### National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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MAX	REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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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 Stillwater State Park
other names/site number
2. Location
street & number <u>126 Boulder Beach Road</u> MAnot for publication
city or town <sup>N/A</sup> vicinity
state <u>Vermont</u> code <u>VT</u> county <u>Caledonia</u> code <u>005</u> zip code <u>05046</u>
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this I nomination         Image: Provide the image: Provide the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this I nomination         Image: Provide the National Register of Historic Praces and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property         Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Imationally Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Imationally Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Imationally Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Imationally Image: Provide the National Register oriteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant         Imationally Image: Provide the National Register Comments.         Image: Provide the National Register Provide the National Register Comments.         Image: Provide the Property Image: Provide the National Register criteria.         In my opinion, the property Image: Image: Provide the National Register criteria.         Image: Provide the National Register criteria.         Image: Provide the National Register Provide the National Register criteria.
State or Federal agency and bureau
4. National Park Service Certification
I hereby certify that the property is:
National Register
determined not eligible for the
removed from the National

other, (explain:)

<u>Stillwater State Park</u> Name of Property ł

# <u>Caledonia County</u>, Vermont County and State

5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Re (Do not include pr	esources within Proper reviously listed resources in t	<b>'ty</b> he count.)
🗆 private 🖂 building(s) 💷	Contributing	Noncontributing	
<ul> <li>□ private</li> <li>□ public-local</li> <li>☑ public-State</li> <li>□ site</li> </ul>	3	22	buildings
Dublic-State	1		•
□ object		0	structures
	37		objects
	41	24	Total
Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)	Number of co in the Nationa	ntributing resources p al Register	reviously listed
<u>Historic Park Landscapes in National &amp; State</u> Parks	0		<i>.</i>
6. Function or Use			
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	(Enter categories fror		
Recreation and Culture/outdoor recreation	Recreatio	nmand Culture/out	door recreatio
Landscape/park	Landscape	/park	
Landscape/forest	<u>Landscape</u>	/forest	
· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)	Materials (Enter categories fror	n instructions)	
Other: CCC State Park	foundation <u>con</u>	crete	
	wallswea	therboard	
	roof asp	halt shingle	
	other <u>sto</u>		

. . ...

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

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number\_\_7\_\_ Page \_1\_\_\_\_

Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Stillwater State Park, one of three state parks located within Groton State Forest in the town of Groton, Vermont, is an irregularly shaped 57-acre park situated between Boulder Beach Road on the west and Lake Groton on the east. It is reached via VT Route 232, which traverses Groton State Forest from north to south. The park includes the original Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)-constructed campground (Loop A) and picnic area (Loop C), as well as Loop B constructed by the Vermont Department of Forestry and Recreation in the late 1960s. A large wooded area forms the southwest quadrant of the park to the south of the entrance and east of Boulder Beach Road. The park retains its integrity of location, setting, design, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The park exhibits many of the characteristics of a park designed by the National Park Service (NPS), integrating buildings and roads into the landscape and not allowing human intervention to dominate. There are 79 campsites, including 14 lean-to shelters, nestled into gently rolling wooded hills. Loop A is the original campground and contains the one-story clapboarded ranger's quarters (A1) with a field stone exterior end chimney. A maintenance building (A9) is still in use for that purpose. The architectural highlight of Loop C is the original picnic shelter, a log structure with two exterior end chimneys built of field stone and located near the water. It is modeled after Plate II D-10 of *Park and Recreation Structures* by Albert Good of the National Park Service and is intact and well maintained.

New amenities were added to the park in 1968 and again around 1975, butt the visitor to the park today is still rewarded by a landscape that is largely unspoiled. Small private vacation cabins dot the edge of Lake Groton, as they did in the late 1800s when the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad brought city dwellers to the lake for rest and relaxation. The seasonal ranger still lives in the original ranger's quarters and visitors can either bring a picnic or stay overnight. The contact station and restroom facilities were not constructed by the CCC and are therefore non-contributing, but the feeling of being close to nature is a direct result of the original vision of the CCC when they constructed this campground.

Groton State Forest, at over 25,000 acres, is the second largest contiguous public landholding in Vermont. It was established in 1919 through the purchase of largely burned-over private lands by the State Division of Forestry. The area had been logged continuously since Groton was settled in the late 1700s, but the intensity of logging increased with the construction of the Montpelier to Wells River Railroad in 1873. Poor logging practices were responsible for the number and severity of forest fires that decimated the forests in this part of Vermont toward the end of the 1800s and early 1900s.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

The landscape is characterized by wooded rolling hills dotted with granite outcroppings and boulders left by glacial activity 10,000 years ago. The area surrounding the park is interrupted by mountain peaks rising to above 700 meters, with numerous lakes in two major watersheds. North of Lake Groton are Kettle Pond and Osmore Pond (both at around 440 meters elevation), which drain into Lake Groton. Lake Groton drains into Ricker Pond and then into the Wells River, which flows through the town and eventually into the Connecticut River to the east. Further to the north, on the other side of the divide, Peacham Pond, Molly's Falls Pond, and Marshfield Pond flow north into the Winooski River and eventually into Lake Champlain to the west.

The park was designed as a series of three loops, two of which were developed by the CCC. Currently there are 62 tent/trailer sites and 17 lean-to shelters, for a total of 79 campsites. All sites have either a historic masonry fireplace or a metal barbeque pit. A 1958 map of Groton State Forest shows what is now called Boulder Beach Road going through the picnic area, with the parking area directly off the through road. It appears the access road to the park may have been constructed later, which would explain why the entrance is so different from that at nearby Ricker Pond State Park, for example. At Stillwater Park there is no gate to act as an entry statement. There probably was not a contact station here until the current one was built in the late 1960s at the side of the access road. The contact station (A10) is 50 meters from Boulder Beach Road. The front faces east, apparently because the original entry road entered the park south of the current entry road. This old road is now closed and a wood shed built c.1975 is in the former road bed near the contact station. The new entry road leads to the rear or north facing façade of the contact station. A kiosk with a map of Groton State Forest stands close to the east façade of the building, close to the service windows. Beyond the contact station the entry road widens into a circle to provide a turnaround for automobiles. An entrance sign, which is removed during the off season, hangs from a pole across the park entrance on Boulder Beach Road.

Located between Loops A and C are a vehicular and a pedestrian bridge across Stillwater Brook. There are no CCC built trails in the park. Vermont Route 232 and the entry road were built by the CCC. The Montpelier and Wells River Railroad right-of-way, now a hiking and snowmobile trail, preceded the highway. The road and railroad bed lie to the west of the park and are historic transportation routes.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

#### Loop A:

The first loop, in the middle of the park, is marked "A" on the sketch map. It was developed by the CCC as an overnight campground with a ranger's quarters (A1), toilet (A2), ten tent platforms, ten picnic tables, and ten stone fireplaces. It now has six modern lean-to shelters (A3-A8) and fourteen campsites without tent platforms. In addition there is a maintenance shed (A9) located on an access road just to the north of the loop road.

A1. Ranger's Quarters, 1938

This one story, gable-front cottage with an exterior gable wall stone chimney is representative of the rustic architecture developed for parks by NPS. To the right of the chimney is the entrance, a simple frame-paneled door with glazing in the upper half and a simple surround. There are two double casement windows along the eaves sides, with each sash divided into four lights. A 1985 inventory by the Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation shows that at that time the cottage had tongue and groove paneling on the walls and a homosite ceiling. The structure is 827 square feet, with a 313 square foot basement, and a 200 square foot addition constructed in 1968. The exterior end chimney is built of field stone and is 7' 3" wide by 13' high, and has a single flue. Building materials are clapboards and asphalt shingles.

#### A2, B1, C2. Toilet Buildings, c.1968

There are three toilet facilities in the park. They range in size from  $15' \times 20'$  to  $15' \times 30'$ . All have vertical wood siding and asphalt roofing. There are separate toilet and shower facilities for men and women. The buildings have low-pitched roofs and simple doors. They are non-contributing due to age.

A3 – A8. Lean-to Shelters, c.1968

There are seventeen lean-to shelters located in loops A, B, and C. Six are in Loop A, six in Loop B, and five in Loop C. They are all the same. They are 11 ½ feet by 16 ½ feet with vertical wood planks and concrete floors. The saltbox-like roof is 9 ½ feet high at the peak and has composition shingle roofing. A 22" deep recess across the full length of the rear of the lean-tos provides wood storage. In general these structures are in good condition. One lean-to in Loop A has been modified with a handicap access ramp. These lean-tos are in keeping with the spirit of the CCC structures, but are non-contributing due to age.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

#### A9. Maintenance Building, 1938

The maintenance building is located in Loop A to the north and west of the ranger's quarters (A1). The eave-front building measures approximately 10' x 20' and has a clapboard exterior with an asphalt shingle roof. The front has both double, sliding doors and a man-door.

A10. Contact Station, c.1968

Located fifty meters into the park is a small, wood-sided building with a similar sized addition on its east side. This contact station was originally designed to greet visitors coming in on a former entry road that was to the south of the current road. The largest window is in the west wall. The roof has a shallow pitch. It is non-contributing due to age.

A11. Wood Storage Shed, c.1968

The storage shed is located behind the contact station (A10). The eave-front building measures about ten feet by twenty feet and has a weatherboard exterior with asphalt on the shallow pitched roof. Double sliding doors on the eave side are the only openings.

Masonry Fireplaces, 1938

There are twelve stone fireplaces in Loop A that were built by the CCC. They are found at sites 4, 6, 8, 10-14, 32, 37, 39, and 40. They are constructed of hand dressed, local granite. They measure four feet across, 41" high, and 60" deep, with arms 15" across and 21" high. About twenty similar fireplaces have survived their original use in the picnic area in what is now Loops C, which was converted into a camping area in the late 1960s and expanded to its current configuration in the 1970s. There are three new (non-contributing) stone fireplaces in Loop A.

Barbeque Pits, c.1975

There are thirteen metal barbeque pits in Loop A, 2 in Loop B, and about 8 in Loop C. They measure 32" in diameter and are ten inches high.

Vehicular Bridge, c.1968

This bridge is non-contributing due to age. The bridge provides access from Loop A to Loop C at the western edge of the park near the contact station. The original bridge was

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

constructed by the CCC to provide auto access to a parking area just north of Stillwater Brook. Stone abutments remain from the original bridge, but the bridge bed and guardrails are newer construction using modern materials.

Pedestrian Bridge, c.1975

This is non-contributing due to age. This bridge provides access from Loop A to Loop C at the eastern edge of the park.

#### Loop B:

The second loop, marked "B" on the map, is south of Loop A and was partially developed by the CCC with seven campsites with tent platforms, seven stone fireplaces, and a toilet. It currently contains a modern toilet building (B1), six modern lean-to shelters (B2-B7), and 23 campsites. The tent platforms were constructed by the CCC at the seventeen original camp sites in Loops A and B. They were considered unnecessary given improvements in tent designs and were removed probably in the late 1960s when other improvements were made to the park.

B1. Toilet Building, c.1968

See A2 above for a description.

B2-B7. Lean-To Shelters, c.1968

See A3-A8 above for a description.

Masonry Fireplaces, 1938

There are seven original stone fireplaces in Loop B. See "Masonry Fireplaces" in Loop A for a description.

Brick Fireplaces, c.1970

There are 21 new (non-contributing) brick fireplaces in Loop B. They are 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  feet across, 34 inches high, 60 inches deep, and have no chimney.

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Barbeque Pits, c.1975

There are two metal barbeque pits in Loop B. They are non-contributing due to age. See "Barbeque Pits" in Loop A for a description.

### Loop C:

The third loop, marked "C" on the map, is north of Loop A and originally was developed as a picnic area. The 1935 master plan for the park shows 30 picnic tables, 20 fireplaces, a picnic shelter (C2), and trails leading to the water and across Stillwater Brook to Loop A. In the late 1960s two lean-to shelters from Loop A and three from Loop B were moved to Loop C, and picnic spots were converted to camping sites. The loop road was completed in the 1970s. Currently there exists the picnic shelter, a more recent toilet building (C2), five non-CCC lean-to shelters (C3 – C7), and 23 modern campsites, approximately twenty of which have original CCC fireplaces.

C1. Picnic Shelter, c.1938

The picnic shelter, located in Loop C at the northern end of the park, is modeled after Plate II D-10 in *Park and Recreation Structures*, published by NPS in 1938. It is a log building measuring 40 feet long by 20 feet wide, with enclosed ends and open sides. There is a stone fireplace at each end with exterior end chimneys constructed of field stone. Each chimney measures ten feet wide at the base and is sixteen feet high. The gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles. The shelter is situated in a wooded area close to the water, providing a view of the lake.

C2. Toilet Facility, c.1968

This building is non-contributing due to age. See A2 above for a description.

C3 – C7. Lean-To Shelters, c.1968

There are five lean-to shelters in Loop C. They are non-contributing due to age. See A3 - A8 above for a description.

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Masonry Fireplaces, c.1938

See Masonry Fireplaces under Loop A for a description. There are about twenty original stone fireplaces in Loop C.

Barbeque Pits, c.1975

There are about eight pits in Loop C. They are non-contributing due to age. See "Barbeque Pits" in Loop A for a description.

## Stillwater State Parker examples in Name of Property

#### 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.
- $\Box$  **C** a birthplace or grave.
- $\Box$  **D** a cemetery.
- **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- □ **F** a commemorative property.
- □ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

#### Narrative Statement of Significance

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

#### 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 # \_\_\_\_\_\_

Caledonia County, Vermont County and State Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions) Architecture Entertainment/Recreation <u>Landscape Architecture</u> **Period of Significance** 1938 Significant Dates 9.4 1938 Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A Cultural Affiliation N/A

#### Architect/Builder

|--|

Civilian Conservation Corps

#### Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

VT Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Stillwater	State	Park
1		

Name of Property

#### 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property \_\_\_\_\_57

#### **UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 8	7 1 7 8 0 0	4 9 0 6 6 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing
2 1 8	7 1 7 8 8 0	4 9 0 6 0 0 0

#### **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.)

name/title Curtis Eaton	
organization UVM Historic Preservation Program	dateJune 2000 <sup>1111111111111111111111111111111111</sup>
street & number Wheeler House	telephone (802) 656-0577
city or townBurlington	stateVT zip code05405

#### **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 .	Larry	Simino, Dir	ector,	VT Depa	rtment	of F	orest	s, Parks	& Recrea	tion,	State	Parks
street	& numbei	103 Sout	n Main	Street,	BUildi	ing 1	.0 S	telephone.	(802) 24	1-3655	5	<u> </u>
city or	town	Waterbury					_ state	•	zip coo	de0	5671-06	01

**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.

Caledonia	County,	Vermont		
County and State				

3	1 8	7 1 7 2 8 0	4 9 0 6 1 4 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1_8	7 1 7 4 6 0	4 9 0 6 6 4 0
	See o	continuation sheet	

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Stillwater State Park, one of three Vermont state parks located in Groton State Forest in the town of Groton, is significant under the areas of recreation, architecture, and landscape architecture as a good example of a state park designed and built during the Depression by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The 57 acre park was developed in 1938 and was one of 22 state parks created by the CCC in Vermont. The master plan was drawn by A. A. Ullmann for the Vermont Forest Service. The design provides views and the use of a scenic setting on Lake Groton. Several of the historic buildings, such as the ranger's quarters and picnic shelter are good examples of CCC rustic architecture. The park is being nominated under the Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks multiple property submission. It clearly meets the registration requirements for the State Park, country park, and demonstration areas property type.

Although no archeological studies have been made within Stillwater State Park, this area is considered highly sensitive archeologically, because it is typical of upland resource areas of Native Americans. Lake Groton was on the route used by the French and Indians in the early 1700s to transport prisoners from Massachusetts north to Canada.

In 1919 the State of Vermont purchased 15,000 acres of land to establish Groton State Forest, Since then the forest has been enlarged to more than 25,000 acres. The CCC began construction of what was to become Stillwater State Park in 1938, which is the documented date for the construction of the ranger's quarters. In September 1935 a master plan for what was originally called Stillwater Picnic Area was drawn by A. A. Ullmann for the Vermont Forest Service and was approved by Vermont State Forester Perry Merrill. In Merrill's biennial report for the period ending June 30, 1936, he does not mention any improvements having taken place at the Stillwater site, although New Discovery Camp Ground, Ricker Pond, and Osmore Pond in Groton State Forest are mentioned.

The CCC set up two camps for youths in the Groton State Forest: the Rhode Island youth comprising the 146<sup>th</sup> Company was settled in Marshfield at Lake Discovery and the other group, from the east side of New York City, were bivouacked near Ricker Mills at the southern end of the forest. These two companies were responsible for the construction of a six mile stretch of what is now VT Route 232, from Lanesboro, New Hampshire, to Ricker Mills, as well as hiking trails and many of the physical improvements in the state parks within Groton State Forest.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

One month after taking office in March 1933, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed into law the Emergency Conservation Works Act and created the Civilian Conservation Corps. The purpose of the Corps was to put unemployed youth to work on conservation projects in the country's parks and forests during the Depression. The National Park Service (NPS) was given the responsibility of providing design guidance to CCC camps set up on both federal and state-owned land.

The CCC was the first attempt by the federal government to provide a specific solution to the problems of unemployment, urban dissatisfaction, and the depletion of natural resources. Vermont State Parks associated with the CCC stand as tangible monuments to this solution. The expansion of the park system also promoted the tourism industry and provided recreational opportunities for a greater number of people.

The rustic style of architecture built by the CCC implemented the National Park Service's philosophy (harmony between the built environment and the landscape, unity of historical theme within parks, and master planning to coordinate conservation and development). This philosophy originally was passed on to the camp supervisors by example, but it soon became clear that many supervisors had never been to the national parks and were unfamiliar with park architecture. Professional designers were sent to the states to develop a design approach for that area and to draft construction drawings. NPS then published a book, *Park Structures and Facilities*, edited by Albert Good. In 1938 they published another book by Good entitled *Park and Recreation Structures* (3 volumes). According to Good, the purpose of these books was to promulgate the rustic architectural style, which "through the avoidance of severely straight lines and over-sophistication, gives the feeling of having been executed by pioneer craftsmen with limited hand tools. It thus achieves sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."

There are two good examples of rustic architecture in the park—the picnic shelter (C1) and the ranger's quarters (A1). The picnic shelter, located in Loop C at the northern end of the park, is modeled after Plate II D-10 in Good's *Park and Recreation Structures*. The ranger's quarters is a one-story gable front cabin with an exterior stone chimney. In Loop A. The maintenance shed (A9) was also built by the CCC and although very plan, it meets the NPS philosophy of harmony of buildings and landscape by being placed well out of view.

The park's landscape also is a good example of NPS philosophy. The layout of the park was done with an eye to preserving the forest cover and not interfering with Stillwater Brook. The brook is bridged in two places and provides an aesthetic break between Loops A and C. The picnic shelter in Loop C is sited so users have a view of the water, yet it is nestled in a heavily

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

wooded area at a low elevation so it does not dominate the scenery. By creating three separate loop roads, the designers of the park were able to provide a larger number of campsites without sacrificing privacy. Those who walk through and use the park today can still experience its great beauty.

By creating this park the CCC and Vermont State Forests developed new recreational opportunities for many people. Perry Merrill, the influential Vermont State Forester during the Depression and for long afterwards, felt that Groton State Forest was more suitable for public recreation than timber production. By the time of the Depression the area had not fully recovered from the devastating forest fire of 1908, which burned for almost a year before it was brought under control. In 1938 the CCC transformed this scarred landscape and gave it new life by creating a public park. NPS guidance provided a philosophy of development as well as personnel trained in many skills, including planning and landscape architecture. It was thought at the time that the automobile would increase the mobility o the average citizen, so these CCC parks were designed to accommodate automobiles as the primary mode of transportation. At Stillwater State Park this accommodation for automobiles is striking, as earlier visitors to scenic Lake Groton came by railroad. In order for the park to succeed as a recreation area, the automobile as well as the architecture needed to be subordinated to the landscape. The CCC provided the muscle and technical skills to build roads and structures that would complement the land as they first found it. Out of this effort emerged a landscape that retains its natural beauty yet successfully provides for the recreational needs and interests of the public.

The CCC brought together two resources during the Depression—unemployed young men and the natural resources of over-exploited publicly owned land. The tasks undertaken by the CCC benefited the public by promoting the health, morale, and welfare of more than 2.5 million young men across the country and by making vital contributions to the conservation of natural resources. The CCC had a lasting effort not only on the landscape but on the lives of its enrollees as well. The CCC put 11,243 Vermonters to work and brought immediate financial aid to the workers and their families. Today Stillwater State Park stands as a monument to the wisdom of park planning during the Depression, the hard work of the people who made it possible, and the enduring value of the natural landscape and making it available for people of all ages and walks of life to enjoy.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Boundary Description:

The boundary is as printed on the US Geological Survey map.

Boundary Justification:

The park boundary is the historic acreage of the park. It is sufficient to convey its historic significance.

### National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Stillwater State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

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