

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Kanawha State Forest Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number County Route 42/43 2.6 mi. south of Charleston not for publication

city or town Loundendale vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Kanawha code WV-039 zip code 25314

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility 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. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

William G. ...
Signature of certifying official/Title

2-16-93
Date

State of Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:) _____

Kanawha State Forest
Name of Property

Kanawha, West Virginia
County and State

1. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	buildings
		sites
<u>6</u>	<u>3</u>	structures
		objects
<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

N/A

3. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture

Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture

Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Rustic Vernacular

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Sandstone

walls Log

roof Asphalt shingle

other Wood windows (in buildings), sandstone

chimneys, concrete (dam), sandstone

floor in shelters.

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Kanawha State Forest
Name of Property

Kanawha, West Virginia
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Architecture

Period of Significance

1938-1940

Significant Dates

1938-1940

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Military

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Institute for the History of Technology & Industrial Archaeology, Morgantown, WV (WVU)

Kanawha State Forest
Name of Property

Kanawha, West Virginia
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1503.67

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1,7	4,4,3,8,2,0	4,2,3,7,0,0,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1,7	4,4,2,8,2,0	4,2,3,2,0,0,0

3	1,7	4,4,2,6,0,0	4,2,3,2,0,0,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1,7	4,2,2,6,0,0	4,2,3,7,0,0,0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Paul D. Marshall, AIA - Architect

organization Paul D. Marshall & Associates, Inc. date December 8, 1992

street & number 915 Breezemont Drive telephone (304) 343-5310

city or town Charleston state WV zip code 25302

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name _____

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 7 Page 2

Narrative Description

The architectural character of buildings and structures in the Kanawha State Forest Historic District does not conform to any particular architectural style and may best be described as "Rustic Vernacular" architecture. These structures, placed in the Davis Creek valley surrounded by steep, forested mountainsides, are typical of those built by enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in many parts of the country during the depression years before World War II.

The District consists of four picnic shelters, administration building (existing residence for the Forest Superintendent), powder house, foot bridge and dam. Other manmade elements in the District include roads, toilets, playgrounds, picnic tables, and hiking trails. Manmade elements are skillfully blended with natural features such as creeks and hollows, open fields, forest land and mountains. This blend of manmade and natural elements reflects Franklin D. Roosevelt's "one with nature" philosophy.

Wood structural members were made from dead and/or down blighted chestnut trees. Foundations, chimneys, steps and shelter floors were made from locally quarried and worked sandstone. Stonework was laid in coursed ashlar pattern with convex tooled joints. Original wood shingle roofs were supported by king type trusses made from round log members nailed or fastened with wooden pins. The trusses, in turn, are resting on large log columns strengthened by diagonal knee braces. Shelter railings are either stacked logs between columns, or have open log pickets fitted between top and bottom rails.

The first recreational area in the District consists of the Foot Bridge site, the Dam, and Shelters #1 and #2. A comfort station, of sympathetic design, is part of the group. This building was not an original CCC unit but was built early in the 1940's. Picnic Shelters #1 and #2 are sited on a hillside bench overlooking the Foot Bridge site. The Foot Bridge, part of the original trail system, spanned Davis Creek about 100 feet downstream of the Dam and small lake.

Less than one-half mile above the lake, on the south side of Davis Creek, in a small clearing, is the Superintendent's Residence. Across a small stream, known as Pheasant Run, from the residence is the Forest Office, a non-conforming building, constructed in the late 1950's. A few hundred feet south-west of these two buildings is the original Powder House and two non-conforming service buildings.

Approximately four miles from the first two District areas are the picnic/recreation areas known as the Log Town Hollow Picnic Area and the Davis Creek Picnic Area where Shelters #4 and #5 are located. Also in these areas are three non-conforming shelters and a non-conforming comfort station.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 7 Page 3

Except for asphalt shingle replacement for wood shingles on the roofs and the addition of electricity in Shelters #4 and #5, the Picnic Shelters are in original condition. The Powder House and Superintendent's House have asphalt shingle roofs; the foot bridge is gone except for its stone abutments and weir gates have been removed from the dam. These seem to be the only changes in those structures.

The rustic architecture of the Kanawha State Forest exhibits fine craftsmanship and sensitivity to its environment. The structures are built of natural materials, have low silhouettes, good horizontal lines, and were carefully proportioned.

Architectural Description

Shelter No. 1: One of four remaining original 1938-1941 picnic shelters, this building is three bays wide and one bay deep. Its foundation and steps are fashioned from native sandstone laid in coursed ashlar style. The building has an open braced frame structure made with over-sized chestnut logs. The asphalt shingle covered roof is supported by trusses and the rear center bay consists of a stone chimney flanked on each side by a coursed log wall with fully notched corners. Railings consist of vertical log pickets between horizontal top and bottom log railings. The shelter is 34' x 26' wide a 14' gable ridge height. (C.)

Shelter No. 2: This original shelter is located on the same woodland bench as No. 1. It is three bays wide and three bays deep and is constructed in a similar manner as No. 1, with coursed ashlar sandstone foundation and chestnut structural members. Shelter 2 also has a fireplace and chimney. Railings are both open, as in Shelter 1, or made with stacked logs between columns. The shelter measures 39'-6" wide x 23'-6" deep with a 14' gable height. (C.)

Comfort Station: Noted on the graphic map as non-conforming building #1; this toilet building is located near the road and accessible to the first two shelters. The building has wood siding and asphalt shingle roof and is designed in a manner sympathetic with other Forest buildings. It does not have a negative impact on the original structures.(N.C.)

Davis Creek Foot Bridge: The foot bridge was part of the original trail system which tied the various recreation areas together. It consisted of two log beams with a wood board floor and braced handrails, all supported by sandstone buttresses. The wood structure was declared unsafe during the summer of 1992 and dismantled.

The Davis Creek Dam: 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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 7 Page 4

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.)

Superintendent's Residence: Originally built as the Forest Administration Building, this structure has served as the Superintendent's Residence for many years. The house is 1½ stories, designed in a Vernacular Bungalow architectural style. Like most original buildings in the Forest, it is constructed of chestnut logs V-notched at corners, with chink and daub infill. It has a gable roof and gable dormers. Foundation, chimney and porch railing walls are of native sandstone laid in coursed ashlar. Overall dimensions are 46' wide by 35'-6" deep with a 23' height at the main gable end. There are front and rear covered porches. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles. (C.)

Powder House: An all-stone building, the Powder House was used to store black powder and dynamite during the CCC era. It is 7'-6" wide by 9' long with a 10' gable height. The gable style roof is covered with asphalt shingles. There is one solid 5-panel wood door and two wood windows protected with vertical iron bars. A feature of the building is a triangular shaped keystone located just over the center of the wood door lintel. (C.)

Forest Office: This non-conforming building was erected in the early 1950's. It is one-story, gable-roof, wood framed, and covered with wood siding like other forest buildings. The foundation is brick and there is a small front porch. It is noted on the graphic map as Non-conforming building No. 2. (N.C.)

Service Buildings: Located across a service compound from the Powder House are two service buildings (Non-conforming buildings #3 and #4). The smaller of the two (3 bay) was built in the 1980's while the larger (6 bay) was built in the 1960's according to forest staff members. They are gable-roof wood structures on concrete block foundations with wood siding, asphalt shingle roofs and wood overhead garage doors. The style of architecture as well as material selections make the buildings compatible with earlier forest buildings. (N.C.)

Shelter No. 4: The construction materials and basic design for this structure are similar to Shelters #1 and #2 except that this shelter is open on all four sides. It does not have a fireplace. The shelter has three bays across the front and is one bay deep. The front center bay is open, as the main entrance, and all other bays have log picket railings. The building is 34'-4" long by 16'-2" wide and is 14' high at the ridge. The truss supported roof is covered with asphalt shingles. (C.)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 7 Page 5

Shelter No. 5: Shelter No. 5 has three bays across the front and is one bay deep. The rear center bay extends to the rear with a stone chimney surrounded by notched logs. The shelter is built of chestnut logs with sandstone foundation and chimney laid in random ashlar. Two rear bays, two front bays and the end bays have log picket railings. (C.)

Shelters No. 3, No. 6, and No. 7: These three non-conforming shelters are much later than Shelters #4 and #5 but are designed and built in a similar manner to the original shelters. They have asphalt shingles over truss supported roofs, wood columns, stone foundation walls and floors. (N.C.)

Toilets: The comfort station for Log Town Hollow and Davis Creek recreation areas is centrally located between the two. Like the other non-conforming buildings in the District its architecture reflects the rustic vernacular style of original 1938-1942 CCC architecture, with the exception that materials used are in more modern forms, such as sawn timbers instead of round logs. (N.C.)

NOTE: The contributing resources are marked in Section 7 with a C. The noncontributing resources are indicated with N.C. The use of the term "nonconforming" refers to noncontributing resources that do not fall within the period of significance, 1938-1942.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 8 Page 2

Buildings and structures in the Kanawha State Forest Historic District are, in retrospect, memorials to a very important period in the history of the United States - the Great Depression years, 1938-1942. They are also remnants of a rustic style of architecture developed to use natural building materials in harmony with the environment. The architectural artifacts, along with roads and trails in the Kanawha State Forest, remain as symbols of a nation's struggle to emerge from history's worst economic depression. The buildings and structures are still being used as originally intended and still reflect President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "one with nature" philosophy.

When Roosevelt became President the country was mired in a situation of seemingly hopeless unemployment. Roosevelt asked Congress for a program that would place unemployed youth in the forests to perform government-sponsored work. Eight days later the Emergency Conservation Work Act was passed, along with \$10 million in funding. The law mandated an initial recruitment of 250,000 young men between the ages of 18 and 25. Recruits were required to be unemployed, physically fit, unmarried, and willing to make allotments to their families. They were provided with food, clothing, equipment, and shelter but of the \$30 per month each was paid, \$25 was automatically sent home.

The War Department administered the camps which were built in the style and organization of existing military establishments. Military officers were upper level managers and the men wore military style clothing (for ceremonial events) and the camps were operated in more-or-less the manner of a military program. Other government agencies had responsibilities for CCC camps, including the Agricultural Department (U.S. Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service) and the Interior Department (National Park Service).

More than 4500 CCC camps were established throughout the country, in every state and Alaska. West Virginia had 18 camps. The Kanawha State Forest Camp was designated S-76. The "S" stood for State Forest. All enrollees were provided with educational opportunities in addition to the obvious development of their labor skills. Evening classes were held in many subjects, according to interviews conducted with former Kanawha State Forest enrollees.

The Kanawha State Forest Historic District exhibits, to all those who use its facilities, the mandate of the law which created the Civilian Conservation Corps, "... That for the purpose of relieving the acute condition of widespread distress and unemployment now existing in the United States, and in order to provide for the restoration of the country's depleted natural resources and the advancement of an orderly program of public works, the President is authorized ... to provide for employing citizens of the United States who are unemployed; in the construction, maintenance, and carrying on of public works of a public nature ... which are suitable for timber production, the prevention of forest fires, floods and soil erosion, plant and pest control, the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 8 Page 3

construction, maintenance and repair of paths, trails and fire lanes in the national parks and forests ...". The Kanawha State Forest Historic District contains the only architectural artifacts of this great era remaining in Kanawha County.

The remaining buildings and structures are quite significant architecturally because they belong to a unique style designed by military engineers to be used in training young inexperienced enrollees new crafts and trades which could not only benefit them individually but strengthen the American economy with skilled craftsmen.

The architectural style blended with its environment and softened any adverse effect the State Forest development may have had on the natural ecology. All the development brought to the county and its urban communities new recreational opportunities unavailable before.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Section number 10 Page 2

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning point A is located on east-west UTM grid line 4237 at the confluence of Kanawha Fork and Davis Creek which point occurs on the Kanawha State Forest boundary; thence South 16,375 feet to point B at east-west TUM grid line 4232; thence West along that same line 4000 feet to point C; thence North 16,375 feet to point D at east-west grid line 4237; thence East along that same line 4000 feet to beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundary of the Kanawha State Forest Historic District was designed to include all eight historic buildings and structures built by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The boundary also includes roads and trails built by the CCC which connect the historic structures. Within the boundary are eight support structures which compliment the historic structures, however were built in later years. These include a Forest Office and two Service Buildings. Relative to the architectural style of the CCC buildings, these structures will be considered non-conforming. Other non-conforming structures include 3 picnic shelters and two comfort stations.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Kanawha State Forest Historic District, Kanawha County, WV

Photographs

Section number _____ Page 1

All photographs are of buildings and structures in the Kanawha State Forest Historic District, and also historic photographs of CCC Camp operations in the District. Photographs of buildings and structures were taken by Flossie Kourey on April 5, 1992. Historic photographs are from the Calvin White collection. All negatives on file with the Kanawha State Forest Foundation. Photographs of non-conforming buildings are by Paul D. Marshall on December 22, 1992. negatives on file with the Kanawha State Forest Foundation.

Photograph No. 1

Shelter No. 1 showing structure, railings and stone foundation. The view is of the north side looking south.

Photograph No. 2

Shelter No. 2 showing structure located on hillside bench. The view is of the northeast side looking southwest.

Photograph No. 3

Davis Creek Foot Bridge showing bridge before it's summer, 1992 removal. View is toward the east looking downstream.

Photograph No. 4

Davis Creek Dam. This photograph shows the dam at time of reservoir overflow. View is toward the north, upstream.

Photograph No. 5

Administration Building/Superintendent's Residence showing view of front section. View is toward the southwest.

Photograph No. 6

Powder House showing front and left side of the stone building. Note the triangular key-stone over door. View is looking north.

Photograph No. 7

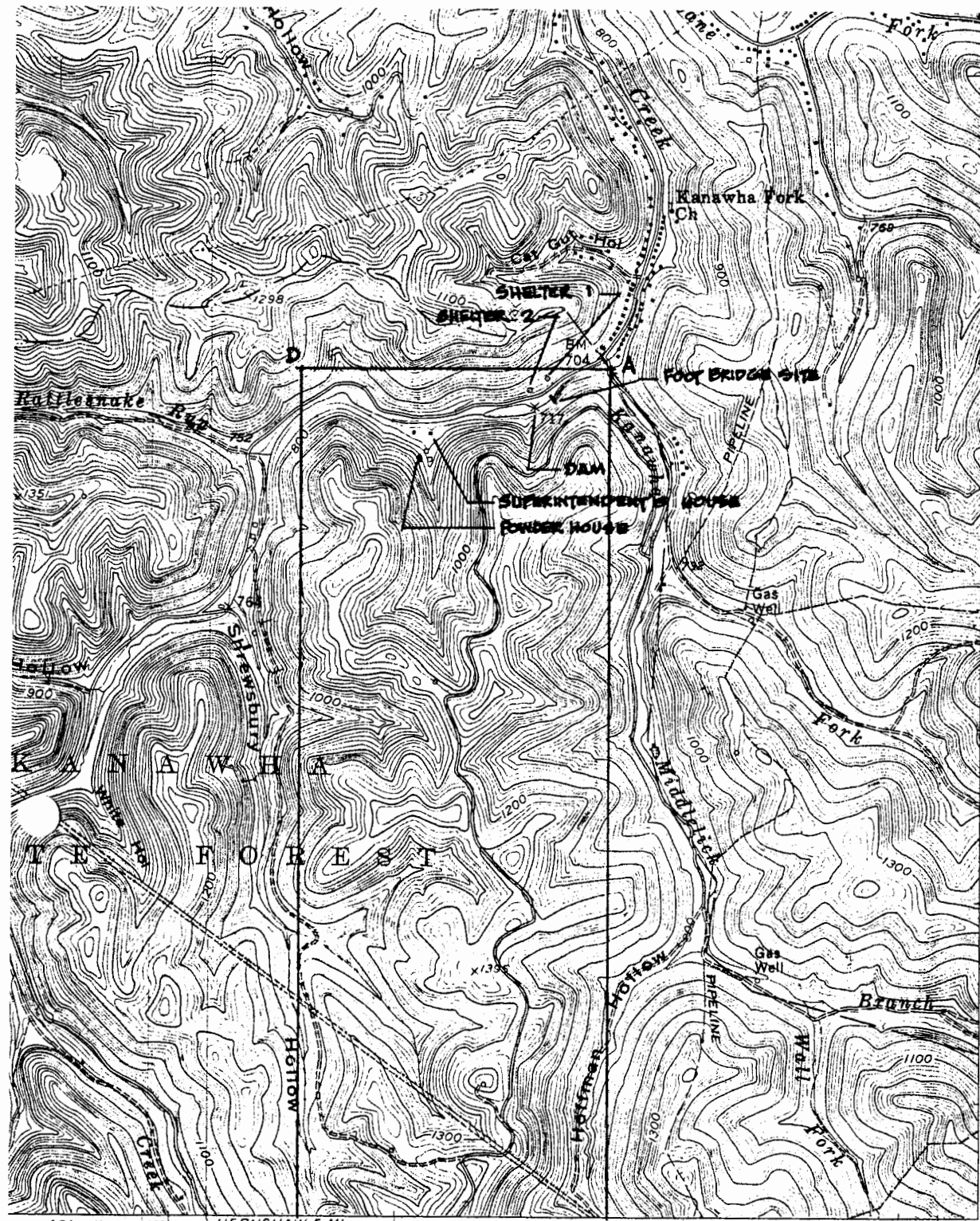
Shelter No. 4 showing columns with knee braces supporting roof structure, railings, and stone foundation and step. View is looking south.

Photograph No. 8

Shelter No. 5 showing structure and chimney wall. View is looking west.

Photograph No. 9

This historic photograph shows CCC Camp S-76 at Kanawha State Forest, circa April 1938-June 1942. The first building, left foreground was the dispensary; the next building was a recreation room in one end, and canteen in the other; the next few buildings were barracks. The building to the right of the flagpole was the mess hall and the building in the right foreground was the camp office: Personal interview with Calvin C. White, 1991.



17'30"

4238

KANAWHA
STATE FOREST
HISTORIC DIST
LOUDDENDALE VIC
KANAWHA CO.

4237

4236

4235

4234000m.N.

38°15'

81°37'30"

445000m.E.

40' 442' 443' 444'

HERNSHAW 5 MI
MARMET 8 MI

● INTERIOR—GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA—1978

MILE

ROAD CLASSIFICATION

- Heavy-duty ————— Light-duty —————
- Medium-duty ————— Unimproved dirt - - - - -
- Interstate Route ○ U.S. Route ○ State Route



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

CHARLESTON WEST, W. VA.
SW/4 CHARLESTON 15' QUADRANGLE
N3815—W8137.5/7.5

1958
PHOTOREVISED 1971 AND 1976
AMS 4660 I SW—SERIES V854

(BELLE)
1860 II NE

RACINE QUADRANGLE
WEST VIRGINIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

NW/4 PEYTONA 15' QUADRANGLE

16601 SE
(CHARLESTON EAST)

JUDENDALE 4.7 MI.

40' 442 1 810 000 FEET

443

444

445

81°37'30"

38°15'

