Register of Historic Places nomination for the Kanawha State Forest Historic District (KSF), listed in the National Register on March 25, 1993.

On page 3 of Section 7, the Davis Creek Dam is described in the following manner:

The dam was built in 1939-1940 to provide flood control in the Davis Creek watershed, and also to support a large recreational development including swimming, with bathrooms, beach and diving platform. Before it could be opened, however, the lake was found to be contaminated with bacillus coli-typhoid germs. Swimming was never allowed in the lake, however it remains as a flood control structure. The dam is constructed of reinforced concrete and native sandstone built on and physically pinned to the solid rock stream bed. The impoundment wall is 100 feet long between faces of end walls and is approximately 10' in height. Retaining walls are faced with local sandstone. Flood control weir gates were part of the original construction, extending 3 feet beyond the top of the dam. The gates are no longer in place. (C.)*

The following documentation is offered to correct the description in Section 7. The bacteria contamination was eventually remediated. Rather than opening in the summer of 1941 as originally scheduled, the opening of the lake for swimming was delayed until the summer of 1942.

Evidence to support the delayed opening is articulated in several sources. One source is the *West Virginia Blue Book 1942*. A description of Kanawha State Forest states that the "Forest has day-use recreational facilities. Swimming; picnic area and foot trails." (Blue Book, 597). Page 566 of the *Blue Book* provides a full-page photo titled "Beach Scene, Kanawha State Forest" and highlights the photo in their list of illustrations. Furthermore, the *Blue Book* photo matches perfectly with the description written by "Charleston Daily Mail" columnist Ed Hile of his "first time this summer" visit on July 1, 1942. Coincidentally, Hile reported that a lifeguard informed him, "the source of the contamination which kept the pool closed all last summer had been eliminated" and that Charlestonians escaped the summer heat by retreating to Kanawha State Park "to soak up sunlight, and bathe."

Further, in a letter dated November 13, 1941 to Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Director McEntee, Fred B. Agee, Acting Representative of the CCC Advisory Council, stated that the Forest Service conducted a thorough investigation of the water quality in cooperation with State (WV) Health Authorities. The letter confirms that the pollutant had been contained to the local CCC camp but that plans for a sewage and waste water system for the camp had been approved and construction was underway at that time. McEntee continues: "It is therefore thought that when the work on the new sewage and waste water disposal system at the CCC camp is completed the source of pollution will be entirely eliminated."

*(C.) denotes a contributing resource within the Kanawha State Forest Historic District.

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Swimming and ice-skating occurred on KSF lake for several years. These and other activities occurring in the Forest during this time of rationing (World War II) resulted in KSF becoming one of Charleston's chief recreation spots.

Based on the information provided by the Kanawha State Forest Foundation, the description for the Davis Creek Dam should be amended or this submission of Additional Documentation (2019) should be appended to the original National Register nomination. This information does not change the contributing classification of the Davis Creek Dam.

Bibliography:

Hile, Ed. "Hilelights. Kanawha Park Is Popular Spot." *Charleston Daily Mail*. July 1, 1942. Page 6.

Watkins, A. Hale. Editor. *West Virginia Blue Book 1942*. Charleston, WV: Jarrett Printing Company. 1946.