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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **AUG 29 1978**
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Buffalo River State Park

AND/OR COMMON

Buffalo Point CCC Structures

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Buffalo National River

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Yellville

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

3rd

STATE

Arkansas

X VICINITY OF

CODE

05

COUNTY

Marion

CODE

089

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT

X BUILDING(S)

___ STRUCTURE

___ SITE

___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

X PUBLIC

___ PRIVATE

___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS

___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

X OCCUPIED

___ UNOCCUPIED

___ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

X YES: RESTRICTED

___ YES: UNRESTRICTED

___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE

___ COMMERCIAL

___ EDUCATIONAL

___ ENTERTAINMENT

X GOVERNMENT

___ INDUSTRIAL

___ MILITARY

___ MUSEUM

X PARK

___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

___ RELIGIOUS

___ SCIENTIFIC

___ TRANSPORTATION

___ OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: *(If applicable)*

U.S. Government, Department of Interior, National Park Service

STREET & NUMBER

Southwest Regional Office

P. O. Box 728

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe,

___ VICINITY OF

New Mexico

STATE

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Marion County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Yellville

STATE

Arkansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE "Special History Report, Preliminary Survey of Historic Structures, Part 1,
Buffalo National River, Arkansas"

DATE

1973

X FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office

CITY, TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Located approximately one mile by road from the Buffalo River, the cabin area of Buffalo Point is situated within a forest of oak, hickory, and cedar. The terrain is undulating in nature and the eastern end culminates abruptly at the top of a steep bluff which overlooks the river.

Although the park was initially developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps and a large number of structures were proposed in the 1941 Master Plan, the project was interrupted by World War II and only eight structures were ~~actually~~ built.

HOUSEKEEPING CABINS:

There are six of these cabins: five of which are used as overnight rental units and one which is occupied by the District Ranger. Cabins 2-6 are of stone and frame construction and measure approximately 37' x 37'. The exterior of the cabins consists of a combination of stone and 1" x 10" rough sawn oak siding. Sometime prior to 1972, the original oak shake roofs on all the CCC structures at Buffalo Point were replaced with asphalt shingles. The present asphalt shingle roofs were installed about ~~three years ago~~ ^{1975.}

Cabin No. 1 has a stone and cinder block foundation and is constructed of logs except for the kitchen extension which is frame with an exterior of rough 1 x 12 boards and 1/2" x 3" battens. This cabin also has been recently reroofed with asphalt shingles.

Each of these cabins possess a stone fireplace at one end of the building and the original 1" x 8" V-joint shiplap paneling on the interior. The fenestration for each cabin consists of wood double hung 12 light windows.

OVERNIGHT CABIN (LODGE):

The single "overnight cabin" (presently called the Lodge) measures approximately 66' x 33' and was originally divided into four equal units. The structure, remodeled to form two apartments and an office, is currently occupied by seasonal park employees. The building has a stone foundation, is of frame construction with 1" x 10" rough sawn oak siding, and has been recently reroofed with asphalt shingles. Stone chimneys are located at either end of the building and although a screened porch originally ran across the rear of the cabin, half of it has been enclosed to create additional living space within.

PAVILION:

The Pavilion is a large open structure constructed primarily of stone with large wooden beams which support a frame roof. Measuring 78' x 28', the Pavilion has stone extensions at either end which serve as rest rooms (north end) and storage (south end).

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The April 16, 1941, issue of the Yellville Mountain Echo reported that:

It [the Pavilion] will have all the necessary facilities; including running water, toilets, drinking fountains, and etc. One end of the building will be a concession room, while the central part will be a large pavilion with a concrete floor. This structure is to be of the open air type and constructed of stone and large timbers. The stone work will be of the same general type as that used in the cabins. Most of it will be double faced walls which takes a great amount of time and labor to build. Due to the great amount of stone work and the size of the building it will probably not be complete before September 1, 1941.

MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS:

It is recognized that the original intent of these structures was for them to serve as recreational facilities for park visitors. Because they continue to be used for this purpose, existing, non-original structural elements (asphalt roofing shingles and linoleum flooring) will be allowed to remain in order that original fabric will be adequately protected. In the event that other structural portions of the building need to be replaced, materials similar to the original fabric will be used if available. If a replacement feature is either not available or its acquisition proves to be prohibitively expensive, efforts will be made to locate replacements that are compatible with the original design and intent of the structure.

MANAGEMENT EXCLUSIONS:

Within the boundary of the site there are three duplex cottages which were constructed during the State Park period. These structures bear no relationship to the historic CCC buildings and are of a different, though compatible, architectural style. Modifications to these structures will be concordant with their present function and appearance and will not intrude on the historic qualities for which the CCC structures have been nominated.

The Visitor Center and the restaurant are not included in this nomination as they were built by the State of Arkansas after 1945 and thus possess no historic significance.

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Construction of the eight structures nominated at Buffalo Point was largely completed in the period 1939-1942. Buffalo River State Park was established by the Arkansas State Parks Commission in March, 1938. By 1939 the CCC Camp had built a garage, workshop, water and sewerage system, 60 picnic tables and a two-mile entrance road. They had completed one "Overnight Cabin" and Cabin #1 and had begun work on Cabins 2-6 as well as the Pavilion. In July 1941 Buffalo Point CCC Company #4733 was ordered to disband due to cutbacks in the CCC Program and Company #1781 was brought in to finish the work. CCC Company #1781 had been stationed at Petit Jean State Park, the most extensive and ambitious of the CCC Camp Parks developed in Arkansas. In March, 1942 Government orders directed all CCC camps not directly connected with national defense to disband. The CCC Camp at Buffalo Point was moved out three days from the order on March 15, 1942. At this time the Lodge, Pavilion, and Cabins #1, 2, and 3 were completed. Cabins #4, 5, and 6 were completed on the exterior with only interior work remaining to be done. Although portions of Cabins #4, 5, and 6 were not completed prior to closing of the Buffalo Point CCC Camp, the exteriors of all eight nominated structures reflect CCC workmanship in their rustic design and use of natural materials.

The "Overnight Cabin" (referred to in this nomination as the Lodge) was constructed in 1939. It was the first of the proposed cabins to be completed. Local newspaper articles boasted of its modern plumbing and bathroom facilities, electric wiring, closets and full length front and back porches. Set on the edge of a ridge 500 feet above the Buffalo River and Panther Creek, the Lodge was completed late in 1939.

Cabin #1 was the second to be completed. It was ready for the grand opening of Buffalo River State Park on May 5, 1940.

Cabins #2 and 3 were 75% complete by April, 1941 with only interior work remaining to be done. These two cabins are mirror images of each other and feature more stonework than any of the other cabins on end wall surfaces. These two cabins reflect the highest level of craftsmanship in the first CCC Company's stonework and fine detailing. Only cabins #2 and 3 have exterior chimney boxes. These cabins were completed by the Petit Jean CCC Company by March, 1942.

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Cabin # 4 was begun in early 1941. The foundation, chimney and framing were completed by July, 1941. The Petit Jean CCC Company finished the construction before their departure from the camp in March, 1942.

Cabin #5 was begun in April, 1941 by the original Buffalo Point CCC CO. #4733. Its foundation and stone masonry work is the same as the Lodge and earlier cabins but the chimney is noticeably different in its stonework which is more rusticated. The Petit Jean CCC CO. #1781 also finished out this cabin.

Cabin # 6 was under construction in April, 1941. Some of the foundation had been laid but the fireplace and remaining building construction was completed largely by the Petit Jean CCC Company in late 1941 and early 1942. This cabin (now used as the cabin office) has had the most alterations and additions to its original configuration. Construction techniques indicate it was probably the last cabin to be completed. A rear addition, enclosure of the porch and partial brick wall facing appears to have been done later than the 1940's.

The Pavilion was completed in late 1941. Much work was put into the construction of this structure with its wide expanses of stone surfaces and use of massive timbers. It is an open pavilion structure using natural rough hewn timber.

In 1946 an Arkansas State Parks Supervisor visited and inspected the Buffalo River State Park. His recommendations included repairing the structures at the camp which were "in need of repair". He also recommended that in order to accommodate the growing number of visitors to the park, another six new stone cabins be constructed, but this was never accomplished.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1939-1941

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Civilian Conservation Corps

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The seven rustic cabins and the large pavilion located at Buffalo Point, Buffalo National River, are worthy of preservation because they are among the last unaltered CCC structures in Arkansas. These structures exemplify the architectural styles of and rustic building materials employed by the CCC during the depression of the 1930's. Evocative of the Franklin D. Roosevelt era, these buildings have survived with a high degree of historic integrity. Not only do the buildings retain substantial historic fabric, but also the surrounding area appears little changed since the area was first developed.

Established by the Arkansas State Parks Commission in March, 1938, Buffalo River State Park was developed initially by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Begun during the summer of 1939, the cabins and the pavilion were in the final stages of completion when all CCC work in Arkansas was interrupted by World War Two. Following 1945, the state of Arkansas finished the structures and operated the park until 1973 when Arkansas conveyed the property to the federal government as part of the newly established Buffalo National River. The name of the area was subsequently changed to Buffalo Point.

During the 1930's, the Civilian Conservation Corps, under the direction of the National Park Service, constructed literally thousands of structures throughout the United States. In national and state parks and recreation areas this agency left a legacy of rustic architecture and of stone and log craftsmanship. The contribution of the CCC to National Park areas will be further evidenced by the continued preservation of the Buffalo Point structures.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Yellville (Arkansas) Mountain Echo 1935 - 1947

Interview with Mr. Elwood Balch, September 11, 1977 (CCC member during construction of Park)

"The Master Plan: Buffalo River State Park, Arkansas," 1939.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 35

UTM REFERENCES

A 15 | 539430 | 3993110
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C 15 | 538330 | 3991900
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 15 | 539430 | 3991900
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D 15 | 538330 | 3993110
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME/TITLE: Revisions by Sandra Taylor-Smith August 1988
Jane E. Scott/Dwight T. Pitcaithley Historian March 1977
 ORGANIZATION: National Park Service DATE:
 STREET & NUMBER: P. O. Box 728 TELEPHONE: 505-988-6501
 CITY OR TOWN: Santa Fe STATE: New Mexico

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES NO NONE

[Signature]
 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local .

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE: [Signature]
 TITLE: Act. Asst. Dir., Cultural Resources DATE: 8/9/78

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature] DATE: 10-20-88
 DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST: _____ DATE: _____
 KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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The eight structures constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps at Buffalo River State Park (Buffalo Point), Marion County, Arkansas are significant not only in their representation of Rustic Architecture, but in the areas of conservation and social history.

The work the CCC accomplished in the development of Buffalo Point enhanced the natural beauty of this scenic location while providing much needed jobs and job skills training to isolated and impoverished young men.

While the CCC left its mark on the nation, its impact on Arkansas was dramatic and far reaching. Arkansas is a leader in the nation in the development of CCC resources, most of which are still standing and still utilized.

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As one of four Arkansas Parks developed in the late 1930^s through cooperation of the National Park Service, Civilian Conservation Corps, and the Arkansas State Parks Commission, the eight nominated structures at Buffalo Point were built according to National Park Service plans. The eight Buffalo Point structures are excellent examples of the rustic architectural style employed in the construction of many CCC buildings. These buildings were built utilizing natural, obtainable materials. Timber was cut locally and there was a stone quarry in the park. Rough sawn oak siding appears on the Lodge, Cabins #2-6, and the Pavilion. Cabin #1 features log wall surfaces. All of the structures employ extensive use of natural stone in foundations and chimneys. The stone work is of high quality with very defined lines. It is in the stonework that the differences in the methods of the two CCC Companies who built these buildings is most apparent. The original CCC Company #4733 used exclusively cut stone laid in a uniform geometric pattern, whereas the second CCC Company #1781 used natural uncut stone laid tight with very little mortar while maintaining the same fine lines and shape of the first CCC Company. The durability of materials and quality of design and construction is evidenced by the excellent condition of these structures today. As many CCC constructed buildings, those at Buffalo Point were built to endure. Since the construction materials are natural, the structures blend perfectly with the environment. Rustic furniture also constructed by the CCC Camps furnished the cabins, creating minimal transition from the outside to the inside. Set in concordance with the landscape, the CCC buildings at Buffalo Point reflect a particular harmony with their dramatic setting above the Buffalo River. Buffalo Point has remained much the same with little intrusion in its dramatic natural setting. Commercialization and alterations have been minimal and new construction has been sympathetic to the rustic character of the original section of CCC buildings.

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The three duplex cabins located between Cabins #1-6 and the Lodge (see sketch map) were constructed by Arkansas State Parks in the Mid 1960's. Scale and materials are similar to the CCC Cabins but employ few characteristics of rustic design. They are constructed with vertical board and batten wall material using the same natural brown color scheme as the CCC Cabins. Conspicuously absent on these three cabins is the quality stonework found on the CCC Cabins. The three duplex cabins have concrete block foundations, no chimneys, and lower pitched gable roofs. Although modern in appearance, these cabins also blend with their setting on the edge of the ridge and feature rows of windows with full elevation balconies on the rear. The three 1960's cabins are visually isolated by .2 mile of woods from the six CCC Cabins. These cabins do contribute to the character of the cabins area by their use of natural coloring, scale in proportion to the CCC structures, and advantageous setting on a ridge near the Buffalo River.

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The contribution of the Civilian Conservation Corps to the State of Arkansas is best represented in the physical impact left by their work. In Arkansas six million-man days of conservation work was done in the nine and one-half years CCC work. A partial listing of CCC accomplishments in Arkansas includes:

- Erected 446 Buildings
- Built 6400 Miles of Road
- Constructed 8 Dams
- Built 250 Miles of Fence
- Erected 86 Lookout Towers
- Strung 8600 Miles of Telephone Wire

Buffalo Point was one of only four Arkansas State Parks to be developed by the joint effort of the Arkansas Parks System and the CCC and was the last of this group to be started. By 1940 there were 35 CCC Camps in Arkansas employing 5,670 men. The legacy of this efficient organization which benefited not only the public but thousands of individuals remains exemplified in the work they accomplished.

This highly disciplined organization chose its members through county welfare agencies in Arkansas. Enrollment was always voluntary but the individuals applying had to have been unemployed for at least six months, but no longer than two years. Paid \$30 a month for their labors, these men were required to allot \$15 of their monthly wage to a carefully chosen person at home. Skills preparatory for later employment opportunities were taught such as construction, stone quarrying, masonry, and carpentry.

In March, 1940, President Roosevelt's newly prepared budget called for reduction of 273 CCC Camps throughout the Nation. It called for total elimination of some of the camps, including Buffalo Point. A National Park Service Official had visited the Arkansas CCC Camps in 1939 and through an intense effort between the Park official, Arkansas Governor Carl Bailey, Congressman Clyde T. Ellis, State Parks Director Sam G. Davies and the National Park Service, the Buffalo Point CCC Camp was allowed to remain in operation. One of the stipulations was that the park acreage had to be expanded. There were no State Park funds

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available for this at the time, but the residents of Marion County raised a portion of the money for purchase of an additional 160 acres. This money was donated to the State, yet there was \$560 still needed to close the transaction on the new purchase of land for Buffalo Point. Governor Bailey, with approval from the General Assembly, made money available from the state's emergency fund to complete the land acquisition. This impressive effort of private citizens and state officials underlines the importance the Buffalo Point CCC Camp had in Arkansas.

In the beginning stages of the development of Buffalo Point, little recreational use had been made of the area due to the rugged topography and lack of roads. In July, 1939 (one year after development of the park began) local newspaper articles extolled the primary uses of the newly accessible area to be "inspirational, and preservation of natural scenic beauty." Hunting, fishing, and water sports flourished with the new access to the park. Local newspaper accounts from the 1938-1950 period indicate many public picnics and gatherings were held at the park on a regular basis. Annual 4th of July celebrations were held at the park as well as numerous county fairs and events. In the late 1940's promotion for tourism in the area was successful in bringing thousands of visitors to Buffalo Point. The park was advertised as "one the the best fishing areas in Arkansas with beautiful scenery, caves, springs, waterfalls and virgin timber of almost every species." In its rural Northern Arkansas setting this new surge of tourism brought new businesses and jobs to serve the park visitors. Located in one of the most isolated portions of northern Arkansas, the combination of the scenic Buffalo National River and Buffalo Point with its CCC Buildings is beautiful and is an important historic and natural resource to Arkansas.

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A. BOOKS AND BROCHURES

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Meineche, Conrad. Your Cabin In the Woods. Buffalo, New York: Foster & Stewart Publishing Co., 1945.

B. PUBLIC RECORDS

Davies, S. G., Director Arkansas State Parks. Letter to Mrs. Neil R. Morton, Arkansas Federal Writers Project, 13 May, 1942.

Report of Arkansas State Park Commission: 1 July 1938- 1 July 1939.

Third Annual Report of Arkansas State Parks Commission: 8 December 1939.

C. NEWSPAPERS

Arkansas Gazette (Little Rock), 29 August 1937; 10 September 1937; 19 June 1938; 28 April 1940; 12 January 1941.

Fayetteville Daily Democrat (Fayetteville, Arkansas), 21 November 1934.

Morrilton Headlight (Morrilton, Arkansas) 4 July 1941.

Mountain Echo (Yellville, Arkansas) 1933-1964.

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D. INTERVIEWS

Davies, Richard, Director Arkansas Department of Parks & Tourism, Little Rock, Arkansas. Interview 25 February 1988.

Davies, Samuel G., Former Director Arkansas State Parks, Petit Jean Mountain, Morrilton, Arkansas. Interview 15 March 1988.

Friedman, Rex, Arkansas Department Parks & Tourism, Little Rock, Arkansas. Interview 22 February 1988.

Graves, Stan, (Former Buffalo River State Park Superintendent), Pinnacle State Park, Arkansas. Interview 23 March 1988.

Paxton, Bill, Arkansas Department Parks & Tourism, Little Rock, Arkansas. Interview 11 April 1988.

Scott, Tim, Park Interpreter Devil's Den State Park, Interview 3 March 1988.

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BOUNDARY:

Beginning at the junction of Arkansas State Highway 268 and the campground road; thence east along Highway 268 to a point midway between the Lodge and the Dining Room; thence south 600 feet or to the edge of the bluff which ever comes first; thence west on a line parallel to State Highway 268 to the campground road; thence north to the point of beginning.

The boundary of the pavilion begins at the junction of the campground road and the Group Camping Area turnoff; thence south to the Pavilion parking lot; thence east and northeast along the northern edge of the parking lot; thence north to the campground road; thence west along the campground road to the point of beginning.

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Acreage within the square drawn on the USGS map is 330 acres.

Boundaries of the nominated properties is denoted by a separate boundary line with the larger square on the USGS map.

A sketch map of the nominated structures is attached.

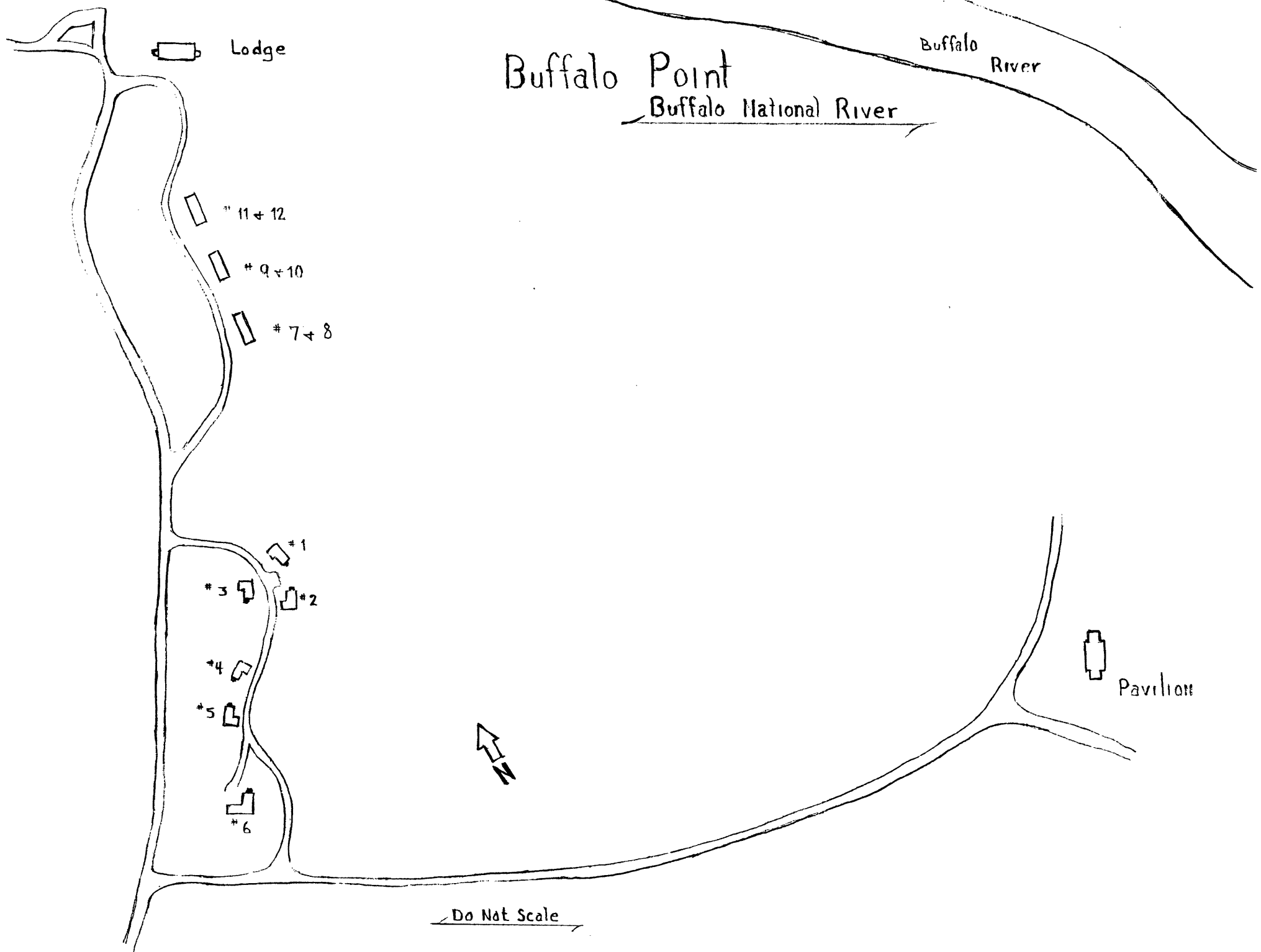
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Photographs showing the relationship of contributing to non-contributing structures were requested. A heavily wooded area .2 mile long separates the six CCC cabins and the three 1960's duplex cabins. One area cannot be seen from the other.



Lodge

Buffalo Point

Buffalo National River

Buffalo River

11 + 12

9 + 10

7 + 8

1

3

2

4

5

6

Pavilion



Do Not Scale