

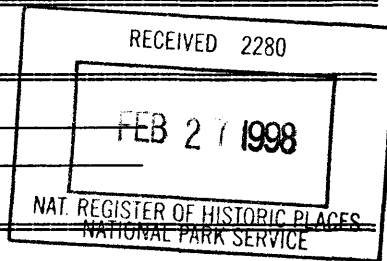
287

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service  
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

1. Name of Property LITTLE BEAVER DAM

historic name: \_\_\_\_\_

other name/site number: \_\_\_\_\_



2. Location

street & number: CR 307

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Crow Vicinity

vicinity: x

state: WV county: Raleigh code: 081 zip: 25813

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally X statewide X locally. (\_\_\_ See continuation sheet.)

Susan M. Pierce 2/19/98  
Signature of Certifying Official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau Date

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 Date

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I, hereby certify that this property is:

Jan  
Signature of Keeper  
Edson H. Ball  
Date of Action  
4.1.96

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): \_\_\_\_\_

**5. 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

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
1  
1  
2

Noncontributing

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
0 TOTAL

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

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**6. Function or Use**

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**Historic Functions**

**Current Functions**

Landscape: Dam Created Lake

Landscape: Dam Created Lake

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation

Recreation: Outdoor Recreation

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**7. Description**

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**Architectural Classification:**

**Materials**

Other : Federal Designed Project

No Style

Foundation Sandstone

Walls Sandstone

Roof \_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative Description**

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

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**8. Statement of Significance**

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**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.

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**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.

**Areas of Significance**

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Engineering

**Period of Significance**

1938 - 1942

**Significant Dates**

1942

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

N/A

**Narrative Statement of Significance**

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

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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**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 # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of Repository: \_\_\_\_\_

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**10. Geographical Data**

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**Acreeage of Property:** less than one acre

**UTM References** (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

Prince Quad Map

17 493980 4178405  
Zone Easting Northing

**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.)

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Katherine M. Jourdan, National Register Coordinator  
with Robell Clark

Organization: WV SHPO

Date: 5 November 1997

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East

City or Town: Charleston State: WV ZIP: 25305-0300

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**Property Owner**

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

Name: Public Lands Corporation, Capitol Complex

Street & Number: 1900 Kanawha Blvd East, Bldg 3 Telephone: 304/558-3225

City or Town: Charleston State: WV Zip: 25305

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Located in Raleigh County, Little Beaver State Park has direct access off State Route 307, south of I-64. The dam is visible from the road and parking lot. Behind the dam is the 18 acre lake ringed by trees, and a boat house with a pier.

The dam face is made of rough chiseled blocks roughly 2'x2'x4' of sandstone. The stones were quarried locally across the roadway and within sight of the project. The face is stepped, with a spillway to the south end. A few metal pipes protrude from the spillway. A catch basin runs across the partial length of the dam, joining the spillway overflow and then running into a stone lined creek bed. The dam measures roughly 29 feet high and is 400 feet in length. To each side of the spillway and the catch basin, the dam wall steps up approximately three feet higher, than the spillway. The wall is approximately six feet in width and provides some direction for runoff during high water seasons. The dam is considered a contributing structure.

Located about twenty feet from the spillway in a grassy area is a stone monument with the inscription: "S.C. CODA/ PROJ. SUPER/JOHN KONRAD/U.S. ENGINEER". It is believed to have been fashioned by the men of CCC Camp Raleigh as the project was taking place. The stone monument is about five feet in height with stone scallops at the base and a ball on the top. The monument is considered a contributing object.

The Little Beaver Dam was the first public dam in Raleigh County. Constructed between 1938 and 1942, during the Great Depression, by the Works Progress Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps, it has provided recreational facilities for Raleigh County.

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The Little Beaver Dam is a contributing structure under Criterion A for Social History connected with the Works Progress Association (WPA) and the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) of Camp Raleigh #3531; and Criterion C for Engineering. The period of significance for the dam begins with plans for construction in 1938, and ends with its completion in 1942.

The Works Progress Administration began as a program created in 1935, under President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal Administration, during the Great Depression. It was a program to employ men, out of work during the Great Depression, on projects of public benefit. About 75 percent of the projects were in construction, with the remainder being service projects. The majority of projects were planned, initiated, and sponsored by cities, counties and other public agencies. The proportion of sponsors' contribution ranged from 10 percent of the total cost in 1936, to about 30 percent in 1943. The result was varied, with miles of new roads, construction of nearly 40,000 new public buildings, repairs of existing buildings, new recreational facilities, public utilities and sanitation, flood control, and new airports.

In Raleigh County, county officials sought to create a needed recreational facility and to include a 4-H camp. After some organization, the plans for the dam began in 1938 with the clearing of the site. The stone cutting and construction took place over the next four years. Following is a summary of activity over this period as reported from newspaper documentation, listed in the bibliography:

July 1938:        WPA agreed to submit a proposal for a \$60,000 project to construct a dam in Raleigh County. Early plans for the dam was that it be 13 feet high and 4,000 cubic feet in area. County was notified by government engineers that new plans would have to be submitted.

September 1938: The 50 acre tract of land was officially donated by Mrs. Carrie Morgan Wright of Cincinnati, and George H. Smith of Chillicothe, Ohio, to be used for a recreation site and for a lake on Little Beaver Creek. Construction on the dam and lake began with the men from Camp Raleigh clearing the land during the summer of 1938. At this time a camp was to be included, with buildings and recreational facilities. The WPA was to pay all the labor costs of construction the project and ten percent of the materials. The county would contribute old brick, stone, steel, logs, sand, and the land.

November 1938: "The county court (who oversaw the project) was notified that President Roosevelt had authorized \$32,480 to begin work on the dam. The allotment will to be used to construct a dam, clear off the camp site, build roads, and bridges. A crew of 70 WPA men will begin work. Another application was to be made to WPA for \$130,000, which would include buildings and swimming pools".



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June 1939:    A second proposal was submitted for the dam and lake, being broken down into several sections (the proposed 4-H Camp was not completed). The type of dam had still not been determined, with the government engineers having plans for one made wholly of stone and concrete. "Interested Raleigh County people had hoped to have an earthen dam with a stone or concrete core". Work had been stopped on the dam pending a decision from WPA headquarters about the type of dam to be constructed. At that time 118 men were working on a road from the main highway into the property. The creek bed had been cleared and tested for the base of the dam.

Feb 1940: "US Army Engineers have found a dip in the rock foundation that will require 8000 yards more of masonry instead of the 5,500 yards, as first thought. At this time, the engineers wanted to build a larger dam but the county representatives wanted a smaller one. At this time President Roosevelt approved another grant of \$73,960 and the court had \$20,000 left over from a former grant".

March 1940: "WPA workers started clearing hillside to blast rock for the dam, and a tram road over the creek was built to move the stone. The project, held up since last fall will be speeded along. Stone masons will be employed after the rock has been quarried. The county court and the WPA have purchased machinery especially for the dam's construction. S.C. Coda was hired to supervise construction of the dam. Lincoln Lilly of Crow assisted him several times as a laborer. The dam will be 29 feet high from its base in the middle of the creek. The lake formed by the water will be 30 feet deep in some places".

October 1940: "Work to start laying the stone will begin immediately. Stone workers have been shaping huge blocks of stone for several weeks, and yesterday four cranes were busy placing two-ton stones in place. Much of the stone being used below the ground is only partially shaped, but almost perfectly shaped blocks are being kept in storage for the top of the structure. Working on 50 foot sections at a time, engineers plan to first bring each section above the creek level where bad weather will not hinder the completion of the dam. The plans are in accordance with Army engineers and is under the supervision of J.J. Konrad, Army engineer from the Huntington office; H.M. Venable, area supervisor, for the WPA; and E.L. Basham, district supervisor. There were a few men from the CCC Camp Raleigh assigned to help in the construction of the dam".

January 1942: The dam was leaking from several small holes where sections of the stone structure were joined with mortar, but Army engineer, J.J. Konrad, said the leaks were not serious.

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Workmen are now going ahead with the rip-rapping, and placing stone walls around the ends of the dam to keep the banks from being washed away. Another grant is being prepared by the new Raleigh County Park Board to complete the project.

July 1942: The WPA had still not released the project to the county court. Although swimming had not been discouraged, there were no life guards, roped areas or any type of protection for swimmers. There had been one death and one near drowning during the month.

During the latter part of 1942, the project was released and the park was operated by the Raleigh County Park Board. The 4-H Camp was later constructed on nearby property in 1953, with local volunteer labor and support.

The engineering requirements for the dam used local materials and took advantage of the terrain of Little Beaver Creek for the location of the dam and the lake dimensions. Construction drawings and engineering problems were undertaken by the WPA administration and the US Army Corps of Engineers. These records are a part of the National Archives Records No. 69.

The dam is a stepped dam, constructed of local sandstone and provides for a depth of the lake from 13 to 30 feet. The spillway and catch basin handle any overflow but are not flood restrictive, nor do they handle navigation.

The project brought needed money into the county during the latter days of the Great Depression, employing men and using the available work force of Camp Raleigh and the Civilian Conservation Corps. The project combined several of the programs under Roosevelt's New Deal administration and improved the welfare of the county citizens. The property has been associated with outdoor recreation since that time. Little Beaver became a state park in March 1971, and is now operated by the WV Department of Natural Resources.

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**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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“Four-H Camp Dam Approved By WPA” July 19, 1938, p. 1, 19.

“Plans to Capital Office,” Sept 19, 1938, p. 1

“Crew to Start on camp Work,” November 1938, p. 1.

“\$160,000 Camp Grant Before..., Project May Be Approved Within Month”, June 25, 1939

“CCC Camp Site Work Proceeds at Rapid Pace,” July 29, 1939

“Crew Gets Down to Serious Work on County’s Four-H Camp Dam,” March 20, 1940, p. 10.

“Masonry Work Started on Dam at New Four-H Camp”, October 25, 1940, p. 1, 6.

“Leak in New Four-H Dam,” January 30, 1942 p. 1.

“Controversy Breaks Out Over 4-h Dam Swimming,” July 20, 1942.

**Other**

Craig, Lois A. THE FEDERAL PRESENCE, ARCHITECTURE, POLITICS AND NATIONAL DESIGN. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 1984.

Harr, Milton. THE CCC CAMPS IN WEST VIRGINIA 1933-1942. Charleston, WV: Milton Harr, 1992.

Wood, Jim. RALEIGH COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA. Beckley, WV: BJW Printing & Office Supplies, 1994.

Works Progress Administration, West Virginia Records, National Archives, Washington D.C., Record No. 69. (Reel 1022)

Interview with Robell Clark, by Katherine Jourdan, October 8, 1997.

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**BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

The boundary includes the 400 foot length of the dam, by the 20 foot width of the spillway and catch basin plus the 6 foot breadth of the dam. Also included is a section 20 x 20 feet of the grass area which has the monument.

**BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION**

The boundary includes the location of the dam and the monument.



LITTLE BEAVER DAM  
Raleigh County, WV

SITE PLAN & PHOTO MAP

