

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001678 Date Listed: 11/15/90

Blackhawk State Park, Wildlife Area (A); Sac IA  
Property Name County State

CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland  
Signature of the Keeper

11/15/90  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

NOTE: This property is not part of a discontinuous district.

Item #8, Significance:

Architecture is an area of significance.  
The correct period of significance is 1934-1935.

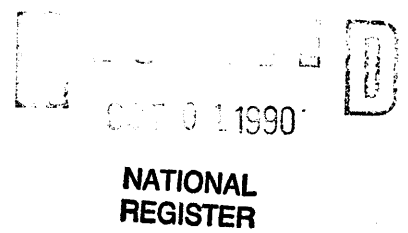
Photograph # 5 is not part of this nomination.

References to this property are found in Section 7, pp. 1, 3-4, and 6; Section 8, pp. 1-3, 9, and 11; and Section 10, p.. 1-3.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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 Blackhawk State Park: Wildlife Preserve Area (Area A)
other names/site number Lake View Park; Lake Black Hawk State Park

2. Location

street & number STH 71 and CTH M68
city, town Lake View
state Iowa code IA county Sac code 161 zip code 51450

3. Classification

Table with 3 columns: Ownership of Property, Category of Property, and Number of Resources within Property. Includes checkboxes for private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal, building(s), district, site, structure, object, and a resource count table.

Name of related multiple property listing: CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks; 1933-42
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: State Historical Society of Iowa
Date: 9/17/90

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:
[checked] 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: Beth Poland
Date of Action: 11/15/90

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls Limestone

Granite

roof Shingle

other Log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

**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)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT  
SOCIAL HISTORY  
CONSERVATION  
RECREATION

Period of Significance

1933-1935

Significant Dates

1933

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Central Design Office, Ames

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



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Table 1  
Contributing/Noncontributing Properties in Black Hawk State Park

No.	(1) Common Name	Property Subtype	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Category
Area A: Wildlife Preserve Area: 25 acres				
19-30	fish rearing ponds	dams, lakes, and pools	contributing	12 structures
7	overlook	trailside seats, shelters & overlooks	contributing	1 building
8	steps	trail steps & trails	contributing	1 structure
9	bench	trailside seats, shelters & overlooks	contributing	1 object
10-11	latrine	comfort stations & privies	contributing	2 buildings
-	paved road	other minor park structures	contributing	1 structure
-	trail	post-CCC structure	noncontributing	1 structure
	subtotal			19 resources
Area B: Black Hawk Preserve Area, 2.72 acres				
12	picnic shelter	picnic & kitchen shelters	contributing	1 building
13,16	drinking fountain	water supply	contributing	2 objects
14-15	latrine	comfort stations & privies	contributing	2 buildings
17	incinerator	incinerators	contributing	1 structure
-	road	post-CCC structure	noncontributing	1 structure
-	restroom	post-CCC building	noncontributing	1 building
-	shower building	post-CCC building	noncontributing	1 building
	subtotal			9 resources

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Area C: Denison Beach: .1 Acre

18	picnic shelter & latrine	picnic & kitchen shelters	contributing	1 building
subtotal				1 resources
total resources				29 resources

(1) Numbers are preceded by the prefix BLB.

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7. Statement of Description

Materials:

Roof: ASPHALT

Descriptive Statement:

Black Hawk State Park is located immediately adjacent to Lake View, Sac County, Iowa. Containing 341.9 acres in 1934, the park grew to 371.9 acres exclusive of its lake by 1942 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 127; 1937, 1941 [1941: 18]]). The park is composed of three separate parcels around Black Hawk Lake each of which contain a portion of the discontinuous district. What was the wildlife preserve occupies the west end of the lake and an adjacent slough. A low area converted from a former gravel quarry by the CCC, area A currently contains twelve of the original thirteen fish rearing ponds and wooded and meadow areas. A picnic area and camp ground, area B, stretches east from Cottonwood Point on the southeast side of the lake and is planted in mowed grasses. Area C is also a grassy picnic area at Denison Beach. The discontinuous district contains 25 contributing resources. Placed on a rise above the preserve, area A includes twelve fish ponds, an overlook, steps, a bench, and two latrines. Incorporating much of the southeast portion of the park, area B contains a picnic shelter, two drinking fountains, two latrines, and an incinerator. The picnic shelter in area C sits slightly back from the lake's edge. In general, the boundaries of the district follow natural edges such as lakes or man-made boundaries such as roads or the park boundaries.

The contributing buildings, structures, and objects follow the guidelines of the mature rustic landscape style as it developed during the CCC period in general shaping, floor plan, materials, decorative elements, functions, property subtypes, and setting. VCCC Company 1776 completed much of the construction work upon the identified CCC resources between 1933 and 1935 (US NPS, District Office 1935-37 [3/37, box 22]; LAKEVIEW RESORT 1933 [10/5]). The description discusses each area within the district separately to best characterize its built environment. These resources belong to the property type CCC Resources in Iowa Parks which are described in section F.

The resources in area A are distributed among 12 of the 25 original



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fish rearing ponds constructed by the CCC. Occupying an elongated segment of land west of Black Hawk Lake, the ponds (BLB19-30) (dams, lakes, and pools, IID) are irregular, although generally oval in shape. They range in size from 130 by 100 feet to 330 by 920 feet. The ponds possess a sand and gravel bottom. Although currently containing considerable silt but still holding water, they are no longer used for rearing fish. The overlook (BLB7) (trailside seats, shelters, and overlooks, IC) in area A stands on top of a small, wooded knob and other CCC resources are scattered down or at the base of the rise. Sixteen feet in diameter, the uncoursed, rubble limestone, hexagonal shelter stands on concrete footings. It is constructed of 6 pillars which support the six-sided roof. Waist-high walls fill the openings of four sides while the other two opposing openings remain open. Timbers support the wood shingle roof and are exposed beyond the eaves. Cemented stone forms the floor. Five stone and concrete steps (trail steps and trails, IJ) (BLB8) which are four foot wide lead up to the knob. A railroad tie at the base currently prevents further erosion along the path. The two latrines (comfort stations and privies, IH) (BLB10-11) occur along the base of the knob to the south. Placed on a poured concrete foundation, the 12 by 13 foot buildings are composed of random rubble walls which support a gable roof covered with wood shingle. Timber roof members which are exposed upon the interior and exterior support this roof. Casement windows of two lights and vents under the eaves provide the openings. The stone walls remain exposed on the interior of both latrines. A trailside bench (trailside seats, shelters, and overlooks, IC) (BLB9) is also located near the base of the knob between the most northern two fish ponds. The slightly curved, 11 foot long bench is entirely composed of random rubble, sandstone. It stands 3 feet high at the back and 32 inches wide at the base with a 16 inch high seat. Large, split flat fragments of stone composed the seat and back surface.

Area B lies between the lake to the north and the park boundary and paved road to the south. One concentration and two additional CCC resources occur at the west and east ends of the picnic area respectively. They are located in a grassy park shaded by a scattering of mature trees. A paved road occurs along the south edge of the area. A concentration of two post-CCC buildings stand along the edge near the road. A post-CCC oval paved drive provides access to the area.

A rectangular picnic shelter (picnic and kitchen shelters, IIA) (BLB12) stands as a pivotal building near the center of this

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district. Four timber posts with bracing support the front portion of the intersecting gable roof. A small concession which is now used for storage creates the rear wall. The concession and adjacent short side walls of the shelter are composed of random rubble granite placed on a poured concrete footing. The floor is composed of poured concrete. Elaborate timber roof framing with king post and other members lies exposed under the asphalt shingled roof. Purlins and rafters are also exposed upon the exterior. The fireplace between the concession and shelter is marked by a segmental arch with keystone. The windows of the concession are now covered. The stone walls are exposed on the interior.

Two latrines and a fountain surround the picnic shelter. The two pit vault latrines (comfort stations and privies, IH) (BLB14-15) are nearly identical to the two latrines described for area A (BLB10-11). The 32 by 32 inch square drinking fountain (water supply, IG) (BLB13) stands 32 inches high. The top of the random rubble fountain is dished to catch water from the small spicket. A stepping stone stands on one side and a drain covered by an iron grate is located on another. Toward the east edge of the picnic area stands a second water fountain (water supply, IG) (BLB16) which is very similar to BLB13. Across the road stands one of the few intact incinerators that were once quite common to Iowa state parks. The 6 foot high by 6 foot wide and 9 foot long, rectangular incinerator is composed of reinforced concrete with a random rubble veneer. It contains three openings arranged in one vertical row to serve the drying chamber, firebox, and ash pit. Fire bricks line the firebox (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [3/35, box 72]). A concrete block shower building and concrete block and fiber board restroom stand together along the edge of the park and separate from the CCC resources.

Area C, Denison Beach, contains only a picnic shelter with flanking restrooms (picnic and kitchen shelter, IIA) (BLB18) which measures 20 by 54 feet. The building stands on poured concrete footings. The rectangular shelter is closed on three sides with random rubble walls. The two restrooms are located on each end wall of the shelter and are also constructed of random rubble. Timber roof framing supports the gable roof across the entire building. Asphalt shingles cover the roof. The front portion of the shelter roof overhangs the walls and is supported by timber bracing. The fireplace is located along the center of the rear wall with the stone supports for the original log benches flanking it. The top of the fireplace is composed of a segmental arch with keystone. The openings along the rear of the shelter remain uncovered, and

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those in the restrooms are louvered. While plywood covers the ceiling in the restrooms, the walls are finished with tongue and groove paneling. The shelter sits adjacent to the water at the edge of a picnic area.

Mainly deterioration in part perhaps caused by original construction techniques as well as modifications demanded for modern use of the park have caused alteration or added intrusions to the three areas of the district.

In area A, 12 of the 13 ponds constructed in that location remain (Iowa DNR 1917-89 [map: 1/7/41]). They retain similar shapes to the originals. However, as an unstable resource with sand and gravel bottoms, some change in their configuration has occurred. The current paved roads follow much the same route as the original gravel roads in area A and is therefore contributing. The present trail system deviates from the one constructed by the CCC. While suffering some deterioration, the buildings remain intact.

In area B, the wood elements of the buildings have suffered some deterioration and the some stonework has been displaced. Asphalt has replaced wood shingles on the picnic shelter (BLB12), and some firebrick in the fireplace has been removed. Although the buildings and structures for the most part remain intact in this area, some modern intrusions have entered the area. A paved park road crosses the park on the extreme south edge. The paved service road is not original to the CCC period. Two recent buildings, a latrine and shower, have been constructed close to the road along the south away from the CCC resources. They remain small and unobtrusive.

In area C, resource BLB18 is the only CCC property. Asphalt replaces the wood shingle on the roof. There has been firebrick loss, and the log benches no longer remain although their stone supports are partially extant.

While deterioration has occurred in many of these resource, CCC properties must be viewed as semi-permanent park resources built by essentially unskilled labor under the supervision of trained architects, landscape architects, and craftsmen, primarily locally experienced men. They are also open to the effects of weathering which promotes deterioration. And, the buildings were erected to serve a public with needs differing from current park patrons. Modifications derive from these sources. Sensitive to the emphasis upon landscaping by the rustic style, property counts recognize the

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importance of associated settings and exclude post-CCC intrusions when possible. Because of this emphasis, considerable importance is placed upon the integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association. Because of the fragility of the resources, maintenance of the overall design and of a reasonable integrity of materials and tolerance for changes effected by deterioration and modern use remain a requirement. Finally, the integrity of workmanship in the district retains the important association with the CCC participants.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

The CCC resources within the three areas of the Black Hawk Lake State Park District gain historical significance under criterion A in association with the context Civilian Conservation Corps Properties in Iowa State Parks: 1933-1942 and the property type: CCC Properties in Iowa Parks. The district represents the theme through the areas of CONSERVATION, RECREATION, SOCIAL HISTORY, and POLITICS/GOVERNMENT. The CCC was a national level government program which the state carried out in part through park development. It sought to provide recreational opportunities for local communities and conserve the parks' landscapes by utilizing unemployed youths in make-work projects, a move toward social welfare at the national level. Additionally, the resources in the Black Hawk Lake State Park District acquire significance under criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an example of rustic architecture. The buildings, structures, and objects reflect the effort of this landscape movement to blend park amenities with the natural landscape in their material, design, workmanship, and immediate setting and reflect common types developed by the National Park Service for park construction. Thus, the conservation and naturalistic perspective of the CCC relates well to the architecture which it erected in parks such as Black Hawk. Because the park amenities within this district were constructed for the enjoyment of local communities and do not contain single examples of exceptionally well preserved, scarce cultural resources or outstanding examples of Iowa state park rustic architecture, the resources of the district gain significance at the local level. The period of significance extends from the commencement of the first period of CCC work in the park in 1933 to its close in 1935 (U.S. NPS, District Office 1935-37 [3/37, box 22]; LAKEVIEW RESORT 1933-39 [10/5/39]).

## Background

Iowa acquired Black Hawk State Park in several different tracts primarily through the efforts of Dr. E.E. Speaker of Lake View who served on the State Board of Conservation. Purchased in 1934, one of the first tracts was 150 acres at the west edge of the park (area A), the site of a former gravel quarry. The Board bought a 30 acre farm on the southeast side of the lake (area B) by March, 1934. The Denison Beach Company deeded the 30 acre Denison Beach Area to Lake View for use as a park by 1935. Additional purchases were acquired by the state through the one half million dollar fund

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appropriated by the legislature for land purchase. This transaction allowed the restoration of the 957 acre lake. By 1935, the park contained 330.54 acres with 45 acres in woods. By 1941, it grew to 371.19 acres (LAKEVIEW RESORT 1934-39 [3/24/34, 6/13/35, 6/20/35, 6/26/35, 10/3/35]); Iowa State Conservation Commission 1936: 118-19, 1942: 143-44]; U.S. NPS, Regional Office 1935-37 [9/36, box 3]).

Although one CCC company, Company VCCC 1776, constructed the properties in the district, several CCC and WPA units occupied the two camps SP8 and SP27. Moving from Lake Andes, South Dakota, VCCC 1776, a veterans unit, remained at SP8 which contained nine buildings just east of Denison Beach from November, 1933 to May 16, 1935. The CCC purchased local materials and hired local workmen to build Camp Liberty in October, 1933. A second CCC unit, company 2725, simply trained at Lake View in June, 1934. Several WPA transient companies also worked in the park in 1936 and 1937. The first, TPl arriving after VCCC 1776 left, stayed at the former CCC camp and left in May, 1936. The second occupied a new camp at Crescent Park about September, 1936 through at least March, 1937. The city assisted the camp connect to the city water system. The second constructed the custodian's house and maintenance building (BLB2-4) near the northwest gate between February and October, 1937. The portals, BLB1, were, however, erected by VCCC 1776 about March and April, 1935. For this reason and also because of the concentration of recent metal buildings adjacent to them, they are excluded as a unit from the district. Camp SP27 was occupied between October, 1938 into 1939. It did not perform substantial work upon resources in the district (LAKEVIEW RESORT 1933-39 [9/28/33, 10/22/33, 4/5/34, 6/13/35, 6/26/35, 10/3/35, 1/16/36, 9/3/36, 2/11/37, 9/17/36]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-37 [1/36, 3/36, 4/36, boxes 263 and 267]; U.S. NPS, Regional Office 1935-37 [3/37, 4/37, box 12]; U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [2/35, 1/36, 3/36, box 23]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73 [letter, 1/23/40 and report dated 10/15/37]).

Company VCCC 1776 began work in the park by landscaping the Wildlife Preserve (area A), a bird and fish sanctuary which was closed to the public except for hiking. They generally cleaned the park of debris, removed gravel hills at the quarry, filled the former holes, constructed foot and truck trails, graveled and placed sand on the beaches, and planted over 3400 trees by 1935 including black walnut, fur, sycamore, and black locust and 3000 shrub including wild crab, wild plum, service berry, Indian current, and pin cherry. The company also engaged in soil erosion

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projects and shore stabilization by constructing log wing dams and riprapping. The company constructed 25 fish rearing pools with sand and gravel bottoms in 12 acres between November, 1933 and October, 1934 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [11/33-10/34, box 75]; U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [10/34, box 4]; LAKEVIEW RESORT 1934-35 [3/8/34, 4/5/34, 7/5/34, 6/26/35]).

The LAKEVIEW RESORT described the construction of the hexagonal overlook on "Gobbler's Knob" by VCCC workmen. It was a stone and log building with a flagstone floor. They also added stone and log seats, signs, many plantings, and several stone comfort stations. The two latrines (BLB10-11) of stone and peeled logs were erected during December, 1934 and March, 1935. They completed much of the overlook (BLB7) between December, 1934 and April, 1935 (LAKEVIEW RESORT 1935 [7/4]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [1/34-4/35, box 75]).

Company VCCC 1776 erected the picnic shelter (BLB12) in the Black Hawk Preserve (area B) of boulders and peeled and stained logs creating a massive building. They also completed two stone and peeled log latrines (BLB14-15) and added camp stoves and barbecue ovens. These resources were completed between January and April, 1935. The reinforced concrete and stone incinerator (BLB17) reached completion in March and April, 1935. The fountains (BLB13, 16) were also presumably built during the construction period of the picnic area (LAKEVIEW 1935 [7/11/35]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [1/31/35-4/35, box 75]).

The massive, picnic shelter (BLB18) in area C was completed during March to May, 1935. It was constructed of boulders and peeled timbers stained a soft brown, a flagstone floor, and bench of half logs laid on stone pillars (LAKEVIEW RESORT 1935 [6/13]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor [3/35-4/35, box 75]; U.S. NPS, District Office 1935-37 [4/35, box 22]). Black Hawk State Park opened for visitors by 1936. In that year, it had 20,038 visitors, and by 1938-1939 after facilities had been added visitation rose to 46,450. It fell slightly during the war years of the early 1940s. The Iowa master plan for park development (Crane 1933) suggested the creation of specific types of parks to serve particular purposes. The Iowa State Conservation Commission reclassified these parks several times so that by 1942 Black Hawk State Park was identified as a recreation reserve (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 127-28]). Recreation at Black Hawk included picnicking, boating, fishing, hiking, camping, and nature study. Facilities included a commercial boat livery (Iowa State Conservation

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Commission 1935-42 [1936: 123, 1938: 108-09, 1940: 173-74, 190-91; 1942: 144-45]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1937, 1941 [1941: 18]). Thus, Black Hawk State Park received heavy public use even during the CCC period.

## Historical Significance

Iowa state parks preserve in a very tangible way evidence of the CCC program. The four areas of significance which relate to the district through criterion A, GOVERNMENT/POLITICS, SOCIAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, and RECREATION, are tightly intertwined. Thus, the legislation of the New Deal at the national level directed the improvement of state parks to provide welfare in the form of work for the unemployed. They built facilities which would offer local recreational opportunities for the idle ensuring a smoother recovery from depression.

## GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

The national government reached a sufficient level of maturity to create and operate a public works program by the depression era. Although conceived during the Progressive Era, the bureaucratic government came of age to oversee such programs with professionally led government agencies only in the 1930s. Through a bureaucratic government, the nation influenced such areas as social welfare, conservation, and recreation, in, for example, CCC programs. And, through such programs it heavily influenced the orientation of state and local government in these areas. Where before they had been the concern of the individual family or at most the community, social welfare, conservation, and recreation were now influenced by the federal government (Berthoff 1971: 330-38, 342, 357, 359-61; Hays 1957: 48, 140-41, 150; Weibe 1967: 111, 131).

To participate in the CCC program, each state was required to submit a park development plan. Iowa was among a small number of states which had developed such a plan and an organization, what became the Iowa State Conservation Commission, by 1933. By 1934 it created a State Planning Board. This planning allowed State Forester G.R. McDonald to present a proposal for sixteen Iowa camps soon after the creation of the CCC. Like the national level organization, the operation of the Iowa CCC relied upon the cooperation of a multitude of state, local, and private agencies (Iowa Department of Agriculture 1935-37 [1935: 6-7, 191]; Wirth



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1980: 150; Merrill 1981: 128). The State Conservation Commission directed the effort, the Central Design Office created many of the plans, and many other state agencies provided services in areas of their expertise (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-35 [12/16/34, box 6]; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1936: 1 (1): 4]).

The Iowa CCC was underway by April, 1933 with Company 769 which first worked at Albia (Alleger and Alleger ca. 1935: 14). State park work in Iowa led by the National Park Service began with two companies and expanded to thirteen by October, 1933, the peak number except in the fifth period (4-9/1935) when it reached fourteen. The number declined to five by the tenth period (10/1937-3/1938), three by the seventeenth period (4/1941-9/1941), and ended with two by the eighteenth period (10/1941-3/1942) (U.S. CCC, Office of the Director 1933-41 [1935: appendix D, 1937: appendix C, 1938: appendix D, 1939: appendix H, 1940: appendix D, 1941: appendix D). However, the National Forest Service camps also significantly contributed to the state park cause and are not included in this count. This work advanced park development greatly in Iowa. The State Conservation Commission was able to complete 75% of its 25 year master plan between 1933 and 1937 (Grieshop 1989).

## SOCIAL HISTORY

The bureaucracy of the national government enabled it to become responsible for the welfare of the nation's individual citizens through state and local governments and local representatives of the federal agencies. Again, although such concepts were not wholly new, they had not been activated at the federal level. The context of the depression demanded new solutions to the social welfare problem (Howard 1943: 651-52; Johnson 1941: 48; Scheslinger 1940: 1-4; U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 1934: 71-72). The national government created the CCC program to provide temporary relief and secondarily offer training in work skills to destitute young men. It taught them social maturity, new values, and a sense of responsibility, gave them hope for a brighter future, and offered limited education opportunities. And, it purposefully utilized this human resource to conserve the nation's environment (Paige 1985: 126, 132; Holland and Hill 1974 [1944]: 113; Wirth 1980: 100). Between 1933 and 1942, the Iowa program created work for 5% of the male population or 45,846 Iowans. Their accomplishments, the development of state parks, provided recreational opportunities which were utilized soon after

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construction. It had been one of the goals of park development to create opportunities to engage the idle and boost their sense of optimism and confidence in the future. It also provided economic opportunities for local communities since CCC camps purchased many supplies locally. And, communities reciprocated by gifts of land and materials for the park projects (Iowa Secretary of State 1939-40: 308-09; Merrill 1981: 128; Wirth 1980: 145; Paige 1985: 127). As noted, Lake View became involved in the land transactions for the park and provided some city services to the camps. Its paper, the LAKEVIEW RESORT, left a careful record of the CCC and WPA activities and expressed sincere interest in their success.

## CONSERVATION

The conservation projects reaching the scale of those executed by the CCC were economically if not philosophically inconceivable under normal conditions prior to 1933. These projects not only provided a source of make-work projects but began to refurbish the nation's ailing natural resources and as importantly highlighted their deteriorated condition to the nation. These resources could no longer be taken for granted (U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 1934: 67; U.S. Federal Security Agency 1941: 3; Owen 1983: 82, 120). The conservation movement in Iowa had slowly begun as early as 1895 (IOWA CONSERVATIONISTS 1943: 2 (2): 9) and reached a clear expression as Iowans gained concern for the erosion of their natural resources in the REPORT ON THE IOWA TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CONSERVATION PLAN (Crane 1933: 2, 13-17). The plan spelled out both the steps necessary to restore the state's resources and to create a state-wide park system which ensured the preservation of these resources. The CCC projects in parks included conservation of parks' natural resources. Park amenities were not to intrude upon them either visually or physically. Almost all if not all park development required landscaping through the planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses around new construction and many times throughout the entire park. Erosion control devices were constructed to rejuvenate park lands already suffering from erosion or to prevent its occurrence after park development (Ahlgren 1988). For example, at Black Hawk, the CCC planted many trees and shrubs across the park, restored the land around the quarry, built erosion control devices around the lake, and stabilized its shores. Additionally, a conservation ethic guided the design and placement of park buildings, structures, and objects at Black Hawk State Park as noted below.

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## RECREATION

CCC park development erected facilities which did not intrude upon the natural setting and thus ensured a healthful environment for the escape of local communities from the circumstances of the depression. Also, in the long run, increasing mechanization created greater leisure time but also increasing stress. To cope, the individual needed to seek relaxation and rejuvenation of mind and spirit in a non-mechanized environment or nature. This increasing mechanization also provided the means to physically reach beyond the built environment through the automobile. Parks provided an opportunity to satisfy the immediate requirement for recreation created by the depression. As it lifted, they fulfilled a need to break man's isolation from the inspiration of his natural surroundings (Crane 1933: 144; IOWA CONSERVATIONIST 1941-42 [1941: 1(2): 7]; U.S. NPS 1941: v, 9; Owen 1983: 12). This identified public need became substantiated by the rise in Iowa state park visitation from 1,542,557 in 1928 to 3,686,481 in 1942 which also occurred at Black Hawk between 1936 and 1938-1939 season. Thus, the CCC's activity in state parks provided the necessary opportunity for recreation in the form of picnicking, nature study, bathing, and fishing. Conservation and recreation remained intimately tied in the development of Iowa state parks. Park development for such recreation was not to impair the natural surroundings. And, it became the state's responsibility to provide a wholesome environment in which its citizens could spend its leisure time (Crane 1933: 11; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1937: 2(3): 7-8]). This philosophy espoused early in Iowa was echoed in the federal government's study of recreation needs in 1934 and 1941 (U.S. NPS 1941: v).

## Architectural Significance

The National Park Service developed the basis for park design utilized in state parks during the depression era, the philosophy of rustic architecture, beginning as early as 1917. This philosophy reached maturity by the 1930s and became obsolete by the early 1940s. With its emphasis upon landscaping and strong recognition of the need to conserve and remain sensitive to the natural environment, this design movement dovetailed with the goals of the Roosevelt era. And, because of its demand for intensive labor guided by a carefully prepared master plan for park development, "A work program intended to remedy unemployment and introduce new manual skills was suited to the construction of the

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architectural designs prescribed by rustic architecture" (Ahlgren 1987: 29).

Stated principles of rustic architecture emphasized that man-made resources be inconspicuous and blend with their natural environment. Design simplicity and the use of native materials, often from the park, furthered this goal. Because each region possessed a different environment, the design was specific to each region if not the park. Planning in Iowa was to be sensitive to the rolling hills of prairie and woodland often resulting in low, horizontal massing of buildings and buildings and structures of combined log and stone or frame. Park facilities also frequently followed a single historical allusion to the areas's past so that the buildings achieved a unity of design and blended culturally. For this reason, rustic architecture did possess some ties to the romantic movement. In Iowa, the historical theme generally referred to the pioneer past through the use of log and stone or to a general Native American theme. Study of the natural setting prior to development and the extensive use of master plans ensured harmony within the built environment and with their natural surroundings. Each resource contributed to the whole. Development occurred in areas of concentrated use such as the custodial group, the picnic area or the bathing area rather than being scattered across the park to minimized intrusion upon nature (Good 1938: I; Ahlgren 1987: 30, 78-79; 1988; Tweed 1977: 55, 63, 77, 94, 104). This orientation dictated simplicity of stylistic theme with a limited variety of construction materials and simple ornament. Many times, rustic architecture utilized elements from the American Craftsman style (1900-1930). Detailing often included large dormers, exposed rafters and purlins as well as other exposed building members, brackets, broad overhangs, and porches in addition to its low, horizontal massing (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 140, 186, 222-23; Ahlgren 1988: 202-03; Good 1938: I, 8).

Specific guidelines for park facilities derived from these principles stressed the minimal impact of construction upon surroundings through hand labor and the use of native materials such as stone and timbers which underwent limited refinement by hand. The use of modern materials such as concrete was to be covered by a veneer of natural materials. Simple frame buildings were constructed for utilitarian functions. Low, horizontal lines in rolling hills of prairies and scattered woodlands assisted blending. Careful landscaping with native vegetation allowed the building's or structure's transition into its setting as did the use of rough stone foundations, battered or buttressed walls,

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irregular building lines, and native materials placed in their natural position. In stone construction, the stone was laid in vaguely horizontal planes with larger stones toward the base but with a mix of size within general limits. Roofs were often of heavy, exposed timber supports covered with wood shingle. Thus, they blended with the surrounding tree line and the upper portions were heavy and durable like the lower portions of the building or structure (Good 1938: I; Ahlgren 1987: 5, 56; 1988; Tweed 1977: 30, 35, 54, 71, 93-94).

Such make-work programs as the CCC, the Works Progress Administration, and the National Youth Administration utilized this style extensively across the nation. To meet the volume of work demanded by the broad state park development, the National Park Service published a guide by Albert Good in 1935 and 1938, PARK STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES (1938) which in effect summarized rather than forecasted work in the style. This style is evident in a majority of Iowa parks in which the CCC, WPA or NYA worked. Specific landscape architects who designed CCC resources and its master plan at Black Hawk State Park remain unidentified. A majority of these designs derived from the Office of Central Design in Ames. The National Park Service inspectors reviewed plans and made specific recommendations for design alterations but rarely completed the designs themselves (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [12/6/34, box 6]; U.S. NPS, State Inspector 1934-39 [4/22/35, box 1]; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1936: 1 (6): 45]).

The Black Hawk State Park District resources represent the rustic style. However, the district inspector complained of the absence of a master plan as late as November, 1933 and January, 1934 (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [11/27/33, 1/13/34, box 23]). The first dated master plan identifies the fourth period, September, 1934 to March, 1935 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-1973 [box 5]). The different areas of the park are then clearly defined, the wildlife preserve (area A), the custodial group, and the two picnic areas (areas B and C) (see also Iowa DNR 1917-89 [plot plan, 2/16/36]; 1933-42b [master plan 1/5/35]). However, Black Hawk varied from many state parks because it tended to function like a local city park which the CCC developed outside of Black Hawk State Park in Lake View as well. Park functions tended to concentrate upon picnicking in small areas around the lake like the city parks. Therefore, except in the wildlife preserve there was little need for extensive planning.

The LAKEVIEW RESORT described the two latrines built late in 1934

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and early in 1935 as "...latrines built in the rustic design" (1935 [7/4]). All buildings, structures, and objects used both native stone and timbers. Company 1776 prepared their materials including split limestone and granite boulders and peeled logs and transported the stone from fields outside the park. However, quarried limestone was not local and came from Anamosa (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [3/35, 12/35, box 72]). Buildings have random rubble walls with large timber roof timbers, materials which blend with the natural surroundings. Open buildings such as the picnic shelters and look out (BLB12, 18, 7) have intricate timber roof supports. Enclosed buildings, the latrines, display exposed purlins and rafters, and the timber roof framing is open to view upon the interior. The low, horizontal extent of the picnic shelters coupled with their use of native materials assists their blending into the natural landscape. Company 1776 also performed extensive landscaping which is particularly preserved in the Wildlife Preserve Area (area A), the former quarry. The minor structures in the park such as the fountains (BLB13,16), steps (BLB8), bench (BLB9), and incinerator (BLB17) are also of native materials. It then follows the general pioneer theme through the use of native materials. Finally, the ornamentation, the low, horizontal lines, the exposed timbers, intricate timber roof supports, and the segmental arch with keystone which forms the upper portion of the picnic shelter fireplace, retain the simplicity prescribed by rustic architecture.

## Comparative Statement

Because of the general level of resource integrity and the typical property subtypes displayed as well as the local tie and proximity of Lake View to the park, the resources within the Black Hawk State Park District gain significance at the local level. Proximity and city-park functions suggest extensive use by local citizens. As noted in the descriptive statement, buildings and structures generally retain integrity of setting, location, overall design, material, feeling, association, and workmanship. And, except for some general deterioration, all retain a high integrity of design. However, several post-CCC buildings do intrude upon area B. But, they are small and grouped adjacent to the road away from the CCC resources.

A majority of the buildings, structures, and objects within the district are relatively common to Iowa state parks which underwent development by the CCC, for example the shelters (BLB12, 18),

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latrines (BLB10-11, 14-15), drinking fountains (BLB13, 16), trail steps (BLB8), trailside seats (BLB9), and trailside shelter or overlook (BLB7). However, the concentration of twelve fish rearing ponds (BLB7) which continue to retain water and the incinerator (BLB17) are less common. Incinerators are viewed as rather minor, yet common structures to parks. Because of their former importance and because the incinerator represents a common variation of the subtype (Good 1938: (1) 153), resource BLB17 possesses state-level significance. Unlike the extant example at Lake Ahquabi, it retains a high level of integrity. A fragile resource, the other known example survives in ruins at Backbone State Park. Although the fish rearing ponds also represent a rather fragile, common resource, only 12 of the original 25 remain. They therefore retain significance at the local level because the complete facility no longer survives. Overall, the district achieves significance at the local level because the majority of the resources possess local significance. Also, the park maintained close ties with Lake View. The district recognizes the contributions made by the CCC in the state park and therefore gains significance during the period of construction by Company VCCC 1776, 1933 to 1935. The significant date denotes the arrival of the company to the park.

Then, the Lake Black Hawk State Park District is a discontinuous district including three separate areas constructed by one CCC company between 1933 and 1935. These boundaries not only eliminate landscapes and buildings which fail to contribute to the significance of the district but also parallel the concept of the park as nodes of activity, the wildlife preserve (area A) and the picnic areas (areas B and C). As a product of the CCC, the district gains significance for its historical associations with the CCC and its contribution to the areas of GOVERNMENT/POLITICS, SOCIAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, and RECREATION. The park is a direct product of interrelated historical movements in all these areas. It is through the combination of these threads of historical movements that CCC resources gain significance. Under the area of ARCHITECTURE, they also represent the main principles of mature rustic architecture of the 1930s. Despite the district's strong relationship to national and state movements, it possesses local significance. The bureaucratic government allowed movements of national origin to affect local areas. The local community of Lake View became engaged in the movement. And, from the perspective of landscape architecture, the resources while following principles espoused at the national level, generally embody common resource subtypes becoming significant illustrations of CCC state park development in Iowa.

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description:

The discontinuous district contains three separate areas in Black Hawk State Park (see park and USGS maps).

Area A: The Wildlife Preserve: Area A is located in the west section of the park just east of the railroad tracks. Beginning just south of the southern-most fish rearing pond and along the north edge of the adjacent road, the boundary runs north along the west edge of the park road until the road curves west and reaches just north of the northern-most rearing pond. The boundary line continues due west to the railroad right of way and travels south along the right of way to a point due east of the beginning point and travels due east to it.

Area B: Black Hawk Preserve Area: Area B includes all of the east end of the Black Hawk Preserve Area at the southeast corner of Black Hawk Lake between the south boundary line of the park, the lake to the north, and the east entry to the east. It ends to the west where the road and park boundary travel adjacent to the lake, 3960 feet west of the east entrance.

Area C: Denison Beach Area: Area C includes the picnic shelter and 15 feet around the shelter.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary lines of the Black Hawk State Park District were drawn to include three concentrations of CCC resources and exclude as much as possible buildings and structures which post-date the CCC era. They include a setting which as closely as possible parallels the one constructed by the CCC. Area A incorporates the fish rearing ponds and associated CCC park resources. It follows but excludes much of the paved roadway and the railroad right of way and excludes a grouping of newer buildings to the north in the service area of the park. Area B includes all of the park area associated with the CCC resources. However, these limits also include intrusions, the road and several small buildings which are grouped on the south boundary away from the CCC resources. The boundary of area C encompasses the only resource within it and a small area of associated lawn.

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The three areas are placed within a discontinuous district to interrelate the CCC resources constructed in the park and associate them with the park's historical development. This approach also relates the activities of the CCC company which developed them. It allows an overall impression of CCC work in the park yet eliminates lands inappropriate to the CCC theme. The discontinuous district also provides a workable guide for overall park planning by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

UTM References:

Area B:

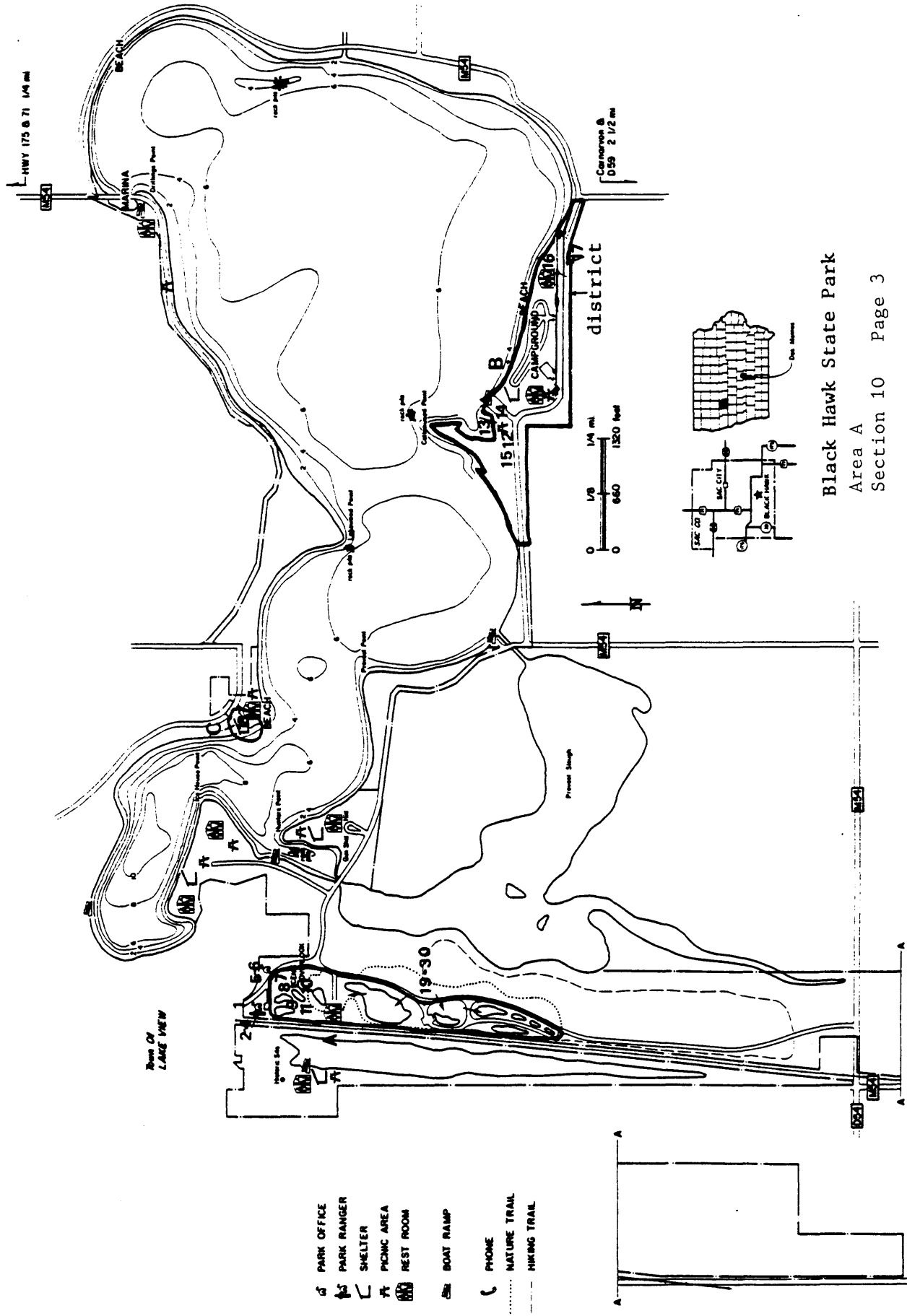
A. 15-4684140-332820    B. 15-4604240-333040    C. 15-4684180-332935  
D. 15-4684440-333260    E. 15-4684220-333180    F. 15-4683920-334030  
G. 15-4683860-334020    H. 15-4683920-333780    I. 15-4683930-333240  
J. 15-4684100-333240    K. 15-4684100-332390

Area A:

L. 15-4583780-330920    M. 15-4684880-331280    N. 15-4685100-331085

Area C:

Q. 15-4685080-332250



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Photographic Identification

Name: Black Hawk State Park

Location: Lake View, Sac County, Iowa

Negative: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society  
of Iowa

Photographer: Kevin Pape and Dean Hall

Date: March, 23 1989, May 19, 1989, and July 10, 1989

Description:

- \*1. View of the hexagonal overlook (BLB7, area A) facing southeast.
- \*2. View of the stone steps (BLB8, area A) leading to the overlook facing south.
- \*3. View of the stone bench (BLB9) facing southwest.
- \*4. View of the stone latrine BLB10 which is almost identical to BLB11, BLB14 and BLB15 facing southeast.
- \*5. View of the picnic shelter (BLB12) and drinking fountain (BLB14) in the Black Hawk Preserve facing east.
- 6. View of the incinerator (BLB17) facing southwest.
- 7. View of the picnic shelter (BLB18, Area C) at Denison Beach facing southeast.
- \*8. View of the fish rearing ponds (BLB19) (area A) facing southwest (28:2a).

\* Only these photographs have been submitted for this nomination.