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

Albany

city, town

## National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received AUG / July date entered SEP | 2 1985

New York

state

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections Name Saratoga Spa State Park and or common Location vicinity of U.S. Route 9 and New York State \_\_\_\_ not for publication Route 50 city, town Saratoga Springs vicinity of New York 036 091 code Saratoga state county code Classification Category **Ownership** Status **Present Use** 🚣 district X public  $rac{X}{}$  occupied \_ agriculture museum \_\_ building(s) \_\_\_\_ private \_\_ unoccupied commercial park \_ work in progress \_\_\_\_ structure \_ both educational private residence \_\_ site **Public Acquisition** Accessible entertainment religious NA in process \_ yes: restricted \_\_ object \_ government scientific NA being considered ... yes: unrestricted industrial transportation no military other: Owner of Property NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation Saratoga-Capital District Park and Recreation Commission street & number Saratoga Springs New York vicinity of city, town state **Location of Legal Description** Saratoga County Clerk's Office courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Municipal Center street & number city, town Ballston Spa New York state **Representation in Existing Surveys** has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_\_ yes  $\stackrel{X}{=}$  no title New York State Parks Survey federal X state date 1982 county depository for survey records Division for Historic Preservation

745

#### 7. Description

Condition

Excellent

Accord

fair

\_\_\_ deteriorated \_\_\_ ruins \_\_\_ unexposed Check one

X unaltered

altered

Check one
X original site
moved date

NA

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Saratoga Spa State Park is located in the foothills of the Adirondack Mountains in the city of Saratoga Springs, New York. The park lies south of the densely developed city center and north of the Kayaderosseras Creek which defines the city's southern boundary. U. S. Route 9, a major north-south corridor through the state, runs through the eastern edge of the park and New York State Route 50, running southwest from Saratoga Springs to the county seat at Ballston Spa, runs along the western side. The park today totals approximately 2000 acres, of which 970 are included in the present nomination. The nomination encompasses an irregular triangle bounded generally by Route 50 on the northwest. Route 9 on the east, and the park road known as East and West Roads on the south. The boundary is drawn to include only that area which was owned by the state in 1934 at the peak of the park's period of historic significance. Since that time additional acreage has been included in the park, including lands to the east of Route 9, west of Route 50 and southward to Kayaderosseras Creek. These additional lands are undeveloped for the most part and excluded from the nomination. In the historic portion of the park are two major intrusions, the Saratoga Performing Arts Center amphitheatre and its parking lot on the west side of the park, and the Peerless Pool complex, near the southwest corner of the nominated property. Also scattered throughout the park are numerous non-historic features as modern picnic shelters, comfort stations, parking lots, a dormitory, the modern 9-hole golf course, and non-historic portions of the original 18-hole golf course. There are 44 contributing historic features of the park including 19 buildings (11 primary buildings, 6 secondary buildings, and two original picnic shelters), 8 objects (public drinking fountains), and 17 structures (11 pump houses, 2 geysers, and 4 landscape features: the Avenue of Pines, the reflecting pool, the original 9-hole golf course, and the tree farm). Many miles of roads and pathways, groves of mature deciduous and pine trees, and other plantings comprise the historic park setting. With the exception of the individually significant ca. 1835 Patrick-Latour Farm, the historic features of the park date from the early years of the state reservation, ca. 1910, through the end of the Spa development, ca. 1935. Extensive development of the park in the 1960s included expansion of the existing golf course to eighteen holes; upgrading of roadways; installation of numerous picnic areas, most with large shelters and comfort stations; and construction of a new 9-hole golf course, the Peerless Pool complex, and SPAC. These modern additions were located on the fringes of the previously developed area for the most part, were planned with sensitivity to the historic buildings, landscape plan, and mood of the park, and do not detract from its historic character. With few exceptions, the buildings and landscape retain exceptional integrity of their original design and feeling.

#### 8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 1700-1799 X	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric archeology-historic agriculture architecture art commerce communications	heck and justify below community planning X conservation economics education engineering exploration/settleme industry invention	gX landscape architectu law literature military music ent philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportationX other (specify) dicine, recreation
Specific dates	f909-1935	Builder/Architect	.H. Brinckerhoff, J. J. Baum, MT Reynolds	Freedlander .

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Saratoga Spa State Park is significant for its contribution to the development of the city of Saratoga Springs, for its role in the history of conservation, recreation, and medicine, and for the outstanding design of its buildings and landscaping. visited for centuries pecause of their curative powers, the mineral springs of Saratoga were a primary factor in the nineteenth century development of Saratoga Springs as a fashionable resort. By the end of the century, however, the springs were being so heavily exploited as a source for carbonic gas that the watertable and ultimately the economy of Saratoga were threatened. In 1909, the NYS legislature responded by establishing the State Reservation to conserve and develop the springs for public benefit. Over the next two decades, a program of acquisition, conservation and cautious development was undertaken, guided largely by Dr. \*Simon Baruch, a leading exponent of hydrotherapy. 1929, under the administration of Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the state embarked on an ambitious expansion project, designed to increase both the therapeutic and recreational use of the state holdings. Over the next ten years, funded by state appropriations and the federal Reconstruction Finance Commission, a major spa complex was constructed, including a grand Hall of Springs in the European style, two bathhouses, a hotel, a bottling plant, a swimming pool, an administration and research center, and a comprehensive landscape design which included athletic fields, scenic trails, forested drives, formal walks, and exceptional scenic vistas. The total 970 acres which were under state ownership in 1934 are included in the National Register nomination. With the exception of an architecturally significant Greek Revival style farmhouse, dating from ca. 1835, all the significant man-made features of the park date from the early years of the State Reservation, beginning c. 1910 and culminating in the grand opening of the spa in 1935.

The mineral waters of Saratoga have been recognized for centuries for their healing powers. As early as the fourteenth century, Iroquois Indians in the vicinity frequented the High Rock Spring, and there was an Iroquois tradition that the spring waters had medicinal qualities. The waters were one of the primary attractions which led to the city's establishment in the eighteenth century. The springs, widely acclaimed for their curative powers at a time when modern medicine was in its infancy, became a source of recognition for the area. Eventually, they generated the city's flowering as an elegant Victorian-era resort center.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

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The park consists of three primary areas, here identified as Lincoln Park, Geyser Creek, and the Spa complex, each distinguished by its topography and history of development. the northeast corner of the park, on the flat plain that borders U.S. Route 9, is a cluster of buildings which form the core of what was originally known as Lincoln Park. The northernmost of the park's major buildings, Washington Bathhouse, was originally built as a carbonic gas plant ca. 1903, but in 1918-20 was converted for use as a bathhouse by the office of the New York State Architect, Lewis W. Pilcher. Its half-timber and stucco exterior and sprawling plan reflect the eclecticism of contemporary architectural fashion and the influence of the Arts and Crafts movement on park design at this period. Directly to the south is the Lincoln Bathhouse, built in 1928-30 to replace an earlier bathhouse that burned. A monumental cast stone building, it was the first building in the park to exhibit the formal Neoclassical design which characterized later park architecture. Surrounding the Lincoln Baths are a greenhouse shed and eight pumphouses, including two on the east side of Route 9 on an otherwise undeveloped parcel of the nominated property. The pump houses are small squarish frame buildings set on concrete slab foundations, covered in stucco but otherwise unornamented. To the rear are the former laundry building and power house, both exhibiting the same half-timber and stucco exterior finish as the Washington Baths.

On the western edge of the park lies the area formerly known as Geyser Park. Here in the picturesque dells and wooded ravines formed along Geyser Brook (formerly known as Coesa Creek) and its tributaries are found many of the mineral springs for which Saratoga is famous. Broad trails and narrow paths run alongside the creek and through the woods, joining the springs and many picnic areas to the Spa Complex. Primary access to this area is via a loop road, called Picnic Lane on the park map, which incorporates portions of roads and bridle paths from the 1935 plan. In the 1960s, several large picnic areas were constructed off this road; most have large open shelters, brick comfort stations, barbecue pits, and grassy recreation fields. Another 1960s addition to this area is the huge Peerless Pool complex, on West Road west of Geyser Brook. These modern features are numerically dominant in this area, but are located in previously undeveloped spaces in such a way that they do not detract from the historic feeling of the Geyser Brook area. Historic features in this area include six mineral water fountains, three pump houses, a geyser known as the

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Island Spouter, two of the original ca. 1915 picnic shelters, and many picturesque trails, walks, and drives. Most of the public fountains are constructed of rock-faced ashlar, as are many other landscape features in the area, such as culverts and walls. Hathorn fountain is an ornately carved stone font, protected by a simple modern shelter. The pump houses are simple squarish buildings like those in Lincoln Park but different in exterior detailing: The Orenda pump house is constructed of rubble stone, the Hathorn pump house is sheathed in wood shingles, and the Coesa pump house features half-timbering similar to the Washington Bathhouse. The two picnic shelters are small open pavilions, their hip roofs supported by triplets of square timbers joined and bracketed in a manner suggestive of the Prairie Style. This section of the park is dominated by the rugged landscape into which structures formed of natural materials have been inserted with sensitivity. The trails are laid out in gentle grades and are lined with towering pine trees. Dense forests of mature coniferous and deciduous trees cover the steeper hillsides.

Between Lincoln and Geyser Parks, in the center of the park, is the area named here the Spa Complex. Laid out on a broad plateau is the formal geometric landscape designed by landscape architect A.H. Brinckerhoff and the large Georgian Revival style Spa structures which were the centerpiece of the 1930s development. The formal design is based upon a cruciform plan in which a broad north-south mall lined with monumental buildings is crossed at right angles by a narrower mall and farther north by an The rectilinear pathways, regimented plantings east-west road. and Georgian Revival style buildings were designed to draw the eye along formal vistas, culminating in elegant buildings and serene landscapes. The two most prominent buildings, the Hall of Springs and the Simon Baruch Research Institute (now the Administration Building) feature broad porticoed facades facing one another across a square section of the grassy mall with a square reflecting pool in the center. Round-arched arcades extend outward from these buildings, their rectilinear arms serving to define the central square further. Similar arcades reach northward from the two buildings directly to the south, Roosevelt Bathhouses I and II, the more modest porticoes of which mirror each other across the mall. Looking north along this mall, the eye is drawn to the entrance of the Avenue of Pines, a mile-long roadway lined with towering pine trees, leading northeastward toward Lincoln Park. Looking south, one sees the meadow and mature forest which lie south of the plateau. The east-west mall crosses the north-south

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axis north of the Roosevelt Baths. The eastward view from the crossing ends in the Victoria Pool, a quadrangle of small buildings joined at the corners by enclosed arcades, surrounding a 45' x 105' swimming pool. With their red brick and limestone trim, columned porticoes, and round-arched openings, the four buildings of Victoria Pool are variations in miniature on the grand Georgian Revival buildings on the mall. North of the pool across a long greensward is the Gideon Putnam Hotel, surrounded by a large grove of mature pine and deciduous trees. A large but graceful brick building with a three-story piazza on its drive front and a terrace on the garden front, the hotel has the look of a country estate of the period. Its symmetry and elegance have been somewhat compromised by a series of additions on the ends and garden side. The hotel is situated along the east-west road historically known as Marrin Avenue. The road originally ran east to Route 9 but now ends at the golf course, originally nine holes, but expanded to a full eighteen holes in 1962. Northeast of the hotel are the stuccoed one-story hotel garage of ca. 1935 and a non-contributing stuccoed building constructed in the 1950s for hotel staff housing. On the same road, west of the north-south mall, lies the Bottling Plant, another large Georgian Revival style brick building featuring large multi-paned round-arched windows. All seven major buildings of the Spa Complex are large structures of red brick accented with limestone and exhibiting such characteristic features of the Georgian Revival style as hipped and gable roofs, beltcourses, quoining, flat-arched lintels with enlarged keystones, columned porticoes, and round-arched arcades and openings.

South of the Bottling Plant and west of the Hall of Springs is the Saratoga Performing Arts Center amphitheatre, a steel and concrete structure seating 5100 under shelter and thousands more on the sloping lawn. Constructed in 1966, SPAC, its box office, and its parking lots to the west and south are major non-contributing features in the historic park. The primary entrance to the SPAC grounds is via a steel and concrete bridge which crosses a gorge in Geyser Brook. Other openings in the high iron fence which separates the SPAC grounds from the rest of the park are located near the Hall of Springs, whose rear facade opens onto SPAC grounds. The Brinckerhoff plan of 1934 called for an amphitheatre to be located at the end of the western axis at the approximate location of SPAC, but oriented slightly differently than the present structure. That plan also envisioned southward development of the Spa Complex in additional wings of the

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Roosevelt Baths that were never constructed.

The park includes three additional historic features which do not clearly relate to the three areas described above. The Patrick-Latour Farmhouse (ca. 1835), located in the golf course near the southeastern corner of the nominated property, is an excellent example of vernacular Greek Revival style residential architecture. A single-story frame building exhibiting such characteristic features of the Greek Revival style as corner pilasters, wide frieze pierced by eyebrow windows, entablature returns in the gable ends, and trabeated doorway, it was originally a five-bay central-entry structure with rear wing. A three-bay wing with Greek Revival detailing was added to the west end, probably before the Civil War. Later in the nineteenth century, shed-roofed porches with spool screens were added to the entries and rear wing. Purchased by the state in 1928 with the surrounding 150 acres, the property represents the type of farmstead that has dominated the county's rural economy for two centuries or more and the farmhouse is a excellent representative example of a regional building type. It is the only structure in the park that predates the popularity of Saratoga's Springs.

The trolley barn, just north of the bottling plant, relates physically to the spa complex, but dates from the early years of the State Reservation. A large rectangular brick building with a broad-eaved hipped roof supported by wooden brackets, it is representative of rural passenger depots of the period. Constructed ca. 1910 as part of the inter-urban rail linkage between Albany and Saratoga Springs, it would have served the considerable numbers of day visitors to the Geyser Creek area in the early years of the State Reservation.

The tree farm, a 155-acre area on the east side of the park has been a feature of the park landscape since the 1930s. Laid out in a simple and functional grid pattern, it has little visual interest, but its presence reflects the concern for conservation embodied in the establishment and development of the park.

A detailed descriptive list of park features follows:

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By the 1870s, tens of thousands of visitors arrived annually to partake of the mineral waters. Drinking fountains and, later, great drink halls were built at several of the springs. Drinking the mineral waters evolved into a highly social recreational pastime, and casinos, ballrooms, lakehouses, and racetracks were developed to serve the fashionable visitors. Eventually, as other attractions became increasingly popular, the mineral springs declined in popularity. At about the end of the nineteenth century, a new technology was developed to exploit the waters: The carbonic acid gas with which the waters were charged could now be separated, liquefied under pressure, and sold for the manufacture of carbonated beverages. As a result of this profitable new industry, the number of springs tapped multiplied tenfold by 1890. and the annual output from the springs increased to 150,000,000 gallons. The result was a drastic lowering of the water table and a threat to the natural ecological balance.

In reaction to this exploitation, the State Legislature in 1909 established a three-member commission "to select and locate such lands in ... Saratoga... as it shall deem proper and necessary to be taken for the purpose of preserving the natural mineral springs...After the acquisition of any piece of land by the board...the same shall be kept, and remain, and be known, as a part of the state reservation at Saratoga Springs, for the purposes of restoring, and forever preserving, the mineral springs and wells and mineral water, and the natural carbonic acid gas on, and in and under said lands." The Commissioners were also empowered to regulate the maintenance, care, and protection of the properties, to grant concessions or leases on the properties, and to sell or regulate the sale of excess mineral waters. Similar powers were enumerated when the New York State Conservation Department took control of the Saratoga Reservation in 1916, with the addition of "promoting the resort to the said springs of the people of the state for health, and the other suitable uses of the said reservation by the people, and of identifying, safeguarding and assuring the natural purity, qualities, and repute of such water and gases, and for the purpose of providing said waters to the people for drinking, free of charge."

The state's development at this period advanced on several fronts: conservation, recreation, and medicine. Conservation of the natural resources was pursued through an active program of purchase and management. Within the reservation's first two years, the state acquired over 160 springs and shut down all but 19 in order to restore the natural watertable. By 1915, the state

1909 New York Laws Chapter 569 Sections 2 and 4 1916 New York Laws Chapter 295 Section 602

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owned not only the springs, but over 1000 acres around them. The springs remaining active were largely grouped in four major areas: High Rock Park at the north edge of the city; Congress Park, downtown; Geyser Park; and Lincoln Park. The latter two constitute the Saratoga Spa State Park as we know it today.

Public access to the springs was encouraged through the maintenance and development of public fountains. Recreational use, particularly of the Geyser Creek area, was encouraged by construction of picnic shelters and landscaping improvements such as "a beautiful system of walks and driveways laid out in gentle grades." With the inauguration of trolley service to Saratoga around 1910, a new station was built at the northern edge of Geyser Park, further encouraging public use of the area.

For the therapeutic development of the waters, the state turned to the noted hydrotherapy expert Dr. Simon Baruch. Baruch. born in Germany in 1840, had emigrated to the United States as a youth, trained at the Medical College of Virginia, and served as a surgeon in the Confederate Army. Following the war, he practiced in South Carolina for many years, then moved to New York City where he became well known for his research in the therapeutic uses of water. He returned to Europe for a time to study under Professor W. W. Winternitz, who operated a hydrotherapeutic institute at the University of Vienna. In 1898, Baruch published the first systematic treatise on hydrotherapy in English, The Principles and Practice of Hydrotherapy, A Guide to the Application of Water in Disease, written for students and practitioners of medicine. In a field which for most of the nineteenth century had been associated with quackery, Baruch was one of a handful of physicians active at the turn of the century who placed the study of hydrotherapy on a scientific footing. At Columbia University, he held the first chair at an American college to be devoted to hydrotherapy.

Engaged by the Saratoga Reservation Commission to conduct a study of European spas in 1912, Baruch recommended state construction of bathhouses. Within a year, the state was operating its first bathhouse at Saratoga, with the reopening of an earlier private facility on Phila Street in downtown Saratoga Springs as the Saratoga Bathhouse. Within the present-day park, a former

New York State Conservation Commission, Division of Saratoga Springs, The State Reservation at Saratoga Springs, Albany, 1917, p.13.

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carbon dioxide plant on the Lincoln tract was converted for bathhouse use and opened in 1915 as the Lincoln Bathhouse. Five years later, another converted carbonic plant, the Washington Bathhouse, was opened to the public. By 1927, the state bathhouses were giving over 90,000 treatments annually, sometimes as many as 2200 in one day, and the springs at Saratoga were proported as being "the most widely known of the American springs."

The popularity of the waters during this time was largely due to Dr. Baruch's research and advocacy. Because of the waters' ability to retain the carbon dioxide gas content at full saturation, it was found useful for a variety of ailments including heart and circulatory disorders, rheumatic conditions, gastro-intestinal ailments, nervous conditions and convalescence following acute and chronic diseases. Baruch created the Saratoga cardiac therapy, a program of bathing and water-related treatment given only upon a doctor's prescription. The special therapy combined the mineral baths with other hydrotherapy techniques such as steam rooms, electric light cabinets, massage, salt, alcohol and oil baths, colonic irrigations, mineral water packs and mudpacks. It generally was recommended as a two or three week therapy program.

It is clear from the contemporary accounts of the park that the state program was seen as innovative and forward-thinking. Promotional literature of the period (1917-18) celebrates the development of the State Reservation as a progressive conservation "This ... was in line with the nationwide trend toward conservation...which is premised on the idea that the State is the logical conserver of the natural resources within its borders." This was not the opinion simply of the owners: In 1927, a study of American springs and spas unfavorably compared the paucity of government-owned spas in America (three owned by the federal government and three by states) with the more progressive conservation policies of European nations. "The governmental control of these celebrated spas insures the preservation for all time, for the use of the people, the advantages of these natural resources; it gives assurance for the highest degree of protection and the scientific administration of these natural curative agents to the invalid who may go to these mineral springs for treatment. This governmental jurisdiction over a few of the mineral springs of our country is in accord with European methods, and gives

William Edward Fitch, Mineral Waters of the United States and American Spas. (Philadelphia: Lea & Febiger, 1927), p. 495.

NYS Conservation Commission, p. 11.

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promise of becoming an important factor in the suppression of charlatanry in the exploitation of American mineral waters and of establishing American hydriatics upon a dignified and ethical basis."

In the early years of the State Reservation, 1909-1928, landscape design and construction were intended to complement the natural setting. Buildings of the period, such as the Washington Bathhouse and the other original buildings of Lincoln Park, and the many pumphouses in Lincoln and Geyser Parks, evoke a sense of rustic simplicity through the use of such natural materials as timber beams or half-timbering and stucco. Natural stone was also used for the fountains and to wall pathways. Many of these buildings (e.g., Washington Bathhouse, power house and laundry) were remodellings of earlier structures designed for use as carbonic gas plants in the first decade of the twentieth century. A number of the remodelled buildings, such as the original Ferndell Bottling Plant, became obsolete with the construction of new buildings in the 1930s and were demolished; only those in Lincoln Park and scattered pumphouses remain. No known architect has been linked to the design of these buildings, although all work was carried out under the supervision of the State Architect's Office.

Among the properties acquired during this period was the Patrick- Latour Farm of 150 acres in the southeast quadrant the nominated area. Unlike most of the property purchased by the state, the Latour property had no carbonic facilities, but was simply a farmstead. Preserved intact since the state's acquisition, the farmhouse is an excellent representative example of a regional building type in the Greek Revival style. Its wide frieze pierced by eyebrow windows, cornice returns on the gable ends, and trabeated doorway are characteristic features of the vernacular Greek Revival style, here applied to a conventional five-bay, center-hall, one-story structure. Judging by its identical detailing, the side extension was an early addition. Porches with spool screens appear to date from later in the nineteenth century. Most of the farm property was incorporated into the golf course or the tree farm in the 1930s. No related outbuildings survive.

During the first two decades of state ownership, landholdings at the Geyser and Lincoln Parks increased from 350 acres (around 1915) to over 900 acres, and much of the acreage was improved with drives, plantings, and modernization of existing buildings. In 1928, the original Lincoln bathhouse burned down and was Fitch, p. 21.

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replaced in 1930 by the present Lincoln Bathhouse, a much larger and more luxurious facility. The new cast-stone building was evidence of the increasing demand for baths, and its imposing Neoclassical design also asserted a new concept of park design, leaning toward the more formal European ideal.

In 1929, during the administration of Governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Legislature appropriated funds for further study of the Saratoga mineral waters. A new commission was formed, under the chairmanship of Bernard Baruch, son of Dr. Simon Baruch, who had died in 1921. The commission's report, published in 1930, called for an ambitious program of expansion and upgrading of the reservation to a standard comparable to European spas of the period. The report recommended two immediate needs, "formulation of a wise medical policy," to include conferences and training for physicians and establishment of a research institute, and "the development of the environment." In the latter regard, the commission made specific recommendations for new construction, suggesting not only the research institute, but also a central drinking hall, living accommodations for physicians and patients, a sanitarium, a casino, covered promenades, and a golf course. They further recommended the development of cultural and recreational activities to entertain the guests in keeping with the treatments, mentioning such amenities as open air concerts, tea rooms, and winter sports. The commission's specific recommendations on incorporating state-of-the-art equipment included some criticisms of the new Lincoln Bathhouse, compared with those in the European spas.

In response to the report, a law was passed in April, 1930, establishing a commission to oversee the development of the State Reservation as a health resort. In contrast to the conservation approach of the 1909 legislation, the 1930 law called for the development of "a state health resort and spa for use by the public for balneological, therapeutic, and other similar healthful purposes." Projects authorized by the law included: "a scientific survey of the physical properties of the entire reservation," and "an engineering, architectural, landscape, and organization study to enable it more effectually to carry out its purpose." Furthermore, the commission was directed to erect an administration building, a residence for the director, and an adequate drink-hall, to include "promenades, a concert hall, solaria, and drinking rooms." Soon thereafter, a program was developed for extensive new New York State Saratoga Springs Commission, Report to the

Legislature, Albany, 1930, p.22.

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

## **National Register of Historic Places** Inventory—Nomination Form Saratoga Spa State Fark Saratoga Springs

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bathhouse and administrative facilities at Geyser Park, at a cost of approximately \$2,375,000. A state appropriation of \$1,585,000 was supplemented by a \$3,200,000 loan from the Reconstruction Finance Commission to build the new spa. The Reconstruction Finance Commission was a government lending agency created by the Hoover administration in 1932 to provide emergency credit for financial institutions and government-owned corporations. Its powers were expanded by the Relief and Construction Act of 1932 to making loans to state and local agencies for construction of public works of a self-liquidating character, such as the Saratoga It was one of the few Hoover programs to survive into the "New Deal", for under the presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the Reconstruction Finance Commission was charged with distributing Federal Emergency Relief.

New construction undertaken between 1931 and 1935 included the requested research institute, two new bathhouses, the grand new Hall of Springs, the Victoria Pool and Recreation Center, the Gideon Putnam Hotel, and a new bottling plant. Although designed to be self-supporting, the spa facility was considered part of the state's public health program, available to all its citizens. Free public fountains in addition to those already available in Lincoln and Geyser Parks were incorporated into the new construction. Victoria Pool, the 9-hole golf course, and the walks and playing fields served the dual purpose of turning therapeutic activity into play and of being a diversion for visitors to the spa who were accompanying patients but not taking the waters themselves. The State Seal Bottling Plant bottled both mineral and sweet waters for sale, thus producing an income for the park and marketing the spring waters to a larger public.

This unified design was the work of several people, including some prominent architects of the day. The landscape design was executed by Arthur F. Brinckerhoff, a New York City landscape architect trained at Cornell University and best known for the gardens he created for large estates in several eastern states. The four core buildings of the Spa Complex--the Hall of Springs, Administration Building, and the two Roosevelt Bathhouses--were designed by Joseph H. Freedlander, a student at l'Ecole des Beaux-Arts, who won many design competitions and designed numerous large public buildings including the Museum of the City of New York, and the Bronx County Courthouse and Jail. Dwight James Baum, a noted designer of country houses and estates, designed the Victoria Pool and Recreation Center and the State Seal Bottling Plant. Practicing in New York City, he 1930 New York Laws Chapter 866.

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## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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The second secon

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designed a number of buildings for Syracuse University and public buildings in New York and Florida, but is best known for his residential work for wealthy clients such as John Ringling and Arthur Hammerstein. Marcus T. Reynolds, Albany architect of such prominent public buildings as the Hackett Junior High School and the Delaware and Hudson Railroad Building, is renowned for his use of finely crafted exterior detail. His design for the Gideon Putnam Hotel, intended to suggest a Georgian country estate, is uncharacteristically simple and unadorned.

8

In the first half of the twentieth century, the State Reservation and the Spa served an important role in the local economy. Saratoga Springs at the turn of the century offered such sophisticated amusements as casino gambling, horse-racing, and elegant dining in its grand hotels, as well as the relatively staid attractions of the springs. Many of these attractions came under attack in the twentieth century, however: Anti-gambling fervor closed the casinos and restricted book-making to the extent that in some years no racing meets were held. Prohibition further subdued Saratoga's social life. Lastly, with the advent of the automobile age, Saratoga's tourist visitation shifted from downtown to Saratoga Lake, a short ride outside of town, where fashionable lakehouses offered gambling, dancing, and nationally famous entertainers. First the small hotels, then larger ones fell victim to the new trends. The springs offered a decorous alternative to these less respectable tourist attractions, and provided a stabilizing force in the volatile economy. Depression, the construction and operation of Saratoga Spa provided employment, and brought new visitors to the area.

The baths at Saratoga were the only baths east of the Mississippi River which featured naturally carbonated mineral waters. Because of its uniqueness as a natural resource, its new state-of-the-art equipment for the bathhouses, its resort atmosphere and use of the most advanced spa therapy techniques, the Saratoga Spa flourished, growing from 98,870 baths in 1934 to a peak of 198,306 baths in 1946. Use of the baths began to decline thereafter, with the discovery of antibiotics and the change in resort fashions. Following World War II and particularly following the transfer of reservation properties to the newly established New York State Office of Parks and Recreation in the 1960s, a broad range of recreational activities began to be developed at the Park. The golf course was expanded to eighteen holes, and a second golf course was added; the Peerless Pool complex (with an Olympic-sized pool, a diving pool, and a wading

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pool) was constructed, large group picnic areas were developed, and in 1966, the open-air, 5100-seat amphitheatre of the Saratoga Performing Arts Center opened. Additional acreage was also added to the Park on the east, south, and west, to allow for future expansion of the facility.

Despite these recent additions, the 1930s' design for the Saratoga Spa State Park survives with remarkable integrity. The buildings of the Park are all preserved in their original exterior appearance, with virtually all their architectural detailing intact. The original landscaping has long since matured, further enhancing the overall appearance of the buildings and strengthening their relation with the natural setting of the surrounding parklands.

## United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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Saratoga Spa State Park

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Building Name

Map Photo

2,3

Architect Date Description

Lincoln Park

Washington Bathhouse 1

NYS Arch., 1903. L.W.Pilcher rehab

This building combines simple classical detailing with the natural materials and low profile favored by the Arts and Crafts movement. 1918-20 It is a large, single-story, gable-roofed, H-shaped structure. The exterior fabric is of reinforced concrete, half-timbering and stucco over wire mesh and a patterned slate roof. The plan features a central 117 x 36' (21 bay) section with flanking 214 x 36' wings which partially enclose space on two elevations. On the east elevation these wings end in large hip-roofed colonaded pergolas, which embrace the courtyard of the building's principal entryway. This entrance is sheltered by an extended eave supported by Doric columns creating a wide porch, above which is a shed dormer. The corresponding west elevation is characterized by a projecting half-timbered gable end over a semi-circular glazed solarium. On the interior there is a central 1 1/2 story reception room or lobby with neo-Classical details in Ionic columns, pilasters and denticulate entablatures. The original treatment rooms have been altered on the interior.

751

2 Lincoln Baths

NYS Arch..

1928-30 A large, 2-story, flat-roofed building, the Lincoln Bathhouse is the most fully developed example of Beaux Arts Neoclassicism in the park. Crafted in stucco, cast stone, terra cotta, and marble it features a symmetrical floor plan of a central hall with 3 projecting 2 story wings on each side 3 bays wide. These wings are connected by glazed arcades to enclose 4 interior courtvards. Exterior features include concrete foundations, water tables, belt courses and cornices of cast stone, and metal framed windows. The principal facade is articulated by a colossal central portico framed by wings which end in pilastered pavilions with wide entablatures. The entry pavilion projects outward in a colossal portico formed of 4 Tennessee marble columns with foliated capitals supporting a wide entablature with the inscription "LINCOLN BATHS". Above the enArchitect

NYS Arch., 1903

L.W.Pilcher 1915

Date

Map Photo

5

Building Name

Steam Boiler Plant

752

tablature is a parapet wall which encircles the building. Mounted on the parapet above the portico is a relief sculpture of the New York State Seal. In the portico is paving of granite and marble with wrought iron and brass railings. Opening from the central entrance into a lobby are three wide double doorways with ornamental leaded glass panels and fan-shaped transoms. In the entrance lobby are cashiers' windows on the right, and a check room on the left. The lobby is finished in ivory tile wainscotting. From this level 3 wide steps lead to a small rotunda with skylight and gallery, which houses a 4 sided spring fountain. Leading to the west is the central hall or spine of the building which opens into the bath wings and the interior courtyards, the latter through multiple french doors with fan-shaped transoms. The building originally housed 252 bathtubs and more than 500 dressing rooms, for semi-private bathing. Some of the original equipment has been removed, but the bathhouse continues to be used summers. Laundry House 3 NYS Arch.. 1903 This building is a T-shaped (13 by 3 bays with a 12-bay wing), L.W.Pilcher 1915 single-story structure. It features stucco and half-timbering with three gable-roofed porches extending over entryways on the principal (east) elevation. The building includes large overhead garage doors and garage bays with concrete slab floors. Which presumably post-date 1940. The gable roof is broken by multiple

ventilators.

a polychrome brick chimney stack.

A 6 x 3 bay wood framed, single-story structure with 5 x 3 bay

end wings. Built to house massive steam boilers, the plant has

a concrete slab sub-basement floor. The exterior is stucco and half-timbering. The gable roof features patterned slate and

Description

ran in a straight line southwest from Route 9 behind the Washington and Lincoln Bathhouses, but was rerouted south of

c.1915 The building is a small, stone rubble, single-story, rectangular structure with a shingled, gable roof. On the east gable end is located the Orenda Spring fountain. A heavy wooden door gives

access to the interior on the west gable end.

the Lincoln Bathhouse in the 1930s.

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Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Springs, Saratoga Co., NY

Geyser Creek Area

Orenda Pump House

8

shelter it.

17

Hathorn Fountain

All windows are shuttered. Originally designed with a drinking station sheltered by the porch, this is the most decorative of the park pump houses. Its exterior detailing is similar to

Southeast of the pump house is a small pond in which a man-made

base. A non-contributing hip-roofed pavilion and brick wall

c. 1915 The fountain is an elaborately carved stone font set on a stone

that of the Washington Bathhouse.

gevser spouts Coesa spring water.

9/12/05

	Saratoga Spa State I	Park,	Saratoga	a Springs,	Saratoga (	Co., NY	Item 7	Page 10
	Building Name	Map	Photo	Architect	Date	Description		
	Hathorn Pump House	18				The structure is a 10 x 10', 1 x 1 bay, single-structure on a concrete slab foundation. It has roof with a gable-roofed monitor. The exterior	s a shing	led gable
1	Non-contributing Feat	ures						
	Saratoga Performing Arts Center	I-1	1,I-1		1966	This 5100-seat amphitheatre of steel and concret natural declivity formed along Geyser Creek.	te is set	in the
	Large Picnic Pavilio							
	Orenda Columbia	I-3 I-8	I <b>-</b> 2		1960s 1960s	The picnic pavilions are large open structures of with low-pitched gable roofs supported by splayed legs of steel-reinforced timbers. The large group shelter concrete and brick comfort stations at one of the contract of th	ed up pavili	ons
	Family Picnic Pavili				smaller family pavilions have brick and concrete			
	Hathorn	I-4			1960s	nearby. The picnic areas also feature athletic	fields,	fire-
	Coesa Carlsbad	I-5 I-6	I-3		1960s 1960s	places or barbecue pits, and picnic tables.		
	Comfort Stations:							
	Ferndell	1-7			1960s			
	Geyser	I-2			1960s			
	Peerless Pool Comple	x I-9	I-4		1960s	This large swimming complex includes a large sir of brick and concrete, a wading pool, a diving pan Olympic-size swimming pool.		
	Spa Complex							

12,13, J.H.Freedlander\*

14

nder\* A massive, 2 1/2 story, 160 x 157°, H-shaped, Georgian Revival style, 1932-34 brick masonry structure, the Simon Baruch Research Institute was

755

Simon Baruch

Research Institute

Building Name

Map Photo Architect

Date

Description

in collaboration with:
Dr. Frank M. Groedel, Bad Nauheim, Germany
Dr. Walter S. McClellan, Spa Medical director
Cyrus Bruce Elmore. Plant Superintendent

designed to house all administration and research facilities of the spa, as well as examining rooms, a library, a museum and a 574-seat theatre. Distinctive and prominent features include two temple front entrances, one on the E elevation to the Houseman Theatre, and one on the W facade to the administration offices. Brick arcades of Roman arches, ending in open brick hip-roofed pavilions in an embracing U-shape flank the W facade, which faces the Hall of Springs across the mall. The building consists of a central hip-roofed pavilion with projecting 3 x 3 bay gable-roofed wings and flanking barrel-vaulted arcades. Both east and west facades feature deep porticoes of fluted limestone Doric columns supporting a palin, wide entablature, denticulated cornice and pediment with sculpture in relief. The ashlar pediment of the eastern pediment is inscribed ANNO 1934. Behind the Doric columns of the temple fronta are rusticated piers which at the left and right support the 2-story barrel arches which lead into the flanking arcades. Other features include chiseled limestone trim, belt courses and keystones, niches and rusticated quoins.

756

Hall of Springs 20 15,16 J.H. Freedlander

inder Executed in the Georgian Revival style, the Hall of Springs is the 1934-35 most carefully detailed and decorative of the buildings of the Spa complex. Like the Research Institute which it faces across the mall, it is a substantial 2-story, H-shaped, hip-roofed masonry building with two temple-front particoes of limestone; one on the east front facing the Hall of Springs and one on the west facing SPAC. Each has fluted Doric columns supporting a plain wide entablature, denticulated cornice and pediment with sculpture in relief. Behind the Doric columns of the eastern temple front are rusticated piers which at the left and right support the 2-story barrel vaults which lead into flanking arcades characteristic of the complex. Other features include red brick masonry, chiseled limestone trim, belt courses.

Description

keystones, niches with statues, and rusticated quoins. On the north elevation there is another entryway characterized by pink marble fountains flanking a wide entrance terrace. The entry is 5 bays wide between two projecting gable-roofed wings. It consists of double-leafed doors with alternating round-headed and triangular pediments. Interior features include a large, long (160' x 70'), 2-story, barrel vaulted hall of limestone ashlar and marble. Multiple glazed french doors with leaded fanlights open from the hall into smaller reception rooms. Three massive glass and silver tiered chandeliers illuminate the space and hang from circular recesses in the coffered ceilings. In each end of the hall are glazed mezzanines containing office space. The mezzanines are supported by monolithic marble columns. In the center of the hall were three fountains from which Geyser, Hathorn and Coesa Spring Waters were served to strolling drinkers.

Roosevelt Bathhouse I J.H.Freedlander (west) 21 17 1934

A large Georgian Revival style building, the Roosevelt Bathhouse I is a U-shaped, 1 1/2 story, hip-roofed structure of brick with limestone detailing. It features a hip-roofed portico with fluted limestone Doric columns supporting a plain entablature and denticulated cornice. Entrance to the building is gained through three bays of double-leafed doors. The doors are in pedimented glazed enclosures with large transoms flanked by rusticated limestone surrounds and flat stone pilasters supporting a matching entablature. Flat-arched arcades extend on each side of the entrance, leading into flanking and projecting Roman arcades. The north arcade ends in twin hip-roofed pavilions with garlanded drum finials of lead-coated copper. Other features include decorative wrought iron railings. rusticated stone quoining, belt courses, keystones, inscribed stone placques and relief sculpture. medallions. The roof is slate on the pavilion and lead-coated copper raised seam on the arcades. There are also wrought iron hanging lanterns and chiseled pink marble urns

on pedestal bases in the entrance portico. In the rear, three, double-leafed pedimented doors provide access to the narrow courtyard formed between the 1-story bath wings. The interior of the building is characterized by a large central lobby with vaulted ceiling, pilasters, original lighting fixtures including a large central brass and cut glass chandelier, and original lobby furniture. The bathtubs and much of the original equipment remain in use in 40 mineral water bathing rooms and 8 resting rooms.

Roosevelt Bathhouse II J.H.Freedlander (east) 22 18 1934-35

Roosevelt Bathhouse II is identical (mirror-image) to Roosevelt I Its interiors were extensively altered under management by the Veterans Administration (1942-51) and subsequently (after 1960) for use as restoration shop.

Victoria Pool & 23 D.J. Baum 1934-35 Recreation Center 19,20

The Victoria Pool is a complex of four Georgian Revival style brick masonry pavilions which, with their connecting Roman-arched brick arcades enclose an open-air court which houses wide slate terraces and the pool itself. Each of the enclosed structures is used for a specific function. These four buildings which comprise the whole are as follows:

1: The admission/concession building, a 94 x 31' single-story, brick building reminiscent of Jeffersononian campus-style buildings. It is characterized by a projecting central pedimented portico of 1 1/2 stories, 3 bays wide, supported by four Ionic columns in limestone, on each side of which extend arcades of Roman brick arches which terminate in square, hip-roofed pavilions at the northwest and southwest corners of the complex. Other exterior features include hanging lanterns of glass and wrought iron. The gable roof of the pavilion is slate.

2:The Bath House/locker room, an 80 x 69', single-story, brick

Description

building with stone exterior trim in a Georgian Revival style. It is characterized by twin pedimented projecting wings which face the pool on the south elevation. The wings are connected by a Doric portico of three bays with a flat roof. The raised seam roof of the pavilions are lead-coated copper. On each side of the structure extend brick masonry arcades of Roman arches which end in hip-roofed square pavilions at the northwest and northeast corners of the complex. These arcades intersect those of the admission/concession building and the gymnasium at these corner pavilions.

3: The "gymnasium"/golf locker room, a 132 x 44', 2-story brick masonry, slate gable-roofed pavilion with a projecting pedimented gable end, supported by four stone Ionic pilasters separating 3 bays of brick Roman arches. The pediment contains a clock face and faces a corresponding pediment across the pool on the east elevation of the admission/concession pavilion. On each side of the building are connecting roofed arcades which end in hip-roofed brick pavilions the northeast and southeast corners of the complex. At these corner pavilions the arcades intersect arcades from the golf house and the bath house.

4: The "golf house", an 80 x 32', single- story, brick masonry building with stone exterior trim in a Georgian Revival style. The pavilion is characterize by twin pedimented projecting wings which face the pool on the north elevation. The "golf house" is similar in form to the "bath house;" the two wings are connected by a Doric portico of three bays with a flat roof. This piazza is enclosed with wire mish screns. Arcades extend on each side of the pavilion to hip-roofed pavilions at the southeast and southwest corners of the complex.

Building Name Map Photo Architect Date

Description

1935

These four neo-Georgian styled brick pavilions with their connecting arcades enclosing the pool form the original Spa Recreation Unit. The interior court measures 150 x 220' and the pool is 45 x 105'. The pool is lined with blue faience terra cotta titles and is lighted from beneath the water. The water is heated and purified through a circular system--a novelty for open-air pools at the time of its construction.

21,22 M.T.Reynolds 1935 Gideon Putnam Hotel 24

The building is a massive 4 1/2 story, brick, H-shaped, gable-roofed structure, dominated by a 3-story piazza on the principal facade. It is flanked by two wings including, on the west, a 4-story addition (1940) and on the east, a single-story meeting hall (1979). Features include many decorative details of the Georgian Revival style, such as fan-shaped transoms over multiple double-leafed French doors; a pedimented Palladian-inspired central entrance; decorative brick quoining; denticulated cornices with returns in the gable ends; and a gable roof articulated by multiple projecting gable-roofed dormers. The piazza is supported by colossal columns with foliated capitals. Interior features include a central lobby with Adamesque decorative elements on Georgian style fireplace fronts, fluted pilasters, and denticulated cornices. The hotel was expanded in 1940 with the addition of a simple 4-story rectangular wing on the west end. A single-story meeting hall with multi-paned round-arched windows was added to the east end in 1979. The south elevation originally features a single-story verandah and a terrace which was replaced with a projecting one-story restaurant addition of brick featuring round-arched windows in imitation of the spa's Roman arcades.

Gideon Putnam Garage 25

760

The garage is a  $142 \times 58^{\circ}$  .  $9 \times 3$  bay, masonry single-story flat-roofed service structure. Features include a stuccoed exterior with metal casement windows, a raised concrete foundation,

Saratoga Spa State I	Park,	Saratog	a Springs, S	aratoga (	io., NY	Item 7 Page 16
Building Name	Мар	Photo	Architect	Date	Description	
					and several overhead doors (metal and wood).	
State Seal Bottling Plant	26	23	D. J. Baum	1934	The building is a 110 x 116', brick masonry, 2-Revival styled structure, designed for specific plant. Features include a raised foundation; I belt courses, keystones, entablatures and corni round-arched windows on the principal elevation copper raised seam roofs. The Georgian style of consists of a central pedimented 3-story pavili 2-story multiple-paned, round-arched windows fl 3-bay, 2-story wings. The east and west elevat ding are characterized by repeating bays of bri arches and, at the south end, projecting parape house twin brick chimneys. The interior of the exposed from the tile floor to the roof support mechanized spring water bottling apparatus with catwalk, the whole illuminated by the large arc skylights in the gable roof.	use as a bottling imestone trim in ces; 2-story, and lead-coated the street front on with three anked by projecting ions of the buil-ck recessed Roman ted gable ends which central pavilion is system and contains a spectators'
State Seal and Geyse Fountains	er 27			c.1915	This ornately carved stone fountain has two typ spouting from a central column into large circu	
Landscape Features						
Nine-Hole Golf Cours	se 28	1	A.F.Brincke		Now incorporated into the 18-hole golf course, 9-hole golf course began on Marrin Avenue just	
Reflecting Pool	29	1	A.F.Brincke		This square shallow reflecting pool is the center complex.	er of the spa
Non-contributing Feat	tures					
Golf House	I-10	I-4		1970s	This is a small square hip-roofed frame struct service windows.	ure with large

Saratoga Spa State Park, Saratoga Sprin				ga Springs,	Saratoga	Page 17		
	Building Name	Map	Photo	Architect	Date	Description		
	Gideon Putnam Staf Dormitory	rr I <b>-1</b> 1	!		1950s	This is a large, single-story, U-shaped, concr building constructed to house hotel staff.	ete and wo	ood
	Outlying Areas							
	Trolley Station	30	24	·	1910	The building is a 3 x 5 bay, 1 1/2 story, brichip-roofed structure with twin loading docks of elevations. Features include a concrete slab stone window sills and door thresholds, large overhung doors, and a slate roof. The roof earaised loading docks and are supported by many brackets on brick corbels.	on the east floor on a wood panel eves project	t and west grade, led sliding ct over the
762	Patrick Latour Hou	use 31	25		1835	The structure is a large 2 x 8 bay, 58 x 68', single-story early Greek Revival-styled house wasphalt-shingled gable roof. Distinctive feature pilasters at the corners which support a dention wide board frieze and boxed cornice. The entable the cornice in the gable ends forming a pediment ends. The attic floor above is illuminated by rewindows set in the frieze. Other features including entryway on the south elevation with pilasters supporting an entablature and framing door with sidelights. The other entry on this ecentrally in an early 3-bay addition to the west simply detailed. Both entryways on the south etransform the appearance of the building to that house, are sheltered by late 19th century shed screens and railings. These porches may be ori	rith an area included and all the collection the collection, araised elevation, are and, is levation, tof a douroofs and	chitrave, turns with east gable r eyebrow tinctive ival style paneled located more which uble spool

course.



