

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. 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. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Middle Mountain Cabins

other names/site number _____

2. Location East side of Middle Mountain Road at Camp Five Run, approximatelystreet & number 13 miles south of Wymer, WV ☐ not for publicationcity, town _____ ☐ vicinitystate West Virginia code WV county Randolph code 083 zip code _____

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> buildings
_____	_____ sites
_____	_____ structures
_____	_____ objects
<u>3</u>	<u>3</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: _____

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. ☐ See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____

Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- ☐ 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:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Camp

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: rustic

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Log/weather board

roof Shingle

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

Middle Mountain Cabins consists of three cabins located on Middle Mountain in the Monongahela National Forest in Randolph County, West Virginia. The cabins occupy a 3.5-acre site approximately eighteen miles south of Wymer, West Virginia and approximately twelve miles north of Thornwood, West Virginia on the east side of Middle Mountain Road at Camp Five Run. The three cabins front a small, grass-covered clearing, located on the southeast side of an auxiliary road, approximately 640 feet northeast of Middle Mountain Road. A four-car graveled parking area is located opposite the clearing, which is separated from the road by a post and rail fence. To the rear of the cabins is a wooded slope comprised largely of red spruce. Cabins No. 1 and No. 2 are sited approximately seventy feet southeast of the auxiliary road, and are approximately forty-five feet apart, while the Main Cabin is approximately forty feet southeast of the auxiliary road and eighty feet northeast of Cabin No. 1. The clearing on which the cabins front also includes wood picnic tables and benches, a post and rail fence bordering the access road, and stone steps and walks. A wood-frame latrine, of recent date, is located southeast of Cabin Nos. 1 and 2. A spring-fed, dammed pond, covering approximately one-half-acre is located across the auxiliary road from the cabins to the north of the Main Cabin. The remainder of the site is densely wooded.

The Main Cabin is a single story, rectangular, stained log building measuring approximately twenty-two feet by twenty feet. The gabled roof extends beyond the plane of the cabin's front (west) facade to shelter a full-length porch. The cabin is constructed of spruce logs, spiked together with eighty-pound spikes, with saddle and notch corners. The underside of individual logs are hollowed, providing a longitudinal cupped surface that assures a tight fit between the courses. The ax-cut ends of all logs project beyond the wall plane by as much as three feet. The gable roof is covered with cedar shingles, of recent vintage, and includes wide overhanging eaves with exposed ridge pole, rafters, and purlins beneath. Window openings are rectangular, with simple wood plank frames and a combination of eight-light awning and eight-light casement wood sash. Windows are paired on the south and east facades, while the west facade includes eight-light casement sash flanking the principal entry. The south facade also includes a small, fixed, two-light window located west of the paired awning sash. A simple wood door with six small lights is centered in the west facade. The roof extension that shelters the porch is supported by log posts and has a log

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Description (continued)

balustrade. The porch flooring rests on transverse log joists supported by a longitudinal log sill. The cabin's log sills are supported on stone footings. A battered stone chimney of randomly laid fieldstone with a rough-formed concrete footing is located on the north facade. The portion of the chimney stack above the breast was reconstructed, using random-coursed ashlar, prior to 1951.

The interior plan of the cabin consists of a single room with exposed log rafters, purlins, and tie beams. The stone fireplace on the north wall is constructed of coursed ashlar with a flat arch opening composed of voussoirs and keystone. The fireplace also includes a stone mantel and brick hearth. Interior flooring is hardwood. The cabin is furnished with bunks, tables, and chairs constructed of spruce and birch logs. This furniture is not original to the building.

The Main Cabin has been well maintained since its construction. However, isolated areas of rot and powder post beetle infestation have required the replacement, with like materials, of two porch posts and the sistering of two logs serving as the end joists of the porch. Recent installation of a new roof substituted plywood for the original tongue and groove roofers, but replaced the cedar shingles with matching materials. A small skylight has been introduced into the rear (east) slope of the roof. The open area originally located beneath the porch was closed off with a dry stone wall prior to 1951. The original two-over-two double-hung wood sash were replaced by the present multiple-light casement sash during the 1950s. Probably at the same date the original wood plank shutters were removed from all window openings. Despite these alterations the Main Cabin retains its general appearance and has a high degree of integrity.

Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 are mirror images of each other. The two buildings are sited at right angles to one another and are located approximately forty-five feet apart. Each cabin is rectangular in plan, measuring approximately twenty-five feet by fourteen feet. The single story, gable-roofed, wood-frame buildings are sided with waney-edged clapboards. Foundations consist of low stone piers with dry laid rubble stone occupying the voids between the piers. A battered exterior chimney of coursed ashlar stonework is located against the west facade of Cabin No. 2 and the northeast facade of Cabin No. 1. The cabins' rectangular window openings have simple wood plank frames and wood casement sash of nine and four lights. Simple, four-light, wood doors are asymmetrically located in the facades

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fronting onto the clearing. Each entry is also fitted with a replacement screen door. The principal facades of both buildings are asymmetrically balanced compositions.

The interiors of Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 consist of two rooms separated by a paneled partition wall. The rafters and tie beams of the roof structure are exposed to view in both rooms. The tie beams are connected to the rafters with additional supports that emulate king post trusses. All interior walls have vertical wood paneling. The entry opens into a living room with hardwood flooring and a battered fireplace constructed of dressed coursed ashlar with a stone mantel and brick hearth. A flat arch fireplace opening includes voussoirs and a keystone. Built-in wood shelves flank the fireplace. The sleeping quarters are separated from the living room by a paneled partition with a wood plank door. Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 have been well maintained since their construction and retain their original appearance and integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

☐ nationally ☐ statewide ☒ locally

Applicable National Register Criteria ☐ A ☒ B ☒ C ☐ D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1931-1940

Significant Dates

1931, 1939

Cultural Affiliation

Significant Person

Gaudineer, Donald R.

Architect/Builder

Gaudineer, Donald R.

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

Middle Mountain Cabins, located within the Monongahela National Forest in Randolph County, West Virginia, are representative of the Forest Service's activities in the Greenbrier district of the Forest and, specifically, of the significant role played by Forest Ranger Don Gaudineer in the development of the Forest Service's presence in this portion of the Forest. The Main Cabin, constructed by Gaudineer, constitutes a unique style of log cabin construction within the region. It does not conform to local vernacular styles in either appearance or construction techniques. Likewise, the cabin's design is unique among local Forest Service log buildings. The two later cabins at the site represent adaptations of standardized designs intended to accommodate a specific site and setting.

The National Forest Service first acquired property within the future Monongahela National Forest in 1915, ten years after President Theodore Roosevelt created the National Forest Service by means of an Executive Order. In West Virginia, the Forest Service concentrated its early efforts on land acquisition, with an emphasis on providing for forest fire prevention, reforestation, and timber management. By 1930 the Monongahela National Forest comprised 252,000 acres, of which 102,000 acres had been burned over.¹

¹Janet Brashler, "Before John King Arrived: Early History of the Monongahela National Forest," *Goldenseal* (Winter 1983): 62-63.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

The portion of the National Forest in which the Middle Mountain Cabins are located was purchased from the Wildell Lumber Company in 1929. This tract, which totalled nearly 12,000 acres in Randolph and Pocahontas Counties, significantly increased the Forest Service's presence in this portion of West Virginia.² To improve access to the newly acquired tract, the Forest Service constructed twenty-one miles of road along the flank of Middle Mountain in 1930.³ The following year, 1931, Ranger Don Gaudineer planned and supervised the construction of Middle Mountain Cabin along the new road.

Don Gaudineer (1901-1936) was raised in New York City and received his forestry training from the New York State Ranger College near Elmira, New York. After graduating in 1922, he worked for the State of Maine as deputy forest fire warden in the Androscoggin Waters District. Gaudineer transferred to the Monongahela National Forest in 1926, after serving two years as a forest guard and assistant ranger in New Hampshire's White Mountain National Forest. Gaudineer worked eight years (1926-1934) in the Greenbrier Ranger District of the Monongahela National Forest and two years (1934-1936) in the Cheat Ranger District.⁴

Gaudineer determined to construct a cabin on Middle Mountain to provide quarters for fire lookouts and to serve as a base for conducting other Forest Service activities. Fire prevention, and fire fighting constituted the principal activities of most Forest Service personnel in the Monongahela National Forest during the 1920s and 1930s.⁵ Gaudineer's crews also erected telephone lines,

²Land Acquisition, Wildell Lumber Company to United States of America. Conveyance File. On file at National Forest Service Administrative Office, Elkins, West Virginia.

³Middle Mountain Road File, On file at National Forest Service Administrative Office, Elkins, West Virginia.

⁴C. R. McKim, "Report of Monongahela Gateway: History of the Monongahela National Forest" (n.d.). Manuscript on file at National Forest Service Administrative Office, Elkins, West Virginia.

⁵Brashler, "Before John King," 62.

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picked pine cones for seeds, planted seedlings as a reforestation measure, and laid out trails for recreational purposes and to facilitate the movement of rangers through the Forest.

In 1931 Gaudineer received \$500 from Region Seven of the United States Forest Service to construct a guard station on Middle Mountain.⁶ Gaudineer selected the site for the cabin, along a former logging railroad right-of-way approximately 640 feet northeast of the newly constructed Middle Mountain Road. The spruce trees used to build the cabin were obtained from nearby Old Five Mile Run Road on Camp Five Run and were hauled to the site by truck. Teams of horses and a tractor were used to skid the logs to the actual construction site, which had been cleared of trees and stumps. A local blacksmith modified a foot adze to permit the work crew to hew the concave cup in the bottom side of the logs, assuring a close fit between courses and eliminating the need for chinking.

Gaudineer apparently designed and constructed the cabin based upon the methods and guidelines contained in Chilson Aldrich's *The Real Log Cabin*, a book he had first encountered at the New York State Ranger College.⁸ The completed cabin closely conforms to many of the examples described and illustrated in Aldrich's book, while presenting a distinctly different appearance from local vernacular log construction. Local vernacular log buildings, as well as other log buildings erected in the region by the Forest Service, predominately employ squared logs with dovetailed corners, log ends that slightly project a uniform distance beyond the wall planes, and extensive use of chinking. Gaudineer's cabin is much more expressive and detailed than these buildings. It utilizes unsquared logs with saddle and notch corners, log ends that project various lengths beyond the wall planes, and an absence of chinking. These characteristics are all illustrated by Aldrich, who argued that such attributes maintained a more natural

⁶John King, "A Year With Don Gaudineer," (n.d.), 12. Manuscript on file at National Forest Service Administrative Office, Elkins, West Virginia.

⁷Ibid., 14.

⁸John King, "Protecting Uncle Sam's Interests: A Year in the Forest Service," *Goldenseal* (Winter 1983): 61.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

"picturesque" appearance.⁹ Gaudineer conceived of and constructed this cabin not merely as a utilitarian building, but rather as an expression of his personnel aesthetic.

In 1934, after several promotions, Gaudineer was transferred from the Greenbrier District to the Cheat Ranger District in Parsons, West Virginia, where he served as principal forest ranger. He served as district ranger for a year, until his untimely death in April 1936. Gaudineer died while attempting to save his children from a home electrical fire.¹⁰ The United States Forest Service has honored Gaudineer, and his important role in the early development of the Monongahela National Forest by naming the Gaudineer Lookout Tower, Gaudineer Knob, and the Gaudineer Scenic Area in his memory.¹¹

The other two cabins located at the site, Cabin Nos. 1 and 2, were erected in 1939 as bunk houses for Forest Service personnel. The buildings, which are mirror images of each other, are excellent examples of standard plan construction utilized by the Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the period from 1933 to 1942. Crews from the Thornwood CCC camp, located twelve miles south of the site, constructed the two cabins.¹² The Thornwood camp was one of approximately twenty-one CCC camps that operated within the Monongahela National Forest, between 1933 and 1940.¹³

⁹Chilson D. Aldrich, *The Real Log Cabin*, rev. ed. (New York: Macmillan Co., 1928), 114.

¹⁰McKim, "Report of the Monongahela Gateway."

¹¹Janet Brashler, "Don Gaudineer: The Ranger's Ranger," *Goldenseal* (Winter 1983): 60.

¹²Middle Mountain Cabin File, On file at Greenbrier Ranger Station, Bartow, West Virginia.

¹³"Inventory of United States Forest Service Administration Sites, Fire Towers, and CCC Camps: Monongahela National Forest" (1986). Manuscript on file at National Forest Service Administrative Office, Elkins, West Virginia.

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Statement of Significance (continued)

Bill McDaniels and Ollie McDonald supervised the construction of Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 by the CCC youth. The buildings utilized material salvaged from an earlier CCC building.¹⁴ A 1939 architectural drawing depicts the standard plan used during construction, which constituted a two-room single story wood frame cabin. The waney-edged clapboard siding of Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 represents a departure from standard practice within the Monongahela National Forest. Most CCC-built structures within the Forest were sided with milled siding. The waney-edged material used in this instance was intended to preserve the rusticity of the cabin site and meld the new buildings with the existing Gaudineer's cabin.

Although originally constructed for Forest Service personnel, the three cabins that comprise Middle Mountain Cabins have been converted to recreational use. Both the cabins and the site have been well maintained and retain a high degree of integrity.

The Gaudineer Cabin is important as a unique architectural expression of log construction within the region. It is historically associated with the early history of the Monongahela National Forest in this portion of West Virginia, having been constructed as a guard cabin for rangers assigned to patrol the woods against forest fires. Additionally, it is closely associated with Ranger Don Gaudineer, a guiding force in the early history of the Monongahela National Forest's Greenbrier Ranger District. Cabin Nos. 1 and 2 are examples of standardized rustic building design, as codified by the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. The CCC, an important New Deal agency, played a significant role in the Monongahela National Forest during this period, taking an active part in reforestation and construction programs. The examples of CCC construction at Middle Mountain Cabins illustrate how standardized plans were adapted to accommodate the specific qualities of a particular site and setting.

¹⁴Middle Mountain Cabin File.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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 # _____

☒ See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- ☐ State historic preservation office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Specify repository:

United States Forest Service,
Elkins, West Virginia

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 3.16

UTM References

A

1	7	6	1	0	1	0	0	4	2	8	2	7	4	0
Zone			Easting					Northing						

C

Zone			Easting					Northing						

B

Zone			Easting					Northing						

D

Zone			Easting					Northing						

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

☒ See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The proposed boundaries include the three buildings that comprise Middle Mountain Cabins and their immediate surrounding environment.

☐ See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glenn A. Ceponis/Assistant Historian

organization John Milner Associates date _____

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5087 H: NE
(WALDELL)



