

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: 92000521

Date Listed: 5/28/92

Mather Lodge  
Property Name

Conway  
County

ARKANSAS  
State

Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas 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.

Patricia Andrews  
Signature of the Keeper

7/1/92  
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Section No. 1

This nomination is amended to show the name of the resource as "Petit Jean State Park--Mather Lodge." This change was made to clarify the location of the resource.

The change was confirmed by phone with the Arkansas SHPO (6/29/92).

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DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file  
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

RECEIVED  
APR 10 1992

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

1. Name of Property

historic name: Mather Lodge

other name/site number: CN0057

2. Location

street & number: Petit Jean State Park Access Road

not for publication: N/A

city/town: Winrock

vicinity: X

state: AR county: Conway code: AR 029 zip code: 72025

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-state

Category of Property: Building

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>1</u>	<u>      </u> buildings
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> sites
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> structures
<u>      </u>	<u>      </u> objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: N/A

Name of related multiple property listing: Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets      does not meet the National Register Criteria.      See continuation sheet.

Cathryn A. Byrd  
Signature of certifying official

4-6-92  
Date

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
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**

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Entered in the  
National Register

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):

Alaune Byrd 5/28/92

      
Signature of Keeper

      
Date  
of Action

=====

**6. Function or Use**

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Historic: RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

Current : RECREATION AND CULTURE

Sub: Outdoor recreation

=====

## 7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification:

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other Description: Rustic\_\_\_\_\_

Materials: foundation Stone\_\_\_\_\_ roof Asphalt\_\_\_\_\_  
walls Stone\_\_\_\_\_ other Wood log walls, supports and  
rafters\_\_\_\_\_

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

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## 8. Statement of Significance

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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally\_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A, C\_\_\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: SOCIAL HISTORY\_\_\_\_\_  
ARCHITECTURE\_\_\_\_\_  
ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1935-1942\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: 1935-42; c. 1940\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps\_\_\_\_\_  
Works Progress Administration\_\_\_\_\_  
Cromwell, Truemper, Levy, Parker and Woodsmall\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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Mather Lodge is a large, single-story, stone masonry and log construction recreational building designed in the Rustic style common to CCC-constructed buildings. It has been augmented with two significant additions: a sympathetic WPA-built stone masonry and wood log addition attached to the western end of the southern "T" of the original CCC structure, and a sympathetic though non-historic (c. 1960) restaurant section attached to the northern end of the western elevation.

The original CCC-constructed building is organized into an irregular plan. A rectangular, gable roof stone masonry meeting room area with an exterior stone chimney rising through the gable peak at its eastern end is placed at the southern end of the elevation and set perpendicular to another rectangular, gable roof log meeting room area to the north. This "T"-shaped section is in turn connected to the main visitor greeting area and function rooms to the north by an open, gable roof porch, supported upon massive, unhewn log supports and that is itself laid out in a shallow "V." The northern end of the porch is attached to a shallow, gable roof entrance vestibule and visitor greeting area that leads into the large sitting room directly to the north, which is covered with a gable roof set perpendicular to the building's other gable roof components and heated by its two massive stone masonry chimneys at either end. The gable roof rooms at the northern end of the building are constructed of log, and consist of an original set of rooms that are terminated by the large stone chimney. A sympathetic wood frame addition attached to the north of the chimney completes the gable roof sections of the structure.

The building is fenestrated throughout with both six-over-six and eight-over-eight wood sash windows (with the sole exception of the restaurant addition, which is lit with large, single-pane windows that provide views of the surrounding mountains). Significant exterior details are limited to the more architectonic ornamentation typical of Civilian Conservation Corps construction. Such features as the large, unhewn log supports and exposed rafters, the sloping, three-dimensional rubble stone masonry employed for foundations, chimneys and walls, and the exposed, unhewn horizontal logs with their saddle-notched ends increasing in length toward the ground provide the principal exterior ornament. However, it is important to note that such CCC-constructed furniture and utilities as rough-hewn wood benches and cylindrical wood "lanterns" remain intact in most cases.

The interior of the building throughout -- including both major additions -- retains either the original exposed log walls and vertical supports, bouldered chimneys and other typical CCC-designed features or later construction that is visually reflective and respectful of the Rustic style typical of the CCC. Few significant alterations to the original interior have occurred.

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National Park Service**

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The WPA-constructed addition attached to the western end of the southern "T" (c. 1940) is designed in a very sympathetic manner relative to the CCC construction, as it consists of a gable roof that continues the direction and pitch of the gable roof section to which it is attached, and horizontal log walls and a continuous stone foundation that largely match the original construction. The restaurant addition at the northwest corner, though of wood frame construction and covered with a gable-on-hip roof, is sheathed with wood stained a dark color to match that of the original log construction, and supported by stone piers.

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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
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The land that would comprise Petit Jean State Park was donated to the State of Arkansas in the mid-1920's by individual landowners and sympathetic lumbering concerns as the first step in the formation of a state parks system. The top of Petit Jean Mountain had already been recognized for its scenic splendor, and for its geological wealth and diversity, and so seemed a particularly worthy site. The initial plan of these citizens was to turn the entire site over to the federal government for the establishment of a national park; however, after considerable study, National Park Service officials determined that Petit Jean Mountain was not a unique natural resource when evaluated on a national basis, and thus declined to assume ownership. Yet these same officials strongly encouraged the state to preserve and maintain the site as an important representation of Arkansas's natural heritage, and in 1923, the Arkansas Legislature passed Act 276 authorizing the Commissioner of State Lands to accept land donations for state parks and reservations. Thus began the Arkansas State Parks system, with Petit Jean State Park as its flagship.

Mather Lodge was constructed c. 1935 at Petit Jean State Park by the men of the 1781st Company of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Arkansas District, stationed at Morrilton, Arkansas as an administrative building and visitors center to be used by the park's staff for the management and administration of the park, and by visitors as a meeting and social center. This facility was constructed by the CCC as part of the overall plan to develop this part of the mountain as a public park to be administered by the state of Arkansas.

The historic addition to the building was constructed c. 1940 by laborers working under the supervision of the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The onset of the Great Depression in 1929 and the high level of unemployment that resulted brought about the creation of such federal public works programs as the Works Progress Administration (WPA). The WPA -- an organization that hired unemployed adult men and women to work on a variety of public projects throughout the nation -- was established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his administration as part of the federal response to the dire economic circumstances brought upon the American people by the Great Depression. The WPA was but one of many such public works organizations instituted by the Roosevelt Administration and managed under the aegis of the umbrella agency in charge of all such public works efforts, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA); others included the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the short-lived Public Works and Civilian Works Administrations (PWA and CWA), and such regional projects as the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) and the Rural Colonization Projects in Arkansas established at such places as Dyess, Clover Bend and Plum Bayou. Additions and repairs to existing public structures provided a significant amount of work for WPA laborers in Arkansas, in addition to their even more considerable amount of new construction throughout the state,

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particularly in the area of public schools. The heavy demand as of 1940 on the facilities at Petit Jean required the construction of this addition, and the WPA laborers executed this design in an aesthetically-sympathetic manner.

This original portion of this building was erected at Petit Jean State Park by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps for the purpose of providing office space for park staff and social space for park visitors, and was intended to serve the visitors of the park as a reception/administration area and social center. Thus Mather Lodge is eligible under Criterion A for its associations with both the Civilian Conservation Corps' importance within Arkansas social history and its role in the development of outdoor parks dedicated to public leisure and recreational activities. It is also eligible under Criterion C due to its status as a representative and intact example of the Rustic style of architecture that was made popular nationwide by the CCC, and which has since become virtually identified with it.

This boundary includes both the historic structure and a representative

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See "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942," Section H.

amount of the surrounding property historically-associated with the recreational activities for which this structure was constructed.

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**11. Form Prepared By**

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Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: March 3, 1992

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

11/20/90

National Register of Historic Places  
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Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942 MPS

Date Listed

COVER

Substantive Review

Dany Federman 1/3/91

1. Lake Leatherwood Recreational Facilities

2. Leatherwood Dam

Substantive Review

3. Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
(Fed owned)

2/3/92

4. Devil's Den State Park Historic District

Substantive Review

Ret.

Conway Co added to each name PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

5. Administration Office

5/28/92

6. Blue Hole Road District

5/28/92

7. Cabin No. 1

5/28/92

8. Cabin No. 16

5/28/92

9. Cabin No. 6

5/28/92

10. Cabin No. 9

5/28/92

11. Cedar Falls Trail Historic District

5/28/92

12. Concrete Log Bridge

5/28/92

13. Culvert No. 1

5/28/92

14. Lake Bailey--Roosevelt Lake Historic District

Substantive Review

5/28/92

15. Mather Lodge

5/28/92

16. Office Headquarters

5/28/92

17. Water Treatment Building

5/28/92

18. Amphitheater

Substantive Review

Ret.

19. Bathhouse

5/28/92

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY *PETIT JEAN STATE PARK*  
NAME: Mather Lodge

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Conway

DATE RECEIVED: 4/13/92

DATE OF PENDING LIST: 4/28/92

DATE OF 16TH DAY: 5/14/92

DATE OF 45TH DAY: 5/28/92

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 92000521

NOMINATOR: STATE

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N

OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N

REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

☒ ACCEPT ☐ RETURN ☐ REJECT *5/28/92* DATE

Entered in the  
National Register

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

RECOM./CRITERIA

REVIEWER

DISCIPLINE

DATE

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR ☒ Y ☐ N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

Signed Date



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS  
- PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW OF WPA-CONSTRUCTED SECTION FROM WEST



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK, VIC., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
~~THE~~ DETAIL OF CENTRAL GABLE FROM WEST



MATHER LODGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

WINROCK VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF OPEN PORCH CONNECTOR FROM WEST



MATHER LODGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF OPEN PORCH CONNECTOR FROM EAST



MATHER LODGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

WINROCK VIL., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY V. DE ROSE

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF WPA-CONSTRUCTED SECTION FROM SOUTHEAST



MATHER LODGE

PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CENTRAL GABLE FROM EAST



NO PARKING

### Cedar Falls Trail

Foot traffic only!  
Trail length 2 miles.  
Please follow trail markers.  
No camping or fires.

Trail starts beyond the swimming pool.

MATHER LODGE  
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW OF SOUTHERN LOG ROOM FROM NORTHEAST



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT VERM STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIL., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
DETAIL OF NOTCHING



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW OF OPEN PORCH CONNECTOR INTERIOR



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT VEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIL., ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DEROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP  
VIEW OF LOG SUPPORT



MATHER LODGE

PETIT VEAN STATE PARK

WINROCK VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE

OCTOBER, 1989

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF ORIGINAL FURNITURE



MATHER LODGE  
PETIT JEAN STATE PARK  
WINROCK VIC, ARKANSAS  
PHOTOGRAPHED BY J. DE ROSE  
OCTOBER, 1989  
NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW OF LOG RAFTERS

Please refer to the map in the  
Multiple Property Cover Sheet  
for this property

Multiple Property Cover Sheet Reference Number: 64500019