

281

56

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 Coolidge State Park

other names/site number Coolidge, Calvin, State Forest Recreation Area

2. Location

street & number 855 Coolidge State Park Road N/A  not for publication

city or town Plymouth N/A  vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windsor code 027 zip code 05056

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.)

Suzanne C. Jamelle National Register Specialist, 2-7-02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office  
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 commenting official/Title Date

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

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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]  
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/02  
Date of Action

Coolidge State Park

Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont

County and State

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	Noncontributing	
31	21	buildings
9		sites
5		structures
31		objects
76	21	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Park Landscapes in National & State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

Recreation & Culture/Outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

Recreation & Culture/Outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: CCC State Park

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

stone

roof wood

other concrete

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

**Description**

Coolidge State Park is the 1,300 acre recreation and maintenance center of the 16,166 acre Coolidge State Forest. The park is located in central Vermont, along Route 100A in the town of Plymouth. It includes two land management blocks of the State Forest: the 800 acre Bradley Hill block, east of Rt. 100A, and the 500 acre Compartment Two of the Pinney Hollow block, west of Rt. 100A. Nestled in the hills two miles to the south is the village of Plymouth Notch, birthplace of Calvin Coolidge, the 30th president of the United States. The park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1933 and 1941 and features outstanding examples of the CCC's legacy, including original rustic style log, wood and stone structures and objects, as well as CCC-designed landscape features including roads (#8, #41), picnic areas (#6, #31) and campgrounds (#19, #21). The park's primary recreation area is located in the Bradley Hill block, encompassing the tree covered western slopes of Slack Hill (el. 2174'). The historically significant CCC features in this area include: two large picnic shelters (#6, #37); a caretaker's house and garage (#10, #11); two camping loops (#19, #21) off a primary automobile access road (#8); nineteen lean-tos (#19); three bathhouses (#25, #26); hiking trails (#7, #40); picnic areas (#6, #31); parking areas (#3, #31); two firewood shelters (#34); a well and pumphouse (#39); stone fireplaces (#22), water fountains (#28), and culverts (#9). The Pinney Hollow block contains the site of the Coolidge Forest CCC camp, the base of operations for the area's CCC workers from 1933 to 1941. Four of the camp's buildings (#42-#45) are still standing and are used as maintenance structures for the park. Although new structures have been added to the park since the CCC ended their service in 1941, the original CCC-built layout, buildings, structures and objects have been well maintained and the park retains the integrity and feeling of its period of significance.

1. Landscape

The landscape features are a significant element of Coolidge State Park. The setting of the park is typical of CCC parks across the Vermont. It is located within the Coolidge State Forest in a rural area. The topography includes varied terrain and natural resources, including streams, hillsides, and plateaus. The landscape features a mix of forested landscapes and clearings. The CCC laid out roads, trails, and open spaces for recreation. Their carefully planned landscape architecture is apparent in the way the layout works with the topography. Roads and trails follow contour lines to gradually ascend steep slopes, while picnic areas and campgrounds are typically located on level terrain. Wherever possible, the CCC designed roads and open spaces to take advantage of scenic vistas of the Green Mountains. The CCC's landscaping also included the reforestation of depleted woodlands. The stands of trees— including Norway spruce, white spruce, red spruce and red pine—over most of Coolidge State Park were planted by the CCC.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

**A. Bradley Hill Block**

The 800-acre Bradley Hill Block lies to the east of Rt. 100A and serves as the recreation center of the park. Most of this irregular shaped section encompasses the wooded slopes of Slack Hill (el. 2174'). The terrain is relatively steep and rocky. A simple entrance area (el. 1200') abutts Rt. 100A and contains a parking lot (#3). A picnic area with a shelter (#6) is located about 50 yards east of the entrance. The picnic area is accessed via a short dirt road, which crosses a bridge (#5) spanning an unnamed stream. A hiking trail (#7) winding through the park begins between the entrance and the picnic area. A paved access road (#8) for this section of the park begins at the entrance and heads north, then east, then south, winding its way up the western slope of Slack Hill. After climbing for about one-half mile, the road reaches a level area where the park's contact station (#13), caretaker's house (#10) and garage (#11) are located. A lean-to (#19) camping loop road heads off to the west of the contact station area. Past the contact station area, the main road continues south. A tent site loop heads off to the west (#21) at about one-quarter mile. The main road continues another three-quarters of a mile to a parking lot (#32) near a large picnic area (#31 - el. 1940') on a plateau near the summit of Slack Hill. This is where the park road ends, but the road continues on as a town road. From the picnic area and other areas along the western edge of the Bradley Hill block, visitors can enjoy sweeping vistas of the Green Mountains to the west, including Killington Mountain (el. 4241') and Shrewsbury Peak (el. 3737').

A preliminary archeological assessment of the State Forest in 1985 indicates that the two camping loops in the Bradley Hill block are areas of moderate prehistoric archeological sensitivity. The areas are not likely to have been used as a village site, but their relatively level terrain and the presence of a stream indicate that the areas could contain the remains of hunting or vegetable processing camps.

**2. Entrance Sign, c. 1980. Non-contributing due to age.**

The entrance area includes a sign, set perpendicular to the road, that reads "Coolidge State Park. Camping, Hiking, Picnicking." The lettering is routed into a rectangular wood sign, about 5' by 4' and 2" thick. The sign is mounted between two 8' pressure treated wood posts (4" by 4") set into the ground. The sign is dark green with yellow lettering.

**3. Parking Lot, c. 1933-1935**

A small rectangular parking lot is located at the park entrance, just off the east side of Rt. 100A. The paved area, set on an incline, is large enough to accomodate about ten cars.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

4. Old Swimming Hole with Dam, c. 1933-1939

A 2-acre section of the park lies across the street from main entrance. Here, a battered concrete dam can be found in Pinney Hollow Brook, which runs along the western edge of Rt. 100A. The dam is about 12' high and 20' long, running across the brook. It is approximately 3' thick at the top and widens to about 6' at the bottom. The brook runs through a 3' square opening at the bottom of the dam. The area surrounding the dam is wooded and mostly flat. A photograph from the 1930s shows this area was once a swimming hole, surrounded by grassy open spaces. (*Photograph is located at Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Springfield, VT.*)

5. Bridge, c. 1933-35 with later structural reinforcement

Straight up a hill east of the entrance parking area, a bridge crosses an unnamed stream and leads to a picnic shelter. The bridge is about 20' long and has a log and steel I-beam frame. The deck is made up of 3" thick wood boards running perpendicular to the underframing. Additional boards, 2" thick, run length-wise, in line with a vehicle's tire paths. The bridge includes railings constructed of 6" thick logs set into log posts of the same dimension. The bridge appears to be original, however the steel I-beams in the framing might be a later addition.

6. Picnic Shelter, c. 1934

The park includes two large picnic shelters. The first is located in a grassy clearing in the woods, about 50 yards uphill and east of the park entrance. The shelter is a gable-roofed structure, five bays by three bays and measuring approximately 25' by 50', featuring exposed log framing. The roof is covered with wood shingles. The framing posts rest on flat stones. The south gable end wall is open and four bays of each eaves side are open. Large posts with corner braces running diagonally to the plates delineate each open bay. The north bay on each eaves side and the north gable end wall, are clad with 6" thick stacked round hewn logs. The center of the north gable end wall features a massive fieldstone fireplace and chimney constructed of stones set in an irregular coursed pattern in mortar. A flat stone mantel and a segmental arch with a keystone decorate the four foot high fireplace opening. The open sides of the shelter, with the exception of the center bay of each eaves side, have a balustrade made of 3" thick logs between the posts. The floor of the shelter is composed of flat fieldstones. Ten flat stone steps are set into a grassy hillside leading to the shelter.

7. Hiking Trail, c. 1933-1941

A hiking trail, named the "CCC Trail," is marked on a 1944 State Forest map of the park and still exists. It begins between the park entrance and the first picnic shelter. This trail is about two miles long, winding through the two camping areas and leading to the picnic area at the end of the main road. The trail winds through moderately dense woods. The trail surface is natural, consisting

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   4  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

mainly of dirt, stones, leaves, and pine needles. A simple wood trail sign set on a 4" by 4" post marks the trailhead.

**8. Roads, c. 1933-41**

The CCC regraded and improved drainage on the first 1-1/2 miles of the existing town road, Bradley Hill Road, turning it into an access road for the park. Now called Coolidge State Park Road, it is 1-1/2 miles long and about 12 feet wide. The road is paved and winds through the park, providing automobile access to the contact station, caretaker's house, camping loops, and picnic area. The road serves as both a town road and a park road. At the park's southern boundary, the road turns to dirt and continues on. The road was originally unpaved. Additional CCC-built roads in the Bradley Hill section include the two camping loop roads. Each loop road is about one-half mile long and is unpaved.

**9. Stone Culverts, c. 1933-41**

The CCC built numerous culverts to improve drainage on the roads. The culverts are simple stone retaining walls pierced with a drain. They are constructed with various size fieldstones set in mortar. Culverts are found on the park's roads and the hiking trails.

**Caretaker's House and Contact Station Area**

This area is located in a grove of mature maple trees on a level plateau (el. 1640') about one-half mile into the park along the access road.

**10. Caretaker's House, c. 1939, addition c. 1970**

Set back about 25 feet from the main road is the caretaker's house, a small one story, L-shaped wood-frame structure with a cross-gabled wood-shingled roof. Each section is two bays by two bays. The entrance is in the first bay of the south gable end wall, facing the contact station and the main road. The gable on the ell faces west. The house is clad with wide wood clapboards and cornerboards and rests on a concrete foundation. It is painted dark brown with white six-by-six casement windows on each facade. A large, irregular coursed fieldstone chimney runs up the center of the south gable end wall next to the entrance. The one room entrance and chimney section was the original part of the house, completed in 1939. The ell was added in the 1970s. The CCC also ran power lines and a telephone lines to the house when it was first built.

**11. Garage, c. 1943**

A one story garage lies northeast of the caretaker's house. The gable front wood-frame structure measures approximately 30' by 40' and rests on concrete and stone piers. The gable roof has

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   5  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

---

exposed rafters and is surfaced with corrugated metal. The walls are clad with vertical board siding painted brown. The front facade of the garage, facing south, has two bays with wooden garage doors with decorative braces. The door in the first bay is an exterior-hinged casement door. The second bay door slides horizontally on a track. This garage was started by the CCC, but completed by the State Forest Service with materials turned over to the Forest Service when the CCC camp closed in December 1941.

12. Woodshed, c. 1960. Non-contributing due to age.

The woodshed is located to the east of the garage. It is a 20' square wood-frame structure sitting on concrete piers. The structure has an eaves front, saltbox roof covered with corrugated metal. The front, facing west toward the caretaker's house, has two board and batten exterior-hinged casement doors. The walls are clad with brown vertical boards spaced two inches apart to provide ventilation.

13. Contact Station, c. 1960. Non-contributing due to age.

Located along the main road in front of the caretaker's house is the contact station, where visitors check in to the park. It is a small side-gable wood structure, approximately 10' square. A four foot eaves overhang provides a shelter over the front check-in window, facing south. The entrance is a vertical board door on the back (north) side. The structure is clad in vertical board siding and has windows in the peaks of the gable end walls.

14. Bulletin Boards, c. 1980. Non-contributing due to age.

Next to the contact station are two wooden greeting signs and announcement boards with information for campers. One is protected by a small asphalt shingled gable roof.

15. CCC Commemorative Marker, c. 1980. Non-contributing due to age.

A simple wooden marker commemorates the CCC in Vermont and its contributions to Coolidge State Park. The marker is located next to the contact station and reads "In recognition of outstanding efforts in conserving the natural resources of Vermont. CCC and Perry H. Merrill, State Forester 1930-55."

16. Flagpoles, date unknown

There are two metal flagpoles set in concrete in front of the caretaker's house.

17. Dumping Station, c.1970. Non-contributing due to age.

Sanitation dumping facilities for trailers are provided along the access road in front of the contact station area.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

18. Storage Building/Woodshed, c. 1943

A storage building/woodshed is located on the east side of the the access road, about one-quarter mile south of the contact station area. The gable roof, eaves front, wood-frame structure measures approximately 50' by 30' and rests on a concrete foundation. It is large enough to hold forty cords of wood. The front, facing a small maintenance parking lot to the north, has four exterior-hinged diagonal board casement doors. The roof is corrugated metal, and the walls are clad with vertical board siding spaced 2" apart to allow ventilation. The structure was constructed by the State Forest Service in 1943 with materials left over from the CCC.

Camping Areas

There are two camping loops in the park. The first, referred to as the "Shelter Village" on a 1944 map, is a 0.6 mile dirt road lean-to loop, located west of the main access road, across from the contact station. The lean-to area covers about 30 acres of white birch and spruce woods. The terrain is a mix of level areas and rolling hills. Most lean-tos are oriented with their open sides away from the road to provide the visitor with privacy. The western edge of the lean-to area is on the rim of a plateau. Lean-tos in this area are oriented to the west, to take advantage of the magnificent views of the Green Mountains. The park has 35 lean-tos, 19 of which are historic. Thirty one of the lean-tos are clustered around the lean-to loop, two are located along the access road between the entrance and the contact station, and three are located along the 0.5 mile tent camping loop further up the road. The tent site loop has 25 campsites, seven of which are historic. Like the lean-to sites, the tent sites are situated to maximize both privacy and vistas. Both camping loops include bath houses and running water. Each lean-to site and tent site includes a picnic table, a fireplace, and a level area to park a car.

19. Historic Lean-tos, c. 1935

There are 19 historic lean-tos in the park. Fourteen are located in the Shelter Village, or lean-to loop, two are along the access road between the entrance and the contact station area, and three are along the tent loop. The historic lean-tos were built by the CCC in the Adirondack Rustic style, featuring hewn-log construction. They are approximately 15' by 10' in size, with a low-pitched, eaves-front, saltbox roof covered with asphalt shingles. The primary eaves-front facade is entirely open and protected by the 4' overhang of the roof. The side and rear walls are constructed of round hewn logs, painted brown, that are saddle notched in the back corners of the structure. The floor is wood boards running between the eaves sides. The interior side of the logs, roof framing, and floor are painted light blue-gray. . Each lean-to is named after a different tree species and has a small, brown, wooden name sign with white lettering attached to a gable end.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 7

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

20. Non-Historic Lean-tos, c. 1960. Non-contributing due to age.

There are 16 non-historic lean-tos in the park, all located in the Shelter Village. These lean-tos are built to the same dimensions as the historic lean-tos, but are wood-frame constructed, clad with vertical board siding, and rest on concrete blocks.

21. Tent Sites, c. 1935 and c. 1960

There are 25 tent sites clustered on a loop near the lean-to sites. Seven of the tent sites are historic and originally contained a wooden tent platform. Today, each tent site consists of a level cleared area with a picnic table, a fireplace, a parking space for a car, and a site marker. The site marker is a 4" by 4" wood post, sunk into the ground, with a 4" by 4" wood tent site number sign attached.

22. Historic Fireplaces, c. 1933-1940

Each campsite features a fireplace. The historic CCC fireplaces are built of irregular coursed fieldstone set in mortar, and are approximately 4' wide by 4-1/2' long. There is an opening in the center of the front, making the object look like a square armchair. The "arms" on the sides of the opening are about one foot thick and two feet high. The back is about three feet high. The openings are lined with tan fire bricks. Of the 26 historic lean-tos and tent sites, about 13 historic fireplaces remain. There are an additional 12 historic fireplaces scattered around the picnic area (#30) at the end of the park access road.

23. Non-Historic Fireplaces, c. 1960. Non-contributing due to age.

Many historic fireplaces were rebuilt or replaced. Non-historic fireplaces include brick or concrete fireplaces, of approximately the same size and style as the stone fireplaces. About a dozen of the tent sites have grills set on the round tops of metal barrels, sunk into the ground.

24. Picnic Tables, c. 1970. Non-contributing due to age.

Picnic tables made of wood or wood with metal tubes can be found at each campsite and in the picnic areas. None of the picnic tables in the park are believed to be historic.

25. Stone Bath House, c. 1941-1946

A stone bath house is located along the road on the western rim of the lean-to loop. The gable roof, eaves-front structure is approximately 27' by 23' and sits on a concrete foundation. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and has two skylights on the front, facing east. The entrances are on the gable ends: one side for men, one side for women. The walls are constructed of irregular coursed stone set in mortar. The pattern of the stone coursing appears to be inspired by the "snecked ashlar" tradition, a popular style of stone construction used in this area of Vermont during the 1840s and 1850s. The gables are clad with board-and-batten siding painted brown.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   8  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

Bands of windows run along the top of the front facade wall, just below the eaves. Three windows are clustered on either side of a single window in the center. The windows have 6-pane fixed sash. Each gable end wall has a band of four windows just below the wood gable. The back of the building, facing west with magnificent views of the Green Mountains, features a porch set into the structure.

This bath house contains toilet and shower facilities as well as laundry. The CCC poured the foundation in 1941, but the structure was completed by the State Forest Service in 1946. The only apparent modification is the addition of skylights to the roof in the 1970s.

26. Log Veneer Bath Houses, c. 1938

Two identical historic log veneer bath houses, providing toilet facilities and running water, are located in the camping areas. One is in the center of the lean-to loop and the other is in the center of the tent site loop. Each bath house is approximately 10' by 20' and sits on a concrete foundation. The saltbox roof has exposed rafters and is covered with asphalt shingles. The back (long) pitch of the saltbox roof has two skylights, most likely a 1970s addition. The entrances are on the gable ends, one side for men and one side for women. The walls are clad with log veneer siding painted brown. There are two single-pane horizontal windows (approx. 1' by 2') on the front facade, near the sides of the structure, and two louvred vents in the center. Each gable end has a similar window next to the door.

27. Non-Historic Bath House, c. 1960. Non-contributing due to age.

Located near the center of the tent loop, this is a one story, low-pitched, gable-roofed structure with asphalt shingle roofing and board and batten siding. The northwest side has entrance doors for men and women. The gable peaks have large, triangular plate-glass windows.

28. Stone Water Fountains, c. 1935

The park has four historic water fountains. Three are located in the Shelter Village, near the bath houses, and one is near a historic lean-to along the tent site loop. The fountains are constructed of irregular coursed stone in mortar and are approximately 3' tall and 1-1/2' by 1-1/2', with a small step projecting off one side. Each fountain is set in the middle of a 7' square of flat fieldstone flagging.

29. Stone Cistern, c. 1935

A stone cistern is located near one of the historic lean-tos in the tent site loop. Like the water fountains, the cistern is constructed of irregular coursed fieldstone set in mortar. It is round and approximately 3' high and 3' in diameter with a large flat stone lid.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 9

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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30. Outhouses, c. 1970-1980. Non-contributing due to age.

Outhouses are located at two of the historic lean-tos that are located along the main access road, about one-quarter mile away from the bath houses on the camping loops. The outhouses are small (4' by 4') wood-frame structures set on a concrete foundations. They have saltbox roofs with asphalt shingles, clapboard siding and a vertical board door, and louvred vents on the sides. The outhouses are painted brown.

31. Picnic Area, c. 1938

The CCC constructed a picnic area on a level plateau (el. 1949'), to the west of the main access road, near the summit of Slack Hill. The area, encompassing approximately 10 acres, includes a two acre open field with picnic tables (#24), fireplaces (#22, #34) and firewood shelters (#36). Additional picnic clearings and a large shelter (#37) are tucked into moderately wooded areas surrounding the main open area. Walking paths (#33) circulate through the area. The CCC also constructed a playground (#38) adjacent to the picnic area. A detailed plan of the picnic area, dated 1937, is located at the Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation office in Waterbury.

32. Parking Lot, c. 1938

A parking lot is located at the end of the access road, just before the southern boundary of the park. It lies adjacent to the picnic area and was part of the original 1937 plan for the picnic area. The 260' by 40' lot is large enough to accommodate at least 35 cars and is delineated by large stones set around the border of the lot. Like the main access road, the lot is now paved, but was originally gravel surfaced.

33. Walking Paths, c. 1938

Gravel surfaced walking paths circulate through the picnic area, leading to small clearings, the picnic shelter and the playground. The paths are about 8' wide.

34. Fireplaces, c. 1938

There are at least twelve historic stone fireplaces in the picnic area. They are the same size and style as the fireplaces in the camping areas (#19, #21). One of the fireplaces in the picnic area is a double, featuring two fireplaces set back-to-back.

35. Grilladiers, c. 1970. Non-contributing due to age.

The picnic area contains about five of these small, rectangular metal barbecues with grills set on three foot tall metal poles.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   7   Page   10  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

---

36. Firewood Shelters, c. 1938

Two firewood shelters are located in the picnic area. The low-pitched gable roof structures are constructed in the rustic style of stone and wood. They measure approximately 5' by 15' and are about 6' high. The gable end walls are approximately two feet thick and are constructed of irregular coursed stone set in mortar. The eaves sides are open. The roof is composed of three logs, approximately 5" in diameter, set above the stone walls. The logs support wood roof sheathing covered by wood shingles. The structures were used to store firewood for visitors.

37. Picnic Shelter #2, c. 1938

This picnic shelter is located in a clearing on the western edge of the picnic area. It is situated to provide the visitor with scenic vistas of the Green Mountains to the west. The structure is built in the same style as shelter near the entrance (#6), but has a fireplace and timbered wall on both gable ends. In addition, this shelter is set on a concrete foundation.

38. Playground, c. 1938 and c. 1960

A playground is located in a small level clearing (approx. one acre) just south of the picnic area. It includes swings and a slide that appear to be 1960s replacements. The playground appears on a 1944 map of the park and also included teeters and houseshoe courts. Three concrete piers, left over from the original playground objects, are still visible.

39. Pumphouse and well, c. 1933-1941

A pumphouse and well are located in a clearing across the access road, east of the picnic area. The pumphouse is a small (5' by 6') gable front structure set on a raised concrete foundation. It has one door, on the front. The roof is covered with asphalt shingles and the walls are clad with board and batten siding. The well is constructed of concrete, with a concrete cap, and is located about twenty yards away from the pumphouse.

40. Hiking Trail, c. 1933-1941

The Slack Hill hiking trail begins at the south end of the picnic area parking lot. The trail is similar in construction to the CCC hiking trail (#7). It is two miles long and loops around the summit of Slack Hill before descending to the contact station area. Trail signs mark the trail head at both ends of the trail.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

**B. Pinney Hollow Block**

The 500-acre Compartment Two of the Pinney Hollow block is an irregular shaped section of the State Forest, located to the west of Rt. 100A. The entrance (el. 1200') is simply a dirt road, called Ranger Road, one-quarter mile north of the Bradley Hill entrance area. There is no entrance sign or parking lot. The block encompasses the gently rising, wooded eastern slopes of Mount Pleasant (el. 2181'). Today it serves as the maintenance area for the park. From June 9, 1933 to December 14, 1941, the Coolidge Forest CCC camp, S-52, was located on a small level area (approx. 5 acres) near the entrance to the block. The 145th Company of the CCC, from Rhode Island, occupied the camp. It was the third CCC camp established in Vermont. The CCC workers at S-52 built the roads, recreation areas, and structures of Coolidge State Park. They also worked on tree stand improvements and reforested thousands of acres of the State Forest. Four buildings from the camp remain and are used as living quarters (#42) and storage (#43-#45) for the park. The buildings are situated around a level clearing, or maintenance driveway. There are also three historic lean-tos (#19) further west in the Pinney Hollow block.

**41. Roads, c. 1933-1941**

The CCC regraded and improved drainage on an old town road, the Mt. Pleasant Truck Trail, now known as Ranger Road that extends through this section of the Pinney Hollow block and into other sections of the State Forest. The dirt road begins at Route 100A and runs northwest, along the northern bank of Whetstone Brook. One mile into the Pinney Hollow block, a second CCC-constructed dirt road, now known as Bruyn Hill Road, splits off to the north. The roads are narrow, approximately ten feet wide. CCC-constructed stone culverts provide drainage along both roads.

**42. Forester's House, c. 1936 with alterations c. 1970**

A small forester's house sits along the tree covered rim of a plateau near entrance to the Pinney Hollow block, on the north side of the access road. This structure was part of the Coolidge Forest CCC camp. The 1-1/2 story eaves-front wood-frame house is three bays wide by two bays deep and features a wood shingled gambrel roof. The main entrance to the house is in the center bay of the eaves-front side, facing south toward the access road. A secondary entrance is in the first bay of the back (north) side. The structure is clad with board and batten siding and rests on a concrete foundation. A wood shingled double shed dormer, with two windows, projects from front of the gambrel roof, above the main entrance. All windows on the house are one-over-one, double hung, and painted white with white vertical board ornamental shutters. The end walls have two windows on the first floor and one window on the second. The front features one window in the first bay, to the left of the main entrance, with two windows set close together in the third bay. A porch

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

projects off the front of the house and is supported by a random rubble foundation that is built up a steep embankment. The porch is enclosed with a pressure treated wood balustrade. A large interior fieldstone chimney projects through the center of the roof.

The house is currently used as summer living quarters for the park ranger. The structure has been modified since the 1930s. A poured concrete foundation, new windows, board and batten siding, and the porch balustrade were added in the 1970s. A 1930s photograph of the house shows that it was originally clad with log veneer siding and had six-pane windows that appear to have been fixed-sash. In addition, a short bell tower was situated atop the roof's east end. There also appears to have been a door between the two first floor windows on the east wall. (*Photograph is located at Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Springfield, VT.*)

43. Blacksmith Shop c. 1933-1941

A blacksmith shop is located on western side of the maintenance area, just north of the forester's house. The building served as the blacksmith shop for the CCC camp. It is now used for storage. The one-story, one-room, side gable, wood frame structure is two bays by one bay, measuring approximately 20' by 15', and sits on a concrete slab. It is clad with rough sawn board and batten siding, painted brown, and has a corrugated metal roof. The entrance is located in the second bay of the eavesfront side, facing east toward the maintenance courtyard, and is comprised of hinged board and batten casement doors. A faded wood sign that reads "blacksmith" is attached to the top of the doors. The structure has five 6-pane fixed-sash windows: one in the first bay of the front side, one on each gable end wall, and two on the back wall. An exterior brick chimney rises from the southwest corner of the structure. There is no longer a fireplace or furnace inside the structure.

44. Large Garage, c. 1933-1941

A large garage is located at the northern end of the maintenance area. The 1-1/2 story side gable, wood-frame structure measures approximately 50' by 90' and rests on a concrete foundation. It is clad in rough sawn board-and-batten siding, painted brown, and has a corrugated metal roof and exposed rafters. Seven exterior-hinged, board and batten casement garage doors face south, toward the center of the maintenance area. There are two shed dormers on the western end of the front slope of the roof. One shed dormer is single-width, with one 6-pane fixed-sash window. Next to that is a double shed dormer with a 6-pane fixed-sash window and a small board and batten door. Each gable end wall has two 6-pane fixed-sash windows on the second floor. A small board and batten door is set between the two windows. Above the door, a 6" by 6" beam with a metal hook on the end extends out three feet from the wall. The interior spaces of the garage are entirely open. The first floor features concrete curbs set into the floor, in line with each bay of the

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 13

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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garage. These were probably added to help keep the trucks and other maintenance vehicles in straight lines. The second floor is also open and has a wood floor. The garage is now used as a storage area for the park.

45. Tool Shed, c. 1933-1941. Alterations c. 1970.

The tool shed is a small garage is located on the east side of the maintenance area. This one-story, one room structure measures approximately 30' by 30' and has a shed roof with exposed rafters. It is clad with rough-sawn board-and-batten siding, painted brown, and has a corrugated metal roof. The front, facing west to the center of the maintenance area, has two bays with white overhead sliding garage doors. A concrete block chimney runs up the center of front wall between the garage doors. An entrance with a vertical board door is located on the south side of the structure. Alterations to the structure in the 1970s include the garage doors and the concrete block chimney. It is not known what the original front of the building looked like. The structure was used as a tool shed during the CCC years. It is now used as a garage and storage area for the park.

46. Stone Incinerator, c. 1933-1941

A stone incinerator is located on a level wooded area next to Pinney Hollow Brook, 300' south of the CCC camp buildings. The incinerator is constructed of various size fieldstones set in mortar and measures approximately 6' by 6' and 4' high. The top is flat with an opening in the center. A 1' by 1' opening is centered at the base of one of the sides.

47. Quarry, c. 1869

An old quarry is located in the center of the Pinney Hollow block, east of Bruyn Hill Road. The quarry is no longer in use. It is possible that the CCC used stone from the quarry for the construction of the park, however, research into the source of CCC materials has been inconclusive. The quarry is identified on the 1869 Beers' Atlas as "Quartz." A preliminary archeological assessment of the area from 1985 indicates that the quarry supplied granite, quartz, or whetstone.

Coolidge State Park  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
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 the 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. )

**Areas of Significance**

( Enter categories from instructions )

- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- CONSERVATION
- SOCIAL HISTORY

**Period of Significance**

1933-1944

**Significant Dates**

1933

**Significant Person**

( Complete If Criterion B is marked above )

N/A

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A

**Architect/Builder**

Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)

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

**Primary location of additional data:**

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

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks and Recreation



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 1

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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**Statement of Significance**

Coolidge State Park is an outstanding example of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) during the 1930s and 1940s. The park is named after the 30th president of the United States who was born, and sworn into office, in the village of Plymouth Notch, just two miles to the south. Constructed from 1933 through 1941, Coolidge State Park was the third of 21 state parks established by the CCC in Vermont. It serves as the recreation and maintenance center of the Coolidge State Forest. The nomination boundaries of the park contain two of the State Forest's land management blocks: Bradley Hill and Compartment Two of the Pinney Hollow block. The park is eligible for the National Register under criterion A for its contribution to the history of Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal Plan, the CCC, outdoor recreation, and conservation in Vermont and the nation. The park is also significant under criterion C as an example of the landscape design and rustic architectural style and building techniques employed by the CCC. Coolidge State Park is being nominated under the multiple property submission Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks and clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type. The park is a well-preserved resource that retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Coolidge State Park encompasses the wooded hills to the east and west of Vermont Route 100A in Pinney Hollow, a notch in the northern section of Plymouth, in Windsor County, Vermont. The town was chartered in 1761 as "Saltash" by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth. In 1797 the town's name was changed to Plymouth. Agriculture and timber harvesting dominated the region's economy into the early twentieth century. Much of the land comprising Coolidge State Park was once cleared and tilled farmland and pasture. Pinney Hollow is named after Johnathan Pinney, one of the town's early settlers who farmed the land west of Route 100A that now includes the Pinney Hollow block. The Bradley farm was located on the hills to the east of Route 100A, on the land that now serves as the park's recreation center. The Bradley farm was noted for breeding, raising, and selling Morgan horses until the late nineteenth century. Numerous stone walls and foundations found throughout the park serve as reminders of the land's agricultural past.

Mining has also played a role in the town's economy. As forested land was cleared for agriculture, early settlers discovered a wealth of mineral deposits including lime, granite, marble, soapstone, iron and gold. The remains of a granite quarry (#47) in the center of the Pinney Hollow block represents the town's early mineral history. The abandoned village of Plymouth Five Corners borders the southern edge of the park's Bradley Hill block. From 1851 to 1887 the

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   2  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

settlement flourished as the center of a California-inspired gold rush. Businesses known to have located there include the Rooks Mining Company, a store, a blacksmith shop, and the Glen House Hotel. Although the success of the gold mining industry was short-lived, the area remains an attraction for visitors today, and several people have obtained small nuggets and a good deal of gold dust from the streams in the vicinity of Five Corners.

By the late nineteenth century, agriculture was declining in Plymouth and across Vermont as farmers sought more fertile lands in the western United States. Much of the state's forested land was purchased by pulpwood companies who sold the land after clearcutting. Massive deforestation and the resulting erosion was a growing concern, spurring the State of Vermont to begin purchasing and reforesting land, and establishing the State Forests. In 1925, the state purchased three hundred acres of land in Pinney Hollow and established the Calvin Coolidge State Forest. Perry Merrill, then Deputy Commissioner of Forestry, believed the land in Pinney Hollow would make an excellent park because of its close proximity to the Calvin Coolidge Homestead, a popular tourist destination since Coolidge was sworn into office in 1923. The state continued to purchase land in Plymouth and the surrounding areas. By 1932 Coolidge State Forest encompassed 4,427 acres and the State Forest Service had planted over 100,000 pine and spruce trees. When the CCC was formed in 1933, Merrill was the State Commissioner of Forestry and his plans for Coolidge State Park were put into action.

Established in March of 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the first Depression-era social programs enacted to combat unemployment, and became one of the most successful and most popular of President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal measures of the 1930s. The federal program put unemployed young men to work conserving the nation's natural resources and building recreational destinations in the nation's parks and forests. Coolidge State Park was built by the young men of the CCC's 145<sup>th</sup> Company from Rhode Island. The Coolidge State Forest CCC Camp, S-52, was located in the Pinney Hollow block and served as the base of operations for over five hundred CCC workers from June 9, 1933 to December 14, 1941. Although there is no sign of the barracks that once housed the workers, a forester's house (#42) and three storage buildings (#43-#45) constructed by the CCC remain at the site.

The CCC accomplished a number of conservation measures within Coolidge State Forest, including the reforestation of depleted woodlands, removal of dead and diseased trees, blister rust control, and gypsy moth control. The stands of trees – including Norway spruce, white spruce, red spruce and red pine – over most of Coolidge State Park were planted by the CCC. In addition, the CCC constructed designated hiking trails (#7, #40), roadways (#8, #41) and picnic areas (#6, #31) that helped protect the area's natural resources from the impact of park visitors.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 3

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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Coolidge State Park was built to serve as a recreation destination for tourists. It represents the nationwide enthusiasm for outdoor recreation that began in the late nineteenth century. During the 1890s, the State of Vermont embarked on a vigorous campaign to promote tourism. These efforts led many visitors to the Plymouth area to enjoy the peace and quiet of rural New England. The ascendance of Calvin Coolidge to the Presidency on August 3, 1923 led to a boom in tourism to Plymouth Notch, as visitors flocked to see the site where Coolidge took the oath of office. Many of these tourists were travelling by automobile, and many were enjoying more leisure time than ever before. The popularity of motor touring in Vermont was accompanied by a growing demand for short-term accommodations, less expensive travel, and opportunities to recreate in natural areas. Coolidge State Park, like other state parks in Vermont and across the nation, was designed to meet the demands of the new generation of travellers.

The majority of the Coolidge State Park's recreation resources are in the Bradley Hill block. Here, the CCC regraded and improved drainage on an existing road, turning it into the park's main access road (#8). It provides automobile access to the two picnic areas, the park headquarters and caretaker's house (#10), a lean-to campground (#19), and a tent site campground (#21). The lean-to and tent campgrounds are layed out along loop roads, and each site features a level parking for an automobile.

A preliminary archeological assessment of Coolidge State Forest in 1985 indicates that the two campgrounds are areas of moderate prehistoric archeological sensitivity. The areas are not likely to have been used as a village site, but their relatively level terrain and the presence of a stream indicate that the areas could contain the remains of hunting or vegetable processing camps.

The CCC built a number of day-use recreation areas to enhance the visitor's outdoor experience at Coolidge State Park. The remnants of a swimming hole (#4) are still visible across from the park's main entrance, and hiking trails meander through the park and around the summit of Slack Hill, with clearings for scenic vistas along the way. A picnic area (#31) at the top of Bradley Hill – complete with a picnic shelter, fireplaces, firewood shelters, a playground, and footpaths – was constructed to provide conveniences to visitors while also enabling them to enjoy a western view to the Green Mountains.

Landscape architecture played a significant role in the creation of the state parks. The setting and layout of Coolidge State Park is a good example of the CCC's carefully planned landscape design, influenced by the National Park Service and popular landscape designers such as

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number   8   Page   4  

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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Frederick Law Olmstead. All elements of the park were designed to work with the land's varied terrain, streams, hillsides, and plateaus. Roads and trails follow contour lines to gradually ascend steep slopes, while picnic areas are located on relatively level terrain. Campsites are tucked into rolling hills or on the rims of plateaus with sweeping vistas. They are situated to give the visitor privacy, while also providing close proximity to bath facilities and other conveniences. Where possible, the CCC designed the park's roads, campsites, and open spaces to maximize the visitor's views of the Green Mountains.

The rustic architecture of Coolidge State Park's historic buildings and structures reflects the style developed by the National Park Service (NPS) over a two-decade period from its creation in 1916 through the 1930s. This style was influenced by the building practices and ideals of the picturesque movement and the rustic Adirondack Mountain log camps of the late nineteenth century. The emphasis was to make buildings fit unobtrusively into their surroundings, utilizing traditional craftsmanship, and natural materials and colors. The rustic style is characterized by the use of wood and stone, with exposed framing, and walls constructed of logs, log veneer, or vertical siding. All of Coolidge State Park's buildings and structures stand as well-preserved examples of the rustic architectural style, including: two picnic shelters (#6 and #37); a caretaker's house and garage (#10 and #11); nineteen historic lean-tos (#19); three bath houses (#25 and #26); a forester's house (#42); and maintenance buildings of the former CCC Camp (#43 to #45).

Today, Coolidge State Park remains a well-preserved resource and a fine representation of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Vermont. Over the years, campsites and lean-tos have been added to accommodate more visitors, improved water services have been added to enhance the visitor's experience, and the forest has matured and filled in some areas that were once open space. But the overall character of the park has changed very little since the CCC ended their service in 1941.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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**UTM References, cont.**

5. 18 687440 4822540  
6. 18 687000 4822620  
7. 18 685902 4823170  
8. 18 683194 4825599

**Verbal Boundary Description**

Beginning at the peak of Mount Pleasant, proceed northeast 0.45 mile to an unnamed stream at contour line 1700'. Then proceed southeast 2.6 miles, then south 1.1 miles, then southwest 0.6 mile a point on contour line 1500', just east of the Plymouth Five Corners cemetery. Then proceed west 0.4 mile, then northwest 2.85 miles to the intersection of Whetstone Brook and another unnamed stream. Then proceed northeast 0.4 mile back to the point of origin.

**Boundary Justification**

The nomination boundaries of Coolidge State Park include the Bradley Hill and Pinney Hollow (Compartment Two) land management blocks of the Coolidge State Forest, defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources' Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. Compartment Two is the middle of three sections of the Pinney Hollow block. The nomination boundaries are the historic boundaries shown on a 1944 Vermont Forest Service map of the park. These include the entire present Pinney Hollow block (Compartment Two) and most of the present Bradley Hill block, with the exception of the block's southern-most corner.

Coolidge State Park  
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont  
County and State

### 10. Geographical Data

**Acreage of Property** 1,300 acres

#### UTM references

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	683600	4826180
	Zone Easting	Northing	
2	18	684220	4826380

3	18	688220	4825140
	Zone Easting	Northing	
4	18	688940	4823420

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 Amy S. Lord

organization UVM Graduate Program in Historic Preservation date June 4, 1999

street & number Wheeler House, UVM, 422 Main Street telephone (802) 656-4006

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

#### 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 Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation c/o Larry Simino, Director

street & number 103 South Main St. 10S telephone (802) 241-3655

city or town Waterbury state Vermont zip code 05671-0601

**Paper 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**

Section number      Photo      List      Page   1   Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs

Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont  
Credit: Amy Lord  
Date: April 1999  
Negative at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photo 1

View looking SE of bridge (#5)

Photo 2

View looking NE of picnic shelter (#6)

Photo 3

View looking E of Coolidge State Park Road (#8)

Photo 4

View looking N of contact station/caretaker's area (#s 10, 11, 12, 13)

Photo 5

View looking NE of caretaker's house (#10)

Photo 6

View looking NE of caretaker's garage (#11)

Photo 7

View looking SW of storage building (#18)

Photo 8

View looking NE of historic lean-to (#19) with fireplace (#22)

Photo 9

View looking S of log veneer bath house (#26)



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photo      List      Page  2  Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

---

Photo 10

View looking SW of stone bath house (#25)

Photo 11

View looking W of stone water fountain (#28)

Photo 12

View looking NW at stone cistern (#29)

Photo 13

View looking W of tent site (#21)

Photo 14

View looking NW of firewood shelter (#36)

Photo 15

View looking NW of picnic shelter #2 (#37)

Photo 16

View looking N of double fireplace (#34)

Photo 17

View looking NW of pumphouse and well (#39)

Photo 18

View looking NE of forester's house at CCC camp (#42)

Photo 19

View looking E of large garage at CCC camp (#44)

Photo 20

View looking SW of blacksmith shop (#43)

Photo 21

View looking NE of tool shed at CCC camp (#45)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number      Photo      List      Page   3   Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Windsor County, Vermont

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Photo 22

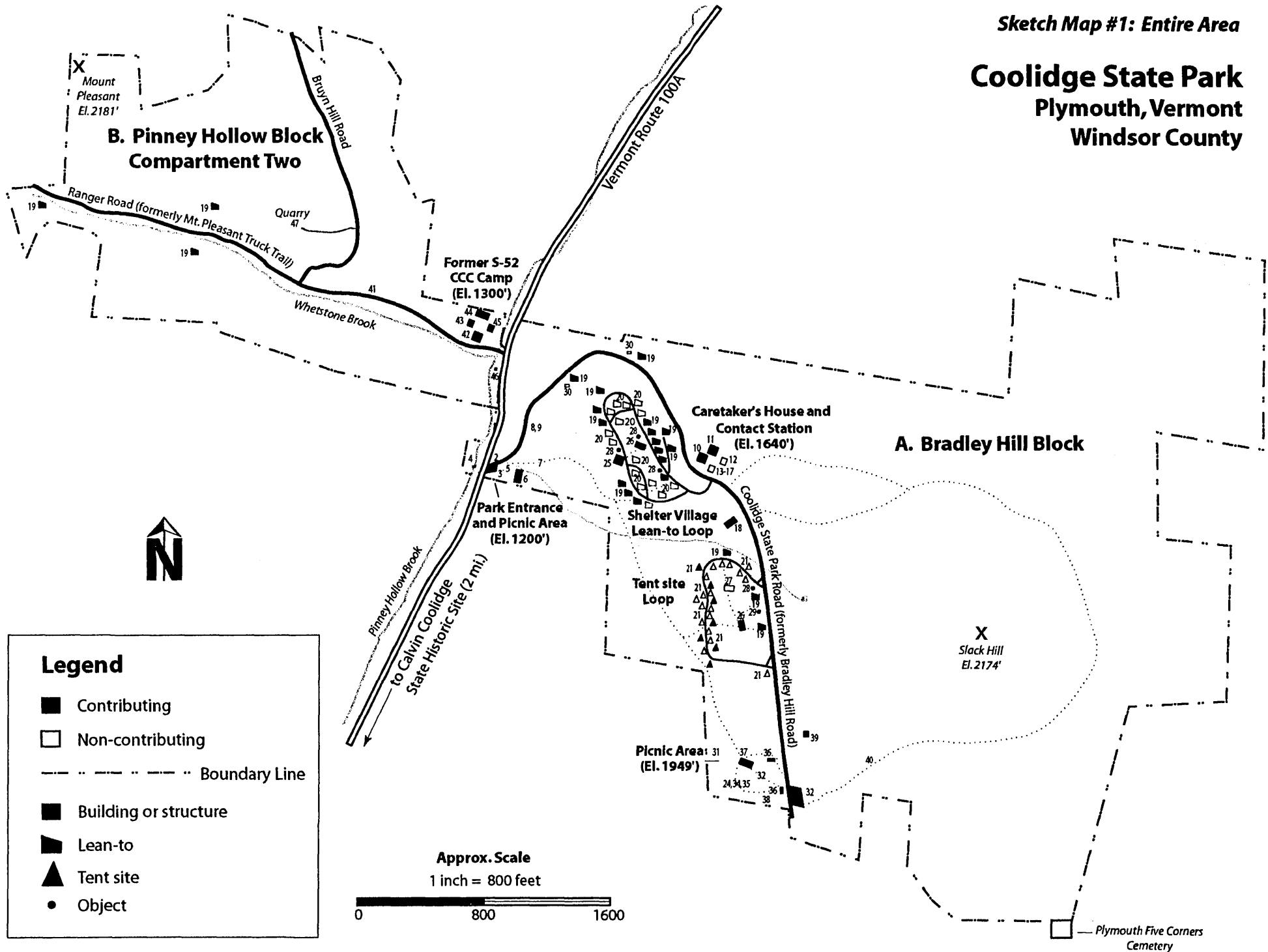
View looking W of stone incinerator (#46)

Photo 23

View looking W of dam at old swimming hole (#4)

Sketch Map #1: Entire Area

**Coolidge State Park**  
 Plymouth, Vermont  
 Windsor County



**B. Pinney Hollow Block**  
 Compartment Two

**A. Bradley Hill Block**

**Legend**

- Contributing
- Non-contributing
- - - - - Boundary Line
- Building or structure
- ▤ Lean-to
- ▲ Tent site
- Object

Approx. Scale  
 1 inch = 800 feet

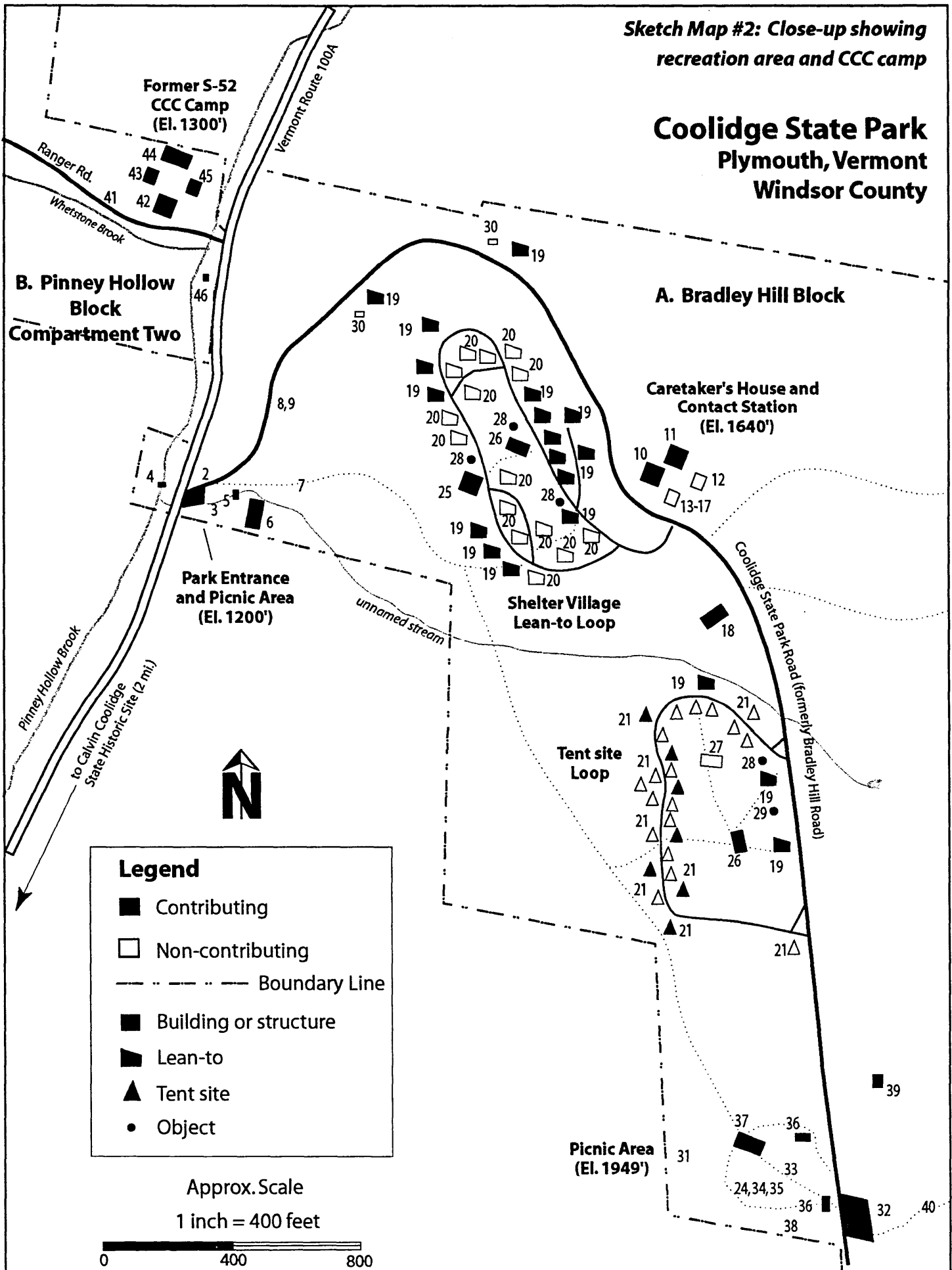


X  
 Slack Hill  
 El. 2174'

— Plymouth Five Corners  
 Cemetery

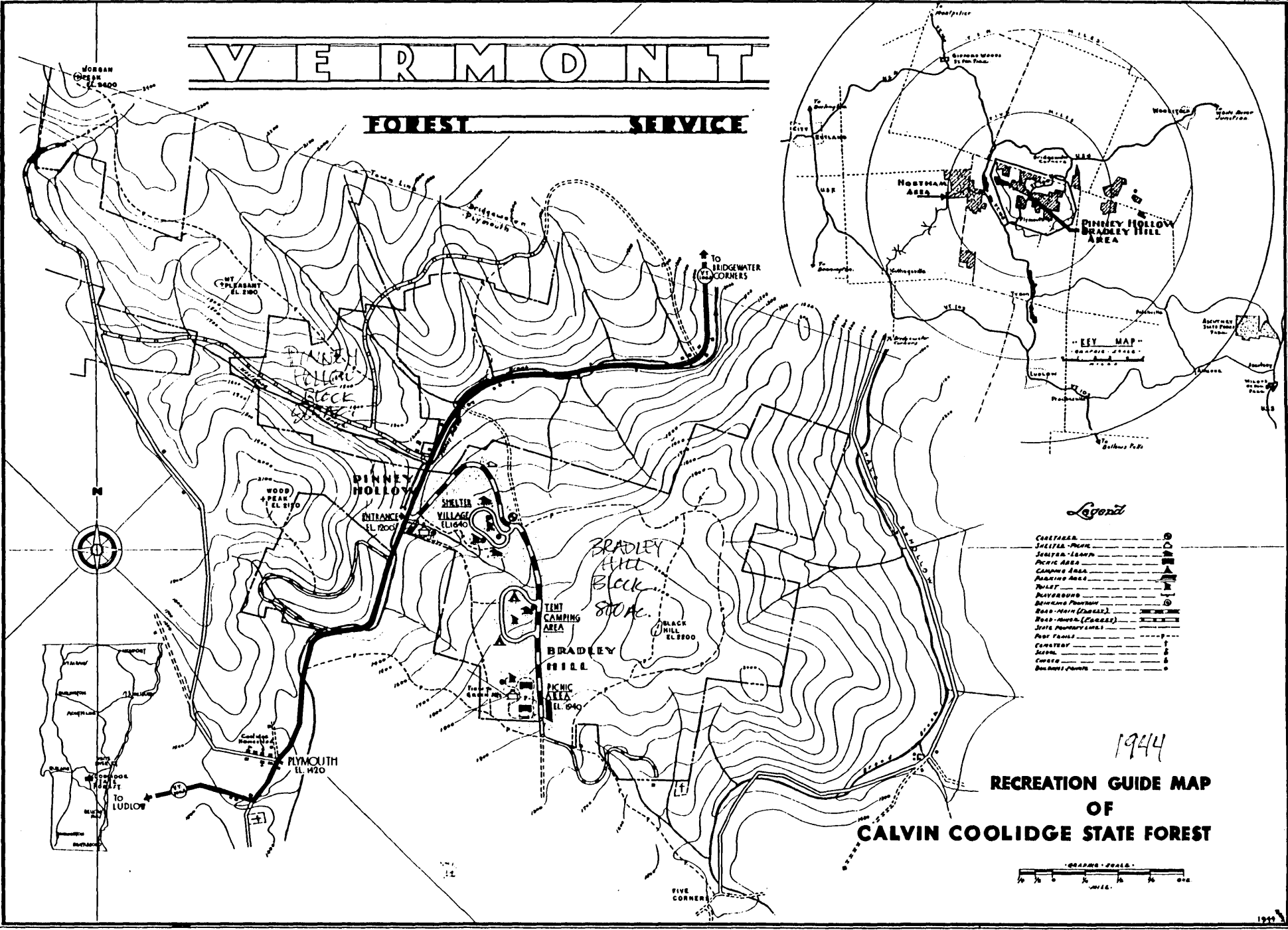
**Sketch Map #2: Close-up showing recreation area and CCC camp**

**Coolidge State Park  
Plymouth, Vermont  
Windsor County**



# VERMONT

## FOREST SERVICE



### Legend

- CRESTLINE
- SHELTER - POLE
- SHELTER - LOGS
- PICNIC AREA
- CAMPING AREA
- PARKING AREA
- TOILET
- PLAYERS
- BEACHING PLATFORM
- ROAD - MAIN (CONCRETE)
- ROAD - BRANCH (CONCRETE)
- STATE BOUNDARY LINE
- FENCE
- COUNTRY
- CORNER
- DRAINAGE POINT

1944

### RECREATION GUIDE MAP OF CALVIN COOLIDGE STATE FOREST

