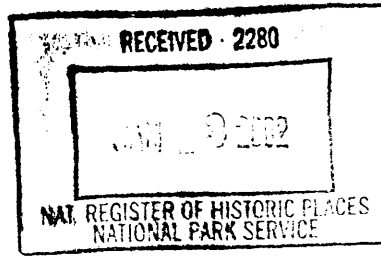


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



30

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an 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. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Townshend State Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 2755 State Forest Road (VT Route 232) N/A not for publication

city or town Townshend N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Windham code 025 zip code 05353

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Suzanne C. Gamble National Register Specialist, 12-28-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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): _____

Wilson R. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

2-14-02
Date of Action

Townshend State, Park

Windham County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

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

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	7	buildings
3		sites
5	2	structures
18		objects
28	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Park Landscapes in National & State Parks 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/Outdoor Recreation

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: CCC State Park

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls stone

wood

roof shingle

other stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

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.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- 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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Landscape Architecture

Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Conservation

Period of Significance

1933-1940

Significant Dates

1927

1933

1934

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

US Department of the Interior

Civilian Conservation Corps

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Townshend State Park
Name of Property

Windham County, Vermont
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 41 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	18	689640	4767180
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	18	689820	4767380

3	18	688260	4767400
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	18	688120	4767040

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Julie Eldridge Edwards

organization UVM Graduate Program in Historic Preservation date July 13, 1999

street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180

city or town Burlington state Vermont zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, c/o Larry Simino, Director, State Parks

street & number 103 South Main Street telephone (802) 241-3664

city or town Waterbury state Vermont zip code 05671-0601

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 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 Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

TOWNSHEND STATE PARK

Summary

Townshend State Park consists of 41 acres of land and is located within Townshend State Forest in Townshend, Windham County, Vermont. The landscape of the forest is dominated by Bald Mountain, which rises in elevation 1,680 feet. The mountainous slopes are covered with hemlock, white pine, and a variety of hardwoods including sugar maple, red maple, birch, and red oak. The Park is nestled at the north base of Bald Mountain and is currently comprised of a total of 34 campsites: 22 bare campsites, 8 campsites with tent platforms, and four lean-to shelters. The development of Townshend State Park is the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp S-54 from Bellows Falls, Vermont. The CCC contributions, including the overall design and construction of buildings and structures, stand as stalwart reminders of the Great Depression. Townshend State Park consists largely of improvements rather than alterations, and thus has changed very little from its inception and development by the CCC. To accommodate increased visitation, the park service converted a picnic area in the lower, western region of the park to overnight campsite areas (1971). Additional changes include the updating of plumbing throughout the park, as well as the addition of a restroom facility built by the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation in 1959-1960, and the later addition of showers to the same building in 1974. These household amenities, coupled with newer structures such as a recycling shed, reflect the needs and concerns of the twentieth century camper. Today, Townshend State Park retains its historic integrity in its location, design, setting, use of local materials, CCC workmanship, and minimally unaltered appearance since 1934.

Situated in the southeastern part of the state, Townshend State Park is located 3 miles west of the village of Townshend on State Forest Road (Town Road #4), an unpaved but well maintained dirt road, which branches off US Route 30. State Forest Road runs parallel to the West River (along the southern bank) for nearly five miles before reconnecting with Route 30 again.

From State Forest Road, the main and only entrance to the park is defined by the standard Parks' rectangular brown, wooden sign with the yellow lettering, which reads "Townshend State Park/Entrance." The entrance is flanked by lengths of split-post fence, which were built and installed in 1979. Immediately visible from the entrance to the park is the Ranger/Contact Station (1), located atop a long, grassy knoll and remains the primary and most central feature of the park. Continuing through the main gates one ascends along a narrow paved road, past

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

four lean-to shelters (3a-d) situated approximately 25 feet from the western edge of the road. The road continues to ascend and just below the Ranger's Quarters it forks to the east and to the west. The eastern fork of the road, follows the ridgeline of the mountain, leads to three camping areas comprised of campsites and tent platforms. A modern toilet building (4) is located on the north side of the road, between the Ranger's Quarters and the elevated campsites. Campsites 17-22 are aligned around a small loop and are situated to the east, and are nearly 800' from the Ranger's Quarters building. This group of campsites (except #20) is significant as they correspond with the original 1934 layout of the park. Campsites 11,13,14, and 15 are situated between the Ranger's Quarters building and the modern toilet building. Of all the campsite regions, these are at the highest elevation. The original stone foundation, stone stairs, and the massive fireplace and chimney of an old CCC mess hall are situated above, and to the south of, these campsites (10).

Following the western fork of the road from the base of the Ranger's Quarters, one immediately passes a parking area (12) to the right, which was enlarged and graded by the CCC in 1937-38. The road continues southwest on an incline for approximately 100 feet, then curves sharply north and descends back toward State Forest Road. This branch dead-ends 50' from State Forest Road. The recreation area located along Negro Brook, and within the paved upside-down "U" of the park road, was originally designated as a picnic area by the CCC. In 1971 the space was converted from a picnic area to overnight camping sites, currently numbered 24-30.

The 34 campsites within Townshend State Park exist in close proximity to the paved access road and are visually defined by park signage as well as by tent platforms, lean-to structures, and fireplace pits. The various campsites are situated about five distinctive loops projecting off the main road. Though the park has increased its capacity to accommodate overnight campers through the addition of additional campsites, paved roads, and modernized facilities, it remains much like it was in the 1930s.

Contributing Buildings

1. Ranger's Quarters/Contact Station (1933-1934)

Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1934, the Caretaker's house and loggia was designed to serve the needs of both the Ranger and the camper. Referred to on current Park Service maps as a "Ranger/Contact Station," this building is comprised of two stone structures—square in massing—which are connected by an open-air pavilion or loggia. The overall structure is approximately 63' long, 19' wide, and rises (greatest roof peak) to nearly 20' in height. The larger structure (east) serves as the Ranger's Quarters while the smaller building (west) contains a small nature center and restroom facility. The central loggia provides a social

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

gathering place and retreat for hikers, campers and picnickers. The decorative patterning of the stone exterior is of rough-cut stone in regular course. This distinctive type of rubblestone siding, known as "snecked ashlar" is found to exist in structures in south-central Vermont.¹ The Ranger's Quarters buildings in both Townshend State Park and in Grafton State Forest (also CCC-era) reveal the Civilian Conservation Corps' knowledge of such patterning, and ultimately, their vernacular interpretation. The 4"-6" slabs of fieldstone occur naturally in the geologic strata. In addition, this local stone was used by the CCC to create walls and terraces. Fashioned to resemble traditional stone farm walls found throughout Vermont, the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed stone terraces, stairs, and walls on the north and south sides of the Ranger's Quarters building. A grand staircase comprised of 8 stone stairs, nearly 10' in length is built against the grassy hill up to the loggia.

The Ranger's Quarters is a 1-1/2 story side-gabled structure constructed of stone and wood and measures approximately 24' long and 19' deep. The eave-front building is three bays wide by two bays deep and displays symmetrically aligned windows consisting of 6 over 6 fenestration. Granite sills and lintels are used overall in the first story windows, while pairs of brown shutters adorn each of the five upper story windows. The first story is composed of rough-cut stone (with regular courses), while the upper story is composed of wood, as revealed by the gabled ends. The regular pitched, asphalt roof (north side replaced in 1973; south side replaced in 1975) is punctuated on both sides by two hipped roof dormers with sidewalls. A 5-paneled transom window surmounts the 6-paneled door, located in the middle bay. The wooden door surround consists of two fluted pilasters culminating in a simple unadorned wooden entablature. This north facing, façade affords vistas of the West River and Rattlesnake Mountain.

A steeply pitched porch overhang, covered with asphalt shingles, extends nearly 7' from the middle of the eastern facade of the Ranger Station. Supported by simple wooden posts, it serves to cover a stone stairwell, which leads to a massive wooden door that provides access to the basement area. The south side of the Ranger's Quarters faces the forested slopes of Bald Mountain. Except for a door situated in the first bay (east side) and windows in the second and third bays, the south façade mirrors the north. A large terraced stone area, extending nearly 12' from the building, and running parallel to its length, is surrounded on the east end with stone walls graduated in size from three feet to five feet. This stone terracing extends along the south, or rear, of the entire building as well as the north, or front façade. The footprint of the building

¹ National Register of Historic Places nomination form. "Stone Village Historic District; Stone Houses at Chester Depot." United States Department of the Interior, 1973.

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

and including the stone areas are evident on the site plan. In 1971 the house was remodeled to include new electrical wiring, electric heat, insulation, and a remodeled kitchen.

A 16' wide and 26' long loggia connects the Ranger's Quarters to the nature center/restroom building. This single story, open-air pavilion is defined by a massive stone fireplace with a chimney, a stone floor and surrounding stone terrace, and by a protective roof. The stone work overall is rough-cut stone with an irregular course. The massive stone fireplace, which is centrally located against the east gable wall of the Ranger's Quarters, is 8' wide at the base and tapers to approximately 3' at the vertex. Its opening is adorned with a keystone, and by a large mantel which nearly spans the width. The interior hearth is composed of brick. Both the interior Ranger's Quarter's fireplace and the loggia fireplace share the same flue and chimney. Large square timbers support the loggia's asphalt shingled roof (replaced in 1973). Six hewn timbers support the roof, which has been constructed with exposed rafters. Approximately 1' of the timber bases have been replaced thus revealing attempts to simultaneously conserve and preserve the integrity of the building. Several modern aluminum and wood picnic tables are placed about the space to provide respite for Townshend State Park's guests. This outdoor pavilion space serves to bring the outdoors indoors.

Connected to the west end of the loggia is a smaller stone structure that serves as the nature center (added naturalists exhibit in 1979) and restroom facility. The nature center is accessed through the loggia area, or the eastern façade. This one bay by one bay building is approximately 13' long and 19' wide. A single window is centered about both the north and south facades. The windows exhibit 6 over 6 fenestration and have granite sills and lintels. Two robins egg blue, wooden doors are placed about the west façade. These serve as entrances for the men's and women's restrooms. A transom panel of 6 square panes of glass is centrally located on the façade. The transom

Overall, the building incorporates iron door handles and hardware that recalls the Colonial Revival style prevalent in 1920s and 1930s in the United States. These handles are found on the front and rear façade doors of the Ranger's Quarters as well as on the men's and women's restroom doors.

2a. Utility Building (ca. 1933-34)

Originally utilized by the CCC as a wash house, this small one-story wooden gable-front building still stands and is currently used as a storage facility. The front gabled main entrance (west side) is comprised of doubled unglazed 4-paneled doors and the exterior walls are of board and batten style siding. The north façade maintains two windows (boarded-up) and one window on the south façade (also boarded-up). Remarkably, the original cedar shingled roof has survived,

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Townshend State Park
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perhaps preserved by the existing thick coating of moss. Overall the building measures 14' long and 12' wide and rests on a concrete foundation.

Non-Contributing Buildings

The following buildings are non-contributing due to their age.

Lean-to Shelters (1988)

Four wooden lean-to structures are situated in the northwest region of the Park. Unlike the rest of the campsites, which are identified by numbers, the individual lean-tos are named. Utilizing the names of indigenous trees, the lean-to structures are respectively identified as Pine, Oak, Elm and Ash. Each lean-to is nearly 12' long and raised off the ground approximately 1' by cement pylons. Though the CCC built lean-to structures throughout Vermont State Parks, these are recent additions to Townshend and are non-contributing due to age.

3. Toilet Building (1959-1960; 1974)

This modern one story facility was built in the upper (east) campground area. The facility is complete with hot and cold running showers (added in 1974) and is separated into men and women's facilities. The building's brown wooden overhanging eaves exterior recalls board and batten siding. The foundation is concrete and the low gabled roof with is covered with asphalt shingles. Though the lines of this building clearly reflect a modern style of architecture, the use of materials such as wood, brown paint and board and batten siding reflect the attempt to retain the feeling of the earlier CCC style buildings and familiar park architecture.

4. Firewood Shed (1985)

Located below the Ranger's Quarters, approximately 100 yards to the east, is a woodshed. Vertical planks of brown-painted wood with spaced several inches between each board, create a four-sided wooden structure. A hipped asphalt roof covers this 9' by 15' building.

5. Garage (ca. 1975)

This structure is non-contributing due to age. A 1935 "Location Map" generated during the CCC's era reveals a building designated as a latrine at the current location. Townshend State Park records from 1975 say "Tore down old shower building and built new 9' x 15' utility building." The Townshend State Park Ranger this building is a modern addition to the park.

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

6. Pump House (1963-1964)

Continuous improvements in the water supply to the park area include the addition of a pump house in 1963-64. A new reservoir was also built at this time. The small wooden building is 10' in length and 7' wide. It is non-contributing due to age.

7. Spring House (1974)

Due to age, the spring house is a non-contributing structure. The spring house located above the eastern camping area was possibly constructed by the CCC. The foundation is composed of concrete, while the upper section employs the use of board and batten style walls. The spring was tapped for campground water supply in 1928. It is possible that the CCC built a spring house, however Biennial records indicate that the current spring house was built in 1974. In 1983 the spring was closed out from use due to silt and contamination.

Tent Platforms (1989)

Because of the rough terrain and steep landscape, Townshend is one of the last State Parks where tent platforms are still maintained and used. Currently, eight tent platforms exist within the eastern region of Townshend State Park. Originally the Civilian Conservation Corps constructed twelve tent platforms between 1937 and 1938. Over the years, the original platforms have been repaired and rebuilt, thus the present structures are not original. Most recently, in 1989, all of the tent platforms were removed and replaced with new pressure-treated material. While the tent platforms at campsites 13, 14, 18, 19, 21 & 22 resemble simple wooden stages supported by concrete pylons, the tent platform at campsite 11 retains the style of those made by the CCC. This particular platform utilizes three vertical posts affixed symmetrically along the length of two sides. These vertical wooden extensions rise approximately 2.5' in height above the platform and function so that a tent can be fastened to them. The tent platforms are 14' wide and 20' long.

Contributing Objects

2 b. Concrete Tank (ca. 1933-34)

Located next to the utility shed is a massive, solid arched concrete tank that originally served to heat water during the CCC era. This arched form—nearly 9' in height, 4' wide, and 5' deep—is contributing due to age and its historic function. It is integral to understanding how the CCC workforce lived and worked within the Park.

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Townshend State Park
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Culverts (ca. 1927-1934 [noted by "C" on the site plan]

There are numerous stone culverts built into the landscape of Townshend State Park. They are distinguished on the site plan by the letter "C." Thus far, evidence can not conclusively attribute the construction of the culverts to the Civilian Conservation Corps, however their location correlates with the original CCC layout of the park. Documentation from the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation attributes the work of these structures to local stone masons and are believed to have been constructed ca. 1927. While all the culverts appear to have been constructed in similar fashion, it is possible that the CCC were responsible for building additional culverts as they landscaped and planned the park. Regardless of the builder, these objects maintain an age over 50 years and are significant to the layout of the park. Their integrity is further enhanced by the use of local quarried stone.

Fireplaces (ca. 1933-34) [noted by "F" on the site plan]

Numerous Civilian Conservation Corps-era fireplaces (approximately 16) still remain in the lower, or western, region of the park, as well as throughout the original (1934) upper, or eastern, loop of the park. The fireplace structures throughout Townshend State Park resemble a blocky, square armchairs with straight sides and square corners overall. The body (arms, back, seat) is composed of stone; the base is of concrete, and the interior walls of the seat and arms are of brick and the rest of irregular coursed stone. A sturdy iron grill fits neatly across the arms. All are original and have survived with only minor repairs over the last 60 years.

Water Fountain (1938) [noted by a "W" on the site plan]

One stone water fountain constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps survives and is approximately 2' high, 32" long and 10" wide. The profile of the water fountain is "L" shaped in design. It is set atop a rectangular stone foundation. This drinking fountain was constructed with children in mind as suggested by the raised step at the base, extending 16" (this is included in the 32" length) in depth. The water fountain is centrally located in the lower eastern camping region, southwest of the four lean-to structures.

Contributing Site

8. *CCC Side Camp Foundation (ca. 1933-34; demolished ca. 1971)*

A 1934 Townshend State Park Location map as well as documentation on the Park's history indicates that this foundation is part of the remains of a CCC side camp. The CCC unit S-54 out of Bellows Falls worked in various regions in southern Vermont, including Townshend and

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

Grafton State Forests. During their stay in Townshend, they constructed a mess hall and a barracks quarters building. Today, stone stairs, a massive stone fireplace with chimney and the foundation floor of the mess hall remain. The foundation floor is approximately 92' long and 24' wide. Though forest growth is engulfing the site, park signage identifies the building and the presence of the CCC.

9. Parking Area (1937-1938)

The CCC graded and developed the parking lot in the western region of the park. The parking lot is located below, and to the north of the Ranger's Quarters. The lot has not changed in design or layout since its creation by the CCC in 1937. The lot was built to accommodate fourteen cars. A stone guardrail, comprised of large boulders, creates the north, south, and west perimeters. Overall, the parking lot measures 35' deep and 160' long. The final layout and design was approved by Perry Merrill on May 25, 1937.

Non-contributing Objects

Benches

Numerous modern benches fabricated from aluminum and/or wood can be found throughout the park. They are non-contributing due to their age.

Picnic Tables (ca. 1990s)

According to Park records, the sturdy wooden picnic tables built by the CCC did not need to be replaced until 1980. However, two decrepit and rotten CCC picnic tables have been left at the CCC side campsite. Excluding the CCC picnic tables, the modern versions are non-contributing due to age and can be found throughout the campsites as well as in the vicinity of the Ranger's Quarters.

Water Fountains

Campers can obtain water through modern concrete based hook-ups found throughout the park. Referred to as water faucets, there are six locations to obtain water within each of the five regions of the park, including the Ranger's Quarters area.

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Townshend State Park
Windham County, VT

Statement of Significance

TOWNSHEND STATE PARK

Criterion A

Data categories: Conservation and Entertainment/Recreation

Criterion C

Data categories: Architecture and Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance: 1933-1940

Architect/Builder: Civilian Conservation Corps

Summary:

Townshend State Park, which is located within the much larger Townshend State Forest in Townshend, Vermont, is being nominated under the multiple property submission Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks. It clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type. The park is eligible under criteria A and C. The contributing buildings, structures, objects, and sites within the park are historically important for their design and the way they fit into the natural landscape. The landscape design of the park is also significant, carefully fitting the built features into the natural setting. The park was built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp S-54 between 1933 and 1940. Of particular architectural interest are the stone buildings, which are built in a CCC interpretation of snecked ashlar, the vernacular stone construction technique used in the 1830s through 1850s in southern Windsor and northern Windham counties.

Townshend State Forest, in which the park is located, was originally purchased in 1912. The property was purchased through the interest of Howard Rice, Secretary of the West River Valley Association. At that time the size was recorded as 700 acres. Today, Townshend State Forest consists of 1,095 acres. Townshend State Park in Windham County in the village of Townshend, Vermont was developed and created by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1940. The Civilian Conservation Corps developed the park for the picnicker and overnight camper to enjoy lush surroundings within Townshend State Forest. The development of Townshend State Park is attributed to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp S-54 from Bellows Falls, Vermont. Their accomplishments within the State of Vermont

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CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 2

Townshend State Park
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were tremendous and Townshend State Park remains a well-preserved example of the Civilian Conservation Corps' contribution to State Parks.

Under criterion A, Townshend State Park's nomination is significant under the areas of Conservation, and Entertainment/Recreation. Townshend State Park conveys—through its overall design, and the buildings and structures contained within—a surviving era of the mechanism we know as the Civilian Conservation Corps. The conservation, preservation, and development of State Forest Parks came about through President Herbert Hoover's establishment of the Green Mountain National Forest in Vermont in 1932 and later, through President Roosevelt's implementation of the "New Deal" program. In the throes of unemployment and poverty, the New Deal program established under Franklin Delano Roosevelt provided employment for young men across the nation. As a result, New Deal programs such as the CCC gave the U.S. Forest Service and State Parks a workforce of thousands of men who contributed enormously to these public landscapes. Since Vermont was prepared with definite plans for State Park and Forest development, the State was allocated thirteen camps rather than the standard allotment of four. In 1933 the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) descended upon the state of Vermont to tackle a myriad of projects related to forestry and emergency conservation work, including the building of roads and trails; providing conservation relief; flood control; planting trees; combating tree diseases; and assistance with timber management. The natural mountainous terrain of Townshend was not conducive to farming, thus the primary objective for the land was state timber management. In light of this endeavor, a wooden fire tower was erected in 1924 on the top of Bald Mountain to aid in the protection of the area.² In addition to their vast mission focused on conservation, the CCC workforce also permeated State Parks across the nation, including Vermont. In addition, the CCC were responsible for developing the State Parks and the familiar rustic style of architecture found within these parks in Vermont, and across the nation. The evolution of State Parks throughout the United States provided convenient alternatives for a growing, mobile population to escape cities in order to recreate in lush and beautiful surroundings.

Though Henry Ford did not invent the first automobile, he was instrumental in revolutionizing the technology for automobile production in the United States. Ford envisioned a car for the masses and thus his implementation of the assembly line and mass-produced automobile parts brought his vision to fruition. Directly correlated with the popularity and availability of the automobile was the enactment of the highway fund legislation of 1916. This resulted in an era of

² This wooden firetower was replaced by a steel firetower in 1937. The steel tower was removed in 1949 and transported to Mt. Olga in Wilmington, Vermont.

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extensive road building. Also in 1916, Congress passed an act that created the National Park Service. The act declared the purpose of the national parks "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."³ America's growing interest in and ability to recreate was enhanced by one's ability to purchase and own an automobile. Thus, the timely creation of state parks throughout the United States engendered America's willingness and desire to access rural and beautiful locations designated as state parks. The automobile made possible access to remote park locations such as Townshend State Park. A parking lot and the narrow 9' roads meandering about Townshend State Park reveal the ease in which America could recreate in more remote areas previously accessed on foot.

Under criterion C, Townshend State Park is significant in the areas of Architecture and Landscape Architecture. The foundations of architecture in the nineteenth-century picturesque movement were made popular by architects Alexander Jackson Davis (1803-1892) and Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852). Davis, like Downing, felt that architecture should be a part of a larger composition that included the surrounding landscape and the building(s), thus, should be altered according to the landscape. The late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries garnered a deeper interest in landscape and landscape design. Early leaders in the field, Calvert Vaux (d. 1895) and his pupil, Frederick Law Olmsted (1822-1903), created landscapes for the public masses, as well as for the estates of the elite. Olmsted and Vaux, great champions of the rural park movement in the United States, were responsible for designing, among many landscapes such as parks and parkways. Throughout history, landscape has been emblematic of the national ideal. Architects and painters alike have utilized the landscape in their work. Thomas Moran (1837-1926), an American painter, captured what were to become eight national parks and monuments in momentous paintings.⁴

In keeping with the mission of the National Park Service, the Civilian Conservation Corps endeavored to conserve the landscape while simultaneously creating man-made purpose built structures to reflect and harmonize with the landscape. The mountainous landscape of Bald Mountain provides natural tiered elevations where the four clusters of campsites were integrated in Townshend State Park. Utilizing natural, indigenous materials such as stone and local timber,

³ Winks, Robin W. Book review: Building National Parks: Historic Landscape Design and Construction by Linda Flint McClelland. Winterthur Portfolio. Volumes 34, spring 1999. 72.

⁴ Doreen Bolger Burke, et al. American Paintings in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Volume II. New York (1985). 519.

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the CCC created buildings and structures as natural as the landscape that engulfed them. Vermont State Parks maintain uniformity in the use of rustic style architecture, in the color palette derived from nature, and in the placement of the buildings and sites within the park. One must enter the park to truly experience the landscape and carefully planned park. Townshend State Park is a remarkable example of how the CCC successfully integrated such structures into the natural landscape. The built structures were aesthetically integrated into the landscape by using native timber and local stone. The Civilian Conservation Corps' style of architecture throughout Vermont's State Parks is distinctive as a cohesive whole and the architectural fruits of their labor are synonymous with the entire workforce.

Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1933 and 1934, the Caretaker's house and loggia was designed to serve the needs of both the Ranger and the camper. Referred to on current Park Service maps as a "Ranger/Contact Station," this building is comprised of two stone structures—square in massing—which are connected by a breezeway or loggia. The overall structure is approximately 63' long, 19' wide, and rises (greatest roof peak) to nearly 20' in height. The larger structure (east) serves as the Ranger's Quarters while the smaller building (west) contains a small nature center and restroom facility. The central loggia provides a social gathering place and retreat for hikers, campers and picnickers. The decorative patterning of the stone exterior is of rough-cut stone in regular course. This distinctive type of rubblestone siding, known as "snecked ashlar" is found to exist in early nineteenth-century structures in south central Vermont.⁵ The Civilian Conservation Corps cleverly revived this century-old Scottish tradition. Their stylized interpretations are found in the Ranger's Quarters buildings in Townshend State Park and Grafton State Forest (also CCC-era). The Civilian Conservation Corps developed a rustic-style of architecture, and the resulting buildings were constructed to recede into or blend with the surroundings.

Townshend was chartered in 1753, and was originally settled by men from Sutton, Upton, and Uxbridge, Massachusetts in 1761. It is written that Townshend was named for Charles Townshend who was a member of the British Ministry. Townshend's principal industries during the early settlement period were farming, lumbering, and the production of black salts or potash. Sawmills, lumber yards, gristmills, harness shops, tanneries and tinsmith and blacksmith shops also developed. By 1884, the village of Townshend was a prospering village center with nearly 50 dwellings and numerous businesses including two general stores, a hotel, a drug store, tin

⁵ National Register of Historic Places nomination form. "Stone Village Historic District; Stone Houses at Chester Depot." United States Department of the Interior, 1973.

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shop, harness shop, and a blacksmith shop. The rocky mountainous terrain of Townshend and surrounding regions did not lend itself to extensive farming thus timber became a natural resource for areas like Townshend.

Today, Townshend State Park's buildings, campsites and overall layout retain much of the character and continuity of the original plans. Similarly, the addition of new structures, or the alteration of existing structures has been minimal. Such changes since 1934 have served only to enhance or improve the visitor's experience. The Park Service and the Park Rangers continue to preserve and interpret the landscape and the resources contained within the landscape. The nomination of the CCC resources in Vermont will serve to preserve—for future generations—the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps in Vermont.

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UTM References

Zone	Easting	Northing
5 18	689900	4767200
6 18	689620	4767140

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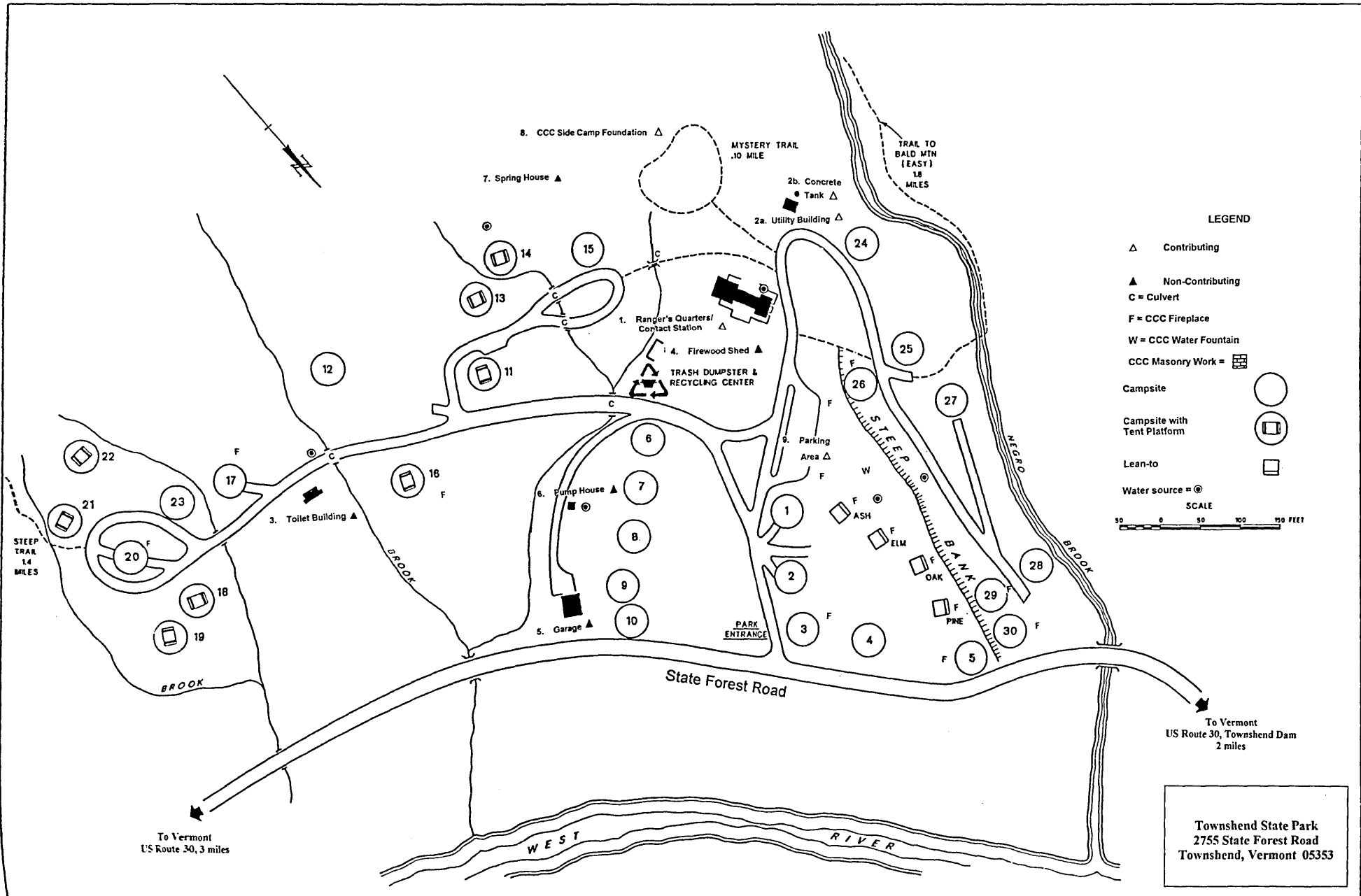
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Boundaries for Townshend State Park are located within Townshend tax map 38; parcel #34. The area within this boundary, comprised of 41 acres, is significant to convey the historic portion of the park. The boundaries can be defined as follows:

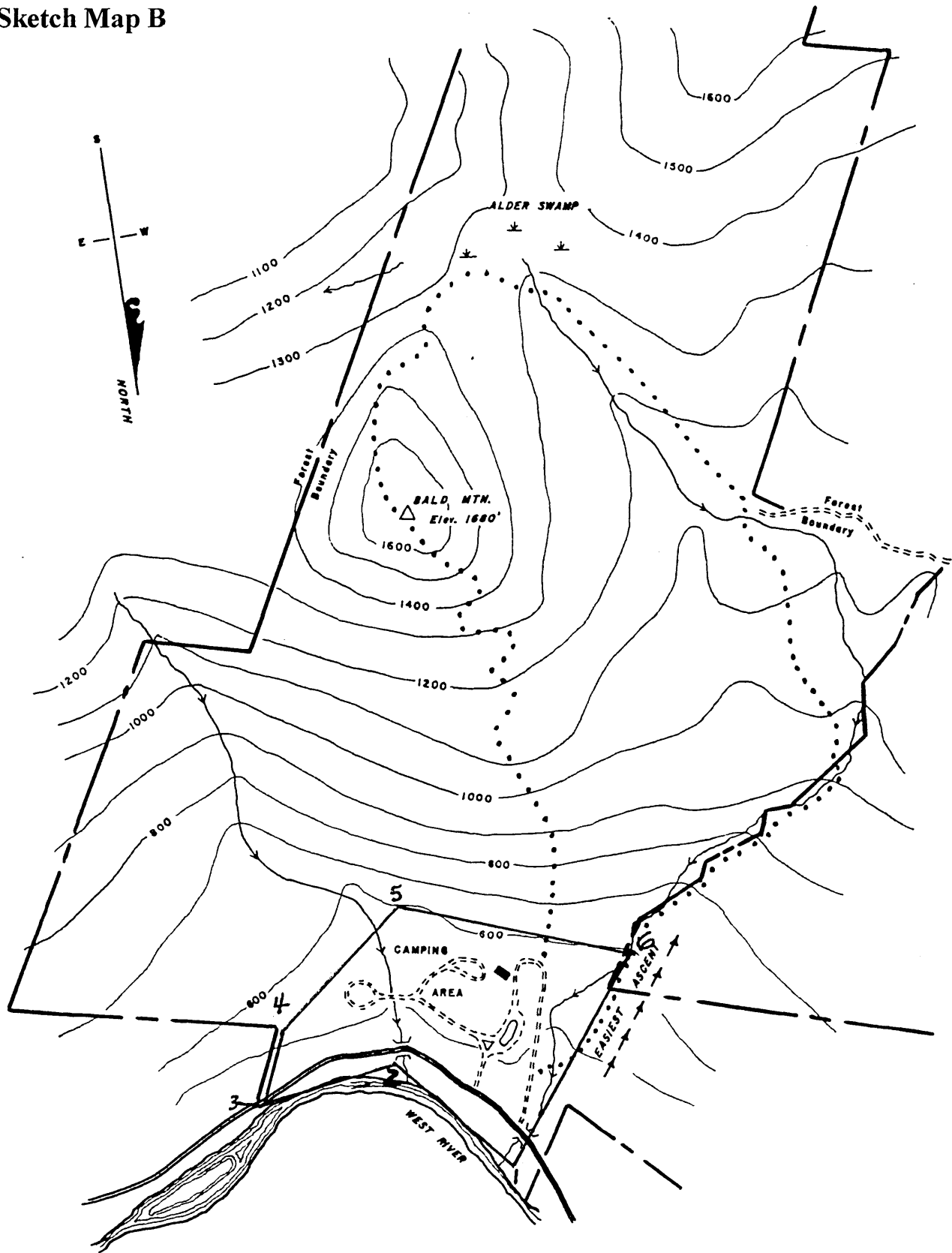
The northern boundary of Townshend State Park, from the point where the western bank of Negro Brook meets the southern bank of the West River, is noted by number 1 on the USGS map and on Sketch Map B. Continuing in an easterly direction from this fixed point for a total of approximately 250 meters (1/4 mile) to number 2, and then traveling an additional 250 meters (1/4 mile) to number 3, completes the approximately 500 meter (.5 mile) northern boundary (traveling west to east) of the park along the southern bank of the West River, a natural boundary defining feature. Proceeding in a southerly direction from the valley floor—towards Bald Mountain—the eastern park boundary continues for a distance of approximately 125 meters (1/8 mile) and rises in elevation to 600 feet, noted by number 4. The southern boundary (east to west) has been plotted in pencil on the accompanying USGS map using numbers 4-5-6. Heading in a westerly direction, this boundary continues along the ridgeline of Bald Mountain at an elevation of 600 feet, for approximately 1-1/4 miles until the western bank of Negro Brook is reached. The western boundary (south to north) of the park can be defined by following the western bank of Negro Brook for approximately 250 meters (.5 mile), to the southern bank of the West River. This is the historic park and the boundaries are sufficient to convey its historic significance.

Sketch Map A



Townshend State Park
 2755 State Forest Road
 Townshend, Vermont 05353

Sketch Map B



Townshend State Park
Townshend, Vermont



Contour Interval = 100'

Hiking Trails -

Forest Boundary - - - - -