

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001673

Date Listed: 11/15/90

Geode State Park, CCC Area
Property Name

Henry
County

IA
State

CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS
Multiple Name

This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Baland
Signature of the Keeper

11/15/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Item #8, Significance:

Architecture is an area of significance.

Criterion Exception F does not apply because the property is not commemorative. Criterion Exception G does apply because the period of significance extends within the last fifty years.

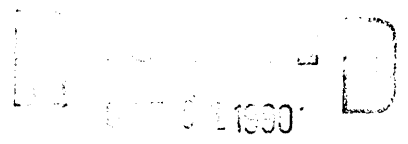
DISTRIBUTION:

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

1673

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NATIONAL
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Geode State Park: Civilian Conservation Corps Area

other names/site number Danville State Park

2. Location

street & number Route 2, County Road X23

not for publication N/A

city, town Danville

vicinity

state Iowa

code IA

county Henry

code 087

zip code 52623

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<u> </u>	<u> </u> sites
<u> </u>	<u> </u> structures
<u> </u>	<u> </u> objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks; 1933-42

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

[Signature]
Signature of certifying official

9/17/90
Date

State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

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

Beth Boland

11/15/90

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls limestone

weatherboard

roof shingle

other WOOD

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY
CONSERVATION
RECREATION

Period of Significance

1939-42

Significant Dates

1939

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

M, L Hutton, Central Design Office, Ames

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See continuation sheet

9. Major Bibliographical References

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Department of Natural Resources
State Historical Society of Iowa

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property .92 acres

UTM References

A

--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

C

--	--	--

B

--	--	--

Zone Easting Northing

D

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant
 organization private consultant date August 17, 1989
 street & number P.O. Box 258 telephone 608-424-6315
 city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

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Table 1
Contributing and Noncontributing Properties in Geode State Park

No.	(1) Common Name	Property Subtype	Contributing/ Noncontributing	Category
3	picnic shelter	picnic shelters	contributing	1 building
4	pit vault latrine	comfort stations & privies	contributing	1 building
total				2 resources

(1) Resource numbers are preceded by the prefix GEO.

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7. Description

Materials:

Roof: ASPHALT

Descriptive Statement:

Also known as Danville State Park when founded, Geode State Park is located 4.5 miles east of Danville and 3 miles west of Lowell, Iowa. When acquired by the State of Iowa in 1936, the park bounded 613.80 acres and grew to 844 acres by 1942 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1936: 118, 1942: 127]). Geode State Park encompasses primarily rolling terrain covered with open lands except along the Skunk River into which the area drains. The picnic area which contains the resources is lightly wooded and sits adjacent to a gravel parking lot on its north side. The district contains two buildings: a picnic shelter (GEO3) and a pit vault latrine (GEO4) (Table 1). These properties belong to the property type CCC Properties in Iowa Parks. The boundary of the district encompasses both resources on a small prominence within its lightly wooded setting.

The buildings follow the guidelines of the mature rustic landscape architecture style as it developed during the CCC period. They parallel this style in general shaping, floor plan, materials, decorative elements, functions, property subtypes, and setting. VCCC Company 2725 at camp SP28 constructed the properties between 1939 and 1942 (U.S. NPS, CCC Inspector 1933-42 [3/15/42, box 74]; Iowa DNR 1917-89 [report to Iowa State Conservation Commission on CCC work, 8/28/39-3/15/42]). The property subtypes of which the Geode buildings are examples are described in section F.

The rectangular 23 by 36 foot, picnic shelter (GEO3) (picnic shelters, IIA) is open on three sides and closed across one short side by a rough-faced, coursed ashlar limestone wall. Ten square timbers support the gable roof which is covered with wood shingles on the other sides. They are gathered in a cluster of three at the west corners. Exposed, squared timbers also create the roof framing and the purlins and rafters are also exposed at their ends. Small brackets flank each post. Weatherboard covers the west gable end. Placed on concrete footings, the concrete floor which was laid in squares is surrounded by a limestone walkway on all sides. The walkway extends to 11 feet on the east end around an outside fireplace which is vented through the main chimney. The interior

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fireplace is covered with a hood and flanked by two plank benches inset into the wall.

The double pit vault latrine (GE04) (comfort stations and privies, IH) sits 85 feet to the northwest of the picnic shelter. The rectangular, 15.5 by 23 foot building sits on concrete footings and is composed of rough-faced, ashlar limestone. Weatherboard closes the gable ends. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. Bands of 4 and 6 windows pierce the side walls while the entrances occur in the end walls. Small brackets decorate the verge. The interior is divided by a central partition. The roof framing is exposed on the interior, and the walls remain unfinished.

Mainly deterioration in part caused by the exposed position of the buildings have caused alterations in the buildings. The picnic shelter (GE03) has suffered few changes beyond the heaving of the limestone walkway on the north side. Asphalt shingles and the removal of the hopper windows constitute the known alterations of the latrine (GE04). There are no identified intrusions into the setting other than mobile picnic tables.

While some deterioration has occurred in the two buildings, CCC resources must be viewed as semi-permanent park resources built by essentially unskilled labor under the supervision of trained architects, landscape architects, and craftsmen, primarily locally experienced men. Modifications derive from this source. Because of the emphasis on landscaping by rustic architecture, considerable importance is placed upon the integrity of setting, location, feeling and association of properties which is retained in this case. Because of the fragility of the CCC resources, maintenance of overall design and reasonable integrity of materials and tolerance for changes effected by deterioration and modern use remain a requirement. Finally, integrity of workmanship shown in the district retains the important association with the CCC participants. Thus these CCC buildings, particularly the picnic shelter, generally retain a high degree of integrity.

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8. Statement of Significance

The two CCC resources within the Geode State Park District gain historical significance under criterion A in association with the context Civilian Conservation Corps Properties in Iowa State Parks: 1933-1942 and the property type: CCC Properties in Iowa Parks. The district represents the theme through the areas of CONSERVATION, RECREATION, SOCIAL HISTORY, and POLITICS/GOVERNMENT. The CCC was a national level government program carried out through the state within its parks. It sought to provide recreational opportunities for local communities and conserve the parks' landscapes by utilizing unemployed youths in make-work projects, a move toward social welfare at the national level. Additionally, the resources in the Geode State Park District acquire significance under criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an example of rustic architecture. The buildings reflect the effort of this landscape movement to blend park amenities with the natural landscape in their material, design, workmanship, and immediate setting and reflect common types developed by the National Park Service for park construction. Thus, the conservation and naturalistic perspective of the CCC relates well to the architecture which it erected in parks such as Geode. Because the park amenities within this district were constructed for the enjoyment of local communities and do not contain single examples of exceptionally well preserved, scarce cultural resources or outstanding examples of Iowa state park rustic architecture, the resources of the district gain significance at the local level. The period of significance includes the period of CCC work in the park and on the two resources between 1939 and 1942 (U.S. CCC, Inspector 1933-42 [3/15/42, box 74]; Iowa DNR 1917-89 [reports to the Iowa State Conservation Commission, 8/28/39-3/15/42]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1933-42b[master plan, 1939]). Because the buildings were constructed just after the modern era, the district also gains significance under criterion exception F.

Background

Brandier Brothers of Chicago contemplated the establishment of a commercial recreation area on the site of the park in 1926. The financial downturn of the late 1920s frustrated this and a second group from such an enterprise. In the fall of 1934 citizens of West Burlington with the assistance of the Isaac Walton League began a movement to create what was then known as Danville State Park. In 1935, a group of Danville citizens took an option to buy

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60 acres in the north part of the park. The state purchased the property in 1936 with an appropriation of \$12,000. By 1942, the park had grown to 844 acres (JOURNAL 1951 [New London, 6/21]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1917-73[manuscript notes]). VCCC Company 2725 established camp SP28 at New London in August, 1939. It remained until March 15, 1942 (U.S. CCC, Camp Inspector 1933-43 [3/42, box 74]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42[1942: 127]).

Company 2723 began work in the park by clearing undergrowth, constructing roads and parking lots, laying guard rails, seeding and sodding, and landscaping. It started the building of the picnic shelter and latrine (GEO3-4) between August 8 and December 31, 1939. By the end of December, these buildings were 15% and 5% complete. They reached completion sometime between June 30, 1941 and March 15, 1942. Although the CCC also began the custodian's residence, they completed only 1% of it by June, 1941 and 27% of the building by March, 1942. The service building was about 10% complete by June, 1941 and 95% done by March, 1942. The Iowa State Conservation Commission finished both. The residence required considerable rebuilding before completion in 1954 (Fell 1989; Iowa DNR 1917-89 [report to Iowa Conservation Commission 8/28/39-3/15/42; JOURNAL 1951 [6/21]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 132]; 1933-42a [plans for residence, 12/18/1941]).

Little developed before 1939, Geode State Park received a limited number of visitors prior to 1941: 4450 in 1940-1941 but 14,243 in 1941-1942. Visitation prior to 1940 was evidently insignificant and went unrecorded (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1940, 1942]). The Iowa master plan for park development (Crane 1933) suggested the creation specific types of parks to serve particular purposes. The Iowa State Conservation Commission reclassified these parks several times so that by 1942 Geode State Park was to serve as a state park with a wide range of functions (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 127-28]). However, only newly developed, it offered limited recreation opportunities prior to 1942 including picnicking, hiking, and nature study (Iowa Conservation Commission 1933-42a [Master plan dated 7/20/39]).

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Historical Significance

Iowa state parks preserve in a very tangible way evidence of the CCC program. The four areas of significance which relate to the district through criterion A, GOVERNMENT/POLITICS, SOCIAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, and RECREATION, are tightly intertwined. Thus, the legislation of the New Deal at the national level directed the improvement of state parks to provide welfare, the work for the unemployed building facilities which would offer local recreational opportunities for the idle. This move was intended to ensure a smoother recovery from depression.

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

The national government reached a sufficient level of maturity to create and operate a public works program by the depression era. Although conceived during the Progressive Era, the bureaucratic government came of age to oversee such programs with professionally led government agencies only in the 1930s. Through a bureaucratic government, the nation influenced such areas as social welfare, conservation, and recreation, through, for example, such programs as the CCC. And, through such programs it heavily influenced the orientation of state and local government in these areas. Where before welfare, conservation, and recreation had been the concern of the individual family or at most the community, they at these levels were now influenced by the federal government (Berthoff 1971: 330-38, 342, 357, 359-61; Hays 1957: 48, 140-41, 150; Weibe 1967: 111, 131).

To participate in the CCC program, each state was required to submit a park development plan. Iowa was among a small number of states which had developed such a plan and an organization, what became the Iowa State Conservation Commission, by 1933, and by 1934 it created a State Planning Board. This planning allowed State Forester G.R. McDonald to present a proposal for sixteen Iowa camps soon after the creation of the CCC. Like the national level organization, the operation of the Iowa CCC relied upon the cooperation of a multitude of state, local, and private agencies (Iowa Department of Agriculture 1935-37 [1935: 6-7, 191; Wirth 1980: 150; Merrill 1981: 128). The Iowa State Conservation Commission directed the effort, the Central Design Office created many of the plans, and many other state agencies provided services in area of their expertise (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-35 [12/16/34, box 6]; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1936: 1 (1):

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4)).

The Iowa CCC was underway by April, 1933 with Company 769 which first worked at Albia before coming to Indianola in the spring of 1934 (Alleger and Alleger ca. 1935: 14). State park work led by the National Park Service began with two companies and expanded to thirteen by October, 1933, the peak number except in the fifth period (4-9/1935) when it reached fourteen. The number declined to five by the tenth period (10/1937-3/1938), three by the seventeenth period (4/1941-9/1941), and ended with two by the eighteenth period (10/1941-3/1942) (U.S. CCC, Office of the Director 1933-41 [1935: appendix D, 1937: appendix C, 1938: appendix D, 1939: appendix H, 1940: appendix D, 1941: appendix D]). However, the National Forest Service camps also significantly contributed to the state park cause and are not included in this count. This work advanced park development greatly in Iowa. The State Conservation Commission was able to complete 75% of its 25 year master plan between 1933 and 1937 (Grieshop 1989).

SOCIAL HISTORY

The bureaucracy of the national government enabled it to become responsible for the welfare of the nation's individual citizens through state and local governments and local representatives of the federal agencies. Again, although such concepts were not wholly new, they had not been activated at the federal level. The context of the depression demanded new solutions to the social welfare problem (Howard 1943: 651-52; Johnson 1941: 48; Scheslinger 1940: 1-4; U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 1934: 71-72). The national government created the CCC program to provide temporary relief and secondarily offer training in work skills to destitute young men. It taught them social maturity, new values, and a sense of responsibility, gave them hope for a brighter future, and offered limited education opportunities. And, it purposefully utilized this human resource to conserve the nation's environment (Paige 1985: 126, 132; Holland and Hill 1974 [1944]: 113; Wirth 1980: 100). Between 1933 and 1942, the Iowa program created work for 5% of the male population or 45,846 Iowans. Their accomplishments in the area of state park development provided recreational opportunities which were utilized soon after construction. It had been one of the goals of park development to create opportunities to engage the idle and boost their sense of optimism and confidence in the future. It also provided economic opportunities for local communities since CCC

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camps purchased many supplies locally. And, communities reciprocated by gifts of land and materials for the park projects (Iowa Secretary of State 1939-40: 308-09; Merrill 1981: 128; Wirth 1980: 145; Paige 1985: 127). As noted, both Danville and Burlington citizens began the move for the state's purchase of Geode's park lands.

CONSERVATION

The conservation projects reaching the scale of those executed by the CCC were economically if not philosophically inconceivable under normal conditions. These projects not only provided a source of make-work projects but began to refurbish the nation's ailing natural resources and as importantly highlighted their deteriorated condition to the nation. These resources could no longer be taken for granted (U.S. Federal Emergency Administration of Public Works 1934: 67; U.S. Federal Security Agency 1941: 3; Owen 1983: 82, 120). The conservation movement in Iowa had slowly begun as early as 1895 (IOWA CONSERVATIONISTS 1943: 2 (2): 9) and reached a clear expression as Iowans gained concern for the erosion of their natural resources in the REPORT ON THE IOWA TWENTY-FIVE YEAR CONSERVATION PLAN (Crane 1933: 2, 13-17). The plan spelled out both the steps necessary to restore the state's resources and to create a state-wide park system which ensured the preservation of these resources. The CCC projects in parks included conservation of the parks' natural resources. Park amenities were not to intrude upon them either visually or physically. Almost all if not all park development required landscaping through the planting of trees, shrubs, and grasses around new construction and many times throughout the entire park. Erosion control devices were constructed to rejuvenate park lands already suffering from erosion or to prevent its occurrence after park development (Ahlgren 1988). For example, at Geode, the CCC participated in landscaping, seeding, and sodding. Additionally, a conservation ethic guided the design and placement of park buildings at Geode State Park as noted below.

RECREATION

The CCC park development erected facilities which did not intrude upon the natural setting and thus ensured a healthful environment for the escape of local communities from the circumstances of the depression. Also, in the long run, increasing mechanization

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created greater leisure time but also increasing stress. To cope, the individual needed to seek relaxation and rejuvenation of mind and spirit in a non-mechanized environment or nature. This increasing mechanization also provided the means to physically reach beyond the urban environment through the automobile. Parks provided an opportunity to satisfy the immediate requirements for recreation created by the depression and as it lifted by the from the inspiration of his natural surroundings (Crane 1933: 144; IOWA CONSERVATIONIST 1941-42 [1941: 1(2): 7]; U.S. NPS 1941: v, 9; Owen 1983: 12). This identified public need became substantiated by the rise from 1,542,557 to 3,686,481 in Iowa state park visitation between 1928 and 1942 which also began to occur at Geode (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942]). Thus, the CCC's activity in state parks provided the necessary opportunity for recreation in the form of picnicking, nature study, and hiking. Conservation and recreation remained intimating tied in the development of Iowa state parks. Park development for such recreation was not to impair the natural surroundings. And, it became the state's responsibility to provide a wholesome environment in which its citizens could spend its leisure time (Crane 1933: 11; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1937: 2(3): 7-8]). This philosophy espoused early in Iowa was echoed in the federal government's study of recreation needs in 1934 and 1941 (U.S. NPS 1941: v).

Architectural Significance

The National Park Service developed the basis for park design utilized in state parks during the depression era, the philosophy of rustic architecture, beginning as early as 1917. This philosophy reached maturity by the 1930s and became obsolete by the early 1940s. With its emphasis upon landscaping and strong recognition of the need to conserve and remain sensitive to the natural environment, this design movement dovetailed with the goals of the Roosevelt era. And, because of its demand for intensive labor guided by a carefully prepared master plan for park development, "A work program intended to remedy unemployment and introduce new manual skills was suited to the construction of the architectural designs prescribed by rustic architecture" (Ahlgren 1987: 29).

Stated principles of rustic architecture emphasized that man-made resources be inconspicuous and blend with their natural environment. Design simplicity and the use of native materials,

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often from the park, furthered this goal. Because each region possessed a different environment, the design was specific to each region if not the park. Planning in Iowa was to be sensitive to the rolling hills of prairie and woodland often resulting in low, horizontal massing of buildings and structures of combined log and stone or frame. Park facilities also often followed a single historical allusion to the areas's past so that the buildings achieved a unity of design and blended culturally. For this reason, rustic architecture did possess some ties to the romantic movement. In Iowa, the historical theme generally referred to the pioneer past through the use of log and stone or to a general Native American theme. Study of the natural setting prior to development and the extensive use of master plans ensured harmony within the built environment and with their natural surroundings. Each resource contributed to the whole. Development occurred in areas of concentrated use such as the custodial group, the picnic area or the bathing area rather than being scattered across the park to minimized intrusion upon nature (Good 1938: I; Ahlgren 1987: 30, 78-79; 1988; Tweed 1977: 55, 63, 77, 94, 104). This orientation dictated simplicity of stylistic theme with a limited variety of construction materials and simple ornament. Many times, rustic architecture utilized elements from the American Craftsman style (1900-1930). Detailing often included large dormers, exposed rafters and purlins as well as other exposed building members, brackets, broad overhangs, and porches in addition to its low, horizontal massing (Gottfried and Jennings 1985: 140, 186, 222-23; Ahlgren 1988: 202-03; Good 1938: I, 8).

Specific guidelines for park facilities derived from these principles stressed the minimal impact of construction upon surroundings through hand labor and the use of native materials such as stone and timbers which underwent limited refinement by hand. The use of modern materials such as concrete was to be covered by a veneer of natural materials. Simple frame buildings were utilized for utilitarian functions. Low, horizontal lines in rolling hills of prairies and scattered woodlands assisted blending. Careful landscaping with native vegetation allowed the building or structure's transition into its setting as did the use of rough stone foundations, battered or buttressed walls, irregular building lines, and native materials placed in their natural position. In stone construction, the stone was laid in vaguely horizontal planes with larger stones toward the base but with a mix of size within general limits. Roofs were often of heavy, exposed timber supports covered with wood shingle. Thus, they blended with the surrounding tree line. The upper portions were heavy and

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durable like the lower portions of the building or structure (Good 1938: I; Ahlgren 1987: 5, 56; 1988; Tweed 1977: 30, 35, 54, 71, 93-94).

Such make-work programs as the CCC, the Works Progress Administration, and the National Youth Administration utilized this style extensively across the nation. To meet the volume of work demanded by the broad state park development, the National Park Service published a guide by Alert Good in 1935 and 1938, PARK STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES (1938) which in effect summarized rather than forecasted work in the style. This style is evident in a majority of Iowa parks in which the CCC, WPA or NYA worked. M.L. Hutton of the Iowa State Conservation Commission drew designs for the picnic shelter which were approved November 11, 1940 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1933-42 [plans, 11/17/40]).

The Geode State Park District resources represent the rustic style. The 1939 master plan places the buildings in groupings such as the picnic area and the custodial group (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1933-42a [master plan, 1939]). However, development of the park remained in its preliminary stages during the CCC era. Local limestone and oak timbers were utilized in the buildings. However, whether the CCC actually gathered the materials themselves is unknown. The materials are considerably more refined than in other state parks with earlier CCC resources. The timbers are squared and building stone roughed-faced ashlar. The alteration from the use of roughly refined materials may reflect the late construction date. Thus, the refined materials lose the allusion to the pioneer theme so common in the rustic style. Also, the open building, the picnic shelter (GE03) lacks the intricate timber roof support. The enclosed building, the latrine, does display the interior roof framing but lacks the exposed purlins and rafters. Instead, small brackets decorate the verge as they do on the picnic shelter. Rather than the common low, horizontal lines of CCC buildings, these resources appear more blocky. Elaborations are also simple and include the small brackets and the exposed framework. Thus, by the 1940s, the rustic style began to undergo noticeable change as it became replaced by other styles in the 1940s. The buildings in Geode State Park gain significance as an illustration of this trend.

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Comparative Statement

Because of the general level of resource integrity and the typical property subtypes displayed as well as the local tie of Danville to the park, the resources within the Geode State Park District gain significance at the local level. As noted in the descriptive statement, the buildings retain integrity of setting, location, overall design, material, feeling, association, and workmanship. And, except for some general deterioration, the shelter retains high integrity of design while the latrine has undergone some exterior modifications. The buildings are both relatively common to Iowa state parks which underwent development by the CCC. Thus, the district achieves significance at the local level. Their representation of the late development of the rustic style which is well displayed only at Stone State Park adds to their significance.

The district recognizes the contributions made by the CCC in the state park and therefore gains significance during the period of construction, 1939 to 1942. Because the two buildings continue a trend in park development and in the rustic style just slightly beyond the beginning date of the modern era to 1941 or March, 1942, they gain significance under criterion exception F. The significant date denotes the arrival of the VCCC Company 2725 in 1939.

Then, the Geode State Park District gains local significance between 1939 and 1942 under criterion exception F. It recognizes the contributions of VCCC Company 2725 in the construction of the rustic style in its latest phase of development. The district's boundaries associate the buildings within the picnic area within their natural setting, a lightly wooded rolling terrain. As a product of the CCC, the district gains significance for its historical associations with the CCC and its contribution to the areas of GOVERNMENT/POLITICS, SOCIAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, and RECREATION. The park is a direct product of interrelated historical movements in all these areas. It is through the combination of these threads of historical movements that CCC resources gain significance. Under the area of ARCHITECTURE, they also represent the main principles of mature rustic architecture and its modification by the 1940s. Despite the district's strong relationship to national and state movements, it possesses local significance. The bureaucratic government allowed movements of national origin to affect local areas. The local community of Danville became engaged in the movement. And, from the perspective of landscape architecture, the resources while following principles

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espoused at the national level, generally embody common resource subtypes thus becoming significant illustrations of CCC state park development in Iowa.

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Fell, Gary

1989 Oral data from Gary G. Fell, Park Ranger, Geode State Park, Danville (2/28).

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description:

The boundary encloses a small prominence upon which the latrine and picnic shelter sit. It begins at the southwest corner of the parking lot, follows the 700 foot contour line around in a semi-circle back to the southeast corner of the parking lot, and continues along the south edge of the parking lot to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary includes both buildings with its surrounding, lightly wooded landscape. It encompasses the prominence upon which the two resources rest.

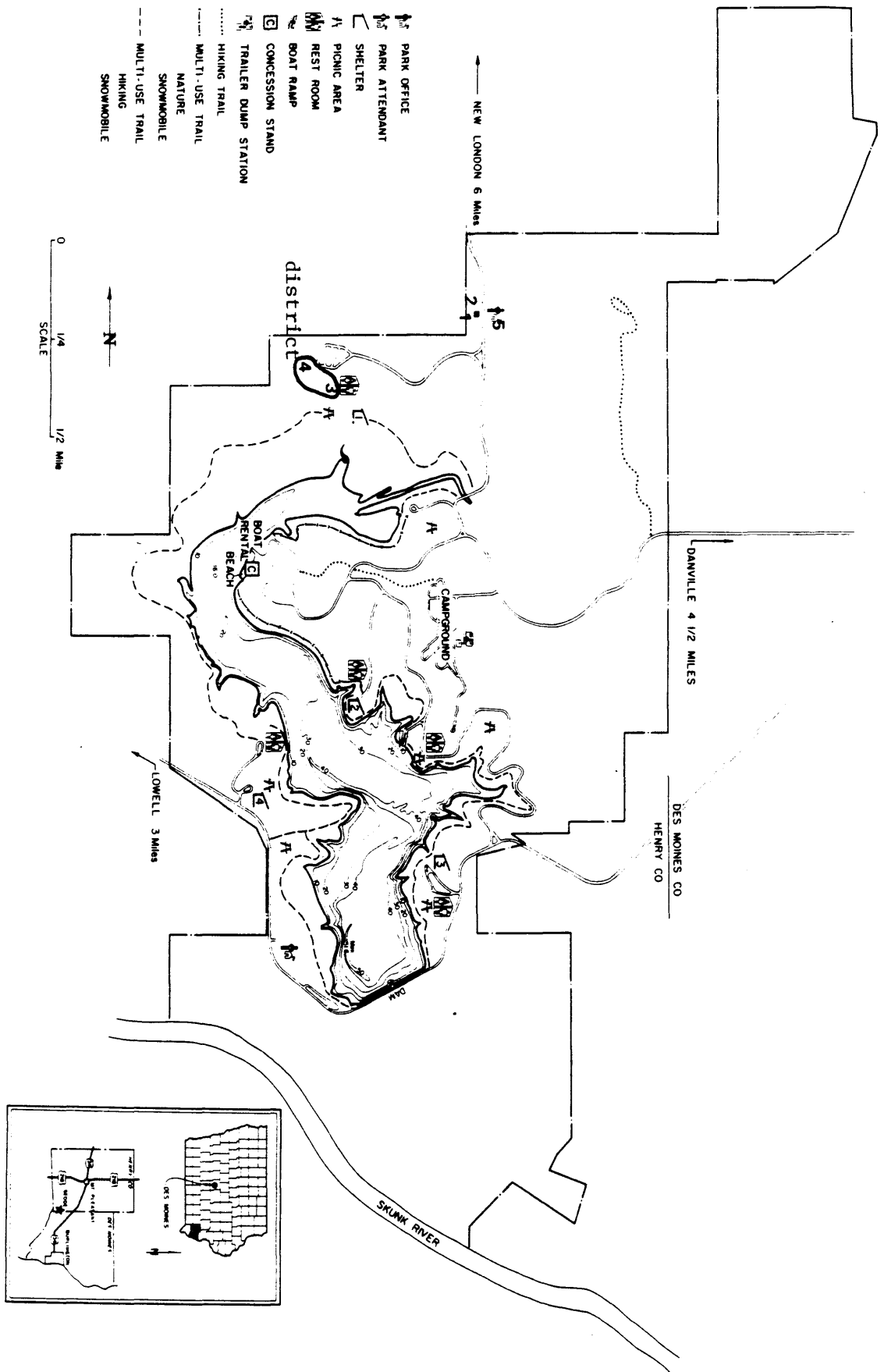
UTM Reference: A. 15-4521270-636060

- ↑ PARK OFFICE
- ↑ PARK ATTENDANT
- ⌒ SHELTER
- ⌒ PICNIC AREA
- ⌒ REST ROOM
- ⌒ BOAT RAMP
- ⌒ CONCESSION STAND
- ⌒ TRAILER DUMP STATION
- ⋯ HIKING TRAIL
- ⋯ MULTI-USE TRAIL
- ⋯ NATURE
- ⋯ SNOWMOBILE
- ⋯ MULTI-USE TRAIL
- ⋯ HIKING
- ⋯ SNOWMOBILE

0 1/4 1/2 MILE
SCALE



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A Park User Permit is required. Annual permits are available at the park office or at county recorders' offices. Daily permits are available at posted locations in the park.

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Photographic Identification

Name: Geode State Park

Location: Danville, Henry County, Iowa

Negatives: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical
Society of Iowa

Photographer: Ken Hymen

Date: 3/1/89

Description:

1. View of the picnic shelter (GE03) facing northwest.
2. View of the latrine (GE04) facing northeast.
3. View of picnic area showing the picnic shelter and the latrine facing southeast.