

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

---

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001669

Date Listed: 11/15/90

Lacey-Keosauqua S. Park, Picnic etc. (Area B); Van Buren Co., IA  
Property Name County State

CC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS  
Multiple Name

-----  
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 one of the areas of significance.  
The correct period of significance is 1934--1935.

References to this property are found in Section 7, pp. 1, 3, 6-7, and 9; Section 8, pp. 5, 11, and 12-14; and Section 10, pp. 1-4.

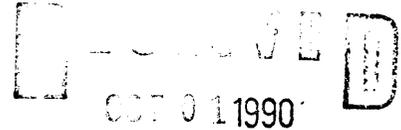
---

**DISTRIBUTION:**

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

16269

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 Lacey-Keosauqua State Park: Picnic and Custodial Group (Area B)  
other names/site number Van Buren Park

2. Location

street & number STH 1 and CTH J40  not for publication  
city, town Keosauqua  vicinity  
state Iowa code IA county Van Buren code 177 zip code 52565

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>4</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure		<u>0</u> objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object		Total

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] 9/17/90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
State Historical Society of Iowa  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:  
 entered in the National Register.  
 See continuation sheet. Beth Boland 11/15/90  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet.  
 determined not eligible for the National Register.  
 removed from the National Register.  
 other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

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 CONCRETEwalls limestoneweatherboardroof ASPHALTother loglimestone

---

---

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

1933-38  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1933  
1934  
1936

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.

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

see pp. 9-1 to 9-4  
Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Department of Natural Resources  
State Historical Society of Iowa

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 12.86 acres

UTM References

A            
 Zone Easting Northing

C

B            
 Zone Easting Northing

D

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet see pp. 10-1 to 10-3

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet see pp. 10-1 to 10-3

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant date June 1, 1990  
 organization private consultant telephone 608-424-6315  
 street & number P.O. Box 258 city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Table 1  
Contributing and Noncontributing Properties in the Lacey-Keosauqua  
State Park

No. (1)	Common Name	Property Subtype	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Category
Area A: Lodge and Picnic Area: 45 Acres				
1	gate house	entranceways and checking stations	contributing	1 building
2	portals	entranceways and checking stations	contributing	1 building
3	lodge	concessions and re- fectories	contributing	1 building
4	pump house	water plant	contributing	1 building
23	Lacey monument	pre-dates the CCC	noncontributing	1 object
5	picnic shelter	picnic shelters	contributing	1 building
6	sign	signs	contributing	1 object
8	vehicle bridge	vehicle, bridle, &	contributing	1 structure
-	road	other minor park structures	contributing	1 structure
total				9 resources
Area B: Picnic and Custodial Group: 12.86 acres				
10	residence	custodian's & staff residence	contributing	1 building
12	picnic shelter	picnic shelters	contributing	1 building
13a-	latrine	comfort stations &	contributing	2 buildings
13b		privies		
16a	water fountain	water supply	contributing	1 object
16b	stone wall & posts	other minor park structures	contributing	1 structure
16c	parking area	other minor park structures	contributing	2 struc- tures
16d-16e	signs	signs	contributing	2 objects
-	road	other minor park structures	noncontributing	1 structure
total				11 resources

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Area C: Bathing Area : 50.66

9	bathhouse	bathhouses	contributing	1 building
-	beach	other minor park structures	contributing	1 structure
21	pumphouse	water supply	contributing	1 building
19a	dam	dams and pools	contributing	1 structure
19b	spillway	dams and pools	contributing	1 structure
-	lake	dams and pools	contributing	1 structure
-	footbridge	post-CCC structure	noncontributing	1 structure
20a	trail	trail steps & trails	contributing	1 structure
20b	footbridge	vehicle, bridle, & footbridges	contributing	1 structure
20c	footbridge	WPA structure	noncontributing	1 structure
20d-20m	check dams	other minor park structures	contributing	10 structures
-	storage sheds	post-CCC buildings	noncontributing	2 buildings
total				22 resources
total				42 resources

(1) The prefix LAC precedes all numbers.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

7. Description

Materials

Foundation: limestone  
Walls: OTHER: vertical siding  
Roof: shingle

Descriptive Statement

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park is located just south of Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa. Acquired by the State of Iowa in 1920, the park contained 1526.45 acres by 1935 and 2209.85 acres in 1942 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-1942 [1936: 118-19, 1942: 127-28]). The park lies along the south bank of the Des Moines River and embraces steeply rolling, wooded hills which surround a 30 acre man-made lake. The discontinuous district contains 37 contributing resources in three areas. At the northwest edge of the park, area A, the lodge and picnic area, includes a gatehouse and portals, lodge, well pit, picnic shelter, and a regulatory sign. Area B, the picnic and custodial group in the north central portion of the park, encompasses the custodian's residence and a grouping of picnic a shelter, two latrines, a water fountain, and several retaining walls at the entry to the picnic shelter. South of area B, area C, the bathing area, includes the bathhouse, beach, pump house, lake, dam, spillway, trail surrounding the lake, and the check dams and footbridge along this trail. These resources belong to the property type CCC Properties in Iowa Parks. The boundaries of the three areas surround contributing CCC properties and their associated landscape while excluding seven post-CCC and modified CCC resources. Boundaries follow man-made features such as roads and trails which also frequently coincide with alterations in elevations or vegetation patterns.

The resources follow the guidelines of the mature rustic landscape architecture style as it developed during the CCC period. They parallel this style in general shaping, floor plan, materials, decorative elements, function, property subtypes, and setting. Primarily CCC Company 770 of camps PE78 and SP12, Company 2719 of camps DSP2 and SP21, and camp S102 constructed the resources between 1933 and ca. 1938 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [9/34, box 78]; Regional Office 1935-37 [4/37, box 2]; District Office 1933-36 [10/35, box 23]; Iowa Department of Agriculture

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

1935-36 [1935: 214]; Alleger and Alleger ca. 1935: 17-18, 72-74; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1938: 11; 1940]). The property subtypes of which the Lacey-Keosauqua resources are an example are described in section F.

Area A, the lodge and picnic area, extends from the northwest gate east across the park along the road parallel to the Des Moines River to the stone vehicle bridge southwest of Ely Ford. The road follows the top of a ridge along primarily rolling, wooded lands which include several untested burial mounds. The area incorporates from west to east the portals (LAC2) and gatehouse (LAC1) (entranceways and checking stations, IA), lodge (LAC3) (concessions and refectories, IIB), well pit (LAC4) (water supply, IG), Lacy Plaque (LAC23) (pre-CCC resources), picnic shelter and sign (LAC5-6), (picnic shelters, IIA and signs, IC), and vehicle bridge (LAC8) (vehicle, bridle, and foot bridges, IL).

The two coursed rubble limestone portals (LAC2) flank the road at the northwest entrance in a small grassy area. Both portals stand on a poured concrete footing. The south portal is nearly square, 3.3 by 3.7 feet by 8.3 feet high. The north portal forms a T, a nearly square pillar with a wing measuring 3.2 by 12.75 feet by 9 feet high overall. The gatehouse (LAC1) stands separately to the south of the portals. It rests on a poured concrete footing. The gatehouse is a random rubble limestone, rectangular building measuring 15 by 20 feet. Asphalt shingle covers the shed roof. Window openings have vertically positioned stone lintels but now lack the windows. The door is also gone. A proportionately tall chimney dominates the center of the west or rear side. A projection from the front or southeast corner once held a park sign. Purlins and rafters are visible under the eaves and verge. On the interior, the floor is cement, the rounded roof timbers are exposed, the walls are unfinished, and the fireplace has a slight arched opening composed of vertical stone like the lintels.

The lodge (LAC3) is an ell-shaped building measuring 50.5 by 65 feet overall. It contains a rectangular, balloon frame, main section covered with weatherboard. The uncoursed rubble addition lies along the front or west elevation. It is composed of two stories, a full limestone basement and first, main story. The intersecting hip roof is covered with asphalt shingle and has a broad overhang. The building is oriented to the south, the location of the double main entry. A second door enters the basement of the wing from ground level on the same facade. Irregularly spaced, single and double casement, double hung, and

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

hopper windows with 4/4, 6, and 8 lights respectively pierce the building. Squared timber lintels appear in the stone wing. A shaped stone lintels occurs over the south facade, basement entry. Two tall, limestone chimneys pierce the roof. A wrap-around porch composed of stone walls rising from the ground and forming a closed rail covers the east end and part of the adjacent south and north facades. Squarish stone pillars support the roof which extends from the main roof line. Stone steps rise up to the porch on both the north and south sides. On the interior, the walls are plastered in the frame portion only and window and door trim is plain. Interior rooms include a men's locker room, storage areas, and furnace room in the full basement and an assembly room and museum, hall area, dining room, kitchen, office, and lounges and restrooms on the main floor. Log furniture constructed by the CCC including benches and stools remains in the building. Landscaping by the CCC includes the lawn surrounding the building on three sides. The road is placed close to the south side. A retaining wall containing regular stone and concrete steps extends west from the southwest corner of the building. Behind and above them is a flagstone terrace. The wall marks the south end of a paved parking lot.

In an open area east of the lodge lies a poured concrete pump house (LAC4) bringing water from the eastern part of the park to the lodge. The 7.5 by 13.1 foot building lies completely underground. It is visible upon the surface as a mound with an entrance covered by a wood door and two clay pipe vents.

Approximately one-quarter of a mile southeast of the pump house beyond the area containing prehistoric mounds and a 1926 boulder monument to John Fletcher Lacey is one of two major picnic areas in the park. The lightly wooded setting contains a 20 by 68 foot shelter and sign. The uncoursed ashlar limestone picnic shelter (LAC5) is built into the side of a hill. The rear and ends which include restrooms are enclosed while the north side facing away from the road is open. Asphalt shingle covers the gable roof. Two rounded timber posts with bracing support the open facade of the shelter. An intricate timber framing with exposed purlins and rafters also supports the roof. The walls on the north and south elevations flare out to meet the roof. Six light hopper windows pierce the restroom walls. Vertically placed stone lintels occur over both the windows and doors. The fireplace along the center of the rear shelter wall stands in an alcove. The restroom walls and ceiling remain unfinished. The regulation sign (LAC6) to the southeast is supported by a framework which reproduces the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

original. Two squared horizontal timbers which hold the sign panel are in turn supported by two vertical squared posts. The sign board itself is original and lists the rules of the park.

At the east end of area A, the vehicle bridge (LAC8) spans a creek in a wooded area. The single span, arched bridge is composed of random rubble limestone masonry except for its segmental arch which is faced with ashlar. The stone supports on either end of the bridge are accented with half round, tapering squat columns. The stone base extends upward to form the closed rails of the bridge.

Area B, the custodian's residence and picnic area, stands on the ridge of a wooded hill which overlooks the Des Moines River. The custodian's residence (LAC10) is set back from the park road in a clearing. It is a one story, rectangular rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone building measuring 28 by 52.5 feet. Weatherboard closes the gable ends. The building rests on a limestone basement. Asphalt shingle covers the gable roof. Two gables face the road. One extends from the face of the house and contains the front entry. There is a segmental lintel over the door. The second gable which is separated from the first by a bay window is a wall dormer covered with a gable roof. Both single and double, 1/1 double hung and single pane casement windows pierce the walls. Timber lintels occur above the windows. The bay window at the rear has canted sides. The roof extends across the bay and provides cover for the rear porch. A single squared timber supports the end of the porch roof. The interior has undergone some renovation during the last 17 years. Pine tongue and groove paneling covers the interior walls in some areas. Closets and cabinets replaced the south chimney. The dwelling contains a living room-dining room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and bath over a full basement.

The second main picnic area lies to the northeast of the custodian's residence in a lightly wooded area adjacent to an oval parking area. It contains a shelter (LAC12) (picnic shelters, IIA), two latrines (LAC13a-13b) (comfort stations and privies, IG), fountain (LAC16a) (water supply, IH), and retaining walls (LAC16b) (other minor park structures, IM). The 20.3 by 36.2 foot shelter (LAC12) is enclosed on the rear and immediately adjacent sides by a rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone wall which rests on concrete footings. The side walls are stepped. Four rounded timber post with bracing along the front partially support the rounded roof timbers. Asphalt shingle covers the gable roof. Two horizontal timbers provide support at the gable ends. Two openings flanking the chimney pierce the rear wall. Vertically laid stone

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

with a keystone compose the arch over the fireplace opening. Concrete covers the floor of the shelter.

Two closely identical latrines (LAC13a-13b) flank the latrine. Coursed rubble limestone composes the walls of the 11.5 by 12.5 foot buildings. The vault and footings are concrete. Asphalt shingle covers the gable roof which is supported by exposed rounded timbers. The walls flare outward at the eave line. Two windows covered with screen pierce the walls. The interior remains unfinished. An 18 by 36 inch water fountain (LAC16a) sits to the southwest of the shelter. It is composed of rough-faced, coursed ashlar and topped with a cement basin. A short basin on a stone base of the same composition sits under a faucet at the side of the fountain. The entrance to the picnic area is marked by four, square cement posts flanked by two coursed ashlar stone walls (LAC16b). This structure spans 18 feet. A paved road separates the entrance from the grass parking lot the center of which is defined by two 408 feet long stone walls (LAC16c). Two regulatory signs (LAC16d-16e) similar to the one at the other picnic area (LAC6) also stands adjacent to the shelter and custodian's residence.

Area C, the bathing area, is located between the wooded, steep hills of the south part of the park. The CCC removed vegetation from the lake bottom prior to flooding (U.S. NPS, Regional Office 1935-37 [6/36, box 3]). The small, irregular 30 acre lake (dams and pools, IID) is spring fed and dammed at the north end. The earth dam (LAC19a) (dams and pools, IID) with concrete core wall measures 450 feet in length. Rock fill composes its west end. Rock riprapping protects the south side of the dam from erosion. A 50 foot wide reinforced concrete spillway (LAC19b) (dams and pools, IID) curves 300 feet to the west against limestone bedrock. An arched, steel bridge spans 55 feet across the spillway at its mouth. Two I beams support the rails and wood-plank walkway.

The 3.25 mile Lake Trail (LAC20a) (trail steps and trails, IJ) surrounds most of the lake. It begins at the west end of the earthen dam and runs east and then south around the south end of the lake. It diverges from the lake on the west near the bathhouse. Modification for the trail included clearing, graveling in many places, and the construction of rubble stone walls and stone drains. Additional modifications included the building of erosion control devices or check dams and the construction of footbridges. Ten check dams (other minor park structures, IM) (LAC20d-m) preventing soil erosion into the lake have been located.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

Because the walls span old drainage ditches, only a limited amount of walls remains visible on the surface. They are composed of a random rubble and concrete walls measuring between 16 to 40 feet in length and 3.25 and 3.9 feet in width. A series of small squarish stone projections cross their tops. The two footbridges (LAC20b-20c) (Vehicle, bridle, and foot bridges, IL) cross small streams at the south end of the lake. Both stand on poured concrete footings and are composed of coursed rubble limestone masonry. Footbridge LAC20b is a single span, arched bridge with stone rails and a stone and concrete floor. The second bridge is built of the same materials and in the same manner but the small single span is horseshoe-shaped. They both measure about 4.5 by 20 feet.

The bathhouse (LAC9) (bathhouses, IIA) is placed near the top of a hillside on the west side of the lake. The rectangular building measures 22.9 by 65.9 feet. Placed on a concrete footing, the uncoursed ashlar limestone building contains a central gable with two flanking wings. Wood shingle covers the gable roof of the central portion of the building. Vertical siding is placed on the two end wings which are covered with a partial shed roof. Weatherboard also closes all gable ends. Vertical boards compose the doors and shutters close the windows. The windows carry primarily 4 to 6 light, hopper windows. These openings are arranged symmetrically along the front or west and east facades of the building. A concession window occurs in the center gable of the east side. A cupola provides additional ventilation to the building. A small, U-shaped stone fountain composed of a protruding stone is adhering to the rear of the building. On the interior, cement finishes the stone walls while vertical paneling covers the frame walls and portions of the center concession area. Showers and restrooms and at the ends dressing rooms occur in each of the wings. Vertical board partitions form the changing booths.

The exterior landscaping of the bathhouse is considerable. Concrete steps descend from the parking lot above to the bathhouse and a concrete walk follows the west side of the building. On the east side, a narrow concrete terrace is adjacent to the east facade. A set of concrete steps with random rubble side walls descends the hill toward the lake to a graveled terrace which ends at the east edge with a rubble stone and concrete retaining wall. At the south end of the terrace, another set of steps composed of stone and concrete steps and side walls curves about 225 feet down to the beach. Near the base, they turn from east to north over the top of a round pump house (LAC21) (water supply, IG) and end at the

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

beach. Built into the hillside, the uncoursed ashlar limestone walls of the pump house stand on concrete footings. The flat roof is also constructed of limestone. The window openings lack panes. The building is unfinished on the interior and now houses boat equipment. A rubble retaining wall extends away from the building on the south side to allow access to the door. One small brick and one small concrete building stands somewhat removed from the bathhouse on its south side.

Moderate deterioration in part perhaps caused by original construction techniques and modifications demanded for modern use of the park have caused alterations or added intrusions into the district. Asphalt has replaced wood shingling on all buildings except the bathhouse and pump house. In area A, the wood gates are removed from the portals, and the gatehouse (LAC1-2) has lost its sign, window frames, and door. In the lodge (LAC3), a new timber mantle replaced the original. An intrusion and therefore noncontributing, the Lacey Monument was set in 1926 and not constructed by the CCC. Placed on a boulder, its brass plaque states: "This boulder is dedicated to Major John Fletcher Lacy eminent lawyer, statesman, soldier, and citizen for constructive work in conservation. By the Iowa Conservation Association, August 15, 1926." The picnic shelter (LAC5) has received a concrete floor. And the framework of the sign (LAC6) adjacent to the shelter is a reproduction of original (Buzzard 1989). Because so few signs remain intact, either the frame or the sign, and because the replaced part follows the original, it is viewed as a contributing resource. Since the road follows its original course (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1933-42 [master plans of the park, 1935]), it is contributing even though its surface is now paved.

In area B, the custodian's residence has primarily undergone modification on the interior except for the removal of one chimney and the alteration of the glazing in the bay window. Pine paneling has been covered, and new fixtures added in place of the chimney on the interior. In the shelter (LAC12) concrete replaces the flagstone floor, and a timber mantle over the fireplace was probably removed. The framework for the two signs (LAC16d-16e) may represent replacements. However, they remain contributing objects for the same reasons as resource LAC6.

In area C, the Lake Trail maintains its original course. However, the southwest footbridge (LAC21c) was constructed by the WPA rather than the CCC and in this context represents an intrusion (Iowa

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

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

Section number 7 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

State Conservation Commission 1933-42 [plans labelled DSP2]). On the north side of the lake, the end of a concrete boat ramp reaches the shoreline at the west of the dam. The records of the project supervisor fail to note the construction of the bridge over the spillway. It is presumed to be a later addition to the park and therefore a non-contributing structure. And, the pump house has lost its window frames.

While moderate deterioration has occurred in the buildings, structures, and objects, CCC resources 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. And, the buildings were erected to serve a public with needs differing from current park patrons. Hence the pump house's alteration in function and the gate house currently lacks a specific use. Modifications were derived from these two sources. Boundaries are sensitive to the emphasis upon associated landscapes and exclusion of post-CCC intrusions. Because of the focus upon landscaping by rustic architecture, considerable importance is placed upon integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association of properties which remain intact. Because of the fragility of the park resources, maintenance of overall design, reasonable integrity of materials, and tolerance for changes effected by deterioration and modern use remain a requirement. Finally, the integrity of workmanship shown in the district retains the important association with the CCC participants.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

## 8. Statement of Significance

The CCC resources within the three areas of the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park District gain historical significance under criterion A in association with the context Civilian Conservation Corps Properties in Iowa State Park: 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 carried out through the state within its parks. It sought to provide recreational opportunities for local communities and conserve the parks' landscape by utilizing unemployed youths in make-work projects, a move toward social welfare at the national level. Additionally, the resources in the Lacey-Keosauqua 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 into 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 Lacey-Keosauqua. 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 CCC work in the park in 1933 to its close in ca. 1938 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [9/3, box 78]; Regional Office 1935-1937 [4/37, box 2]; District Office 1933-1936 [10/35, box 23]; Iowa Department of Agriculture 1935-1936 [1935: 214]; Allegor and Allegor ca. 1935: 17-18, 72-74; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-1942 [1938: 11; 1940]).

## Background

The State of Iowa acquired the lands for Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in 1920. It was originally known as Van Buren Park. Prior to the creation of the park, it had belonged to a single large farm. Citizens of the area donated \$64,000 for the purchase of the park which totalled 1222.1 acres in 1923. By 1933, a lodge at the northwest entrance and a golf course south of the lodge and the park road had been developed. The golf course is now a wooded area

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

in the park. The community of Keosauqua also made donations of facilities such as buildings for work and stone crushers and labor to assist work at the park (Paul 1917-23; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [1/34, 12-1/35, box 78]; District Office 1933-1936 [7/16/36, box 3]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1937, 1941 [1941: 10]; Iowa State Board of Conservation 1931: 9).

Several different CCC companies as well as the CWA, WPA, and the state constructed park resources at Lacey-Keosauqua. The Civil Works Administration assisted the CCC only briefly primarily with clearing between January and March, 1934. CCC Company 770 arrived at Keosauqua on May 28, 1933 and probably worked outside the park under the National Forest Service as Camp PE78 until October 11, 1933 when it was transferred to the National Park Service and became SP12. It continued to work in the park until October 23, 1934. Company 2719 arrived at Keosauqua by August 5, 1934 as drought relief camp DSP2 and began work in the park by August 20. It later became designated as camp SP21. It remained at the park until at least October, 1935. The transient camp of the WPA, TP4, worked in the park erecting the service building and performing other smaller jobs such as foot and vehicle bridges from December, 1935 to April 15 or 16, 1936. Finally, National Park Service Camp S104 began work at the park by June 6, 1936 and remained until at least April, 1937 and perhaps as late as early, 1938. Unfortunately, the National Forest Service probably did not maintain the monthly work records of the National Park Service. This camp constructed the bathhouse. Between 1940 and 1942, the state also completed the construction of two of the six existing cabins and presumably completed the rest after 1942 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [1/34, 9/34, box 78]; Project Supervisor 1933-37 [4/36, box 267]; Regional Office 1935-37 [6/36, box 2]; District Office 1933-1936 [3-6/36, 10/35, 12/35, box 23]; Department of Agriculture 1935-36 [1935: 214]; Allegor and Allegor ca. 1935: 17-18, 72-74; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-1942 [1938: 111; 1940; 1942]; 1917-1973 [map showing bridges and service building ca. 3/36 and plans for the cabins, 12/16/40]).

Crane, author of the state's plan for Iowa parks, noted the "...rough, picturesque, wild wooded hills..." of Lacey-Keosauqua State Park in 1933 (Crane 1933: 131). CCC Company 770 began developing that landscape by October, 1933. Much of its early work in the park included soil erosion control along the steep hills and the Lake Trail (LAC20d-m), the removal of diseased trees, planting of trees along existing roads, landscaping adjacent to construction, the construction of trails, and the erection of guard

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

rails along the roads. The majority of the trails were completed by December, 1934 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [12/33-9/34, box 78; 8/34-9/35, box 82]). Work on the Lake Trail (LAC20a) by Company 2719 around the then proposed lake site included clearing, grading, sodding, rolling, and the construction of some stone steps along 2.7 miles of the trail in August through October, 1934 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [8-10/34, box 82]). While the building of the check dams (LAC20d-m) along the trail is not precisely pinpointed, it probably occurred during the building of the Lake Trail between December, 1933 and December, 1934. The footbridge (LAC20b) at the extreme southeast point of the lake was constructed by CCC Company 2719 at an unknown date, sometime between August, 1934 and October, 1935. The design for the second bridge to the west (LAC21c) was marked WPA, March, 1936 and was presumably constructed by Camp TP4 between March and April, 1936 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-1973 [design, n.d. and 3/36]).

The primary task of Company 770 became the construction of the earth dam and concrete spillway (LAC19a-19b) beginning October, 1934 when excavation of stone for the core wall of the dam was begun. Excavation of the spillway area started in December and January, 1935. The rock fill for the toe of the dam was set in place in February and May, 1935. Most of the reinforced concrete was formed for the spillway, the core wall built, 50,000 cu. yds. of earth placed on the dam, and the rock placed at the toe of the dam by the end of September, 1935. Camp S102 completed some finish work on the spillway in June and July, 1936. The WPA did finish the riprapping along the face of the dam in April, 1936. Then, the dam stood complete. Company 2719 also worked on the 30 acre lake bed by clearing trees and building fish shelters as early as October, 1934 and in June through September, 1935. The upper part of the lake had been a former mill pond. S102 continued work on the lake bottom and graded the beach in June, 1936. The TP4 camp also contributed some work in March, 1936 (U.S. NPS, Regional Office 1936-1938 [6-7/36, box 3]; Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [8/34-10/35, box 84]; 1933-1937 [4/36, box 267]; District Office 1933-1937 [10/34, 10/35, box 23]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73 [design of beach, 3/36]).

A delay in rendering the plans for the bathhouse (LAC9) prevented significant work by Company 2719 on this project. In September, 1935, they did grade the area for the bathhouse and parking lot. Final plans for the building were complete in March, 1937. The plans substantially illustrate the building as it now stands. Work

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

had not begun by April, 1937. By July, 1938, National Forest Service Camp S102 had completed the bathhouse thus placing its construction between June, 1937 and June, 1938 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [9/35, box 84]; Regional Office 1936-1938 [4/37, box 12]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-1943 [1938]; 1933-42a [plans, 3/1937]). Excavation for the adjacent pumphouse (LAC21) began in May, 1935. Company 2719 completed the building which supplied water to the bathhouse, custodian's residence, and the Thatcher picnic area (area B) in September, 1935 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-1947 [5-9/36, box 84]). Grading plans and associated landscaping for the beach area were rendered on October 10, 1935. As noted, Company 2719 and Camp S102 cleaned up and graded the beach in September, 1935 and June, 1936. The WPA also worked on the project briefly in March, 1936 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73 [plans, 10/25/35; map, 3/36]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [9/35, box 84]; Regional Office 1936-38 [6/36, box 3]).

While constructing the dam, Company 770 also did considerable work in Area A. It completed much of the work on the portals and the gatehouse (LAC1-2) between January, 1934 and April, 1934. The rustic gates were not built until June, 1934 and hung in September, 1935 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [1/34-6/34, 9/35, boxes 78 and 84]). The lodge had been built by 1931 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1931: 11-12). Company 770 remodeled the lodge following plans drawn by Kenneth F. Jones. Plans were approved June, 1934, but the project itself was not approved until the end of August. It was begun upon the arrival of Company 2719 in October, 1934. Remodeling included the addition of rooms under the old building, removal of some walls, the construction of a new stone wing and porch on the south side, replacement of the interior partitions, and landscaping with retaining walls, flagstone terrace, and parking area. The building stood complete by September, 1935. Water was also brought up to the lodge via a new pumphouse (LAC4) during the time of its remodeling (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [6.34-9/35, boxes 38 and 84]; District Office 1933-36 [9/35, box 23]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73 [plans, n.d.]). The CCC completed the picnic shelter to the east (LAC5) between April, 1934 and September, 1934. Installation of the restrooms delayed the project. Its construction included the laying of a flagstone floor (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [4-9/34, box 78]). The construction date for the adjacent sign (LAC6) remains unknown. Its square timber uprights which were later replaced by the Iowa State Conservation Commission are in keeping with regulation signs

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

CFN-259-1116

constructed by the CCC (Good 1938: (1) 50). The stone masonry vehicle bridge (LAC8) was built about June, 1935 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [6/35, box 84]).

Work was also done in area B by Company 770 in the spring of 1934. Plans were approved for the custodian's residence (LAC10) in April, 1934 and work was completed between June and September, 1934. The stone terrace adjacent to the house was also constructed during this period (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [4/34-9/34, box 78]). WPA Camp TP4 erected a majority of the service buildings to the west of the dwelling in March and April, 1936 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [3-4/36, box 267]). The picnic shelter and associated retaining walls in the Thatcher Picnic Area (LAC12) were begun in January, 1934 and completed in June, 1934. The shelter was then floored with flagstone (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-46 [1-6/34, box 78]). The adjacent latrines, however, were erected by Company 2719 between December, 1934 and April, 1935 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [12/34-4/35, box 84]). The two signs within the area closely resemble the one in area A and were probably positioned at the same time. Similarly, the fountain closely resembles others erected by the CCC in Iowa State Parks such as Lake Ahquabi and Backbone state parks. Examples of these fountains were illustrated by Good for park construction (1938: (1) 110-11).

Lacey-Keosauqua State Park was purchased by the state in 1920 and opened well before CCC construction in the park. Visitation at the park was already 48,379 persons in 1936. CCC buildings and structures were thus in use shortly following their construction. For example, the Thatcher picnic area attracted the public as early as July, 1934 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1938]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [8-9/34, box 84]). 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 Lacey-Keosauqua State Park was to offer broad recreational opportunities as a state park (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 127-28]). As such, the park served a diverse group of functions providing bathing, boating, and fishing associated with the artificial lake, hiking and nature study, picnicking, camping, refreshment, and a meeting place at the lodge. The bath concession in the bathhouse (LAC9) rented bathing suits and similar gear from 1941 to 1942 while the food concession in the lodge (LAC3) served miscellaneous refreshments and meals from 1936 through 1942. Until at least 1937, the park also offered

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

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 6

CFN-259-1116

golfing, and the lodge contained a small museum. Realizing that most did not attend parks to enjoy the natural amenities, the state attempted to rectify this shortcoming by offering nature tours in 1938 at Lacey-Keosauqua. The state park served as a nursery for the Conservation Commission in 1939 and subsequent years (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [7/16/34, box 3]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1934-42 [1936; 1938: 108-09, 119; 1940: 156-57; 1942: 144]; 1937, 1941 [1937: 41, 1941: 10]). Thus, Lacey-Keosauqua State Park received heavy public use even during the CCC period.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

CFN-259-1116

## 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 and work for the unemployed building among other things park facilities. They offered local recreational opportunities for the idle to ensure 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 through professionally led government agencies only by 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 welfare, conservation, and recreation had been the concern of the individual family or at most the community, they were now strongly 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. It was carried out by a state-level organization, what became the Iowa State Conservation Commission by 1935, and 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 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 1933-36 [12/16/34, box 6]; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

CFN-259-1116

[1936: 1 (1) 4). The Iowa CCC was underway by April, 1933 (Alleger and Alleger ca. 1935: 14). State park work 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 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:

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 9

CFN-259-1116

127). As noted, the local community of Keosauqua provided funding for land in Lacey-Keosauqua State Park and some facilities for constructing park resources.

## CONSERVATION

The conservation projects reaching the scale of those executed by the CCC were economically if not philosophically inconceivable under normal past conditions. 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 the 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 Lacey Keosauqua, the CCC established a nursery, transplanted and planted many trees and shrubs across the park and constructed numerous erosion control devices to prevent silting of the lake. Additionally, a conservation ethic guided the design and placement of park buildings, structures, and objects at Lacey-Keosauqua State Park as noted below.

## RECREATION

During park development, the CCC 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 depression. Also, in the long run, increasing

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 10

CFN-259-1116

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 requirements for recreation created by the depression and as it lifted by the 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 of Iowa state park visitation between 1928 and 1941-1942 season from 1,542,557 to 3,686,481 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1936; 1938; 1942]; Iowa State Board of Conservation 1931: 30). 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 intimating 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, dating 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 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 11

CFN-259-1116

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, limestone or sandstone, or frame. Park facilities also often followed a single historical allusion to the areas's past so that resources 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 the 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. They 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 utilized for utilitarian functions. Low, horizontal lines in rolling hills of prairies and scattered woodlands assisted blending. Careful landscaping with native vegetation allowed the building or the structure's transition into its setting as did the use of rough stone foundations, battered or buttressed walls, 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

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 12

CFN-259-1116

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: (1); 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 in 1935 and 1938, PARK STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES by Albert Good (1938) which 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. Resources at Lacey-Keosauqua generally follow plans drawn or approved by the Central Design Office at Ames. Amos Emery designed the entrance portals and gatehouse in December, 1933 and the gate in June, 1935. B.C. Horneman, Landscape Architect, rendered the plans for the remodeling of the lodge about March, 1933. Frank A. Ray designed the landscaping surrounding the bathhouse (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73 [plans]). All these plans were identified with the Central Design Office.

The Lacey-Keosauqua State Park District resources represent the rustic style. The 1936 master plan places buildings and structures in groupings such as the picnic areas, lodge and golf course area, custodian's group, and the bathing area (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-89 [plan, 3/2/36]). The CCC utilized materials native to the area. They cut the limestone, hauled it up to 12 miles, and shape it. Enrolles likely cut timbers from the park and peeled them (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [12/33, 1/34, 3/34, box 78]). Buildings generally have random rubble or uncoursed, rough-faced ashlar walls with large roof timbers, materials which blend with the natural surroundings. Open buildings such as the picnic shelters (LAC3 and LAC12) have intricate timber roof supports. Enclosed buildings display exposed purlins and rafters and log bracing. The timber roof framing is often open to view upon the interior. The low, horizontal extent of these buildings, particularly the low, rambling bathhouse (LAC9), coupled with their use of native materials does assist their blending into the natural landscape. Companies 770 and 2719 also performed extensive landscaping and trail development which is preserved as the Lake Trail (area C). The minor structures such as the portals (LAC1-LAC2), vehicle and foot bridges (LAC8 and LAC21b), signs (LAC6, LAC16d, LAC16e) and fountain (LAC16a) are

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 13

CFN-259-1116

also of native materials. Additionally, the general pioneer theme is followed through the use of native materials. Finally, the ornamentation, the low, horizontal lines, the exposed timbers, timber bracing, stone porch of the lodge (LAC3), extension of the corners at the eaves, a common motif in Iowa, the segmental arch with keystone which forms the upper portion of the picnic shelter openings, and the cupola on the bathhouse follow the simplicity prescribed by rustic architecture. Finally, while the lodge was not initially erected by the CCC, it rusticated its appearance by adding the stone addition, the stone porch around several sides, and the stone work around the outside of the building. It also remodeled the entire interior. The lodge then serves as an example of CCC construction through this extensive modification.

## Comparative Statement

Because of the general level of resource integrity and the typical property subtypes displayed as well as the local tie of Keosauqua to the park, the resources within the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park District gain significance at the local level. As noted in the descriptive statement, buildings, objects, and structures generally retain integrity of setting, location, overall design, material, feeling, association, and workmanship. And, except for some general deterioration, all but the gatehouse and portals (LAC1-2), signs (LAC6, LAC16d-16e), custodian's dwelling (LAC10), and pumphouse (LAC21) display a high integrity of design. The CCC erected a limited number of gatehouses in Iowa. Other examples occur at Ledges and Dolliver state parks. The one at Ledges has undergone modification through the addition of a porch. The example at Dolliver retains more of its architectural features but has suffered deterioration like the one at Lacey-Keosauqua. Gates are frequently absent from portals. Thus, the absence of some less central elements and the gates is acceptable. A fragile resource, few signs remain, and none are completely intact. For many, such as the example at Backbone, the sign itself has been replaced. Here, the timbers represent close replacements. Then, if a reasonable portion of the sign survives and the replaced elements harmonize with the original, then the sign is eligible. Many of the custodian's dwellings have undergone alteration through additions or interior modification. They were often small dwellings, and their spaces required modification for current use. Thus, those which retain their outward integrity and many of the interior spaces remain eligible. Few pumphouse survive, and they are either rectangular, utilitarian buildings such as the one at

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 14

CFN-259-1116

Backbone State Park or remain underground such as the ones at Stone and Lacey-Keosauqua state parks. One at Lacey-Keosauqua possesses a rather unique circular shape and more importantly is part of the curving steps down to the beach from the bathhouse. Despite its absence of windows, its visual impression forms an important landscaping element of the beach area. Thus, these resources generally maintain an integrity similar to resources of their subtype across Iowa as noted in section F.

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 (LAC5 and LAC12), latrines (LAC13a-13b), drinking fountains (LAC16a), entrance portals (LAC1), vehicle and stone foot bridges (LAC8, LAC21b), custodian's residence (LAC10), landscaping with trails (LAC21a), dam, spillway, and lake (LAC9a-9b), check dams (LAC21d-m), bathhouse (LAC9), and underground pumphouse (LAC4). The gatehouse (LAC1-2), signs (LAC6, LAC16d-16e), and lodge (LAC3) are not. The integrity of design of the first two has suffered deterioration, and they therefore remain eligible at the local level. While there area a relatively high number of refectories, no resources in Iowa state parks illustrate the CCC's remodeling activities, the rustification, as does the lodge (LAC3). It therefore gains significance at the state level. But, overall, the district achieves significance at the local level. The district recognizes the contributions made by the CCC in the state park and therefore gains significance during the period of construction, 1933 to ca. 1938. The significant dates denote the arrival of the three companies, Company 770 in 1933, Company 2719 in 1934, and the company at Camp S104 in 1936.

Then, the Lacey-Keosauqua State Park District is a discontinuous district including three separate areas constructed by three CCC companies between 1933 and 1938. 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 picnic areas, lodge area, custodial group, (areas A and B) and bathing area (area 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, the resources also represent the

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

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

Section number 8 Page 15

CFN-259-1116

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 Keosauqua 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.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

9. Bibliography

Ahlgren, Carol Ann

1987 A HUMAN AND LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURAL LEGACY: THE INFLUENCE OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS ON WISCONSIN STATE PARK DEVELOPMENT. Master's thesis, University of Wisconsin, Madison.

1988 The Civilian Conservation Corps and Wisconsin State Park Development. WISCONSIN MAGAZINE OF HISTORY, 71 (3): 184-204.

Alleger, C.N. and C.A. Alleger

ca. CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS: IOWA DISTRICT HISTORY.  
1935 Johnson and Bordews, Inc., Rapid City.

Berthoff, Rowland

1971 AN UNSETTLED PEOPLE: SOCIAL ORDER AND DISORDER IN AMERICAN HISTORY. Harper & Row, New York.

Buzzard, Wayne

1989 Data provided by the park ranger, Lacey-Keosauqua State park, P.O. Box 398, Keosauqua, Iowa 52565-0398 (3/10).

Crane, Jacob L. and George Wheeler Olcott

1933 REPORT ON THE IOWA TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CONSERVATION PLAN. Iowa. Board of Conservation and Iowa Fish and Game Commission, Des Moines.

Gottfried, Herbert and Jan Jennings

1985 AMERICAN VERNACULAR DESIGN, 1870-1944: AN ILLUSTRATIVE GUIDE. Van Nostrand Reinhold Company, New York.

Good, Albert

1938 PARK AND RECREATION STRUCTURES (3 vols.). U.S. National Park Service, Washington, D.C.

Grieshop, Anne

1989 The CCC Museum at Backbone State Park. Research Report. Submitted to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines.

Hays, Samuel

1957 THE RESPONSE TO INDUSTRIALISM, 1885-1914. University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

Holland, Kenneth and F.E.Hill

1974 YOUTH IN THE CCC. American Council on Education, no  
place given.

Howard, Donald S.

1973 THE WPA AND THE FEDERAL RELIEF POLICY. De Capo Press,  
[1943] New York.

IOWA CONSERVATIONIST

1941- Publication of the Iowa State Conservation Commission.

1943 Copies at the State Historical Society of Iowa Library,  
Iowa City.

Iowa Department of Agriculture

1935- IOWA YEARBOOK OF AGRICULTURE. State Printing office, Des  
1937 Moines.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources

1917- Records of each Iowa state park. Mss. curated by each

1989 state park, Department of Natural Resources.

Iowa Secretary of State

1939- IOWA OFFICIAL REGISTER. State Printing Office, Des  
1940 Moines.

Iowa State Board of Conservation

1931 ADMINISTRATION OF IOWA PARKS, LAKES, AND STREAMS. Iowa  
State Board of Conservation, Des Moines.

Iowa State Conservation Commission

1917- State park records for each Iowa state park. Mss.,

1973 archives, Iowa State Historical Society, Des Moines (file  
28, box 2).

1933- Maps and building plans drawn for the work programs of  
1942 the Iowa CCC for state park work by the Department of  
Landscape Architecture, Iowa State University, Ames in  
cooperation with the Regional Office, Branch of Land  
Planning, Design, and State Cooperation, National Park  
Service. Mss., Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des  
Moines.

1935- BIENNIAL REPORT OF THE STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION.

1942 State of Iowa, Des Moines.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

- Iowa State Planning Board  
1936- IOWA PLANNING NEWS (vols. 1-3). Copy, Iowa State  
1938 Historical Society Library, Iowa City.
- Johnson, Jack  
1941 The Iowa Department of Social Welfare. IOWA JOURNAL OF  
HISTORY AND POLITICS (April): 146-79.
- Merrill, Perry H.  
1981 ROOSEVELT'S FOREST ARMY: A HISTORY OF THE CIVILIAN  
CONSERVATION CORPS. Perry H. Merrill, Montpelier.
- Owen, A.L. Riesch  
1983 CONSERVATION UNDER FDR. Praeger, New York.
- Paige, John C.  
1985 THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AND THE NATIONAL PARK  
SERVICE, 1933-1942: AN ADMINISTRATIVE HISTORY. U.S.  
Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C.
- Paul, F.H.  
1917- Reports by F.H. Paul, Accountant, on park land  
1923 acquisition by the State of Iowa. Edited by E.R.  
Harlan, Iowa State Conservation Commission. Mss., Iowa  
State Conservation Commission, 1917-73, Box 6, file 1,  
Archives, State Historical Society of Iowa, Des Moines.
- Schlesinger, Arthur  
1940 THE NEW DEAL IN ACTION, 1933-1939. MacMillan, New York.
- Tweed, William C.  
1977 National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1945.  
Ms. submitted by the National Park Service, Western  
Office, Cultural Resource Management. Ms. available from  
Midwestern Regional Office, National Park Service, Omaha.
- U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works  
1934 FINAL REPORT OF THE NATIONAL PLANNING BOARD. U.S.  
Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.
- U.S. Federal Security Agency  
1941 THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS AND PUBLIC RECREATION.  
U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 4

CFN-259-1116

U.S. National Park Service (NPS)

1941 A STUDY OF THE PARK AND RECREATION PROBLEM OF THE UNITED STATES. U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C.

U.S. National Park Service (NPS), District Office

1933- Reports of district offices and inspectors concerning  
1937 State Park Emergency Conservation Work for the Branch of Land Planning, Design, .0119 and State Cooperation. Arranged by district (Iowa) and then chronologically. Entry 39, RG79, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

U.S. National Park Service (NPS), Project Supervisor

1933- State park file: records relating to the CCC work  
1947 projects supervised by the Branch of Land Planning, Design, and State Cooperation. Records derived from regional offices of the NPS and the states. Arranged by state and camp. Boxes 71-88, Entry 37, RG79, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

U.S. National Park Service (NPS), Regional Office

1935- Reports of the regional office and inspectors concerning  
1937 state park ECW work submitted to the Branch of Land Planning, Design, and State Cooperation. Arranged by region (no. 6) and then chronologically. Entry 40, RG79, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

1936- Monthly Narrative Reports of the Regional Office of the  
1938 Branch of Plans and Design submitted by landscape architects for state park .0119 projects to their regional office (no. 2). Arranged by year, Park Service region, and then by month. Entry 30, RG 79, U.S. National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Weibe, Robert H.

1967 THE SEARCH FOR ORDER, 1877-1920. Hillard Wang, New York.

Wirth, Conrad

1980 PARKS, POLITICS, AND PEOPLE. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Geographical Data

Boundary Description:

Area A: Lodge and Picnic Area The boundary begins on the west side of the road at the northwest entrance two hundred feet northwest of the west wall of the gatehouse (LAC1). It extends due south for 200 feet and turns due east to join the southwest side of the road. The boundary then follows the south side of the road until crossing a stream over which resource LAC8 is placed. It continues 20 feet southeast beyond the bridge, crosses the road at right angles to it and returns along the northeast side of the road for 200 feet. Here it intersects a trail at the west edge of a clearing and follows the northwest edge of the trail northeast to intersect with a northwest-southeast trending trail. The boundary follows the south side of that trail to the park boundary. The district boundary turns due west with the park boundary until reaching the northeast side of the road. It follows the northeast side of the road right of way to a point opposite the point of beginning and runs across the road to meet it (see park and USGS maps).

Area B: Custodial and Picnic Group The boundary begins at the intersection of a marked trail and the west edge of a parking lot. It follows the northwest edge of the parking lot and then the road southwest to the 700 foot contour line and follows it southwest, around resource LAC10 or the custodian's residence. South of the custodian's residence, it diverges from the contour line to continue along the edge of the woods to the road. It crosses the road in a straight line and continues northeast along the east side of the road and the parking lot to its northeast corner. It runs due northeast to intersect with the 640 contour line which forms the crest of the hill. It follows that line until it intersects with a marked southeast-northwest trail. It continues along the west edge of the trail until it intersects with a northeast-southwest trending trail near the Des Moines River. The boundary follows its south edge southwest for 1600 feet where it intersects with another trail heading southeast and continues along its northeast edge to the parking lot and the point of beginning (see park and U.S.G.S. maps).

Area C: Bathing Area The boundary begins at the southeast edge of the footbridge over the spillway (LAC19b). It follows the outer edge of the trail which loops around the lake in a general southeast, southwest, and then northeast direction. Along its

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 2

CFN-259-1116

northeast course, the trail runs between the bathhouse (LAC9) and the parking lot and continues generally north and ends at the road to the boat dock. It follows the south edge of this road to the water's edge, curves around the road to the edge of the earthen dam, and follows its northern limits to the spillway. The boundary follows the west and then the east edge of the spillway for its length to the point of beginning (see park and U.S.G.S. maps).

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes the contributing resources and their associated landscapes to their definable edges and excludes modified CCC resources and properties post-dating the CCC era as much as possible. In area A, the boundary essentially encompasses the landscaping on the north side of the park road and excludes modified CCC and recent resources to its southeast. The boundary encompassing area B incorporates the general landscape associated with the picnic area and the custodial group but excludes the modified WPA service building and a second post-CCC building to the northwest of the custodian's residence (LAC10). The boundary of area C includes the Lake Trail and the resources within it but excludes much of the recent modification associated with the boat ramp and the paved parking lot north of the bathhouse.

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

UTM References:

Area A:

A. 15-4508580-584770    B. 15-4508590-584495    C. 15-4508680-584420  
D. 15-4508590-584420    E. 15-4508580-584470    F. 15-4507660-585280  
G. 15-4507790-585450

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 3

CFN-259-1116

Area B:

H. 15-4507660-586560 I. 15-4507600-586790 J. 15-4507480-586775  
K. 15-4507350-586620 L. 15-4507280-586705 M. 15-4507660-586960  
N. 15-4507880-587040

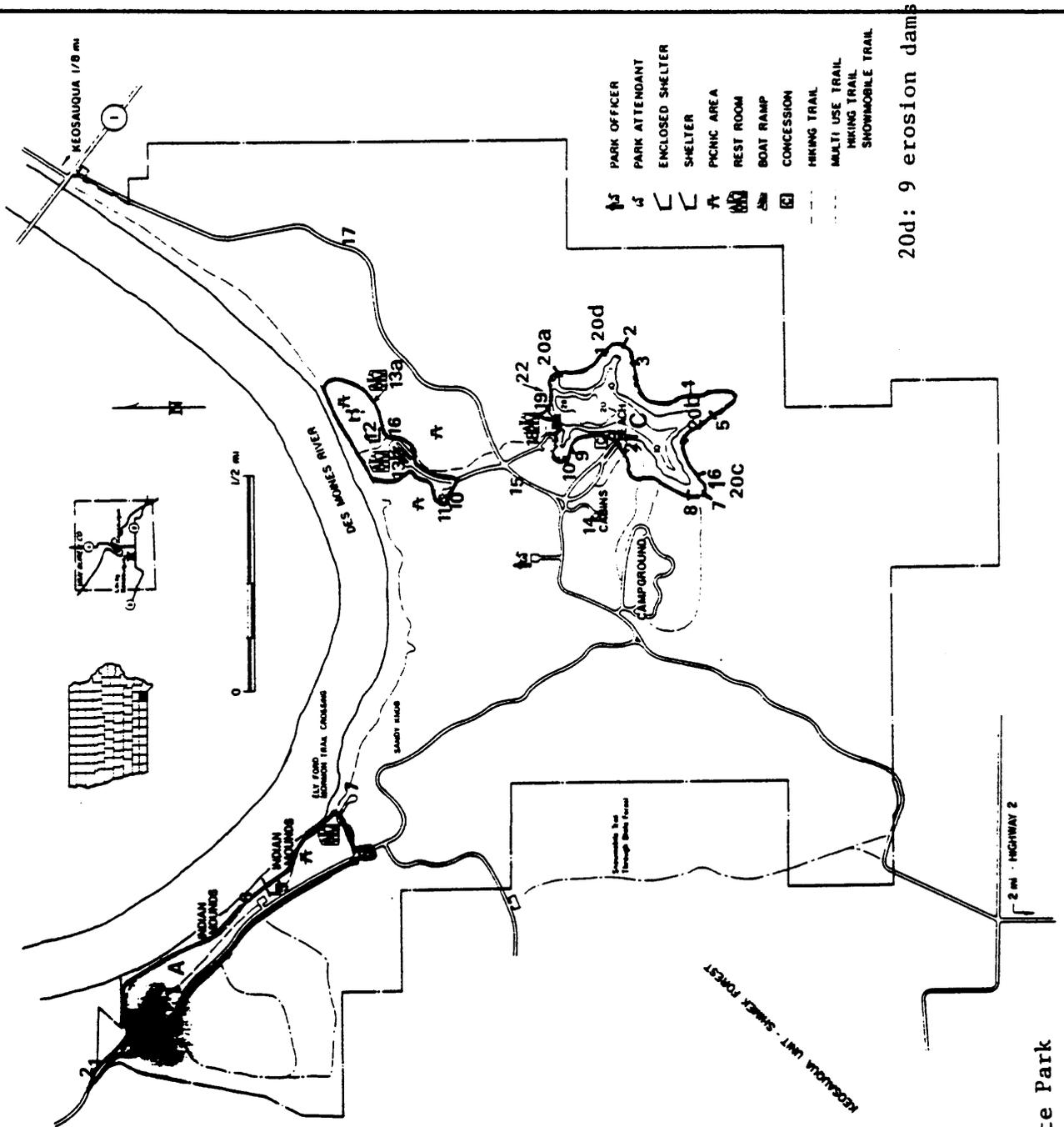
Area C:

O. 15-4507195-587020 P. 15-4507020-586940 Q. 15-4507020-586810  
R. 15-4506920-586835 S. 15-4506890-586860 T. 15-4506660-586680  
U. 15-4506460-586620 V. 15-4506540-586850 W. 15-4506320-586980  
X. 15-4506320-587070 Y. 15-4506410-587090 Z. 15-4506640-587000  
AA. 15-4506720-587280 BB. 15-4506740-587320 CC. 15-4506985-587150

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 4



20d: 9 erosion dams

Keosauqua State Park

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number photo Page 1

CFN-259-1116

Photographic Identification

Name: Lacey-Keosauqua State Park  
Location: Keosauqua, Van Buren County, Iowa  
Negatives: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical  
Society of Iowa  
Photographer: Ken Hyman and Wayne Buzzard  
Date: March 10 and May 30, 1989

Description:

1. View of the gatehouse and portals (LAC1-2) at the northwest entrance in area A facing south.
2. View of the north and west facades of the lodge (LAC3) in area A facing southeast.
3. View of the pumphouse east of the lodge (LAC4) in area A facing north.
4. View of the picnic shelter (LAC5) in area A facing southwest.
5. View of the sign (LAC6) in area A adjacent to the picnic shelter facing south.
- \* 7. View of the front facade of the custodian's lodge (LAC10) in area B facing west.
- \* 8. View of the picnic shelter in area B (LAC12) facing south.
- \* 9. View of one of two identical latrines in area B facing south.
- \* 10. Overview of the Thatcher picnic area (area B) with fountain (LAC16a) facing northeast.
11. View of the front or west facade of the bathhouse (LAC9) in area C facing northeast.
12. View of the east facade of the bathhouse (LAC9) and landscaping in area C facing west.
13. View of the pumphouse (LAC21) in area C facing northwest.
14. View of the spillway and dam (LAC19a-19b) in area C facing east.
15. View of the check dam on the Lake Trail in area C (LAC21b) facing south.
16. View of a section of the Lake Trail in area C (LAC21a) facing south.
17. View of one of ten check dams along the Lake Trail in area C (LAC21d) facing south.
18. View of the lake in area C facing northeast (14:28).

\* Only these photographs have been submitted for this nomination