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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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 Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
other names/site number N/A

2. Location

Bear Brook State Park - 1/2 mile from park entrance; 160 yds. south of the
street & number Allenstown-Deerfield Rd. intersection N/A not for publication
city, town Allenstown N/A vicinity
state New Hampshire code NH county Merrimack code 013 zip code 03275

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
		Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	_____	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	_____	_____ structures
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	_____	_____ objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
N/A

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.

Melvin C. Muller April 23, 1992
Signature of certifying official Date
NEW HAMPSHIRE
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:)

Bruce R. Sarge 6/11/92

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/institutional housing

GOVERNMENT

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION & CULTURE/outdoor recreation

OTHER: maintenance facility

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

NO STYLE

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation WOOD

walls WOOD/shingle

roof ASPHALT

other N/A

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District is comprised of eight of the original thirteen modest, single-story frame structures that were constructed over a two-month period in 1935. These Army-designed, prefabricated buildings are characteristic of CCC camps assembled from 1935 until the program terminated in 1942. Erected from inexpensive materials, including tarpaper, 2" x 4"s and Southern yellow pine boards, these lightweight, mass-produced structures were designed for economy of construction and brief occupancy. The original, mostly long and rectangular, configuration of all structures has been maintained with the exception of the educational building, which has been enlarged by a small lateral wing addition and the barracks, which has a minor shed addition. A one-story, frame infill structure recently has been inserted between the recreation building and the generator/showers/supply room building. This 'link building' is the only noncontributing structure within the district boundaries. The early tarpaper sheathing of all buildings has been covered for perhaps a half-century with wood shingle siding. No ornament enriches any exterior or interior surface. Each building interior has been altered to provide work, living or museum space. Principal camp buildings are distributed along the "camp street." The camp structures cluster beneath pine trees planted by the Bear Brook CCC enrollees that have matured to provide a dense canopy of cover and shade to much of the site. Disposed in a typical CCC camp configuration, a sufficient number of original buildings survive in a relatively unaltered condition to provide a sense of the camp's initial organization and use. Original sites have not been redeveloped and

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intrusions are minimal, which strengthens this integrity of setting and association. The nominated acreage includes ten contributing buildings and a single noncontributing structure.

* * * * *

The Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp Historic District is located in the Merrimack Valley within a few miles of Concord, the state capital, and it is centrally positioned in the state's most populous region. As New Hampshire's largest developed state park, Bear Brook State Park receives heavy use of its recreational and camping facilities.

The sandy Merrimack Valley soils have never been known as particularly fertile or productive. A 1938 publication described the region's lands as characterized by "low hills and only a moderate amount of tillable soil" (Federal Writers' Project, 1938: 11). Area lands consist mostly of rolling terrain underpinned by metamorphic and igneous (principally granite) rock formations. Prior to the federal government's acquisition in 1935 of the 6463 acres that would become the Bear Brook State Park lands, the region was primarily recognized as an industrial area.

The Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp Historic District is sited in the northwestern quadrant of the state park, a half mile from the park entrance and approximately 160 yards south of the intersection with the Allenstown-Deerfield Road. Bear Brook flows to the west of the nominated precinct. The historic district covers almost two acres and sits at an altitude of approximately 350 feet above sea level. It retains its camp-like appearance despite the loss of original buildings and its use for much of the last half-century as a state park maintenance facility and public recreational area. The camp's principal buildings front the "camp street" that runs through the center of the district; secondary roads provide access to remaining camp structures and the newer maintenance buildings that lie just outside of the district boundaries. Photographs

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taken of the camp shortly after it opened shows the buildings in their cleared setting. The hundreds of pine trees planted by the Bear Brook Cees have matured and today they shade much of the camp site.

On 15 October 1935, the newly organized 1123rd Company CCC arrived at Bear Brook State Park to take command of their camp. Many who joined the CCC spent their first days in tents, but members of the 1123rd Co. found a near-completed, fully-electrified base camp waiting for them. According to an Army publication, the compound consisted of thirteen one-story, prefabricated buildings that had been under construction since August 16 by a group from the 123rd Co. CCC stationed at Raymond, NH (Official Annual, 1937:83). More than thirteen buildings can be seen in early photograph (c. 1937) of the camp, and it appears that the government did not count a shed, latrine or oil building as a "structure." This photograph also shows that there was no building on the site where a crafts house (now demolished) stood by 1937.

During the nine-year history of the CCC, a few camps were constructed but never used, others were occupied for only a brief period, but most camps were planned for approximately eighteen months of operation (Merrill, 1981: 16). To curb costs and expedite construction, the Army designed an inexpensive building prototype with interchangeable parts that could be easily transported to camp sites. With a few modifications these prefabricated buildings served as barracks, dining halls, recreational halls and administrative offices (Paige, 1985: 70-71). By 1935 all CCC camps, including the one at Bear Brook, were constructed of these lightweight materials and preassembled components that were easily shipped by rail and truck.

The slight building materials and the sill-on-the-ground construction make it clear that the Bear Brook camp buildings went up quickly and were thought to be temporary; certainly, they were never meant to last as long as they have. The impermanent, utilitarian character of the

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buildings likely accounts for the lack of documentation for alterations, including the resheathing with wood shingles, interior partitioning and modifications to door and window openings, that have occurred post-CCC occupancy.

The tarred felt roof sheathing used on the principal original camp buildings has long been covered by green asphalt shingles. Gable roofs covered every camp structure, except for the shed-roofed Forestry and Army garages and the blacksmith shop. Walls of all buildings, with the exception of the oil house, were constructed of tarpaper attached to Southern pine boards which were nailed to 2" x 4"s. Photographs taken of the camp shortly after it opened show the rippled tarpaper sheathing, which was embedded with small pieces of mica. The current wood shingle sheathing on the Bear Brook camp buildings was applied directly over the tarpaper and it dates from post-CCC occupancy. Camp alumni report that the simple wood trim around openings, cornerboards and cornices received a coat or two of green paint. All camp structures are devoid of ornament, exterior or interior, which again points up their utilitarian, temporary status. In spite of their identical materials and standardized parts, there are subtle differences in buildings that signal the social distinctions that existed at the camp. Foundations provide a telling clue to building hierarchies. Most camp buildings rest on sills placed directly on the ground. At the Headquarters building - the province of the camp's Army and Forestry commanders - the sills are much larger and they are raised protectively on posts.

Building interiors throughout the camp were similarly detailed. Interior wall sheathing consisted of 4' x 8' wood-fiber wall board panels, 1/2-3/4" thick, that were nailed to the 2" x 4"s. In a few of the buildings the wood-fiber wall board has been replaced with plywood panels. Tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine was used for flooring in each building. A frame six-light, hopper window, which is installed at regularly spaced intervals along the upper reaches of

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building elevations, is standard throughout the camp. Tie cables have been installed in several buildings to stabilize the walls. Historic photographs show that the second set of 2" x 4" down braces and the lower set of collars that are found in most of the buildings are original and perhaps were intended to provide extra support for the heavy snow loads.

Alderic Violette, a CCC alumnus who served as Clerk of the Works during the summer of 1935 at the nearby 1147th Co. CCC at Warner, NH, preserved the records showing the labor costs for construction at the Warner camp. The two camps were under construction almost concurrently, and the figures for the Warner camp provide a sense of the expense of assembling the Bear Brook buildings. Violette recalls that only a manifest showing what was being shipped, but not its cost, was received by his office, and additional building materials were purchased through contracts let by the Army Corps of Engineers. The US Army Corps of Engineers hired a superintendent to direct construction; craftsmen and laborers were recruited from the local work force. For the sixteen structures at the Warner camp, plus the field water heater and coal bin, two fire places, outside wiring, outside excavation and water mains, \$8000 was allocated for labor.

The final bill, which tallied \$7019.07, broke down as follows:

Officer's Quarters/Headquarters	\$ 888.50
Mess Hall & Root Cellar	1109.50
Lavatory Bldg. & Supply Room	560.50
Infirmary	400.65
Barrack #1	557.62
Barrack #2	505.75
Barrack #3	400.59
Barrack #4	390.07
Recreation Building	364.97
Army garage	230.85
Forestry garage	383.25
Work shop	273.75
Latrine	89.00
Officers Latrine	15.40
Pump House	24.40

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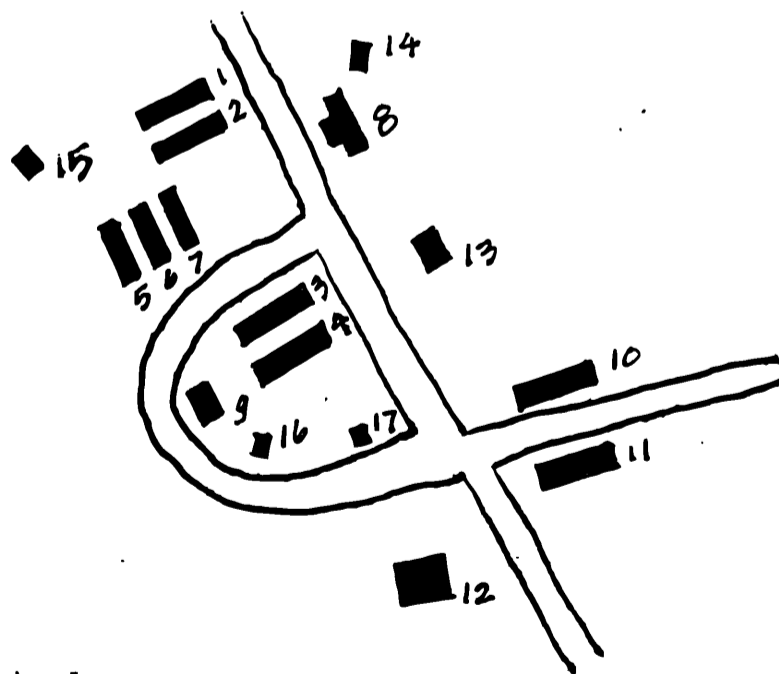
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Oil House	24.00
Field water heater & coal bin	120.87
2 fire places	217.80
Outside wiring	29.00
Outside excavation	416.40
Water mains	16.20

With thirteen principal structures, the Bear Brook camp was smaller than than the typical CCC camp, which usually averaged twenty-four buildings (Paige, 1985: 71). As can best be determined from historic photographs, the original Bear Brook camp structures - principal buildings and associated minor buildings - included: four barracks (1-4), one mess hall/kitchen (5), one generator/showers/supply building (6), one recreation building, (7) one headquarters building (8), one infirmary (9), two garages (10-Army; 11-Forestry), a blacksmith shop (12) and an educational building (13), as well as a few latrines (14-16) and an oil house (17). A water tower stood a short distance southwest of the infirmary. By 1937 the camp also had a building identified by CCC alumni as a crafts building, which stood on the site now occupied by the group building, and a number of garage-like structures (no longer standing) were positioned south of the Forestry garage.



Site plan of the original camp

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Like many CCC camps, the Bear Brook complex has a U-shaped plan formed by the flanking rows of barracks and the long facade of the recreation hall. A large open assembly space is found at the center of the camp, where Cees gathered in the morning for colors and their work assignments, and for sports in the off hours. Historic photographs show the original camp in its cleared setting, but CCC enrollees planted the pines that now shade the camp site.

The following historic district structures are keyed to the sketch map of the present camp site.

1 Group Building, c.1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: The 'group building,' has been identified by New Hampshire CCC alumni as a CCC camp mess hall that was brought in from another site (the original Bear Brook CCC camp mess hall, which stood to the rear of the generator/showers/supply building [#10] no longer stands). Neither the date it was moved nor the location of its original site can be determined. New Hampshire CCC alumni speculate that the building was brought in from one of the nearby CCC camps as that camp was being dismantled. As most New Hampshire CCC camps were constructed 1933 - 1935, the group building likely was assembled at its original site about the time the Bear Brook CCC camp was established. The group building occupies the site where the crafts building, constructed c.1937, once stood. The group building is nominated as a contributing structure because its construction date, building materials, form, use, structural system and architectural features are entirely consistent with the original Bear Brook CCC camp buildings.

The one-story, gable-roofed group building is covered green asphalt shingles. A long, rectangular, frame structure, its original tarpaper exterior wall is covered with wood shingles. This tarpaper is attached to Southern pine boards that are nailed to the 2" x 4" frame. The

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principal entry, consisting of two single leaf doors, is set just to the left of the center of the facade (west elevation). Both doors are composed of five horizontal panels arranged vertically; both are surrounded by an unmolded architrave. These doors are reached by a short, wide flight of wood steps. The step's handrails and balusters are formed from 2" x 4"s. There are additional single door entries at each gable end. Each entry is identical in detail to the west elevation entries. Both of the secondary entries are reached by a short, narrow set of wood steps. The building's north end entry is shielded by a shed roof. A six-light hopper window, placed just beneath the building's eaves on the east and west elevations and flanking the entries on the north and south elevations, is used throughout the building. These windows are attached to their interior frames by metal chains.

The interior is finished with 4' x 8' wood-fiber wall board panels. The roof framing system is comprised of 2" x 4"s with collars. Tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine boards were used for flooring. A large kitchen area at the building's north end is partitioned by a wall constructed of wood-fiber wall board panels and plywood panels from the remaining open seating area that is furnished with picnic tables.

The group building is nestled in a dense grove of evergreens that provide constant shade and shelter to the structure and the picnic tables distributed around it. This building is used by the public for cookouts, reunions and similar gatherings. The State of New Hampshire, Division of Parks and Recreation plans to transfer the building to the New Hampshire CCC Alumni for use as a permanent CCC museum.

2 Headquarters, 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: Camp headquarters was housed in a one-story, T-shaped building that was divided into two equal spaces: one for Army, one for Forestry Department. An asphalt-shingled gable roof covers the structure. The original

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tarpaper exterior wall has been covered with wood sheathing. This tarpaper is attached to Southern pine boards that are nailed to the 2" x 4"s frame. A six-light, hopper window, placed just beneath the building's eaves on the east and west elevations and flanking the entries on the north and south elevations, is used throughout the structure. These hopper windows are paired on the east and west elevations of the two officers' quarters wings. As befitting its status as camp administrative center and officer's quarters, the headquarters building is the most solidly constructed building in the complex. It is underpinned by 6" x 12" wood sills that rest on posts. Joists run wall to wall, and cinder blocks support the girt that runs down the center of the structure. Its atypical configuration and prominent placement on the camp street facing the other principal structures serve to reinforce its place in the camp's social and architectural order.

Entry was made through one of two single-leaf doors; one lead into the Army office, the other into the Forestry office. Both doors are composed of five horizontal panels arranged vertically; both are surrounded by an unmolded architrave. According to Alderic Violette, the Army office and the Forestry office were identically scaled and detailed. A open "day room" at the rear of the offices was shared by both the Army and Forestry and its location is marked by a large random rubble, native fieldstone fireplace. The fireplace is an architectural amenity found only in this building, the barracks and the communal camp recreation building. The fact that the few men who lived and worked in this structure had the privilege of such physical comfort is an additional marker of the building's social importance. Small officer's quarters - one side for Army, the other for Forestry - were found in the wings to the left and right of the day room. Three equally-sized rooms were positioned on both sides of a short passage that divided the wings. Exterior doors, detailed identically to the two primary entry doors, were placed at both ends (north; south) of the

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passages. Wood-fiber wall board panels, measuring approximately 4' x 8', were used for the interior walls. Tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine boards were used for flooring. This building is now used as a state park nature center.

3 Educational Building, 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: The building identified by CCC alumni as the educational building, or schoolhouse, has been enlarged and renovated for use as a private residence. While the exact date of this alteration could not be documented, the building was identified as a residence in a c.1974 photograph (New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives. DRED Photos. Box 719121, Folder 1, Bear Brook). An asphalt-shingled gable roof covers both the original building and the wing. The original structure was a single-story, rectangular building whose entry cannot be established. Some time following CCC occupancy, an appropriately-scaled wing (which added approximately 50% more floor space) was added to the north side, a small shed was attached at the south elevation, and two-inch simulated log sheathing was installed on the facade of the original structure to give it a "rustic" appearance. A precise date could not be found for these alterations, but all were completed by c.1974 as documented by the above referenced photograph. The remaining walls are sheathed with wood shingles. Double-hung sash windows with an eight-light upper sash and single-light lower sash are used throughout the structure. Entry is made through the center bay of the three-bay original building. The modern glazed door is sheltered by a pedimented door hood. Wood post piers underpin the original structure and the wing. The building's original single-room interior has been partitioned and remodeled for domestic use.

In spite of the multiple alterations, the structure's early form is clearly discernable and the changes in use and detail have not compromised the original fabric. The simulated log facing is

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but another, more recent, variation on the "rustic" or "natural" appearance so valued by CCC designers and craftsmen.

4 Forestry Garage. 1935 with post-1943 modifications: contributing building: This long, one-story rectangular garage, built for the use of the Forestry Department, is the only one of the two original camp garages to survive. According to CCC alumni, the Army garage, which stood on an adjacent site, was identical to this one. The original garage was eight bays wide. At some point, apparently soon after it was completed, two additional bays were added at the east end. The original east-end wall was protected by the addition and it retains its fresh tarpaper sheathing and bright original colors. Single-leaf, vertical-plank doors at the east and west elevations provide additional means of entry. The building has no windows.

A shed roof, sheathed with roll roofing, covers the garage. The building's exterior sheathing is board and batten and much of its original Stanley Works hardware is intact. The north elevation garage doors are matchboards that have been decoratively placed on the diagonal. The lower wall of the entire building is sealed with cement asbestos sheets.

On the interior the original parking bays largely remain intact. The floor is concrete, and it appears that the garage was completely framed, then the concrete was poured to the very edge of the sill. The Forestry garage is currently used for storage.

5 Blacksmith shop/tool shed/garage. 1935 with post-1943 modifications: contributing building: The one-story blacksmith shop/tool shed/garage is covered by a roll roofing sheathed shed roof. The building's tarpapered exterior wall has been covered by wood shingles. While there are a few replacement six- and nine-light single-hung sash windows, most windows are the

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wooden six-light, hopper-type found throughout the camp. Frame vertical-board double doors in the building's north face open into the east-end room. This room also can be entered via a single-leaf, vertical-board door in the east elevation. A single-leaf, vertical-board door placed in the approximate center of the north elevation provides entry into the center room. The repair garage at the rear of the building is entered through a large vertical-board door in the east elevation. The building's foundation is a poured concrete slab.

The original blacksmith shop and tool shed was divided into three rooms. The sooty, dark walls indicate the west-end room was the blacksmith shop. The east-end room is used as a large repair/storage space, and the center room functions as a work space. Soon after the building was completed, it appears that the rear (south) wall was removed and a lean-to, which functioned as a repair garage, complete with a concrete block-lined grease pit, was added. The building is currently used as a work space and for storage.

6 Oil House. 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building. As befitting its humble status, the one-story oil house is very simply constructed. This small structure has galvanized iron corrugated siding and a galvanized iron gable roof. Louvered openings in the upper gable ends ventilate the interior. The structure sits on a 2" x 6" sill which rests on pine posts with rubble infill between the posts.

Two grooved plywood (T-111) doors are symmetrically placed on the south elevation. The doors open into the separate chambers of the two-room interior. The west end room has newer plywood flooring; the east end room has plank flooring. According to CCC alumni this building

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housed two of the old glass top, hand crank gas pumps. Oils & lubricants also were stored here. The building is currently used for storage.

7 Barracks, 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: Of the four, fourteen-bay, rectangular original barracks, only a single one stands. An asphalt-shingled gable roof shelters the structure. The one-story building's tarpapered exterior wall has been covered by wood shingles. A row of regularly-spaced, six-light hopper windows is found just beneath the building's eaves on the north and south elevations. The barracks originally was entered through single-leaf, five-panel opposing doors in the east and west elevations. The west elevation door, with its five horizontal panels arranged vertically, remains intact, while the east elevation opening has been enlarged by the installation of a double, vertical-panel door. A raised wooden platform with a short run of steps has replaced the original stair at both entries. It appears that the entries found at both the north and south elevations were added. The date of this alteration cannot be determined. Both entries have a single-leaf door composed of five horizontal panels arranged vertically. It is likely that these doors were "recycled" from other camp buildings as openings were altered or enlarged. On the north elevation the entry is set between the tenth and eleventh bays; on the south elevation the door is set between the third bay and the shed addition. A large garage-like opening closed by a vertical-board door has been cut into the south elevation. A photograph taken c.1974 shows that a random rubble, native fieldstone fireplace, similar to the ones found in the headquarters and recreation buildings, was demolished for the installation of this door (New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives. DRED Photos. Box 719121, Folder 1, Bear Brook). Also on the south side, a shed was added at an unknown date following CCC occupation. This small shed-roofed, single-room addition, which may have been used for coal

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storage, is sheathed with horizontal boards overlaid with battens. Structurally, the building is supported on concrete blocks. Concrete block piers also support the center girt. Cement asbestos sheets have been installed around the base of building.

Originally the structure was one large, undivided room that provided accommodations for approximately fifty enrollees. At an unknown date, probably soon after the state took over the property, the barracks was subdivided to create separate work spaces. Plywood walls have been used to partition the building's west end into a work space/bath room and to create a small office at the east end. The remaining open space is used as a work area. The gable roof is supported by 2" x 4" rafters with collars that have been reinforced by metal tie rods. As found throughout the camp, tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine boards were used for the barracks' flooring. The building's interior walls have mostly been resheathed with vertical V-grooved Eastern white (knotty) pine, and fiberglass batt insulation has been placed between the rafters. Currently the building serves as a carpenter shop for the state park maintenance facility.

7A Shed, post 1943; contributing building: A small shed-roofed structure, sited a short distance to the south of the barracks, is associated with the barracks. This one-room shed is sheathed with vertical boards and covered by a shallow roof covered with roll roofing. The structure's only opening is a single-leaf, grooved plywood (T-111) door placed at the left side of the north elevation. This modest building does not function independently, but rather serves the carpenter shop by providing additional storage space. Its construction date cannot be determined. Although it falls outside of the period of significance, the shed is nominated as a contributing building because it corresponds in scale, materials, character and form with other contributing district properties.

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8 Recreation Building, 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: The ten-bay, rectangular recreation building is capped by a asphalt shingled, gable roof. Wood shingle siding covers the building's original tarpapered exterior wall. This tarpaper is attached to Southern pine boards that are nailed to 2" x 4"s. A row of six-light hopper windows runs just beneath the eaves on the building's east and west elevations. Entry to this single-story structure was originally gained through two sets of opposing single-leaf doors whose five horizontal panels are arranged vertically. One set of doors were placed at the north and south ends and the other were found between the seventh and ninth bays of the east and west elevations. The north, west and east elevation doors remain intact, while the south elevation opening has been enlarged by the installation of a double, vertical-panel door. The west elevation door now is shielded by the roof of the 'link building'. The structure's longitudinal beam rests on concrete block posts. While clear access to the foundation is not possible, it appears that the 6" x 8" sill rests directly on the ground. Sill deterioration has been prevented by sheathing lower edge of the building to the ground with cement asbestos sheets.

Cees spent their leisure hours in this building, a large open space which held a pool table and housed the camp "library," which consisted of a few bookcases positioned at the south end of the room. Wood-fiber wall board panels, measuring approximately 4" x 8", are used for much of the building's interior walls; a few damaged panels have been replaced by plywood panels. The standard 2" x 4" rafters with collars have been reinforced by metal tie rods. Tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine boards were used for flooring. A random rubble, native fieldstone fireplace, which is something of an signature architectural detail for a CCC camp, is located in the center of the rear (west) wall. This fireplace has been partially repointed with a Portland cement mortar. A

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historic photograph in the CCC museum shows that a canteen or P.X., where sundries were purchased, was located at the building's north end. The canteen was partitioned from the room by a wall constructed of wood-fiber wall board panels and entered through two separate doors. The basic configuration of the canteen has been preserved, although it is altered by the addition of a small utility closet. The recreation building is currently used as a display space by the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum.

9 Link building. 1991/1992; noncontributing building: This partially constructed frame building was recently erected to shelter a large Lombard log hauler already standing in this location. It is joined directly to the recreation building's west elevation and the generator room/boiler room and showers/supply room's east elevation. When completed it will be accessible from either of these structures and through an opening in the north elevation. The structure's 2" x 4" frame has been left unfinished pending the acquisition of additional funds needed to finish the project. In spite of its rough appearance, the building is substantially completed. Plans call for the walls to be glazed. The log hauler rests on a concrete pad. The building's asphalt shingled gable roof mirrors the type and angle of the other camp structures.

The log hauler, which dates c.1901, was manufactured in Waterville, Maine to the design of Oliver Lombard. This large, imposing piece of machinery is identified as an early example of a snowmobile by the New Hampshire Snowmobile Museum.

10 Generator room, boiler/showers/lavatory and supply room. 1935 with post-1943 modifications; contributing building: An asphalt shingled, gable roof caps the twelve-bay, rectangular generator room, boiler/showers/lavatory and supply room building. The one-story

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structure's original tarpaper exterior wall has been covered with wood shingles. This tarpaper is attached to Southern pine boards that are nailed to 2" x 4"s. The camp's standard six-light hopper window, installed just below the building's eaves on the east and west elevations, provided natural light to this building. Entries were positioned at the gable ends (north and south elevations) and on the west elevation (between the fifth and seventh bays) and east elevation (between the ninth and eleventh bays). The original single-leaf doors with five horizontal panels arranged vertically remain intact except for the west elevation opening, which has been enlarged. It is now closed by a vertical-board door. The structure sits on a wood sill that rests directly on the ground.

According to CCC alumni assigned to the Bear Brook camp, there were three rooms - generator room, boiler/showers/lavatory, and supply room - in this building. The southernmost room housed the generator that provided electricity for the camp. A coal-fired water heater that provided hot water for the showers & lavatory room was located in the center portion of the building. The camp supply room was found at the north end of the building. This structure essentially maintains its original three-room configuration, but with the exception of a few supply room shelves, no evidence remains of the original function of any of the rooms. It appears that alterations to this building have occurred in piecemeal fashion for the last half century; no date can be assigned to any of the changes. None of the boiler equipment remains and the interior walls of the boiler room are covered by both original wood-fiber wall board and replacement plywood panels. The shower room has a concrete floor and new plywood sheathing. Tongue-and-groove Southern yellow pine boards were used for the supply room flooring.

Currently this building is used by the snowmobile museum for storage and work space with the exception of the space previously occupied by supply room, which is occupied by the New Hampshire CCC Alumni Museum.

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A baseball field has been constructed for public recreational use at the northern end of the district on a portion of the site where two barracks once stood. This playing field is marked by a metal backstop.

Newer metal and frame sheds and shops that house various state park maintenance operations border the district outside its western and southern boundaries.

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)

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT
SOCIAL HISTORY
CONSERVATION

Period of Significance

1935 - 1942

Significant Dates

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

U.S. Army

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

The Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A for its significance in politics/government, social history, and conservation. These buildings, which date from 1935, are an extremely rare physical record of one of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's most extraordinary New Deal relief programs. The Bear Brook complex was one of the 4500 CCC camps built nationwide between 1933 and 1942 to house the millions of unemployed men assigned to conservation projects in national and state parks. Eight of the original thirteen camp structures stand at the Bear Brook site. Although modified on the exterior and interior for service as a state park maintenance facility, museums and a residence, the buildings remain in fair condition. The district's period of significance, 1935-1942, covers the camp's seven-year operation as a CCC work camp. When the camp closed in January 1942 it operated for approximately a year as a recreation facility for Navy personnel on leave from bases in the Boston area. Following this, ownership of the land and buildings passed to the State of New Hampshire in March 1943 and in June of that year the state Forestry and Recreation Commission took control of the park. These modest prefabricated structures document the appearance and organization of a CCC work camp. They also further an understanding of the operations of this significant New Deal program and provide a material manifestation of a significant period of American history. The number of

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:
SEE CONTINUATION SHEET

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Approximately 2 acres

UTM References

A

1	9	3	0	6	5	9	0	4	7	8	0	9	1	0
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 Marlene Elizabeth Heck, Architectural Historian
organization Hardy.Heck.Moore, Inc. date March 1992
street & number 12 Curtiss Road telephone 603 643-8407
city or town Hanover state New Hampshire zip code 03755

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extant original buildings, the still cohesive setting of the camp site, and its continued association with New Hampshire's CCC alumni distinguish this historic district.

A search for other extant work camps suggests that the Bear Brook State Park CCC camp is one of only an extremely small number of work camps that remain in relatively intact condition. While this list is *not exhaustive* by any means, other partially surviving work camps identified to date include the Rabideau CCC Camp Site, Beltrami, Minnesota (NRHP 1974) and the Eagle River CCC Camp, Vilas County, Wisconsin. Several structures apparently stand in a former CCC camp in Pocahontas County, West Virginia that currently is used as a National Youth Science Camp by the National Youth Science Foundation.¹

The Bear Brook State Park complex is also the single surviving CCC work camp of the twenty-eight that were built in New Hampshire. Indeed, little physical evidence remains to document the state's other twenty-seven CCC camp sites. The Swift River camp (1177th Co. CCC) near Conway, which was occupied from June 1935 until May 1941, is typical of the New Hampshire sites in that minor material remnants – two fireplaces, a portion of sidewalk, an infirmary drain cover, a cistern, pump reservoir, grease trap and some concrete foundations – are all that mark the former camp location.

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Among the many economic recovery and relief programs created during Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal presidency, perhaps none has been remembered as a greater success and has

¹ See also, "Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources Multiple Property nomination," 1988.

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left a more enduring legacy than the Civilian Conservation Corps. The circumstances that led to the establishment of the CCC and the story of its significant accomplishments have been well chronicled.² At the depth of the Great Depression, Congress and the President moved quickly to alleviate the country's suffering. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, within three weeks of his inauguration, placed legislation before Congress that provided relief for the 25% of the American work force that could find no employment. The CCC was created under the authority of Public Act No. 5, known as the 'Reforestation and Relief Bill,' and it is recognized as among Roosevelt's most effective New Deal programs.

SOCIAL HISTORY

The CCC program rescued millions of America's young men during the Depression era from impoverished circumstances by providing room, board and a small salary, as well as job training and educational opportunities that permitted them to later enter the nation's military and work force. Some 5% of American males between the ages of 18 and 25,³ numbering about 2 million, served in the CCC between 1933 and 1942 (Paige, 1985: 126; 132). The program financially aided the young CCC volunteers by providing a modest \$30 monthly wage, most of which was sent home to grateful parents attempting to maintain the family home or farm. The nation was richly rewarded for its investment as the CCC produced not only skilled workers, but also hundreds of

² See, for instance, John Paige, The Civilian Conservation Corps and National Park Service, 1933-1942: An Administrative History, (Washington, DC: US Government Printing Office/NPS, US Dept. of the Interior, 1985), and John Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942 (Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 1967).

³ To allow greater participation the age limit was later altered to allow the enrollment of men between the ages of 17 and 28 (Dearborn, 1936: 6)

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thousands of highly trained and disciplined men who served in the military during the Second World War. Many CCC alumni describe their time in the CCC as the defining moment of their lives, and the stories of their experiences as enrollees and of the opportunities provided by CCC training constitute a compelling social history of the years between the Great Depression and the start of World War II.

CONSERVATION

In addition to its primary economic objective, the CCC also had a strong conservation component. Roosevelt envisioned the program as a means of both restoring and cultivating the country's natural resources. "I have proposed to create a civilian conservation corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with the normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects," the President explained on 21 March 1933. Roosevelt's "Tree Army" battled plant diseases and engaged in pest control, built ponds and restocked lakes, fought forest fires, cleaned up the debris left by floods and hurricanes, built roads, bridges, dams and hiking trails, and reclaimed and developed existing national parks. The "Cees," or "Soil Soldiers," also are credited with the creation of a nation-wide system of both national and state parks during the program's nine-year existence. These parks provide a constant reminder of the efforts of the millions of enrollees who carved them from forests and uncultivated lands across the country.

* * * * *

The Civilian Conservation Corps

The Civilian Conservation Corps was an independent federal agency and its director answered only to the President. To simplify and speed the program's implementation, the

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resources of four Cabinets were used to establish and supervise the CCC: Labor, which recruited from the rolls of state welfare agencies; War, which after enrolling the recruits and assigning them to a company, provided food, clothes and housing in one of the CCC camps; Agriculture, which directed CCC activities in reforestation and conservation; and Interior, which through the National Park Service, oversaw park development (Steely, 1986: n.p.). Most Cees were assigned to camps in national or state park lands; a few camps were set up near private lands for projects, such as erosion control, that were thought to benefit the public interest. Unimpeded by bureaucracy the program came together quickly; the first CCC camp, Camp Roosevelt, opened in Luray, Virginia on 17 April 1933.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in New Hampshire - Bear Brook State Park

The New Hampshire economy, dependent on small farms and industries such as paper, lumber and cotton mills, had collapsed by 1933, so the state was an eager participant in the CCC program. Within a few weeks of the program's creation, state officials had returned from Washington with plans for organizing the New Hampshire camps. The state's initial quota of enrollees was set at 1000; with 22,322 men on the unemployment rolls, this quota was quickly filled (Wilson, 1969: 25-34).

In New Hampshire there were 28 CCC camps distributed across the state, with most concentrated in the White Mountains area. New Hampshire Cees signed up at local welfare agencies. Enrollees from the southern part of the state then were transported to Manchester for their formal enrollment and initial physical examination. They traveled next to the First CCC District Headquarters at Ft. Williams, near Portland, Maine, where the Army gave them a final physical and inoculations, issued their equipment and assigned them to camps. Those who enlisted from

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northern New Hampshire were sent directly to Portland (Draves, 1988: 97-99; Wilson, 1969:34).⁴ The first New Hampshire CCC camp, Camp Wildwood in the vicinity of Woodsville, was erected near a community devastated by the closing of an International Paper Company plant. When the camp opened in April 1933 the town had shriveled to a population of fourteen (Wilson, 1969:36).

Twelve camps opened in New Hampshire between April and June, 1933. Expansion slowed in 1934, when only a single camp was built. A second phase of camp construction began in 1935, when thirteen CCC camps opened; the Bear Brook State Park camp was one of these thirteen camps. It operated under the command of Captain Harold W. Joy, Second Lieutenant George Clahane, and Camp Superintendent James Cass, and it was home to the 1123rd Co. CCC from October 1935 - October 1938. World War I veterans were organized into separate companies, and from approximately October 1938 to October 1942 the veteran 1107V Co. CCC occupied the Bear Brook camp, one of four veteran camps in the state.

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - Land Acquisition

The Biennial Report of the Forestry Commission For the Two Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 1933-34 detailed the federal government's acquisition of the Bear Brook site, which was pieced together from lands acquired from four adjacent communities.

The Federal sub-marginal land authorities during the present year have co-operated with the Forestry Department, Extension Service, Planning Board and other State agencies and with the Park Service of the United States Department of

⁴ Professor David D. Draves, who teaches in the Education Department, University of New Hampshire, has spent years researching the CCC in New Hampshire, and his is the most comprehensive regional history of the program to date.

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the Interior in the selection of a sub-marginal area called the Bear Brook Area in portions of the towns of Deerfield, Allenstown, Candia and Hooksett as meeting the sub-marginal requirements and also having important forest and recreational possibilities. Property surveys and a plan of recreational improvement have been made and options to purchase have been secured for about 8,000 acres. This area may be extended so as to embrace as much as 15,000 or more acres. . . Two new CCC camp applications have been filed for the period beginning April 1, 1935 for work on the Bear Brook and one other area in the event that these lands are acquired (Report of the Forestry Commission, 1935: 25).

The Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission issued in 1937 explained the manner by which the federal government had secured the land and identified the state as principal administrator of the property.

The so-called Bear Brook area in the territory between Manchester and Concord [has] been selected by the Resettlement Administration and National Park Service for one of the 46 similar projects in 24 states, subject to necessary enabling legislation by the State. This was secured by passage of Chapter 74, Laws of 1935 setting up the Land Use Board, establishing the means by which the Federal Government may acquire land outside the 1929 purchase area of the White Mountain National Forest and providing for an agreement with the State for the administration of such lands as are designated for administration by the State.

The Land Use Board recommend the purchase and it was approved by the Governor and Council. At specially called town meetings in Allenstown, Deerfield, Candia and Hooksett, voters gave their consent to the purchase (Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1937: 15).

Construction on the camp commenced in August 1935.

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - 1935 - 1936

YOU'RE IN THE CCC NOW. You are a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps. For six months or longer you will live in a Camp and, with axe, saw, shovel or brush hook, you will have a job in conservation work. It will be a great experience. You will get a kick out of it and you will learn much. You will meet a new kind of life (Once in a Lifetime, 1936: 1).

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The history of the Bear Brook CCC camp can be reconstructed through the official CCC records, the reports of the New Hampshire Forestry and Recreation commissions and the oral histories of camp alumni. Much of what is known about the early operation at the Bear Brook camp is recorded in the Official Annual 1937, published by the First CCC District Headquarters at Ft. Williams, Maine. While the Bear Brook camp could accommodate about 200 enrollees (typical CCC camp size ranged from 160-200), only 114 were named in the initial published roster (Official Annual 1937, 1937: 82). Because the state's conservation projects required more men than the numbers that either signed up or were recruited from New Hampshire's welfare rolls, enrollees were brought in from adjacent states; by a sizable majority, most of the Cees listed were from Massachusetts (Draves; 1988: 96).

The 1123rd Co. CCC spent its first few weeks putting the finishing touches on the camp buildings, and then began the task of developing recreational areas in the state park. The work at Bear Brook was typical of CCC projects across the country, which principally involved park land development and a variety of conservation efforts. The 1123rd Co. Cees spent the fall and winter of 1935-36 constructing picnic and parking areas, playgrounds, and picnic tables and benches, carving out foot trails, building foot bridges and park roads and launching the battle to control pests and plant diseases. Most of the tasks relating to park development were done in what is now known as the Bear Hill Pond camping site, which is located approximately five miles from the work camp. In March 1936 the Bear Brook Cees were called to assist in recovery operations when spring floods in the White Mountains caused the Merrimack River to overrun its banks (Official Annual 1937: 83). State records report that "General work done on the 6,100 acres. . .during the past year and a half [1935-1936] consists of road, culvert, bridge, water hole and trail

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construction throughout the area, forest clean-up and fire hazard reduction" (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1937:15).

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - 1937 - 1938

The biennial reports issued by the New Hampshire Forestry and Recreation Commission provide the most detailed accounts of the projects executed from 1937-1938 by the 1123rd Co., and later, from 1938-1942, by the 1107V Co. CCC, at the Bear Brook site. The Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission published in 1939 chronicled the wide-ranging activities of the previous eighteen months, including the construction of a dam and a fishway to facilitate the movement of trout, the completion of a swimming pool and bathing beach, and the development of a recreation area located a half-mile from the work camp known as the "First Day" outing area, with a picnic shelter, forty-one fireplaces and fifty log table and bench combinations. Two new recreational fields had also been opened to the public. Access to the park had been improved by the three miles of new truck trails, and a half mile of park road. Foot trails and fourteen foot bridges opened hiking areas and "trail seats" of plank and logs had been constructed along these trails. Three newly cleared parking lots could accommodate 130 automobiles. Other projects included the construction of a stone wall around a nearby historic cemetery, and a split-rail fence around the adjacent Allenstown Meeting House. Reforestation and conservation efforts included eighty-four acres freshly planted with white and Norway pines and a newly constructed water hole for fire control. Finally, 3000 acres were treated for gypsy moths with an estimated 446,270 egg clusters destroyed, and 1275 acres were covered for the control of white pine blister rust (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1939: 80-81).

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Merrimack County, New HampshireBear Brook State Park CCC Camp - 1939 - 1940

The Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission for 1939-1940 issued in 1941 detailed camp efforts, which by this date were being done by the veteran CCC company. Work had continued at the First Day Outing area, with the construction of a picnic area, bathing beach, water and sewage system, bathhouse and parking area in accordance with architectural plans and designs supplied by the National Park Service. According to the report, the second organized camp project at Spruce Pond, approximately 5-1/2 miles from the work camp, was completed with the assistance of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The Cees also planted 25,000 three-year old Norway and red pine seedlings in the area near the Allenstown Meeting House, a project sponsored by the New Hampshire State society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) in honor of the organization's fiftieth anniversary. This pine plantation was known as the "Penny Pine Forest," and a plaque commemorating the plantings was attached to a boulder at the site. Bear Brook Cees also fought forest fires on 2100 acres and participated in salvage operations following the hurricane of 1938. The veteran company relaid some 16.7 miles of telephone line and continued their efforts to combat the gypsy moth over 7763 acres in the Bear Brook Park. They also erected directional and informational signs, built picnic tables, fireplaces and storage buildings, cleared a pond site, and maintained camp grounds (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1941: 35; 56).

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - 1941-1942

The 1941-1942 Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission reported that the Bear Brook State Park received an increase in visitors during the reporting period, when

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patronage at other parks decreased. Concerns about gasoline shortages made the Bear Brook park especially attractive, as it was a short drive from major regional population centers. The park was also used as a recreation area by large groups of service men stationed at Grenier Field in nearby Manchester. World War I veterans continued to work on a variety of recreation and conservation projects. The two-story bathhouse at the First Day Outing Area (known by 1943 as the Day Use Area), which was begun in 1939, was completed and opened for public use. The state took over the operation of this area on July 19, 1941 under a lease arrangement with the National Park Service. As the finishing touches were put on the bathhouse the land around it was graded, planted and seeded. Other construction projects in the outing area included a footbridge that linked the bathhouse/beach area with the picnic area, a public latrine building, and a steel diving pier. Veteran Cees also built a 250-car parking lot for the bathhouse area and constructed a "by-pass town road" that ran to the west of the bathhouse. Additional recreational facilities were erected just to the south of this outing area. A Group Picnic Area consisting of a 'Shelter-Latrine Building' and the 'Nature Lore Building' was developed in 1941-1942. The Shelter-Latrine Building was a semi-enclosed structure measuring 30' by 92'. Constructed on native stone and timber so that it fit naturally into the landscape, the building had a large heating fireplace, a cooking fireplace, storage rooms and toilets. The Nature Lore Building was smaller, measuring 18' by 40', and it was a frame structure that was constructed as a museum exhibition space. Other groups of Cees put up fifteen miles of steel wire and 500 'NO HUNTING' signs, that marked the park as a game sanctuary. Fire prevention and pest control activities continued as well. As part of national defense efforts, a fifty-man group was deployed to Pierce's Island in Portsmouth Harbor to construct a 500-man US Army recreation camp. From August 1941 until January 1942 many of the Bear Brook Cees worked at the Grenier Field area on projects "of an undisclosed nature." The Bear Brook State

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Park camp closed as a CCC facility on January 10, 1942 (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1943: 39-42; 54-56).

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - 1943 - 1944

The 1943-1944 Biennial Report of the Forestry and Recreation Commission disclosed that the Department of the Interior deeded the 6436-acre Bear Brook Park to New Hampshire on March 3, 1943. The state accepted the property under Senate Bill No. 12 - An Act Relative to a Gift to the State of the Bear Brook Area - that was introduced by Senator Wilkinson of the Sixth District. At the time of the land transfer, Bear Brook State Park included

...some 10 miles of improved gravel roads, nearly 20 miles of hiking trails, two sets of organized camps with buildings, water and sewerage systems, playfield, parking area, etc. The administration area [the CCC camp] included garages, tool shop, repair shop and supervisor's residence. In addition there was a day-use area with pond, beach, bathhouse, picnic areas, shelter, parking places, etc. (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1944: 11).

In addition to the land, the state also received a sawmill, a fire truck, fire tools, maintenance trucks, a road grader, tractor and hand tools (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1944: 11). In June 1943 the state Forestry and Recreation Department assumed control of the park.

Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - Recreational Demonstration Areas (RDA) Projects

CCC camps typically were located near the project area on national or state park lands, and the availability of a water source, building materials, a local work force and access to rail lines and highways all factored into the decision on where to erect a CCC camp. One additional factor, alluded to in the 1935 Report of the Forestry Commission cited above, was important in the

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location of the Bear Brook camp. As part of the government's relief efforts, Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) funds were used to purchase marginal or submarginal lands from farmers who were then relocated to more fertile productive soil. The government typically turned over the purchased acreage to the state for development as a Recreational Demonstration Area (RDA). Civilian Conservation Corps companies across the country worked under the guidance of the National Park Service to reclaim these depleted soils, conserve forests and turn unproductive land into recreational facilities by construction of swimming pool, dams, cabins, picnic areas and access roads. State parks as small as Bear Brook, as well as the great national parks, including Yosemite, Big Bend, Sequoia and Crater Lake, benefitted from the Recreational Demonstration Areas project (Paige, 1985: 117-118).

A devastating fire in 1914 in the forests that later would become part of the Bear Brook State Park tract destroyed lumberyard stock and thousands of acres of valuable timberland. It seems, however, that the land had never been particularly rich or productive, as a 1781 lot map for Allenstown shows much of the property assessed as 'bad', 'midling bad' or 'very bad' (Batchellor, 1896: 52).⁵ By 1935, only two families remained on the land (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1944: 11).

Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees completed three RDA projects at the Bear Brook park. The Bear Hill Pond site, also referred to as the 1st Organized Camp, was developed 1936-1937. The Spruce Pond site, known also as the 2nd Organized camp, was developed 1937-1938, in conjunction with the WPA. The First Day Outing Area site appears to have been under

⁵ I am grateful to James L. Garvin, architectural historian at the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, for providing the information on the 1781 map and 1914 fire.

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construction from around 1936 until 1941, with most of the work executed by the veterans company from 1939-41. Detailed construction drawings and blueprints for the three Bear Brook RDAs were sent from the National Park Service landscape architects; 129 of these drawings are preserved in the engineering drawing files at the Office of Design, Development and Maintenance, New Hampshire Department of Resources and Economic Development, Pembroke Road, Concord, New Hampshire. Four of the Bear Brook RDA buildings are illustrated in Albert H. Good's, Park and Recreation Structures, a handbook of appropriate park building designs published by the National Park Service in 1938.

The most complete description of the Bear Brook RDAs is found in the Forestry and Recreation Commission report for 1937.

The development of an organized camping area consisting of twenty-four sleeping cabins, four lodges, dining hall, infirmary, help and counselor quarters, garage and storage building, parking area, playfield, water and electric systems and bathing beach at Bear Hill Pond in a secluded part of the reservation is under way. Each of the four units will accommodate 30 persons. A first day picnic, camping and general recreational area on lower Bear Brook near the Suncook-Deerfield highway is well under way toward completion. A dam and flowage with bathing facilities, buildings and equipment are expected to be provided as a part of this picnic, camping and general recreational area. Caretaker and service buildings will be located on Podunk Road near the main entrance and central to the entire reservation.

The purpose of the four organized camp units at Bear Hill Pond . . . is to provide camping facilities for low-income and under-privileged groups otherwise unable to enjoy camping (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1937: 15-16).

All three RDA sites remain in use. The Bear Hill Pond and Spruce Pond areas function as 4-H camps; the First Day Outing area is a public beach and bathhouse.

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Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp - Camp Life

Civilian Conservation Corps alumni assigned to the Bear Brook camp report that it operated much like the military. They were awakened around 5:30 a.m. and spent the next 1-1/2 hours doing chores, such as cleaning the barracks, sweeping, and cleaning stoves. Breakfast was served around 7-7:30 a.m. and by 8 a.m. the Cees were standing in the open field in front of the headquarters building for the raising of the flag and their work assignments. Trucks had been brought down from the garages and lined the "camp street" in front of the headquarters building, ready to transport the men to their job sites. From 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. they worked under the direction of the Forestry Department; from their return to camp around 4 p.m. until the next morning at 8 a.m., they were under the direction of the Army. Dinner was served around 5 p.m., and after the meal until lights out at 10 p.m. most Cees spent their evening playing sports, at the pool table in the recreation hall, or in the educational building attending classes.

By 1935 job training was emphasized as an important component of the CCC experience, and Bear Brook camp alumni recall their many evenings at study in the educational building. District Educational Advisors organized training classes at most CCC camps. Cees were encouraged, but not required, to sign up for a class on woodworking, auto mechanics, wiring, mechanical drawing, forestry, cooking, typing or for instruction to improve their reading and writing skills. The program was described under the heading "Learning in a CCC Camp," in Once in a Lifetime, a handbook for life in a CCC camp.

This is different. No one tells you that you must learn anything. . . The point of this new deal in learning is there there are no "musts." You may learn as little or as much as you care to. The study is informal. You may enjoy it without fear of punishment. You are no longer a child. You are treated as a free and intelligent man ought to be treated. You may choose arts and crafts, vocational training, or recreational activities. Or you may choose to sit around and twiddle your thumbs,

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sulk, or otherwise waste your time. If you have any sense, you are too smart to do that. Anyway, the chance is your. It's a "Once in a Lifetime" chance. It is a new deal in learning. (Once in a Lifetime, 1936: 17-18).

One of the favored activities at many CCC camps, sometimes done in conjunction with the education program, was the publication of a monthly camp newspaper. The Bear Brook camp had the Bear Brook Log, which appeared only once, in December 1937. Bear Brook alumni report that, as elsewhere, sports, including basketball and boxing, were an important activity at the Bear Brook camp.

The CCC was dissolved in 1942, its mandate mostly completed. By this date the nation's economy had sufficiently recovered, abrogating the need for a relief program, and the armed forces were mobilizing troops for the war effort, drawing off thousands of former CCC volunteers. Most CCC alumni, including those that served at the Bear Brook camp, report that the regime and discipline of the CCC made it easier for them to adjust to military life when they enlisted at the start of World War II.

The Bear Brook camp closed in the fall of 1942 and soon after it reopened as a naval recreation camp for Navy personnel on leave from assignments in the Boston area. The Forestry and Recreation Commission reported on the use of the camp during this period.

Groups up to 100 or more came for weekend or longer stays for rest and recreation on [sic] the area. Arrangements were made for their use of the area without charges and a wide variety of recreation was enjoyed, including fishing, hiking, boating, bathing, picnicking, skiing and skating. At the [former CCC] camp, social recreation, movies and games were available. Regular Army units held maneuvers and bivouacs there during 1943 (Report of Forestry and Recreation Commission, 1944: 23).

All substantial changes to the district took place after 1943, when the camp became a state park maintenance facility, a function continued to the present. A fire, set by an arsonist,

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destroyed two or three of the original CCC buildings (Violette correspondence, November 1991).

Deteriorated structures were pulled down, and remaining camp structures were resheathed and transformed into carpentry shops, residences, storage sheds, paint shops, and museums. New maintenance buildings have been constructed on the periphery of the district boundary.

Because of its intact condition and the preserved material manifestation of what was so clearly a pivotal event in their lives, this camp is highly valued by CCC alumni. The New Hampshire Chapter 107 Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni have established a CCC museum in the old supply room with displays of historic photographs, scrap books, camp papers, newspaper clippings and various articles donated by alumni, and they gather for their picnics, reunions and monthly meetings at the site. The CCC museum will move into more permanent, spacious quarters within the next few years as the New Hampshire Division of Parks and Recreation has announced that it is giving the New Hampshire CCC alumni the group building to use as a museum and meeting quarters. The nature center in the former headquarters building and the snowmobile museum in the former recreation building will also be improved according to plans recently announced by the Division of Parks and Recreation.

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Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation
Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District,
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Lionel Duclos, NH CCC Alumnus. Interview, 23 June 1991.

Bill Hersey, NH CCC Alumnus. Interview, 23 June 1991.

Lauris J. Brown, NH CCC Alumnus. Interview, 23 June 1991.

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Specify repository:

State historic preservation office:

New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord, NH

State agencies:

Office of Design, Development and Maintenance, New Hampshire Department of Resources and
Economic Development, Concord, NH

New Hampshire Division of Records Management and Archives, Concord, NH

Federal agency:

National Archives, Washington, DC

Other:

New Hampshire CCC Alumni Museum, Bear Brook State Park, Allenstown, NH

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Verbal Boundary Description:

The boundaries of the Bear Brook Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District are indicated on the attached sketch map. The eastern boundary begins at the rear of the group building (# 1) and runs south behind the headquarters building (#2) and education building (#3) until it meets the southern boundary line that runs to the rear of the Forestry garage (#4) and blacksmith shop (#5) until it meets the western boundary line. The western boundary line runs in back of the generator/showers/supply building (#10) and continues along the baseball field until meeting the northern boundary. The northern boundary defines the ball field and open recreational space and runs to meet the eastern boundary at the group building (#1).

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Boundary Justification:

The Bear Brook Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District boundaries delineate the original CCC work camp site. Boundaries have been drawn to include the remaining original CCC buildings and the contiguous sites where CCC buildings once stood that are now used either as museums, recreation buildings or part of the state maintenance facility.

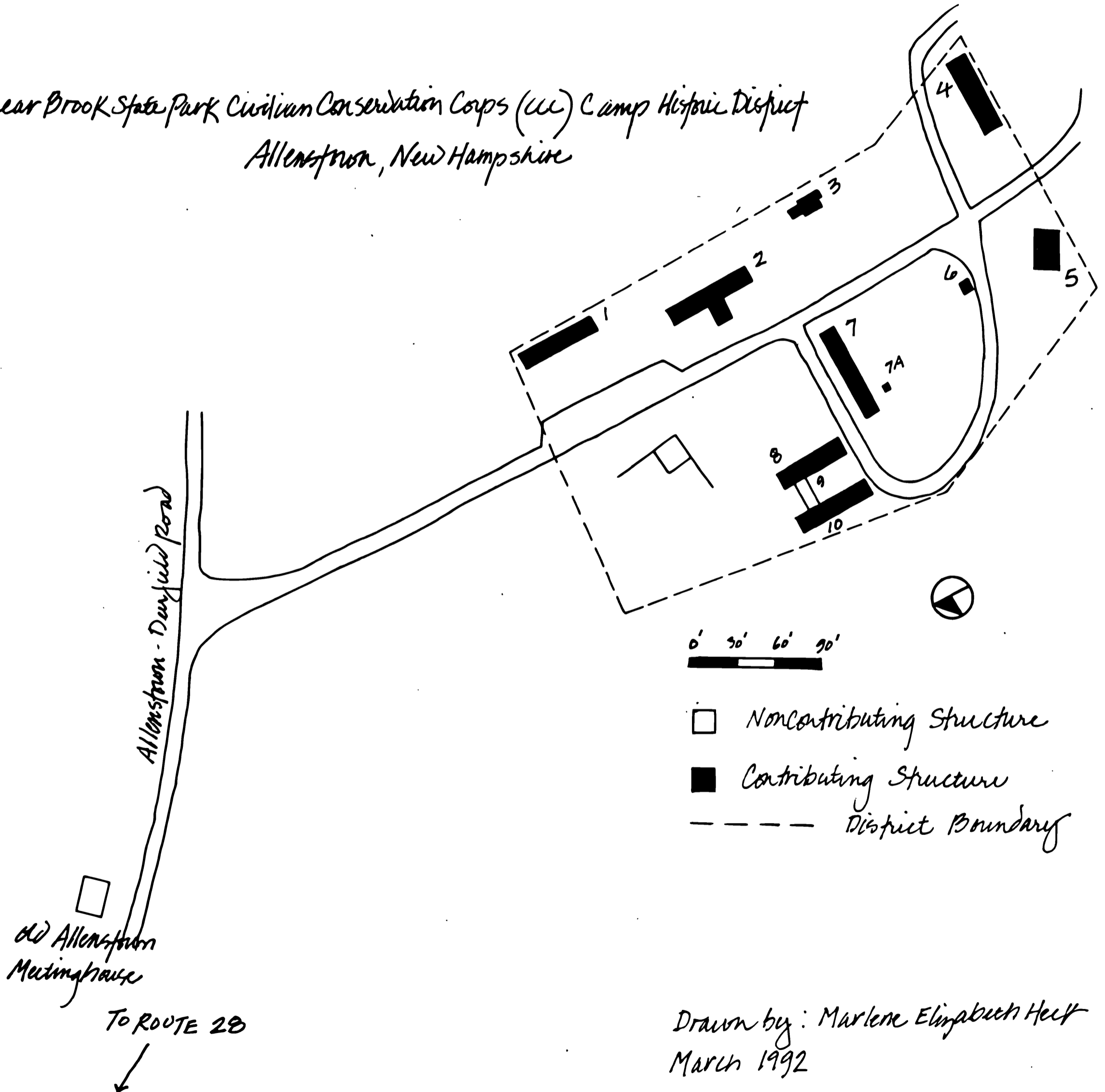
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Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation
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*Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
Allenstown, New Hampshire*



*Drawn by: Marlene Elizabeth Heck
March 1992*

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This certifies that the appearance has not changed since these photographs were taken.

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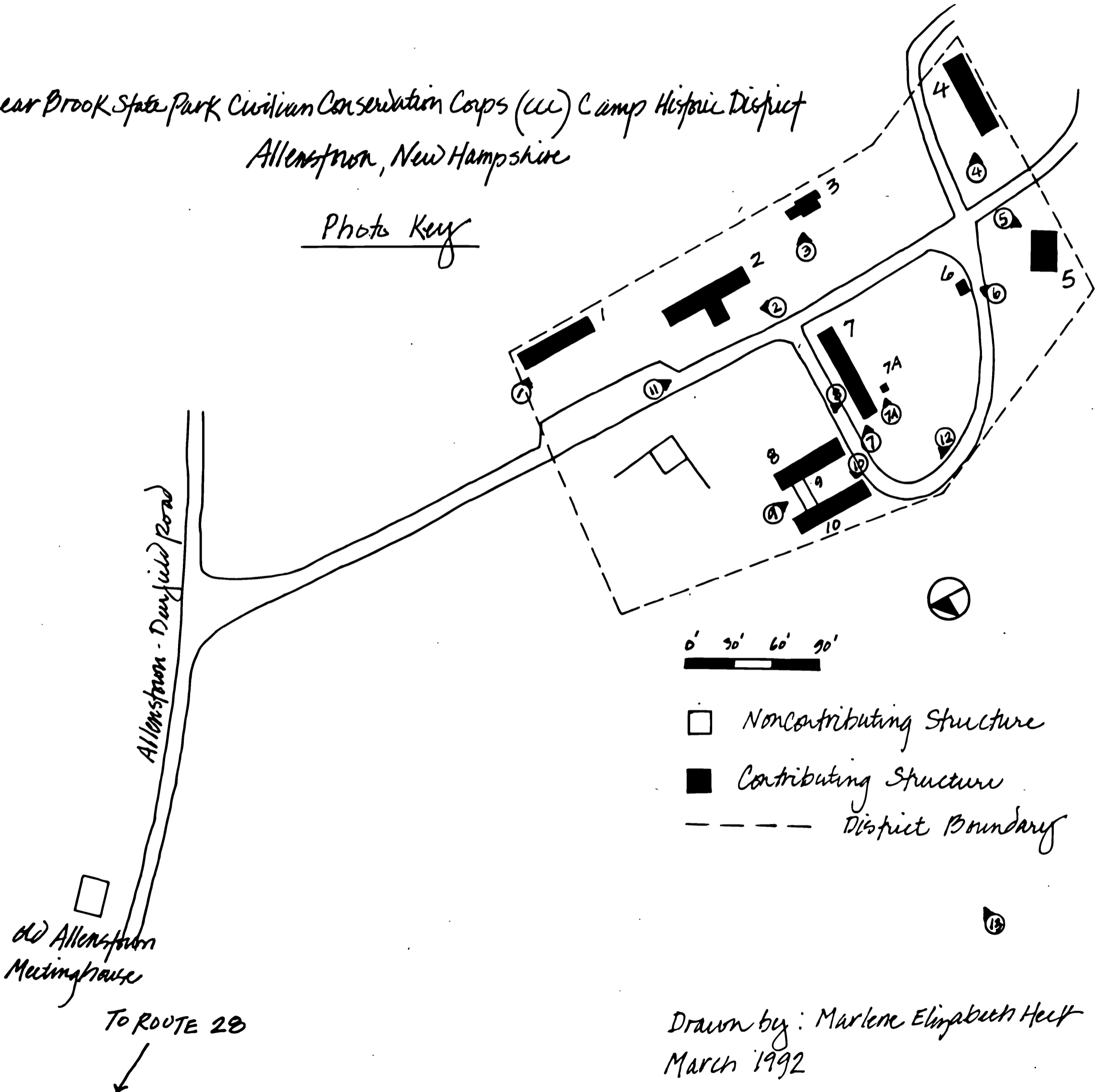
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Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District,
Merrimack County, New Hampshire

*Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
Allenstown, New Hampshire*

Photo Key



*Drawn by: Marlene Elizabeth Hecht
March 1992*

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Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District,
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1 Group Building - Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation
Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
4 October 1991
5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
6 View toward southeast
7 #1

1 Headquarters Building - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
4 October 1991
5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
6 View toward northeast
7 #2

1 Educational Building - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
4 October 1991
5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
6 View toward southeast
7 #3

1 Forestry Garage - Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation
Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
4 October 1991
5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
6 View toward southeast
7 #4

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- 1 Blacksmith Shop/Tool Shed/Garage - Bear Brook State Park
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 July 1991
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward southwest
 - 7 #5
-
- 1 Oil House - Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps
(CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 October 1991
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward northeast
 - 7 #6
-
- 1 Barracks - Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation Corps
(CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 October 1991
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward southeast
 - 7 #7
-
- 1 Shed, associated with Barracks Building - Bear Brook State Park
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 October 1991
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward southeast
 - 7 #7A

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- 1 Recreation Building - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 January 1992
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward northwest
 - 7 #8
-
- 1 Link Building - Bear Brook State Park Civilian Conservation
Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 January 1992
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward south
 - 7 #9
-
- 1 Generation/Showers/Supply Room Building - Bear Brook State Park
Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 January 1992
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward northwest
 - 7 #10
-
- 1 Context View: "Camp Street" - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
 - 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
 - 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
 - 4 October 1991
 - 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
 - 6 View toward south
 - 7 #11

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- 1 Context View: State Maintenance Buildings Outside of the
District Boundaries - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
- 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
- 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
- 4 October 1991
- 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
- 6 View toward northwest
- 7 #12

- 1 Historic Photograph: Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
- 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
- 3 Unknown
- 4 c. 1937
- 5 A.O. Violette, NH CCC Alumnus
Main Street, RFD 2, Box 808
Warner, NH 03278
- 6 View toward east
- 7 #13

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Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp Buildings: Property Owner

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Shirley G. Adamovich, Commissioner

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- 1 Context View: State Maintenance Buildings Outside of the
District Boundaries - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp Historic District
- 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
- 3 Marlene Elizabeth Heck
- 4 October 1991
- 5 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources - Concord, NH
- 6 View toward northwest
- 7 #12

- 1 Historic Photograph: Bear Brook State Park Civilian
Conservation Corps (CCC) Camp - Bear Brook State Park Civilian
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- 2 Allenstown, New Hampshire
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- 7 #13

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Bear Brook State Park CCC Camp Buildings: Property Owner

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