

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 90001663 Date Listed: 11/15/90

Lake Ahquabi St. Park, Picnic Area (A); Warren County, IA
Property Name County State

CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks MPS
Multiple Name

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

Beth Boland
Signature of the Keeper

11/15/90
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

NOTE: This property is not part of a discontinuous district.

Item #8, Significance: Architecture is an area of significance.

References to this property are found in Section 7, pp. 1-4, and 5; Section 8, pp. 2, 3, 6, and 8--11; and Section 10, pp. 1-3.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

16000

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1024-0018
OCT 0 1 1990

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Lake Ahquabi State Park: Picnic Area (Area A)
other names/site number Indianola Park

2. Location

street & number 1650 118th Avenue not for publication N/A
city, town Indianola vicinity
state Iowa code IA county Warren code 181 zip code 50125

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>10</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:
CCC Properties in Iowa State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

[Signature] 9/17/90
Signature of certifying official Date
State Historical Society of Iowa
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Beth Boland 11/15/90

Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

LANDSCAPE/park

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE

walls Sandstone

Weatherboard

roof ASPHALT

other log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
POLITICS
SOCIAL HISTORY
CONSERVATION
RECREATION

Period of Significance
1934-37

Significant Dates
1934
1937

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Central Design Office, Ames

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

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

see pp. 9-1 to 9-4
Primary location of additional data:

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

Specify repository:

Department of Natural Resources
State Historical Society of Iowa

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of property 35 acres

UTM References

A

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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B

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Zone Easting Northing

D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet see pp. 10-1 to 10-2

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet see pp. 10-1 to 10-2

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Joyce McKay, Cultural Resources Consultant
organization private consultant date June 1, 1990
street & number P.O. Box 258 telephone 608-424-6315
city or town Belleville state Wisconsin zip code 53508

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Table 1

Contributing and Noncontributing Properties in Lake Ahquabi State Park

No. (1)	Common Name	Property Ssubtype	Contributing/ Non-contributing	Category
Area A: Picnic Area (35 acres)				
4	portals	entranceways & checking stations	contributing	1 structure
5a-5b-5c	fountains	water supply	contributing	3 objects
6	picnic shelter	picnic shelters	contributing	1 building
6a-6b	latrines	comfort stations & privies	contributing	2 buildings
7	footbridge	vehicle, bridle & foot bridges	contributing	1 structure
-	trails/land-scaping	other minor park structures	contributing	1 structure
-	nature trail	post-CCC resource	noncontributing	1 structure
-	paved road	other minor park resources	contributing	1 structure
total number of resources				11resources
Area B: Bathhouse Area (less than one acre)				
10	bathhouse	bathhouses	contributing	1 building
10a	restrooms	comfort stations & privies	contributing	1 building
10b	storage	concessions & refectories	contributing	1 building
-	wall, walk & steps	barriers, walls & fences	contributing	1 structure
-	chain link	post-CCC resource	non-contributing	1 structure
total number of resources				5 resources
Area C: Refectory Area (less than one acre)				
12	lodge	concessions & refectories	contributing	1 building
total number of resources:				17resources

(1) All numbers are preceded by LAK prefixes.

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7. Statement of Description

Also initially known as Indianola State Park, Lake Ahquabi State Park is located five miles southwest of Indianola in Warren County, Iowa. Originally 560 acres in 1934, the park was expanded to 773.53 acres by 1942 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1936: 118-19; 1942: 127-28]). The rolling landscape characteristic of south central Iowa currently includes a 140 acre man-made lake, a high percentage of wooded areas within which are interspersed open or lightly wooded areas such as the picnic area, bathhouse location, and refectory. The discontinuous district contains three areas with 15 contributing CCC properties: area A) the picnic area with picnic shelter, two latrines, portals, three fountains, a footbridge, and the associated landscaping and trails; area B) the bathhouse, restroom, and concession; and area C) the lodge or refectory. Intrusions in the picnic area include the post-CCC nature trail and in the bathhouse area a chain link fence (Table 1). These properties belong to the property type CCC Properties in Iowa Parks which are presented in section F. Resources within area A tend to concentrate in the eastern portion, but are scattered across it while those in the other two areas are pivotal building locations. Boundaries for the three areas are a mix of landscaping borders and particularly for areas B and C exclude later intrusions into the CCC landscape.

The buildings, structures, and objects follow the guidelines of the mature rustic landscape architecture style as it developed during the CCC period in general shaping, floor plan, materials, decorative elements, functions, property subtypes, and setting.

CCC company 769 and a side camp constructed the properties between 1934 and 1937. The description discusses each area within the district separately to best characterize the setting. In area A, the picnic area, buildings, structures, and objects are scattered in gently rolling hills. There are lightly scattered trees across much of the east part of the picnic area, a paved parking lot and open grassy areas adjacent, and a densely wooded area to the west which was intended for hiking. This landscape including trees and the wider looped trail were for the most part developed during the CCC era (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [box 83]; Iowa, DNR [CCC Lake Ahquabi master plan 1936]). However, the nature trail is a later addition. Although the CCC laid a gravel road so that the pavement represents a later modification, the path of the road has not altered.

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The portals at the main entrance (LAK4) (entranceways and checking stations, IA) bring the park visitor into the picnic area. Placed on either side of the entrance road, each set includes two pylons of random rubble sandstone and concrete. The stepped sides of each set hold two wood rails which represent replacements of the original. Each span 27 feet. Routed in stone and painted, the portal sign to the south states "LAKE AHQUABI" and to the north states "STATE PARK." The original wood gates are removed.

The picnic shelter (LAK6) (picnic shelters, IIA) stands as a pivotal building at the center of the picnic area. The T-shaped, 31 by 56 foot shelter stands on concrete footings and is constructed of coursed rubble end walls with a dominating fireplace alcove occupying the center of the rear or south wall facing away from the nearby parking lot. The north portion of the shelter is open and supported by rounded timber posts. Timber framing supports the asphalt shingled, intersecting gable roof. The corners flare out to meet the eaves. Two openings with segmental lintels, exposed purlins and rafters, the fireplace with segmental arch and keystone, and poured concrete floor laid in squares with a flagstone surround add decorative elements to the massive, rustic building.

Two vault latrines (LAK6a-6b) (comfort stations and privies, IH) flank the shelter near the edge of the wooded area. Coursed rubble sandstone placed on poured concrete footings composes the walls of the two nearly square, 11' by 12" latrines. Asphalt shingles cover the gable roof. Like the shelter, their corners flare out at the eave line, and the rafters are exposed. Windows are covered with louvers. Rounded timber rafters exposed upon the interior support the roof. A pine tree carving appears on the entrance doors to both latrines.

Additional structures and objects within the picnic area include three drinking fountains (LAK5a-5b-5c) (water supply, IG) and a footbridge (LAK7) (vehicle, bridle, and foot bridges, IL). Coursed ashlar sandstone composes the hollow base of each square, 3 foot high drinking fountain. The stone top is dished to receive the water. Each fountain is supplied with a stepping stone. The 24 foot long footbridge crosses an intermittent stream along the upper trail system. The wood superstructure of the footbridge is supported by two random rubble sandstone abutments placed at either end of the bridge. The two wing walls of each abutment are connected by a perpendicular wall which supports the two timbers carrying the planking of the floor. The two hand rails along each

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side rest on top of the abutments.

The bathhouse complex (bathhouses, IIE) in area B comprises a major feature of the park. It stands south of the picnic area along the north shore of the lake adjacent to a grass lawn on three sides and a paved park road on the north. The complex is a long, low, massive building containing from south to north the restroom (LAK10a), the two dressing rooms flanking the beach concession (LAK10), and finally the former food concession (LAK10b). These buildings are linked by a concrete sidewalk along the building on the east and a stone wall curves along the lake side of the building on the west. A concrete walk with three steps interrupting the walk lead to the lake. The dressing rooms and bath concession (LAK10) span 84 feet while the two adjacent buildings measure 14 by 28.5 feet (LAK10a) and 21 by 43 feet (LAK10b).

Each building is composed of random rubble sandstone resting on a poured concrete foundation. Timber roof members support gable roofs over the restroom and concession and the clipped gable roof over the beach concession. They are covered with asphalt shingle. The two dressing rooms flanking the concession lack roofs. Vertical and diagonal decorative siding with timber bracing is limited to the front of the beach concession. This bracing and exposed purlins and rafters also appear on the other two buildings. Hopper windows of four lights under a wood lintel occur on the restroom and two large concession windows pierce the south side of the former concession stand. A chimney appears at the east end of the concession and a broad, overhead door opens at the other end. The base of a built-in fountain remains along the exterior west wall of the bath concession (LAK10). On the interior, stone walls and log roof supports are left exposed in the dressing rooms and the changing stalls remain. Exposed building elements are recently covered in the bath concession (LAK10). Walls are covered with red tile in the restrooms (LAK10a) and ceiling supports remain exposed. Vertical wood paneling and exposed log roof supports in the current concession building (LAK10b) are now covered with more recent paneling.

Only the lodge (concessions and refectories, IIB) (LAK12) occupies area C. It is immediately surrounded by a lawn on all sides. Wooded areas lie to the north and south. The lodge overlooks the lake behind a steep drop to the west, and a paved parking lot occurs to the east. There is a stone patio at the west door and a concrete walk from the east or front door to the parking lot. The

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one story, 54 foot long, ell-shaped building stands on poured concrete footings. It is constructed of rough faced, coursed ashlar sandstone. Weatherboard finishes the gable ends. Asphalt shingles cover the intersecting gable roof and the clipped gable roof of the front wing. A stone chimney dominates the corner of the ell on the east side. The rear or west entrance is flanked by two wing walls which support the diagonal log supports for the small entry porch. Decorative, short buttresses occur at the corners of the building. Exposed rafters and purlins decorate the eaves. The rows of casement windows along with the small entry porch extend the horizontal effect of the building.

The interior floor plan includes a main dining room and a kitchen, two restrooms, and a coatroom in the front or east wing. The stone walls of the main dining room as well as the log roof supports remain exposed. Vertical rough pine paneling covers the interior entryway and coat room while marlite finishes the kitchen and restroom walls. The fireplace in the dining room is flanked by native oak pillars and a log mantle over its segmental arch. Three motifs are painted on the cement floor in this room and are intended to resemble Native American designs. The original wrought iron lighting fixtures fabricated by the CCC remain affixed to the rafters.

Mainly deterioration in part perhaps caused by original construction techniques and modifications demanded for modern use of the park have caused alterations or added intrusions within the three areas. The buildings of area A have suffered some deterioration but for the most part maintain their original configuration. Asphalt replaces the wood shingling on all building roofs. The wood gates of the portal (LAK4) are no longer present (Iowa State Historical Society 1939-59 [1959]). Also the wood planking and handrails replace the original wood members of the footbridge (LAK7). Intrusions include the nature trail constructed in 1982 (see park map) and the paving of the parking lot and park road which covers the original gravel put in place by the CCC. However, the path of the road remains the same. In area B, asphalt replaces wood shingling on all roofs. The sun screen roof and the piping of the fountain along the west wall of the bath concession (LAK10) are removed. An overhead door replaces the original on the west wall of the food concession (LAK10b) which has also lost some of its decorative bracing and purlins because of deterioration. Upon the interior, marlite paneling is installed in the bath concession (LAK10) and more recent panelling covers the original in the food concession (LAK10b). A chain link fence has been added

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around the extremities of the complex. The refectory (LAK12) suffered considerable exterior deterioration prior to its on-going renovation. The ashlar stone chimney is being rebuilt in commercially available stone which is somewhat more regular and smaller in size than the original. Many of the rotted log purlins are being replaced. Installed less recently, steel replaces wood casement windows and represents the most intrusive modification in the renovation process. Additionally, asphalt replaces the wood shingles of the roof. Upon the interior, while marlite paneling covers the original pine paneling in the kitchen and restrooms, the remainder including the art work is intact. The cement walk from the east door to the parking lot is the only known post-CCC intrusion into the landscaping of this area.

Deterioration has occurred in many of the buildings and structures. CCC resources must be viewed as semi-permanent park resources built by essentially unskilled labor under the supervision of trained architects, landscape architects, and craftsmen, primarily locally experienced men. And, the buildings were erected to serve a public with needs differing from current park patrons. Modifications derive from these two sources. Sensitive to the emphasis upon landscaping by the rustic style, property counts recognize the importance of associated landscape to the overall effect of the style and exclude post-CCC intrusions. Then, because of the emphasis on landscaping by rustic architecture, considerable importance is placed upon the integrity of setting, location, feeling, and association of properties. Because of the fragility of the resources, maintenance of the overall design, reasonable integrity of materials, and tolerance for changes effected by deterioration and modern use remain requirements. Finally, integrity of workmanship shown in the district retains the important association with the CCC participants.

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8. Statement of Significance

The CCC resources within the three areas of the Lake Ahquabi State Park District gain historical significance under criterion A in association with the context Civilian Conservation Corps Properties in Iowa State Parks: 1933-1942 and the property type: CCC Properties in Iowa Parks. The district represents the theme through the areas of CONSERVATION, RECREATION, SOCIAL HISTORY, and POLITICS/GOVERNMENT. The CCC was a national level government program carried out through the state within its parks. It sought to provide recreational opportunities for local communities and conserve the parks' landscapes by utilizing unemployed youths in make-work projects, a move toward social welfare at the national level. Additionally, the resources in the Lake Ahquabi State Park District acquire significance under criterion C in the area of ARCHITECTURE as an example of rustic architecture. The buildings, structures, and objects reflect the effort of this landscape movement to blend park amenities into the natural landscape in their material, design, workmanship, and immediate setting and reflect common types developed by the National Park Service for park construction. Thus, the conservation and naturalistic slant of the CCC relates well to the architecture which it erected in parks such as Lake Ahquabi. Because the park amenities within this district were constructed for the enjoyment of local communities and do not contain single examples of exceptionally well preserved, scarce cultural resources or outstanding examples of Iowa state park rustic architecture, the resources of the district gain significance at the local level. The period of significance extends from the commencement of CCC work in the park in 1934 to its close in 1937 (Iowa Department of Agriculture 1935-37 [1935: 215]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [10/34-12/37, box 83]; Regional Office 1935-37 [6/36-12/36, boxes 3, 12, and 14]; District Office 1933-36 [3/27/34, box 2; 4/34-10/36 boxes 3, 22, and 23]).

Background

The community of Indianola acquired and presented the State of Iowa with 560 acres of land for the creation of Lake Ahquabi State Park in 1934. The city's purchase included mainly eroded agricultural fields and woodlots of private farms. On March 19, 1934, Company 769 established camp SP 18 in Indianola, six miles from the park. They departed July, 1937. A side camp also completed projects from August to October, 1937 (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-37

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[9/30/35, 3/31/36, box 83]; Regional Office 1935-37 [3/31/36, 7/36, 12/37 boxes 3, and 14]; U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-36 [5/16/34, box 3]).

The company began work in the park clearing undergrowth in picnic and other areas of the park, building erosion control dams along the drainage area of the lake to prevent silting of the future artificial lake, constructing roads and foot trails, cutting timber, peeling logs, quarrying sandstone, and focusing upon the major project for this period, the building of an earth dam and spillway. Work began in April, 1934 to create the artificial lake eventually covering 140 acres. It was completed by July, 1935. The riprapping of the 1000 foot long dam which consumed 7400 cubic yards of earth was completed with Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) labor. The spillway area was later rebuilt thus replacing the original CCC construction. Construction of the two comfort stations (LAK6a-6b) and the picnic shelter (LAK6) in area A began in December, 1934 and January, 1935 respectively and reached completion by April, 1935. The footbridge (LAK7) was begun by March, 1935 and finished by April, 1935. The upper trail in the picnic area and the parking lot were probably completed by April, 1935 (U.S. NPS, Project Superintendent 1933-47 [10/34-4/35, 9/30/35, 3/31/36, box 83]; District Office 1933-35 [4/6/34, box 3]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1933-42 [master plan of Lake Ahquabi State Park n.d.]). And, the portals were erected during the sixth period between October 1, 1935 and March 31, 1936. The fountains (LAK5a-5b-5c) appear on the 1936 master plan but their construction was not noted (Iowa DNR 1919-89 [master plan, 1936]).

The CCC Company 769 participants erected the bathhouse, the bath concession (LAK10) and the restrooms (LAK10a), beginning May, 1935, and the side camp completed the project by September, 1937. By January, 1937 the company had also begun the bathhouse extension, the dressing rooms, which were also finished in September [Iowa DNR 1919-1989 [master plan, 1936]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [5/35-, box 83]; Regional office 1935-37 [1/37, 3/37, 5/37, 12/37, boxes 12 and 14]). The Iowa State Conservation Commission completed an unspecified amount of work on the food concession (LAK10b) at the bathhouse complex between 1938 and 1940 (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1940]).

The lodge or refectory (LAK12) was not begun until July, 1936 and completed by July, 1937. Inspectors criticized the irregularity of the stone work in both the bathhouse and refectory but praised the "Indian motifs" of buff, black, and white on a red background on

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the refectory's concrete floor and the iron lighting fixtures (Iowa DNR 1919-1989 [master plan, 1936]; U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [3/31/36, box 83]; Regional Office 1936-38 [8/36, 9/36, 5/37, box 3]). Landscaping, the planting of trees creating 380 acres of woods, shrubs, and grass, and the construction of trails, continued from April, 1933 into 1936 (U.S. NPS, Regional Office 1935-37 [7/36, box 3]).

Lake Ahquabi State Park first opened for public use in 1936 with 82,469 visitors in the 1936-1937 year, 117,050 in the 1937-38 year, and 184,520 by the 1939-40 season (Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1938: 3 (1): 19]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1936; 1938; 1940]). The Iowa master plan for park development (Crane 1933) suggested the creation of specific types of parks to serve particular purposes. The Iowa State Conservation Commission reclassified these parks several times so that by 1942 Lake Ahquabi State Park was to serve as a recreation reserve (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1942: 127-28]). As the project supervisor noted, they strove to "...create an artificial recreational and scenic lake and a park enhanced by the natural rolling woodlands of southern Iowa" (U.S. NPS, Project Supervisor 1933-47 [9/30/35, box 83]). As such, the park served as a general recreation area providing bathing and boating associated with the artificial lake, nature study, fishing, group camping, and winter sports. The bath concession in the bathhouse (LAK10) rented bathing suits and similar gear while the food concession (LAK10b) served miscellaneous refreshments by 1937 through 1942. Developed south of the picnic area by the CCC between October, 1935 and May, 1936, the group camp has been partially destroyed and the remaining lodge survives in deteriorated condition. Winter sports included skating, skiing, and coasting between 1936 and 1938. The Conservation Commission reports note an associated facility such as a sports lodge which may imply the refectory (LAK12) (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1938: 109]). The park also provided nature tours, both self-guided and guided tours through the WPA by 1937 until 1940. This emphasis dovetails with the extensive planting projects of both the CCC and WPA in the park by 1936. Between 1936 and 1938, they planted 128,092 trees and 13,525 shrubs in such places as the picnic area and adjacent woods. The park also became the site of the state nursery for works project plantings by 1939-1940 (Iowa Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1938: 108-09, 116, 119; 1940: 156-57, 161, 190-91; 1942]; Iowa State Conservation Commission 1937, 1941 [1941: 19]). Thus, Lake Ahquabi State Park received heavy public use even during the CCC period.

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Historical Significance

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

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS

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

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

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Board 1936-38 [1936: 1 (1): 4]).

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

SOCIAL HISTORY

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

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supplies locally. And, communities reciprocated by gifts of land and materials for the park projects (Iowa Secretary of State 1939-40: 308-09; Merrill 1981: 128; Wirth 1980: 145; Paige 1985: 127). As noted, Indianola provided land for Lake Ahquabi State Park and the riprapping for its dam.

CONSERVATION

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

RECREATION

The CCC park development erected facilities which did not intrude upon the natural setting and thus ensured a healthful environment

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for the escape of local communities from the circumstances of the depression. Also, in the long run, increasing mechanization created greater leisure time but also increasing stress. To cope, the individual needed to seek relaxation and rejuvenation of mind and spirit in a non-mechanized environment or nature. This increasing mechanization also provided the means to physically reach beyond the urban environment through the automobile. Parks provided an opportunity to satisfy the immediate requirement created by the depression and as it lifted to gain inspiration from his natural surroundings (Crane 1933: 144; IOWA CONSERVATIONIST 1941-42 [1941: 1(2): 7]; U.S. NPS 1941: v, 9; Owen 1983: 12). This identified public need became substantiated by the rise in Iowa state park visitation between 1928 and 1941-1942 season from 1,542,557 to 3,686,481. This rise also occurred at Lake Ahquabi (Iowa State Conservation Commission 1935-42 [1936; 1938; 1942]; Iowa State Board of Conservation 1931: 30). Thus, the CCC's activity in state parks provided the necessary opportunity for recreation in the form of picnicking, nature study, bathing, and fishing. Conservation and recreation remained intimately tied in the development of Iowa state parks. Park development for such recreation was not to impair the natural surroundings. And, it became the state's responsibility to provide a wholesome environment in which its citizens could spend its leisure time (Crane 1933: 11; Iowa State Planning Board 1936-38 [1937: 2(3): 7-8]). This philosophy espoused early in Iowa was echoed in the federal government's study of recreation needs in 1934 and 1941 (U.S. NPS 1941: v).

Architectural Significance

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

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

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

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of size within general limits. Roofs were often of heavy, exposed timber supports covered with wood shingle. Thus, they blended with the surrounding tree line and the upper portions were heavy and durable like the lower portions of the building or structure (Good 1938: I; Alhgren 1987: 5, 56; 1988; Tweed 1977: 30, 35, 54, 71, 93-94).

Such make-work programs as the CCC, the Works Progress Administration, and the National Youth Administration utilized this style extensively across the nation. To meet the volume of work demanded by the broad state park development, the National Park Service published a guide by Albert Good in 1935 and 1938, PARK STRUCTURES AND FACILITIES (1938), which in effect summarized rather than forecasted work in the style. This style is evident in a majority of Iowa parks in which the CCC, WPA or NYA worked. Records note the participation of several landscape architects for the Lake Ahquabi State Park project including primarily John R. Fitzimmons but also V.W. Flickinger and a Mr. Sapp (U.S. NPS, District Office 1933-35 [12/16/34, box 3]; Regional Office 1935-37 [9/36, 5/37, boxes 3 and 12]).

The Lake Ahquabi State Park District resources represent the rustic style. The 1936 master plan places buildings and structures in groupings such as the picnic area and the bathing area. The refectory (LAK12) stands alone overlooking the lake as a pivotal building on the landscape. Additional groups excluded from the nomination because of later alterations also follow this scheme. All buildings, structures, and objects use both native stone and timbers. As noted, CCC Company 769 quarried and faced the sandstone and peeled logs derived from the local area. Buildings have random rubble or uncoursed, rough faced ashlar walls with large timber roof timbers, materials which blend with the natural surroundings. Open buildings such as the picnic shelter (LAK6) have intricate timber roof supports. Enclosed buildings display exposed purlins and rafters and log bracing, and the timber roof framing is often open to view on the interior. The low, horizontal extent of these buildings, particularly the low, rambling bathhouse, coupled with their use of native materials assists their blending with the natural landscape. Company 769 also performed extensive landscaping and trail development which is preserved in the picnic area (area A). The minor structures within it such as the portals (LAK4), footbridge (LAK7), and fountains (LAK5a-5b-5c) are also of native materials. In addition to following the general pioneer theme through the use of native materials, the CCC also alluded through their own interpretation to the Native American

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past. The motif painted on the concrete floor of the lodge and also the wrought iron lanterns and fireplace refer to pioneer traditions. Finally, the ornamentation, the low, horizontal lines, the exposed timbers, extension of the corners at the eaves, a common motif in Iowa, the segmental arch with keystone which forms the upper portion of the picnic shelter fireplace, and the diagonal siding of the bathhouse retain the simplicity prescribed by rustic architecture.

Comparative Statement

Because of the general level of resource integrity and the typical property subtypes displayed as well as the local tie of Indianola to the park, the resources within the Lake Ahquabi State Park District gain significance at the local level. As noted in the descriptive statement, buildings and structures generally retain integrity of setting, location, overall design, material, feeling, association, and workmanship. And, except for some general deterioration, all but the lodge (LAK12), footbridge (LAK7), food concession (LAK10b), and portals (LAK4) retain a high integrity of design. The property type including footbridges has generally suffered replacement of wood elements when they do survive. In those cases where wood elements parallel the original, the footbridge is deemed eligible. Portals composed primarily of stone pylons in almost all cases have lost their original wood gates and any horizontal connecting timbers. Where the replacement generally matches the original and where wood gates are lacking, the resources is considered eligible. Despite alterations along the eave line and replacement of the entrance, the concession (LAK10b) gains significance as an integral part of the bathhouse complex and as a rather scarce resource in Iowa parks. The refectory has suffered considerable deterioration. Although the refurbishing of the building by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has not been entirely in concert with the replaced members, for example, the steel frame windows and the stone work in the chimney, the intensive building methods used by the CCC are now nearly impossible to duplicate because of financial restraints. And, because the refectory along with the bathhouse served as a pivotal buildings for the park and because of the interior integrity of the refectory including the artistic motifs, lanterns, and fireplace, the building merits nomination as apart of this district.

A majority of the buildings, structures, and objects within the district are relatively common to Iowa state parks which underwent

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development by the CCC, for example the shelter (LAK6), latrines (LAK6a-6b), drinking fountains (LAK5a-5b-5c), entrance portals (LAK4), landscaping with trails, bathhouse (LAK10-10a), and refectory (LAK12). The footbridge (LAK7) and the concession (LAK10b) which stands as part of but as a separate building from the bathhouse are not. However, their integrity of design has suffered deterioration. Thus, the district achieves significance at the local level. The district recognizes the contributions made by the CCC in the state park and therefore gains significance during the period of construction, 1934 to 1937. The significant dates, 1934 and 1937, denote the arrival of the two companies, company 769 and the side camp.

Then, the Lake Ahquabi State Park District is a discontinuous district including three separate areas constructed by two CCC companies between 1934 and 1937. These boundaries not only eliminate landscapes and buildings which fail to contribute to the significance of the district but also parallel the concept of the park as nodes of activity, the picnic area (area A), bathing area (area B), and refectory or meeting area (area C). As a product of the CCC, the district gains significance for its historical associations with the CCC and its contribution to the areas of GOVERNMENT/POLITICS, SOCIAL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, and RECREATION. The park is a direct product of interrelated historical movements in all these areas. It is through the combination of these threads of historical movements that CCC resources gain significance. Under the area of ARCHITECTURE, they also represent the main principles of mature rustic architecture of the 1930s. Despite the district's strong relationship to national and state movements, it possesses local significance. The bureaucratic government allowed movements of national origin to affect local areas. The local community of Indianola became engaged in the movement. And, from the perspective of landscape architecture, the resources while following principles espoused at the national level, generally embody common resource subtypes becoming significant illustrations of CCC state park development in Iowa.

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10. Geographical Data

Boundary Description:

The Lake Ahquabi State Park District includes three discontinuous areas. The boundaries of area A (see park map and USGS map) begins five feet north of the entrance portals (LAK4) at the park entrance and follows either side of the road to the parking lot of the picnic area. The north boundary then extends west from the north end of the parking lot to the north edge of the CCC trail. The linear west boundary encompasses the west extensions of the CCC trail. The south boundary is defined by the southern extent of the CCC trail of the picnic area, running east to join the parking lot.

The boundary extends southeast to encompass the two CCC fountains and runs north along the east boundary of the parking lot. The boundaries of area B, the bathhouse area, are defined by the paved roadway to the west and the edge of the lake at the east. They extend 20 feet away from the complex on north and south sides.

The boundaries of area C, the refectory, are defined on the east by the parking lot, on the west by the descent to the lake, and on the north and south by the tree line which marks the edge of the associated lawn.

Boundary Justification:

Relatively tight boundary lines within the Lake Ahquabi State Park District include adjacent CCC era setting but exclude intervening, insignificant landscaping intrusions. The boundary of the picnic area (area A) defines most of the original picnic area as it was developed by the CCC and encompasses the original entry to the park, the built features of the picnic area, and its wooded landscaping and trail to the west. Those of the bathhouse area (area B) extend from the paved roadway on the east to the lake's edge on the west to include the associated beach. The 20 foot extension on the north and south include grassy areas with scattered trees. These boundaries exclude the paved roadways, parking areas, and the steel boathouse which replaces a CCC building to the north. The boundaries of the refectory (area C) include the original lawns associated with the building but exclude the paved parking lot.

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The three areas of the Lake Ahquabi State Park District are placed within a single discontinuous district to interrelate the CCC resources constructed in the park thus associating them with the park's historical development. This approach also relates the activities of one or several CCC companies. It allows an overall impression of CCC work in the park yet eliminates park lands inappropriate to the theme of the nomination. The discontinuous district also provides a workable guide for overall park planning by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

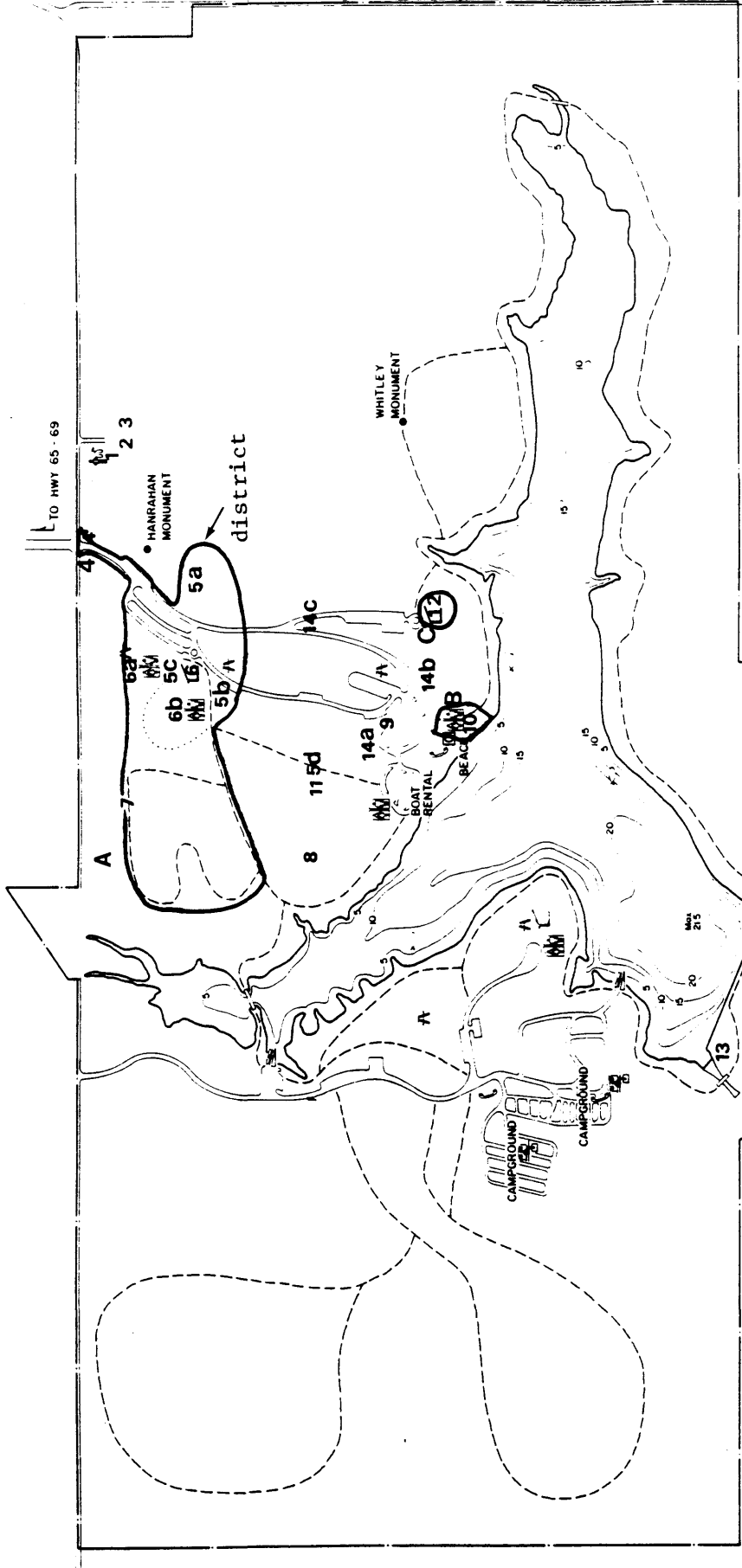
UTM References:

Area A:

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| A. 15-4571090-451180 | B. 15-4571100-451060 | C. 15-4571060-4 ⁵ 11020 |
| D. 15-4571080-450960 | E. 15-4570940-451000 | F. 15-4570710-450945 |
| G. 15-4570540-451245 | H. 15-4570640-451145 | |

Area B:

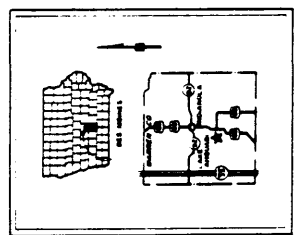
- area C
I. 15-4570930-450580 J. 15-4570740-450580



- NATURE TRAIL
- MULTI USE TRAIL
- SNOWMOBILE
- HIKING
- PARK RANGER
- SHELTER
- ENCLOSED SHELTER
- PICNIC AREA
- REST ROOM
- BOAT RAMP
- TRAILER DUMP STATION
- FISH AT TRACTOR
- CONCESSION STAND

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



0 500 1320 feet
1/4 mile

15- sewer system

TO HWY 65 - 69

2 3

district

WHITLEY MONUMENT

HANRAHAN MONUMENT

BOAT RENTAL

BEACH

CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

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CAMPGROUND

CAMPGROUND

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Photographic Identification

Name: Lake Ahquabi State Park
Location: Indianola, Warren County, Iowa
Negative: Bureau of Historic Preservation, State Historical Society
of Iowa
Photographer: Brent Laning
Date: March, 1989

Description:

- *1. View of the entrance portals (area A, LAK4) facing west.
- *2. View of the picnic shelter (area A, LAK6) facing southwest.
- *3. View of one of three fountains (area A, LAK5a) in the picnic area facing northwest.
- *4. View of one of two latrines (area A, LAK6a) in the picnic area facing southwest.
- *5. View of the footbridge (area A, LAK7) in a wooded location in the picnic area facing northwest.
6. View of the east side of the bathhouse (area B, LAK10-10a-10b) facing southwest.
7. View of the west or lake side of the bathhouse (area B, LAK10-10a-10b) facing northeast.
8. View of the front facade of the lodge (area C, LAK12) facing southeast.
9. View of one of three artistic motifs painted on the cement floor of the main hall of the lodge (area C, LAK12).

* Only these photographs have been submitted with this nomination.