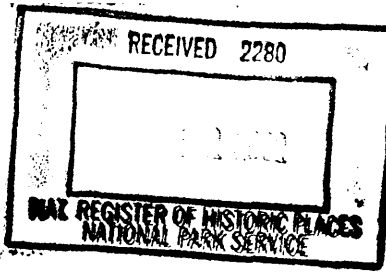


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



282

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 Wilgus State Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 3985 US Route 5 N/A not for publication

city or town Weathersfield N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windsor code 027 zip code 05030

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

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

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain:)

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

3/29/02
Date of Action

Wilgus State Park

Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1	7	buildings
1		sites
		structures
13		objects
15	7	Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Park Landscapes in National & State Parks 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation
Landscape/Park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation
Landscape/Park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: CCC State Park

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone

walls wood

shingle

roof asphalt

other stone

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1933-1942

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps

US Department of the Interior

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Wilgus State Park
Name of Property

Windsor County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 100

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	7 0 9 8 0 0	4 8 0 7 6 5 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	7 1 0 3 0 0	4 8 0 7 6 0 0

3	1 8	7 0 9 6 4 0	4 8 0 6 7 0 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	7 0 9 3 0 0	4 8 0 7 0 6 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holger M. Haverkock

organization UVM Historic Preservation Program date May 12, 1999

street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, c/o Larry Simino, Director, State Parks

street & number 103 South Main Street telephone (802) 241-3664

city or town Waterbury state Vermont zip code 05671-0601

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.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

Located on the shores of the Connecticut River in southeastern Vermont in the town of Weathersfield is Wilgus State Park. The land that is now Wilgus State Park was given to the State of Vermont by Colonel and Mrs. William Wilgus in 1933. The park originally was constructed by Franklin D. Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s and then expanded upon between the 1960s and the present. The park provides canoe access to the Connecticut River, and has 19 individual camp sites, recreation areas with nine lean-to shelters, picnic tables, stone fireplaces, water fountains, men's and women's handicap accessible facilities, and the Park Ranger's Quarters at the entrance of the park. This park, unlike most in the State of Vermont, is small in size. The topography provides natural boundaries that limit the size of the park to one hundred acres, of which thirty is the designated camping area. These boundaries are the Connecticut River to the east, U.S. Route 5 bisecting the park to the west and a wire and wooden fence to the north. The park's grounds continue to the west of U.S. Route 5 with two Civilian Conservation Corps built hiking trails that ascend half a mile to the "Pinnacle", an elevated and heavily forested section of the park. These two trails lead to a lookout that overlooks the park and the Connecticut River. The park retains its integrity of materials, design, workmanship, location, setting, feeling, and association.

Wilgus State Park access is gained by entrance through two dark brown wooden gates (#1) that are located off U.S. Route 5, a two lane road with moderate traffic, located two miles east of Interstate 91. The wooden entrance gate is directly behind two massive stone pillars (#2), constructed in a similar style as the stone fireplaces located at the campsites. The paved park road passes the Ranger's Quarters (#3) to the west leading to a trailer sanitation station (#4) and a firewood sales station (#5). The road extends roughly five hundred more yards, providing access to all nineteen campsites and close proximity to the Connecticut River canoe access. The overall layout of the grounds consists of campsites, a rangers station, automobile and camper parking (#13) to the south and north of the Ranger's Quarters, canoe access (#14), and a nature trail that passes five additional stone fireplaces on the trail (#6), which travels along the Connecticut River approximately 1000 yards. The shape of this general area is rectangular, being approximately 3500 yards long and between 200 to 300 yards wide.

(#3) Ranger's Quarters, 1935

The focal point of Wilgus State Park is its Ranger's Quarters, located twenty yards off U. S. Route 5 and elevated to provide a vista of the Connecticut River and the numerous campsites below. The Ranger's Quarters is the official entrance point to the park. It houses the Ranger and his or her family, is the registration point for incoming park visitors, provides a sheltered area for small events, and contains handicap accessible restrooms for men and women.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

The Ranger's Quarters, which were built by the Civilian Conservation Corps, is a one and a half story, three by two bay with a steeply pitched eaves front asphalt shingled roof with dark brown cedar shingles and sandstone foundation building reminiscent of a Cape Cod house. The building rests on a coursed rubble foundation, which extends to the detached garage built in the same style. The Ranger's Quarters dimensions are relatively small, measuring twenty-three feet in depth and twenty-eight feet in width. The breezeway to the right of the primary facade side spans thirty-one feet wide and sixteen feet deep and leads to the garage, which is fifteen feet wide and nineteen feet deep. Windows are six over six double-hung sash with modern storm windows on the primary facade exterior. Brown wooden shutters for the primary facade's windows are on both sides. The main entrance to the cottage is a single leaf door in the center bay and is accentuated by an eight-pane transom. The second entrance is on the northern side, to the left of the coursed rubble chimney, providing entrance to the kitchen area. The northern facade has on the first level, situated to the right of the chimney, one six over six window with shutters and on the second level, a centrally placed eight over eight double hung window. The eastern facade of the cottage, facing the Connecticut River, has a bank, of three over three windows, providing the panoramic view of the Connecticut River. To the left of the bank window is a single three over three window and one six over six window illuminates the interior of the living room. The second level on the eastern facade with its shed dormer contains two paired eight over eight windows.

A distinguishing feature of the cottage is revealed on the southern facade of the building. The breezeway, which abuts the cottage, shares a massive granite fireplace that provides cooking and heat for the interior and exterior of the cottage and picnic area. The chimney is eight feet wide at the base and reaches a height of twenty-two feet with a tapered width of four feet at its apex. The chimney is of a random rubble construction using pink hued granite stone.

The breezeway serves as a picnic area and leads to the cottage's garage. This area is approximately thirty-one feet long, and sixteen feet wide. The roof is supported by six hand hewn wooden beams that measure nine and a half inches square and eight feet in height. The rafters are exposed to provide a more natural and open setting for the campers. The floor of the covered area is random laid black slate with a gray grout. In the same area, attached to the northern facade of the cottage is a placard that recognizes the accomplishments of the CCC and their contributions to Wilgus State Park.

The garage that is connected to the southern facade of the cottage and breezeway contains two restrooms for park visitors along with car access via a winding driveway at the eastern elevation. The northern facade of the garage is protected by the roof that covers the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 3 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

breezeway, and provides a service entrance to the restroom facilities. The carport is below ground level and is protected by a rubble stone retaining wall at both sides of the driveway. The garage has two swinging doors with eight small panes of glass in each, paired in two rows of four. The bathroom entrances on the southern facade are divided by two six-pane bands of windows. The primary facade of the bathroom/garage section of the Ranger's Quarters has one six over six window with shutters and a brown two and a half foot flower box below the window sill.

The interior of the cottage is as simple as the exterior, with a floor plan that provides unadorned accommodations. Entering from the primary facade into the cottage's living room, which also serves as the park reception desk, is the largest room in the cottage. It is rectangular in shape, retaining all original wood paneling and doors and containing the massive fireplace that adjoins the breezeway on the southern facade. The floor of the living room has been replaced by hardwood flooring. To the left of the living room is the dining room, also retaining the original dark wood paneling. The kitchen, to the rear of the dining room, is compact and functional; the cabinets are original to the building. The chimney on the northern facade has been closed in. Through the kitchen, access is gained to the finished basement that serves as storage and wash facilities for the cottage residents. The second floor, which contains two bedrooms and a bathroom, is reached via a staircase that ascends from the rear of the living room. The staircase separates the two bedrooms and leads to a bathroom at the center. The walls are plastered rather than paneled with wood and the ceiling has a smooth plaster unlike the textured plaster on the first floor ceilings.

(#4, #5) Trailer Sanitation, Firewood and Recycle Area, c.1960s

Going north along the park road about 100 yards is the trailer sanitation area (#4), which also contain the recycling bins and the firewood bin. In the same general area is a marker that commemorates the park as CCC built and thanks Perry Merrill for his services and accomplishments during his tenure as State Forester from 1930 until 1955. This area provides sanitation services for the campers and allows for proper disposal of any trash items the campers generate. The shed that houses the firewood for the campers is a non-contributing structure built in the 1960s. The shed is of wood construction painted brown and has a pent asphalt shingled roof. To the immediate left of the eastern facing wood shed are the recycle bins. These bins are also non-contributing and non- CCC built structures. They are small dark brown wooden boxes that are labeled for their various contents, such as glass, cardboard, paper, aluminum cans, and plastic.

(#7) Lean-tos, c.1970s

Beyond the children's recreation site the first group of lean-tos (#7) appear on the right of the park road. The five non-contributing structures, due to age, are separated equally in distance

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 7 Page 4 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

and are facing the east towards the Connecticut River. This area, which contains the majority of the lean-tos in Wilgus State Park, provides the campers with cooking facilities at each site, numerous picnic tables, metal encased fire pits, interspersed water fountains, modern constructed concrete stoves and barbecuing contraptions.

The lean-tos, which are named after trees found in the park such as elm, sycamore, locust, hawthorn, hickory and oak, are non-contributing structures built in the late 1960s to early 1970s. They resemble a salt box, with an eaves front and a pent roof. The lean-tos rest on concrete foundations that are permanently anchored and are constructed using conventional lumber, two by fours and four by fours plus vertical planks for the exterior sheathing. The floors are all tongue and groove planks that are nine inches wide, one and a half inches thick and eleven feet long. The interior dimensions are eleven feet deep by fourteen feet wide and the open end is seven feet tall. The interior, including the floors are all painted blue while the exterior is painted a dark brown that blends well with the environment. The roof of each lean-to is covered in brown asphalt shingles.

The lean-to sites also contain relatively modern picnic tables that are constructed of wood and steel. The measure seven feet long, five feet wide and stand two and a half feet tall. They are randomly dispersed all over the camping area. Some picnic tables are all wood and others wood and metal, some painted brown to match the lean-tos while others are unpainted. Along with the lean-to and picnic table, each site also has a designated cooking source, anchored steel barbecues that stand two and a half feet tall. These are also non-contributing due to age. The sites also have a designated pit to burn wood, they are steel rings imbedded into the ground to provide the campers with a safe alternative to the open flame variety of camp fires most commonly encountered in parks across the country. There are also concrete flue type fireplaces at each site; these too are non-contributing due to age but serve as an alternative to the campfire pit and barbecue. These concrete fireplaces were designed similarly to the original CCC built flue type fireplaces (#8) that are dispersed around the camping area and nature trail.

Of all the items located at each lean-to site the historically significant are the CCC built water fountains and the stone flue-type fireplaces. Wilgus State Park has seven water fountains and twelve stone flue-type fireplaces that were constructed by the CCC between 1935 and 1936. The water fountains, primarily the replacement of the piping that has deteriorated, have been updated. The battered post fountains are cast white concrete, having a base width of six and a half inches square and taper off to a width of four and a half inches square. The cast concrete base is twenty-three inches tall, the one inch diameter pipe that is protected by the base extends another four inches culminating in a height of twenty seven inches.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

(#8) CCC Fireplaces, 1935

Along with the CCC built water fountains are the stone flue-type fireplaces. They are among the most significant historic structures of Wilgus State Park. These fireplaces epitomize the rustic nature of the park and provide a high degree of historicism. The fireplaces are fifty-one inches wide, sixty-three inches deep and forty inches tall. The foundation of the fireplace is a white fire proof brick two to three layers thick, and on top of the brick is the random rubble stone construction. The stones are joined by a gray coarse grout. The fireplace also provides an iron grate for cooking. This grate is placed in a recessed portion of the base in front of the flue. The grate is attached to the fireplace by a steel chain secured to the left side of the fireplace by an imbedded steel rod and bolt. The structural integrity of the fireplaces are in jeopardy, as most have loose stones, some are missing and the wear they receive during any given season should warrant a preservation initiative. Of the twelve stone flue-type fireplaces in Wilgus State Park seven are in need of major repointing, some need stones replaced while all need regular maintenance and cleaning.

Continuing north on the park road past the lean-to sites more of the non-contributing campsites come into view, each site labeled by a wooden post and plate with the designated number painted in white.

(#9) Shower Facility, c. 1960s

A structure one encounters two hundred yards past the lean-to sites and between the numbered campsites is the bathroom and shower facility (#9) for the campers. The structure, which is non-contributing due to age, sits west of the park road about thirty yards on an elevated section. The 1960s contemporary brown wooden structure is approximately 40 feet wide and 15 feet deep. The one story asphalt roof structure has the men's and women's entrance at the eastern facade and the handicap entrance facing the north. To the rear of the structure is a road that provides access for the handicapped, which connects to the main park road at the sanitation station.

Beyond the shower facility are ten more of the same campsite configurations (#10). They are extremely simple; their makeup consists exclusively of one picnic table, a cooking source, either a stone structure or a contemporary steel cooking source and a campsite marker. There is no designated area for car parking at the sites.

The northern section of Wilgus State Park terminates at campsite nineteen. There a brown picket fence and two large stones demarcate the boundaries. Heading south along the Connecticut River towards the canoe access are benches, (non-contributing due to age), that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

provide a scenic view of the river along a path that runs from the northern boundary of the park to the a fore mentioned lean-to sites. This grassy path, about fifteen feet wide, leads to the canoe access and then terminates one hundred yards to the south.

(#11) Group Camping Area, c. 1960s

The northern section of Wilgus State Park is used the most. The majority of camp sites and lean-tos are there along with the canoe access to the Connecticut River, which are all non-contributing due to age. The southern section of the park contains what is called the group camping area (#11). This is comprised of three grouped lean-tos and more of the same camping amenities such as the stone fireplaces, picnic tables and fire pits and barbecues. Here the stone fireplaces are the only elements that contribute historically to the park. The southern section is somewhat narrower and secluded. The southern section of the park also contains a nature trail that was recently an Eagle scout project where the trail provided the camper with wooden plaques that inform the camper on some of the various species of trees and a description of one of the five CCC built stone fireplaces that line the nature trail.

(#13) 19 Individual Campsites, c.1960s

The road then makes its way towards the 19 individual campsites and the recreation and canoe access area. Fifty feet past the sanitation station on the right is a playground for the camper's children, containing a swing set constructed of galvanized steel and painted silver, one modern wooden bench, and a sand box. The area is roughly sixty feet wide and eighty feet long.

The park as mentioned before is simple and small. The sites are all aligned along the Connecticut River to provide an excellent view and some sort of vacationing privacy.

Along the campsite corridor are water fountains providing the drinking water for the campers. The park also provides access to hiking enjoyment via two, half-mile trails (#12) on the western side of U.S. Route 5. Although the true nature of Wilgus State Park is to provide access for canoeing on the Connecticut River, vacationers can enjoy a number of activities provided by this park in southeastern Vermont.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 1 Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

The one hundred acre Wilgus State Park, located in Weathersfield, Vermont, and donated to the State by Col. William Wilgus, meets the National Register criteria A and C for significance in the categories of Architecture and Recreation. Under criterion A the property is a good example of the significant contributions the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) made in the development and construction of parks across the country. The CCC-built parks are examples of the accomplishments in recreation and land use design found in America and epitomize the social reform sought to raise America out of the Depression through broad based work programs. Wilgus State Park also meets criteria C because the CCC built structures and landscaping represent a period and method of construction that is significant to American architectural history and as a good example of a CCC-designed state park. Wilgus State Park is being nominated under the Multiple Property submission, Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks and meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

The land that is now Wilgus State Park was a gift to the state of Vermont by Col. William Wilgus in 1933. The one hundred-acre park is located in the town of Weathersfield and village of Ascutney where Colonel Wilgus resided. The history of Weathersfield begins with the Georgian Charter given to sixty-two men in 1761 for the new town of Weathersfield. These proprietors from New Haven, Connecticut, divided the town into four sections, laying out roads and trails on the boundaries that equaled six miles on each side of a square. Along the eastern boundary is the Connecticut River, to the north Mount Ascutney and the town of Windsor, west lies the town of Chester, and to the south is Springfield. The town's total acreage is 25,259 and developed land is only six percent of that.

The earliest inhabitants of the area that became known as Weathersfield were Native Americans, who used the Connecticut River and its banks for agriculture, other food, transportation, and habitation. Here existed three trails, the most important being the trail from the St. Francis region in what is now Quebec Province, Canada, to the Massachusetts settlements running along the Connecticut River, and through what is now Wilgus State Park.

Weathersfield can attribute its founding to the conversion of the Indian trails into military roads leading to the Champlain Lake region on the western boundary of what became the State of Vermont. The Crown Point Military Road was ordered by General Amherst in 1759 to connect Fort No. 4 in Charlestown, New Hampshire, with Crown Point, New York. Only two years later the town of Weathersfield was established. The land that is now Wilgus State Park was primarily left undeveloped until it was purchased and used as farm land in the late 1850s by the Lewis family. The farm was bought by Col. William Wilgus in 1922. Here he

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

built his home, known locally as the "White Elephant". The house still stands today, just a few hundred yards north of the Wilgus State Park property.

William Wilgus, one of the most famous residents of Weathersfield, was born November 20, 1865, in Buffalo, New York, graduated from the Central High School, and later attended Cornell University to study engineering. His contributions to transportation and specifically railroad engineering are significant. During World War I he organized the French railroad system for the American Expeditionary Forces in Europe, later receiving a commendation from General Pershing and the Distinguished Service Medal. His most celebrated work in the United States was the creation of the Grand Central Terminal in New York City. Other accomplishments include the creation of the New York Port Authority, the electrification of the Hudson and Harlem rail lines, the creation of the Detroit River Tunnel, and numerous books and publications on railroads and transportation such as *The Role of Transportation in the Development of Vermont*.

In 1933 Colonel Wilgus gave to the State of Vermont the land that would become Wilgus State Park the express purpose of preserving the land in the form of a state park. The construction of the park was begun in 1935 by the Civilian Conservation Corps, with the building of the ranger's quarters. The ranger's quarters is an example of functionality that blends well with its environment. The design of the cottage is identical to other cottages built by the CCC in Vermont. The park originally consisted of the ranger's residence, a picnic area with stone fireplaces and picnic tables, a half mile nature trail that runs along the Connecticut River, and a half mile hiking trail separated from the camping area by U.S. Route 5, that ascends the pinnacle.

The park is bisected by U.S. Route 5, creating two areas, one with all the facilities and sites and the other a dense forest and the trail to the pinnacle. In the 1960s the park was revamped to include 19 camping sites and cooking areas, numerous lean-tos, and a restroom and shower facility. These later structures, which were described in detail in section 7, do not contribute to the historical significance of Wilgus State Park but are in keeping with the original intent of the park.

The CCC was a wing of U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal, which was designed to alleviate the effects of the Depression on America. The CCC decree was proposed as a measure of unemployment relief to put unemployed men age eighteen to twenty five to work in the forests. This employment provided an income for the men and their families, as well as useful skills after their service was complete. The U.S. Congress passed the Emergency Conservation Works Act (ECW), which led to the creation of the Civilian

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

Conservation Corps.

In Vermont 11,243 CCC's worked in some form on parks and lands in the State. The majority of the recreational construction that occurred in Vermont and the nation was completed between 1933 and 1942. The construction of Wilgus State Park was begun in 1935 and completed in 1936. In this time the CCC built the cottage and stone fireplaces and landscaped the area, including the picnic areas, trails and the design and layout for the vegetation types.

The layout of Wilgus State Park has changed little since its conception and original construction. Wilgus State Park stands as a testament to the CCC's recreational park planning ideals. The structures are historic reminders of the operating facilities of these relief agencies, recalling the substantial accomplishments of the CCC, which left a lasting impression in terms of conservation, recreational development, landscape design and unemployment relief.

The CCC structures possess creative characteristics and elements of the picturesque, including the use of natural building materials, a consciousness to landscape features and coloration patterns borrowed from the surrounding environment. The structures are complete with crafted details based on specifications from the National Park Service designs. These designs were created to ensure the environmentally sensitive development of the facilities construction, calling for all park structures to be unobtrusive to the natural landscape. Areas with any structural additions were hidden from view of park visitors, not allowing the built environment to intrude upon the natural environment.

The park builders understood the growing leisure time of the American population and the growing popularity of the automobile. However, the issues surrounding this in conjunction with park philosophy were non-compatible. Therefore, a balance was reached with the desire to place parking areas in unobtrusive landscaped areas, hidden from view, while remaining easily accessible. The road that leads to the new sites was original to the park and designed and constructed by the CCC. They also cleared and built the two trails ascending to the pinnacle and the half mile nature trail along the Connecticut River that has along it five CCC stone fireplaces.

The methods of construction are common to most of the CCC-built parks in the State of Vermont. Two distinctive architectural resources of Wilgus State Park include the CCC built ranger's quarters, and the stone fireplaces that dot the parks landscape. The stone fireplaces were ubiquitous designs for numerous state parks throughout the country. The cottage design was created in 1933 and approved by Perry Merrill for construction in many state parks.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 4

Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

The importance of the CCC's contribution to our State and National Parks is clear, as their creation lead to the betterment of the Park system, and the recreational infrastructure. Their park designs, landscaping and construction methods have provided many visitors since the Depression with a wonderful outdoor experience. The parks were created for people to enjoy the natural and scenic beauty of the outdoors. The compatibility of automobile and nature employed in the parks allowed for millions of people to attend the State parks each year. The park designs are rustic and natural, and their layout reminiscent of Frederick Law Olmstead's creation of space and the use of the outdoors' natural beauty to provide the visitor an enjoyable experience in the outdoors. In Vermont Perry Merrill, Vermont State Forester from 1930-55, oversaw the CCC building process in the state. The architecture of the CCC's, the design and layout of the park, the recreational benefits that they created all support the inclusion of Wilgus State Park in the National Register of Historic Places as a culturally and historically significant property.

Further research may show archeological significance at Wilgus State Park. This area was long inhabited by Native Americans. An archeological assessment was performed in 1985 by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and found strong conclusive evidence of high to moderate archeological sensitivity at numerous areas within the park. Considered to be of great importance were the terraces and banks of the Connecticut River and a sheltered spring, which is a now-gone tributary to the river, all of which could contain prehistoric sites.

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places**Continuation Sheet**

Wilgus State Park

Section number 9 Page 1

Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, VT

Acreage of Property 100 acres.

UTM References

5 Zone 18 Easting 709340 Northing 4807360

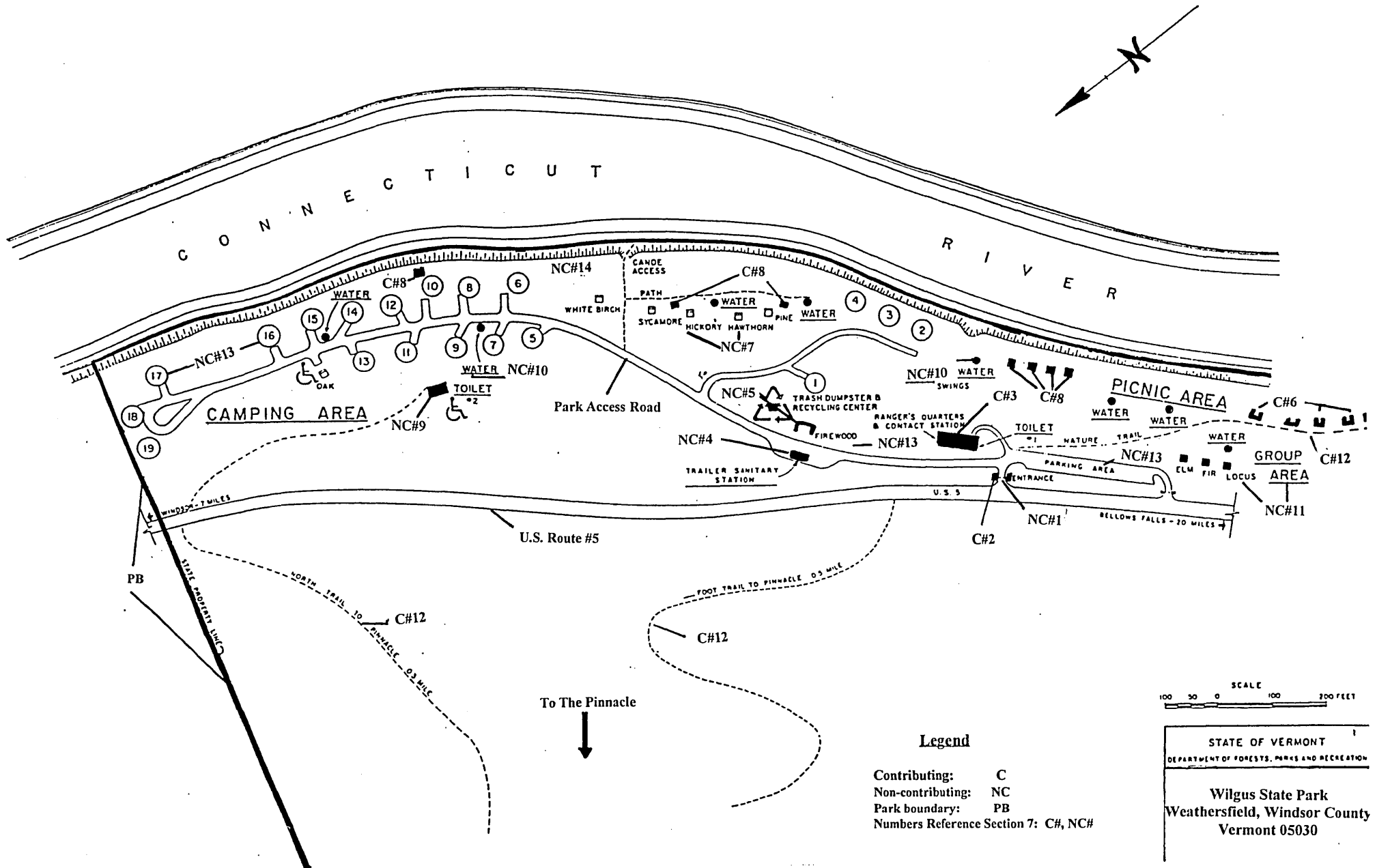
Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

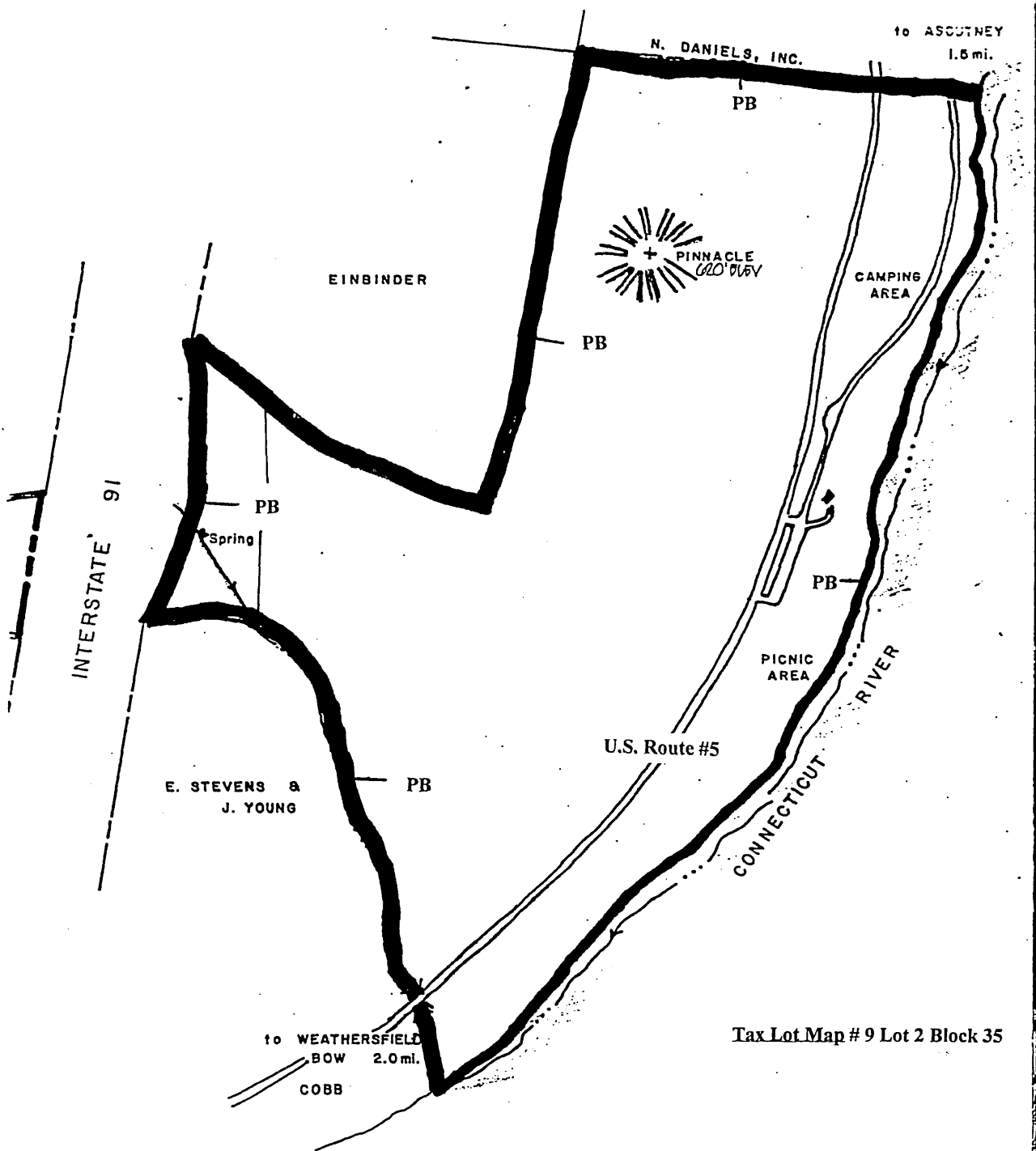
Wilgus State Park is Tax Lot Map Number 9 Lot 2 Block 35, (Weathersfield, Vermont, Town Office).

Beginning at the point on the west bank of the Connecticut River, marked by two large boulders at the northeast corner of Wilgus State Park, 100 feet east of campsite 19, proceed south along the banks of the Connecticut River approximately 3,600'. Arriving at the junction of a tributary brook and the Connecticut River, proceed northwest along the brook 1,600' arriving at the origin (spring) of the brook. Proceed north 1,200' along the east of Interstate 91 intersecting the Einbinder property. Then proceed east 1,000' along the south of the Einbinder property, then proceed northeast 1,700' along the east of the Einbinder property intersecting the property of N. Daniel's Inc. Proceed east 1,200' along the south of the N. Daniel's Inc. property to the point of origin on the west bank of the Connecticut River.

Boundary Justification

This is the entire historic park associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps.

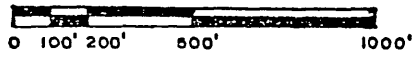




Legend
 Park boundary: PB



Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor
County
Vermont 05030



United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1 Wilgus State Park
List Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Wilgus State Park
Weathersfield, Windsor County, Vermont
Credit: Holger Haverkock
Date: May 1999
Negative at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photo 1
View looking NE, Ranger's Quarters (#3) and stone pillars

Photo 2
View looking E, Ranger's Quarters (#3)

Photo 3
View looking NW, stone fireplace

Photo 4
View looking S of picnic area, with stone fireplace