

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 93001420

Date Listed: 12/23/93

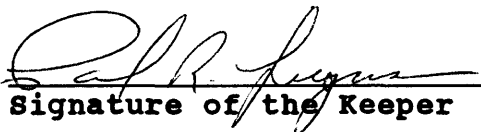
Dam-Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area
Property Name

Eddy
County

NM
State

Public Works of the CCC in the Lincoln National Forest MPS
Multiple Name

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


Signature of the Keeper

10/28/94
Date of Action

=====
Amended Items in Nomination:

Period of Significance:

The period of significance is revised to read: 1940.
[This corresponds to the date of construction by the CCC.]

Area of Significance:

Entertainment/Recreation is not sufficiently justified by the statement of significance and is therefore dropped as an area of significance.

This information was confirmed with Evan DeBloois, FPO for the US Forest Service.

DISTRIBUTION:

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

RECEIVED

NOV 12 1993

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Dam - Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area

other names/site number AR-03-08-03-417

2. Location

street & number Sitting Bull Falls, Lincoln NF /NA/ not for publication

city, town Carlsbad / x/ vicinity

state New Mexico code NM county Eddy code 015 zip code 88220

3. Classification

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

Name of related multiple property listing:

Public Works of the CCC in the Lincoln National Forest, NM

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Thomas J. DeBlois
Signature of certifying official

10/28/93
Date

USDA - Forest Service

Federal agency and bureau

Federal Preservation Officer

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

Ryan Sebestian
Signature of commenting or other official

7-19-93
Date

New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

State agency and bureau

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

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	<input type="checkbox"/> object	_____	_____ Total
		<u>1</u>	

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Signature of certifying official

Date

USDA - Forest Service

Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official

Date

New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer

State agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

Beth Boland

12/23/93

determined eligible for the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture

7. Description

Architectural Classification (enter categories from instructions)

Late 19th and Early 20th Century

American Movements

other: Rustic

Materials enter categories from instructions)

foundation _____

walls _____

roof _____

other Limestone

Sandstone

Concrete

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The dam located at Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1940. The dam is a narrow rectangular retaining wall located north of Sitting Bull Falls, within Sitting Bull Canyon. It measures 77' long, 6.5' high, and 2.2' wide, and was constructed of limestone and sandstone blocks from Last Chance Canyon. A retaining wall is visible on the west bank of the drainage, which was also constructed of limestone and sandstone. A circular gate valve is in the north end of the dam. The dam was originally constructed to create a swimming hole for visitors, however, since at least the 1960s it has been silted in. The dam is in excellent condition and is a good example of CCC workmanship.

Sitting Bull Falls

Sitting Bull Falls was one of the recreation projects completed by the CCC within Lincoln National Forest. Camp F-37-N had been established at Dark Canyon in the Guadalupe Mountains in 1939. At that time, Sitting Bull Falls had become a very popular recreation area and could be reached by Forest Road 137. Thus, one of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Dam - Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area

Section number 7 Page 2

primary objectives of the camp F-37-N was to develop the Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area. In 1940, CCC workers constructed three recreation shelters, a bathroom facility, and a small dam north of Sitting Bull Falls. The recreation area as a whole has been recorded as site AR-03-08-03-417, by the Lincoln National Forest.

Natural Setting

Sitting Bull Falls is located on the eastern edge of the Guadalupe Ranger District, 42 miles northwest of Carlsbad, at the end of Forest Road 137. The dam presented for nomination is located within the Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area in Sitting Bull Canyon on a bench to the north of Sitting Bull Falls at an elevation of 4660'. The canyon is a combination of rock cliffs and slopes over 50%. This area is very rocky and limestone and sandstone outcrops are abundant. The vegetation is predominantly scrub oak, Texas Madrone, agave, ocatillo, and prickly pear. A 150' high limestone cliff supports the water fall, and a variety of mosses and ferns grow in the immediate area. There are many natural pools above and below the falls.

History of Surrounding Area

Sitting Bull Falls was originally part of a large ranch owned by Albert Knott from the early 1900s to 1924. At that time, the area was isolated and had a very natural setting. The Forest Service purchased Sitting Bull Falls in the mid-1920s, and by 1931 visitors could reach the falls by hiking one mile from a graded Forest Service road.

Sitting Bull Falls was a very unique and popular recreation site. Visitors traveled long distances to see Sitting Bull Falls, to swim in the pools and to hike in the canyon. In order to accommodate increased visitor attendance, Forest Road 137 was constructed in the mid 1930s, which led to a parking area to the north of the falls.

The popularity of the recreation site made Sitting Bull Falls a logical choice for development by the CCC. Work began in the late 1930s at Sitting Bull Falls, and the main goal of the CCC was to retain the natural environment and to build structures that fit into the setting. Three shelters, a restroom, and the dam were constructed on a bench to the north of the falls and were in the rustic style with rough cut limestone and sandstone from Last Chance Canyon and log beam roofs. The grand opening of the facility was in 1940.

8. Statement of Significance

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

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)	Period of Significance	Significant Dates
<u>Landscape Architecture</u>	<u>1940s</u>	<u>1940</u>
<u>Social History</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Government</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u>Entertainment/Recreation</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>
<u></u>	<u></u>	<u></u>

Cultural Affiliation
N/A

Significant Person
N/A

Architect/Builder
Design: USDA - Forest Service
Construction: CCC

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

Statement of Significance

The dam at Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C as described in 36 CFR 60.4. The dam was a Civilian Conservation Corps public work constructed in 1940 by members from Camp F-37-N. CCC projects such as this one were important to the revitalization of the national economy during the Depression. As specified in National Register criteria, this structure possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. The dam at Sitting Bull Falls represents an important historic resource, one that is not only associated with significant events in American History, but also one that embodies distinctive characteristics of CCC workmanship and architectural design.

The dam is the product of an important government program that aided social welfare. The CCC employed many young men who were jobless, helping individuals and communities as a whole. It gave young men a sense of accomplishment, and the workmanship of CCC structures is notable. The Sitting Bull Falls dam is a representation of such workmanship, and its present condition is extraordinary considering its age.

9. Major Bibliographical References

- Anon.
1931 "Forest Service Completes a Graded Road to Scenic Falls." Advocate. June 11. Artesia, NM.
- Davis, S. H.
1989 "Childhood Spent Near the Falls." Current Argus. Jan. 9. Carlsbad, NM.
- Higgins, H. C. and D. M. Johnson
1987 A Research Design for a Cultural Resources Random Sample Survey of the Lincoln National Forest. Lincoln National Forest Cultural Resources Report # 1987-08-090. USDA.
- Holmes, M.
1983 "Sitting Bull Falls Named for Liar, Not Indian." El Paso Times. Jan. 3. El Paso, TX.
- Irwin, P. N.
1986 Fire Lookout Towers National Register Information. Lincoln National Forest Cultural Resources Report # 1986-08-058. USDA.
- Johnson, D. M., T. R. Fulgham, and L. S. Reed.
1988 Lincoln National Forest Cultural Resources Planning Assessment. Ms. on file, Lincoln National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Alamogordo.
- Macy, G. D.
1933 "State Park Conservation Camps." New Mexico Magazine. November.
- Spoerl, P. M.
1983 Thousands of Years of Use: Prehistory and History of the Lincoln National Forest. Ms. on file, Lincoln National Forest, Supervisor's Office, Alamogordo.
- Steen, H. K.
1976 The U.S. Forest Service -- A History. Seattle: University of Washington Press.
- Throop, E. G.
1979 Utterly Visionary and Chimerical: A Federal Response to the Depression. MA Thesis: Portland State University.
- Toulouse, J. H.
1933 "CCC in the Sandias." New Mexico Magazine. September.
- USDA, Forest Service
1991 The Civilian Conservation Corps: Coronado National Forest, 1933-1942. U.S. Government Printing Office.

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National Park Service

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Dam - Sitting Bull Falls Recreation Area
Section number 9 Page 2

U.S. Department of the Interior
1986 National Register Bulletin 16. National Park Service.

West, T.
1992 Centennial Mini-Histories of the Forest Service. USDA Forest Service,
FS-518

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 hist. preservation office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other

Specify repository:
Lincoln National Forest

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property Less than 1 acre

UTM References

A 1|3| 5|2|8|7|2|0| 3|5|6|7|4|5|5|
 Zone Easting Northing

C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 Zone Easting Northing

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary is that of the stone dam itself, measuring 2.2 feet wide by 77 feet in length which runs in an easterly direction.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

This boundary encompasses the dam wall.

See continuation sheet

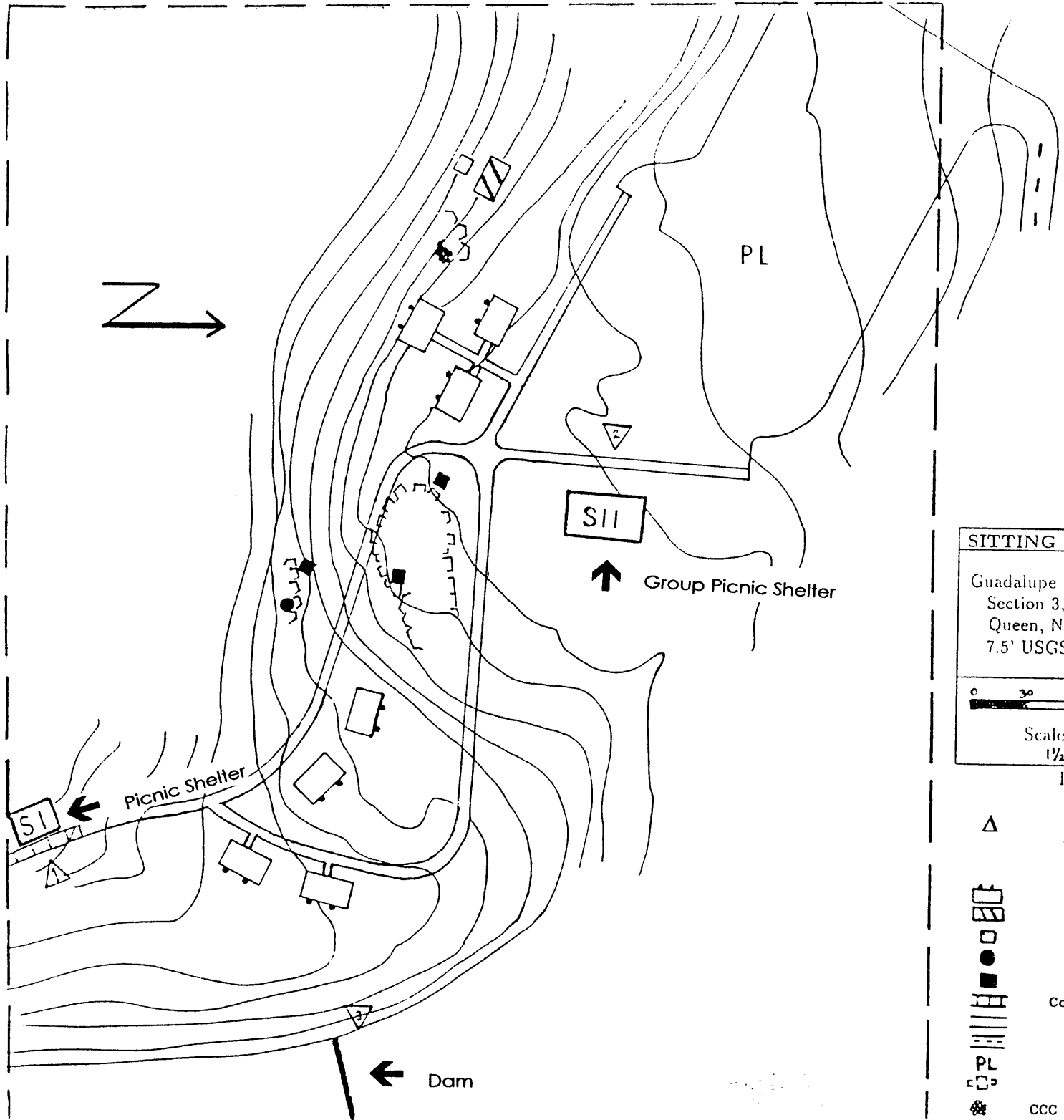
11. Form Prepared By

name/title Holly Houghten, Archeologist Christy Comer, Archeologist

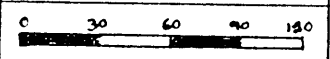
organization Lincoln National Forest date July 7, 1993

street & number 1101 New York Avenue telephone (505)434-7273

city or town Alamogordo state NM zip code 88310






SITTING BULL FALLS
 Guadalupe Ranger District
 Section 3, T24S, R22E
 Queen, NM (474 NW)
 7.5' USGS Quad. Map



Scale in Feet
 1 1/2" = 1'

Key

-  Photo Point
-  Ramada
-  Restroom
-  Well House
-  Well
-  Picnic Table
-  Concrete Walkway
-  Trail
-  Road
-  Parking Lot
-  Rock Outcrops
-  CCC Shelter Rubble