

HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES

JUL 25 1986

HST-6 REV 6/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Town No.:	Site No.:		
UTM 118	665470	4643680	
QUAD:	Winsted CT		
DISTRICT	IF NR, SPECIFY		
<input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potential	

IDENTIFICATION	1. BUILDING NAME (Common) (Historic) American Legion Forest CCC Shelter		American Legion Forest CCC Shelter	
	2. TOWN CITY Barkhamsted	VILLAGE Pleasant Valley	COUNTY Litchfield 005	
	3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) West side of West River Road in American Legion State Forest			
	4. OWNER(S) Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private			
	5. USE (Present) Recreational		(Historic) Recreational	
	6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN open structure
	7. STYLE OF BUILDING Adirondack-Rustic		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1935	
DESCRIPTION	8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Log</u>
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
	9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) <u>Log</u>			
	10. ROOF (Type)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor <input type="checkbox"/> sawtooth	
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
(Material)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____	
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1	APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 8' x 12'			
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)				
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	
13. INTEGRITY (Location)		WHEN?	(Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <u>Reroofed with composition shingles</u>	
14. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES				
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify) <u>None</u>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden		
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT				
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Woodland	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site	
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density	
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS				
Set on a hillside overlooking a brook. Cleared area to east was former CCC camp site.				

(OVER)

7/25/86

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (Interior and/or exterior)

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

An open shed-roofed shelter constructed of saddle-notched logs. Rock pier foundation. Original wood-shingle roof replaced by asbestos shingles. A sill across the open front of the structure provides stability.

18. ARCHITECT

Unknown

BUILDER

Civilian Conservation Corps

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

SIGNIFICANCE

American Legion Forest was presented to the state by the Connecticut Department of the American Legion in 1927. The idea for the forest was conceived by Connecticut men who had served in Europe during World War I and recognized the benefits of forest conservation and management. In 1924, the American Legion initiated a program for the acquisition of forest land for eventual deeding to the state. Its initial purchase and gift of a 213-acre tract on the west side of the Farmington River West Branch was made in 1927. Additional acquisitions over the next ten years increased the forest size to approximately 700 acres.

A Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established in the forest late in 1933. Named Camp White in honor of conservationist Alain White of Litchfield, president of the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, it was one of the last two CCC camps operating when the program was (see continuation sheet)

SOURCES

DEP. Bureau of State Parks & Recreation. Historical File: American Legion. Goldstone, Albert. Interview with Mary McCahon. 29 April 1985.
 Hawes, Austin. History of Forestry in Connecticut. 1952. Deposited with State Forester.
 Good, Albert H. Park and Recreational Structures. United States Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1938.

PHOTO

PHOTOGRAPHER

Mary E. McCahon

DATE

5/85

VIEW

Exterior

NEGATIVE ON FILE

CHC DEP 85: 18/12-14

Place

COMPILED BY

NAME

Mary E. McCahon

DATE

6/85

Photograph

ORGANIZATION

Connecticut Historical Commission

Here

ADDRESS

59 S. Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06106

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

N/A

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None known | <input type="checkbox"/> Highways | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Vandalism | <input type="checkbox"/> Developers | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal | <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Deterioration | <input type="checkbox"/> Zoning | <input type="checkbox"/> Explanaton _____ |

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59 South Prospect Street, Hartford, Connecticut 06106
HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY FORM
For Buildings and Structures

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
TOWN NO.:	SITE NO.:		
UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number 19 Date: _____ American Legion CCC Shelter

eliminated in December, 1941. In addition to their primary function of silviculture and road building, the Cs built several recreational structures in the forest. The Adirondack-style log shelter is the only one of the four built in the area to survive. (The other three were located in adjacent Peoples Forest on the east side of the Farmington River West Branch.) The shelter is nearly identical in styling to the two primitive shelters built along the Appalachian Trail in Litchfield County (Mohawk State Forest and Housatonic State Forest).

The trail shelter of long tradition and widely known as the Adirondack shelter was probably first developed by hunters and trappers of that region, according to a 1938 National Park Service publication on park structures. For the greatest benefit from the campfire and the utmost in protection from the weather, the historic Adirondack shelter, of which the American Legion CCC shelter is an excellent example, was very low in height, barely affording headroom at the open front. The roof overhung the open side and sloped to the rear. The scant headroom that resulted was not inconvenient in the original use of this type of shelter--sleeping on evergreen boughs laid on the ground. In adapting this historic design to present-day park uses, of which overnight camping was but one, the roof was usually raised to provide more headroom and the whole functional design lost. The American Legion CCC shelter, however, has not been changed and serves as a functional copy of the original Adirondack shelter.

The shelter is located immediately south of the site of Camp White. The U-shaped central parade ground around which the camp buildings were clustered is discernible, but owing to the temporary nature of the camp, the buildings were usually little more than tar-paper shacks. A root cellar, chimney stack from the first-aid house, grease rack, foundations of warehouses, and historic roadway are still visible. When the camp was closed in 1941, the buildings were sold for salvage.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The shelter is located in a 738-acre state forest. Nominated acreage includes the building located in the center of a circle with a radius of 400' which provides a representation of its historic wooded setting.

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Item number: 19 Date: August 21, 1986

Addendum: Connecticut State Park and Forest Depression-Era Federal Work Relief Programs
Structures Thematic Resource

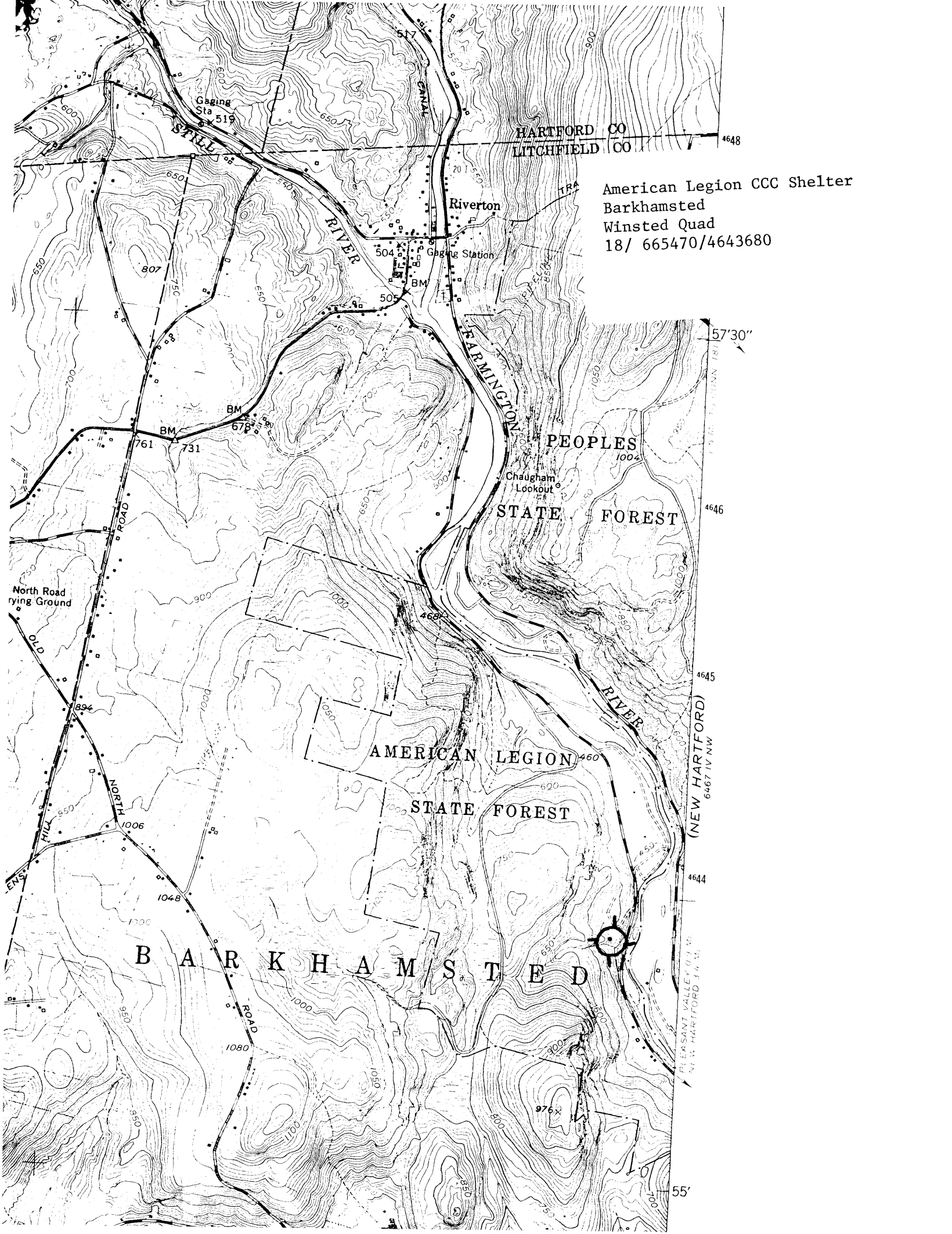
Barkhamsted: American Legion Forest Shelter

Acreage: 6.5 acres

Correction: Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The shelter is located in a 738-acre state forest. Nominated acreage includes the building located in the center of a circle with a radius of 300' which provides a representation of its historic wooded setting.

This correction has been made because it was determined that the reduction of acreage would adequately represent the historic setting of the subject property.



HARTFORD CO
LITCHFIELD CO

American Legion CCC Shelter
Barkhamsted
Winsted Quad
18/ 665470/4643680

57'30"

PEOPLES
STATE FOREST

AMERICAN LEGION
STATE FOREST

BARKHAMSTED

(NEW HARTFORD)
6467 IV NW

PLEASANT VALLEY 07 M
N.W. HARTFORD 34 M

55'