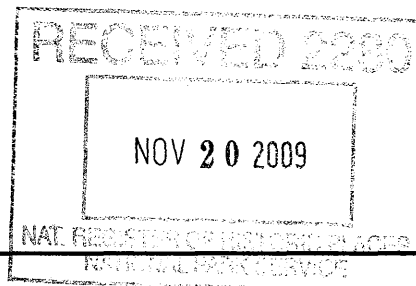


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

1197



1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Caesar

other names/site number Webster County 4-H Camp

2. Location

street & number 4868 Webster Road

not for publication

city or town Cowen

vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Webster code 101 zip code 26206

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 for 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.)

Susan Pierce
Signature of certifying official/Title

11/12/09
Date

West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, WV DCH
State or 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 certifying 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:)

Janet R. ...
Signature of the Keeper

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

12/30/2009

Camp Caesar
Name of Property

Webster County, West Virginia
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property		
		Contributing	Noncontributing	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	20	4	buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	5	2	sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	13	7	structures
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	3	0	objects
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	41	13	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

Number of Contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register
0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

DOMESTIC: camp

SOCIAL: civic

EDUCATION: education-related

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium, sports facility, outdoor recreation

FUNERARY: graves/burials

Current Functions

DOMESTIC: camp

SOCIAL: civic

EDUCATION: education-related

RELIGION: religious facility

RECREATION AND CULTURE: auditorium, sports facility, outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Bungalow/ Craftsman

Modern Movement

Materials

foundation CONCRETE

walls STONE

WOOD

roof ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description
See Continuation Sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

- 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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B.** removed from its original location.
- C.** birthplace or grave of a historical figure of outstanding importance.
- 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.

Levels of Significance (local, state, national)

LOCAL

STATE

Areas of Significance

ARCHITECTURE

EDUCATION

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

1922-1962

Significant Dates

1933

Significant Person

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

Narrative Statement of Significance

See Continuation sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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:

Camp Caesar Archives

Camp Caesar
Name of Property

Webster County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 138

UTM References

1	<u>17</u>	<u>544150</u>	<u>4250125</u>	3	<u>17</u>	<u>544650</u>	<u>4250525</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u>17</u>	<u>544575</u>	<u>4250200</u>	4	<u>17</u>	<u>544650</u>	<u>4250875</u>

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Courtney Fint
organization _____ date September 6, 2009
street & number 11 Greenbrier Street Apt. 4 telephone 304-685-7410
city or town Charleston state WV zip code 25311

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.
- CD with electronic images if digital photographs.

Floorplans for individual listings

Additional items

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

Property Owner

name Camp Caesar Board of Trustees
street & number 4868 Webster Road telephone 304-226-3888
city or town Cowen state WV zip code 26206

name Monongahel National Forest; Supervisor's Office
street & number 200 Sycamore Street telephone _____
city or town Elkins state WV zip code 26241

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 listing. 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 20303.

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LOCATION and SETTING

Camp Caesar, the Webster County 4-H Camp, is located along WV Route 20, approximately 4 miles from the town of Cowen and 10 miles from the Webster Springs, the county seat. Webster County is located in a mountainous area known historically for its logging industry. The landscape is rugged with very little flat land. Elevation above sea level ranges from 1000 feet to 4300 feet. Prominent rivers include the Gauley, Cranberry, Little Kanawha, Williams and Elk. Camp Caesar was established at this location along the Gauley River in 1922 by local members of the Farm Bureau and the Webster County extension agent, Julius A. Wolfram. The land was donated by J.N. Berthy, Sr. and C.D. Howard, and was preferred for its accessibility, which was of particular concern at the time due to the difficult terrain and lack of improved roads. Jack Burton, Wolfram's successor, continued to be instrumental in expanding the camp through the 1960s. Camp Caesar is located in a narrow vale along Upper Glade Run. A majority of buildings are located around a flat area adjacent to WV Route 20. Proceeding north along Upper Glade Run, the road travels up a gradual hill to the sports field. Wooded hillsides rise steeply to the east and west, creating an enclosed forested setting. Large moss-covered boulders and rock outcroppings dot the campus, adding to the rustic naturalistic feeling.

DESCRIPTION

The camp began with small, simple shed-like shelters and tents, but soon more substantial buildings were constructed, including an octagonal assembly hall now known as Gregory Hall, a council circle, a dining hall, and a home for the camp caretaker. After the onset of the Great Depression, the Works Progress Administration contributed immensely to the development of Camp Caesar, building several stone cottages, a pool and poolhouse, dining hall expansion, stone walks, retaining walls, and other features. The National Youth Administration also established a residential camp and workshops adjacent to the 4-H camp. These buildings were later acquired by Camp Caesar and either moved offsite or converted into residential dormitories. By the end of the 1940s, Camp Caesar was hosting groups as large as 300 people.

After World War II, camp development slowed. Only a few notable structures were erected, including a multi-room conference building, a dam and lake at the north end of the property, and a two-story administration building. Today, Camp Caesar is a peaceful, wooded campus with a rather park-like atmosphere. The property includes a mix of various styles, including bungalows, log cabins, utilitarian dormitories, barn-like assembly halls, and modern conference structures. Thanks to the influence of government agencies and local interested parties, the camp reached a substantially higher level of development and formal design than other comparable county-level 4-H camps in the state.

The layout of Camp Caesar reflects the expansion of its land holdings north along Upper Glade Creek. The primary buildings, including the administrative offices, dining hall, assembly hall, swimming pool and several cottages are located just off WV Route 20 around a semicircular green. Just north along the road, a few more rustic cottages and the barn-like council circle are located in a more wooded area. The camp drive continues a few hundred feet to the north, where the different style of the NYA camp structures is apparent.

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Still farther north, back an unimproved road, are the dam and lake, which feel quite removed from the primary areas of camp, yet are often special destinations during camps.

1) 4-H Building **2000** **Non-contributing Building**

The 4-H building is a one-story L-shaped building with a hipped roof. The structure is wood frame with wood clapboard siding with a natural stain finish. The main roof extends over the front porch. The front entrance consists of an extended bay with a door in each of the two angled planes of the bay. There are three bay windows on the left side of the building and an accessibility ramp extends to the right side of the building to the uncovered side porch. Windows consist of multi-pane double hung vinyl units.

2) Archery Range **1961** **Contributing Site**

The archery range is a simple rectangular leveled clearing along the eastern hillside of the camp. It is surrounded by trees on all sides. There are several temporary targets constructed of wooden boxes and hay bales located in a line along the eastern side of the clearing. There are no permanent structures.

3) Barn **1978-80** **Non-contributing Building**

The barn is a one-story wood frame structure with a rectangular plan and a side-gabled roof. The long side of the building is oriented parallel to the road. The large double door equipment entrance is located centrally in the front façade, and is flanked on each side by two large 4x5 pane metal industrial windows. Each end façade contains three similar windows. The roof extends over the back of the building to form a shed porch. The exterior consists of red-stained board and batten siding. The barn has several rear additions, including a cross-gabled extension, a short one-story shed-roof room and a gabled garage structure extending to the north.

4) Brookside Cottage **1936** **Contributing Building**

Brookside Cottage is a one-story residential cottage with a roughly square plan. The cottage has a hipped roof and a stone porch with a hipped roof supported by white wooden square tapered columns extends the length of the front façade. The front door is centrally located off the front porch. The front door is flanked by two metal 24-pane casement windows. The side elevations each contain one vertically-oriented 16-pane metal casement window and one horizontally-oriented 18-pane casement. The cottage is constructed of rough cut random-course stone. Brookside is identical in design to Frontview and Gauley cottages.

5) Burton Gravesite **1994** **Non-contributing site**

Jack Burton, 45-year director of Camp Caesar, and his wife, Gypsy Maude Chenoweth Burton, are buried in a wooded location just outside of Vesper Knoll on the eastern hillside of the camp. The grave consists of a large stone tablet inscribed with a detailed eulogy of Burton and his work with Webster County 4-H. There is also an upright headstone inscribed with a 4-H clover and the 4-H motto, "To Make the Best Better." The gravesites are enclosed with a low chain strung between granite posts.

6) Burton Hall **1962** **Contributing Building**

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Burton Hall is a large assembly and office building. The structure has a rectangular plan with an end-gabled roof, 5 double bays long and 3 single bays wide. The dramatic front entrance is marked by a two-story rectangular-plan vestibule that is two double bays wide. The vestibule has a steep slanted roof and consists of two-story multi-pane fixed metal windows divided by wide cut stone walls of varying widths. Windows on the longer side consist of paired and single 6-pane (horizontally oriented) metal louver windows on the second floor and 4-pane metal louver windows on the ground floor. The building has a steel structure and the exterior consists of random coursed cut sandstone in varying light brown shades.

7) Cantral Hall **1959** **Contributing Building**
Cantral Hall is a frame structure with a T-shaped plan and gabled roof. The building consists of five rooms, two in each wing and one in the center, each with a door to the exterior. The doors in the wings are located side by side in the inner bays and are covered by small shed roof; the other bays contain 3-over-1 wood sash windows with white trim. The central section has a door centrally placed, flanked by wood 3-over-1 sash windows, and the entrance is covered by a gabled porch roof. Side elevations each contain two similar windows. The exterior is covered with board-and-batten siding. The building is located directly along a creek partially supported by a cut stone retaining wall, and can be reached by a wooden footbridge.

8) Council Circle **1928, relocated 1961** **Contributing Building**
The Council Circle is an octagonal barn-like wood timber structure enclosed by vertical boards. The structure has a two-sloped octagonal roof and a metal raised open oculus, which serves as a smoke and heat vent for campfires. The interior of the structure consists of 8 concentric levels of wooden benches underneath the outer roof slope. The stone campfire ring is located in the center of the structure, which has an earthen floor. The building has three double barn door entrances. Totem poles representing four traditional 4-H tribal groups are located on the interior columns.

9) Covered Pedestrian Bridge **1999** **Non-contributing Structure**
The bridge is a one-span wooden structure approximate 40 feet in length. The bridge has a gabled roof that is supported by plain square posts and large X-bracing within each of the 4 lengthwise bays. The railings consist of closely spaced 2x2 vertical pieces. The entrance portals are framed with 2x10 boards in a trapezoidal configuration. The bridge is not painted or stained. The roof material is dark green metal.

10) Director's Cottage **1939** **Contributing Building**
This is a frame structure covered in random cut stone. The building has a rectangular plan with an end-gabled Cape Cod-style roof and two large twin triangular dormers covered in brown clapboard. There are two small one-story rooms with hipped roofs located on either side elevation. A porch with a hipped roof extends across the front façade and is supported by four wood square tapered columns resting on a low stone wall. The front door is located centrally off the front porch and is flanked by two 4-over-4 narrow sash windows. There are two sets of paired 4-over-4 sash windows on the front façade and similar single and paired windows located on other facades.

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11) Front View **1936** **Contributing Building**

Frontview Cottage is a one-story residential cottage with a roughly square plan. The cottage has a hipped roof and a stone porch with a hipped roof supported by white wooden square tapered columns extends the length of the front façade. The front door is centrally located off the front porch. The front door is flanked by two metal 24-pane casement windows. The side elevations each contain one vertically-oriented 16-pane metal casement window and one horizontally-oriented 18-pane casement. The cottage is constructed of rough cut random-course stone. Frontview is identical in design to Brookside and Gauley cottages.

12) Gates **ca. 1930** **8 Contributing Structures**

There are eight sets of stone gates located throughout the grounds. Each set consists of two 2' x 2' rough cut stone piers, approximately 4 feet high. The piers have stone capstones and are generally connected by metal tube gates with a 2' high rectangular configuration and a curved brace welded to the top member.

13) Gauley **1936** **Contributing Building**

Gauley Cottage is a one-story residential cottage with a roughly square plan. The cottage has a hipped roof and a stone porch with a hipped roof supported by white wooden square tapered columns extends the length of the front façade. The front door is centrally located off the front porch. The front door is flanked by two metal 24-pane casement windows. The side elevations each contain one vertically-oriented 16-pane metal casement window and one horizontally-oriented 18-pane casement. The cottage is constructed of rough cut random-course stone. Gauley is identical in design to Brookside and Frontview cottages.

14) Gregory Hall **1924** **Contributing Building
Contributing Object**

Gregory Hall is an octagonal wood frame assembly structure. The building is surrounded on all sides with a porch that is covered by the roof and supported by wood posts with vertical fence railings. The front entrance is accessed by a large stone staircase. The section of porch opposite the front entrance was enclosed to form an interior stage. The top of the roof features an oculus with vents on all sides. The interior consists of one large room with beaded wood paneling and a large stone hearth in the center. A fireplace was never built. The exterior consists of white wood clapboard with green trim. The crawlspace is enclosed by green trellis. There are two one-over-one wood sash windows in each bay.

A small concrete object created in 1924 by campers as a demonstration in concrete construction is located at the base of the stairs to Gregory Hall. It is inscribed "4-H Club 1924."

15) Highway Culvert **ca. 1915** **Contributing Structure**

The culvert is a reinforced concrete structure with an overall of approximately 25 feet and flared wingwalls. It crosses Upper Glade Creek and was part of the original highway route before the road was relocated to accommodate Camp Caesar. The structure has thick concrete railings divided into three sections on each side marked by square concrete posts at the joints and the ends. The approach sections of railing above the wingwalls are flared. The railing is approximately 3 feet high and one foot wide. Each section is inscribed with a square

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enclosed by a flattened diamond on both sides.

16) Lake Pavilion **1961** **Contributing Structure**

The pavilion is a log structure three bays long by one bay wide. It has a gabled metal roof supported by large log posts with bracing. The roof structure consists of king post trusses made from both limbs and boards. The western side of the building is lined with a stone wall approximately 4' high and one foot thick, constructed of random course field stone and concrete. The floor of the pavilion is concrete. There is a stone fireplace and chimney at the northern end of the pavilion, with stones arranged in a decorative geometric pattern.

17) Lake and Dam **1957** **Contributing Structure**

The earthen dam is 520 feet long and 120 feet wide at its widest part. The spillway is 123 feet wide. The lake is approximately 15 acres.

18) Lutheran Storage Building (Smokehouse) **1940** **Contributing Building**

This building is a one-story rectangular frame structure with a front-gabled roof. It was originally the smokehouse for the National Youth Administration camp and is the only remaining of four small similar structures built in a row. The roof has shallow overhanging eaves and the exterior of the building is wood horizontal siding. The entrance is located in the gabled end facing the road and is located right of center. There are no windows in the building.

19) Maintenance House **1968** **Non-contributing Building**

The maintenance house is a one-story frame residential building with a rectangular plan and a gabled roof. The exterior is covered with wood siding and is painted red. There is a front porch with a shed-type roof supported by unfinished wood posts. There are three windows consist of vinyl double hung and fixed picture windows. There is a small gabled addition on the right side of the house with vertical board siding and a door.

20) Maples **1940** **Contributing Building**

Maples is a large frame dormitory structure with a concrete block basement and is built partially into the hillside. It has a long rectangular plan and a gabled roof with ridgeline oriented parallel to the road. The building is seven bays long and three bays deep. The end walls each contain a doorway covered with an extended gabled porch roof supported by slender wood posts with vertical rails. The doorways are accessed via concrete staircases and are flanked on each side by two 2-over-2 sash windows. Six of the seven bays on the first floor consist of two double-hung 2-over-2 sash windows. A small square two-pane window is placed between each bay. The center first floor bay is a projected section from the main building with a shallow hipped roof. It has three equally spaced 2-over-2 sash windows on its front façade, and one sash window on the projecting walls. The exterior of the first floor consists of white vinyl siding.

The basement level contains one doorway symmetrically located on each side of the center section. A replacement sliding window is located on either side of each door and is placed centrally in the wall expanse. The doorways are covered by small gabled roofs supported by slender wood posts painted white. The center section

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contains two sliding windows at the basement level and a doorway covered by a shed-type roof in the northern projected wall section. The concrete block at the basement level is painted dark green.

21) Mountain Rest **1940** **Contributing Building**

Mountain Rest is a frame structure with a concrete block basement. It has a long rectangular plan and a gabled roof with ridgeline oriented parallel to the driveway. The building is set into the hillside and both the basement and first floor contain dormitory spaces. The first floor is covered with white vinyl siding and is accessible via stairs on both ends. The end entrances are covered by a cantilevered shed-type porch roof. There is a long 1x6 pane window located centrally in the front I first floor level directly under the eave. It is flanked by four two-pane replacement sliding windows, two equally spaced on each side. The basement level consists of three rooms, each accessible by a door equally spaced across the front façade. Each door is sheltered by a small gabled porch roof supported by two slender wood posts, and flanked by sliding glass two-pane replacement windows. The concrete block is painted dark green. A dry-stacked rock retaining wall is located below the building along the road.

22) O.H. Fletcher Cottage **1997** **Non-contributing Building**

Fletcher Cottage is a frame one-story structure covered with board and batten siding. It has an end-gabled roof and a full-width front porch with a shed roof supported by wooden posts. A portion of the front porch is enclosed. The main entrance is centrally located off the front porch and windows consist of a large fixed picture window on the front façade and smaller windows on other elevations.

23) Oaks **1936** **Contributing Building**

Oaks is a 2-story bungalow style cottage with an end-gabled roof with deep overhangs. The building is wood frame and covered with random-coursed rough cut stone veneer. The main roof extends over the full-width front porch and has a shed-type dormer. The porch roof is supported by four wooden square tapered columns that rest on a low stone wall. The front door is centrally located off the front porch and is flanked on each side by a 4-pane by 6-pane metal casement window. There are two similar windows on the first story on each side façade. The right side of the building has a replacement window on the second story and a fire escape has been constructed by converting the other window opening to a door. The wood trim on the dormer, porch and eaves is painted white.

24) Oriole **1939** **Contributing Building**

Oriole is a two-story single-pen log structure that was moved to this site in 1939. The logs are massive hand-hewn, square-cut members fit together with chinking and dovetail notches. The building has a rectangular plan and an end-gabled roof. The building has a rear two-story frame addition with clapboard siding and a shed roof attached to the main roof. The one-story front porch is constructed of logs and has a shed-type roof. An exterior wooden stair leads to the second floor. Windows consist of one 2-over-2 wooden sash to the right of the front door, three similar windows on the first floor left and right elevations, and a single window on the second story right elevation. The structure has a green metal roof.

25) Outside Fireplace **ca. 1938** **Contributing Site**

The outside fireplace is located in a clearing in a low-lying area near Mountain Rest cabin. It is accessible by paths and the pedestrian covered bridge. The clearing is approximately 50 feet in diameter and is surrounded by

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woods, rock outcroppings and Upper Glad Creek to the west. The fireplace is a simple three-sided stone, brick and concrete structure approximately 3 feet high and 3'x 6' in plan. It is located at a slightly higher grade which is accessed by two stone steps. This clearing likely dates from the National Youth Administration presence at Camp Caesar, based on its location within close proximity to the NYA camp.

26) Patio

1941

Contributing Site
2 Non-contributing Structures

The stone patio located between Pickens Dining Hall and Burton Hall consists of large cast stone pavers of various shapes and sizes laid in a random pattern on a concrete and earth foundation. The plaza is roughly square and is surrounded by a simple metal rail. It is built on a gentle slope and is approximately 2 feet above grade at its southern end, with concrete steps leading to the adjoining sidewalk. A large oak tree was left in place in the center of the plaza. A small pavilion and a covered stage structure have been built on the north side of the plaza and are non-contributing.

27) Pickens Rhododendron Dining Hall

1934, 1941

Contributing Building

Pickens Dining Hall consists of two distinct sections: an L-shaped one-story structure constructed of rough-cut sandstone ashlar, and a two-story frame structure located behind the one-story section. The stone structure has cross-gabled roofs and a porch with a hipped roof supported on eight square wooden columns on a low stone wall extends partially across the east elevation (facing Burton Hall). The south elevation (facing WV Route 20) contains eight bays of paired one-over-one vinyl double-hung windows with concrete sills and lintels. The building is built into a hillside and a series of staircases and landings leads up the east elevation, reaching the porch level at the rear of the structure. There is a partial basement at the southeast corner. The two-story frame structure has a rectangular plan and a gabled roof. It is oriented with its long side parallel to the east elevation of the stone section, and gable facing WV Route 20. The exterior of this section is brown clapboard and its foundation is concrete block. It is tied to the stone structure with a one-story concrete block hallway. Windows in this structure consists of paired and single one-over-one vinyl double hung windows. The main entrance to the building and dining room is located off the porch. There are secondary entrances at other locations around the building. A WPA logo is stamped into the concrete at the north end of the porch.

28) Pool House

1941

Contributing Building
Non-contributing Structure

The poolhouse is a one-story structure with a T shaped plan with dimensions of 18'x6'x75' and a mansard roof. The short T section has a gable roof that extends from the main roof. The building is constructed of large course cut sandstone and has two dressing rooms that are accessed via doors on either side of the T. There are three horizontal 4-pane louver windows with concrete sills and lintels on each side of the T, and two similar windows on each of the side elevations. The front of the T contains 4-over-4 metal louver windows and a door on its right side. A non-contributing pavilion is located next to the poolhouse and was built in 2001.

29) Retaining Walls

1936-1938

Contributing Structures

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Various retaining walls are located throughout the grounds and were built using WPA and NYA labor. These walls generally consist of dry-laid random coursed field stone and vary in height.

- 30) Rustic** **1939** **Contributing Building**
Rustic is a two-story single-pen log structure with a saltbox roof that extends over the first-floor porch overlooking the creek. The squared, hand-hewn logs fit together with chinking and dovetail notches. The porch has been partially enclosed to provide a bathroom that is entered from the porch. The building is typically entered from the rear on the second floor via a wooden bridge extending from the road. There is a large field stone fireplace on the south façade, flanked by a door and a 1-by-1 sliding window. There are two 4-over-4 sash windows on the first floor elevation facing the road and two short 1-by-1 sliding windows on the second floor. The creekside façade contains a door and a 4-over-4 sash window.
- 31) Shooting Range** **ca. 1965** **Non-contributing Site**
The shooting range is a leveled clearing located east of the road to the lake near the sports field. The clearing is approximately 50 feet in diameter. A long wall for targets approximately 4 feet high is constructed of horizontal wood railroad ties and is located along the east side of the clearing. A simple wood shed-type pavilion with plan dimensions of 6'x12' is located opposite the target wall.
- 32) Slabside** **1939** **Contributing Building**
Slabside is a two-story frame I-house with log veneer painted a redwood color. The building has an end-gabled roof and a porch with a hipped roof extends across the front façade. The porch roof is supported by four square tapered columns resting on a random course stone wall with a stone and concrete staircase. The front door is centrally located and is flanked by two sets of paired 6-over-6 sash windows. The upper floor contains two 6-over-6 single sash windows. A massive stone fireplace surrounded by two symmetrical staircases leading to a loft is the centerpiece of the structure's interior.
- 33) Sports Field** **1947** **Contributing Site**
3 Non-Contributing Structures
The sports field is a large open area located at the northern end of the camp. Two gateposts indicate the entrance to the sports field and a large rock outcropping with layers of graffiti is located adjacent to the field, as well as a small vendor booth (non-contributing). There is a tall fence backstop (date unknown) and a two baseball dugouts at the baseball diamond. The field extends well beyond the baseball diamond and is surrounded by woods.
- 34) Swimming Pool** **1934** **Contributing Structure**
The swimming pool is a rectangular concrete structure with dimensions of 40' x 127' and depth ranging from 9" to 10'-6". It is surrounded by a concrete slab deck and a chainlink fence.
- 35) Trail's End** **1940** **Contributing Building**
Trail's End is a frame structure with a rectangular plan. The structure has a basement level plus one story and is built partially into the hillside. The building has a gabled roof with ridgeline oriented parallel to the road. The

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front of the building is seven bays wide. The leftmost bay contains a doorway at the basement level. The five center bays contain paired replacement sash windows at the first floor level and two-pane sliding replacement windows at the basement level. The rightmost bay contains no openings. The basement doorway is covered by a shed-type porch roof supported by slender wooden posts.

The south end contains a doorway at the first floor level covered by a gabled porch roof. There is one sash window to the left of the doorway. The north end contains two doors leading to restrooms in the basement level covered by a shed-type porch roof, and one doorway at the first floor level accessed by a wood staircase. There is one sash window to the left of the doorway on the first floor. The exterior of the building consists of white vinyl siding on the first floor level and concrete block painted dark green at the basement.

36) Vesper Knoll

ca. 1945

Contributing Site

Vesper Knoll is a clearing located on a hillside adjacent to the Director's House. The clearing is surrounded by woods and is accessible by path. There are roughly terraced rows containing large rocks and stones for seating. The rock rows face a wooden platform with a large rustic cross made of wood. The grave of Jack Burton is located down a short path in the woods adjacent to Vesper Knoll.

37) Water Fountains

ca. 1935

2 Contributing Objects

Two water fountains were built as part of the WPA/NYA work in the 1930s. One is located near the old highway culvert near WV 20, and one is located near Mountain Rest cabin. Both fountains are built of river rock and concrete in a round tapering column configuration.

38) Whip-poor-will Cottage

1939

Contributing Building

Whip-poor-will Cottage is a frame 2-story structure with a rectangular plan. There is a 3-bay section covered in field stone and a one-bay extension covered in vinyl siding. The structure has a hipped roof. There is a 16-pane metal casement window in bays 1, 2, and 4 (left to right) on each floor. Bay 3 contains the front door. Other elevations contain similar windows. A porch with a hipped roof supported by 4 tapered wooden posts on a low stone wall extends across the stone section of the cottage. A long concrete staircase with metal railing leads up the hill to the cottage.

39) White House

1927

Contributing Building

The White House is a one story frame structure with a rectangular plan and hipped roof. The building has two sections under the main roof that are separated by a recessed hallway. A porch extends partially across the front façade and around the right elevation. The porch has a hipped roof that is continuous with the main roof and is supported by square slender wooden posts. The building has several entrances: one located right of center on the front façade, another off the front porch into the enclosed portion of the porch, one on the right side of the recessed hallway, and one at the rear of the left elevation. Windows consist primarily of wooden sashes. There are paired 9-over-9 windows to the left of the recessed hallway, and single windows placed irregularly elsewhere. The building is covered in vinyl siding.

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STATEMENT of SIGNIFICANCE

Camp Caesar in Webster County, West Virginia is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under *Criterion A: Education, Entertainment/Recreation and Social History* and under *Criterion C: Architecture and Landscape Architecture*. The district is eligible on the local level under Criterion A for its association with the Webster County 4-H camping program, and eligible on the state level for its association with the Works Progress Administration and National Youth Administration educational and social welfare programs. The camp is also eligible on the state level under Criterion C as a cohesive and comprehensive representation of WPA park and recreational facility design. The period of the significance for Camp Caesar is 1922-1962. This period spans from the year of establishment of the camp through the construction of Burton Hall, the last major assembly building to be constructed for the camp.¹

HISTORY OF 4-H IN WEST VIRGINIA AND WEBSTER COUNTY

Camp Caesar was established as the Webster County 4-H Camp in 1922. The camp was an outgrowth of burgeoning 4-H club movement, which was fostered in West Virginia by West Virginia University Extension Service administrators as well as interested individuals in counties and communities. Julius August "Judd" Wolfram was one of Webster County's first extension agents and worked to establish 4-H clubs and events for the youth there, including week-long "camp schools" in the summer. West Virginia was at the national forefront of the summer 4-H camp establishment, and Webster County's Camp Caesar became one of the most highly-developed county-level 4-H camps in the state. Due to the efforts of Wolfram, his successor Jack Burton, and hundreds of Webster County citizens and youth, Camp Caesar became a sought-after location for a great variety of summer camps, reunions, festivals, conventions and other events over the years.

The 4-H movement had its beginnings in the 1890s in many places in rural America concurrently. A 1890s study stated that youth education should include enrichment of head, heart and hands, and should be attuned to the environment in which children lived. Educators in rural Ohio, Iowa and other states adopted this philosophy and organized after school youth clubs in order to teach students skills beyond the basic school curriculum. The early goals of the program were to help children appreciate the opportunities of rural life and to provide agricultural education that would help them develop practical skills in areas such as soil science, animal husbandry, cooking and housekeeping.²

A.B. Graham, superintendent of schools in Clark County, Ohio, O.J. Kern in Winnebago County, Illinois and Jessie Field Shambaugh in Page County, Iowa were some of the earliest educators to become involved in 4-H activities. Kern enlisted the aid of the state college of agriculture and Farmers' Institutes in integrating practical agricultural knowledge with formal education and science.³ Jessie Field, with the help of Iowa State agriculture professor Perry G. Holden, began organizing after school corn clubs for boys and canning clubs for girls in the late 1900s. In 1907, she and other adult club leaders in Iowa instituted a system of awards for good club work, consisting of pins, designed by O. H. Benson as a three-leaf clover, a plant that was known

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to be beneficial to fields.⁴ The leaves of the clover stood for “Head”, “Heart” and “Hands”; in 1911, Benson added a fourth leaf representing “Hustle” and the 4-H emblem was born. O.B. Martin later suggested changing the “Hustle” to “Health.”⁵

West Virginia, as a rural state, also showed early interest in the 4-H program. The College of Agriculture of West Virginia University, the state land-grant institution, sponsored corn-growing contests for boys and girls in cooperation with Farmers’ Institutes in various counties around the state starting in 1907. The creation of the WVU Extension Department, first directed by Daniel W. Working, dedicated more resources and organization to agricultural outreach, and soon the corn-growing contests evolved into local boys’ and girls’ corn and canning clubs. In 1912, after a campaign to stimulate interest in 4-H throughout the state, the Extension Department appointed the first state and local 4-H administrators; Earl W. Sheets as State Club Agent, B.B. Ezell as Kanawha County Agent, and William H. Kendrick as State Agent in charge of Boys’ Clubs.⁶ By 1913, Sheets had recruited 5000 children as 4-H members in thirty counties. After Sheets’ resignation that same year, Kendrick assumed position of State 4-H Club Agent and continued the work of organizing clubs, riding throughout the state to recruit volunteer 4-H club leaders and place county Extension Agents, who worked to implement all manner of Extension programs, from technical assistance for farmers to 4-H. The passage of the Smith-Lever by Congress in 1914 further supported the national 4-H movement by providing federal funding for linking agricultural outreach education with state land-grant universities:

In order to aid in diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information on subjects relating to agriculture, home economics, and rural energy, and to encourage the application of the same, there may be continued or inaugurated in connection with the college or colleges in each State...agricultural extension work which shall be carried on in cooperation with the United States Department of Agriculture.⁷

Men from the Webster County Farm Bureau petitioned the state for a county extension agent and S.F. Hinkle arrived to fill the post around 1916. Hinkle served until 1918, and was succeeded by Julius August “Judd” Wolfram. Wolfram continued the work of providing technical assistance to farmers, as well as establishing 4-H clubs throughout the county and recruiting members. The first three clubs established in Webster County were Webster Springs Central, Cowen Cheerful Diggers, and Pleasant Ridge Willing Workers.⁸

Summer camp, so commonly associated with 4-H today, was not originally part of the organization’s activities. The first 4-H camp in the nation occurred in West Virginia in 1915, when Verus Shipman, Extension Agent in Randolph County, West Virginia, planned to take a group of 4-Hers camping for a few days in the woods. The camp was designed to fill a midsummer lull in farm activity, when, as his wife Bess wrote, Shipman “would not be too busy visiting farmers, and when 4-H people will not have too much to do. I think it would be a fine idea to have a camp for them. Granted, half of them live on farms, but part of them are in towns. It isn’t so much the idea of a camp—but the idea of their learning to live with other children of their own age, and understanding problems that are not theirs.”⁹ Shipman wrote about his camp idea to the Extension Service and the USDA, who provided little encouragement, but allowed him to proceed.¹⁰ Kendrick, the State 4-H Agent, came to visit the camp with his wife and participated in the activities, which

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included fishing, swimming, camp fires and hiking. Kendrick was impressed with the camp experience, and began to tell other county agents about it. Soon, skepticism became enthusiasm, as one man told Mrs. Shipman years after the first camp: "I was a county agent in West Virginia that year, and I thought the idea was silly. Having a camp for children who lived mostly on farms. It just shows that some people, like Mr. Shipman, have vision; the rest of us have to learn."¹¹

Kendrick, a charismatic and influential man, was instrumental in establishing the West Virginia 4-H camping program. He traveled throughout the state, offering encouragement and guidance to county agents, and founded the first statewide 4-H camp in the nation at Jackson's Mill near Weston in 1921. Guy H. Stewart, in his history of West Virginia 4-H, describes Kendrick's interest in youth character development and corresponding enthusiasm for camp:

*Kendrick was convinced that camps had much to offer in the development of boys and girls, so he gave them much of his thought, energy and time. In 1918, there were seventeen such camps with 874 boys and 321 girls in attendance. These camps provided many opportunities for four-fold development of the boys and girls, and the concept was one that was natural to Kendrick. His training and experience as a minister's son, as a student under Dr. Jasper N. Deahl, professor of education at West Virginia University, and as a Sunday School worker all pointed him towards the four-fold program which he pushed forward in the state.*¹²

In writing about the new direction of the 4-H program, Kendrick expressed the character-building goals of camp:

*It was the development of the boy into an all-around man. Concretely it was expressed as the development of head, hand, heart and health—four words epitomizing an outstanding plan for four-fold life development in rural America. To prevent the neglecting in West Virginia club work of such a development we are now in a position through the farm boys' camp institutes to place within the vision of the boys themselves a program known as Four-Fold Life Development. It includes activities to make the boys feel that he is advancing in his mental, physical and religious developments.*¹³

This ideological shift in focus from spreading agricultural knowledge and training to molding youth character was a critical development in the history of the West Virginia 4-H program, differentiating it from the programs of other states. As Kendrick said, it was no longer "what the boy does for the hog, but what the hog does for the boy." Kendrick formed a close alliance with John L. Alexander, an administrator of the youth program of the International Sunday School Association. Alexander, a Scottish immigrant, was also involved in Boy Scouts and the YMCA, and worked with William H. Danforth, Preston G. Orwig and Richard A. "Dad" Waite to found the American Youth Foundation in 1925.¹⁴ Alexander, like Kendrick, believed strongly in a program of four-fold youth development, and the influences of Alexander can be discerned in both West Virginia 4-H and the AYF. In 1917, Kendrick attended the ISSA camp at Lake Geneva, Michigan, which later became Camp Miniwanca, and discussed youth programs and camping with the ISSA founders and others. It was at this retreat that Kendrick met Ernest Thompson Seton, a naturalist and founder of the Woodcraft Society, an organization based upon Native American lore and imagery. Kendrick was given the Indian name of "Waza-tipi" by Seton, which was said to mean "Man who lives in

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country.”¹⁵ Kendrick was thereafter known as “Teepi” to almost everyone he met, and the interpretation of the name was expanded to “meeting place of the tribes, or in other words, the heart of the meeting place of country boys and girls.”¹⁶ Kendrick was also influenced by Dr. Seaman A. Knapp, an administrator in the USDA and a proponent of boys and girls clubs in Texas.

By 1918, there were 17 summer camps throughout West Virginia. S.F. Hinkle wrote a column in the Webster County Echo describing a two-day girls’ “canning camp” that was conducted in August 1918, but this event appears to have been an educational workshop rather than a traditional camp. The first residential multi-day camp in Webster County occurred the next year, after Wolfram became county agent. “Camp Hilarity,” as it was called, was held at a remote location on the Gauley River. There were 44 young people in attendance and classes available included Four-Fold Life, the American Indian and Nature, and First Aid.¹⁷ It was later noted that access to Camp Hilarity was very difficult and that a new site would be necessary in order to encourage more members to attend. However, camp was held again at the site in 1920.¹⁸ Camp was moved to the grounds of the Webster Springs Hotel in 1921, and in his newspaper column to recruit attendees, Wolfram expressed a desire “that Webster County have the best camp school in the state.” He also boasted of having the best instructors in the state, including Kendrick and others from West Virginia University.¹⁹

Judd Wolfram was 27 when he came to Webster County in 1919 after graduating from the University of Wisconsin.^{20, 21} His personal photo album reveals him to be a young man very involved in the early years of the West Virginia 4-H camping program. Wolfram attended state camps at Jackson’s Mill during the years when Kendrick, Seton and others were actively creating many long-standing traditions of the program, and appears to have been significantly influenced by Kendrick. In his Annual Narrative Report of 1925, Wolfram wrote, “Webster County was represented at all State Meetings held this year at Jackson Mills [sic]... The boys and girls attending the State camp meet many prominent citizens. Among the most noted that attended the boys camp are Ernest Thompson Seton and Congressman Upshaw. Meeting these two men is worth the cost or time spent at Jackson’s Mill.”²²

Kendrick enlisted the help of citizens throughout West Virginia in developing Jackson’s Mill into a premiere camping facility, and encouraged counties to sponsor residential cottages. Webster County was one of 18 counties to accept this challenge and built Webster Cottage in 1923. The cottage was built of logs using local labor and represented the primary industry of the county. The dedication of the cottage on October 7, 1923 was the largest of any at Jackson’s Mill; over 600 people from Webster County traveled by train to attend the event.

ESTABLISHMENT OF CAMP CAESAR

Camp Caesar echoes the ambition and optimism of Jackson’s Mill on a smaller county scale. Within only a few years after the first camp was held in Webster County, Wolfram, local 4-H leaders and county citizens saw the need for a permanent facility. Local businessmen J.N. Berthy, Sr. and C.D. Howard donated a 5 ½ acre parcel of land along the Gauley River between Cowen and Webster Springs, and the site was christened

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“Camp Caesar” after the nickname of both Julius August Wolfram and his horse.²³ The first camp was held at the site in 1922, and according to Wolfram, “the boys and girls... raised the funds, cleared the ground and built the camp. Mr. McFarlane is the only one that received any compensation for his labor.”²⁴ The first summer, campers slept primarily in tents; two small wooden cabins and a kitchen were built.²⁵ 4-H members were quite involved with the construction of various items, including a concrete springhouse and water fountain. Wolfram noted that “The cement crew called itself the hard gang, and they were rightly named as the proved that they were not afraid of work. During the 4-H Camp, the Go-Getters built a drinking fountain. This adds to the importance of the camp and serves as a monument to organization.”²⁶ The Go-Getters was a county-wide club for older 4-H members who emerged as the most active young leaders in the county.²⁷

By 1924, the camp consisted of 10 small wooden cabins and a kitchen (no longer extant) and an octagonal assembly hall 60' in diameter designed by Henry Hand Russell. The building, now known as Gregory Hall, included with a concrete pad in the center and a vented cupola so that campfires could be conducted indoors.²⁸ At this time, some campers slept in tents and some in cabins.²⁹ In his 1925 Annual Narrative Report, Wolfram wrote with pride and excitement about the new camp and its role in the county:

*Traveling along the road from Cowen to Webster Springs, one emerges from surroundings of immense [sic] scenic mountains covered with virgin forest into a level and grassy land of a few acres with the forest and mountains all around, and the dancing waters of the clear, sparkling Gauley nearby. Such is the setting of Camp Caesar, the most beautiful and best equipped 4-H camp in the state.*³⁰

*... Each year hundreds of boys and girls meet with their leaders, and here in the great out of doors have the time of their lives, working hard and receiving inspiration from the nearness of nature. The women of the county meet, too, and, for a week have a program which they enjoy every minute of the stay. Not only does the agricultural club meet at Camp Caesar, but the farmers have picnics; the Sunday schools have outings, meetings and conventions. During the summer months the camp is rented reasonably to private parties. The camp has a caretaker who runs a “hot dog” stand and looks after the camp and keep[s] the light plant and other things in camp in running order. Camp Caesar has fast become a center for the communities of the county.*³¹

Various livestock facilities and other structures were built through the end of the 1920s, particularly for the use of the county fair, which was held at Camp Caesar. The year 1927 saw the construction of a residence for the county agricultural agent, now called the White House, with \$1500 given by the Webster County Court.³² Four more cabins, an expanded kitchen/dining hall and a substantial Council Circle were constructed in 1928.³³ The Council Circle, built based upon specifications of Ernest Thompson Seton, is a fixture at each county 4-H camp facility in West Virginia. Camp Caesar's Council Circle, however, was unique because it was enclosed with walls and a roof in 1932.³⁴ Though Seton published sketches and plans for a “Covered Council Ring” in *The Birch Bark Roll of Woodcraft*, it is not known whether Camp Caesar's structure was directly based upon these plans. It is not unlikely that Wolfram and others were acquainted with Seton's publications, and Wolfram and Seton both visited Jackson's Mill and could have met during the summer of

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1925. Another likely influence for the covered council circle design was Russell's assembly hall, which served that very function before a dedicated council circle was built.

Wolfram left the position of county agent in 1930, and R.G. Ellyson filled in as the agent for both Braxton and Webster Counties for about one year. Harley A. "Jack" Burton became the Webster County agent on July 1 and Ellyson took charge of Braxton County full-time. In his first Annual Narrative Report in 1931, Burton wrote that many club members got discouraged and stopped work on their 4-H projects, believing that the county agent position would not be filled. However, within a short time, Burton had reorganized or organized 32 clubs in the county, and increased enrollment in 4-H from 264 to 481.³⁵ Burton also enthusiastically continued work on Camp Caesar, despite the difficulties of the Depression. It was a point of pride among Webster County citizens that they were able to add a roof and walls to the Council Circle: as Burton wrote, "Everyone feels that great improvement has been made at Camp Caesar, the past year, especially when everyone talked depression and said it could not be done."³⁶

1933 marked a significant new era in the development of Camp Caesar due to the involvement of the federal relief programs, including the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC), Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Works Progress Administration (WPA), and the National Youth Administration (NYA). The first federal-aid project to commence at Camp Caesar was the construction of the swimming pool using RFC labor in 1933. By this time, there were also stone gateposts and signposts, and a circular stone driveway, although it is not noted who built or funded these items.³⁷ Water and sewage systems were also installed for the buildings. 1934 saw significant changes, including completion of the swimming pool, construction of a new dining hall, and the relocation of the state highway so that it passed closer to the Gauley River and no longer cut directly through camp. The original concrete culvert that carried the earlier alignment over Upper Glade Run (Cantral Creek) is still extant. The land holdings of the camp were expanded by 35 acres, to a total of 40.

The Works Progress Administration was established in 1935 and Camp Caesar immediately began to benefit from the aid of this agency; the initial work completed in 1935 appears to be primarily infrastructure and sitework, including replacement of the sewage system, installation of entrance steps to buildings and stone walkways throughout camp, and general grading. T.D. Gray, a landscape architect with the WVU Extension Service, provided advice and plans for Camp Caesar, as did Henry Hand Russell, architect of Gregory Hall, and W.A. McFarlane, a local building expert. Records state that the building inventory in 1935 included a seven room cottage (the White House), council circle, 14 cottages, supply house and new swimming pool. The dining hall is also pictured in the 1935 Annual Narrative Report by Jack Burton. Work on the water system and a dry-laid stone wall continued in 1936, but even more exciting was the beginning of construction of four new stone cottages, which would come to be known as Front View, Gauley, Brookside and Oaks.³⁸ In contrast to the small utilitarian wooden cabins built in prior years, the four stone cottages were larger, more substantial, and reflective of current trends in residential architecture. These first four stone cottages, and the cottages that followed, were not merely shelters, but homes away from home. By the end of 1936, Camp Caesar could house 200 residents.³⁹

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Aside from completion of the structures started the previous year, work in 1937 and 1938 was confined to general site work, including a \$17000 WPA project to build stone retaining walls and roads, and to relocate nine small cabins.⁴⁰ In 1938, a \$25000 WPA project was granted for "the construction of two stone cottages and one two-story log house,"⁴¹ referring to Whip-poor-will, the Director's House and Slabsides. These buildings were completed in 1939, which was an active development year.⁴² 55.6 acres were purchased to increase the camp's area to 100 acres.⁴³ T.D. Gray and W. McFarlane continued to be very involved, along with Harry Harris, an engineer employed by the WPA. Burton noted that these men were instrumental in the development of the camp.⁴⁴ Also in 1939, the State Conservation Commission donated four buildings that were being relocated due to the creation of Holly River State Park. Two two-story single-pen log cabins were rebuilt to serve as residential facilities using WPA labor and were named Oriole and Rustic, and two farmhouses were used to expand the dining hall. The addition of Oriole and Rustic contributed to the development of an eclectic architectural setting at the camp. The rough-hewn logs, chinking and dovetail notches facilitate a connection with the early settlers of the Webster County mountains. As evidenced in the decision to construct Webster County's cottage at Jackson's Mill in the form of a log cabin, local citizens appreciated the link to local history and industry represented by this building form. Thus, the opportunity to preserve these structures for use at a youth camp was likely very appealing. Rustic was located in a wooded area near Slabsides, while Oriole was rebuilt in a more open area a short distance away, thus creating a distinct grouping of log-sided structures that was slightly removed from the stone structures nearer to the highway. It is not known whether this was a conscious design decision based on the styles of these three buildings, or simply a matter of space availability. The naming of the "Rustic" log cabin at least indicates an acknowledgement of the unique style of this structure compared to the more mainstream residential buildings designed as part of the WPA work.

Perhaps one of the more significant developments at Camp Caesar in 1939 was the establishment of a National Youth Administration camp adjacent to the property. The NYA was a New Deal program created in 1935 in order to provide jobs for unemployed young people and college students. The movement was born out of a concern for the effect of the Depression and world wars upon young adults, and thus, the future of the country. Charles W. Taussig, Chairman of the Advisory Committee of the National Youth Administration, wrote about these concerns in his foreword for *A New Deal for Youth: The Story of the National Youth Administration*, a detailed study of the program written by Betty Grimes Lindley and Ernest K. Lindley in 1938:

While we in the United States have been going through our own gyrations, our youth have seen the rest of the world torn by wars and revolutions... We draw comparisons between present-day chaos and what we called normal some years back. Youth know only chaos. With all the progress that has been made in our educational technique, much of it is still based on a world which no longer exists and which has never existed for the younger generation.

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Youth, in an effort to throw off the non-essentials and inadequacies of a system that prepares them for a life they have no opportunity to live, frequently discard the fundamentals of a good life. Integrity, spirituality, and a reasonable moral code are sometimes sacrificed.

... Youth are dissatisfied, and with much justification. They are sentient, restless, and explosive. Unless we can give them the opportunities which they demand, they will seek a way for themselves that may endanger the very fundamentals of our liberties⁴⁵.

Though other New Deal programs, including the CCC and FERA, provided some incidental assistance to young people, the NYA was the first program devoted to providing opportunities that would help young adults learn job skills, make money, and avoid the hopelessness and idleness that Taussig and many others feared would do even more damage to a struggling nation. The program was operated under the auspices of the WPA in each state, and had a budget of \$50 million in its first year.⁴⁶ NYA participants participated in an immense variety of work projects, including construction, landscaping, plumbing, gardening, machining, and others. The Lindleys traveled throughout the country, studying and documenting these activities for their book. In West Virginia, they observed the following:

Two years ago it was estimated that about 3000 of the 5000 rural schools in this State had unusable playgrounds. We saw many of these schools, built in pockets on the hillsides; children stepped from schoolrooms into seas of mud. Out-of-school NYA boys already have put more than 1000 of these playgrounds in good condition. Usually this work calls for grading, filling, drainage, and the building of stone retaining walls. A large number of school bus shelters have also been built in this State. We saw school athletic grounds that had either been entirely constructed or materially improved by NYA work. At the Parkersburg Junior High School athletic field, NYA boys have built an 8-foot brick wall, 197 feet long, with two brick ticket booths. Here they also dug a one-quarter-mile track, put in a 14-inch stone base with a 5-inch cinder top, and built a steel rail around the track. In addition 240 yards of cement curbing and a press box in the stadium were completed when we visited this project. Plans for further work here include the building of shops and vocational classrooms for industrial and trade training in the space under the stadium, and the construction of a garage for 25 school busses.⁴⁷

The NYA established Resident Centers throughout the country. In 1938, 100 Resident Centers had been established in 22 states.⁴⁸ Camp Caesar was a Resident Center by at least 1941. Initially, 18-30 "NYA boys" worked on various improvement projects around the campus, including grading for an addition to the dining hall and two tennis courts, general maintenance, and construction of two exhibit buildings. The NYA grew quickly, however, and in 1940 employed 123 boys and 8 supervisors. Construction began in 1940 on various buildings, including a woodworking shop, metal shop, offices, dormitories and recreation hall.

Jack Burton noted that the WPA did not complete much work in 1940, but that a significant project was being submitted for approval for the following year, which was to include a stone poolhouse, enlargement of the dining hall and application of stone veneer, improvements to roads and sidewalks, and interior finishing

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of the Assembly Hall. This work was completed in 1941, when 88 more acres were acquired, bringing the total land holdings to 188. Thelma Pickens was hired as the home demonstration agent in Webster County in 1940; this was the beginning of a long, fruitful career for Pickens and an exceptional partnership between the two county agents, who collaborated on the 4-H program. The dining hall would later be named Pickens Dining Hall in honor of the agent's service to Webster County.

World War II had a profound effect on Camp Caesar, as it did on the entire nation. The NYA camp looked to shift its activities to aid the war effort in 1942, but ultimately, most New Deal programs were cut by the federal government – not only were all possible federal funds being directed towards defense, but the need for employment programs had quickly diminished. Both the NYA and the WPA ceased operations in 1943, and major developments to Camp Caesar were halted. Camp Caesar was able to acquire the NYA camp land and buildings in 1944 from the US Treasury Department for \$1000. T.D.Gray made recommendations for the use of the NYA structures, and according to Burton's records, half of the structures were sold for \$3000 and moved elsewhere. Four structures remain from the NYA era and are now called Mountain Rest, Maples, Trail's End and the smokehouse. Mountain Rest and Maples were NYA dormitories and Trail's End was the sheet metal shop, but was converted to a dormitory in 1957. These structures were altered several times between 1947 and 1958 in order to add bathrooms and meeting rooms, and to improve the foundations. The smokehouse was one of at least four small frame buildings located across from Mountain Rest that served various functions including classroom and office space. The smokehouse is the only remaining of these and was adopted for storage space by the Lutheran church camp that has used Camp Caesar since the 1940s. The utilitarian aesthetic of the NYA structures is quite distinct from the cottages and other structures built by the WPA for the 4-H camp. These simple, but large concrete block structures are functional first and foremost, reflecting their original purposes as workshops and vocational training grounds. Though most visitors to Camp Caesar do not know the history of these buildings, the transition from lower camp to the former NYA camp is quite visually apparent.

After the acquisition of the NYA properties, Camp Caesar had achieved its highest state of development. By this time, the camp had been serving as a site for a number of years for a vast variety of events, including 4-H camps, State Conservation Camp for youth, reunions, the county fair, church camps of various denominations, sports training camps and many others. In the summer of 1946, the camp hosted over 2000 people and was able to operate in the black due to rentals. The West Virginia University football team expressed interest in using Camp Caesar as a training facility, so work was promptly begun on an athletic field, which was finished in 1947 (although the team ultimately never came). Many general improvements, such as shingling, painting, plumbing installation, wiring repair, concrete sidewalk construction, road repair and other small projects were completed and T.D.Gray continued to be involved with site planning. However, after 1945, only three significant new structures were built: a dam and lake in 1957, a five room conference center called Cantral Hall in 1959, and a large administration building called Burton Hall in 1962. The plans for the lake, which was built for recreational purposes for the camp and the public, began in 1952. The lake was built a distance north of Trail's End, the northernmost cottage at camp, on land leased from the Forest Service. A pavilion was built near the lake in 1961.

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Burton Hall was the culmination of years of planning and added to the camp a modern facility with a large assembly area, offices, and multipurpose rooms. In his 1956 Annual Narrative Report, Burton expressed a concern regarding the increased competition between camp facilities:

In the field of camping the competition is becoming greater and is likely to increase with the expansion of the FFA Camp at Ripley, and the many private and church camps throughout the State. Many of the groups that we have had for several years have been contacted and some three or four groups are going elsewhere this coming season. Some because of lower rates and other because they feel a new location will stimulate better attendance.

Records indicate, however, that attendance and revenue increased in 1957.

Burton Hall's mid-century modern style, particularly the two-story geometric glass and steel entrance stairwell, asserts an evolution from an enclave of quaint cottages to a progressive and contemporary facility; however, the use of coursed sandstone veneer provides continuity with the surrounding older stone cottages and dining hall. Both Burton Hall and Cantral Hall increased the number and variety of accommodations for different types of meetings and events; not coincidentally, Jackson's Mill was also constructing more modern facilities at this time out of concern that users would depart if more modern amenities were not provided.

In order to construct Burton Hall, the Council Circle had to be relocated from its prominent position in the central area of camp. The building was dismantled and reconstructed in a more wooded and secluded area near Rustic and Slabside cottages. This move had actually been suggested years before by T.D. Gray, during discussions about constructing staff quarters that were never built. Burton, however, remembered Gray's advice when the time came to build Burton Hall.

Though plans were drawn up for a substantial lodge in 1971, this structure was never built, and Burton Hall represented the zenith of development at Camp Caesar. Minor structures were added over the years and included the barn (1978), O.H. Fletcher Leaders' cottage (1997), and 4-H Building (2000). Though alterations have been made incrementally to most of the structures at Camp Caesar, the overall setting retains a sense of cohesion.

APPLICATION OF NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA

Camp Caesar is eligible for the National Register under *Criterion A: Education and Entertainment/Recreation* for its role in the Webster County and West Virginia 4-H youth programs, which were pioneers in combining youth education and recreation. This camp was inspired by the statewide movement in 4-H camping, and was enthusiastically supported and built by the citizens of Webster County. Experts from West Virginia University and elsewhere lent advice and assistance to the effort as well. The result is a facility that is arguably the most highly-developed county-level 4-H camp in the state. Rather than building a utilitarian collection of simple structures, Camp Caesar's administrators took cues from Jackson's

Camp Caesar		Webster County, WV
Name of Property		County and State

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Mill State 4-H Camp and sought to construct a highly-developed residential community. In addition, local residents and 4-H members believed in the project and devoted time, energy and money into building the camp; its development truly was a community effort. The resulting campus was used not only for county 4-H camp, but also for the statewide youth Conservation Camp, various church camps, theatrical performances, family reunions, the county fair, and other events of local, regional and state significance. It can be confidently assumed that a great number of the individuals who have spent time at Camp Caesar have had transformative experiences that thereafter imbued the campus with a deep emotional significance. Camp Caesar is a special place for many people, and its integrity, particularly of materials, setting, feeling and association, provides continuity between the experiences of the generations that have stayed there.

Camp Caesar is also eligible under *Criterion A: Social History* for its association with the WPA and NYA. Camp Caesar as it exists today would not have been realized without the assistance of the WPA, and the agency's assistance and design aesthetic is readily apparent in the structures it built. Camp Caesar is a classic and intact example of the WPA's work in constructing community facilities. In addition, the remaining NYA buildings are the only structures remaining in West Virginia that are still generally used for their original purpose of youth development and education. These structures represent a less well-known, but significant program of the New Deal.

Camp Caesar is eligible under *Criterion C: Architecture and Landscape Architecture* as an example of the comprehensive application of the WPA design aesthetic to a property over several years. Many individual experts in architecture, engineering, landscape and construction were involved with the camp, but the buildings constructed during the WPA era exhibit a cohesive rustic, yet comfortable style. The use of rough cut stone for Brookside, Gauley, Oaks, Front View, Whip-poor-will, the poolhouse and Pickens Dining Hall lends the camp a consistent look of workmanship and substance, yet the variety in design provides interest and individuality. While many WPA-era public works can be found today in various settings, Camp Caesar is an exceptional example that continues to serve in its original function. The camp is also a stand-out among other camps in West Virginia. Many county 4-H camps are simple and utilitarian, with barrack-like residential structures and minimal landscaping; any focus on architectural design, which was a luxury for many cash-strapped counties, was given to one or two buildings, typically the dining or assembly halls. Camp Caesar's collection of various building styles, wooded landscape and carefully planned setting create a peaceful atmosphere that also lends itself to fun, an essential element of any summer camp.

¹ As discussed in National Register Bulletin Number 15, *How to Apply the National Register Criteria for Evaluation*, page 43, properties less than 50 years old may be included in historic districts if "1) the district's Period of Significance is justified as a discrete period with a defined beginning and end, 2) the character of the district's historic resources is clearly defined and assessed, 3) specific resources in the district are demonstrated to date from that discrete era, and 4) the majority of district properties are over fifty years old." 1962 was selected as the end date in order to include Burton Hall, Council Circle and the lake pavilion, three structures that are integral to the function and setting of Camp Caesar. An administration center had been in the planning stages for

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several years before Burton Hall was finally built in 1962. This building was a pet project of Camp Caesar's longtime director, Jack Burton. Since its construction, it has been used extensively for a variety of camp functions and is one of the most-used structures at the camp. The lake pavilion was built in 1961 in a rustic timbered style with stonework and a fireplace that echoes WPA design elsewhere on the grounds. The pavilion narrowly misses the age requirement and is exemplary of the recreational function of the lake and the camp. 1962 also allows the inclusion of the Council Circle, which was relocated in its entirety in 1962 to accommodate Burton Hall. The Council Circle is also an essential contributing resource to the historic district; despite its relocation, it has retained its original design and materials, as well as its continuing function as the central evening gathering place. All other contributing structures in the district are greater than 50 years old. Thus, it is determined that the period of significance meets the guidelines listed above and is justified in order the structures discussed.

² "The 4-H Story." National 4-H Council. < <http://4-h.org/4hstory.html> >.

³ Reck 17.

⁴ "The 4-H Story." National 4-H Council. < <http://4-h.org/4hstory.html> >.

⁵ "The 4-H Story." National 4-H Council. < <http://4-h.org/4hstory.html> >.

⁶ Stewart 9.

⁷ *Smith-Lever Act, Act of May 8, 1914, ch. 79, 38 Stat. 372, 7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.*, United States Department of Agriculture, 15 Feb. 2003. < <http://www.ree.usda.gov/1700/legis/s-l.htm> >.

⁸ Jane Gamble, personal interview.

⁹ Stewart 17.

¹⁰ Stewart 17.

¹¹ Stewart 18.

¹² Stewart 19.

¹³ Stewart 20.

¹⁴ *A Story of AYF's History*, American Youth Foundation Online, 2002, 16 Feb. 2003. < <http://www.ayf.com> >.

¹⁵ Brad Davis, *The Nature of Jackson's Mill*, self-published, 1982. 88.

¹⁶ Stewart 63.

¹⁷ Thelma R. Pickens. Annual Narrative Report, 1943.

¹⁸ Wolfram, "Agricultural News Talk", *Webster Echo*, May 27, 1920.

¹⁹ Wolfram, "The Camp School," *Webster Echo*, June 16 1921.

²⁰ http://www.interment.net/data/us/wi/jefferson/coldspring_union/union.htm

²¹ <http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/cgi-bin/UW/UW-idx?type=article&did=UW.V67I6.I0015&id=UW.v67i6&isize=text>
²² p 13.

²³ Wolfram, Annual Narrative Report, 1923. 21.

²⁴ Wolfram. Annual Narrative Report, 1923. 21

²⁵ "Chronological Report on Development of Camp Caesar." 1.

²⁶ "Chronological" 22.

²⁷ Personal interview, Jane Gamble.

²⁸ Wolfram, Annual Narrative Report, 1925. 15.

²⁹ Wolfram, Annual Narrative Report, 1925. 23-24.

³⁰ Wolfram 15.

³¹ Wolfram 17.

³² Wolfram, Annual Narrative Report, 1927. 27.

³³ "Chronological" 1.

³⁴ H.A. Burton. Annual Narrative Report, 1932. 21.

³⁵ Burton 5.

³⁶ Burton Annual Narrative Report, 1932. 14.

³⁷ Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1933. 20

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- ³⁸ Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1936. 18-19.
³⁹ Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1936. 19.
⁴⁰ Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1937. 19.
⁴¹ Chronological Report, 2.
⁴² Harley A. Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1939. 18.
⁴³ Chronological Report 2.
⁴⁴ Burton, Annual Narrative Report, 1939. 19.
⁴⁵ Burton vii-viii.
⁴⁶ Richard A. Reiman. "Youth Agencies of the New Deal."
⁴⁷ Lindley 27.
⁴⁸ Lindley, 102.

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VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The southern boundary of the camp is WV Route 20. The eastern boundary curves along the hillside just behind the poolhouse, dining hall, Whip-poor-will, Mountain Rest and Trails End and continues north to enclose the lake. The boundary continues around the lake to the southeast to include the lake pavilion and picnic area. The eastern boundary roughly parallels the eastern road and follows the hillside just behind the shooting range, archery range, Vesper Knoll and the Directors Cottage before meeting WV Route 20 to enclose the district.

The boundary of the nominated property is delineated by the polygon whose vertices are marked on the attached USGS map. UTM references are as follows:

	Zone	Easting	Northing
A:	17N	544150	4250125
B:	17N	544575	4250200
C:	17N	544650	4250525
D:	17N	544650	4250875
E:	17N	544625	4251575
F:	17N	544710	4251625
G:	17N	544800	4252050
H:	17N	544925	4252050
I:	17N	544900	4251725
J:	17N	545150	4251725
K:	17N	545225	4251500
L:	17N	545000	4251400
M:	17N	544875	4251300
N:	17N	544850	4250100
O:	17N	544500	4250050

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary for the Camp Caesar National Register historic district was drawn to include the portion of the property developed for recreational and educational use by campers and residents of the facility.

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Camp Caesar
Webster County, WV

Photo Number	Date	Description	Photographer
1	Oct. 2008	4-H Building (non-contributing). View looking southeast from Director's Cottage drive.	Bryson VanNostrand
2	Jan 2009	Barn (non-contributing). View looking northeast from road.	Courtney Fint
3	Aug 2009	Brookside Cottage. View looking northwest from entrance gate.	Courtney Fint
4	Feb 2009	Burton Gravesite (non-contributing). View looking east.	Courtney Fint
5	Oct. 2008	Burton Hall. View looking northeast across patio.	Bryson VanNostrand
6	Jan 2009	Cantral Hall. View looking east from road.	Courtney Fint
7	Aug 2009	Council Circle. View looking northeast from road.	Courtney Fint
8	Feb 2009	Covered Pedestrian Bridge (non-contributing). View looking south from outdoor fireplace.	Courtney Fint
9	Oct. 2008	Director's Cottage. View looking northeast from lower road near 4-H Building.	Bryson VanNostrand
10	Jan 2009	Frontview Cottage. View looking northwest.	Courtney Fint
11	Feb 2009	Front Gate between signpost and pool. View looking southeast.	Courtney Fint
12	Feb 2009	Front Gate between Brookside and Gauley cottages. View looking south.	Courtney Fint
13	Feb 2009	Gate on road to lake near sports field. View looking north.	Courtney Fint
14	Feb 2009	Gate on road to lake with dam in background. View looking north.	Courtney Fint
15	Aug 2009	Gauley Cottage. View looking northeast from entrance gate.	Courtney Fint
16	Aug 2009	Gregory Hall. View looking west.	Courtney Fint
17	Feb 2009	Detail of wood paneled ceiling, Gregory Hall.	Courtney Fint
18	Jan 2009	Concrete marker outside Gregory Hall. view looking west.	Courtney Fint
19	Aug 2009	Highway Culvert. View looking south.	Courtney Fint
20	Feb 2009	Lake Pavilion. View looking northwest.	Courtney Fint
21	Feb 2009	Fireplace on north end of Lake Pavilion.	Courtney Fint
22	Feb 2009	View from east lakeshore looking south towards	Courtney Fint

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		dam.	
23	Oct. 2008	Maples dormitory. View looking southwest from road.	Bryson VanNostrand
24	Jan 2009	Mountain Rest dormitory. View looking north from road.	Courtney Fint
25	Jan 2009	O.H. Fletcher cottage (non-contributing). View looking north from road behind Burton Hall.	Courtney Fint
26	Sep 2006	Oaks Cottage. View looking northeast from lower green.	Bryson VanNostrand
27	Sep 2006	Oriole Cottage. View looking north from road.	Bryson VanNostrand
28	Feb 2009	Outside Fireplace. View looking north standing at pedestrian bridge.	Courtney Fint
29	Aug 2009	Patio. View looking northeast from southeast corner of dining hall.	Courtney Fint
30	Jan 2009	Pickens Rhododendron Dining Hall. View looking northwest from Oaks Cottage.	Courtney Fint
31	Oct. 2008	Pickens Rhododendron Dining Hall. View of southern façade looking north.	Bryson VanNostrand
32	Jan 2009	Detail of WPA stamp in concrete porch on east side of Pickens Dining Hall.	Courtney Fint
33	Aug 2009	Pool House. View looking northwest.	Courtney Fint
34	Jan 2009	Detail of WPA inscribed stone on southeast corner of pool house.	Courtney Fint
35	Feb 2009	Retaining wall looking north along road below Director's Cottage.	Courtney Fint
36	Sep 2006	Rustic Cottage. View of creekside façade looking north.	Bryson VanNostrand
37	Feb 2009	Signpost along WV Route 20. View looking east.	Courtney Fint
38	Aug 2009	Lutheran Storage Building, formerly NYA smokehouse. View from road looking south.	Courtney Fint
39	Jan 2009	Slabsides Cottage. View looking northeast.	Courtney Fint
40	Jan 2009	Interior of Slabsides cottage showing stone fireplace with double wraparound staircases.	Courtney Fint
41	Aug 2009	Sports field. View looking north.	Courtney Fint
42	Aug 2009	Swimming pool. View looking southwest from northeast corner of pool.	Courtney Fint
43	Oct. 2008	Trail's End dormitory. View looking northwest from road.	Bryson VanNostrand
44	Feb 2009	Vesper Knoll. View looking southwest.	Courtney Fint

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45	Feb 2009	Water fountain near old highway culvert.	Courtney Fint
46	Jan 2009	Whip-poor-will Cottage. View looking northwest up staircase from road by dining hall.	Courtney Fint
47	Oct. 2008	White House. View looking northeast from lower camp green.	Bryson VanNostrand
48	Feb 2009	Overall view of lower camp looking northeast standing in lower camp green near WV Route 20.	Courtney Fint

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1) 4-H Building	2000	Non-contributing Building
2) Archery Range	1961	Contributing Site
3) Barn	1978-80	Non-contributing Building
4) Brookside Cottage	1936	Contributing Building
5) Burton Gravesite	1994	Non-contributing site
6) Burton Hall	1962	Contributing Building
7) Cantral Hall	1959	Contributing Building
8) Council Circle	1928, relocated 1961	Contributing Building
9) Covered Pedestrian Bridge	1999	Non-contributing Structure
10) Director's Cottage	1939	Contributing Building
11) Front View	1936	Contributing Building
12) Gates	ca. 1930	8 Contributing Structures
13) Gauley	1936	Contributing Building
14) Gregory Hall	1924	Contributing Building Contributing Object
15) Highway Culvert	ca. 1915	Contributing Structure
16) Lake Pavilion	1961	Contributing Structure
17) Lake and Dam	1957	Contributing Structure
18) Lutheran Storage Building (Smokehouse)	1940	Contributing Building
19) Maintenance House	1968	Non-contributing Building
20) Maples	1940	Contributing Building
21) Mountain Rest	1940	Contributing Building
22) O.H. Fletcher Cottage	1997	Non-contributing Building
23) Oaks	1936	Contributing Building
24) Oriole	1939	Contributing Building
25) Outside Fireplace	ca. 1938	Contributing Site
26) Patio	1941	Contributing Site 2 Non-contributing Structures
27) Pickens Rhododendron Dining Hall	1934, 1941	Contributing Building
28) Pool House	1941	Contributing Building Non-contributing Structure
29) Retaining Walls	1936-1938	Contributing Structures
30) Rustic	1939	Contributing Building
31) Shooting Range	ca. 1965	Non-contributing Site
32) Slabside	1939	Contributing Building

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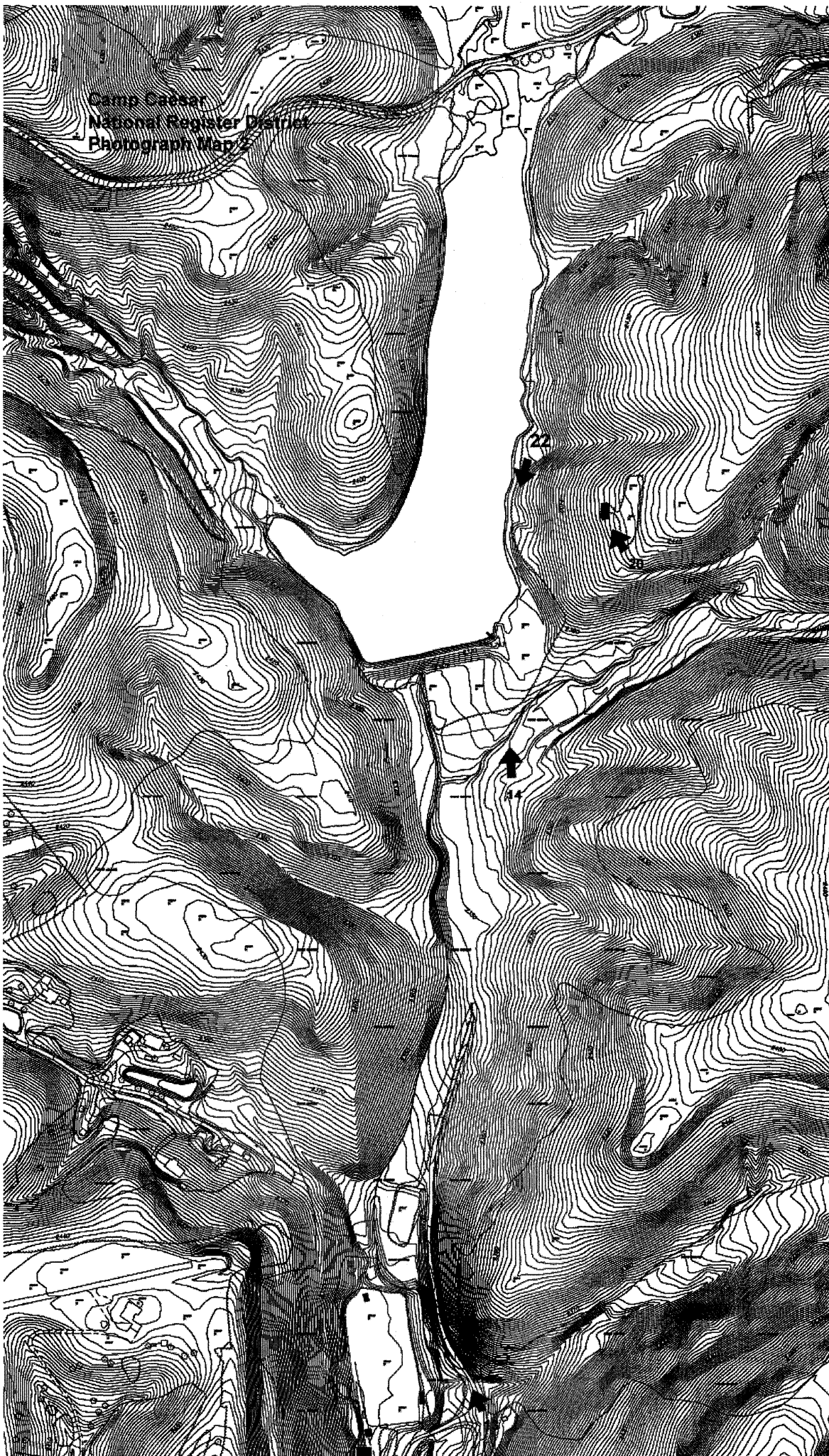
Section number MapKey Page 30

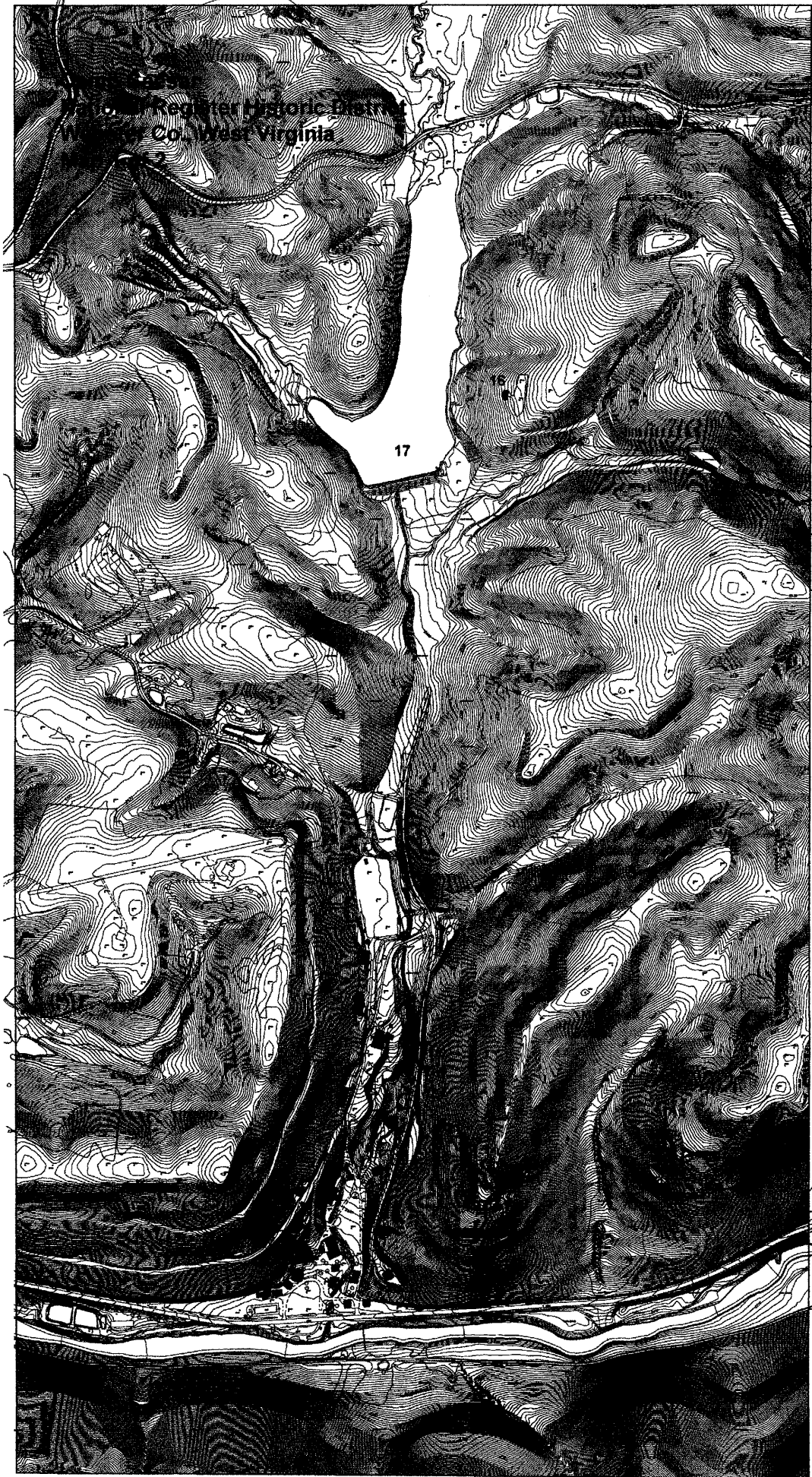
33) Sports Field	1947	Contributing Site 3 Non-Contributing Structures
34) Swimming Pool	1934	Contributing Structure
35) Trail's End	1940	Contributing Building
36) Vesper Knoll	ca. 1945	Contributing Site
37) Water Fountains	ca. 1935	2 Contributing Objects
38) Whip-poor-will Cottage	1939	Contributing Building
39) White House	1927	Contributing Building

**Camp Caesar National Register District
Photograph Map 1 of 2**



Camp Carson
National Register District
Photograph Map





CAMP CAESAR SITE PLAN

Camp Caesar
National Register Historic District
Webster Co., West Virginia
Map 2 of 2

