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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

FEB 10 1993

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 CCC Recreation Building/Nature Museum

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number McCormick's Creek State Park N/A not for publication

city or town Spencer vicinity

state Indiana code IN county Owen code 119 zip code 47460

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.)

Patrick R. Roberts 2/3/93
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- 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 entered in the National Register Date of Action 3/18/93
William J. ...

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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
0	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

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

New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION: meeting hall

RECREATION: outdoor recreation

RECREATION: museum

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: storage

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: rustic functional

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls WOOD: Other (board and batten)

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

- ARCHITECTURE
- ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
- SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1933-1942

Significant Dates

1936

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

n/a

Cultural Affiliation

n/a

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property less than 1 acre

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	16	52351510	434891510
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2			

3			
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4			

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 Glory-June Greiff, Consulting Historian

organization _____ date 12 August 1992

street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163

city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

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 Indiana Department of Administration/Indiana Department of Natural Resources

street & number _____ telephone _____

city or town _____ state _____ zip code _____

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

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

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CCC Recreation Building/Nature Museum

Owen County, Indiana

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

The CCC Recreation Building/Nature Museum (henceforth, CCC building) lies nearly hidden in the woods immediately north of the park road leading to the nearby Maple Grove picnic shelter (on the site of a former campground) and beyond. To the south across the road is the former bath house, now the park's recreation center. A lightly graveled approach runs west-northwesterly off the park road along the south facade of the CCC building (see photo 1). Just to the northwest of the CCC building stands an open picnic shelter (see photo 2), formerly an animal shelter that was constructed probably about 1940. A lightly graveled service lane (see photos 2, 4) lies immediately west of the building and leads almost to the shelter. (A photograph from the 1930s suggests this road was once wider and more strictly maintained as the approach to the nature museum. It is presently part of the park's trail system.) The building has been closed for several years and is presently used for bulk storage. These circumstances made it impossible to do as complete a description as might have been desirable. All windows are boarded over, and the interior space is virtually filled, floor to ceiling, with beds and mattresses, preventing any photography within. With woods encroaching so closely, the building's exterior is difficult to photograph as well.

The building is of functional design but with such Craftsman influences as exposed rafter ends and fly rafters, essentially rectangular with a hipped roof, and a short gabled wing to the east containing a large stone fireplace (see photo 3). A metal flue encased in concrete protrudes from the roof below the peak on the north side. On the west side also, what appears to be either a vent or some sort of flue protrudes upward. (Neither of these is connected to anything within.) The northeast corner is squared off between the main part of the building and the wing beneath a shed roof (essentially unphotographable, see photo 3). Probably the building was originally roofed with wood shingles, which have been replaced (or covered) with ones of asphalt. Otherwise, all original materials appear to be in place, including the board-and-batten siding. There are two entrances, north and south; the north entrance must have been the main one when the CCC camp was in existence. (The rest of the camp had lain to the north.) A short rough flagstone path (see photo 3) leads up to the north entrance. The entrance with its wood door (with window, boarded) is flanked by two windows, presumably eight-light casements, as are most of the windows of the building, excepting those in the shed-roofed section, which has four windows, one on the north and three on the east, each of a different size. (Only one could be determined to be a casement; the others were inaccessible.) The south elevation appears virtually identical to the north, minus the shed-roofed section. The west elevation contains eight casements, two of which—the second in from each corner—are double. The east elevation is dominated by the large dressed limestone fireplace

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CCC Recreation Building/Nature Museum Owen County, Indiana

chimney. There are no windows immediately flanking the chimney. Three windows lie to the south of the wing, roughly corresponding in size and shape to the three in the shed-roofed section. (Thus, six windows all together in the east elevation.)

In the interior one can see the post and bracing structural elements of the walls, between which is drywall. Above are open rafters and crossbraces of full dimension two-by-fours. The floor is concrete. The fireplace wing is floored entirely with stone (the same as the fireplace itself) raised one step up from the concrete. The northeast corner of the building beneath the shed roof is partitioned off from the main room, and this enclosed space is further divided into two small rooms. The appearance of these could not be fully determined as they were inaccessible and filled with what appeared to be discarded maintenance materials. A small portion of the northwest corner of the building is also partitioned off (with plywood) and appeared also to be a storeroom of some kind. A photograph of the interior from the 1930s shows the northwest corner to be open; the partition may have been done after the building was abandoned as a nature museum. A comparison of this photograph and what could be seen of the interior suggests that it is largely intact, but showing signs of deterioration.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Secreted away in its heavily forested surroundings, the CCC recreation building/nature museum is the only CCC camp building of any sort to survive in its original location in any Indiana state park. In addition, the building was later rehabilitated by the Works Progress Administration to become the earliest nature museum in its own separate facility in any Indiana state park. As such, the building is an outstanding material record of two important areas of New Deal public works and recreational development in Indiana state parks during the 1930s, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks." The presence of CCC camp sites is treated within the historic context, and although an associated property type was not isolated, camp buildings are discussed. In addition, by virtue of its role as a nature museum, as noted in the associated property type identified as "Properties associated with New Deal work projects related to public education," the CCC recreation building/nature museum is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of recreation and social history because it is associated with the New Deal and its combined solutions to the need for recreational development and unemployment relief, and the expanded concepts of what recreational development ought to include. The building is also eligible under Criterion C because it is representative of the work and the style of architecture typical of the CCC, and also exemplifies the WPA's activities

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involving adaptive reuse. The building meets all the standards of integrity established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks." That is, the building stands in its original location in its original setting, the design and materials intact. The building is representative of and associated with typical CCC camp construction. The integrity of the property's feeling is strong, at least as it pertains to the building's role for over thirty years as a nature museum.

McCormick's Creek State Park was the first of Indiana's state parks, established in 1916 even before the Indiana Department of Conservation was created. Within a few years, an existing building was remodeled into a park inn, some picnic areas established, and a few trails built. The park was very popular, and the Department of Conservation saw to the construction of a swimming pool and bath house near the inn in the late 1920s. McCormick's Creek also boasted group camping facilities. With the establishment of CCC Company 589 at Camp SP-4 from November 1933 until July 1935, McCormick's Creek was able to undertake an ambitious and much-needed new development program. Along with some reforestation, landscaping, and additional road and trail building, the CCC boys worked on the construction of numerous outdoor recreational facilities and their supporting infrastructure, and indeed, shaped much of the park as we know it today. The CCC enrollees lived in a quasi-military camp in wooden barracks with an assortment of wooden outbuildings, including a mess hall, officers' quarters, and a recreation building.

After the camp closed in 1935, CCC Company 589 relocated to a new camp near Lagro. A group of WPA workers then cleared the site of the camp. Evidence strongly suggests that they moved the barracks buildings into the two nearby group camps and remodeled them into suitable sleeping cabins. The one building left in place had been the CCC camp's recreation building, where the boys congregated after supper after a hard day's work. No doubt many a rainy weekend found the building crowded with young men seeking diversion in games, reading, and conversation. The northeast corner of the building housed the camp's PX, so it was a popular spot. The WPA workers remodeled the building for use as the park's nature museum. This probably included finishing some of the interior walls with sheetrock as well as creating landscape interest around the entrance and a small parking area nearby. Public demand, according to an article in Outdoor Indiana (September 1936), was the determining factor in creating the nature museum. That, and presumably, the availability of a building readily adaptable to the purpose. The nature museum opened in 1936, and housed displays, photographs, and live animals and fish. It served as a center for lectures explaining various aspects of the natural world as well as a takeoff point for nature hikes. It was not abandoned until about 1970, when the present nature center opened in a newly developed area in the eastern part of the park.

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SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Archival Collections

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Records of the National Park Service: Civilian Conservation Corps
Records of the Civilian Conservation Corps

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis

Clipping Files, CCC

Clipping Files, Indiana State Parks

Outdoor Indiana, 1934-1942

Archival Files, park office, McCormick's Creek State Park

Government Publications

"Annual Report of Department of Conservation," Yearbook of Indiana, 1919-1945.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. Park and Recreation Structures. 3 Vol. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1938.

Other

Greiff, Glory-June. "New Deal Resources in Present Indiana State Parks." June 1990-May 1991. Sponsored by Indiana University, Indianapolis, and on file with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHFA), 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis IN 46204. Field survey and inventory of existing CCC- and WPA-constructed buildings, structures, and sites.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Bounded on the south by the north edge of the main park road (that leads southwesterly toward the Maple Grove shelter area); on the west by the service lane (on the west side of the building); on the north by a line running from the end of the service lane, about ten feet north of the northwest corner of the building, to a point ten feet north of, and five feet east of, the northeast corner of the building; on the east by a line connecting this point due south to the park road. Also refer to scale map.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Encompasses resource and its approach.

