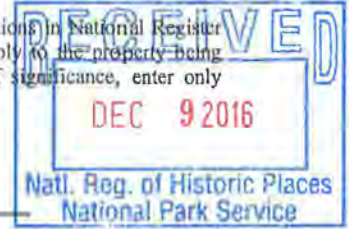


56553

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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



1. Name of Property

Historic name: Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures

Other names/site number: HS0066, HS0207

Name of related multiple property listing:

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

2. Location

Street & number: 1200 Catherine Park Rd.

City or town: Hot Springs State: Arkansas County: Hot Spring

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

I hereby certify that this X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

 national statewide X local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

X A B C D

	<u>11-29-16</u>
Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>Arkansas Historic Preservation Program</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

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

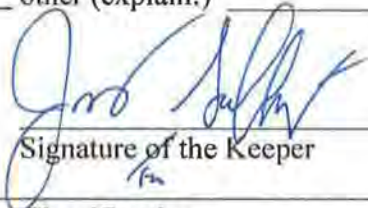
Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War
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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

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


Signature of the Keeper

1-24-2017

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply.)

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

Category of Property

(Check only one box.)

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing

Noncontributing

buildings

sites

2

structures

objects

2

Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape: street furniture/object

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Landscape: street furniture/object

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Rustic

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: Stone, Brick,

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures is an excellent example of how two periods of significance, the New Deal Era and the World War II era, can be connected through one Rustic natural stone retaining wall built between 1938-1945 in the Malvern and Hot Springs, Arkansas, vicinity. Designed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) for the Arkansas State Parks Commission, this great Rustic natural stone retaining wall is the only retaining wall showing visible evidence that it was possibly started under the CCC in 1942, but completed by German Prisoners of War by 1945. It features natural stone found in the surrounding Ouachita Mountain Range and was laid in large beds of mortar. This scenic location was once situated along the Ouachita River before the construction of the Rammel Dam, a hydro-electric plant constructed for Arkansas Power & Light in 1923-1924.¹ Due to the damming of the Ouachita River by the Rammel Dam, Lake Catherine was formed creating lake front property for the nearly 2,000-acre site that Harvey C. Couch deeded to the Arkansas State Parks Commission for the creation of the Lake Catherine State Park. The Arkansas State Parks Commission was then able to use Public Works funding to create a CCC camp just to the west of the park land to help in creating lodging, trails, and access into the newly created park. Yet, with the United States' entrance in World War II, almost all work stopped on publicly-funded construction projects

¹ Rammel Dam was added to the National Register of Historic Places on September 4, 1992. Though the electric plant was operation by December 1924, the grand opening for the hydro-electric Rammel Dam did not take place until December 31, 1924.

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throughout the United States, but especially Arkansas. For a little more than a year, construction projects sat waiting to be finished until the creation of a prisoner of war satellite camp was located on the grounds of Lake Catherine State Park. It is through the use of skilled labor and stonemasons, provided by the German prisoners, that these unfinished projects would be completed by 1945.

Narrative Description

The Lake Catherine Prisoner of War Structures includes a large stone retaining wall, known as Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 and a native stone and brick outdoor oven. Though these two structures are identifiable by the etching of either PW or PW 1945, there may be other structures located throughout Lake Catherine State Park that were also constructed using German Prisoner of War labor between 1943 and 1945.

Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4

Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 roughly faces east, but does so in a zig-zagging orientation that includes a natural stone stairway, with natural stone retaining walls on either side of the stairway. The retaining wall creates a remarkable analogous relationship with the scenic beauty of the Ouachita Mountain range in which it is located.

Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 is a great example of multiple periods of significance coming together in due to two very different circumstances. The base of the wall, which was built on a cast-concrete foundation, was originally started c. 1942. The wall itself was later built up using large masonry-laid natural stone. The wall is approximately 210' long and 9' tall. It is following the entrance into World War II by the United States Government that construction all but stopped on the creation of park structures including Lake Catherine State Park Retaining Wall #4. Near the stone steps within the wall is a small carving with *P.W.* which was likely, carved by one of the prisoners of war upon completion of the project.²

Bar-B-Que Pit/Outdoor Oven

The main structure of the outdoor oven/bar-b-que pit is constructed using native stone. All of the openings and grilling surfaces are accented by the same blonde brick as the oven doors. To cap off each of the layers of brick and native stone, a small poured concrete cap was used to terminate the layer. Surrounding the outdoor oven/bar-b-que pit is a layer of red brick laid in a basket weave pattern. The main surface of brick is accessed via a single step up from the ground which consists of two rows of bricks before terminating into the dirt.

² During this period, both PW and POW were used to refer to the Prisoners of War. The clothing worn by the Prisoners of War were stenciled with PW on the back of the shirt in order to disseminate these prisoners from locals and services men.

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The North elevation of the outdoor oven is accented by the blonde brick surrounding both the upper and lower steel oven double-doors, with native stone located around the accented blonde brick. Located on top of the upper oven area it is capped with poured concrete. Centrally located above both sets of oven doors is a small native stone chimney, which is also partially capped around the central flue with poured concrete. To the right of the oven doors is a small open grilling surface with a small cinder or ash collection opening, located near ground level. Located to the left of the oven doors is another grilling surface that is slightly larger than the one located to the right of the oven doors and protrudes, out to the north, from the main structure of the oven. Located three quarters of the way up the surface of the main body of the stone structure is a small poured-concrete cap for an area that protrudes out of the main surface a couple of inches. Located above this small protrusion is the larger concrete cap that covers the main body of the structure.

The east elevation of the outdoor oven/bar-b-que pit lacks much ornamentation and consists largely of native stone and brick. The main body of the structure stair steps several times, as described in the previous paragraph. However, there is a large grilling surface located on the south elevation, but is visible from the east elevation. Located on the east elevation is a small door to collect ash and cinders. This section is not attached to the native stone oven, but is located adjacent to the larger structure. The larger grilling surface is constructed of red bricks, which have been covered is a concrete stucco and has a larger concrete caps on top of it. It is also on this elevation, that another carving consisting of *P.W. 1945* exists.

The south elevation consists of the larger grilling surface as previously described. The majority of the elevation that is visible is all native stone with an offset door providing access to collect ash and cinders from the oven area. Like the south elevation, the west elevation is also largely constructed using native stone with a concrete cap.

Integrity

At this point, the retaining wall has great integrity with no intrusions that take away from the original purpose or workmanship that was done during its construction. However, the oven/bar-b-que pit has had a lack of maintenance over the years and the wear on the mortar is starting to show. Some of the bricks are loose or missing, and the grill grates are largely missing, but easy to recreate in order to reuse the structure. Most of the items that are damaged or missing are cosmetic and can be repaired over time. The brick hearth surrounding the outdoor oven/bar-b-que pit has sunken in spots, and should be able to be leveled and cleaned up, as debris has settled in these low lying areas.

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8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

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

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

Military

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1945

Significant Dates

1945

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

German Prisoners of War, Builder

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures near Hot Springs, Arkansas, are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with **local significance** under **Criterion A** for the role these structures played as part of a nationwide network of camps operated by the U.S. Army to house German Prisoners of War (P.O.W. or PW) during World War II. These two structures were built using German Prisoner of War labor to complete a previous Civilian Conservation Corp projects left unfinished by the onset of World War II. At this time, the Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 and the Outdoor Oven/Bar-B- Que pit, are the only extant resources within the former Hot Springs Branch Camp, which once housed upwards of 250 German Prisoners of War. Only one other World War II Prisoner of War resource, the Maness Schoolhouse, has been listed to the National Register of Historic Places in Arkansas. Though Arkansas was highly active in receiving German and Italian Prisoners of War during World War II, only a few Prisoner of War related resources have been determined eligible for listing, due to deterioration or demolition, only recently have a few more resources been located and are under further investigation. However, these two resources are excellent examples of the types of work undertaken by the Prisoners of War in Arkansas, which also used these prisoners extensively in the Arkansas Delta region due to labor shortages in agricultural fields.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The military has a long history in Arkansas with areas such as Arkansas Post gaining notoriety during the Civil War or for the Confederate built Fort Hindman, which was later destroyed by Union Troops in January 1863. It is also at about this time, that the Arkansas State Capitol became home to the only prison camp/military prison in the state at this time. Prior to the outbreak of the American Civil War, the current site of the Arkansas State Capitol Building was the home to the Arkansas State Penitentiary. It was authorized by the legislature in 1838 and began operation only three years later in 1841. After two fires destroyed portions of the building in 1846 and 1850, a contract was let to Alexander George and John Robins to construct “the first permanent wall around the penitentiary,”³ while using convict labor to construct the wall. The State Penitentiary would remain in the state’s hands until September 1863, when the site was abandoned due to the push of Union Troops into Little Rock and the Confederate State Legislatures retreat to Southwest Arkansas. Due to the Union occupation of Little Rock, the former Arkansas State Penitentiary was converted into a United States Military Prison.⁴ Though

³ Garland E. Bayliss, “The Arkansas State Penitentiary under Democratic Control, 1874-1896,” *The Arkansas Historical Quarterly* 34.3 (Autumn 1975): 195.

⁴ This prison would largely contain political prisoners, militia/home guard and Confederate soldiers. Those soldiers that were assigned to regiments were largely kept in the former State Penitentiary for a short period of time, before being shipped to larger Civil War Prison Camps like Rock Island, IL and Alton, IL. Not everyone was shipped north to these larger prison camps, as a large number died while in captivity or took the oath of allegiance.

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Arkansas has had a long history of military occupation, its roll in housing prisoners of war was limited to the years surrounding the American Civil War.

It was not until World War II that Arkansas's role became even more prevalent in 1942, as the US military (War Department) "directed the transfer of all captured enemy personnel to custody within the United States."⁵ Even with this direction from the War Department, this was not much of a problem yet for the military or the United States, because the United States Military did not capture many prisoners of war throughout most of 1942. However, by August 1942, Great Britain had proposed that the United States "intern 50,000 British-captured prisoners of war on one month's notice, and an additional 100,000 on three months' notice."⁶ In the reply back to the Great Britain, the Joint Staff Planners "recommended that only 50,000 PW's (Prisoners of War) be accepted for custody in the United States."⁷ With this agreement to accept these 50,000 prisoners of war in the United States, the precedent was set for the United States to take in and hold captive a total of roughly 425,000 prisoners of war in nearly 500 prisoner of war facilities. Of those close to 500 prisoner of war facilities, the United States military set up 38 base or branch camps throughout Arkansas.⁸

Within Arkansas, there were five base camps which were largely located on military installations, with the exception of Camp Monticello, which was a base camp for Italian Prisoners of War and Camp Dermott, which was started as part of the Jerome Relocation Center (i.e.: Japanese Internment Camp). The other three base camps included Camp Chaffee, Camp Joe T. Robinson, and the Pine Bluff Arsenal.⁹ The remaining 33 camps were known as branch camps. Branch camps were generally smaller, temporary Prisoner of War camps which were branches of the larger base camps, set up to help mitigate an ongoing manpower shortage in the United States. The manpower shortage was thanks in part to the overwhelming push for military age men and women either fighting on the frontlines, or working in the factories producing arms and munitions. However, due to this push, there was a shortage of farmers or other light factory workers. Therefore, these branch camps were set up as part of Prisoner of War labor program that fit the requirements set up under the Geneva Convention of 1929¹⁰, and were usually set up if the required work was more than 50 miles away from the base camp.¹¹ In Arkansas, many of the branch camps were located in the Arkansas Delta Region, to help alleviate the manpower shortage on farms throughout this area.

(Kay Waters Sakaris, *Rebels' Hell: Little Rock's Yankee Prison 1863-1865* (Pasadena, Texas: Southern Pioneer Press, 1993.)

⁵ George G. Lewis, and John Mewha *History of Prisoner of War Utilization by the United States Army, 1776-1945* (Washington, D.C.: Dept. of the Army, 1955), 83.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ *Ibid.*

⁸ John Listman, Christopher Baker, and Susan Goodfellow, *Historic Context: World War II Prisoner-of-War Camps on Department of Defense Installations* (Washington, D.C.: Department of Defense Legacy Resources Management Program, 2006-2007), Appendix-B.

⁹ *Ibid.*

¹⁰ For more information on the use of Prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention of 1929, please refer to Section III, Chapters 1-5 or Articles 27-34.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 9-14.

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Creation of Lake Catherine State Park

Lake Catherine State Park sits on the shores of Lake Catherine, which was created due to the damming of the Ouachita River by the construction of the Rempel Dam (NR listed 1992) in January 1925.¹² The cost of the 900 foot long, 75 foot tall dam was \$1.6 million and caused the flooding of nearly 3,000 acres thus creating Lake Catherine.¹³ The dam was constructed by Harvey C. Couch, Sr., under the observation of the Arkansas Power and Light Company as the first unit in the Arkansas Power and Light system to use hydro-electric power for domestic and industrial purposes in Arkansas.¹⁴

With the creation of the 3,000-acre lake surrounded by forest, it would take an addition ten years for the State of Arkansas to be able to begin to take advantage of this wonderful environment. Shortly before September 1935, the Arkansas Centennial Commission approved making an application to the Public Works Administration for loans and grants for projects on Lake Catherine.¹⁵ By December 1935, Harvey Couch had donated in the neighborhood of 2,000 acres of land located around Lake Catherine to Arkansas State Parks. At the same time, the State of Arkansas received a \$125,000 allotment for transient camps in the National Park Service, but some of that allotment was to go towards a transient camp at Lake Catherine for transients who will engage in creating a state park on the land.¹⁶

With the land deeded to the State of Arkansas, both the legislature and Governor Carl Bailey were pushing the natural resources of western Arkansas. As part of Governor Bailey's push to "exploit" the natural resources (ie: forest, minerals, etc.), he also planned for the development of the western portion of the state and the part of that plan was the development around Lake Catherine State Park and the 2,500 acres deeded by Harvey Couch.¹⁷ By Tuesday May 18, 1937, the State Parks Commission and the Governor had toured several possible locations for future state parks and concluded, along with the National Park Service, that Lake Catherine is unique and would be "developed immediately if efforts to get a CCC camp there are effective."¹⁸ It was noted that on May 22, 1937, that "Herbert Maier, regional officer of the National Park Service, inspected the area... and immediately announced his approval of the project.[Stating] a CCC

¹² Rempel Dam was dedicated on New Year's Eve 1924. (Cleo Barper, "Waterpower Opens New Era In Arkansas," *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, 7 January 1925, 1.)

¹³ Lake Catherine was named after Harvey Couch Sr.'s only daughter Catherine Couch Rempel.

¹⁴ Cleo Barper, "Waterpower Opens New Era In Arkansas," *Fayetteville Daily Democrat*, 7 January 1925, 1.

¹⁵ "\$1,750,000 Public Works Loan Will Be Requested," *The Harrison Times*, 5 September 1935, 3.

¹⁶ By December 1935, Arkansas was home to 44 old FERA (Federal Emergency Relief Administration) transient camps. FERA was the new name given to President Herbert Hoover's Emergency Relief Administration (ERA). FERA replaced ERA and then FERA was replaced by the WPA (Works Progress Administration) in 1935. (Donald Eugene Hamilton, "A history of FERA and WPA workers' education: the Indiana experience 1933-1943" (Ph.D. diss., Ball State University, 1984), Abstract.)

¹⁷ C.G. Hall, Arkansas Capitol News: Ouachita Playground, *The Camden News*, 27 May 1937, 5.

¹⁸ C.G. Hall, Arkansas Capitol News: State Park Planning, *The Camden News*, 18 May 1937, 6.

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camp will be assigned to the site and work probably will begin by October 1.”¹⁹ Things really started to move in the process to relocate a CCC camp to Lake Catherine, as Representative John L. McClellan advocated for the relocation of the CCC enrollees located at the Boyle, Arkansas,²⁰ camp be transferred to Lake Catherine.²¹ Within a month of calling for a transfer of a CCC camp to Lake Catherine by Representative McClellan, the state received word on September 10, 1937, that a new camp would be established at Lake Catherine for the “development of recreational facilities, bathing, picnicking, boating and protection and improvement of the park.”²²

As the CCC Company 3777 camp began to take shape, and projects began construction, there were 36 CCC camps located in Arkansas by May 1938.²³ Between 1938 and 1940 another CCC camp was relocated to the Lake Catherine area when a CCC camp from Calvin, North Dakota, arrived to help on a National Park Service Project and the construction of a state fish hatchery on Lake Catherine.²⁴ By 1940, through the work of the CCC camps located throughout the Hot Springs general area, Central Arkansas was continuing to push to make it a tourist destination, as it continued to go out and after the dollars of vacationers. In the area around Hot Springs, Arkansas, the tourism industry was already taking note of the improvements to Lake Hamilton and Lake Catherine. It is through the work of the CCC, that these locations were accessible because of CCC built roads, lodges/cabins, picnic areas, fishing, swimming and boating activities. As facilities were finished, the CCC enrollees would move to another location in the park and continue on other projects such as bridges, culverts and retaining walls. The CCC continued through 1942, but really all but stopped on December 7, 1941, with the bombing of Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, by the Japanese Imperial Navy. Though the CCC was in trouble financially by late 1941, all Federal projects were scrutinized on whether the project was considered vital for the war effort. As men quickly ran to register for military service, the CCC and WPA organizations enrollees were dwindling in number.²⁵ Therefore, in June 1942, Congress curtailed funding for the CCC, inevitably terminating all projects underway by the program. Between the disbanding of CCC Company 3777 and the middle of 1944, no construction took place to finish the projects left unfilled until the arrival of German Prisoners of War to Lake Catherine in February 1945.²⁶

¹⁹ C.G. Hall, Arkansas Capitol News: Ouachita Playground, *The Camden News*, 27 May 1937, 5

²⁰ Boyle, Arkansas, is referring to Boyle Park, which is now located within the city limits of Little Rock, Arkansas.

²¹ “Urges Camp Transfer, *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 21 August 1937.

²² “Hot Springs Get CCC Camp List Four Abandonments, *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 10 September 1937.

²³ 11 Camps in National Forest, 6 camps in private forest, 12 camps on soil conservation projects, 2 under the supervision of the Bureau of Biological survey, and 5 in state parks including Lake Catherine. (Alton Camp Will Remain at Hope, *Hope Star*, 10 May 1938)

²⁴ CCC Company Moved to Hot Springs Park, *Northwest Arkansas Times*, 9 November 1939.

²⁵ The numbers of CCC enrollees were already starting to dwindle in number prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor. However, due to the attack, the problem of the number of enrollees only became more widespread.

²⁶ United States Prisoner of War Operations Division, *Weekly and Semi-Monthly Reports On Prisoners of War, June 1942-30 June 1946 [microform]: Semi-Monthly Reports Begin 1 Jul 1945*. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives of the United States, 1950?), microfilm, 23 February 1945.

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United States and Foreign Prisoners of War

Prior to the summer of 1943, the United States had not held prisoners of war since the American Civil War, and had not held foreign prisoners of war since the Mexican-American War between 1846 and 1848. This idea was largely lost by the War Department and the Provost Marshal General's Office at the outset of war in December 1941. With the rapid escalation of man and machine power and military infrastructure to help provide the necessities for those sent to fight. The immensity of scale and rapidity of completion of WWII facilities nationwide is very difficult to overstate. All over the nation, land was acquired for the construction of industrial, military and support facilities meant to train and arm a vast armed force necessary to fight a land, sea and air war on two fronts. Yet, as the United States moved closer to combat readiness the thought of prisoners of war on United States soil was largely overlooked for almost a year and half after entering World War II.²⁷ It is stated that "other than basic principles, however, in 1941, America was in no way prepared for the more than 425,000 German and Italian prisoners of war that would inundate the country between the springs of 1943 and 1945."²⁸

The act of housing prisoners of war during World War II, really begins with the signing of the Geneva Accord of 1929, or Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, Geneva July 27, 1929, which was ratified/signed by 40 nations by 1939. Of those that signed/ratified the document, Nazi Germany, Canada, Great Britain, and the United States, though the United States largely held tight to the provisions outlined in the document, while the others squabbled about treatment of prisoners in the other's country's hands.

The United States' entrance into taking on such a large task of housing and supplying foreign prisoners of war came at the request of Britain, who was inundated with German Prisoners of War. Under the agreement between Britain and the United States War Department that 50,000 German soldiers would be transported from battlefields in North Africa to the United States in late 1942.²⁹ The United States was still not ready for such a task, but swiftly organized a prisoner of war program under the Provost Marshal General's Office and made use of both military installations and former Civilian Conservation Corps camps to house the incoming prisoners.³⁰ It was not until the spring of 1943 when another 173,000 German Prisoners were being sent to the United States during the waning days of the North Africa Campaign and the fall of Field Marshall Erwin Rommel's Deutches Afrika Korp.

In an effort to create locations to house these prisoners of war, the responsibility was passed on

²⁷ Arnold P. Krammer, "German Prisoners of War in the United States," *Military Affairs* 40.2 (April 1976), 68.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ Barbera Schmitter Heisler, "The "Other Bracers": Temporary Labor and German Prisoners of War in the United States, 1943-1946," *Social Science History* 30.2 (Summer 2007), 247.

³⁰ "Although all surplus facilities should be converted to prisoner of war use, the army training program was expanding to such an extent that little to no troop housing could be released for such conversions." Though this is largely true, empty or vacant space within training installations was fenced and hastily constructed buildings or tents were erected to house incoming prisoners of war. (Arthur M. Kruse, "Custody of Prisoners of War in the United States," *The Military Engineer* 38.244 (February 1946), 70.)

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to the Army Service Forces the Provost Marshal General's Office, and one of the nine Service Commands operating in the United States, depending on the possible location. These departments or offices were then required to acquire properties and direct the development of all prisoner of war installations.³¹ The "original construction program for prisoners of war camps was designed primarily to locate installations (a) in areas which would afford maximum security or (b) in latitudes which would minimize construction and maintenance cost."³² In dealing with criterion b for the location and installation of camps, it precluded many northern locations and limited the available locations to locations largely in the South and Southwestern parts of the United States, including Arkansas.³³

Many in the first wave that were brought over from North Africa ended up in one of the three large base camps in Arkansas: Camp Chaffee, Camp Robinson, and Camp Monticello.³⁴ After the initial influx of Prisoners of War entered the United States, camps underwent a transition from a series of base camps to also having base camps and branch camps. Due to a change in ideology in handling prisoners and the amount of security needed to watch many of the prisoners, the use of base camps largely became a large staging area and home for prisoners, while newly authorized branch camps were either "established on a permanent or temporary basis to fill a definite work need."³⁵

It is noted in Barbara Schmitter Heisler's article "The 'Other Braceros': Temporary Labor and German Prisoners of War in the United States, 1943-1946," that the United States was experiencing a severe manpower shortage in manufacturing, farming and munitions. She states that...

Recognizing the labor potential for the German prisoners of war, the War Manpower Commission, in charge of ensuring an adequate labor supply on the home front, urged the War Department to make prisoner-of-war labor available in the private labor market. Yet, it was not until April 1943 that the War Department seriously considered the War Manpower Commission's persistent warning that the shortage of manpower on the home front could threaten the American war effort. Recognizing that the pool of several hundred thousand employable German Prisoners of war confined to the United States was the answer to the this problem, that the War Department agreed to make prisoner of war labor available to the civilian labor market.³⁶

³¹ Arthur M. Kruse, "Custody of Prisoners of War in the United States," *The Military Engineer* 38.244 (February 1946), 70.

³² *Ibid.*

³³ To read articles pertaining to the ideological change from Nazi prisoners killing American men on the European war front to one of trusted friend and coworker read Barbera Schmitter Heisler's "The 'Other Braceros': Temporary Labor and German Prisoners of War in the United States, 1943-1946."

³⁴ Camp Monticello was specifically used to house Italian Prisoners of War and preservation efforts and archeological investigations are still underway at the former site. (Jodi Barnes, "Mapping Camp Monticello: Archeology of a World War II Italian Prisoner of War Camp," *Field Notes* 375 (November- December 2013), 3-10.

³⁵ Kruse, 71.

³⁶ Schmitter Heisler, 250.

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Between the changes in ideology on handling the threat of prisoners of war in the United States the new push to allow the prisoner to work on non-war related fields of work such as farming helped change the landscape on which the prisoners were kept in. Though the theoretical landscape changed, the branch camps in which they would be housed in remained the same as none of the branch camp resembled another branch camp even within a region or county. This is because the branch camps were largely dependent on the requirements of certain work projects, the camps were widely diversified in their character and capacity.³⁷

Though the majority of branch camps were located north of the Arkansas River, because the shortage of labor in the farming industry, only a few existed south of the river like the Hot Springs Branch camp which was run through the Camp Robinson base camp in North Little Rock. The Hot Springs branch camp was largely set up to help complete the previous work started by the CCC camp and then stop after the defunding of all non-essential government activities that were not vital to the war effort.

With the new push to allow prisoners of war to begin working after April 1943, most of the other Arkansas branch camps were already up and operating or even closed, before the Hot Springs branch camp was even discussed. It was not until the Weekly Report on Prisoners of War came out on February 24, 1945, that the Hot Springs branch camp is even discussed with other branch camps situated out of Camp Joe T. Robinson. In this initial report, it recognizes that there were 25 enlisted German prisoners of war already located on the site situated in Lake Catherine State Park.³⁸ The enrollment of the prisoners of war at the Hot Springs branch camp continued to rise through May 8, 1945, when it reached 213 enlisted. Following the May 8, 1945, date, the numbers of enlisted men at the Hot Springs branch camp continued to decline. However, during the time the branch camp was open, there seems to have only been 16 enlisted American men guarding the prisoners.³⁹ With the slow decline in the number of prisoners being added to the branch camps, especially Hot Springs, the last weekly report states that there were 165 prisoners working on the site, but that those working outside of the camp go either to the hotels of the Redistribution Center in the City of Hot Springs, or to the Army-Navy Hospital.⁴⁰ It is noted in the official war correspondence that “Although much time is lost in transit, it is unlikely that the camp will be moved to a new location. The Redistribution Center which was to have closed October 15, is now scheduled to close November 15.”⁴¹ The correspondence then goes not to say that stoves had been ordered and were to arrive the day after the site visit, but also that the tents were “fairly well winterized.”⁴²

³⁷ Kruse, 72.

³⁸ United States Prisoner of War Operations Division, *Weekly and Semi-Monthly Reports On Prisoners of War, June 1942-30 June 1946 [microform]: Semi-Monthly Reports Begin 1 Jul 1945*. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives of the United States, 1950?), microfilm, 23 February 1945.

³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰ United States Prisoner of War Operations Division, *Weekly and Semi-Monthly Reports On Prisoners of War, June 1942-30 June 1946 [microform]: Prisoner of War Camp Hot Springs, Arkansas*. (Washington, D.C.: National Archives of the United States, 1950?), microfilm, 14 November 1945.

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² *Ibid.*

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It is noted in war correspondence relating to the condition of the branch camp that the latrines were of pit style, but that the kitchens were noticeably cleaners than the base camp Joe T. Robinson with the exception of a few greasy utensils. The morale of the prisoners was excellent even without a sports field, but it is noted that the prisoners too tired at night to even use such a field if it was provided because of the late hours in returning from the Redistribution Center. It is noted that the work within the camp is causing the prisoners to be too tired to even cause problems alleviating the need to for an enclosed prison cell.⁴³

Without the United States War Department correspondence on this site, it hard to substantiate exactly what was constructed on the Lake Catherine Site. What we are able to discern is the prisoners of war were authorized to construct the large retaining wall known as Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 and the outdoor brick and stone oven located south and toward the Lake Catherine shoreline. These two structures have etching of PW in the stone. We are unable at this moment to find another project in another state where German prisoners of war etched PW or other initials into projects that they completed. Located on Lake Catherine Retaining Wall #4 near the stone steps within the wall, is a small carving with *P.W.* which was likely, carved by one of the prisoners of war upon completion of the project.⁴⁴ However, upon first discovering these carved letters it was hard to definitively prove that they were carved by German prisoners of war and not someone with those initials in their name. However, upon looking at the outdoor brick oven/bbq pit there is another carving consisting of *P.W. 1945*. It is with this second etching with the date also carved into the structure that one is able to begin to definitively say that at least these two structures were constructed during the time that the German prisoners of war were located on the site while also suggesting without a doubt that these structures were constructed by the prisoners held on this site through repatriation.

The Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures are one of the last surviving remnants of the former Hot Springs Prisoner of War branch camp, and stand as a proud reminder of the significant role Hot Springs– and Arkansas – played in supporting roles the United States during WWII. Therefore, Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures near Hot Springs, Arkansas, are being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places with local significance under **Criterion A** for its association with Prisoners of War in Arkansas during World War II. Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures is also being nominated as part of the historic context “*We’ve Gotta Get Tough*”: *History of World War II Home Front Efforts in Arkansas, 1941-1946*, under the Relocation Centers, Prisoner of War Camps, Associated Landscapes, Buildings and Street Grids, Prisoner-Constructed Buildings or Landscaping, Center or Camp Cemeteries property type.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ During this period, both PW and POW were used to refer to the Prisoners of War. The clothing worn by the Prisoners of War was stenciled with PW on the back of the shirt in order to disseminate these prisoners from locals and service men.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
 - Other State agency
 - Federal agency
 - Local government
 - University
 - Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): WA1020

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property <1

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

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

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Or
UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Zone: 15 | Easting: 507544 | Northing: 3810694 |
| 2. Zone: 15 | Easting: 507527 | Northing: 3810698 |
| 3. Zone: | Easting: | Northing: |
| 4. Zone: | Easting : | Northing: |

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

Starting at UTM 15 507507 3810678 go northeast to UTM 15 507528 3810707, then go northeast to UTM 15 507542 3810716, then go southeast to UTM 15 507548 3810711, then go southwest to UTM 15 507537 3810662, then go back to the original UTM point.

Boundary Justification

The boundary contains all of the known landscaping features constructed by the German Prisoners of War at Lake Catherine.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Travis Ratermann (Survey Historian)
organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program
street & number: 1100 North Street
city or town: Little Rock state: Arkansas zip code: 72201
e-mail travis.ratermann@arkansas.gov
telephone: 501-324-9874

Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War
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Hot Spring County, Arkansas

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date: 11/30/2016

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

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

Photo Log

Name of Property: Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures

City or Vicinity: Hot Springs

County: Hot Spring County

State: Arkansas

Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War
Structures

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Hot Spring County, Arkansas

County and State

Photographer: Travis Ratermann

Date Photographed:

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

Photo#1 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0001)
Perspective of the Southeast corner of the Skillern House. Camera facing northwest.

Photo#2 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0002)
Photograph of the South elevation. Camera facing north.

Photo#3 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0003)

Photo#4 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0004)
Photograph of the details located in the gable end of the roof. Camera facing north.

Photo#5 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0005)
Perspective of the Southwest corner of the Skillern House. Camera facing northeast.

Photo#6 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0006)
Perspective of the Northwest corner of the Skillern House. Camera facing southeast.

Photo#7 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0007)
Photograph of the North elevation of Skillern House. Camera facing south.

Photo#8 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0008)
Photograph of the inside portion of the "L" on the North elevation. Camera facing southwest.

Photo#9 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0009)
Photograph of the inside portion of the "L" on the North elevation. Camera facing west.

Photo#10 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0010)

Photo#11 (AR_Hot Spring County_ Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures _0011)
Perspective of the Northeast corner of the Skillern House. Camera facing southwest

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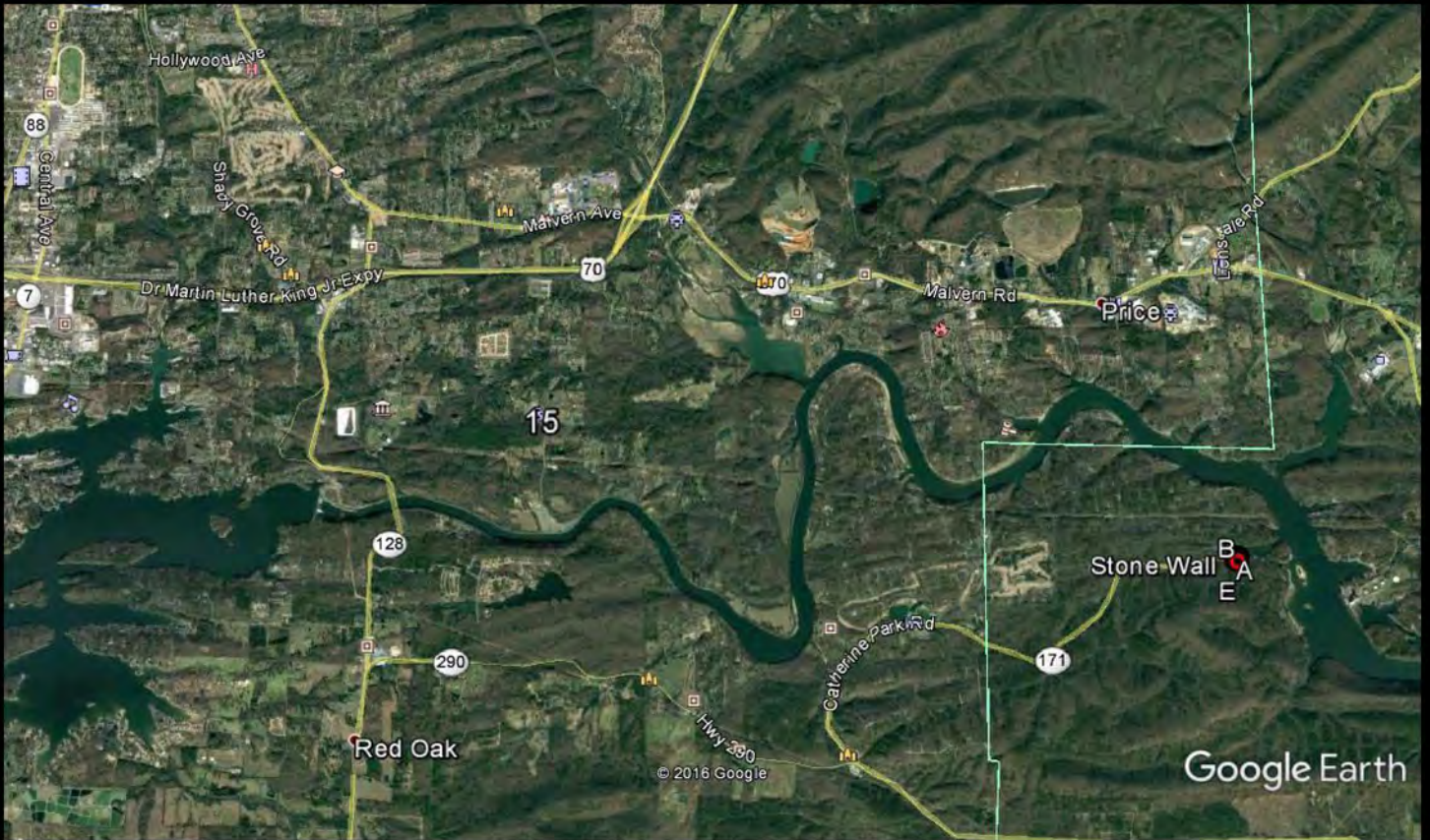
Hot Spring County, Arkansas
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Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.460 et seq.).

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



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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

Requested Action:

Property Name:

Multiple Name:

State & County:

Date Received: 12/9/2016 Date of Pending List: 1/11/2017 Date of 16th Day: 1/26/2017 Date of 45th Day: 1/24/2017 Date of Weekly List: 2/1/2017

Reference number:

Nominator:

Reason For Review:

Accept Return Reject 1/24/2017 Date

Abstract/Summary Comments:

Recommendation/ Criteria:

Reviewer Jim Gabbert Discipline Historian

Telephone (202)354-2275 Date _____

DOCUMENTATION: see attached comments : No see attached SLR : No

If a nomination is returned to the nomination authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the National Park Service.



THE DEPARTMENT OF ARKANSAS
HERITAGE

Asa Hutchinson
Governor

Stacy Hurst
Director



December 7, 2016

J. Paul Loether, Deputy Keeper and Chief
National Register and National Historic Landmark Programs
National Register of Historic Places
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Washington D.C. 20005

Arkansas Arts Council

Arkansas Natural
Heritage Commission

Arkansas State Archives

Delta Cultural Center

Historic Arkansas Museum

Mosaic Templars
Cultural Center

Old State House Museum

RE: Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War Structures–Hot
Springs Vic., Hot Spring County, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Loether:

We are enclosing for your review the above-referenced nomination.
The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the
documentation for the Lake Catherine State Park Prisoner of War
Structures. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied
with all applicable nominating procedures and notification
requirements in the nomination process.

If you need further information, please call Travis Ratermann of my
staff at (501) 324-9874. Thank you for your cooperation in this
matter.

Sincerely,

Stacy Hurst
State Historic Preservation Officer

SH:clw

Enclosures



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