

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only
received **MAY 16 1983**
date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Silver Falls State Park Concession Building Area

and/or common Silver Falls Lodge

2. Location

street & number 20024 Silver Falls Highway N/A not for publication

city, town Sublimity vicinity of Fifth Congressional District

state Oregon code 41 county Marion code 047

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<u>N/A</u> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Oregon State Parks and Recreation Division

street & number 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem N/A vicinity of state Oregon 97310

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Oregon State Parks & Recreation Division

street & number 525 Trade Street SE

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Statewide Inventory of Historic Properties has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date 1970 federal state county local

depository for survey records State Historic Preservation Office

city, town Salem state Oregon 97310

7. Description

Condition
 excellent deteriorated
 good ruins
 fair unexposed

Check one
 unaltered
 altered

Check one
 original site
 moved date N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Silver Falls State Park is located on State Highway 214 in the western foothills of the Cascade Range. The park is 25 miles east of Salem, 15 miles south of Silverton, and 70 miles from the Portland Metropolitan area. With a total of 8,546 acres of Douglas fir and western hemlock forest, Silver Falls is Oregon's largest state park. Encompassing the confluence of north and south branches of Silver Creek, it is noteworthy for a system of trails connecting most of the park's 14 waterfalls. Five of the waterfalls cascade from heights over 100 feet. The most visited park feature is South Falls, which cascades 177 feet to the canyon of South Fork Silver Creek. The most noteworthy of original park improvements carried out between 1934 and 1942 are concentrated at South Falls.

The area proposed for nomination encompasses 9.63 acres of level ground on the east bank of South Fork Silver Creek adjacent to South Falls. There are five buildings in the nominated area: 1) the Concession Building (now called the Lodge) surrounded by stone terraces; 2) a garage situated on the rear service yard adjacent to the Concession Building; 3) the Lodge (now called the Log Cabin); 4) the Community Kitchen (now called the Stone Picnic Shelter); and, 5) a stone and wood toilet building dating from 1972. Throughout this documentation, original names of historic buildings will be used. Two other historic improvements are included in the nominated area also: a rough-laid basalt wall lining the precipice at South Falls, and the South Falls viewpoint.

Land making up Silver Falls State Park was acquired over many years from various owners. The nominated area was acquired with other holdings around South Falls in 1931. Initial park development was begun in December 1934, by 20 members of the Emergency Conservation Work Organization. In March of 1935, the State Highway Commission and State Parks signed an agreement with the National Park Service and the U.S. Army to establish a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program at Silver Falls. The CCC program continued to 1942. Two hundred enrollees, including both skilled and unskilled workers, carried out almost all of the early projects at Silver Falls State Park, including the trail system in the canyons, footbridges, water and sewerage systems, parking areas, picnic facilities and youth camps. National Park Service officials in San Francisco and Washington, D.C., approved project plans which were developed in cooperation with State and Park officials. Plans and specifications for the Concession Building ensemble were provided by the National Park Service, with J. Elwood Isted acting as principal designer and draftsman.

The style of architecture propounded by the National Park Service in the era of the Great Depression was based, in part, upon the Arts and Crafts ideal and upon the precedent of the "great camps" in the Adirondack Mountains of New York built as private, "rustic" retreats for the well-to-do around the turn of the century. In addition to native materials which provide continuity with the landscape, hand wrought iron hardware and high quality workmanship of all kinds were characteristic of major facilities built by the Civilian Conservation Corps under supervision of the National Park Service. After the work relief programs of the Depression ended, such a standard of workmanship would never again be achieved on such a broad scale.

Buildings making up the Concession Building ensemble in Silver Falls State Park are typical of the Adirondack Rustic/National Park Style in that their construction materials, including native stone, rough-hewn logs and cedar shakes, were purposely selected to harmonize with the natural setting. The buildings are arranged informally in a stand of second-growth Douglas fir in an S-curve configuration dictated by functional relationships and topography. They are linked to South Falls viewpoint by a network of paved and natural surface pathways.

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Understory plants consist of salal, snowberry and other shrubs, several varieties of ferns, and native ground covers. There are also a few areas of cultivated lawn, picnic tables, water fountains--all minor accessories for day-use recreational activities. The major attraction to visitors in this area of the park is South Falls, and the secondary use is picnicking. Over the years, there has been a conscious effort to maintain the landscape in its natural state, in so far as possible, as part of the scenic attraction. Even the only non-historic structure in the nominated area, the toilet building of 1972, carries through the ideal of integration with a forested setting by means of its exterior detailing.

Improvements in the nominated area are more particularly described as follows.

Concession Building/Lodge

The stone and timber-framed Concession Building erected in 1940, is located at the southeasternmost edge of the 9.63-acre nominated area, approximately 600 feet southeasterly of South Falls. It is the largest and most elaborately finished of all CCC-constructed buildings in the park and is the larger and better-preserved of two major examples of Depression era stone architecture in the Oregon State Park system. Essentially rectangular in plan, the building measures 65 by 112 feet and is oriented with its main axis northwesterly to southeasterly. A primary entrance is located in the south end elevation, which is in closest proximity to the paved parking area, 50 feet or so to the east. The principal facade, however, faces northwesterly, in the direction of South Falls, and the original main entrance opened into an entrance vestibule in the northwest side of the building.

The building is a story and a half in height and rests on concrete footings and perimeter foundation. Walls are broken, or random-range ashlar to the top of the ground story, with tapered, or battered wing walls on all gable end sections. The ridge of the primary gable runs longitudinally, with cross-axial gable-roofed sections at either end of the building. The roof framing system consists of huge scissor trusses of hewn timber and peeled log rafters and plates. Roof cover of split cedar shakes is newly replaced according to original specifications with Boston hips and ridges, but the framing system remains sound. In the interior, except in end sections where ceilings enclose the ground story, the timber trusses are exposed to view. Gable end exteriors are clad with board and batten siding and are pierced by paired, multi-paned casement windows or louvered vents. At either end of the northerly cross-axial section of the building, there are minor gable-roofed sections offset from the major gable. In the ground story, typical window openings are frameless, set in deep masonry reveals with wood casings, fitted with double-hung window sash with six over six lights, and arranged in banks of two or three. Large straight-sided stone chimneys break the roofline at either end of the building.

The final distinguishing feature of the exterior is the veranda which wraps around the southwesterly corner of the building, the beam of its lean-to roof supported by massive, peeled log posts. Between the posts are railings composed of peeled logs. The flagstone floor of the veranda extends northerly as an uncovered dining terrace until it abuts the northerly cross-axial gable-roofed end section. A similar, uncovered flagstone terrace is adjacent to the center section of the east elevation. Rotted posts and railings of the

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veranda were painstakingly patched and replaced in kind, as necessary, in a restoration effort commenced under present park management in 1980.

As originally laid out, the longitudinal stem of the interior contained a lobby and lounge and large dining area open to the rafters. These areas are still spatially intact, although the built-in lunch counter which occupied the northeast corner of the dining area was later removed. The dining area and lounge are served by a massive double chimney of native stone with hewn timber mantle shelves on stone corbels. Typical interior wall finish is tongue and groove mill work. In the dining area, it is laid vertically to a height of nine feet and horizontally in the space remaining above intervening panels laid in a herringbone pattern. The stone floor is inlaid with wood in a bold grid pattern. The concession area occupied the southwest corner section, and, on the opposite side of the lobby and lounge are the restrooms. The north end section of the building contains a kitchen, utility and storage rooms, and a small toilet. Although painted, original kitchen cabinetry is intact. In the northeasternmost corner of this rear section is a hallway to the back door opening onto the service yard and a dog-leg staircase ascending to a caretaker's apartment suite above the kitchen-utility level.

As was typical of work-relief projects of this kind during the Depression era, designers and craftsmen were employed in the outfitting as well as the construction of major buildings. Most of the original hand-wrought hardware is still in place in the Concession Building. Especially noteworthy was the solidly-constructed suite of myrtlewood furniture designed by Margery Hoffman Smith in the Arts and Crafts tradition. This updated Mission style furniture, including tables, chairs and benches, was manufactured under auspices of the Works Progress Administration. The logs were specially selected from a myrtle grove on the Chetco River in Curry County, and the lumber was kiln-dried by the Oregon State College Forestry Department. Though much of this furniture has been dispersed over the years, a representative sample is stored on the premises. The building is presently unused except as an exhibit area.

Floor plans and elevation drawings for the Concession Building bear the typical title block of the National Park Service, which was "cooperating" with the Oregon State Highway Commission. The earliest were prepared by J. Elwood Isted, apparently an employee of the Park Service, and dated March 1, 1938. State Parks Superintendent Samuel H. Boardman signed his concurrence in the plans on behalf of the State.

Garage

Adjacent to the northerly end of the Concession Building is a flagstone-paved service yard measuring approximately 75 feet square. Its perimeter is screened by a high wood fence on stone base. At the east edge of the service yard is a stone garage, 25 feet square in ground plan with a shake-clad gable roof with overhanging eaves. The split cedar shakes are recent in-kind replacement material. The garage was designed and constructed in complement to the Concession Building and matches the major building in style and materials. Its two entrance bays in the west face are enclosed by overhead doors and open onto the service yard. Access to the yard is provided by a gateway in the northerly perimeter fence.

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Lodge/Log Cabin

The Lodge, a single-story log structure roughly 35 feet square in plan, is located approximately 200 feet northwesterly of the northwest corner of the Concession Building service yard. It was built in 1936. Like the Concession Building, it is oriented northwesterly to southeasterly. Its principal facade, distinguished by a full-length veranda with four 12-inch log posts supporting the roof overhang, faces southeasterly.

Plans for the Lodge were drawn by National Park Service designer and draftsman J. Elwood Isted, dated January 30, 1936, and approved on behalf of the State Highway Commission by Samuel H. Boardman, State Parks Superintendent.* The foundation plan measures 34' 9 1/2" by 35' 9 1/2", and the ridge of the double-pitched roof runs east and west, in the direction of the slightly longer axis. Log walls rest on a concrete foundation which rises about 9 inches above grade level. The fir logs, peeled of bark, are laid horizontally with notched corner joints in which the butt ends exceed the wall plane about a foot. Tapering wing walls of interior log partitions intersecting either end wall were originally tapered, but were cut down in minor renovations of 1938. Each log course is approximately 8" high, the top and bottom of each planed to insure a flush joint. The roof overhangs the walls on front and rear slopes, where rafter ends are exposed, and is covered by in-kind replacement roofing of split cedar shakes. The log ridge pole and purlins are exposed on either gable end. A massive chimney of native stone is centered in the rear wall. The main entrance is centered in the front elevation, and similar doors with four-light panels were originally in either end elevation. The door in the west end was later filled in. Typical multi-paned, wood sash windows were arranged in pairs or in banks of three. Window openings were modified somewhat in 1938, and some sash has been replaced in-kind since that time, but the openings nevertheless convey the multi-paned effect which was original to the building.

As originally constructed, the interior was subdivided by log partitions at either end wall, the southeasterly corner being fully enclosed as a kitchen. The kitchen partitions were later removed to create a single interior space uninterrupted but for two log posts placed in lieu of the load-bearing partitions. The roof framing system is enclosed by a ceiling of standard tongue and groove mill work. The floor is concrete. All interior wood work is natural finished, merely oiled and varnished. The focal feature of the interior is the chimney piece of native stone with hewn log mantle shelf on a pair of log corbels which is centered in the north wall. Paleontological deposits are revealed in the face of masonry units functioning as voussoirs in the flat-arched firebox opening. The locally-quarried sedimentary rock, or basalt, was selected and arranged to display this special quality.

The Lodge, initially operated as a snack bar, is now used for group daytime activities. In recent years, the building exterior was misguidedly painted with standard park maintenance green enamel paint, which caused moisture build-up on the interior. Under present park management, the paint was removed by hand-scraping and power wash methods, after which the somewhat scarred surface was sealed with clear sealer. With the addition of ventilation in the attic, moisture, or condensation problems are expected to be alleviated.

*In a retrospective account of the development of Silver Falls State Park dated November, 1951, retired State Parks Superintendent Samuel Boardman reported that the Lodge/Log Cabin had been designed by State Bridge Engineer C. B. McCullough, whose ability to blend aesthetic values with sound engineering gained national recognition.

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Toilet Building

The non-historic toilet building, constructed in 1972, is situated approximately 30 feet north of the rear face of the Lodge. Measuring 30 by 60 feet, the single-story building with steep, double-pitched roof, is oriented with its main axis roughly east to west. Of frame construction on a concrete foundation, the building is finished with board and batten siding and battered corner piers of native basalt. Roof cover is cedar shakes. Rafter and ridge pole ends and plates are exposed. Entrance patios at either end of the building are screened by free standing stone walls with slat work which are joined to the end walls by pergola-like framing. The interior is finished with concrete floor, plywood paneling, gypsum board and ceramic tile. Ribbon openings high in the end walls are fitted with aluminum-frame, hatch-type windows with opaque glazing.

Community Kitchen/Stone Picnic Shelter

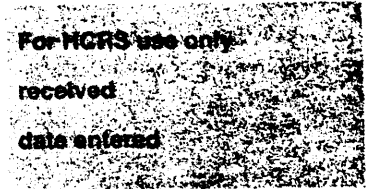
The Community Kitchen is situated on a rise of ground approximately 120 feet northeasterly of the northeast corner of the toilet building. The single-story building was constructed of broken ashlar in 1941. T-shaped in plan, its main axis is oriented in an east-west direction. The main volume has a ground plan approximately 40 feet square and a low, double-pitched roof on exposed rafters, log ridge pole and plates. The ridge of the main volume roof runs at a right angle to the main axis of the building. Gable ends are enclosed with board and batten siding. Rotted members of the roof framing system were recently patched or replaced as need required under supervision of current park management, and the split cedar shake roof was replaced in kind. Wing walls at either gable end and at intermediate points along the westerly elevation are tapered, or battered. The expansive window openings are frameless and have casings of log half-rounds with log mullions and horizontal members. Originally, these openings were fitted with fixed panes of glass, which have since been removed. The ell extending from the east side of the main volume is finished in a similar vein except that window openings are lacking and the outer end is a port cochere. Doors have diagonal tongue and groove millwork. The exterior of this building, in addition to that of the log Lodge, had been painted with green enamel paint in recent years, but the paint was scraped and washed away in the rehabilitation carried out under present park management.

At the core of the building is a massive stone chimney with fireplace opening in the west face. The floor is concrete throughout, and the floor of the ell is several steps lower in elevation than that of the main volume. In the lower level, or ell are three stone, wood-burning cook stoves with iron grills radiating from a common core. These stoves, vented by the central chimney, were filled with concrete in later years, and are no longer operable. However, most of the cast iron fittings, including fire box doors, are intact. Wrought iron lantern brackets are still in place also. As a means of compensating for the lack of natural light in the ell, unobtrusive skylights were added in either roof slope in the latest rehabilitation.

National Park Service plans and drawings for the Community Kitchen, as built, have not come to light thus far, but a similar version of the design, by [Harold?] Doty, was drawn by "G. O. S.", dated June 8, 1941, and approved by Samuel Boardman.

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South Falls Viewpoint

At the northwesternmost edge of the nominated area, on the east rim of the canyon of South Fork Silver Creek, is the traditional gathering place from which viewers gain best advantage of the spectacle of South Falls cascading from a lip of lava 177 feet to the canyon floor. This vantage point, roughly 100 feet square in area, is approximately 400 feet northeasterly of the falls and is slightly lower than the falls in elevation. Because its use pre-dates the dedication of Silver Falls State Park in 1933, the viewpoint is a contributing feature of the nominated area. From the time of the park's dedication, and perhaps well before, this site had some form of seating, such as log benches, for those wishing to view the sheer drop of South Falls. Over the years, retaining walls, new benches and asphalt paving were added to protect the site from erosion and deterioration due to heavy use. The existing seating and low stone walls date from 1972. These, while supplanting the improvements of the CCC, are nonetheless in keeping with the design detail of the historic structures of the Depression era.

South Falls Precipice Guard Wall

Southwesterly of the viewpoint is a wall of basalt rubble, laid up rough, measuring two to three feet in height and extending, serpentine fashion, some 300 feet along the precipice adjacent to South Falls. The guard wall antedates the establishment of a CCC camp at Silver Falls State Park and is significant as the oldest park improvement in the nominated area. It is thought to have been constructed by the Emergency Conservation Work Organization crew, which commenced operations at Silver Falls State Park in December 1934.

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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) outdoor recreation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		

Specific dates 1934–1942 **Builder/Architect** National Park Service, J. Elwood Isted, principal designer and draftsman

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Concession Building area in Silver Falls State Park, located in the western foothills of the Cascade Range in Oregon, is significant as the focal point of the largest State Park holding in the state and because it contains an ensemble of noteworthy buildings and improvements constructed as part of a federal work relief program undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1935 and 1942. Within the 9.63-acre nominated area adjacent to South Falls on South Fork Silver Creek are a precipice wall of basalt rubble-work dating from 1934, an historic viewpoint most recently improved in 1972, a log Lodge built in 1936, a Concession Building and Garage and Community Kitchen constructed of broken ashlar and completed in 1940 and 1941, respectively, and a compatible but non-historic wood and stone toilet building erected in 1972.

It was in Silver Falls State Park, a forested holding currently encompassing 8,546 acres, that the longest-lived CCC camp established in the Oregon State Park system was set up. In addition to the improvements at South Falls, crews of the CCC, operating under supervision of the National Park Service, State Park officials and the U. S. Army, constructed the trail system which linked South Falls to eight other waterfalls on the north and south branches of Silver Creek. They constructed footbridges, water and sewerage systems, parking areas, picnic facilities, and youth camps which made Silver Falls the greatest non-federal public park in the state. Typically, personnel of the CCC camps in Oregon State Parks included 200 enrollees, a supervisor, eight foremen, an Army captain, a physician, education director, landscape architect, engineer, and 15 skilled workers in forestry and other trades who instructed the enrollees. Construction materials were furnished by the state. Normally, plans and specifications for projects were furnished by the CCC general design section and approved by the National Park Service. For projects of larger scope, plans were furnished by National Park Service designers and draftsmen and approved by the State Parks Superintendent on behalf of the State Parks Division and its parent organization, the Oregon State Highway Commission.

Land acquisition for Silver Falls State Park was begun in 1931 under the direction of Oregon's first Superintendent of State Parks, Samuel H. Boardman, a key figure in the Oregon scenic conservation movement. The park was formally dedicated July 23, 1933. Observances marking the 50th anniversary of the park are planned for the summer of 1983.

Plans and drawings for the historic buildings of the Silver Falls State Park Concession Building Area were provided by the National Park Service. J. Elwood Isted was the principal designer and draftsman. While the buildings, unlike the park, are not yet 50 years old, they meet the National Register criteria for exceptional significance because they represent the best design, the most comprehensive planning, and the highest degree of integrity among National Park style buildings erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Oregon State Parks.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See continuation sheet

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 9.63

Quadrangle name Lyons, Oregon

Quadrangle scale 1:62500

UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>3</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

D	<u>1</u> <u>0</u>	<u>5</u> <u>2</u> <u>7</u> <u>0</u> <u>7</u> <u>5</u>	<u>4</u> <u>9</u> <u>6</u> <u>9</u> <u>2</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

E	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

F	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

G	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

H	<u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>	<u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u> <u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------------	------

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	<u>N/A</u>	code
-------	------------	------	--------	------------	------

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ed Schoaps, Park Planner, and Elisabeth Potter, SHPO

organization Oregon State Parks & Recreation Division date February 10, 1983

street & number 525 Trade Street SE telephone 503/378-5001

city or town Salem state Oregon 97310

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature 

title Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer date April 27, 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register


Keeper of the National Register

date 6/30/83

Attest:

Chief of Registration

date

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The style of recreational buildings propounded by the National Park Service in the era of the Great Depression was based on the Arts and Crafts ideal. Hand craftsmanship was emphasized because it was integral to the Arts and Crafts esthetic and because it gave employment to thousands of skilled workers. In building design, the rustic ideal, achieved through the use of natural-finished native materials, also was emphasized, sometimes for the sake of picturesque rusticity, but chiefly to promote harmony between buildings and their environment. The rustic ideal reached highest expression shortly before the turn of the century in the great camps, or retreats of wealthy Easterners in the Adirondack Mountains. By the 1930s, the National Park style had emerged as a blend of the English Arts and Crafts style and what has come to be known as the Adirondack Rustic style. The many projects designed by the National Park Service and carried out under auspices of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration in local, state and federal parks during the Depression can be satisfactorily evaluated in the context of a national emergency. After the work relief programs of the Depression era ended, such a standard of workmanship would never again be achieved on such a broad scale.

From 1934 to 1942, a demand for recreational facilities in the fledgling Oregon State Park system was anticipated by the projects of the Civilian Conservation Corps. During this period, 17 CCC camps were established to carry out development in as many as 45 separate State Park holdings. Of the 17 camps, which were temporary in nature, little remains. Basic development work of the CCC has survived but, typically, has been updated or superseded, with the result that isolated improvements may be found here and there. The greatest concentration of buildings constructed by the CCC may be found at Silver Falls State Park and Jessie M. Honeyman Memorial State Park on the Oregon coast. In fact, these two state parks contain the most extensive and best preserved recreational ensembles built by the CCC in Oregon outside of the National Forests. As the stone Bathhouse on Woahink Lake is the focal point of Honeyman State Park, the Concession Building at South Falls is the largest and most elaborately finished building in Silver Falls State Park. The Concession Building even exceeds the Honeyman State Park Bathhouse in scope and in its state of preservation. The Bathhouse at Honeyman State Park was determined by the Keeper to be eligible for listing in the National Register Sept. 11, 1980. With its native stone walls and chimneys, peeled log rafters, porch columns and railings, its hewn timber roof trusses, split cedar shake roof, its natural-finished tongue and groove interior wall cover laid in herringbone panels, its stone and wood parquet floor, its wrought iron hardware and remnants of a full suite of Mission style myrtlewood furniture, the Concession Building at Silver Falls State Park possesses exceptional artistic value and embodies the distinctive characteristics of the National Park style.

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It is worthwhile to point out some of the events which gave rise to the extraordinary scope of development in Silver Falls State Park. The sylvan area with its remarkable concentration of waterfalls was for some years promoted as a prospective National Park by Charles L. McNary, who served Oregon in the United States Senate from 1918 to 1944. Accordingly, a field inspection report was filed in 1926, and in 1928 Senator McNary had bills introduced to both houses of Congress proposing addition of the Silver Creek Falls area to the National Park system. The bills failed to pass owing to lack of support from National Park Service officials. Following a second field inspection in 1935, Arno B. Cammerer, Director of the National Park Service, concurred in the recommendation of Assistant Director Conrad Wirth that the state-administered park be dropped from further consideration and removed from the active list. At the time, the area was considered too involved with private holdings and too cut over by early logging operations to meet National Park criteria.

While the area around South Falls had been used traditionally for recreation purposes by residents of Marion County, Silver Falls State Park was not established until 1931. It was created and expanded, essentially, to protect eight or nine scenic waterfalls in the rugged canyons of the north and south forks of Silver Creek. Other waterfalls eventually were included, and the trail system built to connect these features has since been declared a National Recreational Trail known as the "Trail of Ten Falls."

The dream of a public park began as early as 1900 with Silverton studio photographer June D. Drake, who disclosed the little known natural wonders of the canyons of Silver Creek in the striking photographs he took in various seasons. Drake circulated his photographs to those who could advance the cause of park development, and he served as scout, or guide to visiting officials. Spectacle also played a part in the increasing public awareness of the park. Following a lengthy tradition of circus stunts at South Falls, in the early 1920s, dare-devil Al Faussett climbed in a canvas boat stuffed with inner tubes, rode out over South Falls on a specially constructed flume, and plummeted 177 feet to the canyon floor.* To the relief of the crowd assembled along the canyon wall, he emerged without major injury. Among other products, Faussett's stunt promoted canvas manufactured by the Portland, Oregon firm of Hirsch-Weis, makers of outdoor clothing.

As has been pointed out, development of the park holding was made possible by Federal work relief programs set up by the Roosevelt administration during the Great Depression. The work was carried out in cooperation with the National Park Service by the Oregon State Highway Commission, which had been authorized by state legislation of 1925 to acquire land for park purposes. With characteristic zeal, State Parks Superintendent Samuel H. Boardman, a champion of scenic conservation, amassed park land from a patchwork of holdings, and the park grew to encompass nearly two thousand acres. The obscure townsite of Silver Falls City was obliterated in the making of the park.

Although the last chance for addition to the National Park system had faded in 1935, the watershed of Silver Creek was selected as a Recreational Demonstration Project area, a step which ensured the status of Silver Falls as the largest and best equipped recreational area in the state park system.

*For many years, the height of South Falls was popularly believed to be 184 feet.

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As part of the Federal Land Program, the National Park Service initiated the Silver Creek Recreational Demonstration Project area, a 5,000-acre tract adjacent to Silver Falls State Park. The submarginal lands purchased for RDP purposes frequently had been badly used in terms of natural resources, and the Silver Creek watershed was a classic example of an overly "mined" forest subject to erosion and fire. The object of the program was to restore such areas to meet the needs of outdoor recreation. Demonstration, or model camp plans were developed to provide permanent camping facilities for organized groups of youths and adults.

Silver Creek Recreational Demonstration Project was one of only two RDPs on the West Coast. As such, it joined two other recreational areas in Oregon under the administrative jurisdiction of the National Park Service. Crater Lake National Park and Oregon Caves National Monument have remained under National Park Service jurisdiction to the present day. Beginning ca. 1938, National Park Service project manager Harry Buckley planned and supervised development of Silver Creek RDP with miles of trails, two youth camps and other improvements. The State Highway Commission approved taking over the Recreational Demonstration Project in 1947, and thereafter the park was solely administered by the State of Oregon. Acquisition of land continued over the intervening years with the result that, including areas under lease from the Bureau of Land Management, Silver Falls State Park presently encompasses 8,546 acres.

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The Silver Falls State Park Concession Building Area is located in NE 1/4, Section 14, Township 8 South, Range 1 East of the Willamette Meridian. The nominated area encompasses 9.63-acres, more or less, to include all of the historic improvements in the area surrounding South Falls, the focal point of Silver Falls State Park in Marion County, Oregon. The nominated area is bounded on the south by an east-west line beginning at the southwest corner of the old parking area east of the Concession Building and extending approximately 365 feet due west to the east bank of South Fork Silver Creek. The line then turns 45 degrees west of north, following the Creek's edge, for approximately 400 feet. Then the boundary turns 30 degrees east of north, for approximately 345 feet, then turns 45 degrees west of north for approximately 130 feet. From this point, the boundary heads due north for approximately 132 feet, due east for approximately 538 feet, then due south for approximately 95 feet. From this point, the line roughly follows an old roadway by turning 36 degrees west of south for approximately 142 feet, then 20 degrees east of south for approximately 207 feet, then turning 35 degrees 15 minutes south of east for approximately 125 feet. The final traverse is on a line 10 degrees west of south, for approximately 340 feet, to the point of beginning.