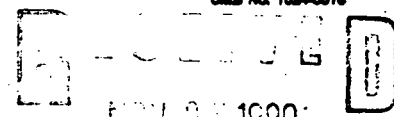


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

NATIONAL REGISTER

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Forest Service Road #152  not for publication N/A  
city, town Paron  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Perry code AR 105 zip code 72122

3. Classification

Ownership of Property

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

Category of Property

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

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing	Noncontributing
<u>37</u>	<u>        </u> buildings
<u>6</u>	<u>        </u> sites
<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> structures
<u>0</u>	<u>        </u> objects
<u>50</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:

Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-42

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Evan J. DiBlasio

Signature of certifying official

USDA Forest Service

State or Federal agency and bureau

10-17-90

Date

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

Cheryl A. Boyd

Signature of commenting or other official

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

State or Federal agency and bureau

9-4-90

Date

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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

Date of Action

---

**6. Function or Use**

---

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor

Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

---

**7. Description**

---

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Sandstone

walls Stone/Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Wood/log

---

Describe present and historic physical appearance.



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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1**SUMMARY**

The contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936 and 1938 under the supervision of Works Progress Administration (WPA) engineers. These resources were all designed in the Rustic style, an aesthetic so popular among public works projects during the Great Depression that has since become virtually identified with that era. These resources fall into seven distinct building types: administration buildings (7); unithouses (4); bathhouses (4); cabins (22); utility and engineering structures (4); foundations (6); and landscape features (3), for a total of fifty distinct contributing resources. Also included are various trails, steps and rock walls.

**ELABORATION**

The contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (under the supervision of Works Progress Administration engineers) between 1936 and 1938. The extant structures, with the sole exception of the concrete dam and three other utility buildings, were of stone masonry and wood construction and designed in the Rustic style, an aesthetic that became popular for public works projects during the 1930's. They were erected in a semi-circle around the northern end of Lake Sylvia, a man-made lake created through the erection of a dam on Narrow Creek.

The buildings were divided into five distinct clusters: an administration area and four campsites. The campsites were called Echo Valley, Cliff Top, Tall Timbers and Lakeview. A campsite on the eastern side of the lake called Atihcauo (Ouachita spelled backwards), which included only a screened pavilion and tenting areas, was added in 1959 and is not included in the nomination.

The contributing resources fall into seven distinct building types: administration buildings (7); unithouses (4); bathhouses (4); cabins (22); utility and engineering structures (4); foundations (6); and landscape features (3), for a total of fifty distinct contributing resources. Also included are various trails, steps and rock walls.

All the resources listed below are contributing; the only non-contributing resource within the district boundary is the later swimming dock at the southern end of the lake. The numbers in brackets refer to the numbered structures on the accompanying sketch map.

**Administration Buildings**

*Ogden Hall (a.k.a. Great Hall) [#6]*

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Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 2

Ogden Hall is a two-story, stone masonry and wood mess hall and function building. Its spreading stone masonry walls rise from the ground and are accented by the twin stone chimneys at either end of the auditorium itself. The plan is irregular, as the kitchen and other office space extends from the north side of the auditorium and an open, screened porch runs almost the full length of the auditorium's southern elevation. Its intersecting gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and ornamented with decorative round, log brackets and exposed log purlins at the gable ends.

It was designed by Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio, architects, of Little Rock and is the only building in the district known to have been designed by an architect.

*Storage Building* [#2]

The Storage Building is a single story, stone masonry building. It features a double-pen plan, a continuous stone foundation and the remnants of a wood gable roof.

*Caretaker's Building* [#1]

The Caretaker's Building is a single story, stone masonry building. Its plan is rectangular. It is fenestrated throughout with six-over-six wood sash windows. Three fieldstone chimneys rise through the roof on the eastern side of the building. Its fieldstone foundation and walls are covered with a hipped roof of irregular shape.

*Infirmary* [#3]

The Infirmary is a single story, stone masonry building with a Latin cross plan and an intersecting gable roof. It is fenestrated throughout with one-over-one stationary wood windows. Its fieldstone walls are supported by a continuous fieldstone foundation.

*Shop Building* [#4]

The Shop Building is a single story, stone masonry building. Its plan is composed of one closed pen to the south and another attached pen to the north that is open on its western elevation. The continuous fieldstone foundation and fieldstone walls are covered with the remnants of a wood frame gable roof.

*Staff Buildings #1 and #2* [#7 and #8]

The two Staff Buildings are both quite similar, each being a single story, stone masonry building with a wood frame and log gable roof that projects over the front facade and is

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## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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supported on large, log posts. Log trusses are used beneath the gable roof on the porch, and the front elevation below is relieved only by a central entrance. Both are lighted by one-over-one stationary wood windows. Their continuous fieldstone foundations and fieldstone walls are covered with a composition shingle roof.

### Unithouses

The four Unithouses [#11, #26, #27 and #37] served each of the four campsite clusters and were used for campsite meeting, functions, and other group activities within the campsite. All four are identical: each is rectangular in plan and entered through a central single-leaf door in three of its elevations with an exterior chimney placed in the center of one of the long sides. Each entry is flanked with a large window to either side. They are of stone masonry construction and covered with a composition shingle gable roof the gable ends of which are filled with board-and-batten.

### Bathhouses

Three of the four Bathhouses [#10, #12 and #34] are identical, with the fourth [#8] being a smaller building due to its being intended for use solely by the Director of the camp. The other three (there was originally another of this type in the Echo Valley campsite; it has since been destroyed and hence is now considered a foundation) were designed for use by the entire campsite. They are single story, stone masonry buildings, similar in plan to the Staff Buildings seen above in that a wood frame and log gable roof extends out over the stone walls to form a front porch supported on log posts and a raised stone platform accessed by stone steps. Log trusses support the porch roof deck. The stone section is divided into lavatory and shower stalls.

The smaller Bathhouse is also a single story in height, of stone masonry construction and covered with a gable roof. It is sited adjacent to the Director's Cabin.

### Cabins

The twenty-one of the twenty-two extant Cabins [#13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #24, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #35, #36, #38, #39, #41 and #42] are identical, with the sole exception being the Director's Cabin [#9], which was constructed as an enclosed year-round residence with a fireplace and chimney. Each of the other twenty-one cabins (called "tent platforms" on the accompanying sketch map) is a single story, stone masonry, screened shelter with a wood frame and log gable roof that projects out over the front elevation, forming a front porch. The porch roof is supported by log posts resting on a raised stone platform; the posts are connected by a log balustrade composed of logs set in a diamond-shaped decorative pattern between horizontal log rails. The porch is accessed from the side



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via stone steps and features log trusses in the roof. The single pen inside the stone walls is unornamented and consists only of a stone floor, the screened walls and the roof. Some of the cabins are named, the name plate appearing above the front door.

### Structures

The Structures include the original concrete dam [#49] (fifty feet in height) at the northern end of Lake Sylvia, the two square, concrete water tanks [#47 and #48] located on a rise above the lake near the Director's Cabin and the stone masonry pumphouse [#50] located near the northern edge of the lake, below the water tanks.

### Landscape Features

Landscape Features include two round, stone lookouts [#51 and #52] located on the side of the rock outcroppings above each end of the dam and the lake itself [#53]; also included are an elaborate set of stone steps and rock walls directly behind the former site of the Boathouse and Swim Crib at the northwest corner of the lake, the original roads leading into Camp Ouachita from Forest Service Road #152 and the network of trails running throughout the camp that include a variety of stone steps.

### Foundations

The Foundations include the remains of six demolished structures: two cabins [#23 and #25] and one bathhouse [#22] in the Echo Valley campsite, a Crafts building [#33] near the administration area, and the Swim Crib and Boathouse [#40 and #46] at the northwest corner of the lake.

Most of the extant structures within the district are in good condition. A few have lost their original roof decking, with some having only a few of the log rafters remaining in place, but all that are standing retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic significance of the district.

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

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Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Period of Significance

Significant Dates

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

1937-1940

N/A

SOCIAL HISTORY

1937-1940

N/A

ARCHITECTURE

1937

N/A

ARCHEOLOGY/Historic -- Non-Aboriginal

Cultural Affiliation

European

Significant Person

Architect/Builder

N/A

Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio

Civilian Conservation Corps

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

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

See continuation sheet

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

Specify repository:

Quachita National Forest - USFS

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References

A 

--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

C 

--	--	--

B 

--	--	--

  
 Zone Easting Northing

D 

--	--	--

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian  
 organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date August 30, 1990  
 street & number 225 E. Markham St., Suite 200 telephone (501) 371-2763  
 city or town Little Rock state Arkansas zip code 72201

United States Department of the Interior  
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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 1**Summary**

Criteria A, C and D, local significance

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District is significant by virtue of its associations with both the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Camp Thornburg, located just to the north of Lake Sylvia, and with the Girl Scouts of America, the organization for young girls that formed in the early twentieth-century and quickly became popular across the United States. Its contributing resources are also significant by virtue of their being outstanding and largely intact examples of the Rustic architectural style that was common to CCC construction projects throughout the United States. Finally, the District is significant through its potential to yield further information about the social and recreational activities of the local Girl Scouts that camped there between 1937 and 1940. As such, this district relates to the historic context "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942" (See Section E, I.).

**Elaboration**

The organization that we know today as the Girl Scouts of America was founded in Savannah, Georgia in 1912 by Ms. Juliette Gordon Low. She had met the founder of the Boy Scouts, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, during a visit to England the year before and was inspired by his vision of an organization that would teach young people certain basic skills of self-sufficiency and service that had been lacking in the troops he commanded as a British officer in India. Ms. Low started the fledgling Girl Scouts on a strictly local basis initially, though the idea of a national organization spread soon thereafter and the need for national leadership was obvious. Remarkably, the Girl Scouts' membership swelled almost immediately: in 1913, the number of Girl Scouts in Massachusetts alone grew from 800 to 5,000 within six months. Growth did not diminish during the years of World War I, and by 1920 American Girl Scout membership totaled over 50,000.

The prosperous years of the 1920's brought growth also in the programs and goals of the Girl Scouts. The first Girl Scout camp, Camp Andree, was established at Briarcliff Manor, New York in 1922. It was located on 135 acres of rolling, wooded land, complete with both a lake and a brook. This type of rural, forested location would become the model for such later Girl Scout camps as Camp Ouachita.

Surprisingly, the onset of the Great Depression did nothing but increase the membership and activities of the Girl Scouts, and social programs in particular. The national organization's Five Year Plan, begun in 1929, had spelled out specific goals for the growth and expansion of the Girl Scouts; however, in the face of such daunting national hardships as feeding the hungry and keeping the unemployed alive, such organizations found their broader relevance difficult to justify. As one chronicler of the Girl Scouts stated, "Social service organizations with



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National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 2

character development as their objective looked like a needless luxury to many people who had formerly supported them." (Mockler, p. 56). The Girl Scouts responded to the challenge with vigor. Used clothing drives, community fruit and canning projects, and preparing hot meals for poor and undernourished children were among the initiatives seized by the Scouts to remedy the pervasive problems of the day while maintaining the credibility of the organization. At the same time, a recognition of the obligation to recognize the needs of physically handicapped girls resulted in Extension Scouting; in 1931, one member of each Regional Committee that attended the annual convention was charged with expanding the number of handicapped members in that region. These efforts resulted in a seventy per cent increase in handicapped troops by the end of that year. By 1932, the total national membership had climbed to 295,940.

The year 1933 saw the opening and operation of more Girl Scout camps than ever before. Camping continued to grow through 1934 into 1935, when a new attendance record was set with over 110,000 girls attending camps across the nation. The recognition in that year of a forty per cent annual turnover rate in first-year Scouts resulted in a study that recommended, among other things, a concerted expansion of the activities made available to Scouts of all ages, including camping activities. Such creative pursuits as choral speaking, poetry and sketching supplemented such more traditional Scouting activities as nature study, sailing, crafts, woodsmanship, group music and various kinds of dance. These were included within structured camping trips each of which was tailored to the particular part of the country in which the particular troop would camp. Particularly popular were backpacking trips, planned with the help of the Forest Service and designed for several of the National Forests around the United States.

It was early in 1935 that Mrs. M.D. Ogden, representing the Little Rock Council of the Girl Scouts approached A.W. Hartman, Forest Supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest regarding the selection of a location in the forest to build a Girl Scout camp. The Little Rock Council had been organized since 1928 and had been using the Boy Scouts camp at Camp Quapaw (Saline County) periodically; however, Girl Scouts around the state (there were 22 Arkansas troops by 1935) had long dreamed of having their own camp. Hartman responded that he would issue a special use permit if a suitable location could be found. By April, the site known as the "Narrows," near Thornburg, was identified as an ideal location, as a dam at the northern end of Narrow Creek would create a medium-sized lake of approximately twenty acres. Negotiations over funding continued from May until September, during which time the Arkansas office of the Works Progress Administration denied the Girl Scouts' request for funding to construct the camp. In September, Perry County Judge Oscar Brazil agreed to sponsor the camp construction, and the special use permit was issued to him.

Plans for the dam were not approved until February of 1936, amid further negotiation regarding the annual fee the Forest Service would charge to the Girl Scouts for the use of the



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Continuation SheetSection number 8 Page 3

site. This issue was settled to the satisfaction of all, however, and construction began in April. The dam was completed the following month, and though there is some confusion over the completion date for the fieldstone buildings, it appears as if they were completed by 1938, as a newspaper article in the Perry County News dated June 16 of that year mentions a barbecue to be held at the "Girl Scout Camp south of Thornburg." R.C. Limerick, WPA Engineering Supervisor, and D.B. Cutler, District Director, directed the construction.

Another of the recommendations of the afore-mentioned study was that Scouts be divided into age groups of 8-9, 10-12, 12-14 and 14-18, with different types of activities tailored to the typical interests of each age bracket. This organization is reflected in the layout of the camp: the Lakeview campsite housed the youngest Scouts (also known as Brownies), Echo Valley hosted the next oldest group, Cliff Top the next and Tall Timbers the oldest, or the Senior Girl Scouts. The Great Hall was the site for a number of the musical, dramatic and social events, as well as serving as the mess hall; yet the unit houses at each campsite also sheltered a number of social gatherings. Nature talks, duty assignments, games and mail deliveries were just a few of the events shared by the Scouts within each separate campsite. The bathhouse at each site also concentrated a significant portion of daily life within the campsite and among one's own peers.

Other activities at Camp Ouachita centered on Lake Sylvia: swimming, canoeing and diving. The trails running through the Camp were frequently used for nature walks as well as access routes to other trails outside the camp for backpacking trips.

The various contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District are all associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps, the public works organization that constructed them. Their design is typical of such projects executed by the CCC in Arkansas and as an ensemble they survive as one of the best examples of a CCC-constructed camp in the state, and certainly the best example within the local area. These structures are also excellent examples of the Rustic style made popular by the CCC and other public works agencies during the 1930's; they are noteworthy both for their individual design and integrity but also as a remarkably intact group.

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District is also significant as it has the potential to reveal further information regarding the Girl Scouts and their various recreational, social, educational and athletic activities during this period of rapid growth on both the local and national levels. It may also reveal information regarding the activities conducted by the Girl Scouts of Arkansas, which could be of interest relative to both the national policy of the Girl Scouts regarding such matters and to the local policy and practices of the statewide organization. Such landscape features as the stone walls with associated steps, the myriad trails and paths that wind through the site, the historic roads into the site on which all campers, administrators, counselors, etc. came to the camp, and the six foundations of the two cabins,

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## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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the bathhouse, the crafts building, and the boathouse and swim crib are all visible site features that indicate clearly the historic occupation and use of the site.

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

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**Bibliography**

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"Here and There," *The Perry County News*, 13 May 1937.

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National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 10 Page 1

Acreage of property: Approximately 60

## UTM References:

A)	15/516230/3858800	B)	15/516700/3858800
C)	15/516690/3858540	D)	15/516380/3858540
E)	15/516405/3858105	F)	15/516050/3858205
G)	15/516140/3858580		

## Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the eastern edge of Forest Service Rd. #152 (FS 152) with a perpendicular line that leaves FS 152 at the northern edge of the original Caretaker's Building driveway, running parallel to and 110 feet north of the northern elevation of the Caretaker's Building [#1], proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 1,460 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to and 100 feet east of the eastern elevation of Cabin #19; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 740 feet; thence turn southwesterly and proceed along the original southeast camp boundary for a distance of 135 feet to the intersection with the northern edge of the ravine above Narrow Creek; thence proceed westerly, and then turn southerly, along the rim of said ravine to the northern end of the dam [#49]; continue southerly along the eastern elevation of both the dam and then the circular lookout [#52] to the south of the dam to a point formed by the intersection of said line with a roughly perpendicular line running along the southern edge of said circular lookout; thence proceed around Lake Sylvia itself, following the low-water mark; first westerly, then southwesterly, then southerly, then westerly and then northeasterly to a point on the lakeshore 75 feet south of the southern edge of the foundations of the Swim Crib [#40]; thence proceed westerly for a distance of 85 feet, then turn northwesterly, running parallel to and 45 feet southwest of the southwest elevation of Cabin #39 to a point formed by the intersection of said line with the eastern edge of FS 152; thence proceed northerly along said edge for a distance of 800 feet to the point of beginning.

## Boundary Justification:

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE &amp; COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Perry

DATE RECEIVED: 11/05/90 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/20/90  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/06/90 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/20/90  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001826

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: Y LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: Y SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

 ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 12/18/90 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

The justification under criterion D is weak. Please identify what types of data would be used to reveal further information about the Girl Scouts & their various recreational, social, educational and athletic activities. Please elaborate on how learning about these activities could be of interest to Girl Scout policy.

RECOM./CRITERIA Return  
REVIEWER Knoul  
DISCIPLINE 12/18/90  
DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count      \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic      \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period      Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates      Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

- \_\_\_summary paragraph
- \_\_\_completeness
- \_\_\_clarity
- \_\_\_applicable criteria
- \_\_\_justification of areas checked
- \_\_\_relating significance to the resource
- \_\_\_context
- \_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance
- \_\_\_justification of exception
- \_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage      \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs      \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps    \_\_\_USGS maps    \_\_\_photographs    \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Reply To: 2360

Date: September 11, 1990

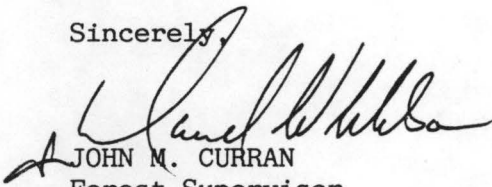
Subject: National Register Nomination for Camp Ouachita

To: Regional Forester  
ATTN: Regional Archeologist

Attached is the completed original National Register nomination for Camp Ouachita, a CCC constructed facility on the Winona Ranger District. This camp was originally constructed for the Ouachita Council of Girl Scouts and was the first Girl Scout Camp in Arkansas. The enclosed nomination was prepared by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program as part of our challenge-cost share agreement with them.

We request that this nomination be forwarded to the Washington Office in order that it be submitted to the Keeper of the National Register.

Sincerely,



JOHN M. CURRAN  
Forest Supervisor

Enclosure

cc: District Ranger, Winona District

SEP 14



Reply To: 2360

Date: October 1, 1990

Subject: National Register Nomination Camp Ouachita

To: Chief

Enclosed is a nomination for Camp Ouachita, a CCC-constructed facility on the Winona Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest. If this meets your approval, please forward to the National Register of Historic Places.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bud Braddock".

L. W. BRADDOCK  
Director of Recreation







United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Washington  
Office

12th & Independence SW  
P.O. Box 96090  
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

Reply To: 2360

Date: OCT 25 1990

NOV 05 1990

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

Carol Shull, Chief of Registration  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 37127  
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

Dear Ms. Shull:

The enclosed National Register nomination for the Camp Quachita Girl Scout  
Camp Historic District, Quachita National Forest, Perry, Arkansas, is being  
submitted for your review and consideration for listing on the National  
Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,

EVAN I. DEBLOIS  
Preservation Officer, Recreation, Cultural  
Resources, and Wilderness Management

Enclosures (3) w/54 photographs



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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NATIONAL REGISTER

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Forest Service Road #152  not for publication N/A  
city, town Paron  vicinity  
state Arkansas code AR county Perry code AR 105 zip code 72122

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>37</u>	_____ buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>6</u>	_____ sites
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	_____ objects
		<u>50</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-42 Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.  
Evan J. DiBlasio 10-17-90  
Signature of certifying official Date  
USDA Forest Service  
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.  
Cathy St. Bernard 9-4-90  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this 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): \_\_\_\_\_  
John Savage 2/3/92  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor

Recreation

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Sandstone

walls Stone/Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Wood/log

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See continuation sheet



United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation SheetSection number 7 Page 1**SUMMARY**

The contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps between 1936 and 1938 under the supervision of Works Progress Administration (WPA) engineers. These resources were all designed in the Rustic style, an aesthetic so popular among public works projects during the Great Depression that has since become virtually identified with that era. These resources fall into seven distinct building types: administration buildings (7); unithouses (4); bathhouses (4); cabins (22); utility and engineering structures (4); foundations (6); and landscape features (3), for a total of fifty distinct contributing resources. Also included are various trails, steps and rock walls.

**ELABORATION**

The contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District were constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (under the supervision of Works Progress Administration engineers) between 1936 and 1938. The extant structures, with the sole exception of the concrete dam and three other utility buildings, were of stone masonry and wood construction and designed in the Rustic style, an aesthetic that became popular for public works projects during the 1930's. They were erected in a semi-circle around the northern end of Lake Sylvia, a man-made lake created through the erection of a dam on Narrow Creek.

The buildings were divided into five distinct clusters: an administration area and four campsites. The campsites were called Echo Valley, Cliff Top, Tall Timbers and Lakeview. A campsite on the eastern side of the lake called Atihcauo (Ouachita spelled backwards), which included only a screened pavilion and tenting areas, was added in 1959 and is not included in the nomination.

The contributing resources fall into seven distinct building types: administration buildings (7); unithouses (4); bathhouses (4); cabins (22); utility and engineering structures (4); foundations (6); and landscape features (3), for a total of fifty distinct contributing resources. Also included are various trails, steps and rock walls.

All the resources listed below are contributing; the only non-contributing resource within the district boundary is the later swimming dock at the southern end of the lake. The numbers in brackets refer to the numbered structures on the accompanying sketch map.

**Administration Buildings**

*Ogden Hall (a.k.a. Great Hall) [#6]*

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Ogden Hall is a two-story, stone masonry and wood mess hall and function building. Its spreading stone masonry walls rise from the ground and are accented by the twin stone chimneys at either end of the auditorium itself. The plan is irregular, as the kitchen and other office space extends from the north side of the auditorium and an open, screened porch runs almost the full length of the auditorium's southern elevation. Its intersecting gable roof is covered with asphalt shingles and ornamented with decorative round, log brackets and exposed log purlins at the gable ends.

It was designed by Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio, architects, of Little Rock and is the only building in the district known to have been designed by an architect.

### *Storage Building* [#2]

The Storage Building is a single story, stone masonry building. It features a double-pen plan, a continuous stone foundation and the remnants of a wood gable roof.

### *Caretaker's Building* [#1]

The Caretaker's Building is a single story, stone masonry building. Its plan is rectangular. It is fenestrated throughout with six-over-six wood sash windows. Three fieldstone chimneys rise through the roof on the eastern side of the building. Its fieldstone foundation and walls are covered with a hipped roof of irregular shape.

### *Infirmary* [#3]

The Infirmary is a single story, stone masonry building with a Latin cross plan and an intersecting gable roof. It is fenestrated throughout with one-over-one stationary wood windows. Its fieldstone walls are supported by a continuous fieldstone foundation.

### *Shop Building* [#4]

The Shop Building is a single story, stone masonry building. Its plan is composed of one closed pen to the south and another attached pen to the north that is open on its western elevation. The continuous fieldstone foundation and fieldstone walls are covered with the remnants of a wood frame gable roof.

### *Staff Buildings #1 and #2* [#7 and #8]

The two Staff Buildings are both quite similar, each being a single story, stone masonry building with a wood frame and log gable roof that projects over the front facade and is

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supported on large, log posts. Log trusses are used beneath the gable roof on the porch, and the front elevation below is relieved only by a central entrance. Both are lighted by one-over-one stationary wood windows. Their continuous fieldstone foundations and fieldstone walls are covered with a composition shingle roof.

**Unithouses**

The four Unithouses [#11, #26, #27 and #37] served each of the four campsite clusters and were used for campsite meeting, functions, and other group activities within the campsite. All four are identical: each is rectangular in plan and entered through a central single-leaf door in three of its elevations with an exterior chimney placed in the center of one of the long sides. Each entry is flanked with a large window to either side. They are of stone masonry construction and covered with a composition shingle gable roof the gable ends of which are filled with board-and-batten.

**Bathhouses**

Three of the four Bathhouses [#10, #12 and #34] are identical, with the fourth [#8] being a smaller building due to its being intended for use solely by the Director of the camp. The other three (there was originally another of this type in the Echo Valley campsite; it has since been destroyed and hence is now considered a foundation) were designed for use by the entire campsite. They are single story, stone masonry buildings, similar in plan to the Staff Buildings seen above in that a wood frame and log gable roof extends out over the stone walls to form a front porch supported on log posts and a raised stone platform accessed by stone steps. Log trusses support the porch roof deck. The stone section is divided into lavatory and shower stalls.

The smaller Bathhouse is also a single story in height, of stone masonry construction and covered with a gable roof. It is sited adjacent to the Director's Cabin.

**Cabins**

The twenty-one of the twenty-two extant Cabins [#13, #14, #15, #16, #17, #18, #19, #20, #21, #24, #28, #29, #30, #31, #32, #35, #36, #38, #39, #41 and #42] are identical, with the sole exception being the Director's Cabin [#9], which was constructed as an enclosed year-round residence with a fireplace and chimney. Each of the other twenty-one cabins (called "tent platforms" on the accompanying sketch map) is a single story, stone masonry, screened shelter with a wood frame and log gable roof that projects out over the front elevation, forming a front porch. The porch roof is supported by log posts resting on a raised stone platform; the posts are connected by a log balustrade composed of logs set in a diamond-shaped decorative pattern between horizontal log rails. The porch is accessed from the side

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Continuation Sheet

7

4

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via stone steps and features log trusses in the roof. The single pen inside the stone walls is unornamented and consists only of a stone floor, the screened walls and the roof. Some of the cabins are named, the name plate appearing above the front door.

### Structures

The Structures include the original concrete dam [#49] (fifty feet in height) at the northern end of Lake Sylvia, the two square, concrete water tanks [#47 and #48] located on a rise above the lake near the Director's Cabin and the stone masonry pumphouse [#50] located near the northern edge of the lake, below the water tanks.

### Landscape Features

Landscape Features include two round, stone lookouts [#51 and #52] located on the side of the rock outcroppings above each end of the dam and the lake itself [#53]; also included are an elaborate set of stone steps and rock walls directly behind the former site of the Boathouse and Swim Crib at the northwest corner of the lake, the original roads leading into Camp Ouachita from Forest Service Road #152 and the network of trails running throughout the camp that include a variety of stone steps.

### Foundations

The Foundations include the remains of six demolished structures: two cabins [#23 and #25] and one bathhouse [#22] in the Echo Valley campsite, a Crafts building [#33] near the administration area, and the Swim Crib and Boathouse [#40 and #46] at the northwest corner of the lake.

Most of the extant structures within the district are in good condition. A few have lost their original roof decking, with some having only a few of the log rafters remaining in place, but all that are standing retain sufficient integrity to contribute to the historic significance of the district.



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**8. Statement of Significance**  
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Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Locally\_\_\_\_\_.

Applicable National Register Criteria: A,C\_\_\_\_\_

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions): \_\_\_\_\_

Areas of Significance: Entertainment/Recreation\_\_\_\_\_  
Social History\_\_\_\_\_  
Architecture\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period(s) of Significance: 1937-1940 \_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person(s): N/A\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation: N/A\_\_\_\_\_

Architect/Builder: Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio/\_\_\_\_\_  
Civilain Conservation Corps\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.  
X See continuation sheet.



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National Park Service

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### Summary

Criteria A and C, local significance

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District is significant by virtue of its associations with both the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Camp Thornburg, located just to the north of Lake Sylvania, and with the Girl Scouts of America, the organization for young girls that formed in the early twentieth-century and quickly became popular across the United States. Its contributing resources are also significant by virtue of their being outstanding and largely intact examples of the Rustic architectural style that was common to CCC construction projects throughout the United States. As such, this district relates to the historic context "Recreational Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942" (See Section E, I.).

### Elaboration

The organization that we know today as the Girl Scouts of America was founded in Savannah, Georgia in 1912 by Ms. Juliette Gordon Low. She had met the founder of the Boy Scouts, Sir Robert Baden-Powell, during a visit to England the year before and was inspired by his vision of an organization that would teach young people certain basic skills of self-sufficiency and service that had been lacking in the troops he commanded as a British officer in India. Ms. Low started the fledgling Girl Scouts on a strictly local basis initially, though the idea of a national organization spread soon thereafter and the need for national leadership was obvious. Remarkably, the Girl Scouts' membership swelled almost immediately: in 1913, the number of Girl Scouts in Massachusetts alone grew from 800 to 5,000 within six months. Growth did not diminish during the years of World War I, and by 1920 American Girl Scout membership totaled over 50,000.

The prosperous years of the 1920's brought growth also in the programs and goals of the Girl Scouts. The first Girl Scout camp, Camp Andree, was established at Briarcliff Manor, New York in 1922. It was located on 135 acres of rolling, wooded land, complete with both a lake and a brook. This type of rural, forested location would become the model for such later Girl Scout camps as Camp Ouachita.

Surprisingly, the onset of the Great Depression did nothing but increase the membership and activities of the Girl Scouts, and social programs in particular. The national organization's Five Year Plan, begun in 1929, had spelled out specific goals for the growth and expansion of the Girl Scouts; however, in the face of such daunting national hardships as feeding the hungry and keeping the unemployed alive, such organizations found their broader relevance difficult to

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justify. As one chronicler of the Girl Scouts stated, "Social service organizations with character development as their objective looked like a needless luxury to many people who had formerly supported them." (Mockler, p. 56). The Girl Scouts responded to the challenge with vigor. Used clothing drives, community fruit and canning projects, and preparing hot meals for poor and undernourished children were among the initiatives seized by the Scouts to remedy the pervasive problems of the day while maintaining the credibility of the organization. At the same time, a recognition of the obligation to recognize the needs of physically handicapped girls resulted in Extension Scouting; in 1931, one member of each Regional Committee that attended the annual convention was charged with expanding the number of handicapped members in that region. These efforts resulted in a seventy per cent increase in handicapped troops by the end of that year. By 1932, the total national membership had climbed to 295,940.

The year 1933 saw the opening and operation of more Girl Scout camps than ever before. Camping continued to grow through 1934 into 1935, when a new attendance record was set with over 110,000 girls attending camps across the nation. The recognition in that year of a forty per cent annual turnover rate in first-year Scouts resulted in a study that recommended, among other things, a concerted expansion of the activities made available to Scouts of all ages, including camping activities. Such creative pursuits as choral speaking, poetry and sketching supplemented such more traditional Scouting activities as nature study, sailing, crafts, woodsmanship, group music and various kinds of dance. These were included within structured camping trips each of which was tailored to the particular part of the country in which the particular troop would camp. Particularly popular were backpacking trips, planned with the help of the Forest Service and designed for several of the National Forests around the United States.

It was early in 1935 that Mrs. M.D. Ogden, representing the Little Rock Council of the Girl Scouts approached A.W. Hartman, Forest Supervisor of the Ouachita National Forest regarding the selection of a location in the forest to build a Girl Scout camp. The Little Rock Council had been organized since 1928 and had been using the Boy Scouts camp at Camp Quapaw (Saline County) periodically; however, Girl Scouts around the state (there were 22 Arkansas troops by 1935) had long dreamed of having their own camp. Hartman responded that he would issue a special use permit if a suitable location could be found. By April, the site known as the "Narrows," near Thornburg, was identified as an ideal location, as a dam at the northern end of Narrow Creek would create a medium-sized lake of approximately twenty acres. Negotiations over funding continued from May until September, during which time the Arkansas office of the Works Progress Administration denied the Girl Scouts' request for funding to construct the camp. In September, Perry County Judge Oscar Brazil agreed to sponsor the camp construction, and the special use permit was issued to him.

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National Park Service

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Plans for the dam were not approved until February of 1936, amid further negotiation regarding the annual fee the Forest Service would charge to the Girl Scouts for the use of the site. This issue was settled to the satisfaction of all, however, and construction began in April. The dam was completed the following month, and though there is some confusion over the completion date for the fieldstone buildings, it appears as if they were completed by 1938, as a newspaper article in the Perry County News dated June 16 of that year mentions a barbecue to be held at the "Girl Scout Camp south of Thornburg." R.C. Limerick, WPA Engineering Supervisor, and D.B. Cutler, District Director, directed the construction.

Another of the recommendations of the afore-mentioned study was that Scouts be divided into age groups of 8-9, 10-12, 12-14 and 14-18, with different types of activities tailored to the typical interests of each age bracket. This organization is reflected in the layout of the camp: the Lakeview campsite housed the youngest Scouts (also known as Brownies), Echo Valley hosted the next oldest group, Cliff Top the next and Tall Timbers the oldest, or the Senior Girl Scouts. The Great Hall was the site for a number of the musical, dramatic and social events, as well as serving as the mess hall; yet the unit houses at each campsite also sheltered a number of social gatherings. Nature talks, duty assignments, games and mail deliveries were just a few of the events shared by the Scouts within each separate campsite. The bathhouse at each site also concentrated a significant portion of daily life within the campsite and among one's own peers.

Other activities at Camp Ouachita centered on Lake Sylvia: swimming, canoeing and diving. The trails running through the Camp were frequently used for nature walks as well as access routes to other trails outside the camp for backpacking trips.

The various contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District are all associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps, the public works organization that constructed them. Their design is typical of such projects executed by the CCC in Arkansas and as an ensemble they survive as one of the best examples of a CCC-constructed camp in the state, and certainly the best example within the local area. These structures are also excellent examples of the Rustic style made popular by the CCC and other public works agencies during the 1930's; they are noteworthy both for their individual design and integrity but also as a remarkably intact group.

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**9. Major Bibliographical References**

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X See continuation sheet.

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 -- Specify Repository: Ouachita National Forest - USFS

=====

**10. Geographical Data**

=====

Acreage of Property: \_\_\_\_\_

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing      Zone Easting Northing

A	__	_____	_____	B	__	_____	_____
C	__	_____	_____	D	__	_____	_____

X See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: X See continuation sheet.

Boundary Justification: X See continuation sheet.

=====

**11. Form Prepared By**

=====

Name/Title: Kenneth Story, Architectural Historian

Organization: Arkansas Historic Preservation Program Date: December 5, 1991

Street & Number: 225 E. Markham, Suite 300 Telephone: (501) 324-9346

City or Town: Little Rock State: AR ZIP: 72201



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National Park Service

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Continuation Sheet

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**Bibliography**

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- "Here and There," *The Perry County News*, 13 May 1937.
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National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

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**Acreeage of property:** Approximately 60

**UTM References:**

- |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| A) 15/516230/3858800 | B) 15/516700/3858800 |
| C) 15/516690/3858540 | D) 15/516380/3858540 |
| E) 15/516405/3858105 | F) 15/516050/3858205 |
| G) 15/516140/3858580 |                      |

**Verbal Boundary Description:**

Beginning at a point formed by the intersection of the eastern edge of Forest Service Rd. #152 (FS 152) with a perpendicular line that leaves FS 152 at the northern edge of the original Caretaker's Building driveway, running parallel to and 110 feet north of the northern elevation of the Caretaker's Building [#1], proceed easterly along said line for a distance of 1,460 feet to a point formed by its intersection with a perpendicular line running parallel to and 100 feet east of the eastern elevation of Cabin #19; thence proceed southerly along said line for a distance of 740 feet; thence turn southwesterly and proceed along the original southeast camp boundary for a distance of 135 feet to the intersection with the northern edge of the ravine above Narrow Creek; thence proceed westerly, and then turn southerly, along the rim of said ravine to the northern end of the dam [#49]; continue southerly along the eastern elevation of both the dam and then the circular lookout [#52] to the south of the dam to a point formed by the intersection of said line with a roughly perpendicular line running along the southern edge of said circular lookout; thence proceed around Lake Sylvia itself, following the low-water mark; first westerly, then southwesterly, then southerly, then westerly and then northeasterly to a point on the lakeshore 75 feet south of the southern edge of the foundations of the Swim Crib [#40]; thence proceed westerly for a distance of 85 feet, then turn northwesterly, running parallel to and 45 feet southwest of the southwest elevation of Cabin #39 to a point formed by the intersection of said line with the eastern edge of FS 152; thence proceed northerly along said edge for a distance of 800 feet to the point of beginning.

**Boundary Justification:**

This boundary includes all the property historically associated with this resource.

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National Park Service

11/20/90

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

Facilities Constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Arkansas, 1933-1942 MPS

Date Listed

COVER

~~Substantive Review~~

Quay Federman 1/3/91

1. Lake Leatherwood Recreational Facilities

2. Leatherwood Dam

~~Substantive Review~~

3. Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
(Fed owned)

2/3/92

4. Devil's Den State Park Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

Ret.

Conway Co added to each name PETIT JEAN STATE PARK

5. Administration Office

5/28/92

6. Blue Hole Road District

5/28/92

7. Cabin No. 1

5/28/92

8. Cabin No. 16

5/28/92

9. Cabin No. 6

5/28/92

10. Cabin No. 9

5/28/92

11. Cedar Falls Trail Historic District

5/28/92

12. Concrete Log Bridge

5/28/92

13. Culvert No. 1

5/28/92

14. Lake Bailey--Roosevelt Lake Historic District

~~Substantive Review~~

5/28/92

15. Mather Lodge

5/28/92

16. Office Headquarters

5/28/92

17. Water Treatment Building

5/28/92

Greene Co POWELL'S RIDGE STATE PARK

18. Amphitheater

~~Substantive Review~~

Ret.

19. Bathhouse

5/28/92



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Perry

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/91      DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY:      DATE OF 45TH DAY: 2/03/92  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001826

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT     RETURN     REJECT    2/3/92 DATE BLS

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

Check to  
see H  
TS

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/ADC  
REVIEWER Harper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 2/3/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments (Y) N see attached SLR Y/N



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Perry

DATE RECEIVED: 12/20/91

DATE OF PENDING LIST:

DATE OF 16TH DAY:

DATE OF 45TH DAY:

2/03/92

DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001826

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

DETAILED EVALUATION: Y

ACCEPT

RETURN

REJECT

2/3/92

DATE BLS

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

See attached comments

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept/ADC  
REVIEWER Harper  
DISCIPLINE Historian  
DATE 2/3/92

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments (Y) N see attached SLR Y/N

CLASSIFICATION

\_\_\_count \_\_\_resource type

STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

FUNCTION

\_\_\_historic \_\_\_current

DESCRIPTION

\_\_\_architectural classification  
\_\_\_materials  
\_\_\_descriptive text

SIGNIFICANCE

Period Areas of Significance--Check and justify below

Specific dates Builder/Architect  
Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

\_\_\_summary paragraph  
\_\_\_completeness  
\_\_\_clarity  
\_\_\_applicable criteria  
\_\_\_justification of areas checked  
\_\_\_relating significance to the resource  
\_\_\_context  
\_\_\_relationship of integrity to significance  
\_\_\_justification of exception  
\_\_\_other

BIBLIOGRAPHY

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

\_\_\_acreage \_\_\_verbal boundary description  
\_\_\_UTMs \_\_\_boundary justification

ACCOMPANYING DOCUMENTATION/PRESENTATION

\_\_\_sketch maps \_\_\_USGS maps \_\_\_photographs \_\_\_presentation

OTHER COMMENTS

Questions concerning this nomination may be directed to

Phone

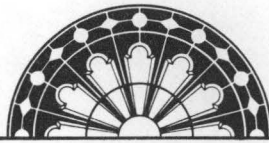
Signed Date

**Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
Perry County, ARKANSAS**

This complex of recreational buildings, sites, and structures is historically important for its association with the Civilian Conservation Corps, which built it, and with the Girl Scouts of America, for whom it was built. Both organizations played important roles in Arkansas during the Depression years of the 1930s. The buildings are also architecturally significant as outstanding and largely intact examples of the rustic style of stone structure which has come to be closely identified with the CCC.

The issues raised in the earlier return have been adequately addressed.

Marilyn M. Harper  
Historian  
2/3/92



ARKANSAS  
HISTORIC  
PRESERVATION  
PROGRAM

RECEIVED

DEC 20 1991

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

December 5, 1991

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1100 "L" Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20240

RE: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
Paron vic., Perry County, Arkansas

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing for your review the nomination of the above referenced property. The Arkansas Historic Preservation Program has complied with all applicable nominating procedures and notification requirements in the nomination process.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathy Buford  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CB:kg

Enclosures









CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST OF CARETAKER'S HOUSE

#1





CAMP OUAHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT  
MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST OF ~~OGDEN HALL~~ CARETAKER'S BUILDING

# 1





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST OF STORAGE BUILDING

#2

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VII, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INFIRMARY FROM EAST

# 3





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH OF INFIRMARY BUILDING

#3





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST OF SHOP BUILDING

# 4

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

OVERVIEW OF CAMP WITH SHOP BUILDING IN  
FOREGROUND AND STAFF BUILDING #2 IN BACKGROUND

#4 & #5





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF STAFF BUILDING #2 FROM EAST

# 5

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF OGDEN HALL (#6) FROM NORTHEAST







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PARON vic., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT  
MARCH, 1890

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP  
VIEW FROM EAST OF OGDEN HALL  
#6

NOV 5 1990



CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT  
PARON VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST OF OGDEN HALL

#6





CAMP OUACHITA AREA SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARDON vic., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF INTERIOR SCREENED PORCH OF OGDEN HALL  
#6





NEW YORK



CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON vic., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTH OF OGDEN HALL

#6



CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON vic., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF ROOF TRUSSES OF OGDEN HALL

#6





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST OF OGDEN HALL

# 6







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

INTERIOR VIEW OF OGDEN HALL SHOWING FIREPLACE

# 6



CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

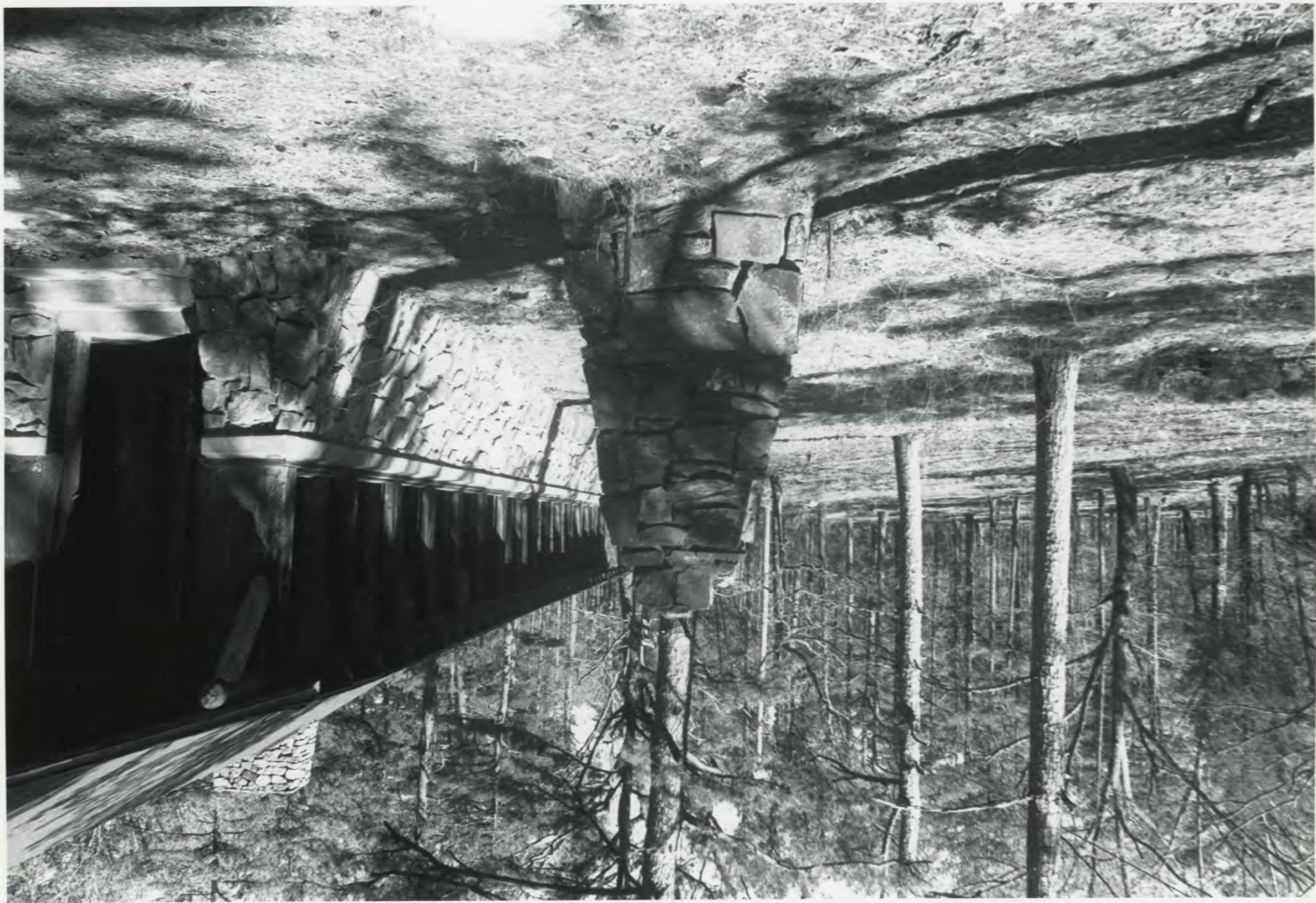
MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH OF OGDEN HALL

#6





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

OVERVIEW OF CAMP SHOWING SOUTHERN SCREENED

PORCH OF OGDEN HALL + STONE PIER ADJACENT; VIEW FROM SOUTHEAST

# 6







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM WEST OF STAFF BUILDING # 1

# 7





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF STAFF BLDG. #1 FROM NORTH

#7







CAMP QUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST OF DIRECTOR'S CABIN BATHHOUSE

# 8

NOV 5 1990







CAMP OUAHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST OF UNITHOUSE

# 11







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST OF UNITHOUSE

#11





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

BATHHOUSE WINDOW DETAIL

# 34

NOV 5 1990







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF PORCH TRUSSES

#34





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF BATHHOUSE FROM NORTHEAST

# 34

NOV 5 1990





CAMP DUCHEITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF BATHHOUSE FROM SOUTHWEST

# 34





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CABIN FROM NORTHWEST

#35





CAMP DUNHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CABIN FROM SOUTHWEST

# 35





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

OVERVIEW OF "LAKEVIEW" CLUSTER SHOWING

CABIN (#35) IN FOREGROUND AND UNITHOUSE

(#37) IN BACKGROUND





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1980

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF UNITHOUSE FROM NORTHEAST

#37





CAMP DUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

UNIT HOUSE CHIMNEY DETAIL

#37





CAMP DUARENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CABIN FROM NORTHEAST

# 39

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF CABIN FROM SOUTHWEST

# 39

NOV 5 1990



BARBARA

Ellen  
Lester

Lester



CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

DETAIL OF ORIGINAL WOOD CABIN NAMEPLATE

#39





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM EAST OF CABIN FLOOR STONEMWORK

# 39

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

OVERVIEW OF SWIM CRIB <sup>AND</sup> BOAT HOUSE FOUNDATIONS,  
AND STONE RETAINING WALL

#'S 40 & 46







CAMP OVAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTH OF STONE SWIM CRIB FOUNDATIONS AND LAKE SYLVIA

# 40 + 53





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC, ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST OF STONE STEPS, RETAINING WALL  
AND FOUNDATION PIERS OF DEMOLISHED BOAT HOUSE

# 46

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON vic., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

OVERVIEW OF CAMP FROM SOUTHWEST SHOWING

BOAT HOUSE FOUNDATIONS (# 46) IN FOREGROUND

AND PUMPHOUSE (# 50) IN BACKGROUND





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHWEST OF CONCRETE WATER TANK

# 47





CAMP OUAREHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM NORTHEAST OF DAM

# 49





CAMP OUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT ANPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST OF PUMPHOUSE

#50

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

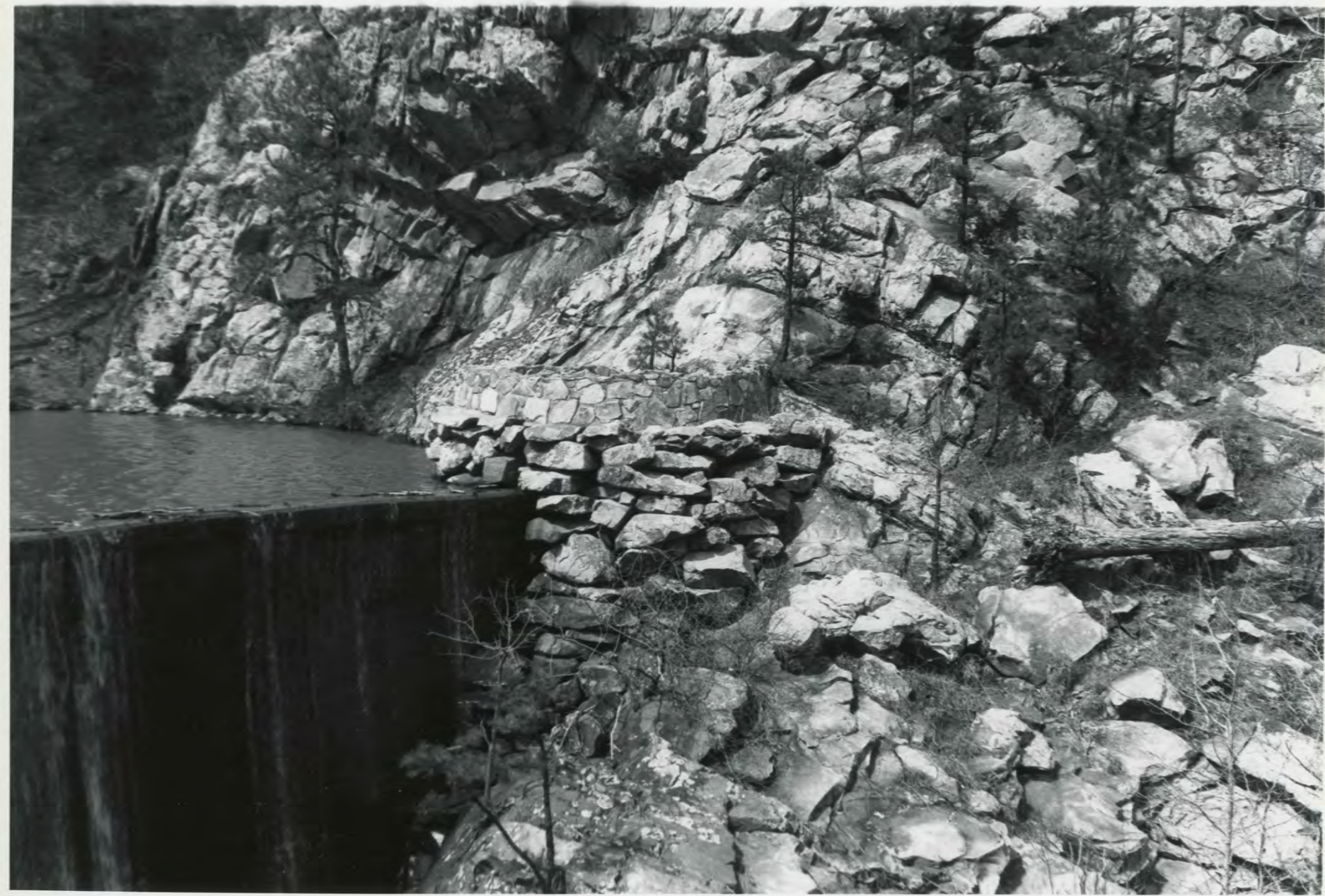
MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF PUMPHOUSE FROM WEST

# 50

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF LOOKOUT FROM SOUTH

# 51





CAMP DUNCANITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST OF STONE LOOKOUT

# 52





CAMP OUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

RETAINING WALL BEHIND SWIM CRIB;  
VIEW FROM EAST

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF TRAIL STEPS AND STONE WALLS







CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF TRAIL CONSTRUCTION

NOV 5 1990





CAMP DUCHENITA HISTORIC ~~DISTRICT~~ GIRL SCOUT CAMP

HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF TRAIL STEPS

NOV 5 1990





CAMP OUAENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARDON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF STONE RETAINING WALL

NOV 5 1990





CAMP QUARNITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

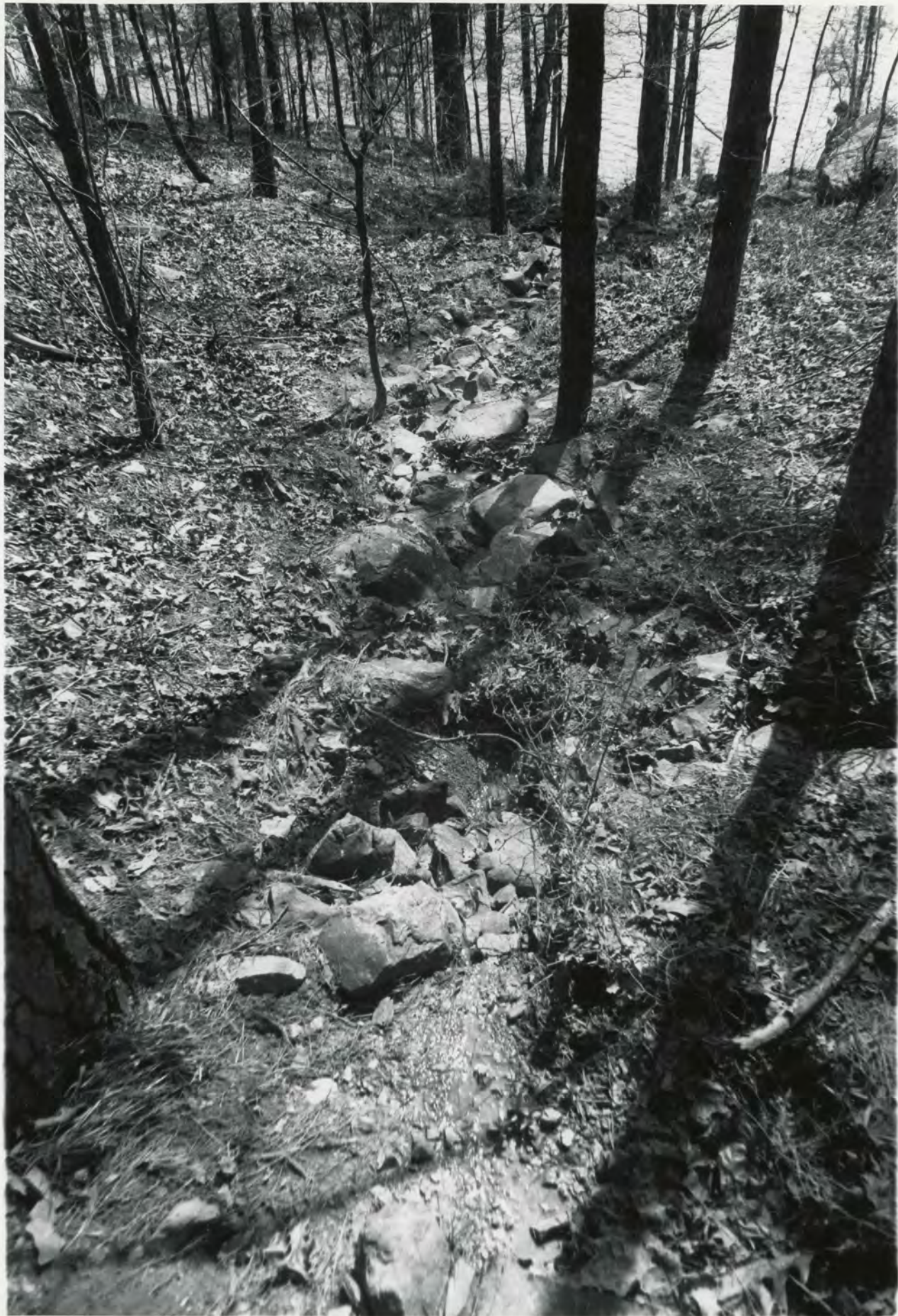
MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF STONE STEPS

NOV 5 1990







CAMP OUARENITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHER BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

VIEW OF TRAIL CONSTRUCTION





CAMP OUACHITA GIRL SCOUT CAMP HISTORIC DISTRICT

PARON VIC., ARKANSAS

PHOTOGRAPHED BY A. ALBRIGHT

MARCH, 1990

NEGATIVE ON FILE AT AHPP

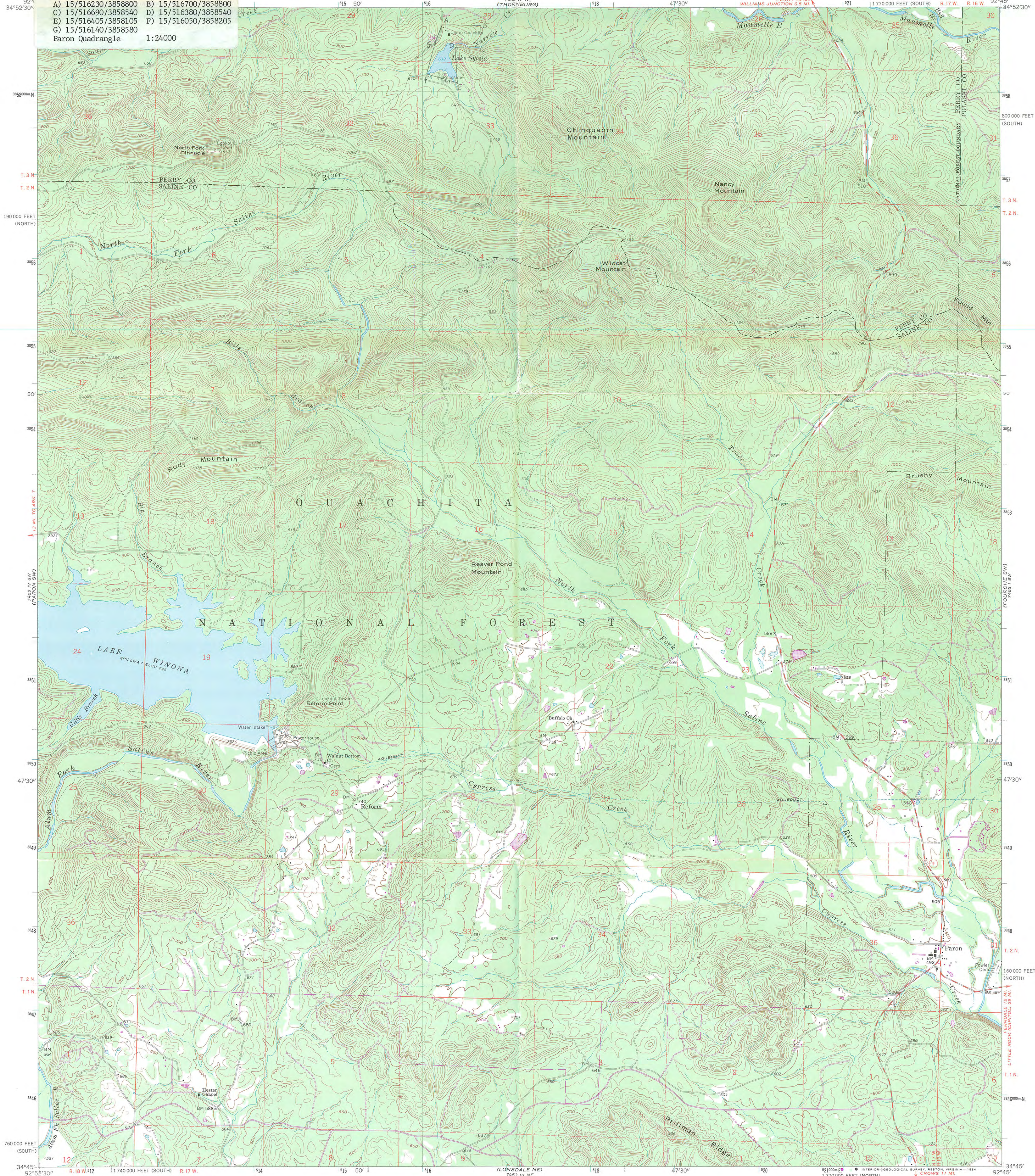
DETAIL OF RETAINING WALL BEHIND BOAT HOUSE

NOV 5 1990

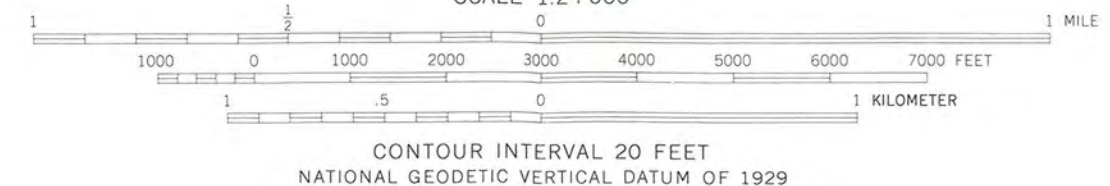
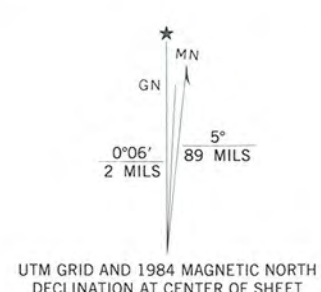


Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp  
 Historic District  
 Paron vic., Arkansas  
 Perry County  
 A) 15/516230/3858800 B) 15/516700/3858800  
 C) 15/516690/3858540 D) 15/516380/3858540  
 E) 15/516405/3858105 F) 15/516050/3858205  
 G) 15/516140/3858580  
 Paron Quadrangle 1:24000

PARON QUADRANGLE  
 ARKANSAS  
 7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
 Control by USGS and USC&GS  
 Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
 photographs taken 1960. Field checked 1963  
 Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
 10,000-foot grids based on Arkansas coordinate system,  
 south and north zones  
 1000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
 zone 15, shown in blue  
 To place on the predicted North American Datum 1983,  
 move the projection lines 7 meters south and  
 15 meters east as shown by dashed corner ticks  
 There may be private inholdings within the boundaries of  
 the National or State reservations shown on this map



ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
 Medium-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
 Unimproved dirt =-----  
 State Route ○

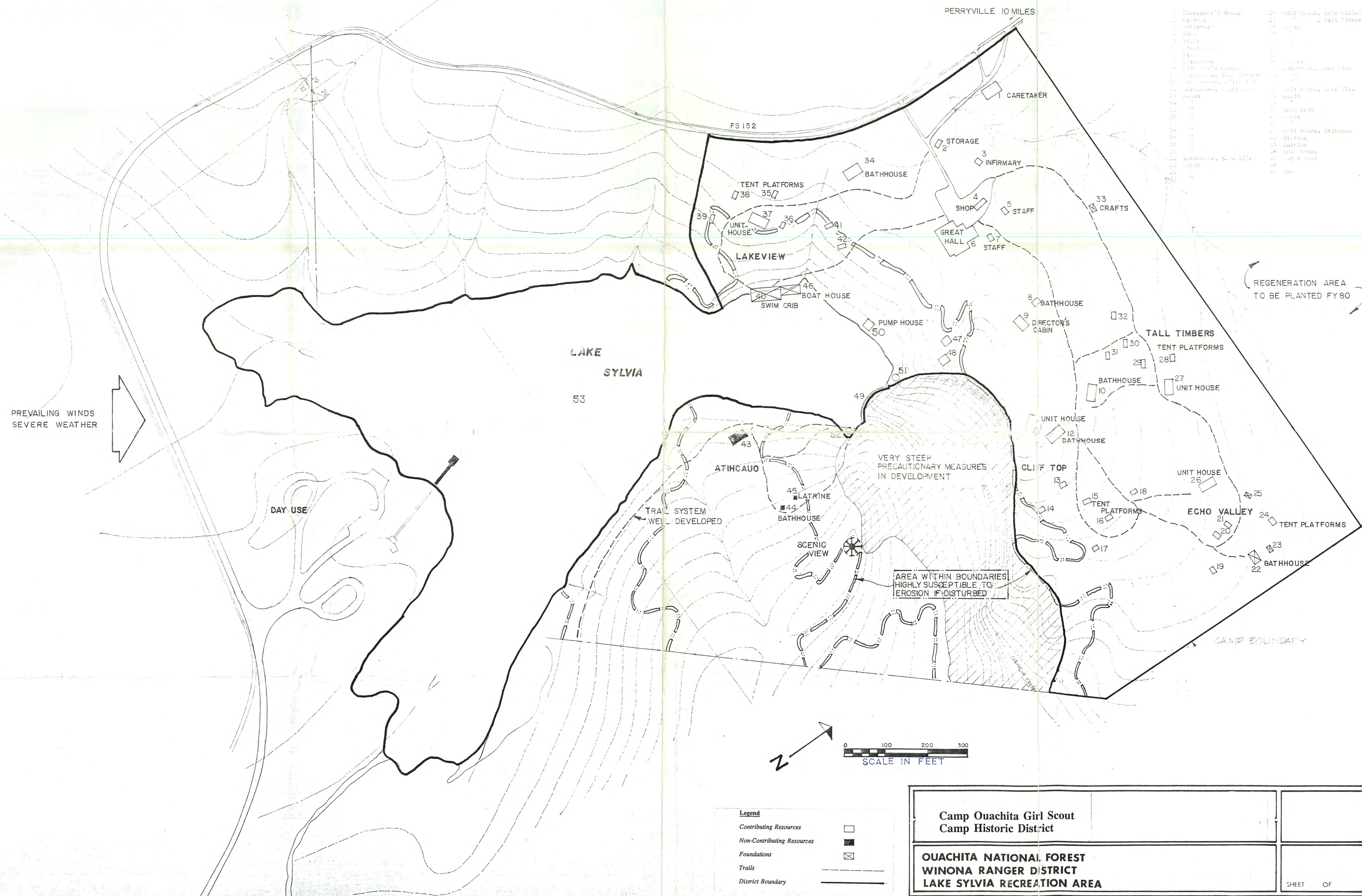
THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
 FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, DENVER, COLORADO 80225 OR RESTON, VIRGINIA 22092  
 AND ARKANSAS GEOLOGICAL COMMISSION, LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS 72204  
 A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

Revisions shown in purple compiled from aerial  
 photographs taken 1982 and other sources  
 This information not field checked. Map edited 1984

PARON, ARK.  
 34092-G7-TF-024  
 1963  
 PHOTOREVISED 1984  
 DMA 7453 IV SE - SERIES V884



- 1 Caretaker's House
- 2 Storage
- 3 Infirmary
- 4 Shop
- 5 Staff
- 6 Great Hall
- 7 Staff
- 8 Bathhouse
- 9 Director's Cabin
- 10 Bathhouse
- 11 Unit House
- 12 Bathhouse
- 13 Cliff Top
- 14 Tent Platforms
- 15 Tent Platforms
- 16 Tent Platforms
- 17 Tent Platforms
- 18 Bathhouse
- 19 Bathhouse
- 20 Unit House
- 21 Unit House
- 22 Bathhouse
- 23 Bathhouse
- 24 Tent Platforms
- 25 Tent Platforms
- 26 Unit House
- 27 Unit House
- 28 Tent Platforms
- 29 Bathhouse
- 30 Bathhouse
- 31 Bathhouse
- 32 Bathhouse
- 33 Crafts
- 34 Bathhouse
- 35 Tent Platforms
- 36 Tent Platforms
- 37 Unit House
- 38 Tent Platforms
- 39 Unit House
- 40 Swim Crib
- 41 Boat House
- 42 Boat House
- 43 Latrine
- 44 Bathhouse
- 45 Bathhouse
- 46 Boat House
- 47 Pump House
- 48 Pump House
- 49 Pump House
- 50 Pump House
- 51 Pump House



**Legend**

Contributing Resources

Non-Contributing Resources

Foundations

Trails

District Boundary

<b>Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District</b>	
<b>OUACHITA NATIONAL FOREST WINONA RANGER DISTRICT LAKE SYLVIA RECREATION AREA</b>	
SHEET	OF



90001826

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

Sub  
Rev  
Req



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 *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 Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District (Additional Documentation)  
other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number Forest Service Road #152  not for publication  
city or town Paron  vicinity  
State Arkansas code AR county Perry code 105 zip code 72122

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.)

[Signature] 7/2/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Forest Supervisor, Ouachita National Forest  
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] 6/24/02  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
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 (for)

Date of Action

Annal D. Pope

8/19/02



Name of Property

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 count.)

Table with 2 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing. Rows for buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total.

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

Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-42

Number of Contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

50

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION AND CULTURE/Outdoor Recreation

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/Not In Use

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Other: Rustic Architecture

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone/Sandstone

walls Stone/Sandstone

roof Asphalt

other Wood/Log

Narrative Description

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

Name of Property

County and State

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 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)

National

Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

Period of Significance

1936-1940

Significant Dates

1936-1940

Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked)

Cultural Affiliation (Complete if Criterion D is marked)

Architect/Builder

Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio

Civilian Conservation Corps

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 #

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
Other State Agency
Federal Agency
Local Government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Ouachita National Forest - USFS



Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp  
Historic District (Additional  
Documentation)

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Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District (Additional Documentation)

Statement of Significance

### Rationale

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places on February 3, 1992, as part of the multiple property listing *Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas, 1933-42*. At the time, it was believed that Camp Ouachita, which is located in the Ouachita National Forest in Perry County, Arkansas, had been constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) between 1936 and 1938 and that only one of its buildings, the Great Hall, was architect-designed. The Camp Ouachita Historic District was listed in the National Register under Criteria A and C, with local significance in three areas—Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation, and Social History—and a 1937-1940 period of significance.

Subsequent research revealed that all of Camp Ouachita's original buildings were designed by Thompson, Sanders, and Ginocchio, a Little Rock architectural firm, and that the camp was constructed between 1936 and 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA), with Perry County serving as the official project sponsor (to comply with federal law) while the Little Rock Girl Scout Council carried out all of the sponsor's duties. Working for the U. S. Forest Service, the CCC built the dam that created Lake Sylvia, a recreational lake adjacent to Camp Ouachita intended for use by both the Girl Scouts and the general public. Additional research also revealed that Camp Ouachita is an outstanding example of an organization camp, in both its layout and architect-designed "rustic" buildings, and that its construction by the WPA in a National Forest for a nonprofit youth organization is a significant instance of federal programs cooperating with a nonprofit to advance the cause of recreation—specifically in this case, organized camping—during the Depression.

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As a result of the new information about Camp Ouachita that has come to light, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program seeks to increase the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District's level of significance from local to national; to add one area of significance, Politics/Government; and to change the period of significance to 1936-1940.

### **Summary**

Several overlapping national trends combined to set the scene for Girl Scout Camp Ouachita's construction in the late 1930s. Primary among these were the recreation movement, increased recreational use of National Forests, and the utilization of rustic architecture in park and forest settings—all embraced and popularized during the 1930s by New Deal programs. Camp Ouachita embodies these trends so completely and successfully that it has national significance under Criteria A and C as an outstanding organization camp, architect-designed and built in a National Forest by a New Deal program for a nonprofit youth organization that was a leader in the organized camping field.

### **Elaboration**

During the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, a national movement touting the benefits of recreation—including summer or organized camping—encouraged youth organizations to provide camping facilities for their members. At the same time, recreational use of National Forests increased as automobiles made the Forests more accessible to the general public, and rustic architecture was established as the standard for construction projects in National Forests, as well as National, state, and municipal parks. Finally, the advent during the 1930s of the New Deal and its work programs made possible a vast array of projects, including construction of a number of rustic “organization camps” in both forests and parks.

### Recreation, organized camping, and the Girl Scouts

During the 19<sup>th</sup> century, outdoor recreation grew in importance as the United States became increasingly urbanized and industrialized and Americans found themselves with greater amounts of leisure time. By the latter years of the century, prosperous city residents were flocking to the



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seaside and to rustic mountain resorts, and, in the Northeast, the first summer camps for young people began operation. Camp Chocorua in New Hampshire, founded in 1881, is recognized as one of the country's earliest organized summer camps. The YMCA's first organized summer camp opened in 1885.<sup>1</sup>

Organized camping flourished in the first decades of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over 100 for-profit camps were established between 1900 and 1910, in addition to numerous camps operated by youth organizations like the YMCA and Boy Scouts.<sup>2</sup> New organizations—especially Camp Fire Girls, founded in 1910, and Girl Scouts, founded in 1912—followed suit, and by the early 1930s, approximately one million children annually participated in more than 7,000 organized camps in the United States.<sup>3</sup>

Camping flourished because its benefits were considered so numerous and important. Outdoor recreation advocates claimed that recreation was “a basic human need”<sup>4</sup> and “a necessity of civilized life.”<sup>5</sup> Specifically with regard to camping, benefits such as “enrichment of the inner life,” “understanding of basic natural phenomena,” and “developing social skills”<sup>6</sup> were emphasized. The Girl Scouts put it this way: “The basic objectives of Girl Scout camping are identical with those of the [camping] movement, the development of the girl along physical, emotional, mental, moral, and social lines, to the end that there may result not only a personally enriched individual, but also an intelligently participating citizen in a democratic social order.”<sup>7</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Deborah Dietrich-Smith, *Cultural Landscape Report: Camp Hayo-Went-Ha, State YMCA of Michigan*, unpublished master's practicum, University of Michigan, 1999, p. 10.

<sup>2</sup> Dietrich-Smith, p. 10.

<sup>3</sup> Dr. R. Alice Drought, “Problems in Camp Planning,” *Landscape Architecture* October 1932, p. 31.

<sup>4</sup> Ronnie James and Ethan Carr, “Mendocino Woodlands Recreational Demonstration Area,” National Historic Landmark Nomination (Washington, D.C.: National Park Service, 1997), p. 29.

<sup>5</sup> Frank A. Waugh, *Recreation Uses on the National Forests* (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, 1918), p. 3.

<sup>6</sup> “New Horizons for Camping,” *Recreation* May 1937, p. 74.

<sup>7</sup> Girl Scouts Inc., “Girl Scout Camping Objectives,” September 1937, 1937 File, Ouachita Girl Scout Council, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

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Among youth organizations in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, the YMCA was the leader in organized camping, operating over 1,200 camps by 1936.<sup>8</sup> However, despite a much later start, the Girl Scouts rapidly were catching up. The first Girl Scout camp was established in New York state in 1922 (thirty-seven years after the YMCA's first camp). Just six years later, there were 390 Girl Scout camps; in 1931 there were 482<sup>9</sup>; and in 1935 the number had grown to 984. (By comparison, in 1935 the Boy Scouts had 600 camps, and the Camp Fire Girls had 113.)<sup>10</sup>

In addition to being numerous, or perhaps *because* they were numerous, Girl Scout camps helped develop and popularize standards for organized camping. The National Camp Advisory Service of the Girl Scouts drew up a set of minimum physical standards which, although aimed at Girl Scout camps, were considered applicable to other camps as well. These standards covered issues such as camp size, soil conditions, water supply, and sanitation.<sup>11</sup> The Girl Scouts' commitment "to an outdoor program featuring tramping and trailing, outdoor cookery, overnight hikes, nature lore, folklore and legend, folk dancing, simple dramatics, photography, and handicraft"<sup>12</sup> played a role in moving organized camping away from an earlier emphasis on athletics. Also, the Girl Scouts adopted the "unit plan" of camp layout, helping to end the practice of patterning organized summer camps after military installations with straight lines of tents or cabins arranged in a quadrangle.<sup>13</sup>

A 1937 Girl Scout information sheet explained: "Girl Scout camps have found the unit plan, wherein a large camp group is sub-divided for the purposes of activities and living, to be the most effective medium in developing the individual girl."<sup>14</sup> Others who made a study of

<sup>8</sup> Dietrich-Smith, p. 11.

<sup>9</sup> Drought, p. 31.

<sup>10</sup> Dietrich-Smith, p. 11.

<sup>11</sup> Drought, pp. 33-34.

<sup>12</sup> Drought, p. 36.

<sup>13</sup> Drought, p. 38, and Girl Scouts Inc.

<sup>14</sup> Girl Scouts Inc.



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organized camping came to similar conclusions. In the 1920s, L. H. Weir, field secretary of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, called camp layout “city planning in miniature,”<sup>15</sup> indicating that the physical arrangement of camps affected the physical and emotional health of campers. In a 1932 article for *Landscape Architecture*, Dr. R. Alice Drought contrasted the unit plan with straight rows of tents or cabins, calling the latter “stultifying rather than imaginative.”<sup>16</sup> At a 1936 national conference on organized camping (held at the Girl Scouts’ training facility in New York), a National Park Service “Recreational Specialist in Camping,” Julian Harris Salomon, described the unit plan as the ideal arrangement for the organization camps being constructed under Park Service supervision in Recreational Demonstration Areas.<sup>17</sup> The unit plan of camp layout also was presented as the National Park Service standard in Part III of Albert Good’s 1938 *Park and Recreation Structures*,<sup>18</sup> a widely-distributed handbook of rustic architecture for parks.

### Recreational use of National Forests

At the same time that organized camping was growing and defining its standards, the recreational use of National Forests was rapidly increasing, due in large part to the mobility provided by automobiles. Since the first Federal forest reserves—renamed National Forests in 1907—were created in the 1890s, Americans had hiked, picnicked, and camped in “their” Forests. However, the use of Forests for recreational purposes initially was limited by the Forests’ remote locations. In addition, recreation was not among the original purposes of the Forests, which were created for timber production, grazing, and watershed protection—the conservation of natural resources through professional management. Automobile transportation, however, allowed more and more Americans to escape to the Forests for wilderness getaways, forcing the Forest Service to add recreation to the list of major purposes of National Forests.

<sup>15</sup> L. H. Weir, quoted in James and Carr, p. 44.

<sup>16</sup> Drought, p. 38.

<sup>17</sup> James and Carr, pp. 45-46; and Julian Harris Salomon, “Organized Camps in State Parks,” *Recreation* August 1936, p. 259.

<sup>18</sup> Albert H. Good, Part III, *Park and Recreation Structures* (Washington, D.C.: Department of the Interior National Park Service, 1938), pp. 109-113.

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Recreational uses of forest reserves actually were acknowledged in forest regulations as early as 1902, when "it was stated that permits could be secured for the building and maintenance of sanitariums and hotels at mineral and other springs, and that land could be leased there for a fee for certain periods of time."<sup>19</sup> Provision for private recreational facilities in National Forests was strengthened in 1915, when Congress passed the Term Occupancy Act, enabling the Forest Service to "allow private use and development of public forest lands for terms of up to 30 years by persons or organizations wishing to erect summer camps, hotels, or other resorts."<sup>20</sup>

Private development in National Forests, or development by entities other than the Forest Service, brought interesting results. During the 1910s in the Angeles National Forest, for instance, the City of Los Angeles built three municipal summer camps that were available only to residents of the city.<sup>21</sup> Thousands of private summer homes were built in Forests, along with hundreds of camping and resort facilities of various types.

A 1918 study of recreational uses in National Forests determined that the Forests had attracted some three million "recreational visitors" in 1917, a number that was only expected to increase. The study, therefore, urged the Forest Service to recognize recreation "as a permanent and universal factor in Forest administration"<sup>22</sup> and to begin assuming responsibility for constructing and maintaining necessary recreational facilities (as opposed to just allowing such facilities to be developed privately). Doing so, the study said, would require the Forest Service to "employ men suitably trained and experienced in recreation, landscape engineering, and related subjects."<sup>23</sup>

In 1919 the Forest Service did hire a young man named Arthur Carhart as its first "landscape engineer" (i.e., landscape architect), but his tenure was short-lived. He resigned in 1922, largely

<sup>19</sup> William C. Tweed, *Recreation Site Planning and Improvement in National Forests, 1891-1942* (Washington, D.C.: United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1980), p. 1.

<sup>20</sup> Tweed, p. 3.

<sup>21</sup> C. B. Raitt, "Municipal Recreation Camps: How Los Angeles Promotes a Better Citizenship in an Effective Way," reprinted from *Parks & Recreation* March-April 1924, n.p.

<sup>22</sup> Waugh, p. 27.

<sup>23</sup> Waugh, p. 37.



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out of frustration with the lack of funding for recreational development. It was 1935 before the Forest Service again employed a trained landscape architect,<sup>24</sup> but recreational use of National Forests remained an important issue, if only because of the National Park Service's creation in 1916. The public's "enjoyment" of National Parks—or, in other words, the public's use of the Parks for recreation—was a primary mission of the National Park Service from the outset.<sup>25</sup> In order to keep National Forests from being turned into National Parks (something that did happen in several instances), the Forest Service had to ensure the public's "enjoyment" of the Forests. Recreational use of Forests expanded, though the Forest Service continued to lag behind in providing public recreational facilities.

### Rustic architecture

With recreational development on public lands, whether Forests or Parks, came the need for buildings that would meet the requirements of visitors without detracting from the scenic qualities that drew those visitors to National Forests and Parks in the first place. A form of architecture that came to be called "rustic" was the response to this need, until modernism took over after World War II.

Rustic architecture is well-documented. During the 1930s the National Park Service published volumes of examples of appropriate park buildings: *Park Structures and Facilities* in 1935 and the three-part *Park and Recreation Structures* in 1938. In more recent years, National Park Service staff members have produced several studies of rustic architecture.<sup>26</sup> Much less has been written about rustic architecture in National Forests, but the Forests played by virtually the same rules as the Parks. In July of 1933, *Landscape Architecture* published "regulations governing architectural structures in the Forests," which included such dicta as:

<sup>24</sup> Tweed, pp. 8-12, 18.

<sup>25</sup> Ethan Carr, *Wilderness By Design: Landscape Architecture and the National Park Service* (Lincoln, Nebraska: University of Nebraska Press, 1998), p. 5.

<sup>26</sup> These studies include Carr's *Wilderness By Design* as well as *National Park Service Rustic Architecture, 1916-1942* by William C. Tweed, Laura Soulliere, and Henry G. Law; and *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of The National Park Service* by Linda Flint McClelland.

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“The building should be adapted to its site; it should ‘fit the ground.’”

“Building materials should be suitable to the forest and, as far as practicable, native to the locality.”

“Foundations should be low and inconspicuous.”

“Decoration should be extremely simple; in most cases it should be altogether lacking.”

“In general, simplicity is the keynote of good design.”<sup>27</sup>

### The CCC and the WPA

The primary reason that the National Park Service and, to a lesser extent, the Forest Service felt the need in the 1930s to set out guidelines for appropriate buildings in Parks and Forests was the arrival of the New Deal. New Deal programs—especially the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration—made possible the construction of a vast array of facilities on public lands. The CCC and WPA went to work in National Forests and National Parks, building every conceivable type of facility, from roads and dams to latrines to cabins and lodges. Guidance from the National Park Service and the Forest Service was needed to ensure that all of this construction fit properly into its wilderness settings.

In her book *The Public Landscape of the New Deal*, Phobe Cutler says about the CCC and WPA:

*. . . the country marshalled two great armies [to combat the effects of the Depression]. The first of the two—the Civilian Conservation Corps—was truly a peacetime army. Its recruits, single men ranging from 17 to 28, dressed in Army garb, lived in barracks, ate in mess halls, rose at six, and closed the day with a “retreat flag ceremony.” This routine lasted throughout the nine-year life of the CCC, from 1933 to 1942. . . .*

*The second army was much vaster and greater in its effect. A sprawling, brawling operation that from 1935 to 1943 employed some eight million people, the Works Progress Administration engaged in projects as diverse as sewing, drama, play supervision and road construction. With large budgets, little overview, and great ambitions, it was a flawed but gallant combatant. Unlike the Public Works Administration, with which it is often confused,*

<sup>27</sup> “Buildings in the National Forests,” *Landscape Architecture* July 1933, pp. 264-265.



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*the WPA not only financed eventually up to 80 percent of the cost of its projects, but hired, fired, secured materials, and supervised.*<sup>28</sup>

The Civilian Conservation Corps was President Franklin Roosevelt's brainchild, and it became reality less than a month after he took office in March 1933.<sup>29</sup> By July 1 of that year, the agency was fully operational: 274,375 young men were "enrolled and in camp."<sup>30</sup> In 1935, enrollment peaked at 500,000 men in over 2,600 camps.<sup>31</sup> The CCC was a joint operation of the Department of Labor, the War Department, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior. Men were selected for enrollment by the Department of Labor; they were enrolled, fed, clothed, housed, and transported by the Army (which also was in charge of the men during non-work hours); and, as the so-called "technical agencies," the Departments of Agriculture and Interior selected work projects and supervised the work,<sup>32</sup> much of which initially had to do with conservation of natural resources. Many CCC camps were located in National Forests; others were in National Parks and on other types of federal lands, in state forests and parks, and in privately-owned forests.<sup>33</sup>

The Works Progress Administration arrived on the scene about two years after the CCC. It was created by executive order in May 1935, under authority provided the President by the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935. The WPA originally had two major purposes: (1)

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<sup>28</sup> Phoebe Cutler, *The Public Landscape of the New Deal* (New Haven, Connecticut: Yale University Press, 1985), pp. 5 & 7.

<sup>29</sup> Roosevelt's inauguration was March 4, 1933, and he signed the Emergency Conservation Work Act on March 31, 1933. Emergency Conservation Work (ECW) was the official name of the agency created, but President Roosevelt coined "Civilian Conservation Corps," the name that was popularly used. Civilian Conservation Corps was made the official name by act of Congress in 1937. John A. Salmond, *The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study* (Durham, North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1967), pp. 9, 23, 26.

<sup>30</sup> Salmond, p. 45.

<sup>31</sup> Cutler, p. 7.

<sup>32</sup> Salmond, pp. 30-32.

<sup>33</sup> Alison T. Otis, William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, and Kimberly L. Lakin, *The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps; 1933-1942* (United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1986), p. 11.

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to operate a nationwide program of “small useful projects” that would employ needy, employable workers, and (2) to coordinate the activities of the “Works Program,” which was to be comprised of over forty Federal agencies, all operating projects to put the unemployed to work. In practice, however, most agencies were unable to provide emergency employment, so the WPA itself provided the necessary work projects<sup>34</sup>—resulting in the “sprawling, brawling operation” described by Phoebe Cutler.

Because of the youth and inexperience of CCC enrollees, their work initially was confined to projects that did not require much skill, such as planting trees and creating trails. It soon became obvious, though, that with proper supervision, CCC workers could do much more. Among the most significant of the CCC’s many accomplishments was construction of recreational facilities, especially in state parks<sup>35</sup> and Recreational Demonstration Areas<sup>36</sup> (see below), but also in National Parks, municipal parks, National Forests, and on other types of publicly-owned lands.

Recreational facilities also were among the myriad projects of the WPA, but the WPA’s contributions to recreation typically were more urban in character. After just two and a half years of existence, the WPA had built or expanded literally thousands of auditoriums and stadiums, athletic fields, swimming pools, bathhouses, playgrounds, golf courses, amphitheatres, and bandshells.<sup>37</sup> As an example, the facility now known as Quigley Stadium, Little Rock Central High School’s football stadium, was a WPA recreation project.

<sup>34</sup> United States Federal Works Agency, *Final Report on the WPA Program, 1935-43, 1947* (Westport, Connecticut, Greenwood Press, 1976), pp. 7-8.

<sup>35</sup> National Park Service, *The CCC and Its Contributions to a Nation-Wide State Park Recreational Program* (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1937), pp. 4-11.

<sup>36</sup> James and Carr, p. 42.

<sup>37</sup> Works Progress Administration, *Inventory: An Appraisal of the Results of the Works Progress Administration* (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1938), p. 90.



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### Organization camps

Organized camping received a boost during the Depression thanks to a type of recreational development that was unique to the New Deal: Recreational Demonstration Areas or RDAs. RDAs usually—but not always—were built by CCC workers. Beginning in 1934 with \$25 million made available through the Federal Surplus Relief Administration (later transferred to the Federal Emergency Relief Administration or FERA), lands deemed no longer suitable for agricultural use were purchased by the Federal government for park and recreational development.<sup>38</sup> For most of its history, the RDA program was controlled by the National Park Service, which was responsible for planning RDA projects. Although there were variations, the typical RDA was “the large park of 5,000 to 20,000 acres devoted specifically—but not exclusively—to the accommodation of group camp organizations.”<sup>39</sup> Most RDAs eventually became state parks.

The organization camps that were part of RDAs were built “to provide organized facilities to a large number of people at the lowest possible cost.” Through the camps, “many boys, girls and adults, particularly those in the low income groups” would “have a much needed opportunity to use public lands for recreational purposes—an opportunity which otherwise might not be available to them.”<sup>40</sup> The camps were laid out using the unit plan that had gained acceptance among recreation advocates and youth organizations (and had been adopted by the National Park Service), and a number of such camps were built in RDAs. Of the forty-six projects known as RDAs, thirty-four of them had organization camps.<sup>41</sup> Two RDAs containing organization camps—Mendocino Woodlands in California and St. Croix in Minnesota—now are National Historic Landmarks.

National Forests also had what were called organization camps, but the Forest Service evidently applied this term much more broadly. *Forest Outings*, a 1940 book on the recreational use of

<sup>38</sup> Linda Flint McClelland, *Presenting Nature: The Historic Landscape Design of the National Park Service, 1916 to 1942* (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, 1993), p. 248.

<sup>39</sup> James and Carr, pp. 42-43.

<sup>40</sup> “The Organized Camp on Recreational Demonstration Projects,” *Recreation* May 1936, p. 69.

<sup>41</sup> James and Carr, pp. 46-47.

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National Forests, lumped together camps established by municipalities, social nonprofit organizations, restricted membership clubs, sporting clubs, and for-profit businesses, calling all of them organization camps. Moreover, the organization camps described in *Forest Outings* were privately built and operated, in keeping with the Forest Service's decades-old practice of allowing private recreational development in National Forests. Federally-built and operated organization camps, akin to those in RDAs, were just beginning to appear in National Forests when *Forest Outings* was written. Eventually, fifty-four such camps were built for the Forest Service by the CCC and the WPA.<sup>42</sup>

Of the privately-built organization camps described in *Forest Outings*, the majority were constructed by nonprofit organizations. "Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Campfire Girls, Young Men's Christian Association, Young Women's Christian Association, 4-H Clubs, and the Salvation Army all have camps" in National Forests, according to the book.<sup>43</sup> Consequently, when the Little Rock Girl Scout Council selected a site for a new camp in the Ouachita National Forest in 1936, it was following the lead of many other nonprofits.

### Camp Ouachita

While it was not alone in being a camp for a nonprofit organization in a National Forest, Camp Ouachita was outstanding in several respects. First of all, it was a Girl Scout camp, and the Girl Scouts were experts when it came to organized camping. The Girl Scouts did not merely follow standards; they set standards. Given adequate resources, a Girl Scout camp could be expected to be a top-notch facility. Camp Ouachita was, thanks to the resources made available by the New Deal.

Although Camp Ouachita was located in a National Forest, it measured up to the highest National Park Service standards for recreational development—and it was the Park Service,

<sup>42</sup> Tweed, p. 26; and Russell Lord (ed.), *Forest Outings* (Washington, D.C.: U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, 1940), pp. 263-266.

<sup>43</sup> Lord, pp. 264-265.



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rather than the Forest Service, that actively promulgated guidelines for organization camps and rustic architecture during the 1930s.

Camp Ouachita embodied all of the characteristics that were championed by the National Park Service for organization camps. Julian Harris Salomon, the NPS Recreational Specialist in Camping, would have approved of Camp Ouachita's unit plan layout, which consisted of an administrative and basic services area—the "Great Hall," caretaker's residence, director's cabin and shower house, well house, ice house, and infirmary—and four units for campers, each with six cabins, a troop (or unit) house, and a shower house. Camp Ouachita's layout conforms very closely to the ideal described by Salomon in his May 1936 presentation to a national conference on organized camping,<sup>44</sup> as well as to the 96-person camp scenario described and illustrated in Part III of Albert Good's *Park and Recreation Structures*.<sup>45</sup>

Since construction of Camp Ouachita began late in 1936, Good's book—published in 1938—would not have influenced the camp's design. However, Salomon's conference presentation could have been taken to heart by Camp Ouachita's planners, particularly since the conference where Salomon spoke was held at Camp Edith Macy, the Girl Scouts' training center in Briarcliff Manor, New York.<sup>46</sup> According to a *circa* 1939 information sheet on Camp Ouachita, however, "plans for the general outlay of camp and plans for the buildings were secured from the National Girl Scout office and adapted to the local conditions."<sup>47</sup> If so, the Girl Scouts were at least abreast of, if not ahead of, the National Park Service in knowing the "right" way to design an organization camp.

In addition to having the ideal organization camp layout, Camp Ouachita is comprised of very high-quality rustic buildings. The design of the buildings was the work of a prominent Little Rock architectural firm, Thompson, Sanders and Ginocchio. (More than one hundred buildings

<sup>44</sup> James and Carr, pp. 45-46.

<sup>45</sup> Good, pp. 109-111, 116.

<sup>46</sup> James and Carr, p. 45.

<sup>47</sup> "Camp Ouachita Information," Ouachita Girl Scout Council, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

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designed by Charles L. Thompson and his various associates were listed in the National Register in 1982 as the Charles L. Thompson Thematic Group.) Just as the camp's layout embodies the standards advanced by organized camping experts, the camp's buildings embody the guidelines established for rustic architecture in park and forest settings. All of the original Camp Ouachita buildings, a total of thirty-seven structures, were constructed of fieldstone gathered near the construction site and of native cypress. As designed, the buildings featured battered fieldstone walls; broadly-pitched, gabled roofs covered with hand-split cypress shingles; and exposed hewn-log framework.

The Great Hall—also known as Ogden Hall, in honor of Sue Worthen Ogden, the Little Rock Girl Scout official who spearheaded Camp Ouachita's creation—is the architectural centerpiece of the camp, and it would be at home in many state, or even national, parks. Designed to function as the hub of camp life, the Great Hall was built to accommodate the full camp population (about 100) for meals and to serve as a recreation room. The Great Hall's main room is a generous thirty-eight feet by seventy feet in size, with massive stone fireplaces at each end. A wing contains the kitchen and serving area, office, and storage spaces; and a screened porch runs the length of one side of the building. The Great Hall stands today largely unchanged and in good condition.

The rest of Camp Ouachita's original buildings are much smaller than the Great Hall but just as well-designed and crafted. As described in the National Register nomination for the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District, they are little-altered but in varying states of repair. (And, contrary to what the nomination says, *all* of the original buildings were architect-designed, with Frank Ginocchio of Thompson, Sanders, and Ginocchio serving as project architect.) The excellent craftsmanship that went into creating Camp Ouachita's rustic buildings was provided by the Works Progress Administration. Camp Ouachita first was approved as a WPA project in August of 1936, the architectural drawings were completed in September, and work officially began on October 22, 1936. Eventually, two more WPA "Work Projects" for Camp Ouachita were approved, and a total of more than \$64,000 in WPA funding went into the camp by the time it was completed in 1940. Together with the Little Rock Girl Scout Council's



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contribution, nearly \$75,000 was spent on Camp Ouachita,<sup>48</sup> a budget that allowed for high-quality construction using readily available native materials.

As was the case with many projects undertaken during the Depression by New Deal programs, Camp Ouachita could not have been built without the WPA's assistance, along with the cooperation of the Forest Service and the CCC. The WPA "Project Proposal" for Camp Ouachita flatly states: "Could not be constructed without Federal aid."<sup>49</sup> And, while it was not unusual during the New Deal era for two or more Federal agencies to cooperate on a project, the degree to which the Forest Service, CCC, and WPA worked together to create Camp Ouachita is an excellent example of such cooperation. Furthermore, in this instance, the cooperation resulted in an outstanding recreational facility.

The Forest Service approved the site for the camp, comprising thirty acres along a creek; issued the necessary "Term" and "Special Use" permits to the Girl Scouts; reviewed and approved plans for the camp; and made arrangements for CCC workers to dam the creek to create a recreational lake. Even though use of the lake would be shared by the Girl Scouts and the general public, the lake was crucial to Camp Ouachita, which might not have been built without it. In 1936, CCC workers cleared the lake bed and built a concrete arch dam thirty-five feet in height and designed to impound a lake covering twenty-two acres. (In 1941, CCC workers also built a rock retaining wall and rock steps at Camp Ouachita as erosion control measures.)<sup>50</sup> The WPA, of course, provided all of the necessary labor—unskilled, "intermediate," skilled, and superintendence<sup>51</sup>—for constructing Camp Ouachita's buildings, along with some materials and equipment. (Materials, however, primarily were the sponsor's responsibility.)

<sup>48</sup> Cheryl Griffith Nichols, "History of the Construction of Camp Ouachita," Camp Ouachita Historic Structure Report (Little Rock, Arkansas: Witsell, Evans and Rasco, Architects, 2000).

<sup>49</sup> Works Progress Administration, Project File Folder, Work Project 3209, National Archives and Records Administration, College Park, Maryland.

<sup>50</sup> Nichols, "History of the Construction of Camp Ouachita."

<sup>51</sup> Works Progress Administration, Project File Folder, Work Project 3209.

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National Park Service

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The WPA's involvement in Camp Ouachita was not absolutely unique (there is a Boy Scout camp in a National Forest in Utah that was built partially by the WPA<sup>52</sup>), but it was unusual in at least two ways. First, the WPA more typically undertook the construction of urban recreational facilities, while park and forest projects were the CCC's bailiwick. Second, federal law required that government entities sponsor WPA projects, so nonprofit organizations like the Little Rock Girl Scout Council technically did not qualify. In all likelihood, this requirement prevented the WPA from undertaking many projects directly for nonprofits. However, Sue Ogden resourcefully recruited Perry County (the county in which Camp Ouachita is located) to serve, in name only, as the project sponsor.

Placed within the framework of several overlapping national trends that arose during the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, Camp Ouachita has national significance under Criteria A and C because it is an outstanding organization camp of the 1930s, reflecting in overall layout and in the design of its buildings the highest organized camping standards, and because it represents a significant instance of cooperation among Federal programs during the New Deal era to advance the cause of recreation.

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<sup>52</sup> Camp Steiner, a Boy Scout camp in Utah's Wasatch-Cache National Forest, is partially comprised of log structures built by the WPA in 1937. Originally, the WPA-built structures were a staff housing facility (now a museum), the camp kitchen (now the camp store), and twenty Adirondack shelters. The camp also includes roughly ten structures that were not built by the WPA. Charmain Thompson, "Camp Steiner," Utah Office of Preservation Historic Site Form (United States Forest Service/Region 4, 2001).



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National Park Service

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp  
Historic District (Additional  
Documentation)

Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas

County and State

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp  
Historic District (Additional  
Documentation)

Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas

County and State

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp  
Historic District (Additional  
Documentation)

Name of Property

Perry County, Arkansas

County and State

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

## **National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet**

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**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreage of Property** See original nomination for geographic data.

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	_____	_____	_____	3	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____

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 Cheryl Nichols, Consultant / Ralph S. Wilcox, National Register & Survey Coordinator  
organization Arkansas Historic Preservation Program date June 14, 2002  
street & number 1500 Tower Building, 323 Center Street telephone (501) 324-9787  
city or town Little Rock state AR Zip code 72201

**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 United States Forest Service – Ouachita National Forest  
street & number PO Box 1270 Telephone 501 321-5202  
city or town Hot Springs state AR Zip code 71902

**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.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

MULTIPLE NAME: Facilities Constructed by the CCC in Arkansas MPS

STATE & COUNTY: ARKANSAS, Perry

DATE RECEIVED: 7/10/02 DATE OF PENDING LIST:  
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 8/24/02  
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 90001826

NOMINATOR: FEDERAL

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N  
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N  
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT  RETURN  REJECT 8/19/02 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

This additional documentation makes two changes to the Camp Ouachita nomination: (1) changes the Period of Significance from 1937-1940 to 1936-1940; and (2) changes the level of significance to "national." Construction began on this camp in late 1936, and ~~it~~ it's composed of high-quality rustic style buildings that were designed by Thompson, Sanders, and Girocchio. It is an excellent example of an organizational camp in terms of design and represents a partnership between a nonprofit, and various Federal entities during the New Deal era.

RECOM./CRITERIA \_\_\_\_\_

REVIEWER Sarah Pope

DISCIPLINE Historian

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE 8/19/02

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N



The Department of  
**Arkansas  
Heritage**

Mike Huckabee  
Governor

Cathie Matthews  
Director

Arkansas  
Arts Council

Arkansas Historic  
Preservation Program

Arkansas  
Natural Heritage  
Commission

Arkansas  
Territorial Restoration

Delta Cultural Center

Old State House Museum



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July 8, 2002

Carol D. Shull  
Chief of Registration  
United States Department of the Interior  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
Suite 400  
800 North Capitol Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20002



RE: Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

Dear Carol:

We are enclosing additional documentation for the above-referenced property. Based upon the additional information for the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District, the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program would like to increase the District's level of significance from local to national; add one area of significance, Politics/Government; and to change the period of significance to 1936-1940.

If you need further information or have any questions, please call Ralph Wilcox of my staff at (501) 324-9787. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

Cathie Matthews  
State Historic Preservation Officer

CM:rsw



**UofA** UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS  
DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE  
Agricultural Experiment Station

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Dale Bumpers College of Agricultural, Food and Life Sciences  
Department of Agricultural and Extension Education  
Communication Services

January 29, 2004

Ms. Carol D. Shull, Keeper of the National Register  
National Register of Historic Places  
National Park Service  
1201 Eye Street N.W.  
8th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005



Dear Ms. Shull,

Rachel Franklin-Weekly, NHL Coordinator for the state of Arkansas, was kind enough to refer me to you as the administrator who should receive the attached brief regarding the Camp Ouachita National Historic District. Under a Challenge Cost Share agreement with the USDA Forest Service/Ouachita National Forest, I conducted a feasibility study (published 1996) of Camp Ouachita during which historic research revealed that the District was a WPA project from inception to completion.

The nomination form to the National Register mistakenly identifies Camp Ouachita as a CCC construction. Today, the National Register of Historic Places Web site, as a result of this nomination misinformation, also incorrectly lists the construction agency as the CCC. At present, the Arkansas SHPO Web site mistakenly assigns all of the District's resources to the CCC. Last January, I communicated in detail with the ASHPO the need for accurate revision but the misinformation remains on the Web site a year later thus I felt it would be best to make a formal request to the National Register of Historic Places.

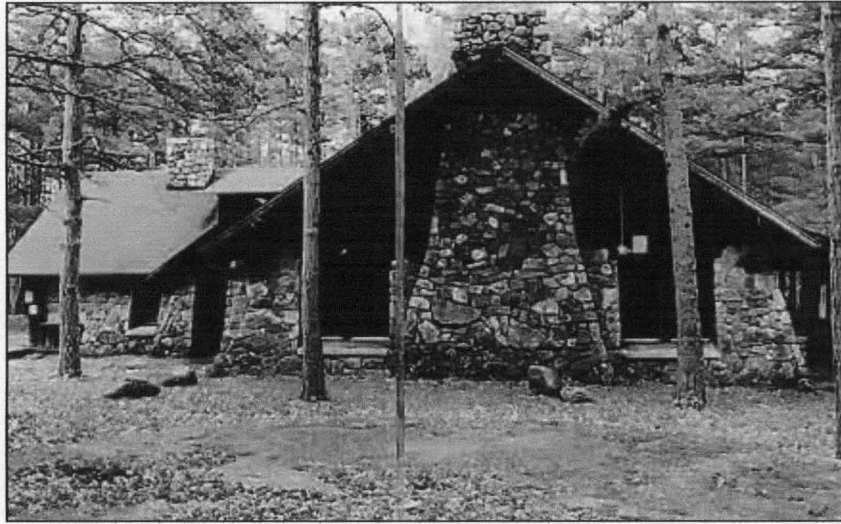
In support of this request for historic revision, the attached brief includes documentation, e.g. historic correspondence and newspaper article (originally published in the 1996 feasibility study) and official WPA project reports for Camp Ouachita that I copied at the National Archives (Beltsville) in August 2003. Thank you very much for your time in reading the attached materials.

Sincerely,

Camilla M. Romund

/att





# The Camp Ouachita National Historic District: A Works Progress Administration Project from Start to Finish

Camilla M. Romund

The purpose of this brief is to clear up ongoing confusion over exactly which Federal New Deal agency constructed (near Perryville, Arkansas) the unique Girl Scouts of America complex—Camp Ouachita—now a national historic district undergoing renewed investment and renovation, the latest wave of which began in 2000 with major matching-grant funds infusions from Save America's Treasures, HUD, the USDA Forest Service, NRCS, and other involved donors.

## ***An Inaccurate Nomination to the National Register of Historic Places***

The Works Progress Administration (**WPA**) **was the sole Federal agency that constructed Camp Ouachita.** The confusion over this fact has persisted because in the formal application to the National Register of Historic Places, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office (ASHPO) mistakenly reported that the CCC (Civilian Conservation Corps) constructed the camp. Mention was made of the WPA in the nomination form but the document claims CCC construction of Camp Ouachita. **Presently, the ASHPO Web site also erroneously identifies the Camp Ouachita National Historic District as CCC-constructed.** The below historically

incorrect interpretive content was copied from the ASHPO Web site on 23 January 2004:

Perry County

Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District is significant by virtue of its associations with both ***the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Camp Thornburg, located just to the north of Lake Sylvia,*** and with the Girl Scouts of America, the organization for young girls that formed in the early twentieth-century and quickly became popular across the U.S. ***The various contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District are all associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Their design is typical of such projects executed by the CCC in Arkansas and as an ensemble they survive as one of the best examples of a CCC-constructed camp in the state and certainly the best example within the local area. These structures are also excellent examples of the Rustic style made popular by the CCC.***

Source:[http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl\\_reg\\_listings/c54.asp](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl_reg_listings/c54.asp)

As a direct result of the inaccuracies contained in the Camp Ouachita nomination form, **the National Register of Historic Places Web site also incorrectly lists Camp Ouachita as**

**constructed by the CCC.** The below site description was copied from the National Register of Historic Places Web site on 23 January 2004:

ARKANSAS - Perry County - Historic Districts

Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District  
(added 1992 - Perry County - #90001826)  
Area surrounding and N of Lake Sylvia, Ouachita NF, Paron  
(600 acres, 37 buildings, 7 structures)  
Historic Significance: Architecture/Engineering, Event

**Architect, builder, or engineer: Civilian Conservation Corps, Thompson, Sanders & Ginnochio**

Architectural Style: Other  
Area of Significance: Social History, Architecture, Entertainment/Recreation  
Cultural Affiliation: European  
Period of Significance: 1925-1949  
Owner: Federal  
Historic Function: Recreation And Culture  
Historic Sub-function: Outdoor Recreation  
Current Function: Vacant/Not In Use

**Source:** <http://www.nationalregisterofhistoricplaces.com/ar/Perry/districts.html>

In 1994, the USDA Forest Service/Ouachita National Forest contracted with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service to conduct a feasibility study (Romund, Miller, Hedges 1996) of the Camp Ouachita National Historic District to determine socio-economic feasibility of re-development of the site as a tourism destination and multi-use state facility.

During the course of the feasibility study, in-depth investigation of the camp's origins revealed (primarily through historic correspondence and news clippings found in historic files belonging to the USDA Forest Service/Ouachita National Forest, Hot Springs, Arkansas) that **the Works Progress Administration (WPA) was the sole New Deal agency responsible for the construction of Camp Ouachita. The Civilian Conservation Corps was in no way involved in constructing Camp Ouachita.**

The full details of the camp's construction by the Works Progress Administration, including the history of WPA funding that was procured for the

effort, are detailed in Addendum A, *Camp Ouachita History*, attached to this brief.

The multiple, significant historical inaccuracies presently promoted on the ASHPO Web site and by default on the National Register Web site (and all other relevant promotional or interpretive product) should be revised to:

- 1) *correct for all users the erroneous historic record that now stands in the NRHP and ASHPO.*
- 2) *avoid installation of an inaccurate National Historic Landmark at Camp Ouachita.*

It is recommended that a supplement be filed by the proper agency or by the National Register of Historic Places, correcting the misinformation contained in the original nomination forms for Camp Ouachita, and that the incorrect Web sites (plus any and all other Camp Ouachita promotional media and communication) be revised to reflect true historic facts.

In support of this request, thoroughly documented and historically supported evidence is presented below and as attachments and addenda.

### **August 2003: National Archives Evidence**

An investigatory trip to the National Archives (Beltsville, MD) in August 2003 involved thoroughly searching Federal Emergency Relief Act project files for any evidence of CCC involvement with Camp Ouachita. National Archives staff researcher Gene Morris, Civil Records, personally searched the pertinent annual CCC project files and did not discover a single document concerning Camp Ouachita.

**The WPA project files at the National Archives, however, abundantly yielded WPA project reports generated during the camp's development and construction.** These project reports are attached, chronologically, as Addendum B.

### **Camp Ouachita History: Pertinent Facts**

Unambiguous and abundant evidence is presented within the body of this brief (historic documents as attachments and addenda) to again support this request for historical revision by the NRHP and the ASHPO. Details are presented in roughly chronological order:



➔ **Memo of 9 September 1935 (Attachment 1)** from Forest Supervisor A.L. Nelson, who clarifies the distinct roles assigned to the CCC at the planned public recreation area project, and to the WPA at the pending girl scout camp project:

“...They have a rather extensive construction program planned for the Girl Scouts lodge which would cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000. This was presented to the State WPA, who turned it down on the following grounds: First, the site is in a rather isolated location.... Second, the Girl Scouts Organization is not a governmental body, and the WPA could not deal with any but state, municipal or county organizations.... Mrs. Ogden proposes to...resubmit the project to the WPA for approval.... I feel that the dam construction has considerable merit...we should proceed with the construction...as a C.C.C. project later in the year.... Mrs. Ogden also brought up the question of use of C.C.C. labor on the construction of the buildings provided WPA does not approve the project. *I informed her that C.C.C. labor could not be used on building projects* but that possibly we could help with some of the clean up of the grounds (Addendum A, p6).”

The “governmental body” requirement mentioned above was ultimately fulfilled by the Perry County judge agreeing to serve as signatory to the girl scouts’ Special Use Permit, and thus WPA legal requirements were satisfied.

➔ **Newspaper article of 18 June 1937 (Attachment 2)** confirms the WPA as the Camp Ouachita construction agency.

In June of 1937, Arkansas WPA administrator Floyd Sharp donned workman’s clothes and joined WPA crews at Camp Ouachita to learn incognito how news of a projected 25% reduction in the national work relief force was being received by workers. (Addendum A, p 1)

➔ **A 20 March 1940 letter (Attachment 3)** further affirms the WPA’s construction role.

Formal confirmation of the WPA’s completion of work at Camp Ouachita arrived in a letter dated March 20, 1940. “...The WPA laborers have departed and the camp is acquiring a finished look....”

➔ **Memo of 21 June 1937 (Attachment 4)** confirming WPA swim party at Camp Ouachita as a mid-summer “thank you” to WPA families.

Mrs. Steele Dortch, Commissioner of the LRGSC, had extended a written invitation to T. N. Busch, Acting Forest Supervisor, on June 15th. “*We want you to come to the picnic the Council members and Scout Leaders are having at Camp Ouachita with the workmen on our project Friday afternoon at 4:00 O’clock, June 18th.*”

Concerned over public- and private-use pressures at the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area and Camp Ouachita the week of the WPA thank-you party, W.P. Dale, Fourche District Forest Ranger...wrote of his concerns to A.L. Nelson,

It seems that unless something is done about developing bathing facilities on the east side of this lake, we will run into more or less a complication by people wanting to use the girls scouts’ diving dock because on Wednesday 23 [sic] some 36 people, Perry County, were using the dock built for the girls scouts. The next day over 100 girls were using the dock, and on Friday some 40 WPA workers and their families were also using that part of the lake.

As a matter of fact the WPA workers were guests of the Girl Scout Council and there would have been no objection to them using the lake in that place, but you can readily see that we will be troubled unless an early arrangement can be made on the other side of the lake.

Ranger Dale’s letter above—although he was confused on his dates (he dated his letter 21 June 1937, yet spoke in the *past tense* about “Wednesday 23”)—is clearly a commentary on the same party, with his reference to 40 WPA workers and their families, the day of the week (Friday), and the fact that the workers were guests of the Council. This confirms again what has already been established—the WPA constructed Camp Ouachita and the June 18th party was an event the Council arranged to express their gratitude for the workers’ ongoing efforts.

***Arkansas WPA Director Floyd Sharp Works Incognito at Camp Ouachita***

It was on 16 June 1937 that a disguised Floyd Sharp, WPA Director for Arkansas, joined

WPA workmen at Camp Ouachita to conduct his spontaneous straw poll about pending nationwide cutbacks in the WPA work relief force. (Appendix A, p12).

He worked on the Girl Scout camp project in the Ouachita mountains, Perry county. Nobody on the job knew him from Adam's celebrated ox, except the foreman, Hugh Henry. Mr. Henry was not supposed to know him but he said he recognized the administrator as soon as he got a peek at him. He kept the secret manfully, though.

#### One of the Boys.

The other workers on the project had no such knowledge. They accepted the new man, Smith, as one of themselves. With him they discussed their work, their likes and dislikes in the WPA system, their chances of holding on in the face of the personnel cut.

...He asked many questions about the general practice of mixing mortar for WPA work. His associates put him down as a man of boundless curiosity and limited knowledge.

—*Arkansas Democrat*

### **Summary: A Private Camp and a Public Recreation Area**

Sue Worthen Ogden, of the Little Rock Girl Scout Council, rode muleback in spring 1935 to survey several remote locations in the Ouachita National Forest after requesting that the US Forest Service provide opportunity to investigate potential sites within public lands for the planned girl scout camp. After several months of looking, Sue Ogden was alerted to a location in the "North Fork country" (of the Saline River drainage) where the US Forest Service was already planning, with CCC labor, a recreational lake intended for a public recreation area that would occupy the southern shoreline (Attachment 5). Ample land existed on the opposite side of the new lake and the Forest Service invited Sue Ogden to consider the location as a potential site for the camp.

She fell in love with "the narrows" immediately upon visiting and determined, with the full Council, to accept the US Forest Service offer of a Special Use Permit and to pursue construction of the private girl scout camp on that site.

The close proximity of the CCC-constructed Lake Sylvania Recreation Area to the WPA-constructed Camp Ouachita has certainly fueled some of the confusion over the two agencies' roles at the shared recreational lake, but the historic correspondence, newspaper accounts, and research conducted at the National Archives in August 2003 make clear the distinct and separate roles fulfilled by the WPA at Camp Ouachita and by the CCC at the Lake Sylvania Recreation Area.

The Lake Sylvania Recreation Area, developed by the CCC and Forest Service, has always been, and continues in the present to be, a separate and distinct public area that is not at this point in time a national historic district. In the present, the Camp Ouachita National Historic District encompasses the original acreage and buildings developed solely by the WPA as a private camp under a Special Use Permit enjoyed from 4 April 1936 until 3 March 1980 by the girls and women of the Little Rock Girl Scout Council/Ouachita Girl Scout Council.

During the course of the Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study, the only discovered involvement of the CCC with Camp Ouachita was some short-term soil erosion-control work performed at the lake's edge in early 1941, a year after the camp's completion. Evidently this was of such minimal cost and duration that it was administered through the US Forest Service/Ouachita National Forest and no job order was filed with the national CCC office (Addendum A, p16).

Also during the course of this same study in 1995, the author personally interviewed a very independent, mentally sharp CCC veteran, Mr. Melbourne Atkinson, who had worked daily during the construction of both Lake Sylvania complexes and he emphatically stated that the CCC was in no way involved with Camp Ouachita; he said his CCC camp—Camp Jefferson Davis (F-4733 a.k.a. Camp Reform)—dynamited the Jackfork Sandstone at The Narrows, cleared and de-stumped the lakebed, and built the dam and the Lake Sylvania Recreation Area facilities. The author asked him if perhaps the CCC might have done some of the dock or swim-crib stonework for Camp Ouachita and he responded firmly, "No, those WPA boys did all of that too." (Addendum A, p9)



### ***Historical Significance***

Some people may think this request for revision is a small point or moot by now. It is not, especially from any historian's perspective. Even though the WPA and CCC were part of the same Federal New Deal initiative of the Great Depression era, they each had their own unique organizational cultures and Federal/state affiliations, policy and administrative frameworks, fraternal identifications, and labor specializations that reflected the diversity of citizens and skill levels that were recruited to breathe new life into America's infrastructure, economy, and collective psyche during those very difficult years of our nation's history. Volumes of books have been written documenting the numerous and particular distinctions, project specialties, and identities of the New Deal agencies and their nationwide success in lifting Americans of that time out of poverty and hunger and into creative productivity on diverse public works programs.

Others may think that due to proximity, both agencies' names should be linked to the Camp Ouachita National Historic District. However, the CCC's Lake Sylvia Recreation Area to this day is not a part in any physical way of the WPA's Camp Ouachita National Historic District; the two

separate complexes simply front on the same recreational lake.

Each project was built physically independent of the other by a wholly different Federal New Deal agency. To insist that the CCC should be credited with Camp Ouachita's construction—given the unambiguous, extant historic evidence to the contrary—would be tantamount to insisting that France built both the Statue of Liberty *and* the infrastructure on Ellis Island. It simply would be a glaring historical untruth, which would never be tolerated by the public or history's caretakers.

Due to the renewed Federal, state, and local commitment to the Camp Ouachita National Historic District and the powerful advocacy of the district's interests by Senator Blanche Lambert Lincoln; Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton; the USDA Forest Service/Ouachita National Forest; the many dedicated Camp Ouachita-area community activists; the current caretakers—Mary and Albert Nelson; and the countless Camp Ouachita alumni who all refused to let this national treasure die, it is imperative that Camp Ouachita's true history be protected and preserved, in every unambiguous detail, and accurately presented in perpetuity to the nation and the international community.



Attachment 1

Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas  
September 9, 1935

L-Uses, Ouachita  
Girl Scouts

MEMORANDUM FOR REGIONAL FORESTER:

Reference is made to your letter of May 18, our "O-Improvement, Narrows Creek Dam" memorandum of August 28, and related correspondence.

Filed  
NARROWS  
Dam fo

Mrs. Mahlon D. Ogden, State Director of the Girl Scouts, was in this office last Thursday and went over the construction of the Girl Scouts Camp at the proposed Narrows Dam site. Mrs. Ogden is very much interested in this proposed dam, and she informed me that it would be very desirable for the Girl Scouts to have exclusive control of the water impounded by the proposed dam. She apparently had the impression that this would be possible and also that it would be necessary in order to conform to the national requirements of the Girl Scouts Organization for an accredited Girl Scouts Camp. She explained that not only Girl Scouts Organizations would use this site but privilege of using the Camp conveniences would be extended to other girls' organizations in the State.

They have a rather extensive construction program planned for the Girl Scouts Lodge which would cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000. This was presented to the State WPA, who turned it down on the following grounds: First, the site is in a rather isolated location and relief labor was not available within a reasonable distance of the site. Second, the Girl Scouts Organization is not a governmental body, and the WPA could not deal with any but state, municipal or county organizations. Mrs. Ogden proposes to obtain the City of Little Rock as sponsor for this project and resubmit the project to the WPA for approval. In case it is approved it will be very urgent that we construct the dam since without the dam the site selected is undesirable. However, I feel that the dam construction has considerable merit and that we should proceed with the construction if not with ERA, as a C.C.C. project later in the year.

Mrs. Ogden also brought up the question of use of C.C.C. labor on the construction of the buildings provided WPA does not approve the project. I informed her that C.C.C. labor could not be used on building projects but that possibly we could help with some of the clean up of the grounds. I believe that she

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is going to press this matter further, and I would like an expression from you regarding the use of G.C.C. labor on a project of this kind and also just how far we should go in cooperating with the Girl Scouts. The first thing we know she will be after us to construct the buildings as well. Also as mentioned by you she is desirous of obtaining a large area under permit in order to obtain exclusive use of the land around the Lodge for the Girl Scouts. I believe in cases of this kind we are justified in including a larger area than the five acre limit set up for residential special uses, but I am not inclined to agree that it would be necessary to place as much area as she seems to desire under permit. I assured her that the Forest Service would not permit any use of the nearby Forest land which would be obnoxious or detrimental to the Girl Scouts Camp. She probably will insist, if this use materializes, on the exclusive control or use of the lake in addition to the land necessary for the building project.

A. L. Nelson

A. L. NELSON,  
Forest Supervisor.

aln;r



# WPA CHIEF, REPORTER WORK AS LABORERS WITH RELIEF CLIENTS

By WILBUR T. BENTLEY.  
(Gazette Staff Representative.)

State WPA Administrator Floyd Sharp announced last night that he would be back at his desk in the Old Postoffice building today after two days' absence. He may be in some picturesque posture at his desk. He might not be sitting at all, but doubtless he will be somewhere adjacent to that piece of furniture.

Mr. Sharp sorta played hooky yesterday, but if you should search diligently for the next 27 years, rain or shine, you would not find a school kid willing to play his kind of hooky. His formula was unique. He assumed the attire and credentials of an unskilled laborer and the debonair name of Jim B. Smith, and away he went to work on one of his own projects.

#### Opinions Sought.

The idea was sound enough. Mr. Sharp wanted to find out how the workers in the field—the people for whose benefit work relief was inaugurated—thought and talked about the WPA program in general. He wanted to get their attitude on the 25 per cent reduction in personnel that is being carried out in accordance with the appropriation outlook for next fiscal year. He wanted to hear them air their grievances, if any, in exactly the way that they do among themselves.

"I have talked to many people in my office about such matters, but I never have been able to feel that I was getting an accurate consensus in that way," he explained. "The plan that I adopted seemed to be the logical one for the purpose I had in mind. There was no intention to snoop or spy, or check up on anybody."

He worked on the Girl Scout camp project in the Ouachita mountains, Perry county. Nobody on the job knew him from Adam's celebrated ox, except the foreman, Hugh Henry. Mr. Henry was not supposed to know him but he said he recognized the administrator as soon as he got a peek at him. He kept the secret manfully, though.

#### One of the Boys.

The other workers on the project had no such knowledge. They accepted the new man, Smith, as one of themselves. With him they discussed their work, their likes and dislikes in the WPA sys-

tem, their chances of holding on in the face of the personnel cut.

They did not seem to be letting the prospect of losing their WPA jobs worry them. When they spoke of it it was generally in a joking way. Sharp explained later to the foreman that the project they were working on was one of those sure to be completed, and several weeks of work remain to be done on it.

Mr. Smith was given a pick and a shovel as soon as he reported for work at 8 a. m. and sent to dig a sewer ditch. It turned out right away that a tree must be erased from the line laid out for the ditch, and Smith was one of the lucky winners of that assignment.

He dug and chopped and dug and chopped, and then when success crowned his efforts he realized that he had deprived himself of all the shade he was likely to have that morning. After that he swung his pick and shoved his shovel in the ditch for the next hour. Then a messenger summoned him to a new site to mix mortar for a stone construction job. He had to be instructed in the technique there, but his teacher was kind and patient.

#### Questions Asked.

He asked many questions about the general practice of mixing mortar for WPA work. His associates put him down as a man of boundless curiosity and limited knowledge.

Once he started toward the center of the camp to get a drink of water. One of the masons asked him how about taking a bucket and bringing back a supply of water. So Smith performed that chore.

And that's the way the experiment went. Smith checked out early and spent most of the afternoon touring about, looking at other projects. He said he had enjoyed himself and was going to try the stunt again.

#### This Story Is True.

All the facts given in this report are based on first-hand knowledge. Your informant was there, toying with picks, shovels and things, the same as Mr. Smith-Sharp. The popular conception of WPA speed seems to be a snare and delusion.

Mr. Smith-Sharp came through in excellent condition, but your informant fears that for the rest of this week his own motto will be:

"Oh, my back!"

## Girl Scout News

By MARIE GAUDETTE,

Girl Scout Naturalist.

How to quickly tell the difference between a seal and a sea lion?  
What an alpaca is?

How many stomachs a cow has?  
Which of these three can climb trees—leopards, tigers, lions?

Answers to last week's "Do You Know" questions:

The Arctic tern travels about 11,000 miles twice a year in its migration.

It can waddle on land and swim in water, but it can neither fly nor run.

Under the chin—a scattered few. That they may more easily clean meat from bones.

Girl Scouts of Lucky Troop 13 got up very early one morning last week and left at 6 o'clock on a hay ride to Camp Ouachita, new Girl Scout camp. The Scouts arrived at the camp at 9 o'clock. As soon as they arrived they began inspecting the house, noting especially the rock exterior, pine log interior, French doors, large stone fireplaces at each end of the large recreation room, with concrete benches built into them, the whole downstairs and upstairs. Afterward they went over the grounds, then they went in swimming.

Attachment 2



# GIRL SCOUTS



GIRL SCOUT LITTLE HOUSE  
319 WEST SECOND STREET  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS  
TELEPHONE 7809

March 20, 1940

RECEIVED  
MAR 21 1940  
HOT SPRINGS NATL FOREST

Supervisor	<i>[initials]</i>
Ass't Sup'vr	<i>[initials]</i>
Adm. Asst.	
Management	
Recreation	
Wildlife	
Fire Prot.	
Engineering	
Trails	
Finance	
Supply	
Property	
Services	

Attachment 3

*Y. uses  
Water Supply  
Girl Scouts  
3-15-40*

Mr. A. L. Nelson  
Forest Supervisor  
Hot Springs National Park, Arkansas

Dear Mr. Nelson:

Many thanks for your letter of March 13 to Mrs. Ogden and we will use the permit with care. What arrangements are going to be made about fishing at Lake Sylvia this spring and summer? Needless to say, we would like to include fishing in the camp program. Are you planning to open the lake to the general public or if we promise to be real good fishermen could we remove the largest fish?

\* The W. P. A. laborers have departed and the camp is acquiring a finished look. The sign for the entrance is very attractive and we appreciate the Forestry service making it.

Kindest personal regards to you and your family.

Sincerely yours,

*Alayce Nelson*  
Miss Alayce Nelson  
Girl Scout Executive

AN/mb.

\* Answered under  
Y. uses, Resort  
Perry County  
1-18-36

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Attachment 4

Hot Springs, Arkansas,  
June 21, 1937.

0  
Improvement  
Narrow Creek Dam Area  
Ouachita

MEMORANDUM FOR SUPERVISOR:

From the correspondence in this case, it seems that the improvements outlined in Mr. Busch's memorandum of June 11 have been approved by the Regional Office.

It seems that unless something is done about developing bathing facilities on the east side of this lake, we will run into more or less a complication by people wanting to use the girls scouts' diving dock because on Wednesday 23 some 36 people, Perry County, were using the dock built for the girls scouts. The next day over 100 girls were using the dock, and on Friday some 40 WPA workers and their families were also using that part of the lake.

As a matter of fact the WPA workers were guests of the Girl Scout Council and there would have been no objection to them using the lake in that place, but you can readily see that we will be troubled unless an early arrangement can be made on the other side of the lake.

Of course the fire place and tables are necessary for picnicking, but I am more anxious now to make some improvements for swimming and I feel that due to this complication the Girl Scout Council would also be glad to see the job completed.

If you agree, we will immediately start to work upon receipt of a bathing dock plan.

c-Foster

Plan made  
7/13  
GJF

*Wm. P. Dale*  
WM. P. DALE,  
District Forest Ranger.

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Attachment 5

WSD

L-UBES, OUACHITA

JANUARY 24, 1935

MR. CHARLES A. GILLETT,  
STATE FORESTER & COLLABORATOR,  
UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE,  
STATE CAPITOL,  
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS.

DEAR SIR:

REFERENCE IS MADE TO YOUR LETTER OF JANUARY 23.

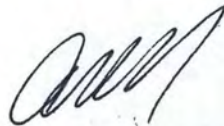
I WOULD BE GLAD TO ISSUE A SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR A GIRL SCOUT CAMP, SHOULD MRS. MANLON D. OGDEN CHOOSE A SUITABLE LOCATION ON NATIONAL FOREST LAND.

THERE ARE NO DOUBT MANY CONSIDERATIONS, SUCH AS DISTANCE FROM LITTLE ROCK, DRINKING WATER, BATHING, EASY ACCESS, ETC., THAT SHE WOULD WISH TO CONSIDER.

IT HAPPENS THAT MOST OF THE DESIRABLE SPOTS ARE ON PRIVATELY OWNED LANDS. I RECENTLY SEARCHED FOR A SITE FOR THE LOCAL Y.W.C.A. CAMP BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS.

WE CONTEMPLATE BUILDING A SMALL LAKE IN THE NORTH FORK COUNTRY, SHOULD PUBLIC WORKS MONEY MATERIALIZE. IT WOULD PAY TO WAIT, AS THAT WOULD CREATE A DESIRABLE LOCATION.

VERY TRULY YOURS,



A. W. HARTMAN,  
FOREST SUPERVISOR.

AWH:MS



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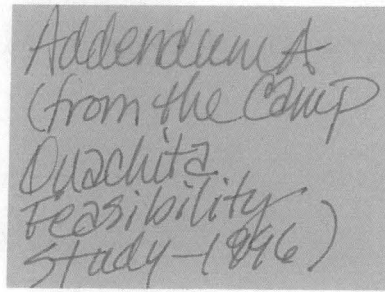


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## Addendum A

# CAMP OUACHITA HISTORY

by Camilla M. Romund, M.A.

*We welcome you into our clan  
A jolly, wandering Gypsy band.  
Come roam with us these hills about  
And live the life of an outdoor Scout.*

—Arkansas Girl Scout (1934)

## HISTORIC SYNOPSIS

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Camp Ouachita, on the National Register of Historic Places, was built between 1936 and 1940 by the Works Progress Administration (WPA) of the United States Government. Camp Ouachita (CO) was designed and constructed as a dedicated camp for the Little Rock Area Girl Scout Council on a site in the Ouachita National Forest (ONF) 12 miles south of Perryville, Arkansas and some 36 miles west/northwest of Little Rock, Arkansas. WPA crews constructed the camp complex, beginning work the week of November 9, 1936.<sup>1</sup> In June of 1937, Arkansas WPA administrator Floyd Sharp donned workman's clothes and joined WPA crews at Camp Ouachita to learn incognito how news of a projected 25% reduction in the national work relief force was being received by workers.<sup>2</sup>

The May 13, 1937 *Perry County News* described the state and federal effort for the girl scouts as "...a permanent camp that is to consist of 37 native stone buildings." The newspaper further reported, "...the Forest Service is just completing a 35 foot dam across Narrow Creek. This will form a lake of about 20 acres high up in the mountains...."<sup>3</sup> Lake Sylvia, created by the Narrow Creek dam, was a planned USDA Forest Service impoundment designed to increase recreational opportunities for both private and public use. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work crews—F-4733 Camp/Jeff Davis and F-22 Camp/Thornburg—were enlisted by the Forest Service to clear the lake bed, construct the dam, and develop the public use area.<sup>4, 5</sup> To this day, Camp Ouachita commands the northwest shore and the public Lake Sylvia Recreation Area lies along the southern water's edge.

Prior to Camp Ouachita's development, the girls and women of the Little Rock Area Girl Scout Council (LRGSC) were limited to area day camps and a 4-week camping session on a time-share basis each summer at Camp Quapaw, facilities in Benton, Arkansas belonging to the Little Rock-based Quapaw Council of the Boy Scouts of America.<sup>6</sup> Established in 1928, the LRGSC grew apace of a rapid national expansion in Girl Scouts Inc. (GS) membership and camp development. The April 1, 1934 *Arkansas Gazette* reported a total Little Rock-based GS membership of 386 registered girl scouts, with an



additional 150 who were unregistered.<sup>7</sup> Eventually serving 11 central Arkansas counties, the LRGSC led 22 girl scout troops by 1935.<sup>8</sup> Arkansas girl scout troops outgrew the limited programming at Camp Quapaw and began planning for a camp of their own. By 1939, 600 greater Little Rock girl scouts were registered.<sup>9</sup>

In January of 1935, the LRGSC camp committee chairman, Sue Worthen Ogden, approached Charles A. Gillett, USDA State Forester & Collaborator with the Arkansas State Forestry Commission, about finding a suitable location in the Ouachita Mountains for "...a permanent girls scout camp."<sup>10</sup> Charles Gillett then wrote A. W. Hartman, ONF Supervisor, asking him to write Sue Ogden direct. Hartman responded to Gillett the next day, saying, "I would be glad to issue a Special Use Permit for a girl scout camp should Mrs. Mahlon D. Ogden choose a suitable location on national forest land...."<sup>11</sup> At the time, Mrs. Ogden was a board member of the Dixie Region of Girl Scouts, Inc., a seven-year member of the LRGSC and an active member of the National Council of Girl Scouts Inc. board of directors.<sup>12</sup>

After an assessment tour of potential locations within the ONF was conducted in 1935, the Camp Ouachita site on Narrow Creek in Perry County was selected by Mrs. Ogden and members of the LRGSC and concurred with by officials from the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) and Perry County.<sup>13</sup> Construction was funded by the combination of a WPA work relief grant, LRGSC camp-fund drive monies, and in-kind contributions from Perry County and the USDA FS.<sup>14</sup> Camp Ouachita's permanent site documents were formalized in 1936 by Perry County Judge Oscar Brazil, who signed the first USDA FS permits (5 acres under Term Permit and 25 acres under Special Use Permit) for the Narrow Creek property on behalf of the LRGSC.<sup>15</sup>

Based on an informal survey of State Historic Preservation Offices nationwide, this series of events resulted in Camp Ouachita's unique status as the only surviving CCC- and/or WPA-constructed Girl Scouts Inc. camp in the United States.<sup>16</sup> The only other "New Deal" Girl Scouts Inc. facility identified in the United States was a lodge in Utah—a single structure—that was burned to the ground by a lightning strike in 1992. Camp Ouachita was dedicated as a council camp in 1937, the 25th "Silver Jubilee" Anniversary of the Girl Scouts Inc., and was in continuous use by the girl scouts until December 31, 1979.<sup>17,18</sup> Due to a combination of financial and environmental constraints, the Ouachita Girl Scout Council (OGSC, the renamed LRGSC) elected not to renew the term permit that had been in force continuously since 1936 (with the exception of a temporary release—9/22/69 through 1/24/70—that accommodated the filming of a movie at the Lake Sylvia site).<sup>19,20</sup> On March 3, 1980, after removing remaining council possessions, the Ouachita Girl Scout Council sadly relinquished all facilities, legal liability, maintenance and operation of Camp Ouachita to the USDA Forest Service, Supervisor's Office, Hot Springs, Arkansas.<sup>21</sup>

## SITE DESCRIPTION

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Camp Ouachita is located in Township 3 North, Range 17 West, Sections 28 & 33. Coordinates are 34°52'20" North and 92°49'15" West on the Paron Quadrangle, Arkansas base map prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and modified for USDA Forest Service Use by Geometronics Service Center (based on 1983 aerial photography and 1985 correction guides furnished by the Southern Region USDA FS). Camp Ouachita is locale number 05105 in the State of Arkansas Geographic Names Information System (GNIS), Alphabetical Finding List.

Camp Ouachita's contemporary grounds encompass some 60 acres; 37 surviving buildings and building remnants (including but not limited to a great hall (Ogden Hall), caretaker's residence, sleeping cabins, infirmary, commons buildings, and bathhouses); six foundations; four engineering structures; and three unique landscape features (Lake Sylvia, the lake's dam with flanking stone "lookout" abutments, and Narrow Creek and Gorge). The Camp's entrance drive feeds into the Ogden Hall building cluster from State Highway 324 (Forest Service Road No. 152) in the Winona Ranger District. CCC workers (Camps Jefferson Davis and Thornburg) impounded Narrow Creek in 1937 to create 18-acre Lake Sylvia. In addition to building the entire camp complex, the WPA constructed the original boat house (no longer standing), stone landing dock and steps, and swim crib for Camp Ouachita users. Additional flagstone walkways, steps and retaining walls on the northwest shore were constructed by the CCC (Camps Paron and Hollis). The Camp's total acreage fluctuated over the decades as the Ouachita Girl Scout Council expanded and contracted its multi-use programs based on campers' needs, Special Use Permit requirements and USDA FS obligations to the public. CO began with 30.3 acres in 1936, expanded to 84.3 acres by 1956, and then contracted to the present-day historic district's 60 acres.

### *Ogden Hall Compound*

Ogden Hall (a.k.a. the Great Hall) and the caretaker's residence are the two dominant structures that command the camp's entrance. These central facilities are part of a cluster that includes the camp's infirmary; staff cabins (2); director's cabin and bathhouse; icehouse/shop; and storage building/well house. A crafts building at one time stood to the north/northeast of Ogden Hall; only the foundation remains today.

Six distinct girl scout "patrol units" fan out to the east/southeast and southwest of the Ogden Hall cluster and complete the inventory of 37 buildings and building remnants that comprise the historic district; the six units are:

#### *Lake View Patrol Unit (No. 1)*

Comprised of six sleeping cabins, one unit house, and one bathhouse; tent platforms were available during the girl scouts' residence years. Cabin names: Ruby Thomas, Nettie P. Dortch, Florence Leigh, Carolyn, Lelia & Lillian Riggs, and Ann Jackson. All original cabin name plates in this unit were "ground truthed" on February 25, 1995 as being present above each door. All cabin names in this unit are also present on a roster generated by the Forest Service in September, 1963 for maintenance and improvement of Camp Ouachita.<sup>22</sup>

#### *Tall Timber Patrol Unit (No. 2)*

Comprised of five sleeping cabins, one unit house, and one bathhouse; tent platforms were available during the girl scouts' residence years. Cabin names: Terry Land, Mary Collins, Tall Timber\*, Three Sisters\*, and Eugene\*.

\*Cabin name plates are missing for those names with an asterisk; the fact that these three names are known to belong to the Tall Timber Unit is based on a roster generated by the Forest Service in September, 1963 for maintenance and improvement of Camp Ouachita. The Land and Collins cabins were the only two in this unit that retained original name plates above the doors on February 25, 1995.



### *Echo Valley Patrol Unit (No. 3)*

Comprised of six sleeping cabins, one unit house, and one bathhouse; tent platforms were available during the girl scouts' residence years. Cabin names: Elizabeth Rebsamen\*, Gertrude Walker, M. M. Cohn Co.\*, Gus Blass Co.\*, Crow Burlingame Co., and Henrietta Pfeifer\*.

\*Cabin name plates are missing for those names with an asterisk, the fact that these four names are known to belong to the Echo Valley Unit is based on a roster generated by the Forest Service in September, 1963 for maintenance and improvement of Camp Ouachita. The Gertrude Walker and Crow Burlingame Co. cabins were the only two in this unit that retained original name plates above the doors on February 25, 1995.

### *Cliff Top Patrol Unit (No. 4)*

Comprised of six sleeping cabins, one unit house, and one bathhouse; tent platforms were available during the girl scouts' residence years. Names of cabins: Mother\*, Mollie R. Worthen, Freiderica, Rudolph, Bess Pipkin, and Altamirah.

\*Cabin "Mother" is the only one in this unit with a name plate missing; the fact that "Mother" belongs to the Cliff Top Unit is based on a roster generated by the Forest Service in September, 1963 for maintenance and improvement of Camp Ouachita. "Mother" was the only cabin in this unit that lacked the original name plate above the door on February 25, 1995.

### *Atihcauo - The Primitive Patrol Unit (No. 5)*

In 1956, the Ouachita GSC and the USDA FS amended CO's Special Use Permit and included 53 acres on the southeast shore of Lake Sylvia for a primitive camping site to expand wilderness skills and training for camp residents.<sup>23</sup> Named Atihcauo (Ouachita spelled backwards), the primitive unit offered six tent platforms, a sanitary pit privy, fire ring, unit house and small bathhouse. CO girl scouts worked their way up through higher skill levels before graduating to the Atihcauo camp, accessible by canoe. As public demand grew in the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area and privacy at Atihcauo proved more difficult to police, the OGSC board agreed to relinquish a block of Atihcauo premises (25.79 acres initially) to the USDA FS for expansion of the public facilities.<sup>24</sup> By August, 1963, the OGSC and Forest Service agreed upon 21 acres (in the southern part of Lot E) being removed from the Girl Scouts' primitive unit.<sup>25</sup> By June, 1966, Atihcauo was finally reconfigured as a 22.72 acre parcel, which remained a part of Camp Ouachita until the OGSC terminated its permits with the Forest Service in early 1980.<sup>26, 27</sup>

### *Toltec - The Tent-Platform Patrol Unit (No. 6)*

Considered by the OGSC as a distinct unit at Camp Ouachita, Toltec was comprised solely of tent platforms. It was sited along the lakeshore in close proximity to the Lake View unit and shared commons buildings with Lake View campers. There are no surviving tent platforms on the Toltec site today.

### *Lake Sylvia Recreation Area*

In 1937 the USDA FS—using CCC labor from the Jeff Davis, Thornburg and Hollis camps—began developing the south shore of Lake Sylvia as a public recreational site. Originally designated the Narrow Creek Dam Area, it was eventually named the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area (LSRA).<sup>28</sup> The LSRA and CO share a long history of coexistence, not all of which was smooth. Recurring privacy problems arose for the Ouachita Girl Scout Council as public use increased at the LSRA and recreators availed themselves (often unwittingly) of CO facilities. Other members of the public knowingly made unauthorized incursions into the CO compound to the dismay and concern of CO counselors and campers. In response, the OGSC installed a fence around the camp's perimeter for added security. The USDA FS mandate to serve the people and the OGSC's mandate to provide outdoor skills training and recreation to its youth membership in a wilderness setting evolved periodically at cross purposes on the CO-LSRA site as the OGSC need for a private rural environment competed with public access needs on federal land. Figure 1 is a historic map (dated 10/24/47) of Camp Ouachita and the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area.



Figure 1

**NOTE: If graphic fails to appear, zoom up to 200%.**

## 1935 - 1936: THE START-UP YEARS

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On January 23, 1935, Charles A. Gillett, Forester & Collaborator, United States Forest Service (housed within the Arkansas State Forestry Commission) wrote A. W. Hartman, Ouachita National Forest Supervisor, about a recent office visit by Mrs. Mahlon D. Ogden who was seeking "...a location for a permanent girls scout camp....She had particularly in mind the country around Ava or Hollis....I would appreciate it if you would write her direct..."<sup>29</sup> The next day A. W. Hartman wrote Charles A. Gillett—"I would be glad to issue a Special Use Permit for a girl scout camp should Mrs. Mahlon D. Ogden choose a suitable location on national forest land...We contemplate building a small lake in the North Fork country, should public works money materialize. It would pay to wait, as that would create a desirable location."<sup>30</sup>

By February 12, 1935, Sue Worthen Ogden (Mrs. Mahlon D.) wrote both A. W. Hartman and a Mr. Dale (no title given) of the Hot Springs S.O. requesting 10:00 a.m. and 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. meetings, respectively, for February 14, 1935. The purpose was "...to discuss the possibility of a camp site in the Ouachita National Forest."<sup>31</sup> Nine days later on February 21st, Sue Ogden and an unnamed companion visited a proposed camp site near Slatington (southwest of Mount Ida) as part of a site tour arranged by A. W. Hartman.<sup>32</sup> By April 14, 1935, Camp Site Chairman Ogden had discovered "the narrows" and wrote to A. W. Hartman, "Our Girl Scout council is very much interested in a camp site which we visited in Ouachita Forest..."<sup>33</sup>

In response, "F.M.R.", Acting Forest Supervisor, wrote Sue Ogden on April 18, 1935, "Supervisor Hartman has been called out of town and is not likely to return before the end of next week..." F.M.R. advised her to fill out and submit an enclosed "Special Use Application" blank and added, "...I would suggest that you stop in this office and I will assist you in the preparation of the Form....the use will have to be approved by the Regional Forester before the permit can be granted."<sup>34</sup> Soon thereafter in April/May, 1935, Sue Ogden traveled to Atlanta to visit family members and while there met with Joseph C. Kircher, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service, Southern Region. On May 18, 1935, Joseph Kircher wrote Supervisor Hartman, "...Mrs. M. D. Ogden...discussed



with me the possibility of securing a permit for a camp for the Girl Scouts of Arkansas....I assured Mrs. Ogden that we would be glad to give her a permit...."<sup>35</sup>

Formal application was made to A. W. Hartman on May 24, 1935 in a letter from Mrs. George L. Mallory, Commissioner of the Little Rock Council of the Girl Scouts Inc., "...for a camp site located at the dam which is to be put in at the 'narrows'." "<sup>36</sup> Four days later, Sue Ogden wrote Supervisor Hartman,

I learn with regret...that you are to be transferred to another territory....I had a very pleasant conference with Mr. Kircher recently when I was visiting members of my family who live in Atlanta....Mrs. Mallory...has sent you an application for a permit to put our camp at the site of the proposed lake at 'the Narrows' in Ouachita Forest. May we have an answer stating terms of lease etc.? We have been advised to resubmit our request to P.W.A. [sic] or F.E.R.A. with more detailed plans...<sup>37</sup>

In a final letter under Hartman's tenure, Acting Forest Supervisor F.M.R. advised Mrs. Mallory,

...inasmuch as the dam is not yet built, it does not seem advisable to issue the actual permit at this time. Rather, we should await the date after the allocation of Public Works funds and the specific allotment of money with which to build this dam before entering into an agreement on its use.<sup>38</sup>

By June 1935 the new ONF Supervisor, E. W. Hadley, wrote Sue Ogden, "Mr. Hartman has left here, but before leaving he informed me of...the proposed use you wish to make of the area in the 'narrows' for a State Girl Scout camp. As I understand it, your choice of that site depends on the construction of the proposed dam."<sup>39</sup> It was at this point that momentum toward arranging funding for Camp Ouachita's construction slowed a bit due to Depression-era funding constraints that affected Forest Service programming. Evidence of this surfaced in a July 19, 1935 letter from Hadley to Ogden in which he related, "I have investigated the status of your application and find that its approval has been held up pending the receipt of funds for the construction of the dam. It is understood that your Organization would not be interested in this area unless the dam is constructed."<sup>40</sup> Sue Ogden quickly responded to Hadley, "We are very reluctant to give up the idea of that location as a camp site for our scout camp."<sup>41</sup> Soon after, Hadley wrote Ogden, "Since writing you...July 19, the ERA program on this Forest has been somewhat changed and there is a possibility that funds and labor released from abandoned projects can be used on 'The Narrows' dam."<sup>42</sup>

September 9, 1935 correspondence marked the arrival of A. L. Nelson, a new ONF Supervisor, who covered numerous topics of import in a memorandum for the Regional Forester regarding "L-Uses, Ouachita/Girl Scouts." In the memo Nelson conveyed,

...They have a rather extensive construction program planned for the Girl Scouts lodge which would cost in the neighborhood of \$25,000. This was presented to the State WPA, who turned it down on the following grounds: First, the site is in a rather isolated location.... Second, the Girl Scouts Organization is not a governmental body, and the WPA could not deal with any but state, municipal or county organizations.... Mrs. Ogden proposes to...resubmit the project to the WPA for approval.... I feel that the dam construction has considerable merit...we should proceed with the construction...as a C.C.C. project later in the year.... Mrs. Ogden also brought up the question of use of C.C.C. labor on the construction of the buildings provided WPA does not approve the project. I informed her that C.C.C. labor could not be used on building projects but that possibly we could help with some of the clean up of the grounds.<sup>43</sup>

To arrange compliance with WPA contracting requirements, Nelson also reported in the same memo that Sue Ogden planned to approach the City of Little Rock about furnishing signatory authority for the hoped-for WPA construction grant. She turned to Perry County soon thereafter as F.P. Yates (USDA FS), in a handwritten letter to Mr. Nelson, stated "Mrs. M. D. Ogden...called regarding special use permit. The County Judge at Perryville, Ark. has assured her that he will sponsor the project under WPA but must have information to the effect that if such WPA backing is received the Government will issue a permit."<sup>44</sup> Within the same month of September, Sue Ogden attended the National Girl Scout board meeting and convention in San Francisco.

The turn of the year brought renewed impetus to the LRGSC goal of a permanent camp for its membership. On January 18, 1936, Sue Ogden wrote A. L. Nelson, clarifying her reasons for approaching Perry County officials for signatory authority.

...since the site in question is in Perry Co, Judge Oscar Brazil has kindly consented to cooperate with us in the matter and the lease will be in his name as County Judge....I am unable to say when work will begin—Our committee has been encouraged to feel that 'alphabet' labor will be available....<sup>45</sup>

By February, 1936, negotiations began on annual use fees. Based on the federal investment in the Narrow Creek Dam, the USDA Forest Service initially prorated per annum fees to \$400 (for exclusive use of Lake Sylvia) and \$200 (for non-exclusive use of Lake Sylvia). The LRGSC originally indicated an interest in exclusive use of the new lake once completed yet Sue Ogden informed Supervisor Nelson that the council could not consider the site even with an annual fee of \$200. Sue Ogden sent a copy of her January 18, 1936 letter to Regional Forester Kircher in which she also requested a stipulation on the Special Use Permit and Term Permit that "...the camp must be operated by the Little Rock Council of Girl Scouts."<sup>46</sup> It was in this letter that Sue Ogden first mentioned the new camp's proposed name.

We had planned to call our camp, Camp Ouachita, will that conflict with a camp by that name which I saw mentioned in the paper or is that just a C.C.C. camp perhaps so temporary that it will [be] discontinued by the time ours is ready?<sup>47</sup>

A. L. Nelson traveled to Atlanta and met with Kircher in late January 1936 and discussed among other topics the proposed construction of Camp Ouachita. An obviously sympathetic advocate of the LRGSC, A. L. Nelson wrote the Regional Forester upon his return from Atlanta,

If the Girl Scouts do not occupy the site I am not inclined to construct a dam at this point since I can see no higher use to be served than that of furnishing a recreational area for the Girl Scouts Organization. ...I would suggest that a fee as low as even \$50.00 per year for the five acre tract and fifty cents per acre for the twenty-five acres under annual permit be considered in this case.<sup>48</sup>

Writing Sue Ogden the same day, Nelson responded to her query, "In case you desire to call your camp 'Camp Ouachita' I will be glad to consider changing the name of the public camp ground which we are constructing on Lake Hamilton by that name. Please let me know your plans and wishes on this matter."<sup>49</sup>

On February 9, 1936, Stabler (no further identification given), in a Western Union telegram sent from Atlanta to the Forest Supervisor, U.S. Forestry Service, Hot Springs, Ark., relayed,



"Mrs. Ogden protests proposed two or four hundred dollars charge STOP Unfortunately amortization charge not fully understood by her prior your recent conference STOP Because of this and semi public use am considering land use charge only for half of lakeshore line STOP Telephone me station station eleven Monday morning."<sup>50</sup>

By February 12, 1936, Nelson was able to write Sue Ogden,

"...Mr. Kircher, Regional Forester, has given me authority to reduce the rental...to \$50.00 per annum for the five acres to be covered under term permit and the 25 acres additional to be used in conjunction with the term permit area at the rate of \$12.50, or \$ .50 per acre. This would make a total charge for the special use area of \$62.50."<sup>51</sup>

The Forest Service in Washington, D.C., approved dam construction the same day via WAHA, Postal Telegraph to U.S. Forest Service, Hot Springs, Ark., "Chief Forest Service has approved Narrow Creek Dam project Construction may be immediately started Plans follow"<sup>52</sup> A. L. Nelson had informed Sue Ogden of the preliminary design of the Narrow Creek Dam in a letter dated February 6, 1936, "It will be a concrete arch, 60 ft. radius, type dam. The height is to be 30 feet and 118 ft. in length. The spillway is in the center and is 100 ft. wide with 8 ft. freeboard. The impounded water will create a lake 8 1/2 acres in extent with a maximum depth of 30 ft...."<sup>53</sup> At A. L. Nelson's invitation, Sue Ogden and a Miss Bowers (Girl Scouts Inc. National Camp staff member) met Nelson at The Narrows on February 18th and walked the proposed Camp Ouachita site, indicating the camp boundaries desired by the Little Rock Council.<sup>54</sup>

The first Term and Special Use Permits were issued by the USDA Forest Service to Perry County (County Judge Brazil) for five acres and 25 acres, respectively, for the Camp Ouachita site on April 4, 1936.<sup>55</sup> The Term Permit described the 5 acres as (lot B) in the NW 1/4 of Section 28, T3N, R17W; and the Special Use Permit for 25 acres as (lots A & C) adjoining the 5 acres. Judge Brazil served as signatory authority for the Little Rock Area Girl Scout Council to fulfill the federal contractual requirement that called for a municipal, county or state governmental entity to formalize contracts and grants with the Works Progress Administration. It was not until 1959 that signatory authority was changed from Perry County to the OGSC.<sup>56</sup>

By early June 1936, the CCC (Camp Reform, later renamed Camp Jefferson Davis) began rock blasting at "the narrows" in advance of dam construction. C. F. Muzzey, ONF Improvement Superintendent, in a memorandum to the Forest Supervisor commented on Camp Ouachita's unique geology and described the site preparation progress,

"Mr. Lamb and I made the trip to Narrow Creek Dam with Mr. Pidgeon...and found the rock excavation progressing well considering the irregular character of the material encountered. Mr. Kuykendall has changed his method of excavation and is now using light charges of dynamite with very good results."<sup>57</sup>

As 1936 marked the centennial of the State of Arkansas, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt arrived in Arkansas on June 10, 1936 to participate in statewide celebrations. President's Day programs were held in Hot Springs, Rockport and Little Rock. During her tenure as First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt was the national Honorary President of the Girl Scouts Inc.<sup>58</sup>

In September, 1936, A. L. Nelson decided to revise plans for the Narrow Creek Dam, increasing the height from 30' to 35' to create more lake surface area. He advised Sue

Ogden, "We plan to have the dam ready by next April at the latest."<sup>59</sup> By early October, 1936, the approved revised plans had been received and the CCC began construction on the Narrow Creek Dam.<sup>60</sup> On October 20, 1936, Sue Ogden wrote A. L. Nelson, "...We have been advised by Mr. H. B. Phillips, district supervisor division of operation, in the WPA office, that work on our camp will start almost immediately. They requested a tentative layout of our buildings...."<sup>61</sup> On November 4, 1936, Sue Ogden forwarded a copy of the "tentative layout" of Camp Ouachita to A. L. Nelson.<sup>62</sup> She wrote Nelson again on November 9th with the news, "'Work on the construction of our camp at the 'Narrows' will begin this week. Mr. Phillips from the PWA [sic] office, Mr. Ginocchio, our architect, and I are planning to visit the camp site Thursday of this week."<sup>63</sup> Further indication of Supervisor Nelson's strong advocacy for Camp Ouachita and the LRGSC is contained in his handwritten postscript to a 13 November 1936 memorandum for the Regional Forester. "Mrs. Ogden called by phone. She said they had staked out the great hall and found that a part of it was not in the term permit area. I told her we could revise the map & plot after they were sure where the permanent buildings were going. —ALN"<sup>64</sup>

## 1936 - 1940: CAMP OUACHITA RISES IN THE FOREST

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Construction apparently proceeded smoothly with WPA work crews implementing the approved architectural plans for Camp Ouachita furnished by the LRGSC's architect, Mr. Ginocchio, of the Little Rock firm of Thompson, Sanders and Ginocchio. In recent years, many believed that Ginocchio only designed Ogden Hall. The surviving original architectural drawings (donated to the Old State House Museum in Little Rock, Arkansas by Cromwell, Truemper, Levy, Thompson & Woodsmall, the successor firm to Thompson, Sanders and Ginocchio) include a formal site plan and renderings for every building type found on the Camp Ouachita historic district today, with the exception of the small well house, caretaker's residence, staff cabin (near Ogden Hall), and shop. The small well house and caretaker's residence are absent from the collection, yet they are both included in Ginocchio's site plan. The staff cabin (near Ogden Hall) and the shop, which was a later addition to the original icehouse, may not have been designed by Ginocchio as these two buildings are not indicated on his original site plan nor are they present in the collection. The surviving renderings of Camp Ouachita as found in the Thompson Collection are dated 10/27/1936.<sup>65</sup>

The Civilian Conservation Corps' Camp Jefferson Davis—F-4733 (a.k.a. Camp Reform)—blasted the rock at "the Narrows" in preparation for the dam's footing and cleared the lakebed at the "old deer run" in Perry County. Melbourne Atkinson, a CCC/Camp Jeff Davis alumnus who lives in Morrilton, Arkansas, reported that he and other members of the Jeff Davis work crews cleared every single tree stump from the lakebed, all the way down to the lowest point of the lakebed gradient. Mr. Atkinson also talked at length of the difficulties of cutting into and removing the solid rock at "the narrows" and that blasting with dynamite was a great assist in a very challenging situation. Camp Jeff Davis was the primary CCC camp involved in the dam's early construction, although historic evidence indicates that Camp Thornburg and Camp Hollis were also involved in the dam's construction and subsequent work on the public recreation area. Lake Winona (4.5 miles south/southwest of CO) was under construction during the same years as Camp Ouachita. The men of Camp Jefferson Davis—based at Walcott, Arkansas (known in contemporary times as "the city beneath the water")—were forced to move when the filling of Lake Winona inundated Walcott. Camp Jeff Davis members ceased work on the Narrow Creek Dam and Lake Sylvia when



Lake Winona waters covered their campsite and they relocated to Crowley's Ridge thereafter. It is Mr. Atkinson's contention that Camp Thornburg and Camp Hollis boys picked up the remaining work at Lake Sylvia after Camp Jeff Davis boys moved on.<sup>66</sup>

Lake "Sylvia" was suggested as an appropriate name for Camp Ouachita's new lake by Sue Ogden, who, as a delegate to the 1934 Girl Scouts Inc. convention held in Boston, Massachusetts, listened to an influential speech by Dr. J. Edgar Park, President of Wheaton College.<sup>67</sup> The title of Dr. Park's speech, "Who is Sylvia? What Is She?" reflected an ideal name for the ideal girl-scout recruit of the day. The introduction to the convention program explained,

One of the sessions of the Twentieth Annual Girl Scout Convention, 1934, was planned to set forth, on the one hand, a picture of the girl of today, her interests and her needs; and on the other hand, a program of activities that tries to meet those needs.

First, an address by Dr. J. Edgar Park, President of Wheaton College, answered his own title-questions, "Who is Sylvia? What Is She?"<sup>68</sup>

An eager and pleased Sue Ogden wrote A. L. Nelson on March 15, 1937,

Our Girl Scout Council is most anxious to enjoy at least a short camping period in our own camp this summer and I have been asked for information which I do not have. Can you tell me approximately the date when the dam will be complete and can you risk a guess as to just how much longer it will take for the lake to fill?

I personally believe that the girls will find camping in such a beautiful spot so thrilling that we will go ahead with our plans even if we have to curtail the waterfront program.

...What will be our post office address when we camp at "Camp Ouachita"?...How does the man at the fire tower get his mail or the CCC boys at Camp Jefferson Davis?

I go several times a week to see the work at camp and am thrilled at the progress being made. We appreciate your interest and splendid cooperation.<sup>69</sup>

On March 22, 1937, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt visited Arkansas for the second time in 10 months, arriving at Little Rock's Union Station on the day designated by the LRGSC as the mid-point in the Camp Ouachita fund drive. The LRGSC goal was to secure an additional \$5,000. to complete the camp's construction and by March 22nd, \$2,500. in donations and pledges had been raised.<sup>70</sup> The caption to the photo that appeared in the *Arkansas Democrat* included the statement, "...Mrs. Roosevelt expressed interest in the Girl Scouts camp being built in the Ouachita National Forest for which a drive is being conducted this week."<sup>71</sup> Margaret Ann Jackson and Mary Duffie, LRGSC scouts, represented Arkansas Girl Scouts on the platform. Both girls greeted Eleanor Roosevelt and Miss Jackson said,

Mrs. Roosevelt, in commemoration of your services as honorary president of the Girl Scouts of America, the Girl Scouts of Greater Little Rock wish to present you with these David O'Dodd Roses as a token of our admiration for you, the first lady of the land, and may you have a pleasant visit in our city.<sup>72</sup>

Eleanor Roosevelt's purpose in visiting Little Rock was to deliver a lecture entitled "The Relation of the Individual to His Community" on the evening of March 22, 1937 in the Little

Rock High School auditorium.<sup>73</sup> At the same historic juncture, Sue Ogden, other dedicated LRGSC leaders, and hundreds of young girl scouts in Central Arkansas were encouraging contributions from their communities to supplement WPA construction funds for Camp Ouachita. Their efforts secured the additional \$5,000. needed for camp construction.

Little Rock, Arkansas, raised \$5,000, its obligation toward the \$30,000 camp being built by the government in the Ouachita National Forest to be operated by the Little Rock Girl Scout council. Over a thousand people in Little Rock attended the Silver Anniversary celebration.<sup>74</sup>

By April 5, 1937, A. L. Nelson was giving directives for the development of the public recreational area on the south shore of the new lakebed, yet to fill with water. Plans were to shut the gate on the new Narrow Creek Dam by around May 12, 1937. Nelson, ever aware of potential LRGSC needs, wrote the following postscript directive to one of his staff members.

Foster: I'd like to have you look this over and locate an entrance road to take care of picnic areas and possible additional [Girl Scouts] organization site. Don't crowd the waters edge but keep back so plenty of area between road and lake is available for future development. You should plan to do this at a very early date. —ALN<sup>75</sup>

In a memorandum to the Regional Forester concerning improvements to the "Narrow Creek Dam Area" (the early name for the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area), Supervisor Nelson mentioned, "...It seems likely that we may lose F-22 Camp (Thornburg) and, in that event, will have to depend on F-6 at Hollis to carry out this program."<sup>76</sup>

A very early indication of looming water problems at Camp Ouachita is contained in correspondence between A. L. Nelson and Sue Ogden in late May of 1937. Sue Ogden wrote,

"Since my conversation with you the other day we have about decided to install a pump at the well, build a small storage tank on the hill about 1500 gallons, pipe it to the hall and use this for cooking and drinking. The well yields 1 1/2 gallons of water a minute which should be adequate for this purpose."<sup>77</sup>

Supervisor Nelson replied,

If the well driller feels that he cannot increase the rate of flow by improving the present well or by drilling a new one, the next best thing is to have the water pumped from the lake as suggested in your letter. A well rated at 1 1/2 gallons per minute is exceptionally poor even for ordinary farm use and I anticipate that you would have difficulty with it as time goes on as it doesn't have any margin in case of exceptionally dry weather.<sup>78</sup>

Throughout the construction phases of Camp Ouachita and Lake Sylvia, the Forest Service provided continued support and in-kind contributions. In early June, 1937, A. L. Nelson wrote the District Ranger at Jessieville,

Reference is made to our discussion a few days ago concerning the hauling of several truckloads of sand and gravel for the Girl Scouts Camp.



...Mrs. Ogden plans to obtain some coarse gravel from the Little Rock reservoir project [Lake Winona] within the next few days...

This is your authority to arrange for the transportation of three or four truck loads of sand from Oppelo and four or five truck loads of rock from the reservoir area stock pile as soon as Mrs. Ogden obtains the necessary permission.<sup>79</sup>

It was on June 16, 1937, that State WPA Administrator Floyd Sharp, in disguise, joined WPA workmen at Camp Ouachita to conduct his spontaneous straw poll about pending nationwide cutbacks in the WPA work relief force.

He worked on the Girl Scout camp project in the Ouachita mountains, Perry county. Nobody on the job knew him from Adam's celebrated ox, except the foreman, Hugh Henry. Mr. Henry was not supposed to know him but he said he recognized the administrator as soon as he got a peek at him. He kept the secret manfully, though.

*One of the Boys.*

The other workers on the project had no such knowledge. They accepted the new man, Smith, as one of themselves. With him they discussed their work, their likes and dislikes in the WPA system, their chances of holding on in the face of the personnel cut.

...He asked many questions about the general practice of mixing mortar for WPA work. His associates put him down as a man of boundless curiosity and limited knowledge.<sup>80</sup>

### *Camp Ouachita and Lake Sylvia: Popular From Day One*

Public and private-use pressures were evident from virtually day one at Lake Sylvia and Camp Ouachita. W. P. Dale, Fourche District Forest Ranger (later the Winona District), wrote of his concerns to A. L. Nelson,

It seems that unless something is done about developing bathing facilities on the east side of this lake, we will run into more or less a complication by people wanting to use the girls scouts' diving dock because on Wednesday 23 [sic] some 36 people, Perry County, were using the dock built for the girls scouts. The next day over 100 girls were using the dock, and on Friday some 40 WPA workers and their families were also using that part of the lake.

As a matter of fact the WPA workers were guests of the Girl Scout Council and there would have been no objection to them using the lake in that place, but you can readily see that we will be troubled unless an early arrangement can be made on the other side of the lake.<sup>81</sup>

Mrs. Steele Dortch, Commissioner of the LRGSC, had extended a written invitation to T. N. Busch, Acting Forest Supervisor, on June 15th. "We want you to come to the picnic the Council members and Scout Leaders are having at Camp Ouachita with the workmen on our project Friday afternoon at 4:00 O'clock, June 18th."<sup>82</sup> Ranger Dale's letter above—although he was confused on his dates (he dated his letter June 21st, yet spoke in the past tense about "Wednesday 23")—is clearly a commentary on the same party, with his reference to 40 WPA workers and their families, the day of the week (Friday), and the fact that the workers were guests of the Council. This confirms again what has already been established—the WPA constructed Camp Ouachita and the June 18th party

was an event the Council arranged to express their gratitude for the workers' ongoing efforts.

June 27, 1937 was the opening day for Camp Ouachita's first camping session, duly reported in the *Arkansas Gazette*.

### *Girl Scouts to Occupy Own Camp*

With the opening of Camp Quapaw [sic] in Ouachita National Forest, June 27, Girl Scouts will occupy their own camp for the first time. Heretofore they have held their summer camps at Camp Quapaw, Boy Scout camp on the Sabine river.

The Little Rock Council Camp Committee will supervise activities and any Girl Scout between 10 or 18 years of age may attend. Registrations for 42 already have been received....

Three camp sessions have been arranged. The first which opens June 27 will continue until July 11; the second will open July 11 and continue until July 18, and the third will be held from July 18 to August 1. Girls may register for the entire five weeks or for any number of complete periods.

### *Built on Lake.*

The camp...is built around the edge of an artificial lake. Until cabins can be completed, girls will live in tents grouped in units. Each will accommodate 12 or 15 girls and their counselor.

The center of life in camp is Great Hall where the Scouts eat, read, play and stage plays. It is built of rocks with a screened porch overlooking the lake.

Outdoor sports include swimming, hiking, rowing, singing, acting, archery, nature study and camp lore. Handicrafts will include potters wheel and loom, wood, leather, metal and textiles, materials and designs from the outdoors, block prints, stage setting and puppets.<sup>83</sup>

After what can be surmised was a successful first summer at Camp Ouachita, Sue Ogden received a letter from District Ranger Dale in late October with a commentary on a special visitor.

I was out at your camp last week with Mr. Ferguson from the Secretary of Agriculture's Office....

Mr. Ferguson became very much interested in your camp as well as for the whole improvement job and expressed a desire to come back and said the day would be remembered more as a vacation than ordinary work. He especially liked the massive fire places.<sup>84</sup>

### *The Well Runs Dry - July, 1938*

The early months of the new year—1938—were marked by routine grounds improvement and maintenance chores such as planting trees (locust, privet, and others) and arranging the installation of the camp's first telephone. By April 15th, a telephone had been installed at the caretaker's residence.<sup>85</sup>

As human activity hummed above ground, Camp Ouachita's subsurface geology sent the first of what would be many riveting messages. Word came in a handwritten memo from



William P. Dale: "The Girl Scouts called last night and said their well was dry. I told them to use ours."<sup>86</sup> The LRGSC's first well at Camp Ouachita—"exceptionally poor" in A. L. Nelson's words—dried up after one year and 31 days. (For a thorough presentation of Camp Ouachita's subsurface geology, please see the *Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study*, II. Site Feasibility, A. Surface/Subsurface Analysis, 1. Physiographic features; and again under II. Site Feasibility, A. Surface/Subsurface Analysis, 4. Utilization features, b) Capability to supply potable water).

On October 4th - 6th, 1938 about 75 Recreational Supervisors of the WPA held an institute at Camp Ouachita at the invitation of the LRGSC. Sue Ogden requested that a scheduled October 1st lowering of Lake Sylvia for improvements be delayed until after the institute, as the WPA had planned waterfront activities. A. L. Nelson congenially complied with her request.<sup>87, 88</sup> This correspondence was also the first mention of Lake Sylvia by name, thus it can be assumed that Lake Sylvia was christened sometime in the latter half of 1937 or within the first three quarters of 1938 since it was referred to only as a "lake" in June, 1937 correspondence and news accounts.

### *The Flagship Camp Hosts a Regional Girl Scouts Conference*

In early 1939, Sue Ogden was busy arranging road and parking area improvements and the waterfront development that proved so central to the Girl Scouts' enjoyment of Lake Sylvia. She also advised A. L. Nelson of an upcoming Dixie Region of Girl Scouts, Inc. conference that was to be held in Little Rock. "We plan to feature camp—taking all two hundred guests out there for a whole day."<sup>89</sup> Dixie Regional Conference participants lunched in the Great Hall at Camp Ouachita on April 26th.<sup>90</sup>

Prior to the first camping session of 1939, Mrs. Herbert L. Thomas, LRGSC commissioner, publicized through an interview with the *Arkansas Democrat* that Camp Ouachita was open to girls between 10 and 18 years of age from all over the state of Arkansas—"...whether or not they are Girl Scouts, Mrs. Thomas says."<sup>91</sup> Equestrian skills training was offered for the first time at Camp Ouachita in 1939, "...under the direction of Miss Jane Spink, accomplished equestrian, coming here from Atlanta, Georgia."<sup>92</sup> The addition of horseback riding resulted in the LRGSC increasing by one acre the area under the Council's Special Use Permit.

One acre to be used as a paddock for training in horsemanship to consist of one oval track and fenced enclosure - perimeter approximately 200 ft.

Character of Land: Flat, with small amount of brush. Is part of an old homesite.<sup>93</sup>

The earliest correspondence from Sue Ogden (February, 1935) listed the LRGSC address as 229 Donaghey Building, Seventh and Main Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas. By April, 1936, the LRGSC had relocated to 308 Southern Building, Second and Center Streets, Little Rock, Arkansas. December 2, 1938 correspondence shows for the first time the LRGSC's new letterhead address of Girl Scout Little House, 319 West Second Street, Little Rock, Arkansas.

## 1940'S - THE WAR YEARS

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In February 1940, water was the priority issue to resolve for the LRGSC's fourth camping season at Camp Ouachita.

They want to be assured of a water supply this summer & I suggested that it would probably be best to have a new well on a north slope. We have always hit water on north slopes & their present well is on a south slope. They wanted to know if they couldn't use the well on the south side [Lake Sylvia Recreation Area] that they used last summer & I told them I thought it would be O.K. as long as the pipe was out of sight.<sup>94</sup>

On February 12th, Sue Ogden wrote A. L. Nelson:

During our recent telephone conversation you said that you thought the record of the well across the lake was in your office. Will you please send me the depth of the well, size of the casing and the flow of water per minute?

We are attempting to make definite plans for a permanent water supply and would like this information on the well across the lake before we decide to drill another well on our side of the lake.<sup>95</sup>

In a memorandum for the files, Nelson recorded the persistent potable water problem for the LRGSC.

...Mrs. Sue Ogden...called me in regard to the use this year and possibly next year for the well which we have on the south side of Lake Sylvia near the dam.

The Girl Scouts would like to connect this well with their water system as their present system does not supply sufficient water to take care of the full camp.

...It does not appear necessary to amend this present special use permit to cover the use of the well just below the turnaround above the dam. The Girl Scouts will be given the use of this well if needed and if they so desire.<sup>96</sup>

Of note in the same memorandum—considering the later controversy that erupted over the Forest Service's request that Atihcauo acreage be relinquished for expansion of the public facilities—is the following commentary.

For information, the well on the south side of the lake near the dam was drilled early in the construction of the recreational facilities on the south side of the lake with part of a campground and picnic ground development. However, after the construction work got under way more thorough consideration was given to the ultimate use of the area and it was decided that this locality should be preserved for future development, and until some demonstrated need existed it would be left in an undeveloped stage. This was with the exception of the foot trail and road now entering into the area. In other words, we do not plan to develop the picnic or camping facilities in this unit for sometime to come.

In view of this it would not interfere with the public use to have the Girl Scouts use the well for their water supply.<sup>97</sup>

In a March 9th letter, Sue Ogden informed A. L. Nelson,



"We would like to avail ourselves of the generous offer of the use of the well across the lake.

...In view of the fact that we are going to some expense to make the well available, we would like for the permit to cover as long a period as possible.

We would also like to have permission to enclose the little well house and bring the pipe across the dam.<sup>98</sup>

Supervisor Nelson responded, stating Forest Service terms clearly.

As soon as the report has been completed by the District Ranger we will issue you a permit covering this use. A permit can only be made on an annual basis, but will be renewed each year. It will include the proviso permitting you to construct a small well house which should be in keeping with the natural surroundings. There will also have to be a clause, as I mentioned over the phone, releasing this well for public use to the Forest Service in case it is needed for a higher public use.<sup>99</sup>

A free Special Use Permit for this supplemental water supply was subsequently issued by the Forest Service to the LRGSC on March 15, 1940 and renewed annually thereafter.<sup>100, 101, 102, 103, 104, 105</sup>

Formal confirmation of the WPA's completion of work at Camp Ouachita arrived in a letter dated March 10, 1940. "...The WPA laborers have departed and the camp is acquiring a finished look. The sign for the entrance is very attractive and we appreciate the Forestry service making it."<sup>106</sup>

### *CCC involvement with Camp Ouachita grounds*

Early problems with soil erosion along Camp Ouachita's shoreline prompted the Forest Supervisor's decision to construct the flagstone decking that defines the swim crib area, additional stone retaining walls, and the rock walkways that lead past the Lake View Patrol Unit. Supervisor Nelson also suggested other erosion control measures in the fall of 1940.

One of the major problems on the special use area is the severe erosion which is taking place along the slope to the water front and at the water front. ...It appears that a rock retaining wall may be needed at the swimming dock, and rock steps at very frequent intervals on the trails leading to the landing from the cottages and great hall. In addition, the water on the trails must be taken care of, as well as the rapid runoff. ...This is a problem of the most severe erosion.... The work can be done by the CCC crew which we plan to get from Paron Camp. If no CCC are available, we may merely submit a plan of control to the Girl Scout Council for action if they can get a WPA project approved.<sup>107</sup>

Workers from CCC Camp F-6<sup>108</sup> at Hollis, Arkansas were in all likelihood recruited for some of the soil-erosion control work at CO, as Forest Service Engineer George W. Glendenning wrote the following to A. L. Nelson 12 days later. "On November 15, Project Superintendent Bell of Camp F-6 and I inspected the erosion on the area of the Ouachita Girl Scout Camp. Following are general recommendations for erosion control of the area."<sup>109</sup> Glendenning advised erosion control work in 11 dispersed areas of the campgrounds. Specific mitigation measures recommended for the "lake landing dock" included

...a rock masonry retaining wall approximately 100 feet long, six feet high, should be built paralleling the present rock wall at water edge and back in line with the present steps. The trail leading from the great hall to the landing should be completed with rock steps and flagstone landings about the present width of steps now in place.<sup>110</sup>

The "...present rock wall at water edge..." and "...present steps..." were constructed by the WPA according to Jewell Hurst, first caretaker at Camp Ouachita who lived there with her family for nine years.<sup>111</sup>

By February, 1941, approvals had been obtained for the soil-erosion control work at CO and historic correspondence makes specific reference to both Camp Paron and Camp Hollis workers' involvement.

Relative to our phone conversation of Feb. 25, 1941 this will confirm receipt of the approval sheet for the soil erosion work at the Girl Scout Camp, and allows for 666 2/3 man days.

...If necessary, Hollis can assist in obtaining the bermuda sod and it can be trucked to the Girl Scout Camp for use by the Paron Crews.

It is questionable whether Proj. Supt. Caldwell will work the crew over the allotted time on this project so perhaps you should use all the help Hollis can give to make up the difference.

Proj. Supt. Bell should spend sufficient time on the work in order to assure a real good job.<sup>112</sup>

A 1994 interview by a Forest Service employee of CCC alumnus Coy Rimmer of West Helena, Arkansas supports the historic correspondence and confirms that Camp Paron CCC workers were ultimately assigned to do—in all likelihood—the majority of the supplemental rock work along the lakefront at Camp Ouachita.

Background: Contact enlisted in the fall of 1939 or 1940 and was stationed at Camp Paron. Spent 9 months in the CCC in 1939-1940. Camp Paron had barracks (wooden buildings with tar paper siding). Among activities he remembers specifically working on: clearing right-of-ways, fighting forest fires, and working on the girl scout camp. Recalls fighting a forest fire on a mountain overlooking Hot Springs. Also worked at Camp Ouachita building the stone steps leading from the waterfront up to the great hall. About 20 men (a platoon or squad) worked on construction [of] the stone steps.<sup>113</sup>

The well house on the south side of Lake Sylvia, improved by the LRGSC under the free "water supply" Special Use Permit, burned to the ground sometime in July-August, 1945. There is no mention of the loss in the annual "water supply" renewal letter dated the 4th of July, 1945. Forest Supervisor Bryan, in a 6 September 1945 letter to Sue Ogden, gave approval to construct a replacement well house.

Reference is made to your conversation with Mr. Bryan relative to the well shelter you contemplate erecting to replace the one which was burned down.

The above designated permit covers both the well and well shelter and as it is still in effect you may erect another shelter without being issued another permit.<sup>114</sup>



The legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki resulted in an Executive Order in 1946 that required a unique amendment to the LRGSC's Special Use and Term Permits.

In accordance with a new Executive Order recently issued, it is necessary that this permit be amended as follows:

"There are hereby reserved to the United States all fissionable materials in the foregoing described lands, together with the right, at any and all times, to enter upon the lands and prospect for, mine and remove such materials."

Please attach this letter to the permit as an amendment.<sup>115</sup>

By May, 1947, the LRGSC moved the Girl Scout Little House to a new location in Little Rock at 1620 Main Street. The water supply at Camp Ouachita remained as the central focus of efforts to continuously maintain and increase the efficiency of potable water delivery to the camp from the LSRA well south of the dam. Still heavily dependent on the LSRA well, Sue Ogden arranged in April, 1947 to borrow from the Forest Service a deep well pump and gasoline motor salvaged from CCC days.<sup>116</sup> Thereafter, a comprehensive survey of the camp's infrastructure was conducted by the Council to determine maintenance needs and a cleanup schedule prior to the 1947 summer camping sessions.<sup>117</sup> With a new camp director scheduled—Dorothy Broomhall, who was also the new LRGSC Executive Director—a June, 1948 *Arkansas Gazette* article captured the Camp Ouachita mission statement.

The purpose of Girl Scout Camp Ouachita is to provide camping to all girls in order to stimulate appreciation of the out-of-doors through progressively adventurous experiences, provide training in citizenship through the give and take of community living in which each girl has a part in planning and carrying out the camping program in small groups with the help of adult leaders to contribute to the physical and mental well being of every Girl Scout camper and to help in the development of such qualities as resourcefulness, initiative and self-reliance.<sup>118</sup>

In January, 1949, Sue Ogden requested permission from the Forest Service to construct a filter and chlorination plant near the dam on Camp Ouachita acreage. She also investigated the possibility of securing an electric generator. Dorothy Broomhall wrote Supervisor Howard and clarified the LRGSC's intention of installing "...electricity into the Great Hall, the hospital, the ice house, and the Caretaker's house." With the assistance of the State Health Department and the Forest Service's approval, the LRGSC began planning the installation of the new filtered water system, drawing the needed water from Lake Sylvia<sup>119, 120</sup> Sue Ogden began working steadily at getting the camp's telephone repaired and operating. Supervisor Howard wrote the Fourche District Ranger in June, 1949 about the obstacles in the way of dependable telephone service.

Mrs. Ogden called on May 28 in regard to installing switch in Scarboro's Store so that our line would be connected up with the commercial facilities in Perry County and they could reach Little Rock.

I mentioned some of the technical problems of hooking up the lines and told her to get in touch with you. I told her any action was contingent upon your approval.<sup>121</sup>

In early 1949, the LRGSC's letterhead changed from Girl Scouts [Inc.] to Girl Scouts of the United States of America as the result of a congressional amendment recognizing the Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts organizations in like manner.<sup>122</sup>

Supervisor Howard noted in November, 1949 that the LRGSC had disconnected the pipe from the LSRA well house and questioned whether the free "water supply" special use permit was still active. Fourche District Ranger Knoxie M. Kunze replied on the bottom of Howard's memo, "Pipe has been disconnected but the equipment has not been moved and there is still some doubt about their water supply."<sup>123</sup> The LRGSC renewed both annual permits—the special use permit for 25 acres and the free "water supply" special use permit—for calendar year 1950.<sup>124</sup>

## 1950'S - THE EXPANSION YEARS

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Prior to the benefit of electricity and refrigeration and the installation of butane for cooking purposes, all meals at Camp Ouachita were served from the Girl Scouts' chuck wagon.<sup>125,126</sup> Wagons were, of course, a familiar service vehicle at Camp Ouachita, having been used in the camp's early years to transport girl scouts on various area outings and to ford the old creek crossing on Forest Service Road 152. As no gas lines delivering natural gas from a utility company ever serviced Camp Ouachita, butane gas was installed for the camp's kitchen in early 1951.<sup>127</sup> The LRGSC installed electrical lines and Sue Ogden turned on the first electrical switch in the Great Hall at Camp Ouachita on May 7, 1950.<sup>128</sup>

Fourche District Ranger Knoxie Kunze recommended in May, 1950 that the girl scouts' wooden "diving dock and cat-walk" be replaced with a concrete structure. Due to the advanced deterioration of the wood members, he added, "This is a must job if we are to have a diving dock after this current season."<sup>129</sup> Plans were made to make the improvements in early spring, during the annual lowering of the lake's water level. Actual reconstruction of the diving dock began in the spring of 1952.<sup>130</sup>

After thirteen years of frequent encampment at Camp Ouachita by legions of healthy, wilderness loving girl scouts, an increase in two of the most odious natural predator populations known to Arkansans demanded immediate attention. Forest Supervisor M. C. Howard readily accepted the despicable task of dealing head on with the elusive, silent creatures that grabbed every opportunity to strengthen their foothold at Camp Ouachita. "*Elimination of Chiggers from Grounds*" and "*Ticks*" were two excerpts from a Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine publication that contained advice Supervisor Howard urged Sue Ogden and the CO girl scouts to follow. Sulfur dusting and cutting underbrush, weeds and grass were the recommended antidotes for the nefarious chigger; a spray of 8 teaspoons of nicotine, 1/2 ounce of soap and 3 gallons of water was prescribed for vegetation infested with the loathsome tick.<sup>131</sup>

In early 1952, the Girl Scouts were predictive of current national trends via their expressed interest in a conservation/environmental education program at Camp Ouachita. The LRGSC Field Director eloquently voiced the Council's wishes in a letter to the Forest Supervisor.

The Girl Scouts are very interested in having a conservation project at Camp Ouachita this summer, especially for the older girls. We feel that such a program is important in stimulating interest and a feeling of



responsibility for the wise use of forest lands, the preservation of waterways, soil, and natural beauties of this region and the education of everyone toward a better appreciation of our natural resources.

This program, of course, can be carried out only with the help of the Forest Service.<sup>132</sup>

The Forest Supervisor quickly responded,

We heartily agree with a conservation project for the Girl Scouts as outlined in your letter of April 18. Such a program will do much to stimulate interest in the conservation of our natural resources.

To the extent that our finances and personnel available will permit, we will be glad to assist you in the program.<sup>133</sup>

Evidence of the ongoing difficulties encountered in policing Camp Ouachita is found in the following excerpt from a 1952 memorandum written by the Forest Supervisor.

Last week...I had occasion to stop briefly at Camp Ouachita on Lake Sylvia.

...I noticed in particular the extremely low draw down of the water in the lake. I don't know whether this is the usual condition during a dry summer or whether it is the result of the hoodlums opening the gate at the dam. The Caretaker told me he had been having considerable trouble with the young men around the area molesting the camp and on several occasions opening the gate and letting the water out of the lake. It is suggested that you get together...and discuss ways and means of either removing the gate wheel or locking the gate mechanism so that unauthorized people cannot let the water out.<sup>134</sup>

In December, 1953, the LRGSC made a formal request for special use of the acreage—on the south side of the dam—that ultimately became known as Atihcauo, the primitive unit. The LRGSC originally factored the requested area as 26 acres.<sup>135</sup> Intended as a major expansion to provide outpost camping for Senior Girl Scouts, the request was well received by the Forest Supervisor, who responded.

...I feel quite certain that there will be no difficulty in granting the Girl Scouts the additional area requested.

As to the probable cost of the additional area, again I cannot give you a specific figure; however, it will probably be consistent with the present rate which you are paying for the 26 acres under Special Use Permit which is 50 [cents] per acre per year.

...your 1954 Permit will be amended to take care of the additional area providing the rental rate meets with your approval.<sup>136</sup>

Plans for expansion of Camp Ouachita apparently influenced the renaming of the Little Rock Area Girl Scout Council. The cover letter of March 22, 1954 that accompanied the new Special Use Permit application carried the new letterhead name—Ouachita Area Girl Scout Council.<sup>137</sup>

The final request for additional land totaled 51 acres—26 acres in the SW 1/4 of Section 28 and 25 acres in the NW 1/4 of Section 33. The new Special Use Permit described the intended use as "An exclusive area for outpost camping, hiking, nature study, conservation projects and related uses to use in connection with present Girl Scout

Camp." Under *Location, and status of land affected*, the Forest Service entered "...Area is at present a public use area." The following comments governing conditions in the permit were also included.

...We should reserve the right to permit public use when area not needed nor in use by the girl scouts. Girl Scout use will have priority.

This is a scenic area well suited for public use. It has not been maintained, however, so has not been receiving much use. Under these conditions, the girl scouts could make better use of the area. At a later date we may wish to cancel the permit and return the area to public use.<sup>138</sup>

The Forest Supervisor responded to the first Special Use Permit application for the expansion area with a balanced consideration of public recreational needs.

As you know there is a public camp and picnic area on the south side of Lake Sylvia. Since public use has priority over all other types of recreational uses we cannot grant an exclusive use that would in any way inhibit use of the area by the public. Therefore, I cannot approve use to the Girl Scouts [of] that area lying in Section 33. However, we would be glad to revise your present permit to include the approximate 26 acres lying in Section 28.

The additional cost for the 26 acres would be \$13.00, or at the rate of 50 [cents] per acre per year.<sup>139</sup>

Negotiations with the Forest Supervisor were then initiated by the OGSC, intent on lobbying for both Section quarters. In June, 1955, a second alarm was sounded by the Jessieville District Ranger concerning severe soil erosion at Camp Ouachita, motivating the OGSC to push for the larger acreage in order to accommodate the heavy pedestrian traffic from growing numbers of girl scout campers. "Camp Ouachita is eroding badly. It is our concern as well as the Girl Scouts. ...Could you please have someone make another good inspection and draw up an erosion control plan?"<sup>140</sup>

Soon after, Supervisor Eriksson reiterated his concerns over public recreational access to Lake Sylvia in a letter to the OGSC Camp Committee Chairman.

...we suggested the addition of some 26 acres on the other side of the Lake immediately across from the present main camp. As I recall Miss Rice's request included some land which is very close to the present use area; however, we did not feel that it would be in the best public interest to have the Girl Scout Camp boundaries come much closer to the public picnic area because of the conflict in use and other complications which might arise under such a set-up.<sup>141</sup>

The final negotiations for the expansion area occurred on August 29th. A handwritten note by "H. E." dated 8/29 directs, "1. Extend present are[a] on S of Lake to approx 50± Acres"<sup>142</sup> A follow-up memorandum to the Jessieville District Ranger directs, "1. Extend present area south of Lake to include 50 acres more or less."<sup>143</sup>

The new acreage, destined for development as Atihcauo, was added to the OGSC Special Use Permit in 1956. A Holiday Season, 1955 letter from Supervisor Eriksson spelled out the details.



We have surveyed the additional area on the other side of the lake from the main camp and are increasing the permit area by 53 acres. This will mean that you will have the five acres included in the main camp, which is currently covered by a 30-year term permit, plus 79 acres on both sides of the lake.<sup>144</sup>

In early 1956, Eriksson wrote to the Regional Forester,

With respect to the area used by the Girl Scouts...five acres are under term permit and 79.3 acres are under annual special use permit. The added area is to be used by the Scouts for outdoor camping and there are no plans for erecting any improvements on this area.<sup>145</sup>

OGSC Executive Director Janice Davies wrote Supervisor Eriksson in early December, 1957, advising him of the OGSC's desire to add improvements to the 53-acre "Lot E" expansion area and promising to send plans for Forest Service approval.

We were able this year to save from our budget sufficient funds to build a unit for primitive camping. This would entail the erection of a unit house, platforms for six tents, a sanitary pit privy, and the use of the small existing rock building for showers and lavatories.

...Mr. William Allen, a registered architect with the firm of Swain and Allen, is drawing the plans and supervising the building.<sup>146</sup>

The "small existing rock building" Davies referred to in her letter was the well house constructed as a replacement for the original well house that burned in the summer of 1945. The Arkansas State Board of Health wrote Eriksson a letter approving the OGSC's plans for the primitive camping unit on December 12, 1957,

These plans include the development of a camping area for approximately 10 [sic] tents, across the lake from their swimming area. The sanitary facilities to serve this area would include water piped from their present treatment plant to the area, showers in the small stone house formerly used as a well house and a sanitary pit privy. The pit privy will be constructed in accordance with plans furnished by this department...and will be located 300 feet from the shore line of Lake Sylvia. ....the plans for expansion meet with the approval of this Department.<sup>147</sup>

The Forest Service further assisted the OGSC by fencing the new expansion area from the waterline back into the woods a sufficient distance to discourage trespassers and posting it with U.S. Government signs. Additionally, the Forest Service constructed a pipe gate across the paved ford at the head of Lake Sylvia—on the access road to the back of the lake—thereby closing off public access to the southeastern shoreline.<sup>148, 149</sup>

Later the same month, the OGSC renewed their efforts to secure telephone service for Camp Ouachita by seeking to add the newly abandoned North Fork Pinnacle tower cabin—a Forest Service facility—to their Special Use Permit. The first telephone (for emergency use) was installed by the USDA FS at Camp Ouachita in the caretaker's residence on April 15, 1938. Historic correspondence reveals that this early telephone technology resulted in reception problems and disruptions in service throughout the near two decades of use of this line, which extended from the North Fork Pinnacle Lookout Cabin to Camp Ouachita.

Thus in late December of 1957, the OGSC—after hearing about USDA FS plans to abandon the telephone line from the lookout cabin to the CO caretaker's house—requested the inclusion of the North Fork Pinnacle Lookout Cabin and the CO segment of the telephone line in their long-standing Special Use Permit. OGSC plans were to improve the telephone line and then connect the camp's telephone with the Perryville Exchange at Highway 10. The USDA FS generously added the requested facilities to the OGSC permit at a rate of \$1.00 per year and contributed—at no additional cost—the telephone line from the lookout cabin to the Perryville Exchange at Highway 10 and four telephones as additional gifts to the girl scouts.

By October, 1958, the Perry County Telephone Company had constructed a new telephone line from Highway 10 to Camp Ouachita thus the OGSC had no further need of the Forest Service line between the lookout cabin and the Highway 10 exchange. Historic correspondence reveals the USDA FS invited the OGSC to retain the line between the camp and the lookout cabin since the latter was under the OGSC Special Use Permit.<sup>150,151,152,153,154,155,156</sup>

The OGSC decided by May, 1959 to relinquish maintenance of the telephone line between the North Fork Pinnacle Lookout Cabin and the caretaker's residence. Commercial telephone service was by then available and so a year-and-a-half later, the use of the Lookout Cabin and telephone line was eliminated.<sup>157</sup>

Plans for a new boathouse were submitted to Forest Supervisor John T. Koen in early December of 1958. In her letter that accompanied the blueprint, Janice Davies described the new structure that would replace the original boathouse.

...The present building is to be wrecked and the new one erected on the same rock piers. The building will be of the same design but will be enlarged to hold 15 canoes and a first aid room. The floors, joists and sills will be of wolmanized lumber, the siding of redwood, and the roof of composition shingles. Aluminum nails will be used, and the redwood will not be painted but will be allowed to weather.

New ladders will be built, and the catwalk repaired.<sup>158</sup>

Supervisor Koen approved the blueprint without delay and construction on the new boathouse began the following week.<sup>159</sup>

In 1959 the Department of Agriculture donated 5,000 rose bushes to the OGSC to plant at Camp Ouachita. The Council planned to encircle the land with rose hedges. Janice Davies asked for and received help from the Forest Service in identifying the camp's boundaries for this considerable horticultural effort. Continuing problems with erosion at Camp Ouachita prompted Janice Davies to write John Koen in February, 1959 with a request for help on road maintenance. Her request offers a glimpse into the daily rhythm of camp life.

Last year we asked the Forest Supervisor if it would be possible for his road maintenance men to do some work on the roads within our camp. Our request was made too late for the work to be done prior to the opening of camp. It is necessary, several times a day, for a truck to go down the roads which lead to our various units. They are, at the present time, almost impassable. We wondered if it would be possible for you to help us with this need this spring.<sup>160</sup>



Supervisor Koen, constrained by budgetary guidelines, was unable to offer assistance with road repair and conveyed same in an internal memorandum.

...we are advising Mrs. Davies that there is a legal restriction on the expenditure of road funds, and in order for us to spend money on roads they must be a part of the road system. Since the roads inside the Girl Scout area are not on the system, we cannot at this time contribute to the maintenance of them.<sup>161</sup>

In his personal letter to Janice Davies, Koen explained verbatim the above restriction on road fund allocations and then offered, "...it is suggested that you contact the County Judge at Perryville...in a much better position to assist you than we are. Incidentally, responsibility for the maintenance of the road leading from Highway #9 into the camp also rests with the County."<sup>162</sup>

In May, 1959, the Winona District Ranger requested a revision of the OGSC's terminable special use permits, proposing to allow the Girl Scouts organization site to retain that portion of Atihcauo that had been developed, the ingress road to Atihcauo, and a reduced area of Lot A on Camp Ouachita's northwestern shoreline. This was in response to increasing public demand for recreational use of Lake Sylvania.

...This is the only public recreation area in this section of the forest. It serves people from surrounding cities and communities as far distant as Morrilton, Little Rock, and North Little Rock. Furthermore, there is no development anticipated nor location known which will serve the number of people, and serve them well, as will Lake Sylvania.

As the study of the plan will show, revision of present boundaries along the lines proposed will still leave ample room for internal expansion within the Girl Scout area for several years to come because there are sizable areas which have not been utilized. Also the present [Girl Scout] boundaries include sixty percent of the shoreline of Lake Sylvania. If the boundaries are redrawn along more realistic lines, Lake Sylvania can be expanded, as needed, to ultimately accommodate approximately ten times the twenty-seven and one-half thousand visits recorded during the 1958 use season.

Lot "E" [Atihcauo] on the east side of the lake should be limited roughly as indicated for two reasons: (1) To allow for a public area on this side of the lake and (2) To allow public access to the dam and to the ridge.... The dam, before the road was closed, was a popular attraction.<sup>163</sup>

Sue Ogden sent a brief handwritten note in August, 1951 to the then new Ouachita National Forest Supervisor after Forest Service personnel widened the entrance road to Camp Ouachita and increased parking capacity.

Dear Mr. Eriksson,

I want to thank you for taking care of the parking problem out at Camp Ouachita. We girl scouts deeply appreciate the cooperation we have always gotten from you and your department.

Sincerely,

Sue W. Ogden<sup>164</sup>

On April 24, 1954, Sue Peay Worthen Ogden passed away. It is probable that Camp Ouachita's great hall was christened Ogden Hall posthumously, in honor of the woman who was described by the *Arkansas Gazette* four years earlier as "...the motivating force in the development of the camp."<sup>165</sup> During her many years as an admired community leader, Sue Worthen Ogden organized the Arkansas Parent-Teacher Association (PTA); was instrumental in establishing the Girl Scout movement in Little Rock (in addition to serving on the national board and the Dixie Region of Girl Scouts Inc.); was one of the organizers of the Little Rock Community Chest; and was a founder of Little Rock's Mt. Holly Cemetery, where she is buried.<sup>166</sup>

In 1956, the Fourche Ranger District of the Ouachita National Forest—Camp Ouachita's locale—was renamed the Winona Ranger District.

## 1960'S - OUTDOOR RECREATION INCREASES NATIONWIDE

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In the spring of 1960, the Winona District Ranger was under the impression that the OGSC would rather retain the Atihcauo area intact and relinquish the southern portion of Lot A (northwestern shoreline) for expansion of the public recreation area.<sup>167</sup> The Forest Service proceeded with tentative plans to develop a camping loop in the southern half of Lot A. In a January, 1962 internal memorandum, Forest Supervisor Koen observed, "Although the Girl Scouts will probably be reluctant to give up this area, it is doubtful that they could show good reason for retaining large undeveloped areas which are in demand for public recreation use." Koen then instructed the Winona District Ranger to discuss the Forest Service's needs with the OGSC and gain their acceptance of the expansion plan.<sup>168</sup> Within days, the OGSC made their desires clear to District Ranger Armstrong.

Yesterday afternoon I discussed this [Special Use Permits] with Mrs. Holt, Executive Director of the Council. ...she was quite certain that the council Board would be greatly upset over any enlargement of the public area at the expense of their use area. She suggested that their perturbation might be less if we would consider expanding to the east, i.e., the southern portion of lot E, rather than into lot A, since lot E is less valuable to them than is lot A.

...They view lot A as their only avenue of expansion and although their present plans do not call for further expansion they do feel that in the future (10-20 years) they will need to expand substantially.... I think that if and when further expansion...is necessary and desirable it could be accomplished in the area to the north and east of lot C.

...I can understand and sympathize with their feelings, but this does not alter the fact that we are currently receiving over 20,000 visits on less than one-third of the area surrounding the lake; we have no development for camping, which we badly need; and, in contrast with the Council, our need is now, not 10-20 years hence.

I feel that in the public interest, the need to develop this area for camping is of sufficient urgency to justify overriding the wishes of the Council. We should explain to them the public need for more of the shoreline and assure them that if they decide...expansion on their part is essential we



will consider extending the boundaries of their use area to the north and east.<sup>169</sup>

Ranger Armstrong met with the OGSC Board and presented the Forest Service plan for expansion into the southern half of Lot E. Subsequently—In mid-May, 1962—representatives of the OGSC met with Ranger Armstrong and other USDA FS personnel at Lake Sylvia to review the proposed development. Armstrong reported in an internal memo, "Mr. Townsend [OGSC President] stated he did not feel a conflict would exist between the proposed campground and the girl scout use on lot E. He felt the Board would react favorably to exclusion of that part of lot E needed for the public development."<sup>170, 171</sup>

In July of 1962, the Arkansas State Health Department wrote the Forest Supervisor about concerns over pollution of Lake Sylvia from excessive recreational use.

During a recent inspection of the Girl Scout Camp on Lake Sylvia, it was noted that the public use area has become very popular.

Since the lake is quite small, excessive recreational use of the area around the lake and large numbers of bathers may contribute substantially to the pollution of the lake. This office and the local Scout Director are concerned about the deteriorating lake water quality since this is used as a source of water supply for the scout camp.

We were informed that plans were being made to expand the public use area around the lake. In the event that this takes place, it will be necessary to expand the water treatment facilities at the camp to provide a much higher degree of treatment. The cost will be high.<sup>172</sup>

Supervisor Koen responded to the Board of Health, stating concerns over his realization that filtered Lake Sylvia water was the sole source of water for the girl scouts at the time.

...an adequate well would very likely be the best source of water for the Scout camp. If sufficient water cannot be obtained from a well, we perhaps could locate an area up stream above Lake Sylvia or some other nearby stream and issue a special use permit to the Girl Scout Council for installing and maintaining a source of water for the camp. ...we will be glad to meet with you at Lake Sylvia to look the area over and see if we can determine the best means for an adequate and pure water supply for the Girl Scout Camp.<sup>173</sup>

By August, 1962 efforts were underway to try and discern the reasons for the Council's difficulty in obtaining a potable well-water supply. The State Geological and Conservation Commission was asked to assess the ground water conditions in the area of Camp Ouachita.

Due to the increased public use of the lake, we are becoming concerned about using it as a drinking water supply. Due to a lack of other surface waters in the area, a system of wells and additional storage seems to be most economical.

We have suggested that the Scout leadership contact your office concerning ground water conditions in the area. The log of the U.S. Forest Service well is available for study. The Scout camp has two (2) old wells that were abandoned.<sup>174</sup>

In the same month, John Koen explained Camp Ouachita's growing water problem to the Regional Forester.

...About 15 years ago the State Board of Health permitted the Scout Council to install a treating plant below the dam and use water from Lake Sylvia as a source of water for the camp. ...Fifteen years ago the recreation use was considered very light. Now it has increased to the point where the State Board of Health considers it too risky for the Scouts to use water out of the lake.

On Monday we looked at some streams in the vicinity with the possibility of an impoundment and a pipe line to the camp. All streams within a reasonable distance of the camp are dry. This leaves the Scouts with but about two other means of obtaining a source of water; one is some test drilling with the possibility of using a multiple of wells. The other is an impoundment which would have to be quite large. The streams supplying Lake Sylvia are intermittent.<sup>175</sup>

The Forest Service assisted the OGSC in analyzing their water problem by making available to the Council all information, recommendations, and logs on the Forest Service wells at Lake Sylvia. Concurrently, plans proceeded for improvements to the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area with OGSC members invited by the Forest Service to survey areas of proposed changes prior to construction.<sup>176, 177</sup>

The OGSC—while putting finishing touches on a long-range 10-year plan for Camp Ouachita's further development—requested approval to add five new tent platforms, one for each patrol unit, in March, 1963 to accommodate increasing numbers of campers. On May 22, 1963, Forest Service personnel attended by invitation an OGSC board meeting to explain the status of the Scouts' Term and Special Use Permits relative to plans for expansion of the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area. Forester Hughes recounted the meeting's high points.

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Townsend, President of the Council, expressed their intentions to work toward exclusive utilization of Lake Sylvia by the Scouts.

Nix [Forest Service]...explained the difference in the two permits and the reason for the 30 year term permit on the 5 acres in Lot B. It was explained the lease had provided a 30 year period to amortize the investment made in the permanent improvements. The term permit would expire in January 1966.

...Nix advised current Forest Service policy provides for shorter term permits. Any new term permit could not exceed 20 years. He felt, provided the condition of the improvements warranted the term permit, all the area containing permanent improvements should be included rather than the 5 acres. The outpost area southeast of the dam in Lot E should remain under a terminable permit.

...He also passed original 1937-38 plans around which designated the areas for public use and area for the Scouts organization camp. Lots A, B and C on the north side of the lake were designated for use by the Scouts; the remainder including Lot E was planned and later partially developed for public use.<sup>178</sup>



On May 25, 1963, the *Arkansas Gazette* published an article on the growing tension between the Girl Scouts' need for a private camp and the Forest Service's need to serve public access to the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area.

Beautiful Lake Sylvia has become a subject of controversy between the Ouachita Girl Scout Council and the United States Forest Service.

For years they have shared the 18-acre Lake off Highway 10 in Perry County, in the Ouachita National Forest.

Now both have plans to expand their facilities, and that's the problem.

The Girl Scout camp is on one side of Lake Sylvia and the Forest Service has a public use area on the other side.

...John T. Koen of Hot Springs, superintendent of Ouachita National Forest, said that for a year he had been talking with Scout leaders about letting the Forest Service expand its public use area.

Koen said he thought the Council had agreed and was dismayed to learn otherwise.

...The Board's reaction was that the Forest people had handed the Council an ultimatum. It responded by drafting a resolution....<sup>179</sup>

The Resolution—adopted May 22, 1963—stated the following (excerpts):

...WHEREAS, the Ouachita Girl Scout Council has not objected to the public use area presently being utilized to capacity at Lake Sylvia, but it does object to any further expansion of the public use area; and

...WHEREAS, such expansion of the public use area will greatly curtail or eliminate future expansion of the Girl Scout Camp on Lake Sylvia in accordance with its projected planned improvements scheduled through 1970; and

...WHEREAS, the Ouachita Girl Scout Council serves 11 counties and offers camping to many thousand girls within the council and from other areas both within and outside the State of Arkansas to the extent that the Girl Scout Camp is fully utilized 12 months a year and such Girl Scout activities in this area far exceed any potential possible use of the area by the public.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Directors of the Ouachita Girl Scout Council does not approve the plans of any future expansion of the public use area at Lake Sylvia and respectfully requests the Forestry Service to abandon any anticipated increase in the public use area at Lake Sylvia and that the property presently held by the Ouachita Girl Scout Council under lease and terminable use permit be incorporated under a 20 year lease so that the proposed improvements of the Girl Scout Camp may proceed as planned.<sup>180</sup>

The OGSC's 10-year plan for Camp Ouachita included clearing the primitive area; installing a \$20,000. well system; developing a new outpost area (to be named Adirondack); constructing a new multiple-use winterized troop cabin; developing the beach area along the lakeshore; relocating the camp's entrance; establishing a rifle range; and providing for limited public use with reservations through the OGSC.<sup>181</sup>

In June, 1963, the USDA FS Southern Region, Atlanta, wrote Forest Supervisor Koen an arbitration memorandum with the intention of resolving the conflict between the Forest Service and the OGSC over use of Lake Sylvia and adjoining lands.

...The requests for the exclusive use of Lake Sylvania by the local sponsoring council (at that time) were heard in 1935 before the dam and other developments were started. The Forest Service, then and has since, informed the sponsoring group that we would not grant them exclusive use of the lakeshore and that we would develop suitable portions of the area for public use.

...In all cases, we have been firm in our policy of providing adequately for the general public. At Lake Sylvania, you should proceed with the planned campground development, as approved here....<sup>182</sup>

After meeting with the OGSC at the Council's office on July 9th, Forest Supervisor Koen wrote A. E. Townsend, stating the final decision of the Forest Service.

In 1962, over 25,000 public use visits were recorded at Lake Sylvania, and present trends indicate that visits will exceed 30,000 this season. It is imperative that these facilities be expanded to meet this increased public demand. ...Adequate area adjacent to Lake Sylvania is available for expansion and with proper coordination can meet the foreseeable future needs of both the Girl Scouts and public use. Until the undeveloped area adjacent to Lake Sylvania has been developed to full potential for use by both the Girl Scouts and the public, it would not be in the best public interest to construct another lake with recreation facilities within this section of the Ouachita National Forest.

Therefore, in accordance with Clause 15 of your permit, we feel it is in the best interest of the public to cancel that portion of your terminable special use permit which is needed for the expansion of public facilities. This area contains no Girl Scout improvements.

...The Ouachita Girl Scout Council is a desired and welcome user of the National Forest land presently occupied by their physical facilities with room for expansion. At the same time the Forest Service must provide for the public need at Lake Sylvania.<sup>183</sup>

Supervisor Koen, in an early August, 1963 letter to the OGSC, offered a 20-year term permit on Lots B, C (approximately 23 acres), and A (2 acres containing Council improvements); a 5-year term permit on the remainder of lot A (approximately 5 acres); a 5-year term permit on approximately 12 acres of lot E (containing the developed "outpost camp"); and a terminable permit on approximately 20 acres of lot E not planned for public recreational development by the Forest Service. This first compromise resulted in Camp Ouachita potentially occupying an area of 62 acres—22.3 acres less than the camp's largest historic area of 84.3 acres in 1956.<sup>184</sup>

In September, 1963, a list of needed maintenance and improvements with a \$16, 995. total cost estimate was provided to the OGSC by the Forest Service to bring Camp Ouachita facilities up to standard prior to term and terminable permit review and renewal.<sup>185</sup> By January, 1964, the OGSC agreed to remain at Camp Ouachita and began preparing for the necessary rehabilitation of camp facilities. The Forest Service in Atlanta responded to Koen's early August, 1963 delineation of term and terminable permits for the OGSC with the following (excerpted) recommendations.

—Lot A is not the most desirable site for development for public recreation for two reasons; first, it would be undesirable to have this type of use directly adjacent to the Girl Scout Use and secondly, the terrain is not too



well suited for public recreation development. Accordingly we are agreeable to including all of Lot A in the Term Permit.

—The permit boundaries should extend to the Lake shore and the division by Lots is unnecessary. It can all be shown in one tract.

We suggest you consider the following—

—Issue one term permit for 20 years to cover the area now in Lots A, B, C with the boundaries extending to the lakeshore, and to the road on the West.

—If the Scouts have need for and have development plans for use of part of Block E, it should also be included. The limits of this section should follow logical boundaries, and be restricted to the area they will actually need and use.

—The term permit will restrict the total area to 80 acres, but the boundaries we propose should keep the area within this limit.<sup>186</sup>

In October, 1964, John Koen notified the OGSC that the Forest Service would issue a 20-year term permit on Lots A, B, C and part of Lot E for a total of approximately 80 acres in order to provide for expansion of girl scout facilities. He expressed the concerns of the Forest Service over the severe erosion throughout the campgrounds and advised that the Council had a little over a year to complete the necessary rehabilitations required for permit renewal.<sup>187</sup>

A Forest Service landscape architect assessed Camp Ouachita on October 22, 1964 and observed, "The most obvious need is one of erosion control. The site is situated, for the most part, on a rocky hillside. From all appearances, erosion control has not been established nor practiced since the area was built in 1938-39."<sup>188</sup> He recommended numerous improvements and mitigation measures to begin addressing the site's badly eroded condition.

Due to the OGSC's continuing financial constraints, the Council appealed to volunteers and to the 11 county judges whose young citizenry was served by Camp Ouachita to assist in any way possible with the needed improvements to the camp. The *Arkansas Gazette* reported November 12, 1964 on the Council's progress.

Randall Yarberry, chairman of the Camp Property Committee, said he had appealed to judges...to send equipment, workers and materials to the Camp...on November 21. That will be the last work day this year. Yarberry also is urging fathers of Girl Scouts to volunteer services the same day.<sup>189</sup>

On January 13, 1966, the USDA FS notified the OGSC that the 30-year lease for the CO site on Lake Sylvia would expire on January 18, 1966. The Forest Service indicated that after reviewing rehabilitation progress at Camp Ouachita, discussions with the OGSC resulted in a consensus to issue a 20-year lease for the property, to be in effect from 1/18/66 forward.<sup>190</sup>

Winona District Ranger James Helms advised the OGSC of the final area covered by the term permit renewal in a mid-January letter.

Here is a plat showing the area to be included.... Upon checking our old plat, it shows Lot A as having 6.9 acres, Lot B 5.0 acres, Lot C 18.4 acres, and Lot E—no acreage designation. This is a designated total of 30.3 acres. As you will note the new plat shows a total of 53.51 acres

which I believe to be correct. The old permit called for 79.3 acres more or less. The acreage difference being the undesignated acres of Lot E. The unit area in Lot E is now included in the total permitted area and is bounded as shown on attached map.<sup>191</sup>

In June, 1966, the Assistant Regional Forester advised Supervisor Koen, "We have revised the map to exclude the dam itself, and the acreage now is 53.02. Here is a copy of your map. ...The situation regarding the water supply and system is the most critical item now. What did the Health Department report on their inspections over the last two years?"<sup>192</sup>

The OGSC constructed the new flagpole on the west side of Ogden Hall in 1968. By mid-February, 1969 the Council was deliberating Camp Ouachita's future. At the first annual Forest Service-OGSC meeting, changes in Girl Scouts programming were already impacting the camp's use.

Due to the development and expansion of Camp Storey and the changing pattern of the Council's camping program, the nature of the programs conducted at Camp Ouachita may well change. The main attraction and feature of Camp Ouachita is the meeting hall. This, with other developments, such as flush toilets and running water combined with the proximity to major population centers (especially Little Rock), makes Camp Ouachita suitable for—

- a training site
- a day camp for Little Rock
- the first phase of progressive camping in which girls are exposed to progressively more natural environments and greater challenges.

It is a possibility also that the Camp could in the future become a state-wide training center. ...a camp offering amenities and proximity to Little Rock becomes more important, it is expected that increased use will be made of this camp and that the facility will be improved and maintained to a degree compatible with its increased importance to the Girl Scout Council.<sup>193</sup>

A March 4, 1969 (USDA FS) landscape architect's report conveyed the seriousness of continued problems with erosion at Camp Ouachita. "The erosion problem stems from many factors: High pedestrian impact on a very rocky site, thin soil types, very steep site, no ground cover (grass) because of lack of sunlight reaching the ground." The landscape architect furnished a three-page report with detailed recommendations for addressing the erosion of the Camp Ouachita grounds.<sup>194</sup>

From January to October, 1969, the OGSC spent \$6,277.60 on repairs, equipment and maintenance, attempting to fulfill the rehabilitation plan in advance of the 20-year permit renewal.<sup>195</sup> The water system was not addressed due to lack of adequate funds.

The only disruption in the girl scouts' continual renewal of Term and Special Use Permits for Camp Ouachita occurred in 1969/70. A Hollywood-based film production company—Lorimar Productions/AVCO Embassy Films—received approval from the OGSC and the USDA FS to film a movie on the grounds of Camp Ouachita and the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area. The plot for the movie—*The Sporting Club*—involved the construction and subsequent explosion of sets, thus it was deemed advisable from a liability standpoint to temporarily suspend the OGSC's permits and issue short-term Special Use Permits to Lorimar Productions. *The Sporting Club*—which achieved some



notoriety after its release—was produced by Lee Rich, directed by Larry Pearce, and starred Jack Warden, Maggie Blye, Nicolas Coster and Robert S. Fields.<sup>196</sup> The period of time covered by this special arrangement was 9/22/69 through 1/24/70.<sup>197</sup> The OGSC's term permit for Camp Ouachita were reissued immediately thereafter.

The OGSC moved in 1966 to their present location in the North Little Rock Civic Center at 615 West 29th Street, North Little Rock, Arkansas.

## 1970'S - A SLOW FAREWELL

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In July, 1970, Sally Yarberry (OGSC Director of Camping) and other Council members proposed to the Forest Service joint development of a water system for Camp Ouachita and the LSRA. In the midst of summer camping sessions at Camp Ouachita, new Forest Supervisor Alvis Z. Owen wrote the Regional Forester concerning the camp's potable water problem and the proposed solution.

Their [Girl Scouts] water supply comes from Lake Sylvia. The State Board of Health will no longer approve their water system. The Forest Service has also had problems in the past in providing water to the camping and picknicking [sic] areas across the lake.

The area around the lake was surveyed by Geologist Don Williams, and it is his opinion that drilling additional wells would not furnish adequate water for the Girl Scout Camp. Their maximum capacity is approximately 200 campers. The volume of water needed during peak camping periods is more than could be supplied by wells.

Although no detailed cost estimates have been made, consulting engineers have indicated to Mrs. Yarberry that the cost of installing a treatment plant, storage and distribution lines would be between \$10,000 and \$50,000. Based on the cost of other systems, it would appear that \$25,000 would be a reasonable estimate.

Mrs. Yarberry suggested that the Forest Service and Girl Scout Council undertake a joint venture and develop a water system which could supply both the Girl Scout Camp and the Forest Service facilities.<sup>198</sup>

The Forest Service received a response from the Regional Forester on the proposed joint venture by early August.

The Forest Service will not be able to enter into an agreement for cooperative construction of a water system. However, there is a possibility that we could purchase water from the Girl Scouts if the system installed would be adequate. This arrangement, of course, would require advanced planning and coordination.<sup>199</sup>

In 1970, \$11,000 was spent by the OGSC at Camp Ouachita on maintenance and equipment. This included renovation of the supervisor's (caretaker's) house.<sup>200</sup> In 1971, additional cash outlays totaling \$4,600 for camp improvement were made, paying for construction of a dry storage room (an addition to Ogden Hall) and the crafts shelter (to the north of Ogden Hall).<sup>201</sup> The dry storage room was begun in early January, 1971. Due to an admitted oversight by the OGSC, the plans were submitted to the Forest Service after construction was well underway. The Forest Service approved the plans after the fact and commented, "The need for this structure has been mentioned at previous meetings but was never reconciled due to a reluctance to attaching the room to

the old Hall. However, it will meet a real need, and hopefully, it will not prove unsightly."<sup>202</sup> The OGSC also informed the Forest Service in February, 1971 that the Girl Scouts' annual budget request would in all likelihood be cut back from the requested \$19,870 to either \$16,000 or \$13,000. An internal Forest Service memorandum noted, "Plans for a major overhaul of the water system have been postponed because of financial limitations."<sup>203</sup>

In compliance with reappraisals conducted on all national forest lands in the early 1970's, the OGSC's annual special-use and term permit fees increased to \$265. in January, 1972.<sup>204</sup>

Use of Camp Ouachita remained at a high level in the early 1970's. January, 1972 OGSC meeting minutes reported the following numbers for 1971 use.

- Troop Camping - weekends and weekdays, 2,412 camper days
- Summer Troop Camp with Core Staff, 680 camper days
- Six week resident camp, 3,252 camper days
- Staff training, 1260 camper days
- Senior high special weekend, included some out of state Scouts, 340 camper days
- Troop camp course, 46 camper days
- Leaders and trainers session, 52 camper days
- Work weekend, 310 camper days
- Arkansas Tech, Russellville, outdoor education coordinating program, 160 camper days

The camp use was mostly in a nine to ten month period.<sup>205</sup>

Concerns arose over the camp's sewage disposal system in early 1972. The Forest Service—having had their own difficulties with overloaded septic systems at the LSRA due to heavy use—requested that the OGSC have the State Department of Health inspect Camp Ouachita's sewage disposal system during a period of heavy summer use.<sup>206</sup> The Department of Health made two inspections in 1972—one in mid-May and the second on July 5, 1972—with both the spring and mid-summer inspections showing "...no indication of failure of the absorption system."<sup>207</sup>

The OGSC's annual fees for Camp Ouachita rose to \$339.33 in 1975. A review of the camp by the Winona District Ranger in late January, 1975 resulted in numerous recommendations to address continuing erosion, maintenance, and site clean-up problems. The District Ranger also requested that the OGSC submit a maintenance plan for Camp Ouachita.

Open discussion of Lake Sylvia's pollution and the impact on the girl scouts' filtered water supply occurred during an annual meeting between the OGSC and USDA FS representatives in October of 1976. Indeed the scope of the meeting was the future of the camp itself. The OGSC asked that in the event the Lake Sylvia water supply became non-filterable for drinking purposes, could wells be drilled. "The USDA FS stated that wells could be drilled if needed in the future."<sup>208</sup> At the annual meeting held in April of 1977, potable water needs again dominated the minutes.

The main topic was meeting state requirements for drinking water. By the end of July new state law requires that potable water from Lakes must be treated, not just filtered. The possibility of drilling a well was discussed. The Forest Service pointed out that a well probably would only supply



bath-house needs. Milner pointed out that small treatment systems were available....

Milner also suggested that a consulting engineer design the system. The council brought up cost and that funds were not abundant.

The meeting was adjourned with the understanding that camp would be held this year even if drinking water had to be hauled in, and that action was to be taken on the water system.

[Note: the following postscript was added to the minutes on 4/14/77.]

I talked to Mrs. Costley, Property Manager, and they had contacted the State Health Department and found out that they could not use the water from Lake Sylvia due to the swimming. The state recommended that a well be drilled to supply the potable water.<sup>209</sup>

The OGSC pursued the drilling of a new well by submitting a Special Use Application and Report to the Forest Service in the summer of 1977. This application also included a USDA FS Environmental Analysis Report on the proposed well that recommended the well be no deeper than 300 feet with the first 40 feet cased.<sup>210</sup> An appended Development Plan for a Ground-Water Supply for CO stated, "One to two wells are proposed, depending on the productivity of the first well. ...An estimated 20 gpm is desirable if used for drinking purposes alone, but 50 gpm may be needed for both drinking and bathing."<sup>211</sup> On August 20, 1977, a well contractor hired by the OGSC drilled the new well at Camp Ouachita to a depth of 720' and tapped a yield of 3 quarts per minute.<sup>212</sup> This was the last well drilled by the OGSC at Camp Ouachita.

In May, 1977, Winona District Ranger James E. Hutchins forwarded to the OGSC two copies of a USDA FS Maintenance and Rehabilitation Plan for Camp Ouachita that—in addition to addressing potable water needs and comprehensive camp maintenance—covered improvements such as building a swimming pool, winterizing the Infirmary, reconstructing the sewage system, and rehabilitating Atihcauo. A proposed five-year annual financial plan that called for expenditures totaling \$67,500. over the planning period was included. The USDA FS acknowledged, "We realize that the fulfillment of this plan is dependent upon the availability of funds." The plan also suggested cost-cutting alternative approaches for reaching the objective of "...providing safe and sanitary conditions to meet the overall objectives of providing an out-of-doors experience for Girl Scouts."<sup>213</sup>

Environmental constraints and financial limitations remained the top concerns for the balance of the OGSC's tenure at Camp Ouachita. In a memorandum to the Council regarding the 1978 annual meeting, District Ranger Vinson stated, "This year I am sure the main topic will be a solution to the Potable Water problem." As Camp Ouachita approached its 41st anniversary, the ongoing struggle with the magnitude of maintenance and operations needs at the aging facility kept the OGSC and its volunteer corps steadily occupied. In November, 1978, the USDA FS conducted a special-use inspection that determined the camp's entire electrical system was outdated and presented a safety hazard to users. New Winona District Ranger Michael C. Vinson requested technical assistance on January 8, 1979 for a thorough inspection prior to making formal recommendations. Writing the OGSC Executive Director two days later, Ranger Vinson suggested—based upon the overall condition of the camp and electrical system—that a new five-year maintenance and rehabilitation plan be prepared by the OGSC for discussion at the spring, 1980 annual meeting. In the same letter, Ranger Vinson discussed in detail the difficulties the OGSC faced in safeguarding Atihcauo's privacy and property.

The tent platforms and unit house at the Atihcauo site are currently in an unacceptable state. Plywood, braces and decking on the tent platforms are buckled and rotten. Ceiling panels on the porch are buckled and missing in some places. The railing around the porch is rotten. The electrical system presents a safety hazard. I realize the problems you have in preventing vandalism at this site. Because of this, the general condition and anticipated low use levels of this site, the Council could consider returning this portion of the camp to the control of the Forest Service.<sup>214,215</sup>

Two weeks after Ranger Vinson's January 10th letter, the OGSC Board of Directors met and decided the fate of the Council's 43-year relationship with Camp Ouachita. OGSC President Betty Lyons conveyed the Council's final decision in a May 10, 1979 letter to Forest Supervisor John V. Orr.

Dear Mr. Orr:

It was with much regret that our board, at its January 24 meeting, voted to discontinue use of Camp Ouachita. We propose to relinquish our use permit with the U.S. Forest Service as of November 30, 1979. We can most probably be completely vacated by December 31, 1979.

It is truly with much "heartbreak" that we give up this land. However, we just do not have available financial resources to restore and maintain the facilities as they should be and the potable water situation has not been resolved.

Our present caretaker will continue residing on the site until November or until all equipment and possessions have been removed from the premises.

We have enjoyed the use of this property for over forty years and literally thousands of Girl Scouts and the families and friends have camped there. We hope that the use the Forest Service makes of the facilities in the future will be such that the Girl Scouts may continue to camp there or use the facilities in some manner.

Thank you for a long and gratifying association.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Maxwell H. Lyons, II  
President<sup>216</sup>

Soon thereafter, Deputy Forest Supervisor George Kelley asked for USDA FS technical assistance in evaluating Camp Ouachita to determine alternative courses of action that the Forest Service might consider for the facility.<sup>217</sup> The evaluation—*Camp Ouachita Analysis for Lake Sylvia Recreation Area*—was comprehensive and offered seven program alternatives for the camp and four alternate recommendations to resolve the potable water problem. The program alternatives essentially provided use concepts and cost estimates.

1. RETURN TO SPECIAL USE STATUS — \$567,000 (with needed renovations and water, sewage and electrical [system] upgrades)
2. RETURN TO NATURAL STATE — \$60,000 (removing improvements)



3. DEVELOP AS A RESIDENCE AND WORK CENTER FOR THE LAKE SYLVIA RECREATION AREA — \$148,000 (with needed renovation and water upgrade)
4. DEVELOP AS A TRAINING CENTER...OR...
5. OPERATE AS A 75-ENROLLEE YCC CAMP — \$544,000 (with needed renovations and water, sewage and electrical [system] upgrades)
6. RECREATION DEVELOPMENT — \$935,000 (major recreational site development, renovation, and water, sewage and electrical [system] upgrades)
7. DEVELOP AN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER — \$48,000 (renovating only [caretaker's] residence and lodge [Ogden Hall])

### RECOMMENDATIONS

Expansion of the recreation area (alternative 6) is recommended as the only viable alternative for the site. By opening the site to the general public the greatest good will come to the greatest number of people. ...It should be noted that the scope of any expansion is ultimately dependent upon the solution to the potable water problem.

#### 1. Water Source (Potable)

- A. Try to locate a well with at least 5 GPM output.
- B. Supply from opposite side of lake from new 40,000 gallon reservoir. This would require an intermediate pumping station and 2500' [more or less] of waterline. This alteration would supply only a limited demand.
- C. Treat lake water (already tried by GSA). This would be costly to install and operate.
- D. Import water from town and place in storage reservoir. Chance of contamination - would have to be monitored and tested.

Recommend alternative A - until all possibilities of an acceptable well are exhausted.<sup>218</sup>

As a final gesture of homage to the camp that had sheltered thousands of girl scouts for some 42 years, OGSC members submitted an application in December of 1979 to the USDA Forest Service S.O. in Hot Springs, Arkansas for consideration and action on obtaining a historic site designation for Camp Ouachita.<sup>219</sup> This initial application was denied by the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) in April of 1980 after evaluating Ogden Hall for eligibility against National Register of Historic Places criteria. The deciding factor in this early denial was that Camp Ouachita was not yet fifty years old, a minimum requirement for assignment to the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>220, 221, 222</sup>

## 1980'S - YEARS OF UNCERTAINTY

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After the *Camp Ouachita Analysis for Lake Sylvia Recreation Area* was submitted, the Forest Supervisor concluded that it was not cost effective to pursue the recommendations of the evaluation.<sup>223</sup> Camp Ouachita remained locked, silent, and off-limits to the public.

The first major action of the 1980's that influenced Camp Ouachita's unfolding historic course was the decision by the USDA FS to allow demolition of a number of the camp's buildings (with the exception of Ogden Hall and initially, the rock and concrete bases and foundations of all other structures). The Forest Service was motivated by public health and safety concerns in their decision to allow demolition to proceed. Despite every effort by the Forest Service to provide the law enforcement necessary to keep interlopers out of the closed camp, members of the public were continuing to make unauthorized incursions into Camp Ouachita, resulting in incidents of vandalism and theft of property. Vandalism brought about increasingly dangerous building conditions. Thus from August, 1982 to January, 1985, authorization was granted to Harmony Community in Perryville, Arkansas to dismantle selected structures on the camp's property, with the order of precedence being determined by the Winona District Ranger. It was during this demolition phase that the dry-storage room addition to Ogden Hall was removed, along with the Atihcauo unit house and the girl scouts' boathouse. The most focused demolition work by Harmony Community took place in Echo Valley; the Winona R.D. authorized the removal of all cabins in this unit, the results of which are apparent today.<sup>224, 225, 226, 227, 228</sup>

A subsequent proposal by Heifer Project International Learning and Livestock Center (HPI) to dismantle and salvage usable materials from all remaining camp buildings except the great hall and caretaker's residence was submitted to the USDA FS in November, 1985. HPI's letter of agreement proposed June 1, 1985 [sic] to August 31, 1985 [sic] as the initial period of salvage operations, to be carried out by a team of four to eight persons and a site supervisor.<sup>229</sup>

In the summer of 1985, USDA FS personnel—aware of the historic importance of the Camp Ouachita complex and alert to the impending fifty-year anniversary—contacted the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) and inquired about the camp's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places. Then State Historic Preservation Officer Wilson Stiles wrote Forest Supervisor John Orr.

Recently it was brought to the attention of our office that the Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp has been abandoned. It is our understanding that the existing structures may be potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We would like to incorporate this site into our survey files.<sup>230</sup>

Supervisor Orr replied, including photographs and a Statement of Significance of Camp Ouachita.

The Special Use Permit for the Ouachita Girl Scout Camp (Lake Sylvia) was terminated in January [sic] of 1980. Our assessment of the facilities at that time concluded that existing structures were in varying stages of repair and did not meet our standards for public facilities. Expenditures necessary to bring these buildings to an acceptable level was [sic] not cost effective.



Current plans for this site are to retain the Great Hall (Ogden Hall). All other buildings will be removed because of health and safety reasons. ...Since Ogden Hall would relate architectural significance of the 1930's CCC era, we have no objections for this property to be re-evaluated.<sup>231</sup>

Toward the end of October, 1985, Wilson Stiles wrote Orr with the results of the AHPP review.

The National Register staff of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP) has reviewed the material submitted and determined that the group of buildings known collectively as Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp [sic] are potentially eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NR). The staff is particularly impressed by the fact that this complex represents an intact group of structures built under their [sic] authority of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) [sic]. The CCC and its impact on this country in the early part of this century is a subject of much interest and study at the present, the preservation of the Lake Sylvia complex could prove a valuable tool in interpreting this important early government program.

...If your agency is in agreement with our eligibility determination it will be possible for us to proceed with efforts to mitigate the averse impact that would result from the demolition of these structures. ...a formal DOE [determination of eligibility] will be necessary.<sup>232</sup>

In the same letter, Stiles suggested the Forest Service consider alternative arrangements for the management of Camp Ouachita.

Our office would like to encourage the Forest Service to further investigate the possibility of the Lake Sylvia Facilities [being repaired/maintained] by an appropriate public or non-profit agency. An agreement could possibly be made between the Forest Service and such an organization that would include maintenance and repair responsibilities.<sup>233</sup>

The Chief of the Western Division of Project Review of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) wrote Supervisor Orr on November 20th, "REF: AR/Demolition of Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp."

It has come to the Council's attention that the above referenced project may have an effect on the Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp, a property that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. We also understand that this project is being undertaken by the Forest Service.

Please investigate this matter to determine whether your agency's involvement in this undertaking and the nature of the effect requires that you obtain the comments of the Council in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.<sup>234</sup>

On November 25, 1985, the ONF Supervisor's Office dispatched USDA FS Engineer Mike Hiers to inspect the caretaker's residence at Camp Ouachita. Accompanied by Winona R.D. staffer Jimmy Reynolds, Hiers conducted an evaluation of the structure as a follow-up to the 1979 Forest Service evaluation of Camp Ouachita.

During the six years since the report, the structure has further deteriorated. Much of the interior paneling has been stolen or damaged by vandals. None of the mechanical systems in the house are salvageable. Repair would involve nearly complete reconstruction while only the shell and foundation would be retained from the original construction. Renovation of this structure would cost more than the price of a new one. Estimated Cost of Repair - \$60,000.<sup>235</sup>

Supervisor Orr responded to the ACHP Chief on December 9, 1985.

...In 1980, the Ogden Hall property was evaluated against National Register criteria and the consensus was that it was not eligible. Other site facilities were also evaluated.

...salvage rights were issued to remove unsafe structures. Approximately 80 percent of the facilities are remaining and salvage operations have ceased.

We are presently working with the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer and our Regional Archeologist who has the responsibility for historic properties to determine the significance of this architecture that was constructed during the 1930's CCC and WPA era.

If our study indicates that your comments are required, in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we will notify you.<sup>236</sup>

On January 10, 1986, a memorandum from the ONF Supervisor's Office outlined the steps required to comply with a determination of eligibility for Camp Ouachita.

...before we can proceed with the Heifner [sic] Project International (HPI) proposal to salvage buildings at the Girl Scout Camp at Lake Sylvania, we need to resolve the eligibility of this property for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Our recommendations to accomplish this task are:

1. S.O. will work with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) requesting property determination of eligibility for National Register criteria.
2. Suspend actions that would have an adverse effect on the property.
3. The Forest Service will need to consult with the SHPO regarding feasible and prudent alternatives to the undertaking that could avoid, mitigate, or minimize adverse effects on the property.
4. The S.O. and District, with the help of the R.O. [Regional Office] needs to prepare a case report.

Our office will coordinate this effort and keep you informed of the progress.<sup>237</sup>

In February, 1986, USDA FS staff members Edward Wenner (Staff Officer, Land Management Planning and Recreation), and Earl Littlejohn (Landscape Architect) met with AHPP personnel and discussed alternatives and proposed actions for Camp Ouachita. It was agreed that the Forest Service would furnish the AHPP staff with photos and site plans for review.<sup>238</sup>

The AHPP forwarded recommendations to Supervisor Orr in early April, 1986, "RE: Pulaski County [sic] - Environmental Review, Lake Sylvania Girl Scout Camp, CCC Complex [sic]"



...Regarding the remainder of the structures in the complex our recommendations are as follows:

\* Preserve and Actively Maintain;

Ogden Hall (6)  
Unit House (37)  
Bath House (34)  
Cabins (35, 36, 38, 39, 41, 42)  
Director's Cabin and Bath House (8, 9)

\* Preserve and Actively Maintain or  
Document with Drawings to HABS Standards;

Infirmery (3)  
Caretaker's Cottage (1)  
Staff Building (5)

\* Document with Black and White Photographs  
to HABS Standards;

Remainder of Structures

Usable materials from any structures to be demolished should be salvaged and stock-piled for use in repairing or maintaining the remaining structures. In regard to the maintenance and repair of these structures we would suggest that you contact Mr. James L. Ratcliff, first vice president, of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni. Mr. Ratcliff has been in contact with our office regarding this project and is interested in offering the services of his group in the rehabilitation effort....<sup>239</sup>

The new and current Ouachita National Forest Supervisor, John M. Curran, assumed his duties in April, 1986. A briefing paper on Camp Ouachita was immediately provided to him by in-house staff. On June 4th, the S.O. sent Earl Littlejohn and Mason Miller (USDA FS landscape architects) to a meeting with AHPP personnel to review Camp Ouachita's status relative to the National Register. After reviewing nomination criteria, the AHPP notified Forest Supervisor Mike Curran that indeed the camp was eligible for nomination. A series of meetings ensued between the USDA FS and AHPP that produced a mutually agreed upon recommendation to pursue nomination of Camp Ouachita to the National Register of Historic Places.

Supervisor Curran notified Heifer Project International management June 6, 1986 of Camp Ouachita's status and advised,

...Before we can proceed with any actions that would change the property, we must have the decision of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

For the above reasons, we do not foresee the stone becoming available, however, if circumstances change, we will keep you informed.<sup>240</sup>

During the summer of 1986, Heifer Project International removed flagstone flooring from a number of the camp's remaining unit cabins and unit houses. In late September, 1986 Supervisor Curran notified Heifer Project International of Camp Ouachita's impending

nomination to the National Register of Historic Places and that the camp's status "...precluded any further demolition of buildings and removal of materials."<sup>241</sup>

A cost estimate was generated by S.O. Engineering in late November, 1986 that advised a total of \$79,300. would be required to stabilize Ogden Hall, a typical girl scout unit, and the caretaker's residence. A separate total of \$154,000. was estimated to repair all CO structures except Ogden Hall. All proposed rehabilitation and stabilization was costed to "...stop further deterioration..." only.<sup>242</sup>

In April of 1988, the USDA FS met with representatives of the Perry County Conservation District and the Soil Conservation Service to determine a course of action for conservation and restoration of Camp Ouachita. Phase I was resolving the camp's potable water problem.<sup>243</sup> In July, 1988 a Memorandum of Understanding between the Perry County Conservation District, State of Arkansas and the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest was formalized to conduct work projects at Camp Ouachita in accordance with approved plans and in compliance with the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service, the Arkansas SHPO, and the ACHP.<sup>244</sup>

On October 13, 1988, the Director of the Western Office of Project Review of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation wrote Supervisor Curran, complimenting him on the decision to pursue National Register nomination for Camp Ouachita. "We are pleased that the Ouachita National Forest has reconsidered the National Register eligibility of the Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp in consultation with the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, (SHPO), and found this complex of buildings to be eligible."<sup>245</sup> Continued collaboration between the ACHP, the Arkansas SHPO, and the USDA FS resulted in formalizing the *USDA FS-ACHP-ASHPO Programmatic Agreement Regarding the Implementation of the Management of the Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp*.<sup>246</sup> The primary objective was to nominate Camp Ouachita to the National Register of Historic Places. The Programmatic Agreement also provided for comprehensive management of Camp Ouachita in compliance with federal standards and guidelines of the National Historic Preservation Act.<sup>247</sup>

The Perry County Conservation District arranged volunteer labor through the U.S. Naval Reserve "Seabees" of Little Rock in September, 1988 for the Ogden Hall stabilization effort. The Forest Service made initial contact with the Thornburg Rural Water User's Association in November, indicating an interest in providing potable municipal water—for the first time—to Camp Ouachita and the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area.

This is in reference to the proposed forming of a water improvement district to supply water for household use to the residents south of Perryville along State Highway No. 9. The Forest Service is very interested in this proposal and would plan to be a user of this facility. We would plan to connect our work center at Thornburg, the Girl Scout Camp adjacent to State Highway No. 324 and our Lake Sylvia Recreation Area to this system if this is possible.<sup>248</sup>

As a result of the Perry County Conservation District MOU and the efforts of numerous Perry County citizens, Ogden Hall was re-roofed in the spring of 1989 with 38 Seabees volunteering over 900 hours of work. New electrical wiring and service for Ogden Hall were also installed.<sup>249, 250, 251</sup>



## 1990'S - DECADE FOR DECISIONS

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On June 7, 1990 in Mather Lodge at Petit Jean State Park, the "Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp" was considered by the State Review Board of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.<sup>252</sup> On August 30, 1990—four years after the 50-year anniversary of Camp Ouachita's ground breaking—the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program of the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office submitted a formal nomination of Camp Ouachita to the National Register of Historic Places on behalf of the USDA Forest Service.<sup>253, 254, 255</sup>

Thereafter, public and private interest in Camp Ouachita grew more rapidly and a "Camp Ouachita Focus Group" was informally organized. Early participants were Perry County community representatives, Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism staff, Arkansas SHPO staff, USDA Forest Service personnel, and personnel from Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, a local non-profit organization committed to sustainable rural development.<sup>256</sup>

Camp Ouachita was formally assigned to the National Register of Historic Places on February 3, 1992. Soon after, USDA FS archeologists Meeks Etchieson and Roger Coleman and other Forest Service personnel met with State Historic Preservation Officer Cathy Buford at Camp Ouachita to begin planning rehabilitation work on the caretaker's residence.<sup>257</sup> In April, 1992, the Forest Service signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development and the Lake Sylvia Community Project Group (LSCPG) to work collaboratively in the planning and development of Camp Ouachita. The MOU also served as guidance for the subsequent Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Forest Service and the LSCPG.<sup>258</sup>

The USDA FS/Ouachita National Forest formalized a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on November 19, 1992 with the national Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Lake Sylvia Community Project Group (LSCPG) to provide for rehabilitation of the Camp Ouachita caretaker's residence in compliance with national guidelines for historic preservation. This MOA included a detailed rehabilitation plan for the structure; monitoring and reporting requirements; stipulations for "discovery situations" (i.e., in the event historic artifacts or other cultural remains were discovered during rehabilitation); and curation, dispute resolution, and MOA amendment and termination clauses.<sup>259</sup> The Lake Sylvia Community Project Group furnished labor for the rehabilitation and the USDA FS assigned on-site supervision. The Arkansas SHPO provided oversight, reviewed project status reports, and functioned in an advisory role in cooperation with the USDA FS. Rehabilitation of the caretaker's residence is ongoing by Partners for a Better Perry County (the renamed Lake Sylvia Community Project Group) as a result of the MOA and a subsequent, related Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the USDA FS/ONF and LSCPG that was renewed most recently on 30 September 1994.<sup>260</sup> To date, the CO caretaker's residence is the only camp structure to undergo monitored renovation under a formal USDA FS-ASHPO-ACHP-LSCPG Memorandum of Agreement and USDA FS-LSCPG Challenge Cost Share Agreement.

A schedule of workdays has been maintained from 1992 to the present for general clean-up of grounds and designated camp structures by the LSCPG in cooperation with USDA Forest Service personnel. On June 12, 1993, the LSCPG and Ouachita National Forest sponsored a flag dedication at Camp Ouachita; Congressman Ray Thornton delivered the dedication. In July, 1994 a *Memorandum of Agreement Among the*

*Ouachita National Forest, US Forest Service and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Rehabilitation of the Great Hall at Camp Ouachita, Winona Ranger District, Perry County, Arkansas* was formalized to carry out said rehabilitation in compliance with an agreed upon Rehabilitation Plan.<sup>261</sup> This phase of Camp Ouachita renovation is in abeyance pending the completion of the *Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study*. In mid-October 1994, the Forest Service proposed dismantling a non-historic cinder-block pump house to improve scenic views of Lake Sylvia along the foot trail that leads from Ogden Hall to the lakeshore.<sup>262</sup> In late October, 1994 the Forest Service proposed replacing non-historic web-wire fencing that was fronting the CO historic district with an extension of rustic, two-rail cedar fencing from the Lake Sylvia Recreation Area.<sup>263</sup> In April, 1995, an Extension Technician with the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, contractor for the *Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study*, delivered a talk and audio-visual presentation in Ogden Hall on the early history of Camp Ouachita to the annual membership meeting of Partners for a Better Perry County (formerly LSCPG). At the same meeting, Winona District Ranger John Bisbee updated the public on the feasibility study's progress and thereafter, general discussion ensued.

### **Postscript**

### **National Historic Landmark status**

The Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office has initially inquired into the possibility of obtaining a national historic landmark for the Camp Ouachita Historic District. The State Historic Preservation Officer wrote to Forest Supervisor Curran in December, 1993, stating,

...In our research so far we have discovered that such arrangements by the CCC [sic] were rare and that any [camps] that might have been constructed under this type of arrangement are not currently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Camp Ouachita appears to be truly "one of a kind," and could even be eligible for designation as a National Historic Landmark, the highest level of historic significance recognized by the Department of the Interior.<sup>264</sup>

To date, no application for a landmark has been submitted to the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Southeast Regional Office in Atlanta, Georgia.

National Historic Landmarks are installed on or near the nation's most important historic and cultural resources—buildings, historic districts, structures, sites, and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. Criteria (from the Code of Federal Regulations 36, Part 65.4) that determine eligibility for a National Historic Landmark follow.

The quality of National Significance is ascribed to districts, sites, buildings, structures and objects that possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States in history, architecture, archeology, engineering and culture and that possess a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association, and:

(1) That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to, and are identified with, or that outstandingly represent, the broad national patterns of United States history and from which an understanding and appreciation of those patterns may be gained; or



- (2) That are associated importantly with the lives of persons nationally significant in the history of the United States; or
- (3) That represent some great idea or ideal of the American people; or
- (4) That embody the distinguishing characteristics of an architectural type specimen exceptionally valuable for a study of a period, style or method of construction, or that represent a significant, distinctive and exceptional entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or
- (5) That are composed of integral parts of the environment not sufficiently significant by reason of historical association or artistic merit to warrant individual recognition but collectively compose an entity of exceptional historical or artistic significance, or outstandingly commemorate or illustrate a way of life or culture; or
- (6) That have yielded or may be likely to yield information of major scientific importance by revealing new cultures, or by shedding light upon periods of occupation over large areas of the United States. Such sites are those which have yielded, or which may reasonably be expected to yield, data affecting theories, concepts and ideas to a major degree.<sup>265</sup>

In November, 1994, the USDA Forest Service initiated a comprehensive feasibility study of Camp Ouachita, which was carried out by the University of Arkansas Cooperative Extension Service, Little Rock, Arkansas. The complete *Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study*—of which this history is a part—is in the public record and can be obtained upon request (for the cost of duplication) from the USDA Forest Service, Supervisor's Office, Hot Springs, Arkansas. The full *Camp Ouachita Feasibility Study* can also be accessed in Special Collections, Mullins Library, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville.

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- <sup>109</sup> George W. Glendenning, Forest Engineer, memorandum for the Forest Supervisor, 16 November 1940.
- <sup>110</sup> See note 108 above.
- <sup>111</sup> Jewell Hurst, interview with the author, 24 February 1995.

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- <sup>112</sup> W. L. Keene, District Forest Ranger, memorandum for District Ranger - Fourche, 26 February 1941.
- <sup>113</sup> Barbara Williams, USDA FS Heritage Resources Specialist, phone interview with Coy Rimmer, CCC alumnus, 7 July 1994. Hot Springs: USDA FS S.O. South.
- <sup>114</sup> Philip H. Bryan, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Sue W. Ogden, 6 September 1945.
- <sup>115</sup> Philip H. Bryan, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Sue W. Ogden, 17 May 1946.
- <sup>116</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. M. D. Ogden, 1 April 1947.
- <sup>117</sup> Charles A. Long, LRGSC, letter to Mr. M. C. Howard, 28 May 1947.
- <sup>118</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*. June 13, 1948. *Scout Camp to Open June 20*. Little Rock: *Arkansas Gazette*.
- <sup>119</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to files, 20 January 1949.
- <sup>120</sup> Dorothy J. Broomhall, LRGSC Executive Director, letter to Mr. M. C. Howard, 17 February 1949.
- <sup>121</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Fourche District Ranger, 2 June, 1949.
- <sup>122</sup> Mary Levy, Director of National Historic Preservation Center, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. Phone interview with author, 8 March 1995.
- <sup>123</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Fourche District Ranger, 21 November 1949.
- <sup>124</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Lee Kretchmer, LRGSC Camp Committee Chairman, 29 November 1949.
- <sup>125</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to the record, 23 January 1951.
- <sup>126</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*. May 8, 1950. *Girl Scout Camp Gets Light, Refrigeration and Telephone*. Little Rock: *Arkansas Gazette*.
- <sup>127</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to the record, 23 January 1951.
- <sup>128</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*. May 8, 1950. *Girl Scout Camp Gets Light, Refrigeration and Telephone*. Little Rock: *Arkansas Gazette*.
- <sup>129</sup> Knoxie M. Kunze, Fourche District Ranger, memorandum to M. C. Howard, 18 May 1950.
- <sup>130</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Miss Bobbie Walsh, LRGSC Executive Director, 21 April 1952.
- <sup>131</sup> M. C. Howard, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Sue W. Ogden, 10 May 1950.
- <sup>132</sup> Marguerite Rice, LRGSC Field Director, letter to H. C. Erickson [sic], 18 April 1952.
- <sup>133</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Miss Marguerite Rice, 22 April 1952.
- <sup>134</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Jessieville District Ranger, 12 August 1952.
- <sup>135</sup> Marguerite Rice, Camp Director, letter to H. C. Eriksson, 15 December 1953.
- <sup>136</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Marguerite Rice, 18 December 1953.
- <sup>137</sup> Marguerite Rice, Camp Director, letter to Ranger A. B. Williams, 22 March 1954.
- <sup>138</sup> USDA Forest Service. *Report on Application for Special Use Permits and Rights of Way*. April 13, 1954.
- <sup>139</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Marguerite Rice, 29 April 1954.
- <sup>140</sup> A. B. Williams, District Ranger, memorandum to the Forest Supervisor, 27 June 1955.
- <sup>141</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Bigelow Robinson, Jr., 26 August 1955.
- <sup>142</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, handwritten note, 29 August 1955.
- <sup>143</sup> J. J. Welch, Acting Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Jessieville District Ranger, 14 September 1955. We can speculate that at times, Fourche Ranger District was without a Ranger, necessitating the Forest Supervisor to administer Camp Ouachita through the Jessieville R.D.
- <sup>144</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Marguerite Riddick, OGSC District Director, 21 December 1955.
- <sup>145</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Regional Forester, 7 February 1956.
- <sup>146</sup> Janice Davies, letter to H. C. Erickson [sic], 6 December 1957.
- <sup>147</sup> C. H. French, Assistant Director, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Arkansas State Board of Health, letter to H. C. Erichson [sic], 12 December 1957.
- <sup>148</sup> See note 145 above.
- <sup>149</sup> H. C. Eriksson, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Winona District Ranger, 11 December 1957.
- <sup>150</sup> Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, OGSC Executive Director, letter to Forest Supervisor H. C. Eriksson, 27 February 1958.
- <sup>151</sup> Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, OGSC Executive Director, letter to Forest Ranger Hal Armstrong, 27 February 1958.
- <sup>152</sup> H. C. Eriksson, letter to Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, 4 March 1958.
- <sup>153</sup> H. C. Eriksson, letter to Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, 13 March 1958.
- <sup>154</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, 5 September 1958.



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- <sup>155</sup> H. G. Armstrong, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 17 October 1958.
- <sup>156</sup> J. J. Welsh, Acting Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Winona District Ranger, 28 October 1958.
- <sup>157</sup> H. G. Armstrong, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 14 May 1959.
- <sup>158</sup> Janice Davies, OGSC Executive Director, letter to John T. Koen, 5 December 1958.
- <sup>159</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, 8 December 1958.
- <sup>160</sup> Janice Davies, OGSC Executive Director, letter to John T. Koen, 2 February 1959.
- <sup>161</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Winona District Ranger, 3 February 1959.
- <sup>162</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. S. Ladd Davies, 3 February 1959.
- <sup>163</sup> See note 156 above.
- <sup>164</sup> Sue W. Ogden, letter to Mr. Eriksson, 21 August 1951.
- <sup>165</sup> See note 127 above.
- <sup>166</sup> Bill Worthen, interview with the author, February, 1995.
- <sup>167</sup> H. G. Armstrong, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 28 April 1960.
- <sup>168</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Winona District Ranger, 23 January 1962.
- <sup>169</sup> H. G. Armstrong, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 2 February 1962.
- <sup>170</sup> H. G. Armstrong, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to files, 30 March 1962.
- <sup>171</sup> D. C. Hughes, Forester, memorandum to files, 16 May 1962.
- <sup>172</sup> C. H. French, Assistant Director, Bureau of Sanitary Engineering, Arkansas State Board of Health, letter to John Koen, 16 July 1962.
- <sup>173</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to C. H. French, 17 August 1962.
- <sup>174</sup> G. T. Kellogg, Chief Sanitary Engineer, Arkansas State Board of Health, letter to Norman F. Williams, State Geologist, 22 August 1962.
- <sup>175</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Regional Forester, 23 August 1962.
- <sup>176</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Jack Townsend, 29 October 1962.
- <sup>177</sup> D. C. Hughes, Forester, memorandum to Winona District Ranger, 20 March 1963..
- <sup>178</sup> D. C. Hughes, Forester, memorandum to files, 27 May 1963.
- <sup>179</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*. March 25, 1963. *Lake Sylvia Caught Between Girl Scouts, Forest Service; Both Want to Enlarge Areas*. Little Rock: *Arkansas Gazette*.
- <sup>180</sup> A. E. Townsend, Jr., OGSC President, letter to L. C. Nix, USDA FS,. 24 May 1963.
- <sup>181</sup> Ouachita Girl Scout Council. May, 1963. *10-Year Projected Plan for Camp Ouachita*. Little Rock: Ouachita Girl Scout Council.
- <sup>182</sup> L. S. Newcomb, Assistant Regional Forester, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, Ouachita NF, 14 June 1963.
- <sup>183</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to A. E. Townsend, Jr., 9 July 1963.
- <sup>184</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to A. E. Townsend, Jr., 2 August 1963.
- <sup>185</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Donald O. Holt, 20 September 1963.
- <sup>186</sup> L. S. Newcomb, Assistant Regional Forester, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, Ouachita NF, 9 January 1964.
- <sup>187</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Donald O. Holt, 1 October 1964.
- <sup>188</sup> W. W. Martin, USDA FS Landscape Architect, memorandum to the files, 22 October 1964.
- <sup>189</sup> *Arkansas Gazette*. November 12, 1964. 3A. *Counties Asked to Come to Aid of Girls Camp*. Little Rock: *Arkansas Gazette*.
- <sup>190</sup> John T. Koen, Forest Supervisor, letter to A. E. Townsend, Jr., 13 January 1966.
- <sup>191</sup> James A. Helms, Winona District Ranger, letter to Mrs. Randall Yarberr, OGSC, 19 January 1966.
- <sup>192</sup> L. S. Newcomb, Assistant Regional Forester, letter to Forest Supervisor, Ouachita NF, 1 June 1966.
- <sup>193</sup> James E. Brewer, Deputy Forest Supervisor, memorandum to the record, 10 February 1969.
- <sup>194</sup> William W. Martin, USDA FS Landscape Architect, memorandum to the files, 4 March 1969.
- <sup>195</sup> Yarberr, Sally. *Annual Meeting with Forest Service - Camp Ouachita - November 15, 1969*. (Minutes).
- <sup>196</sup> *Sentinel Record*. October 24, 1969. *'Sporting Club' Stars Named*. Hot Springs, Arkansas: *Sentinel Record*.
- <sup>197</sup> Mrs. Donald O. Holt, (notarized) letter to Ray Gosnell, Lorimar Productions, 19 September 1969.
- <sup>198</sup> Alvis Z. Owen, Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Regional Forester, 27 July 1970.
- <sup>199</sup> T. R. Frazier, USDA FS Lands & Watershed Staff Officer, letter to Mrs. R. A. Yarberr, OGSC, 4 August 1970.
- <sup>200</sup> *Notes of Meeting with Forest Service - Camp Ouachita*. 19 January 1971.

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- <sup>201</sup> Lowrey, Alma, OGSC Committee Member. *Ouachita Girl Scout Council - Camp Ouachita Committee*. 18 January 1972.
- <sup>202</sup> James A. Hays, Forest Engineer, memorandum to Recreation Staff Officer, 3 February 1971.
- <sup>203</sup> T. R. Frazier, USDA FS Lands and Watershed Staff Officer, memorandum to the record, 3 February 1971.
- <sup>204</sup> Switzer, Harry D., USDA FS. *Fee Computation - Ouachita Girl Scout Council*. 7 January 1972.
- <sup>205</sup> See note 200 above.
- <sup>206</sup> T. R. Frazier, Acting Forest Supervisor, letter to Mrs. Sally Yarberry, 19 January 1972.
- <sup>207</sup> G. T. Kellogg, P.E., Chief Sanitary Engineering, Arkansas State Department of Health, letter to T. R. Frazier, 6 July 1972.
- <sup>208</sup> *Minutes of Meeting Between Ouachita Girl Scout Council and Forest Service*. 27 October 1976.
- <sup>209</sup> Lane, James K., Forester. *Minutes of Meeting Between Ouachita Girl Scout Council and Forest Service on 4-12-77*.
- <sup>210</sup> Special Use Application and Report. Ref: FSM 2712. 19 July 1977.
- <sup>211</sup> Geologist Report. (Author unknown). *Development Plan for a Ground-water Supply for the Ouachita Girl Scout Council-Lake Sylvia Center*.
- <sup>212</sup> State of Arkansas. Report of Water Well Construction. 20 August 1977.
- <sup>213</sup> James E. Hutchins, District Ranger, memorandum to Mrs. Suzanne Costley, OGSC, 17 May 1977.
- <sup>214</sup> Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 8 January 1979.
- <sup>215</sup> Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, letter to Ms. Gloria Young, OGSC Executive Director, 10 January 1979.
- <sup>216</sup> Mrs. Maxwell H. Lyons, II, OGSC President, letter to Mr. J. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 10 May 1979.
- <sup>217</sup> George W. Kelley, Deputy Forest Supervisor, memorandum to Winona District Ranger; Staff Officer - Technical Services; and Staff Officer - Resources; 25 May 1979.
- <sup>218</sup> Littlejohn, Earl, et al. USDA Forest Service. *Camp Ouachita Analysis for Lake Sylvia Recreation Area*. 12 October 1979.
- <sup>219</sup> Betty H. Lyons, OGSC President, letter to Mr. William D. Walker, USDA FS Staff Officer, Resources, 5 December 1979.
- <sup>220</sup> Joan Williams Baldrige, State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 28 April 1980.
- <sup>221</sup> John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mr. Robert Fink, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 3 December 1985.
- <sup>222</sup> John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mr. Wilson Stiles, State Historic Preservation Officer, 26 August 1985.
- <sup>223</sup> See note 221 above.
- <sup>224</sup> Robert J. Daley, Staff Officer, Management Services, memorandum to Mr. Clay Hawkins, 11 August 1982.
- <sup>225</sup> Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, memorandum to Mr. Clay Hawkins, 18 March 1983.
- <sup>226</sup> Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, memorandum to Mr. Clay Hawkins, 13 August 1982.
- <sup>227</sup> Michael C. Vinson, District Ranger, memorandum to Mr. Clay Hawkins, 10 February 1984.
- <sup>228</sup> Lester A. Rose, Acting District Ranger, memorandum to Mr. Clay Hawkins, 4 January 1985.
- <sup>229</sup> David Gill, HPI Learning Activities Coordinator, letter to Norman Alley, District Ranger, 27 November 1985. Note: the actual period of HPI salvage operations was June through August, 1986.
- <sup>230</sup> Wilson Stiles, State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to Mr. John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 14 August 1985.
- <sup>231</sup> John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, letter to Wilson Stiles, State Historic Preservation Officer, 26 August 1985.
- <sup>232</sup> Wilson Stiles, State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to Mr. John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 22 October 1985.
- <sup>233</sup> See note 231 above.
- <sup>234</sup> Robert Fink, Chief, Western Division of Project Review, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, letter to John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 20 November 1985.
- <sup>235</sup> Hiers, Mike, USDA FS Engineer. *Inspection Report - Caretaker's Residence @ Girl Scout Camp - Winona Ranger District*. 6 December 1985.
- <sup>236</sup> John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, letter to Robert Fink, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, 9 December 1985.



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- <sup>237</sup> Edward J. Wenner, Jr., USDA FS Staff Officer, Land Management Planning and Recreation, memorandum to District Ranger, Winona Ranger District, 10 January 1986.
- <sup>238</sup> Miller, Mason, USDA FS. *Briefing Paper for Supervisor Curran - Girl Scout Camp, Lake Sylvia*. 24 April 1986.
- <sup>239</sup> Wilson Stiles, State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to Mr. John V. Orr, Forest Supervisor, 1 April 1986.
- <sup>240</sup> John M. Curran, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mr. David Gill, 6 June 1986.
- <sup>241</sup> John M. Curran, Forest Supervisor, letter to Mr. David Gill, 25 September 1986.
- <sup>242</sup> Raleigh H. Meadows, USDA FS Staff Officer, Engineering, memorandum to District Ranger, Winona, 20 November 1986.
- <sup>243</sup> USDA Forest Service. *Meeting with Conservation District Re: Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp - April 14, 1988*. (Minutes).
- <sup>244</sup> Perry County Conservation District. 19 July 1988. *Memorandum of Understanding between the Perry County Conservation District, State of Arkansas and the Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest*. Perryville, Arkansas: Perry County Conservation District.
- <sup>245</sup> Robert Fink, Director, Western Division of Project Review, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, letter to John M. Curran, Forest Supervisor, 13 October 1988.
- <sup>246</sup> Claudia Nissley, Director, Western Office of Project Review, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, letter to Mr. John M. Curran, Forest Supervisor, 1 September 1989.
- <sup>247</sup> Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. 29 August 1989. *Programmatic Agreement Among the USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest, The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding the Implementation of the Management of the Lake Sylvia Girl Scout Camp*. Washington: Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.
- <sup>248</sup> Norman L. Alley, Winona District Ranger, letter to Ms. Elizabeth Wise, President, Thornburg Rural Water User's Association, 9 November 1988.
- <sup>249</sup> Karen A. Brazil, Secretary, Perry County Conservation District, letter to A. L. Lockhart, 15 September 1988.
- <sup>250</sup> Norman L. Alley, Winona District Ranger, letter to Mr. Jessie Munn, Jr., 30 March 1989.
- <sup>251</sup> Perry County Conservation District Press Release. 24 October 1989.
- <sup>252</sup> Cathy Buford, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to Mike Curran, Forest Supervisor, 27 April 1990.
- <sup>253</sup> Arkansas Historic Preservation Program. 30 August 1990. U.S. Department of the Interior National Park Service *National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. Little Rock.
- <sup>254</sup> USDA Forest Service *Programmatic Agreement*. 20 July 1989.
- <sup>255</sup> USDA Forest Service *Agreement*. 9 January 1990.
- <sup>256</sup> Norman L. Alley, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 28 May 1991.
- <sup>257</sup> Cathy Buford, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, memorandum to Randy Jeffrey and Barbara Lindsey-Allen, 19 March 1992.
- <sup>258</sup> USDA FS/Ouachita National Forest. 20 April 1992. *Memorandum of Understanding Between Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, The Lake Sylvia Community Project Group, And The United States Department of Agriculture, United States Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest*. Hot Springs, Arkansas: USDA Forest Service.
- <sup>259</sup> USDA FS/Ouachita National Forest. 19 November 1992. *Memorandum of Understanding Among the Ouachita National Forest, US Forest Service, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Rehabilitation of the Caretaker's Cottage at Camp Ouachita, Winona Ranger District*. Hot Springs, Arkansas: USDA Forest Service.
- <sup>260</sup> USDA FS/Ouachita National Forest. 30 September 1994. *Challenge Cost Share Agreement between the Lake Sylvia Community Project Group and the Winona Ranger District, Ouachita National Forest, USDA Forest Service for Renovation Work at Camp Ouachita National Historic Site Caretaker's Residence*. Hot Springs, Arkansas: USDA Forest Service.
- <sup>261</sup> USDA FS/Ouachita National Forest. 8 March 1994. *Memorandum of Agreement Among the Ouachita National Forest, US Forest Service and the Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Rehabilitation of the Great Hall at Camp Ouachita, Winona Ranger District, Perry County, Arkansas*. Hot Springs, Arkansas: USDA Forest Service.
- <sup>262</sup> John C. Bisbee, Winona District Ranger, memorandum to Forest Supervisor, 13 October 1994.

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<sup>263</sup> Dan Nolan, USDA FS Staff Officer, Planning and Recreation, letter to Cathy Slater, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, 31 October 1994.

<sup>264</sup> Cathy Buford Slater, Arkansas State Historic Preservation Officer, letter to Mike Curran, Forest Supervisor, 10 December 1993.

<sup>265</sup> Cecil N. McKithan, Chief, National Register Programs Division, letter to Friend of the National Historic Landmark Program, 28 December 1988.

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Source documents compliments of the USDA Forest Service, Ouachita National Forest—Supervisor's Office and Supervisor's Office South, Hot Springs, Arkansas; and Winona Ranger District, Perryville, Arkansas—and the Ouachita Girl Scout Council, North Little Rock, Arkansas. Additional historic documents compliments of the Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., National Historic Preservation Center, New York, New York.



465-63-2-169

OFFICIAL PROJECT

4935

WORK PROJECT

PROJECT FOLDER FILE

WPA

DIVISION OF OPERATIONS

FROM

TO

(INC.)

BLOCK NO'S

## WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT PROPOSAL

Amount requested, \$ 18,228.

WPA Work Project No. 753-574

Amount approved, \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Serial No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

(Sponsor not to write above line)

Sponsor's proposal No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date of proposal December 20, 1937

Last operated as \_\_\_\_\_

(CWA, ERA, WPA)

Project No. \_\_\_\_\_

(If WPA, give O. P. No.)

TO: WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF Little Rock, Three Arkansas  
(Local) (District) (State)

1. Request is hereby made that the following proposal be reviewed and that a formal application be made for an allotment of funds for this project under the rules and regulations of the Works Progress Administration.

From: Perry County  
(Sponsoring agency)

Perryville, Ark.  
(Official address—city, town, village)

Perry  
(County)

2. Location of project: Perry County

(City, town, village)

(County)

Detailed location: From Thornburg 1½ miles south on Hwy # 9 and 10 and 4 miles southwest.

3. Description of project: Construction of recreational buildings for Girl Scouts in Perry Co.

This project will consist of: 19 cabins, 14' x 18'; 3 troop houses, 22' x 38' with fireplace in each one; 1 caretaker's house, having 4 rooms and bath; 1 hospital, 14' x 35' with two rooms and bath; 1 servant's house, having one room with shower and toilet.

4. Summary of estimated costs:

Item of cost (1)	Federal funds (2)		Sponsor's funds (3)		Total (4)	
	Amount (dollars)	%	Amount (dollars)	%	Amount (dollars)	%
<b>a. Labor:</b>						
1. Unskilled	3528.	19.4			3528.	14.7
2. Intermediate	3960.	21.7			3960.	16.6
3. Skilled	6840.	37.5			6840.	28.7
4. Professional and technical						
SUBTOTAL (a)	14328.	78.6			14328.	60.0
<b>b. Superintendence:</b>						
	1500.	8.2			1500.	6.3
SUBTOTAL (a) plus (b)	15828.	86.8			15828.	66.3
<b>c. Material, equipment, and other costs:</b>						
1. Material and supplies	1140.	5.3	5642.	100	6782.	28.4
2. Equipment rentals	1260.	6.9			1260.	5.3
3. Other direct costs						
SUBTOTAL (c) only	2400.	13.2	5642.	100	8042.	33.7
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	18228.	100	5642.	100	23870.	100
TOTAL COST APPORTIONED	76.4	%	23.6	%	100%	X X

**1** FOR STATE OFFICE



5. Estimated man-months of work:

(a) Certified workers paid from Federal funds, man-months	480.	
(b) Total workers paid from Federal funds, man-months		492.
(c) Total workers paid by Sponsor, man-months		492.
(d) Total man-months, all workers		492.

6. Estimated Federal expenditure per man-year of labor:

Total Federal cost of project (item 4, col. 2, total) 444.58  
 Man-months labor (item 5 (b))  $\times 12 = \$$

7a. Preliminary plans and preparations will be complete 12-13-67 (Date)  
 \*7b. Final plans and specifications will be complete 12-13-67 (Date)

8. (For statistical, survey, and research projects only). Complete specifications, copies of forms, schedules, instructions, tabulation plans, etc., are (are not)\*\* submitted herewith.

9. Project can be started in 5 days after notice to proceed, and it is estimated that 156 working days will be required for completion.

10. For the sponsor, project will be superintended by Sue W. Ogden Secretary, Girl Scout  
(Name) (Title)

11. Maintenance and operation or publication of results of completed project will be provided as follows:  
Girl Scout Fund

12. Project proposed has been approved by the following public planning or other agencies concerned:

13. Sponsor will ~~assume~~\*\* assume responsibility for results and will (will not)\*\* ~~assume~~ assume responsibility for completion in the event that funds allotted to project are inadequate.

14. Property on which project will be conducted is owned by Girl Scout

Sponsor has (has no)\*\* jurisdiction to conduct project on this property.

NOTE.—Projects may be conducted on public property of State, county, or local governments; on Federal property, with permission of proper Federal authority; or on private property dedicated to the public use by easement. If project is to be conducted on Federal property, there should be stated in this item the name of the Bureau or Department having jurisdiction over the property.

15. The utility of this project ~~will~~(will not)\*\* depend upon the completion of other public or private work. Explanation

16. (For road construction projects only.) Project is (is not) on Federal Aid Highway.  
 Estimated Federal cost per mile: \$ (Subgrade and drainage) \$ (Surfacing) \$ (Landscaping)

17. Justification (A short, concise statement giving reason or necessity for the proposed project, including any comments or further statements about the nature of the work. Use additional sheet if necessary.)

Recreational Camp for Girl Scouts. No other camp available in the State for the purpose

\* See instructions on page 1.  
\*\* The statements above in which positive and negative alternatives are provided must be adjusted by the sponsor so that one or the other only will apply.



18. Labor Analysis. All labor should be listed under appropriate classifications. Wage rates should agree with those determined by the State Works Progress Administrator as applicable for locality. Consult WPA District Director for schedule. Use separate lines for entries to differentiate sex, source, and Federal or Sponsor's funds. For columns 2, 4, and 6, use subtotal lines for Federal labor only. Indicate female employees in column (1) thus: (F).

Occupational classification	Number of workers	Source	Man-hours	Hours per month	Man-months	Rate per month	Dollars		
							Federal	Sponsor	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
Laborers	14	R	17640	105	168	21	3528.		3528.
Unskilled subtotal	14	X X	17640	X X	168	I I	3528.		3528.
Mortar Mixer	2	R	1800	75	24	30.	720.		720.
Carpenter Helpers	4	R	3600	75	48	30.	1440.		1440.
Plumber Helper	1	R	900	75	12	30	360.		360.
Stonemason Helper	4	R	4080	85	48	30	1440.		1440.
Intermediate subtotal	11	X X	10380	X X	132	I I	3960.		3960.
Stonemasons	6	R	4536	63	72	38	2736.		2736.
Carpenters	6	R	4536	63	72	38	2736.		2736.
Painters	1	R	900	75	12	38	456.		456.
Plumber	1	R	756	63	12	38	456.		456.
Timekeeper	1	R	1296	108	12	38	456.		456.
Skilled subtotal	15	X X	12024	X X	180	I I	6840.		6840.
Prof. and Tech. subtotal		X X		X X		I I			
Labor subtotal	40	X X	40044	X X	480	I I	14328.		14328.
Foreman	1	NR	1920	160	12	125.	1500.		1500.
Superintend. subtotal	1	X X	1920	X X	12	I I	1500.		1500.
TOTAL	41	X X	41964	X X	492	I I	15828.		15828.

Denote thus: C, certified; N, non-certified; S, sponsor.







22. Estimate of cost by items of work:

Quantity (1)	Unit (2)	Description of operation or nature of work (give break-down by classes, according to nature of project) (3)	Unit price (4)	Amount (dollars) (5)
19	Each	Cabins, 14' x 18'	850.	16340.
3	Each	Troop Houses 22' x 38' with fireplace in each	1176.	3537.
1	Each	Caretaker's House, having 4 rooms and bath	1738.	1738.
1	Each	Hospital, 14' x 35' with two rooms and bath	1194.	1194.
1	Each	Servant's House, having one with shower and toilet	1061.	1061.
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT				\$ 23870.

23. FISCAL CERTIFICATE:

This is to certify that the funds specified in this proposal, to be furnished by the sponsor (or equivalent values in corresponding amounts), will be available for the prosecution of this project as needed.

Fiscal officer \_\_\_\_\_  
(Type or print name) (Signature) (Title) (Date)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

24. SPONSORING CERTIFICATE:

The statements contained in this proposal have been checked by the undersigned and are true to the best of his knowledge and belief. It is agreed that the Works Progress Administration is under no obligation to complete the project proposed, if approved and selected for operation (this sentence shall be deleted for Federal projects). This project will not cover work for which funds at the disposition of the sponsor are currently appropriated, or work included in the normal governmental operations of sponsoring agency; it will not result in the displacement of regular employees of this agency. The sponsoring agency is a public body with legally vested authority to prosecute the type of work proposed. The work proposed will be done in full conformance with all legal requirements. It is understood that Federal funds will be expended by the United States Treasury only upon pay rolls and vouchers certified by the Works Progress Administration; and agreed that all operations will be in accordance with regulations prescribed under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1936 and orders and regulations issued thereunder. This project is intended for the use or benefit of the public.

Sponsor's agent Oscar Brazil *Oscar Brazil, Perryville* 12/22/37  
(Type or print name) (Signature) (Title) (Date)

Address Perryville, Arkansas

INSTRUCTIONS TO SPONSOR FOR PREPARING THE PROJECT PROPOSAL

The preparation of the project proposal and the furnishing of supplementary explanatory data are responsibilities of the sponsor. Sponsors are advised to confer with local and district offices of the Works Progress Administration to obtain information with respect to occupational classifications, wage rates, working hours, and other matters of local application.

For construction type projects, the project proposal should be accompanied by plans or drawings and general specifications or descriptions prepared in such a way as to permit intelligent review. Other supplementary data, to accompany the project proposal, include a working procedure or discussion of the methods proposed for conducting the work and cost estimates, suitably broken down by classes of work.

(OVER)



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
PROJECT APPLICATION

O. P. No. 465-63-2-169  
Reg. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Area #  
District Region #3 Amount requested, \$ 18228.00 State Application No. 755-574-2075  
State Arkansas Amount approved, \$ 18228.00 (Date) (State Administration)

(LEAVE BLANK)

DOUBLE

- This project application is now  Superseding
- If superseding, give:
  - For superseded—Official Project No(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Pres. Letter No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
  - For any supplements—Pres. Letter No(s) \_\_\_\_\_
  - Have obligations or encumbrances been set up against any of the superseded projects? (Yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_
  - If so, give amount, \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Is the superseded project now in operation? (Yes or no) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Sponsorship Perry County Perryville, Arkansas

4. Location of project: County Perry City \_\_\_\_\_  
Detailed location From Thornburg 1 1/2 miles south on Hays #9 and 10 and 4 miles southwest.

5. Description and character of work:  
(Type double-spaced; for long description, type on extra sheet and attach.)  
**In the Narrows, Perryville, Perry County, construct recreational buildings for girls. To consist of 19 cabins, 14' x 13'; 3 troop houses, 22' x 35' with fireplaces; 1 caretakers house of four rooms; 1 hospital, 14' x 35' with two rooms and bath; 1 help's home with one room and toilet. This is a continuation of O.P. 165-63-8008**

CODE
AGENCY
1. STATE
2. CITY
3. COUNTY
4. TYPE
5. ORIGIN
6. CLASS
7.

6. Ownership of property upon which project is to be worked National Forest owned property.  
(Federal, State, county, local, or part State-owned, etc.)

(a) If Federally owned, permission of U. S. Forest Service (Has or has not) been obtained.

(b) If any part of project is on private property, proper \_\_\_\_\_ have (have not) been obtained for all work on private property. If not, they will (will not) be obtained before any work is started on the project.

If leased, give date lease expires \_\_\_\_\_ (Month and year)

Licensed to \_\_\_\_\_ (Sponsor, State, etc.)

Is there any reversion clause in this lease? \_\_\_\_\_ If there is, the entire clause must appear in the description or a copy of lease be attached. (Yes or no)

(c) Will any improvements be made to private property? No (Yes or no)

TRANSCRIBED	
Date	Time
INITIALS	
PROOF READ	
Date	Time
INITIALS	

	W. & P.	E. D.		
ACTION				
DATE				
INITIALS				



State Arkansas State application No. 753-574-20375

7. Total man-years of work 41 Total Federal man-years of work 41

8. Total man-hours of work 41964 Total Federal man-hours of work 41964

9. Average number of workers per month:

(a) Persons certified as eligible for relief to be paid from Federal funds 41

(b) Total persons paid from Federal funds: Male 41 Female \_\_\_\_\_ Total 41

(c) Total persons paid by sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

(d) Total number of workers [(b) + (c)] 41

10. (a) Ratio of average number of workers certified as eligible for relief to all persons paid from Federal funds [(a) divided by 9(b) above] 97.5

(b) Percentage of total Federal funds required for payment of wages and salaries of all certified workers 78.6 percent.

11. Federal expenditure per man-year of labor (Federal funds total divided by Federal man-years) 444.58

12. Project can be started 5 days after notice of approval and will require 12 months for completion.

13. If road work, give Federal cost per mile: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Subgrade and drainage) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Surfacing) \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (Landscaping)

14. Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

15. Summary of estimated costs by source of funds:

	FEDERAL FUNDS		SPONSOR'S FUNDS		TOTAL	
	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent
Labor	14328	78.6			14328	60.0
Supervision	1500	8.2			1500	6.3
Subtotal	15828	86.8			15828	66.3
Equipment rentals	1260	5.9			1260	5.3
Material, supplies, and other costs	1140	6.3	5642	100	6782	29.4
Subtotal	2400	13.2	5642	100	8042	33.7
TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	18228	100	5642	100	23870	100
TOTAL COST APPORTIONED	76.4	%	23.6	%	100%	X X X

16. (a) If this project is a continuation of work begun by some other agency, give amounts already spent on project, approximate dates when work was done, source of funds, and agency in charge of work:

From—	To—	Agency in Charge	Source of Funds	Amount Expended
_____	19____	_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	19____	(State, CWA, FEHA, etc.)	(Federal, State, etc.)	_____
_____	19____	_____	_____	_____

(b) If this application is for the continuation of work undertaken under a project approved under the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1935, give O. P. No. of previous project: \_\_\_\_\_

17. The proposed project complies with the requirements of the Works Progress Administration, and application for allocation of funds is hereby made.

Checked: As to labor Edward Douglas (Signature) 12/28/37 (Date)

As to engineering Edward Douglas (Signature) 12/28/37 (Date)

As to \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)

Approved: 12/28/37 (Date) J. Bluker (District Director)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Project Control Division will rescind superseded project when operation is started under superseding project.
- Under "Detailed location" give location within city, township, or county. Give also project limits of roads, drainage works, river improvements.
- Give a complete, specific description of the work contemplated. For road or street construction, sewers, waterlines, etc., give length of work in miles.
- The sum should be checked carefully, since it is the basis of the eligibility of many projects.
- 7-12. Fill in all blanks and have computations carefully checked.
- If accurate figures are not possible due to nature of project, give approximate estimates.
- Give any information which will explain a high man-year cost, a low percentage of persons certified as eligible for relief, etc.
- Fill in completely and check carefully. Use round dollars only—no cents should be given. Total Federal funds must be the same as at top of face of form.
- Fill in as completely as possible. Place only one source of funds on a line; i. e., use two lines where part of funds for a given period came from Federal and part from State sources.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-3065



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

SPONSOR'S AGREEMENT  
For Financing Non-Federal Projects  
Emergency Relief Appropriation Act of 1937

To be filled in by State office

Leave blank

State Arkansas

County Perry

Local Application No. 703-574

State Application No. 703-574-20373

O. P. No. \_\_\_\_\_

Pres. Letter No. \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor not to write above line

Sponsor's Proposal No. \_\_\_\_\_

Date December 21, 1937

TO THE WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION:

In consideration of expenditures to be made from Federal funds on the proposal designated above, we,

Perry County

the sponsors, do hereby agree that we will finance such part of the entire cost thereof as is not to be supplied from Federal funds.

Sponsor Perry County

By:

Authorized agent W. J. [unclear] Co Judge Oscar Brazie

(Name—type or print) (Title) (Signature)

Authorized agent \_\_\_\_\_

(Name—type or print) (Title) (Signature)

Authorized agent \_\_\_\_\_

(Name—type or print) (Title) (Signature)



of its prosecution is

*[Signature]*  
Director

Area 7

Ark. Arkansas

symbol 63-000-53

Perry County near

ouse, hospital

facilities and

f U.S. Department

ill be open to

pon: Perry Co.

e 30, 1938

or other encum-

4935-3

stration, Public  
Control, etc.

above-described 1938

TOTAL FUNDS

14328.

1500.

15828.

8042.

23870.

W. P. A. Form 510

(Date) *March 11* 1938

### NOTICE OF WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION PROJECT OPERATION

Work was started on the Works Progress Administration work project described below on the date indicated.

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ (Name) \_\_\_\_\_ (Title)

DESCRIPTION  
465-13-2-167 (Official project No.) 4935-3 (Work project No.) 1129 (Type of work symbol)

Work began on *3-10* 1938  
The first pay roll period will end *4-10* 1938

2  
W. P. A.  
Area  
Statistical  
Office

The pay roll period will be  Semimonthly  Weekly  
Number of persons working, first pay roll period *23*  
Estimated amount, first pay roll *\$ 800*  
Total allotment for project *\$ 1,200*  
Allotment to be expended over a period of *6* months

State \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_ Local Applic \_\_\_\_\_ State Applic \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Prop \_\_\_\_\_

To THE WORKS \_\_\_\_\_

In consider \_\_\_\_\_

the sponsors, do l from Federal fund \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized age \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized age \_\_\_\_\_

*1 - New Perry 125.00*  
*22 - Perry*  
*137 - Perry*



753-574-20375

WPA Form 701  
Revised 6-22-36

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
OF  
ARKANSAS  
(State)

Estimate No.	Per Letter No.	Pres. Letter
		Amount
	7695	\$ 18,228
TOTAL		

STATEMENT OF PROJECT ESTIMATE DETAIL

To: Floyd Sharp  
Little Rock State Administrator.  
Arkansas (City)  
(State)

Sequester No. 7455

Date MAR 10 1938

The work project described below has been selected for operation. Your approval of its prosecution is requested.

Approved: MAR 8 1938 (Date)

Area Supervisor [Signature]

District No. 3 - Area 7

City Little Rock, Arkansas

Location of project: (county and city) Perry County Location symbol 63-000-53

Description of project: Construct recreational buildings in the narrows, Perry County near Thornburg, by building cabins, houses with fireplaces, caretakers' house, hospital with bathroom, and buildings to house employees; installing plumbing facilities and performing appurtenant work. Federally owned property. Permission of U.S. Department

of Agriculture, Forest Service has been obtained. These facilities will be open to the general public. In addition to projects specifically approved. Spon: Perry Co.

Expected starting date March 19, 1938 Estimated date of completion June 30, 1938

Sponsor Perry County

The following identifying symbols will appear on every pay roll, voucher requisition, or other encumbrance document chargeable to the project.

Type of work symbol 0-1149 Official project No. 465-63-2-169 Work project No. 4935-3  
Emergency Relief, Works Progress Administration, Public  
Appropriation symbol 465022 Title Buildings, Parks, Utilities, Flood Control, Etc.

The following items and amounts comprise the cost estimate hereby approved, of the above-described project or portion thereof:

ITEMS	MAN-HOURS		DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
	W. P. A.	SPONSOR	W. P. A.	SPONSOR	
Relief labor	40044		14328.		14328.
Nonrelief labor	1920		1500.		1500.
Total pay roll	41964		15828.		15828.
Materials and other	X X X X	X X X X	2400.	5642.	8042.
Total approved cost estimate	X X X X	X X X X	18228.	5642.	23870.

Original to State Administrator.  
Duplicate to District Director, after approval by State Administrator.  
TriPLICATE to Area Statistical Office, after approval by State Administrator.  
Quadruplicate retained by District Director.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 16-5340

Scheduled on A-24 No. New

7547



WPA Form 701  
(Revised 9-1-37)

Previous A-24  
Or Sequence No. 7367

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

OF  
ARKANSAS

(State)

Limitations Per Pres. Letter  
Letter No. Amount

7695 \$ 18,228.  
TOTAL

STATEMENT OF PROJECT ESTIMATE DETAIL

To: Floyd Sharp  
Little Rock  
Arkansas  
(City)  
(State)  
State Administrator.

Sequence No. 815  
Date June 6, 1938

The work project described below has been selected for operation. Your approval of its prosecution is requested.

*[Signature]*  
(Designated local officer)

APPROVED: JUN 6 1938  
(Date)  
Office Division of Operations  
City Little Rock, Arkansas  
Region # 3, Area #

INSERT PROJECT AUTHORIZATION 7-547  
ON ALL REQUISITIONS, A-3a's, etc.

State Administrator.  
LOCATION OF PROJECT Perry County  
(County and city) Location symbol 63-000-53

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Construct recreational buildings in the Narrows, Perry County near Thornburg, by building cabins, houses with fireplaces, caretakers' house, hospital with bathroom, and buildings to house employees installing plumbing facilities and performing appurtenant work. Federally owned property. Permission of U. S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has been obtained. These facilities will be open to the general public. In addition to projects specifically approved. Spon: Perry County.

Expected starting date March 19, 1938 Estimated date of completion June 30, 1938

Sponsor Perry County  
The following identifying symbols shall appear on every pay roll, requisition, or other encumbrance document chargeable to the project.

Type of work symbol 0-1149 Official project No. 465-53-2-169 Work project No. 4935-3  
Appropriation symbol 465022 Title Emergency Relief, Works Progress Administration, Public Buildings, Parks, Utilities, Flood Control, etc.

The following items and amounts comprise the cost estimate hereby approved, of the above-1938 described project or portion thereof:

ITEMS	MAN-HOURS		DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
	WPA	SPONSOR	WPA	SPONSOR	
Certified labor	32064		12328.		12328.
Noncertified labor	1920		1500.		1500.
TOTAL LABOR	33984		13828.		13828.
Material			2140.	5642.	7782.
Equipment			2260.		2260.
Other nonlabor					
TOTAL NONLABOR			4400.	5642.	10042.
TOTAL APPROVED COST ESTIMATE			18228.	5642.	23870.



WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

Limitations Per Pres. Letter  
Letter No. Amount

Previous A-24  
Or Sequence No. 8452

OF  
ARKANSAS  
(State)

7695

TOTAL

18,238.

STATEMENT OF PROJECT ESTIMATE DETAIL

To: Floyd Sharp

State Administrator

Sequence No. 10157

Little Rock

(City)

Date Feb 28, 1938

Arkansas

(State)

456 2 1938

The work project described below has been selected for operation. Your approval of its prosecution is requested.

APPROVED:

Region #3  
Office Division of Operations

(Designated local official)

Area #7

City Little Rock, Arkansas

(Date)

State Administrator

INSERT PROJECT AUTHORIZATION 8-112  
ON ALL REQUISITIONS, A-24's, etc.

LOCATION OF PROJECT

Perry County

(County and city)

Location symbol

65-000-53

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT: Construct recreational buildings in the Narrows, Perry County near Thornburg, by building cabins, houses with fireplaces, caretakers' house, hospital with bathroom, and buildings to house employees; installing plumbing facilities and performing appurtenant work. Federally owned property. Permission of U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service has been obtained. These facilities will be open to the general public. In addition to projects specifically approved. Spon: Perry County.

Expected starting date

March 19, 1938

Estimated date of completion

8-17-38

Sponsor

Perry County

The following identifying symbols shall appear on every pay roll, requisition, or other encumbrance document chargeable to the project.

Type of work symbol

0-1149

Official project No.

465-63-2-169

Work project No.

4935-3

Appropriation symbol

22222

Title

KRWPA NON-FED. PROJ. APPROVED UNDER PRIOR E.R. ACTS

The following items and amounts comprise the cost estimate hereby approved, of the above-described project or portion thereof: 1938-39

ITEMS	MAN-HOURS		DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS		TOTAL FUNDS
	WPA	SPONSOR	WPA	SPONSOR	
Certified labor	32064		12328.		12328.
Noncertified labor	1920		1500.		1500.
TOTAL LABOR	33984		13828.		13828.
Material		Reserve		100.	100.
Equipment					
Other nonlabor			4300	5642	9942
TOTAL NONLABOR			4300	5642.	9942
TOTAL APPROVED COST ESTIMATE		4400	18228.	5642.	23870.



OD-3005  
Revised

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
Area No. 7

WEEKLY PROGRESS AND FORCE REPORT

Project No. 4930-3 Week Ending 8-8-38, 1938  
 Official No. 465-63-2-189  
 Length in Miles -- Location Narrows Work Started 11-11-37 1938  
 Description Girls Scout Camp Estimated Date of Completion 1-15-38, 1938  
 Location of Building 4 mi. southwest of intersection of Hwy. 9 & 10. Penny Point

FORCES ACTUALLY WORKING Cabin # 2

UNIT	SUN.	MON.	TUES.	WED.	THURS.	FRI.	SAT.
Foreman							
Laborers							
Semi-Skilled							
Skilled			1	1			
Trucks							
Supervisor			1	1			
Engineer							
Timekeeper			1	1			
Working Condition			G	G			

Description of Work for Week: One painter skilled, 10 hrs. staining sheeting, corner screen moulds and door-screens.

COMPLETED

PROGRESS REPORT

ITEMS	UNIT	QUAN.	%COMP.	ITEMS	UNIT	QUAN.	%COMP.
Footings rock	C.Y.	8	100	Ceiling	MBM		
Found. Walls & Piers	C.Y.	26	100	Plaster	S.Y.		
Sub-Floor art. sd. ft.	MBM	22	100	Wall Board	Sq.		
Sills, Joists	MBM			Flooring stone sq. ft.	MBM	300	100
Studs poles lin. ft.	MBM	172	100	Painting Inside	Sq. yd.	90	100
Storm Sheeting	MBM	200	100	Painting Outside	Sq. yd.	20	100
Ceiling Joists	MBM			Wiring & Fixtures			
Rafters poles lin. ft.	MBM	180	100	Plumbing			
Roof Sheeting	MBM	280	100	Landscape			
Flues	Ea.			Miscellaneous			
Roofing	Sq.	6.8	100	Clean Up			
Siding Wood	MBM			Sq. Ft. of Floor		300	100
Siding Brick	M			Capacity No. of People		4	100
Siding Stone	C.Y.			Concrete Forms		4	100
Doors	Ea.	1	100	Screening	S.Y.	16	100
Windows	Ea.	13	100				

\*Working Condition - G, good - P, poor - T.K. - too wet

Signed:

*J. E. Cunningham*  
Project Engineer



WPA FORM 709A (REVISED)

WPA-1256

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION  
STATE OF ARKANSAS

DATE Aug. 18 1938

TO: STATE DIVISION OF  
FINANCE & STATISTICS

COUNTY Perry AREA 7

AREA SUPERVISOR'S REPORT  
ON CHANGE IN STATUS OF WORK PROJECT

O.P. 4 65-63-2-169 H.P. 4938-3 DATE EFFECTIVE August 17, 1938

1. TEMPORARILY SUSP.  PERMANENTLY DISC. \_\_\_\_\_ COMPLETED \_\_\_\_\_

2. 68 WORKERS TO BE DROPPED BY WPA FORM 403.  
NUMBER

2. \_\_\_\_\_ WORKERS TO BE TRANSFERRED TO:  
NUMBER

O.P. 65-63 WORK PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_

O.P. 65-63 WORK PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_

O.P. 65-63 WORK PROJECT \_\_\_\_\_

3. REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

- NOTE: 1. CHECK ITEM APPLYING TO STATUS THIS PROJECT.  
 2. IF POSSIBLE SHOW NUMBER OF WORKERS DROPPED BY 403 AND/OR TRANSFERRED TO OTHER O.P.'S.  
 3. UNDER REMARKS SHOW, IF POSSIBLE, WHEN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED PROJECT IS TO BE REOPENED.

THIS FORM TO BE MADE IN ORIGINAL AND ONE DUPLICATE, ORIGINAL TO COME TO STATE DIVISION OF FINANCE & STATISTICS AND FORM MAY BE PREPARED IN PENCIL.



ACTIVE

FINAL

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

PROJECT FINANCIAL STATUS REPORT

STATE Ark. OFFICE 7-53 O. P. No. 465-63-2-169  
 PERIOD FROM 6-18-38 TO 7-2-38 INC. W. P. No. 4835-4

	701-R LIMITATION (1)	CUMULATIVE ENCUMBRANCES (2)	BALANCE (3)	SPONSOR'S PLEDGE (4)	SPONSOR'S EXPENDITURES (5)	UNEXPENDED BALANCE (6)
1. Labor	13828.00	12366.07	1461.93	-	50.00	
2. Material						
3. Equipment						
4. Other						
5. Total other	4400.00	4068.57	331.43	5642.00	325.92	5316.08
6. Total	18228.00	16434.64	1793.36	5642.00	375.92	5264.00
	ESTIMATED	PAID FOR	BALANCE			
7. Man hours	33984	16078	17986			

Presidential limitation \$ 18,228 Sponsor's unexpended cash deposit \$ ✓  
 Unliquidated encumbrances: Payroll \$ 2,969.50 Other \$ 18,846.50  
 Last nonlabor encumbrance: Document No. 513352 Date 7/1/38 Amount \$ 420.00

REMARKS:

(Signed) \_\_\_\_\_ Division of Finance and Statistics



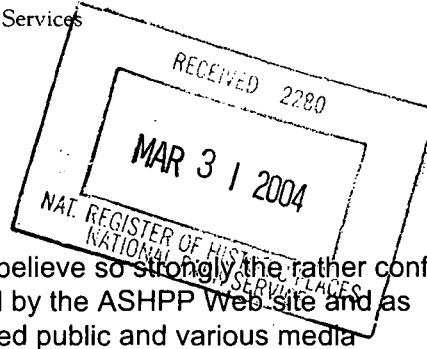


**UNIVERSITY of ARKANSAS**  
1871

110 Agriculture Building • Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701 • (479) 575-5647 • FAX (479) 575- 7531

March 29, 2004 Dale Bumpers College of Agriculture, Food and Life Sciences  
Department of Agricultural and Extension Education  
Communication Services

Daniel Vivian, Senior Reviewer  
National Register of Historic Places  
1201 Eye Street N.W. 8<sup>th</sup>  
Washington, D.C. 20005



Dr. Vivian,

After our talk last week, I wanted to clarify why I believe so strongly the rather confusing Camp Ouachita construction story—as promoted by the ASHPP Web site and as unfortunately being spread currently by a confused public and various media outlets—needs rigorous revision.

The major problem is that the ASHPP, as you can see below, at present has the easily accessed primary Web links about Camp Ouachita attributed completely to the CCC, with no mention of the WPA at all:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Perry County**

**Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District**, area surrounding and N of Lake Sylvia in the Ouachita National Forest, Paron vic., Civilian Conservation Corps-built camp area and lake dating from 1936-38, 01/02/92. View photo of Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp

Back to list of counties

[http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl\\_reg\\_search.asp#perry](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl_reg_search.asp#perry)  
Accessed March 29, 2004

\*\*\*\*\*

In the below instance, the format (but not content) of which has been updated since I accessed it on 23January2004, again all of the districts' resources are attributed to the CCC:

\*\*\*\*\*

**Perry County**

**Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District**

The Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District is significant by virtue of its associations with both the men that built it, the enrollees of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Camp Thornburg, located just to the north of Lake Sylvia, and with the Girl Scouts of America,

the organization for young girls that formed in the early twentieth-century and quickly became popular across the U.S. The various contributing resources of the Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Camp Historic District are all associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps. Their design is typical of such projects executed by the CCC in Arkansas and as an ensemble they survive as one of the best examples of a CCC-constructed camp in the state and certainly the best example within the local area. These structures are also excellent examples of the Rustic style made popular by the CCC.

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[Annual Report & Action Plan](#) | [Arkansas Institute for Building Preservation](#) | [Trades](#) | [Home](#)

Arkansas Historic Preservation Program

1500 Tower Building,

323 Center Street

Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Phone: (501) 324-9880

Fax: (501) 324-9184

[info@arkansaspreservation.org](mailto:info@arkansaspreservation.org)

[http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl\\_reg\\_listings/c54.asp](http://www.arkansaspreservation.org/history/natl_reg_listings/c54.asp)

Accessed 29 March 2004

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The chief reason Ralph Wilcox's new information you mentioned to me—i.e. the supplement to the National Register of Historic Places that was written by the architectural firm's historian, Cheryl Griffith Nichols—is rather ineffective in correcting the Camp Ouachita disinformation that is spreading is that her acknowledgement that a mistake was made attributing the camp's construction to the CCC only appears on Web page 12 of her NRHP supplement and it is likely most Web surfers will not find that single mention buried that deeply in a Web site. Also, major historic tension is present in Web pages previous to page 12 in which she makes the case that the CCC built the lake expressly for the girl scout camp, stating that Camp Ouachita was a major joint CCC-WPA project ("...the degree to which the Forest Service, CCC, and WPA worked together to create Camp Ouachita is an excellent example...."—see highlighted attachment), when in fact it was not. The Forest Service was always, all along planning the dam, lake, and public recreation area as a separate CCC project totally independent of Camp Ouachita (the historic correspondence I've sent you supports this fact.)

And in yet another major Web link to Camp Ouachita (below), ASHPP has the CCC listed first as the development agency, followed by the WPA; this seems to be the only concession made on this major Web page in response to Ms. Nichols supplement information and it still conveys a very strong impression that the CCC—because it is listed first—built Camp Ouachita.



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*Search The National Register of Historic Places*

**Search Criteria:**

County = "Perry"

Name is like "Camp Ouachita"

*The results of your search are listed below:*

Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Historic District

*Camp Ouachita Girl Scout Historic District (Lake Sylvia - Perry County)*

S of Hwy. 9 on Hwy. 324 near Thornburg

1936-1938 recreation area developed by Civilian Conservation Corps & Works Progress Administration

Listed in National Register of Historic Places on 1/2/92.

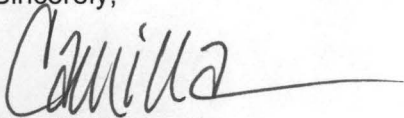
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Dr. Vivian, do you agree that in any instance the Camp Ouachita National Historic District is mentioned, there should only be mention of the WPA and there should be absolutely no mention whatsoever of the CCC? It seems that this is the only way to educate the public, historians, and all users to the truths that 1) Camp Ouachita was built by the WPA alone, and 2) the CCC built the dam and lake—planned by the Forest Service/CCC for public use well ahead of any consideration of a girl scout camp sharing shoreline—which are still in use to this day as a public recreation area (and not a national historic district) that is apart and distinct (and always has been) from Camp Ouachita.

The close proximity of the two facilities and the passage of time have proven to be tough weathering agents in terms of blurring the histories of these two separate New Deal projects, yet I think we can see clearly enough through the historic correspondence and National Archives documentation to once and for all unpack the confusion for everyone about the private-use and public-use histories of this fascinating site in the National Forest (troop leaders told me of seeing mountain lions on the site in the early 70's and the current caretakers told me that they hear big cats scream occasionally; it is a wild and beautiful landscape). I especially hope the story will be told accurately on any future National Historic Landmark.

Thanks again for your interest in and action on this issue. I look forward to hearing from you and am especially eager to see how you, as a historian following federal guidelines, formally handle this type of revision for the National Register of Historic Places.

Sincerely,



Camilla Romund

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