

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number _____ Page _____

SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 94000352

Date Listed: 4-20-94

Blue Bend Forest Camp
Property Name:

Greenbrier
County:

WV
State:

Multiple Name

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

for *Patricia S. Alvarado*
Signature of the Keeper

4-21-94
Date of Action

=====

Amended Items in Nomination:

Minor technical discrepancy in the resource count. The "open picnic shelter" should be counted as a building, not a structure. This raises the count of contributing resources to 6 and drops the contributing structures to 6. In addition, the landscaped camp should be counted as a contributing site. The nomination is officially amended to include this information.

DISTRIBUTION:

National Register property file
Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 14 1994
NATIONAL REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Blue Bend Forest Camp

other names/site number Blue Bend Recreation Area

2. Location

street & number Alvon vicinity, 4 miles west of SR 92 on Alvon-Blue Bend not for publication

city or town Alvon vicinity vicinity

state West Virginia code WV county Greenbrier code 025 zip code NA

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

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

Wan J. DeBloris 2/9/94
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
Forest Service **Federal Preservation Officer**
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

William S. Laman 3-9-94
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:)

Signature of the Keeper Patty S. Christian Date of Action 4-20-94

Blue Bend Forest Camp
Name of Property

Greenbrier County, WV
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| 5 | 6 | buildings |
| | | sites |
| 7 | | structures |
| | | objects |
| 12 | 6 | Total |

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and Culture, outdoor recreation
Landscape, park

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation and culture, outdoor recreation
Landscape, park

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone, sandstone
walls Wood, log

roof Wood, shake; asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

see continuation sheets

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social history

Landscape architecture

Period of Significance

1936- -1943

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

Herbert Tilden Stoddard, Landscape Arch.
National Forest Service, Architect

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins

Blue Bend Forest Camp
Name of Property

Greenbrier County WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 26 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 17 | 564172 | 4197282 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 17 | 564817 | 4197139 |

| | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|
| 3 | 17 | 564306 | 4196817 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | 17 | 563860 | 4196900 |

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca M. Rogers, Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Rebecca M. Rogers date October, 1993

street & number 44 Audubon Road telephone 216-757-8986

city or town Youngstown, state Ohio zip code 44514

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

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

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

Photographs

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

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Monongahela National Forest

street & number 200 Sycamore Street telephone 304-636-1800

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 listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

MAR 14 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

Section number 7 Page 1 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

Blue Bend Forest Camp, today known as Blue Bend Recreation Area, is a rustic landscape designed and developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps for the Monongahela National Forest in 1936-1938. The site is eligible for the National Register under criteria A and C. It is significant for its contribution to the social history of Monongahela National Forest and as one of four recreation areas designed and constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the forest. It also is significant as a designed rustic landscape that is largely intact. The site includes 21 constructed campsites with tent pads, picnic table sites and parking areas, further it has paths, iron pump, covered picnic areas, an elaborate system of retaining walls and stabilized creek banks, two stone-paved beaches and a concrete water-retention reservoir. Since 1938, it has lost two bath houses and one pedestrian suspension bridge. In the early and mid-1960s, it had the unobtrusive addition of one more campsite, three modern privies, stone-clad drinking fountains and large-stone bank stabilization.

The site includes:

Buildings:

Open picnic shelter with administrative office
4 single privies

Structures:

Suspension foot bridge
Piers & turnbuckles for foot suspension bridge
Wooden beam footbridge
Open picnic shelter
Two flagstone beaches
Concrete water-retention reservoir

The site includes all the original designed landscape acreage including:

Flagstone and crushed stone paths
Small-stone bank stabilization wall near east beach
Dry-laid stone rip-rap walls

Six non-contributing structures: two two-person flush-type and two pit privies (1969), a wood storage shed (1969) and a corrugated galvanized steel tool shed.

Design Landscape Features

The Blue Bend Forest Camp is a little altered rustic landscape of 26 acres laid out and developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps [CCC] between 1936-1938. Herbert T. Stoddard, of Cohasset, Massachusetts, Recreation Staff Assistant to the Monongahela Forest Supervisor, was the landscape architect for this forest

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 2 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

camp. The main landscape features are a deep river pool, the Blue Hole, at a bend in Anthony Creek, the bank stabilized on both sides of the Anthony Creek and Rocky Run, a parking area, two flagstone beaches on each side of the bend and hole, twenty-one campsites and a number of picnic areas connected by gravel or flagstone paths and flagstone steps, two large boulder fords across Rocky Run, a log beam bridge across Rocky Run, a steel pedestrian suspension bridge and the piers of a second steel pedestrian suspension bridge across Anthony Creek, and a circular concrete water-retention reservoir for the gravity-flow water system. Historic structures in this landscape include a one-story log large picnic shelter/administration building, an open log picnic structure, four frame privies.

The Forest Camp is approached on the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road, County Road 16/2, that follows the north bank of Anthony Creek. The entrance to the area is opposite the Hopkins Mountain Road (Forest Service Road 139). The entire site is forested with large white pine, hemlock, poplar, American plane tree and buckeye. The understory has wildflowers and is relatively open and shaded. The entry is marked by large sandstone boulders placed 4 feet to 10 feet apart along the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road and the forest camp gravel entry road.

On the west a single-lane road leads to twenty-one campsites each consisting of a single vehicle parking area, a level tent site and a level picnic table site with a circular cooking pit with iron grill. The camping sites are between the lane and the north bank of Anthony Creek or north of the lane set back from the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road (County Road 16/2). They were designed to be separate from each other and to give "privacy and seclusion." To best accommodate large trees, tent site and picnic table are not always on the same level. One site was added about 1959, when the entry lane gained a circle turn-around and three western campsites along Anthony Creek were placed closer to the creek. Eighteen campsites have their original locations. The campsite parking areas are delineated by large sandstone boulders (1959-60s) and round brown-painted log bollards (1970s). Originally creosoted white pine bollards in clusters of three with "beaver cut" ends were used to delineate campsite parking. From the late 1930s, drinking water was gained from a communal pump placed in an open flagstone-paved area south of the lane. As a part of preservation work of the mid-1960s, Forest Service mason Lloyd Chestnut built appropriately rustic pyramidal drinking fountains of river stones with a spigot on one side and bubbler on top. These are located among the campsites and near the picnic shelter/administration building.

A central reason for both picnic and camping at Blue Bend is swimming and wading in Anthony Creek next to the deep stream hole. Both banks of the creek have large flagstone beaches laid from the steepness of the bank to the water's edge.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., Wv

The flagstone at Blue Bend comes from two sources: a quarry near Allegheny Paddy Knob fire tower area and the creek bed of Meadow Creek south of Laurel Run near Neola. These beaches were originally dry-laid, but after the re-opening of the area in the early 1940s, the joints were mortared. In the late 1940s, the beaches were expanded in size and in the 1960s the concrete water-edge curb was added.

The beaches are reached from a main gravel and grass parking area that has dry-laid stone wall edging. Changing rooms are on the northeast side of the parking lot. The paths are lightly dressed with gray crushed limestone; several have CCC-era flagstone steps with stone cheeks. The main path to the beach, originally dry-laid flagstone, was changed in the early 1940s to gravel because the flagstones shifted and were undercut during spring flooding.

The woods adjacent to both beaches are laid out in picnic sites each with picnic table and raised steel grill on a leveled area lightly dressed with crushed limestone. Several dirt, pine needle and moss paths connect picnic sites.

Among the most picturesque elements of the landscape are the rip-rap banks of Rocky Run and Anthony Creek. Most of this bank stabilization undertaken by the CCC is made of river stones dry laid along the steepest parts of the bank. It occurs along Rocky Run in the picnic area and along the Blue Bend Loop Trail (614) on the south side of Anthony Creek. A different kind of rip-rap was used along Anthony Creek on the south side near the beach where the stones are quarried sandstone about six to eight inches square. By the 1960s, bank erosion near the bend of Anthony Creek had removed the trees along the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road and on the opposite (south) bank upstream from the earlier CCC rip-rap. At that time, sandstone was quarried along Anthony Creek at Alvon. These large stones were placed to stabilize the bank where the trees had washed away.

The site has three kinds of pedestrian bridges: large quarried sandstone boulders with flat tops laid in Rocky Run provide two stepping stone fords; a log beam bridge across Rocky Run; and a steel suspension bridge across Anthony Creek. The peeled white pine beam bridge follows a standard Forest Service design. This bridge replaced a stepping stone ford in the early 1940s. It has three 8" diameter beams with a wooden deck laid on top and lateral 4" diameter logs beneath the beams to stabilize the upright supports of the railing. The bridge has a top and middle railings. The uprights of the railing also are log; they are half-lapped and bolted to the lateral logs. The abutments are dry-laid rough-faced random ashlar sandstone with flagstone pavers. The steel cable suspension bridge has two wooden truss towers set on battered concrete piers. The towers are made of 8 x 8s with top and bottom "X" braces. The cables are held by a buried deadman on each side of Anthony Creek and by cast steel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 4 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

turnbuckles. Bolted cables hang from the two suspension cables, supporting the 4" lateral steel angles which are bolted to the two "C" channels that support the deck of the bridge. Lateral stability is provided by lateral cables attached by cable to plates rivetted to the 4" steel angles. The lateral stabilizing cables are also secured by deadmen and turnbuckles on each side of the creek. The side railing of the suspension bridge is chain link fencing, a replacement of the original fencing, which likely also was chain link. A second pedestrian suspension bridge was located between the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road and the south bank of Anthony Creek. This bridge was seldom used and was removed in the late 1940s. The concrete piers and cable turnbuckles still remain.

The round, flat-topped concrete water-retention tank for the gravity flow water system is located across the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road with access from the Hopkins Mountain Tower Road (Forest Service 139). It is constructed of poured-in-place concrete with a slightly vaulted roof, 16 feet in diameter. It has a rough-textured exterior, stands about 5 feet above grade and is hidden from view by shrubs and heavy brush.

Architectural Features

The contributing architectural features of Blue Bend Forest Camp include a log picnic shelter/administration building, a smaller log picnic shelter and four privies. All these buildings, like the beam bridge and the pedestrian suspension bridge, were constructed from standardized Forest Service designs developed during the CCC era.

The picnic shelter/administration building, 80' x 35', is a one-story structure made of peeled white pine logs with a T-plan gabled roof. The design was furnished by the Regional Forester, signed "designed by L. C. Mc." and was used in other National Forests. The foundation is concrete with two or three courses of mortared river stone showing. The covered picnic area is six bays long and three bays wide. The last bay is part of the crossing gable and shelters a massive sandstone fireplace. A two-bay by five-bay crossing gable houses one bay of the picnic area and the enclosed administrative area. Logs approximately 12" diameter are laid up for the walls with projecting saddle-notched ends. Lower logs project farther, giving each log projection a battered appearance. The open picnic area has a solid balustrade of three logs approximately 36" high. A north, centered entry faces the path from the parking lot; the west third-bay entry faces the access lane to the campsites.

The picnic shelter space has an exposed roof structure with round peeled bark log trusses, ridge pole and wall plates. Log uprights have curved log braces to support the wall plates. The roofing is exposed chestnut 2 x 6s with cedar

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

shakes that have replaced the original wood shingles. The floor is large pieces of flagstone, once laid in sand but mortared since the early 1940s. The area is furnished with heavy wooden plank benches with four splayed legs and a mortised tie between the legs. These oak benches were made by the men of CCC Camp Parsons, Parsons, WV.

The fireplace has large and small exposed rough-face sandstone. The firebox opening is arched with voussoirs and larger projecting keystone. The sandstone mantle shelf is supported by three sandstone corbels. The sandstone was taken from a quarry at Droop Mountain. The slightly raised hearth is flagstone.

The administrative office once housed a resident Forest Service staff person. It is one large room once divided by two closets into an office and a kitchen; one closet survives. Both rooms are sheathed in vertical chestnut boards with an oak floor and exposed sandstone fire wall for the original stove. The room has an original CCC desk and tables. Doors and six-light casement windows are original. Access to the picnic room is through the original Dutch door.

The smaller picnic shelter is located on the south side of Anthony Creek. It is similar in design, materials and construction to the administrative/picnic building. Both were designed by the same person, noted on the Forest Service drawings as L. C. Mc. In the construction of this shelter, the local CCC builders varied the standard Forest Service design. This shelter, 38' x 18', is a one-story peeled white pine structure with a cruciform gable roof. The foundation is concrete with two or three courses of mortared river stone showing. The covered area is five bays long and three bays wide. The logs are somewhat smaller than those used at the administrative/picnic building. Logs are used in an open balustrade with occasional vertical posts as balusters between the top log and bottom log. The structure is composed of vertical logs with angle braces supporting log wall plates and log trusses. Like the other log building, this one has a log ridge pole and exposed roof structure of 2 x 6s. The roof is covered in plywood with asphalt shingles that replaced the original wood shingles. The floor is large pieces of flagstone, once laid in sand but mortared since the early 1940s.

The fireplace has coursed small exposed rough-face sandstone. The firebox opening is arched with voussoirs and a larger projecting keystone that acts as a corbel for the mantle shelf. The sandstone mantle shelf is supported by two additional sandstone corbels. The sandstone was taken from a quarry at Droop Mountain. The hearth is brick.

At the west end of the campsites are two original pit privies. Each is for individual use, one designated "Men," the other, "Women." Each is wood frame,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 6 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

without windows, board-and-batten covered with a gable roof above the door, 4'-3" x 5'-3". The wall plate and ridge piece 4x4s project with pyramidal-shaped ends. The roofs have been replaced with corrugated fiberglass to provide light to the interiors. Similar historic-period privies are near the small picnic shelter on the south bank of Anthony Creek.

A double privy with both men's and women's sides was added in the 1960s (non-contributing). It has similar construction detailing as the original single privies, with asphalt gabled roof and small hatch windows. The two changing rooms (non-contributing) near the parking lot are similar construction as is a gabled one-story clapboard storage building (1969) (non-contributing) near the large picnic shelter and administration building. Next to the storage building is a galvanized steel one-story Quonset hut-style storage building (non-contributing).

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

Blue Bend Forest Camp qualifies for the National Register under category A as an outstanding regional example of the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the principal employer of youth of the Monongahela Forest region of West Virginia from 1933 until 1940. This Forest Camp was constructed from 1936-1938. It also qualifies under category C as a well designed intact example of a rustic landscape design by Herbert T. Stoddard using standard National Forest Service structure designs. It retains all but two original buildings (bath houses) and one bridge. Of the five forest camps designed by Stoddard and constructed by the CCC, this is the only one that retains its original landscape design and more than one log building.

Blue Bend Forest Camp enhanced a locally famous natural site, the Blue Hole of Anthony Creek. For many years, this deep, clear pool at the 90 degree bend of Anthony Creek had been popular as a fishing hole favored by area residents. Denny Dean, a retired WV Department of Natural Resources employee and local resident, remarked that the hole was deep and cold enough to be habitat for northern pike, among other trophy fish. At the time of acquisition by the Forest Service, the area was a part of the Ed and Fanny Spitzer farm. The trees near Anthony Creek had never been timbered, but the area near the present entrance to the camp had Spitzer's barn and residence west of Rocky Run. William A. Medesy recounted in a letter that he recommended to Forest Supervisor Arthur Wood that Monongahela National Forest buy the site to develop it for a forest camp through Civilian Conservation Corps labor.

First established in West Virginia in May 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had twenty-three year-round and summer camps in the state. Most members worked in the Monongahela National Forest building roads, opening telephone lines, reforestation and managing timber and construction trails and recreation facilities. While monies earned by members of the CCC added to the local economy, a significant effect of the organization was the skills training and the instilling of regional esprit. Further, the men of the CCC made most of the roads and other improvements in Monongahela National Forest. Men from Camp Alvon, CCC Camp-14, at Alvon, Greenbrier County, constructed the road up Hopkins Mountain, realigned the road from Alvon to Anthony (now the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road) and began work at Blue Bend Forest Camp. Very likely the men from Camp Anthony, CCC Camp 18, did most of the work at Blue Bend, as Camp Alvon closed in 1935.

The CCC built five recreation areas in Monongahela National Forest: Horseshoe Camp near Parsons, Stuart Camp near Elkins, Alpena Camp near Alpena, Smokehole Camp on the Potomac River and Blue Bend near Alvon. Of these, Alpena has been demolished. Stuart retains only one building and has had many later additions. Horseshoe retains the picnic shelter, but has lost other buildings. Smokehole,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

much damaged in a flood in 1985, retains the picnic shelter. All camps had similar rustic architecture drawn from standardized plans. Only Blue Bend retains its original landscape character and all but three CCC-era structures: two bath houses and a pedestrian suspension bridge. Blue Bend also has much of its original CCC-constructed furnishings at the administration/picnic building.

Blue Bend displays the best of CCC-era workmanship in the high quality of stone work and the craftsmanship of the log buildings. Design details and construction display a great sensitivity for local materials and uses of regionally-typical materials. The log buildings display skilled craftsmanship in the construction of joints and details of assembly. Of particular note are the flagstone beaches which are an extremely unusual vernacular solution to the need for swimming access to a river-edge swimming hole. The infrequent deterioration of retaining walls, flagstone paving and steps attests to the quality of construction of these features.

Following the popular taste for Craftsman-style architecture, Forest Service architects designed buildings for forest camps or recreation areas, suitable for construction in most forests of the eastern United States. They designated use of local materials, not particularly specifying "white pine" for the buildings at Blue Bend, but leaving the wood choice to display the most suitable and locally typical materials.

The architectural drawings for the buildings similarly do not specify paving materials, type of wood for shingles or stone for chimneys. The resulting buildings display local craftsmanship and fit their sites with local materials while representing the national interest in rustic and handmade architectural detailing.

Post-1938 elements added to the forest camp are few and are unobtrusive. The flagstone beaches and shelter floors were mortared in the early 1940s to prevent flagstones from washing away in spring flooding. At the same time, one stone ford was replaced by the log beam bridge and the path from the large shelter to the beach was changed from flagstone to gravel. These changes from the 1940s must be considered historic. In the 1960s, the large sandstone bank stabilization along Anthony Creek secured the road edge where shade trees had died. At the same time, the original bath houses were replaced and crushed limestone was added to the paths, picnic table sites and tent sites and concrete curbs protected the water edge of the beaches. Rustic drinking fountains faced with local boulders were added at this time. In the 1970s, a lavatory for both men and women was added (non-contributing).

Little is known of Herbert Tilden Stoddard, the landscape architect for the site. He was born in 1908, in Cohasset, Massachusetts, of a prominent, long established

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8, 9 Page 9 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

local family. He does not appear frequently in Monongahela National Forest records, but seems to have been hired by Forest Supervisor Arthur A. Wood specifically to design forest camps or recreation areas, leaving the Forest Service when construction was completed. C. R. McKim notes that he was hired in March, 1935, and adds "He was an excellent landscape architect and was responsible for the design and plans for all the recreation areas developed [in the forest] under the CCC program." Members of the Cohasset Historical Society note that he designed a number of estate-type landscapes for properties on the south shore of Boston Harbor in the 1950s.

Stoddard's design at Blue Bend takes advantage of the finest trees of the mature forest and local views of the site. The design is simple, focusing on the beauty of the Blue Hole, siting picnic facilities and shelters among the grandest tall trees and separating daily use of picnicking and swimming from camping and overnight use. He provided maximum privacy for each campsite while separating campsites from the local road with a deep buffer area, once a campfire site. His use of native materials combine extremely well with the Forest Service buildings designed for CCC construction.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES:

Louis Cross, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Forest Service employee at Blue Bend Recreation Area in 1942-1943, interview.

Denny Dean, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; West Virginia Department of Natural Resources employee and life-long resident of Blue Bend area, interview.

Russell Ferrence, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; purchased land for the Forest Service beginning in 1934, interview.

Betty Hughes, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Forest Service employee whose father worked on the tramway along Rocky Run, interview.

McKim, C. R. Monongahela National Forest History. Unpublished manuscript available at the Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV, 1970.

Otis, Alison T. William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, Kimberly K. Lakin. The Forest Service and The Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933 - 1943. United State Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1983.

Peyton, Billie Joe. Cultural Resource Survey, CCC Camps, Fire Towers, Administrative Sites. Unpublished Monongahela National Forest manuscript available at the Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV, 1986.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9, 10 Page 10 of 10

Blue Bend Forest Camp Greenbrier Co., WV

Ruel Ramsey, 4-20-93, Alvon, WV; life-long Alvon resident, interview.

Salmond, John A. The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942. Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 1967.

Verbal Boundary

All of the Blue Bend Forest Camp District lies within the boundary of Monongahela National Forest on Forest Service owned land. It straddles the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road (State Road 16/2) at the junction of the Hopkins Mountain Road (Forest Service Road 139). The east end of the district is just west of the Beaver's Tale Interpretive Trail, the site of concrete suspension bridge piers and cable deadmen on the bank of Anthony Creek. The District line crosses the Creek at the suspension bridge site, then follows the base of Round Mountain on the south side of Anthony Creek along the Blue Bend Loop Trail (614). The district line recrosses Anthony Creek at the point the Creek runs close to the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road (SR 16/2). On the north, the boundary of the District follows the south side of the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road to the east bank of Rocky Run; then turns north 200 yards to include the concrete water storage tank and site of the Spitzer Residence. Both are north and west of the Hopkins Mountain Road (Forest Service 139). The north boundary continues on the south side of the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road (SR 16/2) 500 yards west of the junction of the Hopkins Mountain Road. There, the boundary crosses Anthony Creek and meets the base of Round Mountain and the Blue Bend Loop Trail (614).

Boundary Justification:

The National Register nomination includes all of the original Blue Bend Forest Camp camping, bathing and picnic area. It includes the water retention tank on the north side of County Road 16/2 and an original access across Anthony Creek on a pedestrian suspension bridge. The Nomination also includes the part of the Blue Bend Loop Trail on the south side of Anthony Creek which has bank retaining walls constructed by the CCC and all of the trail visible from the camp grounds.

BLUEBEND FOREST CAMP



scale in feet

