

**HISTORIC RESOURCES INVENTORY
BUILDING AND STRUCTURES**

HST-6 REV 6/83

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION
59 SOUTH PROSPECT STREET, HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106
(203) 566-3005

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY			
Town No.:		Site No.:	
UTM 18	638720	4641140	
QUAD:	South Canaan		
DISTRICT		IF NR, SPECIFY	
<input type="checkbox"/> S	<input type="checkbox"/> NR	<input type="checkbox"/> Actual	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Potential

IDENTIFICATION

1. BUILDING NAME (Common) Housatonic Forest Adirondack Shelter (Historic)		Cream Hill Shelter	
2. TOWN CITY Sharon		VILLAGE	COUNTY Litchfield 005
3. STREET AND NUMBER (and/or location) Wickwire Road (a forest road on the east side of Crem Hill Road)			
4. OWNER(S) Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private			
5. USE (Present) Recreational		(Historic) Recreational	
6. ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC:	EXTERIOR VISIBLE FROM PUBLIC ROAD <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	INTERIOR ACCESSIBLE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	IF YES, EXPLAIN open shelter

DESCRIPTION

7. STYLE OF BUILDING Adirondack/Rustic		DATE OF CONSTRUCTION 1935	
8. MATERIALS (Indicate use or location when appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Clapboard	<input type="checkbox"/> Asbestos Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Brick	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Log
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Asphalt Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Fieldstone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Board & Batten	<input type="checkbox"/> Stucco	<input type="checkbox"/> Cobblestone	
<input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum Siding	<input type="checkbox"/> Concrete Type: _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Cut stone Type: _____	
9. STRUCTURAL SYSTEM			
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood frame	<input type="checkbox"/> Post and beam	<input type="checkbox"/> balloon	
<input type="checkbox"/> Load bearing masonry	<input type="checkbox"/> Structural iron or steel		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) Log			
10. ROOF (Type)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Gable	<input type="checkbox"/> Flat	<input type="checkbox"/> Mansard	<input type="checkbox"/> Monitor
<input type="checkbox"/> Gambrel	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Hip	<input type="checkbox"/> Round
<input type="checkbox"/> Wood Shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Roll Asphalt	<input type="checkbox"/> Tin	<input type="checkbox"/> Slate
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Asphalt shingle	<input type="checkbox"/> Built up	<input type="checkbox"/> Tile	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____
11. NUMBER OF STORIES 1		APPROXIMATE DIMENSIONS 10' x 14'	
12. CONDITION (Structural) (Exterior)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated
13. INTEGRITY (Location) WHEN? (Alterations) IF YES, EXPLAIN			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> On original site	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
14. RELATED BUILDINGS OR LANDSCAPE FEATURES			
<input type="checkbox"/> Barn	<input type="checkbox"/> Shed	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage	<input type="checkbox"/> Other landscape features or buildings (Specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Carriage house	<input type="checkbox"/> Shop	<input type="checkbox"/> Garden	None
15. SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT			
<input type="checkbox"/> Open land	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wood-land	<input type="checkbox"/> Residential	<input type="checkbox"/> Scattered buildings visible from site
<input type="checkbox"/> Commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> Industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> Rural	<input type="checkbox"/> High building density
16. INTERRELATIONSHIP OF BUILDING AND SURROUNDINGS			

Isolated on the south side of an unpaved forest road adjacent to the Appalachian Trail.

(OVER)

11/2/86

DESCRIPTION (Continued)

17. OTHER NOTABLE FEATURES OF BUILDING OR SITE (interior and/or exterior)

An open shed-roofed shelter constructed of saddle-notched logs. Dry-laid fieldstone foundation. Roll asphalt roof replaces original wood shingles. A log sill across the open front of the structure provides stability. Well-preserved.

18. ARCHITECT: Unknown

BUILDER: Civilian Conservation Corps

SIGNIFICANCE

19. HISTORICAL OR ARCHITECTURAL IMPORTANCE

The Adirondack-style Cream Hill shelter located along the Appalachian Trail is one of the original primitive open-front lean-to shelters built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935 as part of their development of the state forests. Remarkably, three of the original shelters survive: one in American Legion State Forest; another in Mohawk State Forest, also located on the Appalachian Trail; and the Housatonic Forest shelter, built by the CCCs of Camp Cross who operated in the forest from the spring of 1933 until the spring of 1941.

The trail shelter of long tradition is widely known as the Adirondack shelter, and it was probably developed by the hunters and trappers of that region. Designed with an overhanging, sloped roof and minimal headroom, the historic Adirondack shelter was functional rather than (see continuation sheet)

SOURCES

DEP. Bureau of State Parks & Recreation. Historic File: Housatonic Forest, untitled 1953 report on Housatonic State Forest.
 The Appalachian Trail. Harper's Ferry, W. Va.: The Appalachian Trail Conference, 1977.
 Good, Albert. Park and Recreational Structures. U.S. Department of the Interior, 1938.

PHOTO	PHOTOGRAPHER	DATE	Place Photograph Here
	Mary E. McCahon	5/85	
VIEW	NEGATIVE ON FILE		
Exterior	CHC DEP 85:20/27-30		
COMPILED BY	NAME	DATE	
	Mary E. McCahon	6/85	
	ORGANIZATION	Connecticut Historical Commission	
	ADDRESS	59 S. Prospect Street Hartford, CT 06106	

20. SUBSEQUENT FIELD EVALUATIONS

N/A

21. THREATS TO BUILDING OR SITE

None known
 Highways
 Vandalism
 Developers
 Other _____
 Renewal
 Private
 Deterioration
 Zoning
 Expiration _____

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UTM: 18/	/	/	/
QUAD:			
DISTRICT:	S	NR:	ACTUAL POTENTIAL

CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number: 19 Date: _____

Cream Hill Shelter

proportioned to accommodate day use. In adapting the shelter to modern recreational park use, the functional design was lost. The Housatonic shelter, however, has not been adapted and serves as a functional copy of the original Adirondack shelter.

The well-preserved Housatonic State Forest shelter is located along the historic Appalachian Trail, a nearly 2,000-mile-long wilderness foot path extending from Maine to Georgia. The concept of the trail was originated in 1921 by Benton McKaye of Shirley, Massachusetts, and was developed over the next four decades by cooperation among various outdoor and recreational groups. New England was the first section of the country to complete a contiguous portion of the trail, which in many instances linked existing trails. The Connecticut Forest and Park Association developed the Appalachian Trail in the state between 1930 and 1933. The CCCs built two Adirondack shelters adjacent to the trail in Housatonic State Forest, one overlooking Dean's Ravine (non-extant) and the one on Cream Hill about a mile south of the ravine. The shelter is used as overnight protection by trail hikers and is part of a network of shelters along the trail developed and maintained by both public and private-sector interests. Housatonic Forest was started in 1912. The area was relatively inaccessible until the CCCs opened up Cream Hill and the Sharon Mountain tract with 10 miles of roads beginning in 1933.

Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The shelter is located in a 9,584-acre state forest. The nominated acreage includes the structure centered in a circle with a radius of 400' which provides for a representation of its historic wooded setting and a portion of the Appalachian Trail.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

Item number 19 Date: August 21, 1986

Addendum: Connecticut State Park and Forest Depression-Era Federal Work Relief Programs
Structures Thematic Resource

Sharon: Cream Hill Shelter

Acreage: 6.5 acres

Correction: Verbal Boundary Description and Justification

The shelter is located in a 9,584-acre state forest. The nominated acreage includes the structure centered in a circle with a radius of 300' which provides for a representation of its historic wooded setting and a portion of the Appalachian Trail.

This correction has been made because it was determined that the reduction of acreage would adequately represent the historic setting of the subject property.

Cream Hill Shelter
Sharon, CT
South Canaan Quad
18/638720/4641140

