

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

655

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions.

RECEIVED 2280
AUG 12 2016

1. Name of Property

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

Historic name: Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Other names/site number: Sites #YE0001-YE0005

Name of related multiple property listing:
Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

2. Location

Street & number: 10006, 10105, 10115, and 10129 Yell County Road 92

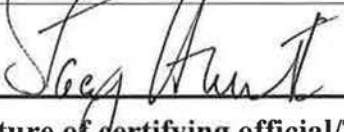
City or town: Dardanelle State: Arkansas County: Yell

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local
Applicable National Register Criteria:
 X A B C D

	6-15-16
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
Title :	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)


Signature of the Keeper

9-21-2016
Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

- Private:
- Public – Local
- Public – State
- Public – Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

- Building(s)
- District
- Site
- Structure
- Object

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER/Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE, ASPHALT, WOOD

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

The Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District is a group of four cabins and a bridge built c.1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The cabins are some of several cabins that the CCC built on the top of Mt. Nebo for overnight accommodations. The cabins in the historic district have fieldstone foundations and walls are either fieldstone or sided with wood weatherboard. The cabins are topped by a mixture of gable and hipped roofs covered in asphalt shingles. Exposed rafter tails surround the roofs under the eaves of some of the cabins. Windows in the cabins are mainly four-over-four double-hung windows. Fieldstone retaining walls and terraces are also located near some of the cabins, and were constructed to take advantage of the cabins' sloping site.

Narrative Description

The Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District is a small district of four Rustic-style fieldstone and frame cabins built c.1933 by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) along with a fieldstone bridge, also built by the CCC. The cabins are some of several cabins that the CCC built on the top of Mt. Nebo for overnight accommodations. The cabins in the historic district are located along the western edge of the mountain near the northern tip, and they were placed there to take advantage of the spectacular views. The cabins have fieldstone foundations, some of which blend into the battered fieldstone walls of the fieldstone cabins. Walls of some of the other

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

cabins are sided in wood weatherboard siding. The cabins are topped by a mixture of gable and hipped roofs covered in asphalt shingles. In addition, the cabins have large fieldstone chimneys for the interiors' fireplaces. Exposed rafter tails surround the roof under the eaves of some of the cabins. Windows in the cabins are mainly four-over-four double-hung windows. Although the windows are replacements, they replicate the cabins' original windows. Fieldstone retaining walls and terraces are located near some of the cabins, and were constructed to take advantage of the cabins' sloping site.

CABIN #66 – Site #YE0004 - Contributing

Front/Northeast Façade

The front façade of Cabin #66, which is sided with wood weatherboard siding and topped by a hipped roof, can be divided into three bays. The central bay has the front entrance to the cabin, which consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The central bay also has an open hipped-roof porch supported by two log posts on fieldstone bases. The bays to the left and right are fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Southeast Façade

The southeast façade of Cabin #66 can be divided into three bays. The bay to the right consists of the southeast side of the open front porch. The middle bay is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows, while the bay to the left is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window.

Rear/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of Cabin #66 is divided into two bays. The southeastern bay has an entrance into the cabin near the left side of the bay. The entrance consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The northwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central pair of four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Northwest Façade

The northwest façade of Cabin #66 is divided into two bays. The southwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central four-over-four double-hung window. A flagstone terrace also wraps around the western corner at this bay. The northeastern bay of the façade is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

CABIN #67 – Site #YE0003 – Contributing

Front/Northeast Façade

The front façade of Cabin #67, which is sided with wood weatherboard siding and topped by a gabled and saltbox roof, can be divided into three bays. The central bay has the front entrance to the cabin, which consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The entrance is flanked on each side by an engaged fieldstone pilaster, and is topped by a front-facing gable roof with weatherboard

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

siding in the gable front above a pent roof. The bay to the left is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window and the bay to the right is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Southeast Façade

The southeast façade of Cabin #67 can be divided into two bays. The bay to the right is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows while the bay to the left is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window.

Rear/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of Cabin #67 is divided into two bays. The southeastern bay has an entrance into the cabin near the left side of the bay. The entrance consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The entrance is sheltered by an awning extension of the roof that is supported by wooden knee braces. The northwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central pair of four-over-four double-hung windows. The cabin also features a fieldstone retaining wall and terrace in front of the west half of the façade.

Side/Northwest Façade

The northwest façade of Cabin #67 is divided into two bays. The southwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central pair of four-over-four double-hung windows. A flagstone terrace also wraps around the western corner at this bay. The northeastern bay of the façade is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

CABIN #68 – Site #YE0002 – Contributing

Front/Northeast Façade

The front façade of Cabin #68, which is sided with wood weatherboard siding and topped by a gabled and saltbox roof, can be divided into three bays. The central bay has the front entrance to the cabin, which consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The entrance is flanked on each side by an engaged fieldstone pilaster, and is topped by a front-facing jerkinhead gable roof with weatherboard siding in the gable front above a pent roof. The bay to the left is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window and the bay to the right is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Southeast Façade

The southeast façade of Cabin #68 can be divided into two bays. The bay to the right is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows while the bay to the left is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window.

Rear/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of Cabin #68 is divided into two bays. The southeastern bay has an entrance into the cabin near the left side of the bay. The entrance consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

top half. The entrance is topped by a front-facing gable with a steeply-pitched roof. The northwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central pair of four-over-four double-hung windows. The cabin also features a fieldstone retaining wall and terrace in front of the west half of the façade.

Side/Northwest Façade

The northwest façade of Cabin #68 is divided into two bays. The southwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a central pair of four-over-four double-hung windows. A flagstone terrace also wraps around the western corner at this bay. The northeastern bay of the façade is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

CABIN #69 – Site #YE0001 – Contributing

Front/Northeast Façade

The front façade of Cabin #69, which is a fieldstone cabin and topped by a hipped roof, can be divided into four bays. The second bay from the left has the front entrance to the cabin, which consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The entrance is topped by a hipped roof awning supported on each side by wooden knee braces. The entrance is flanked on each side by a rectangular single-pane window set high in the wall. The northernmost bay is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Southeast Façade

The southeast façade of Cabin #69 can be divided into three bays. The bay to the right is fenestrated by a pair of four-over-four double-hung windows while the central bay is fenestrated by a single four-over-four double-hung window. The rear bay is the south side of the rear open porch.

Rear/Southwest Façade

The southwest façade of Cabin #69 is divided into two bays. The southeastern bay has an entrance into the cabin near the left side of the bay. The entrance consists of a modern door with two recessed rectangular panels in the bottom half and a square faux nine-pane window in the top half. The entrance is sheltered by an open porch with a hipped roof. The porch roof is supported by log posts at the corners, and is approached from the side by a set of fieldstone steps. The northern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

Side/Northwest Façade

The northwest façade of Cabin #68 is divided into two bays. The southwestern bay, which is recessed, is fenestrated by a four-over-four double-hung window. The northeastern bay of the façade is fenestrated by a group of three four-over-four double-hung windows.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

BRIDGE – Site #YE0005 - Contributing

The bridge is a fieldstone bridge that spans a small seasonal ditch on a trail in the vicinity of the cabins. Like the cabins, the bridge was built c.1933 by the CCC. The bridge is a closed spandrel arch and the bridge's sidewalls are raised in the center over the arch, creating a Mission-style parapet effect. The tops of the bridge's walls have flat stones, and the ends of the walls have raised stone caps.

Integrity

The Mt. Nebo Cabins Historic District has excellent integrity from the time of their construction by the CCC c.1933. The largest change to the cabins has been the replacement of the windows. However, the current windows replicate the original windows and retain the size and features that would have been present when the cabins were built. The setting around the cabins also maintains the historic setting with scattered cabin and seasonal cottages to the east. Woods still remain to the north and south and the mountain's escarpment is to the west.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A. Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B. Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C. Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D. Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A. Owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes
-

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

- B. Removed from its original location
- C. A birthplace or grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION
POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

c.1933-1966

Significant Dates

c.1933

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps, Builder

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

When they were built c.1933, the Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District became an important component of the recreational facilities at Mount Nebo State Park. The construction of the Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District by the CCC also illustrated the importance of the Federal New Deal agency to that part of Yell County as well. Even today, the Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District remains an important part of the facilities at Mount Nebo State Park. Due to the cabins' significance in illustrating the importance of the CCC to the area, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. The Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District is also being nominated under the multiple-property listing "Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942."

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

HISTORY OF THE PROPERTY

Settlement in the area that became Yell County began in the 1820s with the arrival of Pearson Brearly in 1827. He was followed by Joseph H. Brearly in 1831 and then by other families including the Stinnets, Hensleys, Wickers, and Beattys. Enough people were in the area to necessitate the creation of Yell County on December 5, 1840, from parts of Pope and Scott counties. The county was named for the state's first Congressman and second governor, Archibald Yell. A temporary county seat was established for Yell County in the home of William Pevy until it was decided that the seat of power should be near the geographic center of the county. The Town of Danville was laid out and a courthouse was established. Due to the

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

size of the county and the distribution of the population, an appeal was made for a second county seat to be established at Dardanelle in the northeast part of the county. The Town of Dardanelle was laid out by Dr. Joseph Brearly in 1843 and was incorporated as a town on January 17, 1855. Brearly was the son of Col. David Brearly, an Indian agent of the area and the grandson of David Brearly who signed the Constitution of the United States as a delegate from the state of New Jersey. The Dardanelle District of Yell County was established in 1875.¹

From the beginning, one of the most prominent landmarks in Yell County has been Mount Nebo. Located approximately five miles west of Dardanelle, its flat top rises approximately 1,300 feet above the river valley to the east. However, development on the mountain did not start until the 1800s, and it is Captain Joseph Evins who is generally credited with having taken the steps to allow development on Mount Nebo's top. Captain Evins was born in Kentucky in 1834, the seventh of twelve children born to Lewis and Bethena (Smith) Evins. Evins was reared on a farm, attending school only a short time before, at the age of sixteen, he found a position as a clerk. He later resigned to accept another position as clerk on a steamboat on the Cumberland River. Three years later, he became the captain of another boat and captained several boats on the Arkansas, Mississippi, Ohio, Cumberland, and Tennessee rivers until 1866.²

In 1855, Evins married Beulah Foley, also a native of Kentucky. However, eleven months later, she passed away, leaving Evins one child, Davidella Virginia. Evins married again in 1857 to Kentucky native Mary E. Hart. Together, by the late 1880s or early 1890s, they had had ten children: Charles F., Ida A., Robert L., Eugene L., Cora B., Samuel Hart, Joseph Arthur, Henry David, Mary B., and William Barnard.³

Subsequent to his initial time on the rivers, Evins engaged in trade at Dardanelle from 1866 until 1873. By 1878, "the Captain [was] the sole owner of the entire site of Mount Nebo, 720 acres in extent. He erected a house, cleared and planted forty acres in an orchard of over 2,000 apple, peach and plum trees, which are highly prolific; and he has also many varieties of the choicest small fruits, which yield in abundance in their season."⁴

By the early 1890s, Mount Nebo was described by Goodspeed, along with many of the other communities in Yell County, as a "flourishing village."⁵ Goodspeed further noted that "Much of this property [on Mount Nebo] has been disposed of [by Evins] to people who have improved it with fine summer residences and well laid-out drives. Here also is the summer Normal School

¹ *A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region*. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894, p. 40, and Ferguson, Todd. "Yell County Courthouse, Yell County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992.

² *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 144.

³ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 145.

⁴ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 144.

⁵ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 127.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

and a large and commodious hotel always filled to overflowing.”⁶ The City of Mount Nebo had been first laid out with streets and lots in the late 1800s, and the establishment of the Summit Park Hotel in 1889 cemented its role as a popular resort. Eventually, Mount Nebo had two hotels and was home to as many as 5,000 summer residents.⁷

The popularity of Mount Nebo was based on its dramatic setting and its climate, which is cooler than the surrounding lowlands. Goodspeed noted that:

The scene which greets the eye from the summit of this lovely mountain is grand and picturesque. Below, the outstretching valley, the plains and undulating hills, clothed in verdure, and where

Before me rose an avenue
Of tall and sombrous pines;
Abroad their fan-like branches grew,
And, where the sunshine darted through,
Spread a vapor soft and blue,
In long and sloping lines.”⁸

Goodspeed further noted:

The beauty, grandeur and sublimity of the scenery at Mount Nebo beggars description; it is an ever-changing panoramic view, and an admirable blending of the lovely, picturesque and sublime. From any and all points of this stupendous wonder the beholder’s eye never tires, but with a gay and happy heart, electrified with feelings of love, pleasure and admiration, commingled with reverential awe, he drinks deep at the fountain of nature’s choicest splendors. There are neither dews nor fogs at Mount Nebo. The purity and medicinal virtue of the waters, the delightful temperature and the cool, bracing breezes are unexcelled anywhere, and serve to make it a charming place to sojourn during the summer. Persons who are afflicted with asthma, dyspepsia, malarial disorders, or general debility, can be permanently cured in one season, and those who are suffering from debility, or exhaustion, on account of overtaxed mental or physical labor, will be restored to their usual strength and vitality in an incredibly short

⁶ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 145.

⁷ Staff of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. “Mount Nebo State Park.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1243#>.

⁸ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, p. 144.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

time. The pure chalybeate waters, the cool bracing atmosphere, combined with the magnificent scenery, have an invigorating and exhilarating influence, purify the blood, give a healthy appetite, build up the system and restore general good health. The social features of Mount Nebo are pleasant and genial, and the visitor can but feel at home; whether the stay is of long or short duration, it can but be regarded as a continuous May-day picnic, an unbroken season of undisturbed pleasure. This mountain seems to be peculiarly the home of the apple, the berries native to this latitude, and especially of the grape. Wine manufactured there is of superior quality, and apples grown there have taken the premium over Benton and Washington County apples at the Fort Smith fair. The soil on the mountain produces vegetables in great variety and profusion.⁹

The fact that Mount Nebo was a popular place to escape to during the nineteenth century continued into the twentieth century as well. However, Mount Nebo's role as a summer resort abruptly ended in 1918 when the Summit Park Hotel burned to the ground. Since the hotel had recently been remodeled, there was no money left for insurance, and the hotel was never rebuilt. Even though Mount Nebo's popularity as a summer resort ended in the 1910s, the City of Mount Nebo remained. The city boasted "gazebos, boardwalks, a post office, a doctor's office, a bowling alley, and a local telephone exchange."¹⁰

Interestingly, in the early 1920s, as the women's rights movement was gaining ground, the women of Mount Nebo saw changes and improvements in the city that were needed but the male city council members were not following through with. When the time approached for city elections, the women ran for office, in some cases against husbands, brothers, or fathers. In April 1924, a female mayor and city council were elected, making Mount Nebo the first town on record in the state to have an all-female government. Although the women of Mount Nebo did make many improvements, the popularity of the mountain as a destination continued to decline.¹¹

In 1926, in hopes of making the mountain popular once again, it was proposed by the Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce that Mount Nebo be made a state park. At the Sixth National Conference of State Parks that year, many of the delegates attending were summer residents of Mount Nebo who were in favor of the idea. In order to create the park, the first step was for the State Park Commission to acquire the land. Through a call for donations of land for the park, a

⁹ *Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas*. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891, pp. 115-116.

¹⁰ Staff of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. "Mount Nebo State Park." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1243#>.

¹¹ Staff of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. "Mount Nebo State Park." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1243#>.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

deed of 500 acres owned by the state through delinquent taxes was given to the Commission. The state also negotiated with the Missouri-Pacific Railroad for an additional 800 acres near the base of the mountain. Although Mount Nebo State Park became the state's second state park in 1928, acquisition of land continued through the Depression, especially due to delinquent taxes.¹²

The efforts to create a state park on Mount Nebo were first reported in the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* on June 10, 1926, when it was reported:

If "pep" and energy and determination, together with the unsurpassed natural advantages of Mt. Nebo as a health and summer resort count for anything, then the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce to have this famous resort reorganized as a National Park should be successful.

At a largely attended meeting of the Chamber of Commerce... Tuesday afternoon, the matter was thoroughly discussed, and a large delegation pledged to attend the National Parks Association in Hot Springs Monday and Tuesday of next week.

...

Pledges already secured indicate that the local delegation will number at least 50, each one of whom is a real booster.

Badges and streamers are now being prepared and the "City of Vapors" will know it when the Dardanelle delegation hits town.¹³

The delegation's trip to Hot Springs for the conference was received with great enthusiasm and the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* had a glowing article on the delegation's efforts once they returned to Dardanelle. The paper reported that

The Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce delegation – thirty strong – ... returned Tuesday night highly elated over the prospects of having our famous summer resort above the clouds made a State Park...

Perhaps never before in history was a delegation from a small town given greater recognition at a National Convention than was accorded the representatives of the Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce, the reasons doubtless being the merits of the cause they presented, the energy, "pep" and persuasiveness of the individual delegates and the numerical [sic.] strength of the delegation.¹⁴

¹² Staff of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. "Mount Nebo State Park." *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*. <http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1243#>.

¹³ "To Make Mount Nebo A National Play Ground." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 10 June 1926, p. 1.

¹⁴ "Plan To Make Mt. Nebo A Great State Park." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 17 June 1926, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

After the delegation's trip to Hot Springs in June 1926, apparently little else happened with the process of establishing Mount Nebo State Park until March 1927 when Attorney General H. W. Applegate visited the area. Applegate, according to the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*, was "one of the best-posted citizens in the entire country on State Parks and father of the Arkansas State Park system." He was also going to serve as the chairman of the State Park Commission, which had been authorized by the legislature. In March 1927, Applegate and other officials toured Mount Nebo in order to inspect the area and its suitability as a state park. The newspaper reported that "General Applegate and Mr. Torrey [Raymond H. Torrey, Field Secretary of the National Conference on State Parks], both of whom have traveled extensively throughout the United States inspecting State Parks, were loud in their praise of the natural beauty of Mt. Nebo and both stated that there was not a State Park in the country that surpassed it."¹⁵

The work of the Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce and the visit of Applegate to Mount Nebo were indeed fruitful when in December 1928 the State Park Commission officially created Mount Nebo State Park. The *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* reported:

A movement that means much to the future prosperity of Dardanelle and Yell County was inaugurated last Saturday when the State Park Commission took the first step toward forming a State Park of 8,000 to 10,000 acres on and surrounding Mount Nebo by the adoption of a resolution creating "Mt. Nebo State Park," with a nucleus of several hundred acres and started negotiations to acquire additional land.

The Commission will prepare a formal petition which, when approved by the Governor, will authorize the State Commissioner of Public Lands, Highways and Improvements to deed to the Commission, as trustees for the State, approximately 500 acres of tax-reverted land on Mt. Nebo for State Park purposes.¹⁶

The newspaper never reported when the petition was approved by the Governor, but by the 1930s, even before the CCC became involved with work on the mountain, improvements were being made. In April 1933, for example, it was reported "And not only has Mr. [W. E.] Taylor made a splendid road up the mountain, he has also re-made most of the streets of the Town of Mt. Nebo." The newspaper further reported that what had once been a "narrow, rocky, ill-drained mountain road" was now "smooth and rock-free, [with] the curves widened and re-banked, and the drainage ditches scientifically opened."¹⁷

The CCC in Arkansas represented only one district in the Seventh Corps Area, which was headquartered in Omaha, Nebraska. The Arkansas District Headquarters was established on

¹⁵ "General Applegate Is Impressed By Mt. Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 31 March 1927, p. 1.

¹⁶ "Mt. Nebo State Park Created Last Saturday." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 December 1928, p. 1.

¹⁷ "W. E. Taylor Builds Fine Road Up Mt. Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 13 April 1933, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

April 4, 1933, and it was the center of CCC administration in the state. The role of the CCC in the development of not just Mount Nebo State Park, but much of the early state park system in Arkansas was crucial. As noted by Joe McCarty in his thesis on the CCC, "In fact, for all practical purposes, Arkansas did not have a state park system until the advent of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Petit Jean, Mt. Nebo, and the Arkansas Post were the only parks in the state before the CCC and none of them were properly developed."¹⁸

The state's five-member State Parks Commission acted as the state "sponsor" that was used on many federal relief projects during the period of the New Deal. In the case of the State Parks Commission, it was responsible, as the sponsor, for planning the project that would be funded and constructed by the federal government. Once the project was completed, the federal government would move out and the state would then assume administrative control. With respect to work done at state parks, including Mount Nebo,

...the State Parks Commission purchased park land and submitted project plans to the State Parks Division of the National Park Service, in the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service hired all technical personnel while the Civilian Conservation Corps handled the labor and cost of the project. Once the project was completed, the park was opened to the public under the direction of the State Parks Director, hired by the State Parks Commission.¹⁹

Since the CCC was involved in park development in several states, there were efforts at both the state and federal level to make sure that there was uniformity in the development of the state park systems. In Arkansas, for example, an Arkansas Park Service was created in 1935. Comprised of temporary federal personnel who were working on state parks, it was created for the purposes of "coordinating plans for recreational facilities and administrative techniques." The members of the Arkansas Park Service paid monthly dues of twenty-five cents and held meetings at various camps and park areas in order to exchange information that would help in the development of the park system in Arkansas. The meetings of the Arkansas Park Service were popular and were often attended by state politicians and private citizens.²⁰

The efforts for coordination that were carried out at the state level by the Arkansas Park Service were also carried out at the national level. President Roosevelt promoted the passage of the Park, Parkway and Recreation Study Act, which was approved on June 23, 1936. The act promoted cooperation between state and federal authorities and also enlisted public support for the state park movement.²¹ As the introduction to the act partially stated:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the

¹⁸ McCarty, Joey. "Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas." MA thesis, University of Arkansas, 1977, p. 21.

¹⁹ McCarty, Joey. "Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas." MA thesis, University of Arkansas, 1977, p. 22.

²⁰ McCarty, Joey. "Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas." MA thesis, University of Arkansas, 1977, p. 23.

²¹ McCarty, Joey. "Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas." MA thesis, University of Arkansas, 1977, pp. 23-24.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

Secretary of the Interior (hereinafter referred to as the "Secretary") is authorized and directed to cause the National Park Service to make a comprehensive study, other than on lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of Agriculture, of the public park, parkway, and recreational-area programs of the United States, and of the several States and political subdivisions thereof, and of the lands throughout the United States which are or may be chiefly valuable as such areas, but no such study shall be made in any State without the consent and approval of the State officials, boards, or departments having jurisdiction over such lands and park areas. The said study shall be such as, in the judgment of the Secretary, will provide data helpful in developing a plan for coordinated and adequate public park, parkway, and recreational-area facilities for the people of the United States...²²

The partnership between the CCC and the National Park Service during the 1930s had lasting effects on park development all around the country. As noted in the book *The National Parks: Shaping the System*, "At the program's peak in 1935 the NPS [National Park Service] oversaw 600 CCC camps, 118 of them in national parklands and 482 in state parks, staffed by some 120,000 enrollees and 6,000 professional supervisors." In addition, "Regional offices established to coordinate the CCC in the state parks evolved in 1937 into a permanent regional structure for management of the National Park System. Many of the landscape architects, engineers, foresters, biologists, historians, archeologists, and architects hired under the program's auspices remained on the rolls as career NPS employees."²³

This effort for uniformity among state parks around the country manifested itself at Mount Nebo State Park in the architecture of the facilities built by the CCC. Up until the 1930s, Victorian architecture was the norm for the buildings that had been built on top of the mountain. However, the arrival of the CCC in the 1930s changed the architectural character of the mountain. The CCC used logs and stones from the mountains to construct the cabins, trails, pavilions, and bridges on the mountain. The use of materials found on the mountain made perfect sense, especially given the challenges of transporting materials up the mountain, and it also would blend in with the natural character of the surrounding area. The style of the cabins at Mount Nebo also fits in with the description of the park cabins in *Park and Recreation Structures*. As the book notes:

Among buildings which have come to be regarded as on occasion justified within our present conception of a natural park, the cabin alone has the unfavorable advantage of long familiarity to us in woodland and meadow. So accustomed are we to survivals of frontier cabins dotting the countryside that we have

²² Information on the Park, Parkway and Recreation Study Act found at:

http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/anps/anps_3e.htm.

²³ Mackintosh, Barry. *The National Parks: Shaping the System*. Harpers Ferry, WV: The National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center, 2005, p. 46.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

grown to look upon them as almost indigenous to a natural setting. Of all park structures, those cabins which echo the pioneer theme in their outward appearance, whether constructed of logs, shakes, or native stone, tend to jar us least with any feeling that they are unwelcome. The fact that park cabins are usually erected in colonies or groups (frontier cabins as a rule were not) destroys somewhat the feeling of almost complete fitness that is produced by a single primitive cabin. ... Hence cabin groups must always be something of a dissonance in parks, acceptable only when their obtrusiveness is minimized insofar as possible.²⁴

The bridge that was built at Mount Nebo also followed guidance and recommendations in the book *Park and Recreation Structures*. With respect to bridges, the book notes:

Of...importance is the choice of materials for the bridge. Only those which are native to the area and predominate near the bridge site will constitute a convincingly appropriate and harmonious medium of structural interpretation. While this applies, of course, to all structures in parks, it is particularly important to stone bridges, which in their most happily successful expressions seem almost to spring from the stream or river bank when truly related in color, texture, and scale to adjacent rock outcrops.

...

In general, bridges of stone or timber appear more indigenous to our natural parks than spans of steel or concrete...²⁵

The effort to bring a CCC camp to Mount Nebo was spearheaded by businessmen in nearby Dardanelle beginning in 1933. Although initially the Federal engineers considered some of the estimates in the application for Mount Nebo as being too high and needing revision, the local newspaper reported that "The telegram was the occasion of much gratification here as it indicated the project was being given favorable consideration." The establishment of a camp on Mount Nebo would mean the "employment there for a year of two hundred young men, who will be housed, clothed and fed, as well as paid, by the Government."²⁶

The list of projects that was being looked at for the CCC Camp was extensive, especially if it was hoped that they would be carried out in a year's time. The *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* noted on May 25, 1933, that

²⁴ Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures*. Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990 reprint of 1938 publication, p. 17, Part III.

²⁵ Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures*. Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990 reprint of 1938 publication, p. 175, Part I.

²⁶ "Hopes High For Nebo Conservation Camp." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 25 May 1933, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

Improvements contemplated include the construction of a gravel road from a point on State Highway 22 to the summit of the mountain, another graveled road from the “bench” to the top of the mountain, a graveled driveway entirely around the mountain on the “bench,” thirty-five two-room tourist cabins, a 60x40 community house, the construction of bridle paths throughout the entire park, the building of a large swimming pool at the site of the present lake on the “bench,” and the construction of fire-breaks and the carrying out of reforestation, etc.²⁷

By June 8, 1933, it was known that the CCC camp for Mount Nebo had been approved, and once the camp was approved, it would not take long for the camp to be completed and occupied. The newspaper reported that the 200 men would be encamped by June 19, 1933, less than two weeks after the announcement was made in the newspaper. The *Post-Dispatch* reported:

Mt. Nebo has been definitely and officially designated as the location of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, due to the active and untiring efforts of the Dardanelle Chamber of Commerce, and it is expected that next Monday an advance crew from Camp Pike will arrive to clear the site and erect quarters, mess shacks, etc., for the 200 workers who will spend the next year improving and beautifying our great summer resort and State Park. The entire 200 men should be encamped on Mt. Nebo by Monday, June 19th.

...

After a survey, the property of Tom Dunbar (the old Capt. Joe Evins plan) near the pavilion on the southeast corner of the mountain was selected as the site for the camp, and Mr. Dunbar has generously volunteered its use during the time the Camp is maintained.²⁸

Although June 19th was the initial date planned for the CCC camp to be occupied, it was reported on June 22nd that the “Latest information from headquarters is to the effect that the Civilian Conservation Camp to be located on Mt. Nebo State Park will be established July 5th. Army engineers were making sure that the wells that were proposed to supply the camp’s water supply would be able to handle the capacity. “In the event the present wells prove inadequate it is probable that others will be drilled at once,” the newspaper reported.²⁹

By early July, the camp was only partially occupied. The advance crew arrived at the camp on July 6, 1933, and their job was to prepare the camp for the remaining 180 members of the camp

²⁷ “Hopes High For Nebo Conservation Camp.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 25 May 1933, p. 1.

²⁸ “Conservation Camp To Be Located On Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 8 June 1933, p. 1.

²⁹ “Advance Crew Of Nebo Camp Is Due Today.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 6 July 1933, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

who were expected to arrive at the site on July 10, 1933.³⁰ However, it was not until July 20, 1933, that the camp members arrived. The *Post-Dispatch* reported:

In command of Capt. H. L. Egan, 186 members of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp No. 1780 arrived in Dardanelle at 10:00 o'clock last Friday morning aboard a special Rock Island train, bound for Mt. Nebo State Park.

Within the space of a few hours, the entire Company and some twenty tons of equipment were transported to the mountain by a fleet of trucks in charge of City Marshall T. R. Cornwell.

...

Dardanelle and Mt. Nebo are especially proud of the ex-service men who constitute C. C. C. No. 1780. They are a fine lot of men, true Americans of the type that make this the greatest Nation the sun shines upon. Most of them are approaching middle age; they are gray about the temples and the passing years have drawn lines in faces that were smooth and care-free some sixteen years ago when these same men offered their lives in defense of their country and braved the dangers of a foreign foe.

During the past week the Camp has been thoroughly established and organized and the work for which it was created is now well underway.³¹

Interestingly, with the exception of the enlisted personnel who were associated with the camp, only one of the camp members was not from Arkansas. In a list of the camp members published in the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* on July 20, 1933, the only person not from Arkansas was Charles E. Bayan who was from Seligman, Missouri.³²

Once the CCC Camp was set up on Mount Nebo, the workers did not waste any time in starting projects at the park. By the end of July 1933, improvement of the roads and streets was underway and the "40x40 pavilion on the south bluff of the mountain, which has weathered the storms of 43 years, has been razed."³³ By September 1933, the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* gave an in-depth report on the amenities that were under construction or contemplated for Mount Nebo, and it was the first time that the cabins were mentioned. The newspaper reported that "Some thirty-five tourist cottages will also be erected at suitable places on the mountain, notably along the east and south bluffs. These cottages will be of substantial construction and equipped with many conveniences."³⁴

³⁰ "Advance Crew Of Nebo Camp Is Due Today." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 6 July 1933, p. 1.

³¹ "Conservation Camp Of Ex-Service Men Now At Work On Mount Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 July 1933, p. 1.

³² "Conservation Camp Of Ex-Service Men Now At Work On Mount Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 July 1933, p. 1.

³³ "Nebo Improvements Are Well Under Way." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 27 July 1933, p. 1.

³⁴ "Progress Being Made On Nebo Improvement." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 14 September 1933, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

Interestingly, the CCC Camp on Mount Nebo was treated by the people of Yell County as its own community. By October of 1933, the *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* was including community notes for the camp, titled "Notes of V. C. C. C. No. 1780," as it did for the other communities in the county. A couple of entries in the Notes for October 26, 1933, indicated that "James W. Blackard, member of V. C. C. C. No. 1780 on Mt. Nebo, spent the week-end visiting his family in Little Rock," and that "The Veterans on Mt. Nebo are appreciating the cheerful warmth of the new stoves just installed in the barracks. As 'Red' Robertson remarked one recent cool morning before the arrival of the stoves, 'As a winter resort, Mt. Nebo is one d_____ fine summer resort!'"³⁵

By the end of 1933, plans were well underway for the new Recreation Building that was to be built on the mountain. On December 28, 1933, it was reported that "The plans for the imposing structure have been prepared under direction of the National Park Service by Tom Harding, of Little Rock, who is architect for the State Park Commission, and who is engaged in preparing plans for the major buildings in the five State Parks now under construction by the Emergency Conservation Works." It was also noted that the building would be "in keeping with the National Park architecture" and would be built of "native gray stone, [with] the interior having rustic beams and ceilings."³⁶

Even though Mount Nebo State Park had been created in 1928 and work was moving forward on several buildings and amenities at the park by the end of 1933, efforts were still underway to obtain more land for the park, even up into 1934. On February 22, 1934, the *Post-Dispatch* reported:

Mrs. Annie Belle Baker made a splendid donation of 3.2 acres to Mt. Nebo State Park the past week, the tract of land donated being on the "bench" near Mt. Nebo Springs, and close to the stone steps leading from the "bench" to the summit of the mountain.

Mr. and Mrs. S. G. Catlett donated a desirable lot adjoining their summer home in Mt. Nebo Improvement Company Addition on the mountain top.

Dr. and Mrs. L. E. Love this week donated one and one-half lots on the "bench" of Mt. Nebo and three fine lots on the summit to the State Park Commission, according to announcement of Talbot Field, in charge of donations.³⁷

More donations of land occurred up through March of 1934, the newspaper noting that the "Donations were made by pioneer families of Yell County who had owned the lands for many years. The State Park Commission appreciates their co-operation in helping make Mt. Nebo one of the finest parks in the State."³⁸

³⁵ "Notes of V.C.C.C. No. 1780." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 26 October 1933, p. 1.

³⁶ "New Recreation Building For Mt. Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 28 December 1933, p. 1.

³⁷ "More Donations to Mt. Nebo State Park." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 22 February 1934, p. 1.

³⁸ "Donations to Mt. Nebo State Park." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 8 March 1934, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

In July 1934, after the Camp had been in existence for one year, the *Post-Dispatch* reported on the progress of several projects on Mount Nebo, including the cabins. The paper noted that “The carpenters and stone masons soon had several cottages underway, and now about a dozen of these are completed except for lights and water.” Among the other projects being undertaken, the newspaper also reported on the progress of the trail system on the mountain, saying

...The bridle path, or Scenic Trail, rather (As no horse could ever make it a “bridle path”) is a marvel of the trail builders’ art. From the lodge north and on west, then to the south point “Sunrise Point” it’s on the summit of the mountain. From this point east, back to the Lodge, it drops down below the summit and “hugs” the face of the bluff about half way between the summit and the “bench.” In many spots the trail drops down to interesting points, the Waterfall Trail, the Darling Springs Trail, the Nebo Springs Steps, and the latest “jump off” to the old “Dardanelle-water-supply” springs, are some of these “off shoots.”³⁹

Throughout the rest of 1934, work continued on several projects on Mount Nebo, including the Recreation Building and the Park Lodge. With respect to the Lodge, it was reported that “Stones, of boulder dimensions and weighing 1,000 to 1,500 pounds, are numerous in the lower courses of the rock walls being raised for the structure.” However, one of the most exciting projects underway by the end of 1934 was bringing electricity to Mount Nebo. In September, it was noted that “With the completion of the cement floor in the Pump House and Light Plant Building this week, the only thing between Mount Nebo becoming a thoroughly modern village will be the task of installing the electric generator and power unit. Poles and wire for distributing the current are already in place.”⁴⁰

Although work on Mount Nebo carried out by the VCCC Camp in 1933 and 1934 had made a world of difference in the park, the beginning of 1935 brought a note of uncertainty about the Camp’s future. In late January 1935, reports surfaced that the Camp might be disbanded. On January 24, 1935, it was reported that “Recent unofficial announcement that VCCC Camp 1780 would be removed from Mt. Nebo State Park because of the large amount of privately owned property there, has been the occasion of no little concern, both locally and throughout the State.” It was further reported that “While a wonderful improvement has been made on Mt. Nebo...many of the major projects are uncompleted, and others not yet started, and the abandonment of the work would mean that the greatest natural summer resort in the South would sink into obscurity and be lost to the people of Arkansas.”⁴¹

By March 1935, a solution had not yet been found and the “official announcement made the first of the week that VCCC 1780 now stationed on Mt. Nebo is to be removed on April 1st has

³⁹ “VCCC No. 1780 Has Been On Mt. Nebo One Year.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 19 July 1934, p. 1.

⁴⁰ “Notes of V.C.C.C. No. 1780.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 6 September 1934, p. 1.

⁴¹ “Hope To Retain VCCC Camp On Mount Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 24 January 1935, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

occasioned no little alarm here.”⁴² The amount of local support for the retention of the Camp on Mount Nebo was very apparent in news reports at the time. On March 14, 1935, for example, the *Post-Dispatch* reported:

The earnest co-operation of Senators Joe T. Robinson and Mrs. Hattie Caraway and Congressman Dave Terry has been enlisted, and no effort is being spared by them to aid the project.

Nor should we overlook the splendid support of Governor Futrell, Attorney General Carl Bailey and Guy Amsler, Secretary of the State Park Commission and loyal booster for Mt. Nebo.

The fact that orders have been issued for the removal of VCCC 1780 to Devil’s Den State Park near Fayetteville has not discouraged local citizens, and the last veterans will have to “leave the hill” before there’ll be any let up in the fight.

A delegation is in readiness to leave on a minute’s notice for Washington if such a course is ultimately deemed advisable.⁴³

Fortunately, the fighting, pressure, and local support ultimately won out and it was announced in April 1935 that the Camp would remain on Mount Nebo for at least sixty more days. “The 60-day extension has been granted to afford time in which to work out this problem. Whether or not the development of Mt. Nebo State Park will continue after June 20th will depend entirely on upon the attitude taken by the property owners of Mt. Nebo.”⁴⁴ In May, it was further announced that that the Camp would remain on Mount Nebo and that the State Park project would be completed. In addition, “It is expected that orders to resume work on the splendid new Lodge – the 198x40 foot native stone structure on the west bluff at “Lover’s Leap” – the swimming pool, a new lot of stone cabins, spring houses, etc., will be received shortly.”⁴⁵

In June 1935, W. E. Kinard, Park Superintendent, wrote an article for the *Post-Dispatch* on the progress that had been made by VCCC Camp No. 1780 at Mount Nebo. The amount of work that had been accomplished in such a short time was truly impressive. Kinard wrote:

A large number of men have been working on the “bench” for several weeks and it is now one of the beauty spots of the mountain.

Ten (10) outside fireplaces and twenty (20) picnic tables have been placed at advantageous points for the pleasure and convenience of the public. Each picnic area has been properly laid out, with ample parking space provided. Four (4) comfort stations, two for men and two for ladies, are now complete.

⁴² “Fate of Mt. Nebo State Park Now In Balance.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 7 March 1935, p. 1.

⁴³ “VCCC No. 1780 Will Go To Devil’s Den---Maybe.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 14 March 1935, p. 1.

⁴⁴ “Nebo Camp Extended For Sixty Days More.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 18 April 1935, p. 1.

⁴⁵ “VCCC No. 1780 To Remain On Nebo; State Park Project To Be Completed.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 16 May 1935, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

All of these park features are easily accessible, due to the improvement of the "bench" road. A layer of crushed stone has been placed on the road and the old rough fords have been paved with flat stone. The road is being widened at strategic points to permit passing of traffic.

A camp ground area is to be developed on the "bench" near Darling Springs.

There are available a few new four room park cabins. These cabins are furnished with lights, water and sewer system. The rates, including lights and water are as follows: \$2.00 per night; \$10.00 per week; \$25.00 per month.

Visitors are cordially invited to come to Mount Nebo, feel at home, and stay as long as they wish."⁴⁶

Although it was hoped that the men of VCCC Camp No. 1780 would ultimately get the chance to finish their work on Mount Nebo, it was not to be. Orders came in October 1935 for the camp to be disbanded and the men moved to other camps in the state. An article in the October 24, 1935, *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch* reported:

Although it had been expected for some time, the orders, received during the week-end, by Captain Morris, Commander of Company 1780, to transfer the enrollees to other Veterans Camps, and abandon the Mt. Nebo Park Project, came as somewhat of a blow to the hopes of those who wished to see the project completed.

The Company has been on Nebo a little over two years, but for some months no work, except on the roads, has been done toward the Park project.

The Company would have preferred being moved as a unit, but the orders cutting down the number of Camps took effect in this case and the men were divided among the other three Camps. Seventy-two will be transferred to the Camp at Magnolia. ...

Sixty-eight are to go to the Camp at Pocahontas and fifty-two go to Camp Petit Jean. ...

The order goes into effect Friday, October 25th, and the men probably will be moved during the following week, in order to be ready for the new work period beginning November 1st.

The men would have preferred "finishing their job on Nebo, but the necessary land was not forth-coming, so it just couldn't be done. Work on the Park has been suspended since Spring, and the road is the only thing receiving attention since then. The Lodge was started, and it is the only thing left incomplete-but at any rate it has a good foundation.

⁴⁶ "Improvements Being Made On Mount Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 27 June 1935, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

The Company was treated to a big dinner and entertainment on Wednesday of this week-sort of a "farewell get-together."⁴⁷

Once the work of the CCC had been finished on the mountain, even though not everything had been completed, the popularity of the mountain as a retreat was once again front and center. In fact, when *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas* was published, the tour of Arkansas Highway 22 included a diversion to Mount Nebo so travelers could visit the park and understand the area's history. The *Guide* noted:

Left from Dardanelle on State 155, which cuts across the valley and then zigzags steeply (*drive in low gear both climbing and descending the elevation*) up the side of MOUNT NEBO, 6.8 m. (1,750 alt.). Overlooking a fertile valley and offering a view of far horizons, the mountain was aptly named for the peak from which Moses saw the Promised Land.

The mountain became quite widely known in the 1870's when Colonel E. F. Babcock, a horticulturist from up-State New York, set out an apple orchard on its flat top. Kentucky Redstreaks, Ben Davises, and Shannons raised from stock grown in Colonel Babcock's lofty nursery won prizes in national expositions.

Pine-covered, rugged, and cool during the summer weeks when the Arkansas Valley sweltered, Nebo became an early-day resort. In 1928 it was made a State park. The 3,375 acre park area includes picnic grounds, a baseball diamond, a pavilion, cabins, and bridle paths. Scattered over the summit are summer homes, many of them 20 or 30 years old, and numerous water tanks, filled by means of gasoline pumps. Oddly enough, water is obtainable from shallow wells, despite the mountain's considerable elevation above the surrounding country. The striking view from SUNSET POINT, on the west flank, embraces Petit Jean Valley to the south and Chickalah Mountain on the west, as well as the Arkansas Valley to the north.⁴⁸

Since the completion of the CCC-built resources at Mount Nebo, the state park has remained a popular tourist destination. In the years since the 1930s, additional cabins have been constructed, illustrating the popularity of the park with the public. The land area of the park has also increased so that now it encompasses more than 3,000 acres. In addition to the cabins, Mount Nebo State Park also has a visitor center, campground, hike-in campsites, picnic sites, pavilions, amphitheater, swimming pool, playgrounds, tennis courts, a ball field, and fourteen miles of hiking trails. Although Mount Nebo State Park has grown and has made Mount Nebo a

⁴⁷ "VCCC 1780 Leaves Nebo State Park Tomorrow." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 24 October 1935, p. 1.

⁴⁸ West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication, p. 286.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

popular place to visit once again, the CCC-built cabins at Mt. Nebo State Park remain a significant reminder of the state park's early days and the CCC's involvement with the development of the park during the 1930s.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PROPERTY

From the time of its completion c.1933 until the present day, the cabins at Mount Nebo State Park have been an integral part of the park's facilities. The cabins at Mount Nebo State Park are significant as work of the CCC program in Yell County. Although the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has documented other works of the CCC in the county, the cabins at Mount Nebo are part of one of the earliest and largest concentrations of CCC-built buildings and structures in the county. In addition to the work carried out at Mount Nebo, the CCC also built facilities at Spring Lake Recreation Area (NR-listed September 11, 1995).

Due to the cabins' importance to the developmental history of Mount Nebo and Yell County, as well as its importance as a reflection of the work of the CCC in eastern Yell County, it is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A**. The Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District is also being nominated under the multiple-property listing "Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942."

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

"Advance Crew Of Nebo Camp Is Due Today." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 6 July 1933, p. 1.

Biographical and Historical Memoirs of Western Arkansas. Chicago: The Southern Publishing Company, 1891.

"Catlett Is Named On New Park Commission." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 October 1927, p. 1.

"Conservation Camp Of Ex-Service Men Now At Work On Mount Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 July 1933, p. 1.

"Conservation Camp To Be Located On Nebo." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 8 June 1933, p. 1.

"Donations to Mt. Nebo State Park." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 8 March 1934, p. 1.

"Fate of Mt. Nebo State Park Now In Balance." *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 7 March 1935, p. 1.

Ferguson, Todd. "Yell County Courthouse, Yell County, Arkansas." National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. From the files of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program, 1992.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

“General Applegate Is Impressed By Mt. Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 31 March 1927, p. 1.

Good, Albert H. *Park and Recreation Structures*. Boulder, CO: Graybooks, 1990 reprint of 1938 publication.

Heiple Wiedower Architects Planners. *Historic Structure Report: Cornwell House, Mount Nebo State Park*. Little Rock, AR, 2004.

“Hope To Retain VCCC Camp On Mount Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 24 January 1935, p. 1.

“Hopes High For Nebo Conservation Camp.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 25 May 1933, p. 1.

“Improvements Being Made On Mount Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 27 June 1935, p. 1.

Information on the Park, Parkway and Recreation Study Act found at:

http://www.nps.gov/parkhistory/online_books/anps/anps_3e.htm.

Mackintosh, Barry. *The National Parks: Shaping the System*. Harpers Ferry, WV: The National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center, 2005.

McCarty, Joey. “Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas.” MA thesis, University of Arkansas, 1977.

“More Donations to Mt. Nebo State Park.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 22 February 1934, p. 1.

“Mt. Nebo State Park Created Last Saturday.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 20 December 1928, p. 1.

“Mt. Nebo Camp To Be Established July 5th.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 22 June 1933, p. 1.

“Nebo Camp Extended For Sixty Days More.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 18 April 1935, p. 1.

“Nebo Improvements Are Well Under Way.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 27 July 1933, p. 1.

“New Recreation Building For Mt. Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 28 December 1933, p. 1.

“Notes of V.C.C.C. No. 1780.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 26 October 1933, p. 1.

“Notes of V.C.C.C. No. 1780.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 6 September 1934, p. 1.

“Plan To Make Mt. Nebo A Great State Park.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 17 June 1926, p. 1.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

“Progress Being Made On Nebo Improvement.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 14 September 1933, p. 1.

A Reminiscent History of the Ozark Region. Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers, Publishers, 1894.

Staff of the Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism. “Mount Nebo State Park.” *The Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture*.

<http://www.encyclopediaofarkansas.net/encyclopedia/entry-detail.aspx?search=1&entryID=1243#>.

“To Make Mount Nebo A National Play Ground.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 10 June 1926, p. 1.

“VCCC 1780 Leaves Nebo State Park Tomorrow.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 24 October 1935, p. 1.

“VCCC No. 1780 Has Been On Mt. Nebo One Year.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 19 July 1934, p. 1.

“VCCC No. 1780 To Remain On Nebo; State Park Project To Be Completed.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 16 May 1935, p. 1.

“VCCC No. 1780 Will Go To Devil’s Den---Maybe.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 14 March 1935, p. 1.

West, Elliott. *The WPA Guide to 1930s Arkansas*. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1987 reprint of 1941 publication.

“W. E. Taylor Builds Fine Road Up Mt. Nebo.” *Dardanelle Post-Dispatch*. 13 April 1933, p. 1.

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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

- Federal agency
 Local government
 University
 Other

Name of repository: Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): Sites #YE0001-YE0005

10. Geographical Data

Acree of Property Approximately 3.5 acres.

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 476721 | Northing: 3898074 |
| 2. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

Beginning at UTM Point 15/476674/3898131, proceed southwesterly for 125 feet to UTM Point 15/476637/3898115, thence proceed southeasterly for 600 feet to UTM Point 15/476682/3897945, thence proceed northeasterly for 145 feet to UTM Point 15/476723/3897955, thence proceed northwesterly for 220 feet to UTM Point 15/476705/3898018, thence proceed northeasterly for 260 feet to UTM Point 15/476782/3898032, thence proceed northwesterly for 165 feet to UTM Point 15/476770/3898085 at Yell County Road 92, thence follow the edge of Yell County Road 92 west and northwest to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the land associated with the resource and its immediate surroundings.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: AR zip code: 72201
e-mail: ralph@arkansasheritage.org
telephone: (501) 324-9787
date: February 23, 2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas
County and State

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

City or Vicinity: Dardanelle vic.

County: Yell County

State: Arkansas

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed: October 16, 2013

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

1 of 25. Northeast façade of Cabin #66, looking southwest.

2 of 25. Northwest façade of Cabin #66, looking southeast.

3 of 25. Northwest and southwest façades of Cabin #66, looking northeast.

4 of 25. Southwest façade of Cabin #66, looking northeast.

5 of 25. Southwest and southeast façades of Cabin #66, looking west.

6 of 25. Northeast façade of Cabin #67, looking southwest.

7 of 25. Northwest façade of Cabin #67, looking southeast.

8 of 25. Northwest façade and terrace of Cabin #67, looking southeast.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Name of Property

Yell County, Arkansas

County and State

9 of 25. Northwest and southwest façades and terrace of Cabin #67, looking northeast.

10 of 25. Southeast façade of Cabin #67, looking northwest.

11 of 25. Northeast and southeast façades of Cabin #68, looking northwest.

12 of 25. Northwest façade of Cabin #68, looking south.

13 of 25. Northwest and southwest façades and terrace of Cabin #68, looking northeast.

14 of 25. Southwest and southeast façades of Cabin #68, looking north.

15 of 25. Southeast façade of Cabin #68, looking northwest.

16 of 25. Northeast and southeast façades of Cabin #69, looking northwest.

17 of 25. Northwest façade of Cabin #69, looking southeast.

18 of 25. Northwest and southwest façades of Cabin #69, looking southeast.

19 of 25. Southwest façade of Cabin #69, looking northeast.

20 of 25. Southwest façade of Cabin #69, looking northwest.

21 of 25. Southeast façade of Cabin #69, looking northeast.

22 of 25. Terrace of Cabin #69, looking southwest.

23 of 25. View of the bridge, looking east.

24 of 25. View of the bridge, looking southeast.

25 of 25. View of the bridge, looking south.

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

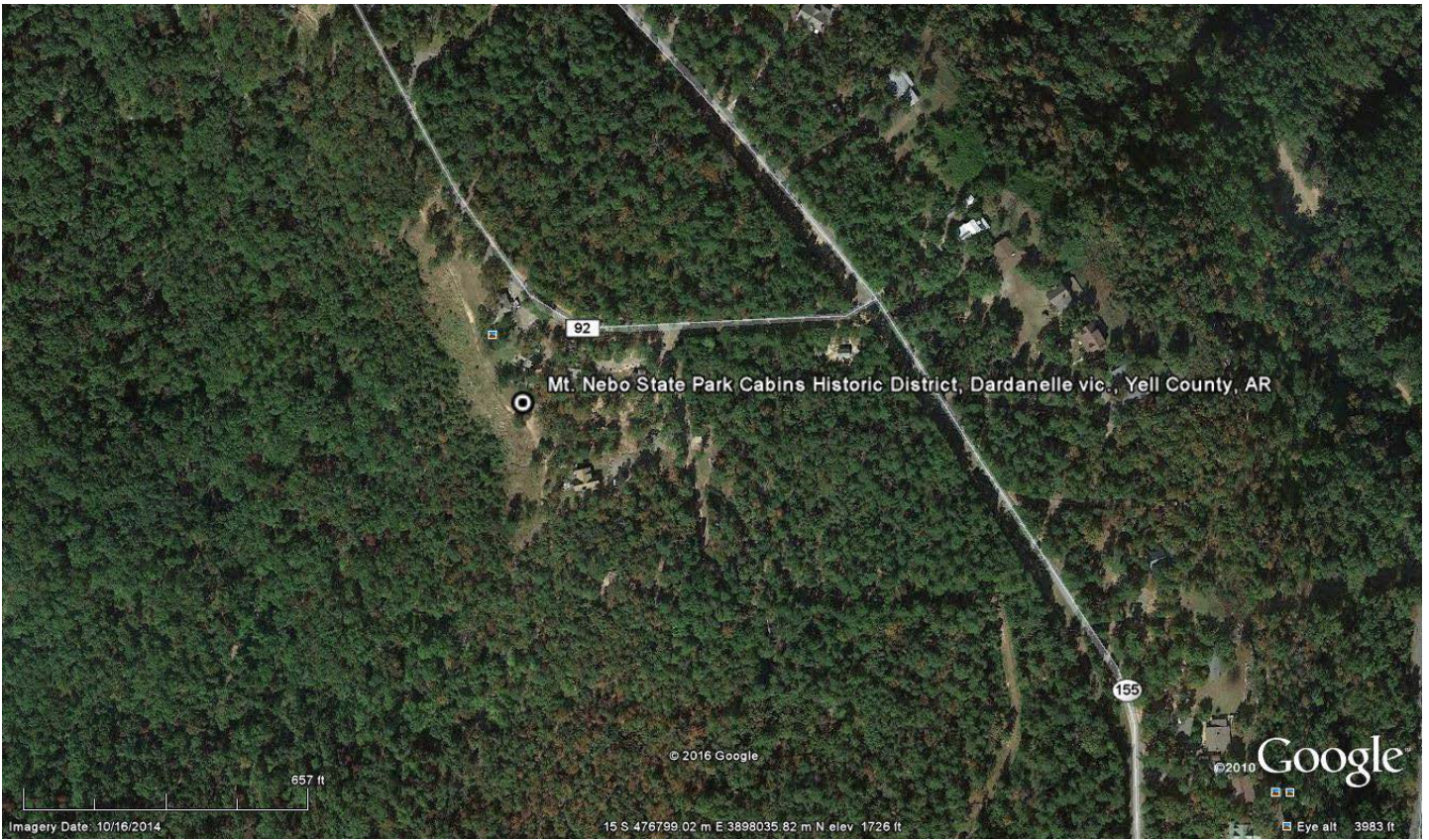
Yell County, Arkansas

Name of Property

County and State

to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.



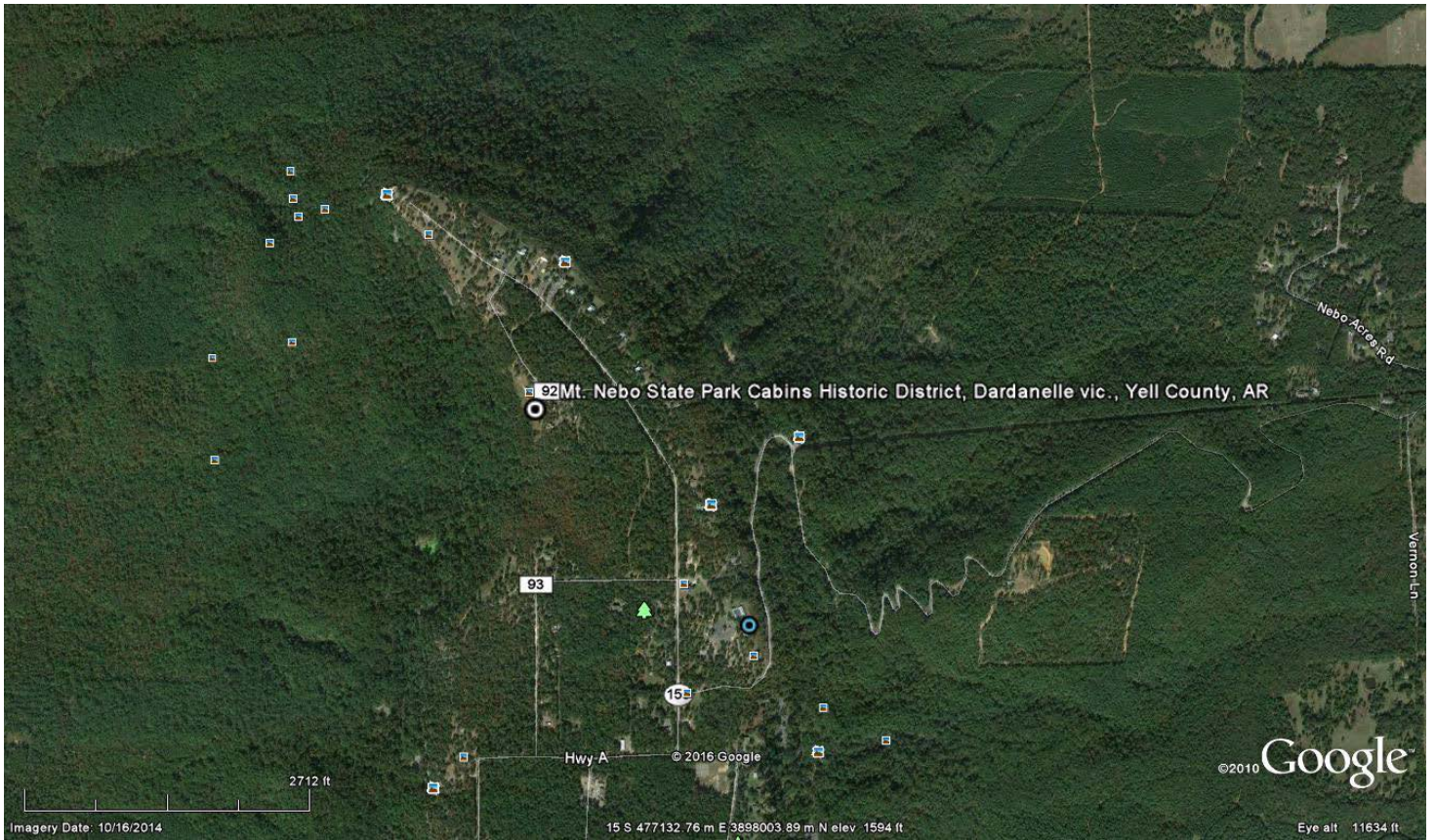
|-----657 feet-----|

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Dardanelle vic., Yell County, Arkansas

15 476721E 3898074N



North



|-----2712 feet-----|

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Dardanelle vic., Yell County, Arkansas

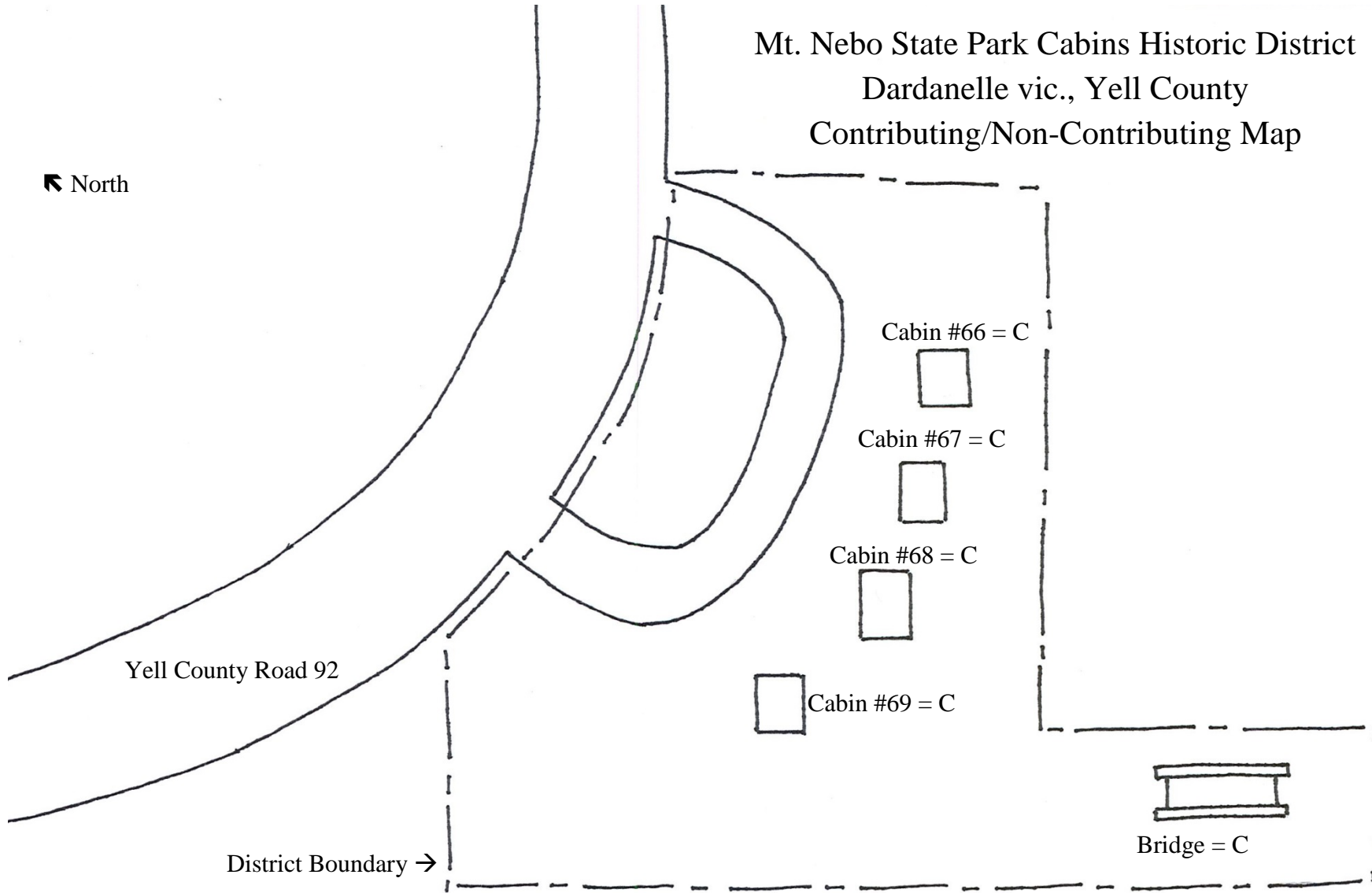
15 476721E 3898074N



North

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District
Dardanelle vic., Yell County
Contributing/Non-Contributing Map

North ↖



Yell County Road 92

District Boundary →

Cabin #66 = C



Cabin #67 = C



Cabin #68 = C



Cabin #69 = C



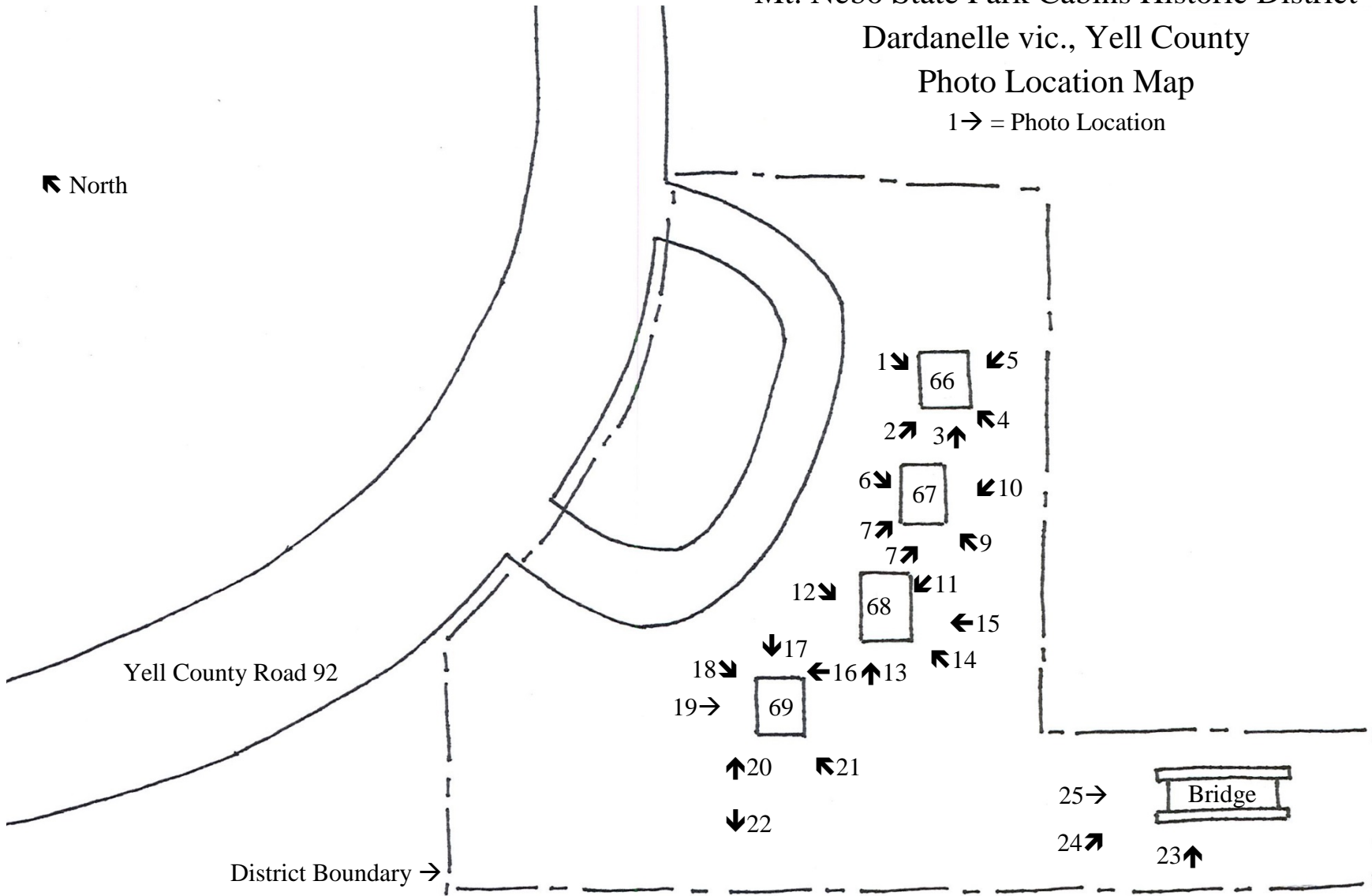
Bridge = C

Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

Dardanelle vic., Yell County

Photo Location Map

1 → = Photo Location





CABIN 66
10006











CABIN 67
10105











0609

CABIN 68

10115











A stone chimney with a black metal cap, located on the roof of the cabin.

A black Chevrolet sedan parked on the gravel driveway. The license plate is white with the text "313 FUN".

A window on the left side of the cabin, partially obscured by a tree trunk.

The central door of the cabin, featuring a small porch and supported by wooden brackets.

A window on the right side of the cabin.

An orange ribbon tied around a tree trunk on the left side of the image.

A satellite dish mounted on the left side of the cabin's exterior wall.











A brick chimney with a dark metal cap, situated on the roof of the stone cabin.

A silver satellite dish mounted on the roof of the cabin, with a cable extending down the side.

A dark-framed window with a white sill, set into the stone wall of the cabin.

A second dark-framed window with a white sill, located further along the side of the cabin.

A white electrical meter or control box mounted on the exterior stone wall.

A set of stone steps leading up to the entrance of the cabin, flanked by a stone wall.

A white vent pipe or downspout extending from the ground level up to the stone wall.

The rear portion of a white SUV parked on a paved area in the background.









UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Yell

DATE RECEIVED: 8/12/16 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 9/02/16
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 9/19/16 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 9/27/16
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 16000655

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: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 9.21.2016 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Meets Registration Requirements

Could have been included under Criterion C, as well, per the Registration Requirements of the MPS.

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept A

REVIEWER J. Gabbart

DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____

DATE _____

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

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director

August 3, 2016

RECEIVED 2280

AUG 12 2016

Nat. Register of Historic Places
National Park Service

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye St. NW, 8th Fl.
Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District – Dardanelle
vic., Yell County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination. The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Mt. Nebo State Park Cabins Historic District to the National Register of Historic Places. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Ralph S. Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:rsw

Enclosure



ARKANSAS HISTORIC
PRESERVATION PROGRAM



National Historic
Preservation Act 1966-2016



323 Center Street, Suite 1500
Little Rock, AR 72201

(501) 324-9880
fax: (501) 324-9184
tdd: 711

e-mail:

info@arkansaspreservation.org

website:

www.arkansaspreservation.com