

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY
JUN 23 1988
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
AND/OR COMMON Rattlesnake Springs

2 LOCATION

2 miles west of U.S. 62-180, off
STREET & NUMBER County Road 418
CITY, TOWN Carlsbad VICINITY OF 2nd
STATE New Mexico CODE 35 COUNTY Eddy CODE 015

2 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	n/a IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	n/a BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable) National Park Service,
Southwest Regional Office

STREET & NUMBER P. O. Box 728
CITY, TOWN Santa Fe VICINITY OF STATE New Mexico 87501

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Same as #4
STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE List of Classified Structures Inventory

DATE 7/86 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS National Park Service, Southwest Regional Office - PCH

CITY, TOWN Santa Fe STATE New Mexico

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Rattlesnake Springs Historic District consists of that portion of the Carlsbad Caverns National Park property at Rattlesnake Springs which was historically transformed through irrigation and horticulture from a treeless, marshy drainage into a verdant landscaped setting. The water that created the lush oasis in the Chihuahuan Desert of southeastern New Mexico emerges from springs fed by ground water from the nearby Guadalupe Mountains. The significant features of the district include a pump house in the Pueblo Revival Style, a ranger's residence in the New Mexico Territorial Revival Style, the rock-walled spring pond and associated spring creek, irrigation ditches, an orchard, pastures, the tree-lined terraces and rock foundations of a Civilian Conservation Corps camp, roads, and a homestead house site. The Civilian Conservation Corps camp was erected in 1938 and demolished in 1943, leaving the appearance of the setting at the spring much as it is today. The landscaping has been maintained as it was developed by the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1934-43, with some earlier homestead features incorporated. The pump house and the ranger's residence retain their original appearance with minor alterations.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1943	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		PWA public work program	

SPECIFIC DATES 1881-1943 BUILDER/ARCHITECT Henry Harrison; Harvey Cornell, and others

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Rattlesnake Springs Historic District is significant under both Criterion A and C as a landscaped Chihuahuan Desert oasis reflecting architecture and landscape architecture of the National Park Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps executed under Public Works Administration programs of the Depression Era, and incorporating landscaped and horticultural features of the homesteader of the land at the spring. The oasis has been reshaped and terraced, watered, planted, and tended by man for more than a hundred years. Since the occupation of homesteader Henry Harrison in 1880, Rattlesnake Springs has been transformed from a treeless, marshy drainage filled with rushes, into a wooded park setting containing structural features built between 1934 and 1940 that are significant in design and craftsmanship as fine examples of the adaptation of historic southwestern building styles and materials to the "rustic" mode popular for park architecture of the period. Those architectural and landscaped features reflecting the period of development but not yet 50 years old are significant under both criterion as achieving significance within the past 50 years because of exceptional importance both as illustrative of National Park Service stylistic architectural development prior to World War II, and as examples of public work projects of the Depression. The homestead house site is significant under Criteria D as a site likely to yield important historical information.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheets.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 24

UTM REFERENCES

A	1,3	54,950,0	3,552,775
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
c	1,3	54,950,0	3,552,380

B	1,3	54,950,0	3,552,380
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
d	1,3	54,950,0	3,552,775

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
n/a			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Betsy Swanson, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

n/a

DATE

October 1986

STREET & NUMBER

825 Calle Mejia #1223

TELEPHONE

(505) 986-1803

CITY OR TOWN

Santa Fe

STATE

New Mexico 87501

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

Ann W. Hill 5-10-88
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

Chas. M. ...

TITLE

Chief Historian

DATE

June 14, 1988

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

[Signature]

DATE

9/14/88

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

Rattlesnake Springs is a natural seep between low hills in the desert, where ground water percolating through bedrock from the nearby Guadalupe Mountains oozes slowly to the surface as a cluster of springs. The water that flows from the springs forms a small pond, a creek and a swamp, as it drains toward the Black River less than a mile east of the spring. In contrast to the surrounding Chihuahuan Desert of rolling, rocky ground covered with spiny brushes, the drainage of Rattlesnake Springs supports dense thickets of cottonwood, willow, and other plants adapted to wetland conditions. The riparian habitat is attractive to wild-life and serves as an important breeding location for various species.

The depression, or draw, in which the spring drainage is located slopes gently downward toward the bottom of the drainage on the north, south, and west sides. However, the general slope of the land and of the drainage is eastward toward the Black River. Since the springs are situated at the elevated western head of the draw, it was possible to use gravity to irrigate the slopes of the draw.

An irrigation system constructed by homesteader Henry Harrison in 1881-2, which utilizes the natural slopes of the land, is still in use, with some additions and improvements. As designed by the homesteader, ditches edge the sides of the draw at the highest level by which water can be carried by gravity. Lateral ditches, some added subsequent to the homesteader's ownership, feed water by means of flume gates from the main ditches onto the slopes of the draw.¹

In the natural state of the draw, riparian vegetation would have been limited to the spring drainage in the bottom of the draw. Plant cover on the sides of the draw would have been largely that of the surrounding desert plain: mesquite, cat-claw, yucca, prickly-pear and cholla cactus, and native grasses and shrubs characteristic of the arid environment. However, the natural state of the draw can only be surmised, for trees and woody shrubs in the bottom of the drainage were undoubtedly cut for fuel since the earliest human occupation of the region. The earliest descriptions of Rattlesnake Springs, recorded in the 1870s and 1880s, specify a lack of tree growth in the spring drainage. At the beginning of the homesteader's occupation, a "swamp" was described in the bottom of the draw in the field notes and on the map of United States Deputy Surveyor William Mailand who surveyed the area in 1882. The width of the marshy area

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Rattlesnake Springs, Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

bordering the drainage probably always varied along its length much as it does today. The greatest width was probably always a swampy depression where the drainage today crosses the National Park Service eastern property line. When running a measurement between Sections 23 and 24, Mailand recorded the width of the swamp along the present-day NPS property line as 396 feet. His map shows a circular "swamp" at this point. In running the quarter section that passed through this portion of the draw, Mailand noted that the grass was good, the soil was third-rate, and there was no timber. The surrounding desert plain he described as having a broken surface covered with cat-claw brush, poor grass, third-rate soil, and no timber. The same scarcity of trees in the drainage was noted by Captain Thomas Lebo, a cavalry commander, in 1878, prior to settlement of the spring.²

The area within the drainage covered by the homestead irrigation system originally measured about 4000 feet in length and about 1000 feet in width, or about 500 feet in width on each side of the spring creek.³ The system made cultivation of the sides of the draw possible, and the homesteader grew corn, hay, vegetables, fruit orchards, and grass for pasture land.

The portion of the irrigated property acquired by the NPS which constitutes the area being nominated as an historic district is the strip of land about 500 feet wide on the north side of the spring creek. This area comprises the irrigated land that lies within a larger tract acquired by the NPS in 1934. About half of the total area of the NPS tract is arid land never brought under irrigation, and this land is excluded from the nominated district. On the irrigated plot being nominated, the NPS employed the homestead irrigation system to continue much of the historic cultivation and use of the land, including a fruit orchard, pasture land, the harvesting of alfalfa and hay, and domestic use. Soon after acquisition of the land in 1934, the NPS also introduced landscaping for ornamental and recreational purposes. The early NPS landscaping schemes have been largely maintained through the years.⁴

The NPS removed the homestead structures and erected other buildings, constructed roads and paths, improved the irrigation ditches, contained the spring pond within rock walls, terraced the land, planted trees, and made other improvements. Much of this work was done by Civilian Conservation Corps workers camped at the spring.

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

The appearance of Rattlesnake Springs today incorporates the natural setting within and near the spring drainage, aspects of the cultivated homestead landscape, and the formal landscape gardening of the NPS and CCC. A botanical survey has not been made of Rattlesnake Springs, but it is apparent that both the natural and man-made settings contain a mixture of native and exotic plants reflective of the historic development of the oasis.

The contributing and non-contributing features of the district are listed and described below.

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

BUILDINGS CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISTRICT:

1. Ranger's Residence, NPS Bldg #22, designed in 1939 by Ken Saunders and Del Jones of the NPS Regional Office, Branch of Plans and Design in Santa Fe, and built in 1940 by CCC workers.

New Mexico Territorial Revival Style; one-story; rectangular in plan and measuring 65' x 37', 6 rooms plus kitchen and bath; garage adjoining southwest corner of front facade; portal inset on front facade; 2 walled patios on west side; small service building attached to northwest corner; beige-colored stuccoed adobe walls with brick and wood trim; flat parapeted roof designed with 3 brick chimneys, of which 2 chimneys survive.

The parapet of the roof is articulated with denticulated red brick cornice. A layer of concrete has been applied to the top of the parapet to prevent weathering. The denticulated cornice of brick is also extended across the top of the portal. Beneath the brick cornice is a wooden entablature and this is supported by delicate paired and tripled box columns with chamfered edges and Doric capitals. Wooden canales lined with tin project from the portal and from the back and sides of the house. The floor of the portal is flagstoned and is fronted by a flagstoned terrace. The portal ceiling contains tongue-and-groove planks supported by small cross-beams.

The windows are wooden and are double-hung, with 6/6 lites. They have recently been inset with aluminum screens. The openings under the portal, consisting of the entrance door and three windows, have wooden surrounds with pedimented lintels. The lintels are moulded and are surmounted by plain, unmoulded pediments which give a diminutive effect. They were patterned after the same unusual type of pedimented lintel that is found on some of the windows of the Palace of the Governors in Santa Fe. The window of the garage on the front facade has lost the moulded lintel of its pedimented surround. As designed, none of the windows and doors of the back and sides of the building have surrounds. The doors of both exterior and interior are the original wooden panelled doors. The garage door is a recent metal replacement for the

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

Ranger's Residence, continued:

original wooden door.

The two patios behind the garage on the west side of the house are enclosed by stuccoed adobe walls, and are flagstoned. The patios open to each other by means of a **heavy** wooden gate with scalloped top and wrought-iron decoration. The backyard has been more recently enclosed by a metal fence.

Attached to the northwest corner of the house is a small one-room structure built in 1942 of stuccoed cement blocks to serve as a light plant for Rattlesnake Springs. It was designed by architect Lyle E. Bennett of the Regional Office Branch of Plans and Design in Santa Fe. It served the purpose of a light plant for only a few years, and was then converted into a storage room. It has a flat, asbestos and asphalt roof with a canal and a brick cornice to echo that of the house. It was built with wooden double-hung windows with 4/4 lites, and a wooden door with a glass pane. The present solid wooden door is a replacement. Beside the entrance door is a small door at ground level which gave access to the oil tank compartment. The foundations of this addition are concrete.

The interior walls of the house are white plaster over metal lath and wood studs. The ceilings throughout the house contain large adzed vigas. The plastered ceiling is coved between the vigas. The floors are concrete, as is the foundation of the house, and ~~some of~~ some of the rooms are laid with flagstones.

The house is built upon an artificially raised, low earth terrace. The landscape plan for the residence area was drawn by Harvey Cornell, NPS Regional Landscape Architect, in 1939.

The house is in use as a residence and is in good condition.

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

2. Pump House, NPS Bldg. #20, designed in 1933 by William G. Carnes of the Western Division Branch of Plans and Design, San Francisco, in the **Pueblo** Revival Style, to be positioned on the east side of the pond; redesigned in the same style by an architect with the initials "G. F. G." of the same division, when moved to the north side of the pond in 1934; erected 1934-5 as a Public Works project; enlarged in 1940 by CCC workers following 1938 plan by NPS architect Trent Thomas.

Pueblo Revival Style, one-story, L-shaped, flat parapeted concrete roof. The original pump house, built in 1934-5, was constructed of rough-cut limestone blocks, was rectangular in plan, and measured about 16' x 11'. This original structure now comprises the western wing of the pump house. Its front facade faced east, but this original entrance facade is now fronted by the 12' x 23' adobe wing which was added in 1940. The entrance to the building now faces north. At the time that the wing was added, the entire building was covered with beige-colored studdo.

The designs for both the original and present facades were derived from those of Spanish colonial mission churches of the Southwest. The existing facade of the 1940 addition has a recessed entrance surmounted by a heavy adzed beam which supports vigas overlaid in herringbone pattern with tongue-and-groove planks. The vigas originally projected from the parapet wall above large lintel, but their exposed ends have rotted away. The double doors of the entrance are the original doors that were removed from the 1934-5 building and installed in the 1940 addition. They are constructed of tongue-and-groove planks tied together by wrought-iron straps studded with heavy nail heads. Four panes of glass are set in each door. The doorway is recessed in the two-foot-thick battered walls.

The windows are deeply recessed steel four-lite casements. One wooden canal drains the roof. The floors are concrete and the foundations are of stone. The interior

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Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

Pump House, continued:

walls are plastered. The pumps housed in the building were originally operated by diesel fuel. An electric pump was installed in 1949.

In 1985-6, an addition was made to the rear of the building consisting of a concrete slab measuring about 5' x 7' supporting a metal fence enclosure which is surmounted by a wooden roof covered with wooden shingles. Beige-colored plastic strips are woven in the metal fence. The enclosure contains a chlorine tank.

Except for this addition, the building retains its original appearance and is in good condition.

LANDSCAPED AND CONSTRUCTED FEATURES CONTRIBUTING TO THE DISTRICT:

3. Rattlesnake Springs Pond, spring house, and irrigation ditches, 1881 to present day.

Man-made improvement of Rattlesnake Springs Pond was begun in 1881 by homesteader Henry Harrison. He increased the flow of the springs, impounded their waters, enlarged the pond, and constructed the first irrigation ditches for raising crops and stock. Henry Harrison still owned and occupied the property in 1921 when the "Harrison Ditch System" was surveyed and mapped and registered with the State of New Mexico. The ditches were described at that time as averaging one foot in depth and 6.5 feet in width at the waterline. On the survey map, two ditches are shown diverging from the spring pond, which Harrison called "Rattlesnake basin or Lake" in his affidavit. Following the natural grade of the land, one ditch is shown running north and east from a headgate at the northeast side of the pond, and another is shown departing from a headgate at the southeast side of the pond and running in a southerly direction and then turning east. The map names the ditches the North Ditch and the South Ditch. A lateral ditch is shown diverging from the South Ditch on the south side of the pond where it encloses a small orchard. Another orchard is located to the northeast of the pond, as is Harrison's house and another

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Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

building. The Harrison ditches still exist.

The survey map shows "Rattlesnake Springs Seep," the natural marshy drainage fed by the springs, running from the pond through the center of the land that Harrison irrigated with his encircling ditches. Today, two flumes, called over-flow drains or pond outlets, run from the pond to the natural drainage.

Following purchase by the United States government of a portion of the Harrison property in 1934, the NPS made additional improvements to the springs in order that the springs might serve as the source of water supply for Carlsbad Caverns. Plans were drawn under the direction of NPS Acting Chief Engineer A. W. Burney for an underground pipeline to extend six miles to the caverns, and for a spring house and pump house at the spring (see separate description of pump house, #2). The original location chosen for these improvements on the east side of the pond had to be abandoned because of the marshy character of the soil and the high watertable. New locations were chosen on the north side of the pond, and work was completed in 1935. In that year, the spring house, also called the "inlet box," was erected in the pond near the north side. It is a partially submerged concrete structure measuring about 12 feet by 12 feet with a vaulted roof, small iron door at one end, and small louvered window at the other end. It contains a turbine sump pump that lifts water from the pond reservoir for delivery to the pump house on shore by means of a subsurface six-inch suction pipe connecting the two structures. Attached to the west side of the spring house is a small object called a "metal gage house" or "stilling well recorder house," built in 1961. It consists of a steel box with a lid, measuring 24 inches by 16 inches, resting on top of an upright 12-inch corrugated metal culvert which sits in the pond. Both these facilities are accessible from the shore by means of a wooden catwalk which is enclosed with a fence and gate at the shore. A four-inch buried pipe line conducts water from the pumphouse on shore to the caverns six miles away.

Additional improvements were made to the Rattlesnake Springs pond and water system between 1938 and 1942 when a Civilian Conservation Corps camp was established on the Rattlesnake Springs property. Among the projects undertaken by

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Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

the CCC workers was containment of the springs pond within a limestone block masonry facing three to four feet high, about two feet thick at the base and about one-foot thick at the top. Plans for the work were drawn in 1940 by Harvey Cornell, NPS Regional Landscape Architect in Santa Fe. The irregular shoreline of the pond was straightened and earth was banked and leveled around the pond. The limestone blocks are rough-cut in the same fashion as those underlying the stucco of the original pump house building, and they are identical in appearance to the natural bedrock at the bottom of the pond. The rock masonry is in good condition.

The pond has an area of 0.3-acre, and the depth of the water varies from two to four feet. In winter the water is crystal clear, allowing for observation of a variety of underwater plants and fish; in summer, plant life in the pond grows profuse. Cottonwood trees border the grassy terraces surrounding the pond. Besides the subsurface springs at the bottom of the pond, other springs ooze from the ground in the wooded marshy areas east and west of the pond.

The CCC workers also made improvements to the irrigation ditches and the subsurface pipe lines. Another ditch was dug in the center of the property, bordering the access road. It extended an existing homestead ditch that watered the orchard. The workers replaced a portion of the pipeline to the caverns after it was washed out by a flood.

In 1963-4, the ditches were reexcavated to a depth of 18 inches and lined with a layer of concrete one and a half inches thick. This work was done according to plans by the NPS Division of Engineering in Washington D.C. At that time, new metal headgates were installed at the points of divergence of lateral ditches. The 1935 iron headgates remain in the rock wall of the pond.

4. The fruit orchard, 1880s (?) to present-day.

According to family tradition, the fruit orchard, which lies 300 feet northeast of the spring pond, was established by homesteader Henry Harrison soon after construction of his irrigation system in 1881-2. The orchard is located in the present position on the 1921 "Map of the Harrison Ditch System."

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
Carlsbad vicinity, New Mexico

It has not been determined if any trees in the orchard date to the homestead family ownership of the property. In 1962-3 the NPS replaced all or most of the old fruit trees with young trees. Therefore, all or most of the trees in the orchard are not more than about 25 years old. However, the historical location and appearance of the orchard is maintained.

The area now occupied by the orchard is about 200 feet square, extending on both sides of the access road, to the east of the ranger residence and somewhat surrounding the residence. The 1921 map shows that the orchard formerly extended to the creek bottom. The fruit trees growing in the orchard today consist of eight apple trees, four apricot trees, four plum trees, one pear tree, and nine pecan trees. The trees bear good fruit.

A wild plum (Prunus americana) thicket located immediately east of the cultivated orchard was part of the homestead orchard. Several hundred varieties of Prunus americana have been named, and some are cultivated.⁵ The small trees have small, ball-shaped fruit with large seeds. They were historically encouraged to grow on farms and ranches in New Mexico because their fruit was used for making jelly. According to family tradition, the plum trees were planted by the Harrisons, and the thicket of trees appears on NPS planning maps of the 1930s. The thicket extends for about 100 feet along a fence that runs north-south on the south side of the service road, and is about 10 feet wide on both sides of the fence.

5. Landscape gardening in the vicinity of the Ranger Residence and Spring Pond.

In 1939, as part of design plans for the ranger residence, a landscape plan was drawn for the residence area by Harvey Cornell, NPS Regional Landscape Architect in Santa Fe. Plantings surrounding the house were identified on Cornell's plan as willow, Chinaberry, and native shrubs. No Chinaberry trees have been identified near the house, but the general planting scheme of trees grouped close to house, ditches, and road seems to have been followed.

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Rattlesnake Springs Historic District
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Weeping willows, some very large and pre-existing NPS ownership, line the ditches near the house. The weeping willow is an Old World tree that escaped cultivation and propagates throughout the United States. The pecan trees of the orchard surround the house and several native cottonwoods are located nearby. Two California redbud trees are located in front of the portal of the house. The California redbud (Cercis occidentalis), also called the Arizona or western redbud, is native to the southwest and can be found from West Texas to California. In spring, the bare branches of the tree are covered with pink flowers. Also near the house are several non-native elm trees, native netleaf hackberry trees, and native western soapberry trees.

Growth in the area of the spring pond and drainage is largely composed of native species, predominately cottonwood and native willow. Some exotic plants are also located in this area. Patches of asparagus have been noted, and a majestic row of Lombardy poplars line the south irrigation ditch near the pond. The Lombardy poplar, with its spire-like form of ascending branches, is thought by botanists to be a "sport" or mutant because it exists only as a male tree and therefore has to be propagated entirely by vegetative cuttings. The tree derived from Italy and is found throughout the United States. Pioneer settlers on the plains planted Lombardy poplars in great numbers as windbreaks, especially along fence lines, roads, and ditches. The tall trees are noticeable on many farms and ranches in the Rattlesnake Springs region.

Another Old World tree introduced in the United States both as an ornamental tree and for windbreaks in arid, windy regions that is found at Rattlesnake Springs is the Russian-olive tree (Elaeagnus angustifolia). The tree has escaped from cultivation and has become "naturalized" throughout the western United States, growing mostly along streams. It is both planted and encouraged to grow as a shelter belt.

In 1940, CCC workers planted the Bermuda grass lawns that form the neatly mowed ground cover around the ranger residence, pump house and pond, and in the fruit orchard.

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6. Pastures.

Four NPS horses are presently pastured at Rattlesnake Springs in several plots enclosed by wire fences, south and southeast of the ranger residence. Tall grasses grow in a large pasture area at the entrance to the property because this plot has not been grazed in about a year. Grasses have been planted in these plots for horse pasture throughout most of the NPS ownership of the property. Alfalfa and timothy hay were planted and harvested by the NPS. According to family tradition, homesteader Henry Harrison also planted hay for his stock on a portion of the lands irrigated by his north ditch. Harrison's earliest use of Rattlesnake Springs was for the grazing of cattle and horses.

Planted grasses growing in the pastures today are weeping lovegrass, alfalfa, Bermuda, and brome. Native grasses and shrubs, such as horehound and sunflower, also grow in the pastures, as do scattered cottonwoods and other trees.

Like most of the irrigated NPS land at Rattlesnake Springs, the pastures are terraced for efficient irrigation. Each terrace is about two feet high and is edged by a berme about one-foot high. The terraces were in existence in the early 1960s when work was done to reform and level them. They may date from landscaping done by the CCC at Rattlesnake Springs, and some may date from homestead agriculture. They need and receive occasional maintenance. The ranger residence sits on a low terrace.

7. Structural and landscaped remains of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp, 1938-1942.

The CCC camp was located in the approximate center of the irrigated land being nominated as an historic district. The layout for the camp was prepared by Harvey Cornell, NPS Regional Landscape Architect in Santa Fe, in 1938. The camp was built in the same year with slight modification in layout. It consisted of a central tree-lined mall or parade ground, flanked by barracks, kitchen and mess hall, recreation hall, school, infirmary, and latrine. To the west of the mall was a service court with a garage and utility shed, equipment shed, blacksmith shop, and oil house. On the east side of the mall was an oval-shaped drive enclosing the flagstaff.

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The entrance road extended eastward from the oval drive, and the road to the spring pond looped over the north side of the camp, in the position of the service road today. Most of the buildings were of frame construction, and were typical of army barracks buildings. These were removed in 1943, and little structural evidence survives of the CCC camp.

The building that housed the garage, technical shop, and utility shop was built of adobe brick on rough-cut limestone block foundations, and had concrete floors. It contained a carpenter shop, storage room, tool room garage, heater room, and motor room. Built in the Pueblo Revival Style, the structure had a flat roof, projecting log vigas (roof beams), and wooden windows and doors. By the 1950s, it had deteriorated and was demolished.

The rock foundations and concrete floors of this building remain and are used as part of a horse corral and feeding area. The rectangular foundations measure about 50 feet by about 20 feet. A metal building and a plywood building have been erected on the foundations for tack and feed storage. A metal corral with a concrete feeding trough is located at the rear of the foundations. All of these constructions are recent and are therefore non-contributing to the district.

At the rear of the foundation, near the south NPS property line, is a mortared limestone loading ramp measuring about 15 feet long, 18 feet wide, and three feet high. The stones used to construct the ramp are both rough-cut and uncut. The sides of the ramp are stepped with four tiers. This is the only intact above-ground structural feature remaining on the site of the CCC camp. A concrete slab and stone rubble in a pasture about 100 feet west of the utility building mark the site of the blacksmith shop.

Another intact structural feature surviving on the site of the CCC camp is invisible, having been buried under ground. A swimming pool, located to the east of the camp building complex, was filled in and covered over for safety reasons in the 1950s, and the area has subsequently been used for pasture. The pool was not part of the original CCC camp, but was apparently added in 1943 by the U. S. Army when the camp was used as

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an Army recreation camp. It measures about 250 feet long by about 150 feet wide and was sided by walks and a parking lot.

Building of the pool necessitated moving the CCC entrance road from the central route leading to the flagstaff circle, and relocating the road on the north edge of the property where it is today. The bed of the old CCC entrance road can be seen diverging from the present road near the entrance to the Rattlesnake Springs property, and running across the open pasture land. The old road bed is most visible in summer when it is densely covered with snakeweed (Gutierrezia sarothrae), a subshrub covered with small yellow flowers. Snakeweed is abundantly found where land has been overgrazed or disturbed, as on old road beds. A baseball diamond and basketball court were also located in this open area, but their precise former locations are not known.

The most notable remains of the CCC camp are rows of cottonwood trees planted to shade the mall and buildings of the camp. The trees are located on terraces about two feet high. At the edges of the terraces are bermes about one foot high. The terraces were probably created to erect the CCC buildings on the slope of the draw, but they have been reshaped and leveled through the years in order that the ground can be evenly irrigated. Irrigation is carried out in this area for the cottonwood trees and in order to maintain a lawn beneath them of Bermuda grass. The old CCC camp area has served as a picnic ground since the camp was abandoned in 1943. Picnic tables and other facilities have recently been placed under the trees, although for many years picnickers sat on the ground.

The trees are a native variety called Rio Grande Cottonwood (Populus fremonti var. wislizenii), and are similar to the Fremont cottonwood and the plains cottonwood. The Rio Grande cottonwood grows in the Rio Grande valley and environs from southern Colorado through New Mexico to West Texas and Old Mexico. Five rows of these trees mark the position of buildings and walkways in the CCC camp. Another row edges the road on the north side of the camp site, and a group of cottonwoods marks the position of the flagstaff circle. The most impressive rows are those that border the former mall. These two rows are about 85 feet apart. One row contains 11 trees and the other contains 14 trees. Between these

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rows is a large concrete slab which formerly served as a tennis court and now serves to support picnic tables.

In 1986, the NPS cut five of the trees from the CCC camp site rows in the belief that the trees are growing old and may present a safety hazard. Although the wood is weak and the limbs need frequent pruning, cottonwoods grow for hundreds of years and aged examples are noted for gracing certain historic public areas. According to the American Forestry Association publication by G. H. Collingwood and Warren D. Brush, Knowing Your Trees,

Cottonwood is remarkable for rapid growth during its first forty years. Thereafter trees may remain sound and vigorous, growing slowly for 100 years or more. Trees have been observed to grow four to five feet in height each year, with diameters increasing two-thirds of an inch for each of the first twenty-five years. Some reach 100 feet in height in fifteen years.⁶

The diameters of the five tree stumps in the CCC camp rows range from 23 inches to 35 inches. The cutting of the five trees diminishes but does not destroy the stately effect of the rows of trees.

8. Henry Harrison homestead house site, before 1900.

One of the Harrison homestead house sites is located across the road from the ranger residence, about 200 feet northeast of the spring pond, in an area now used for pasture. The site has been leveled by the NPS for irrigation purposes, but a raised rectangular area measuring about 150 feet long by about 30 feet wide appears to represent the house site.

According to family tradition, the house was a large adobe building of five rooms. The raised area may represent dissolved adobe from the walls of the house. The rectangular area is scattered with small stones which were typically used in the foundations of adobe houses. It is also scattered with historical artifacts, including ceramics; brick fragments; a shell button; a large wrought-iron frying pan handle; a piece of a horseshoe; and purple, green, white and brown glass fragments, some of which have been melted by heat.

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According to family tradition, two of Harrison's houses burned. Surface artifacts collected at the site were estimated by archaeologist Jake Ivey of the NPS Southwest Regional Office in Santa Fe to be domestic materials dating from about 1880 to about 1900.

Family tradition locates Harrison's second house on this site. Harrison first lived in a dugout which was said to be located on the south side of the draw, outside of the NPS property. Also at this location on the south side of the draw was said to be Harrison's third house. Harrison's house was, in fact, at the location of the so-called "third house" in 1882 when U. S. Deputy Surveyor William Mailand recorded its position as about 1188 feet south of the Rattlesnake Springs pond, or 528 feet south of the line between Sections 23 and 26, south of the position of the pond. The location is today marked by several old cottonwood trees.⁷

Archaeological excavation would be needed to attempt to determine the actual age of the house site across from the ranger residence. The 1921 "Map of the Harrison Ditch System" shows a house located on or near this site. However, information derived from family sources indicates that, at some point in time, Harrison also had a four-room frame house near the spring pond. The 1921 map also shows a building located on or near the site of the ranger residence. This building was possibly a barn, but no surface evidence of the former structure could be found in examination of the ground around the ranger residence. The NPS demolished remaining homestead buildings after acquisition of the property in 1934.

STRUCTURES NON-CONTRIBUTING TO THE HISTORIC CHARACTER OF THE DISTRICT:

9. Comfort station in the picnic area, built in 1985.

Square, measuring about 15 feet by 15 feet, slump block walls which imitate adobe brick, gabled roof covered with wood shingles, translucent plexiglass skylights in gables, metal doors, concrete floor and foundation.

The comfort station and other picnic facilities do not detract from the setting amid the rows of cottonwood trees,

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but are recent additions and are therefore non-contributing to the historic character of the district. They include wooden tables on concrete slabs, concrete water fountains, iron barbecue grilles, metal trash cans, a metal railing edging the parking area, and a wooden information display sign.

10. Horse Feed Storage Shed, about 1980.

Garage-type structure, rectangular, measuring about 12 feet by 8 feet, corrugated metal walls and door, gabled corrugated metal roof. Built on the concrete floor of the foundations of the CCC Utility Building.

11. Tack shed, moved to this location in 1983.

Rectangular, about six by eight feet, plywood walls and door, corrugated metal shed roof. Placed on the concrete floor of the foundations of the CCC Utility Building.

12. Storage shed, about 1980.

Measuring eight by ten feet, plywood walls and door, cement base, corrugated metal shed roof. Located north of the pump house.

13. Duck pond dike structure, 1954.

A small concrete structure, square in shape and painted white. Built in cooperation with the NPS by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish as part of a dike for a duck pond. The structure no longer serves this purpose. It is located near the south boundary fence of the NPS property, on or near the site of the buried swimming pool, in an area that is part of the large pasture at the east end of the NPS property. The duck ponds constructed by the State are located on the south side of the NPS property. This associated dike structure is not associated with the development of the historic landscape setting and is therefore non-contributing.

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5. George A. Petrides, A Field Guide to Trees and Shrubs, The Peterson Field Guide Series #11, Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1972, p.194.
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7. Mailand, "Field Notes," 1882; Robert J. Heying, "Southeastern New Mexico Historical Society Field Trip to Old Home Sites on Washington Ranch, Rattlesnake Springs, Upper Black River, May 7, 1972," typescript, files of Carlsbad Caverns National Park Headquarters, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

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Rattlesnake Springs is one of a series of natural springs ringing the base of the Guadalupe Mountains which travelers in the arid Chihuahuan Desert by necessity frequented. Indians camped at the spring. Spanish and Mexican travelers, passing from spring to spring, created a wagon road that followed the Black River from the Pecos River to Guadalupe Pass and westward to El Paso del Norte on the Rio Grande. The earliest detailed representation of this road is an 1849 map by Robert Creuzbaur. The map identifies the Black River as Todos Santos (All Saints) Creek; other early maps identify it as Rio Azul (Blue River). A spring located at the approximate position of Rattlesnake is labeled Ojo del Camino (Spring of the Road).¹

The same road is shown on a military map of 1881 by Captain W. R. Livermore and Topographical Assistant F. E. Butterfield. Rattlesnake Springs is identified by its present name, and is located on the "Rio Azul or Black River." This map shows the route of the road eastward as joining another road that followed the Pecos River to points north and east. The map shows the westward route of the road as joining the road known both as the Emigrant Trail to California and the Butterfield Trail (the stage coach road) at Pine Springs and proceeding through Guadalupe Pass toward El Paso.²

Emigrants undoubtedly used the road that passed by Rattlesnake Springs, and they undoubtedly camped at the springs. For several decades following the Civil War, the United States Army frequently used the springs as a camp ground and staging area in campaigns against hostile Apache Indians. In 1878, Captain Thomas C. Lebo, 10th Cavalry, Commanding Company K, while on a scouting expedition, described Rattlesnake Springs:

Grazing here is very good; wood is very scarce. The spring flows a very large stream of water which runs about one mile nearly due E. and empties into Black River, which at this point is a very large stream (an abundance of small fish).³

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At the close of the Civil War, the great cattle drives began in the West. One of the earliest of the cattle trails was the Goodnight-Loving Trail which, in 1866, crossed the Pecos River at Pope's Crossing and followed the Black River to the vicinity of the modern City of Carlsbad where it re-crossed the Pecos to follow that river northward. Rattlesnake Springs was on the route of the Goodnight-Loving Trail. The Slaughter Cattle Trail, blazed in 1877 and first used in 1879, also passed by Rattlesnake Springs. The springs were probably used as a watering place during the drives.⁴

Cattlemen and farmers, responding to the Homestead Act of 1862, began to locate in southeast New Mexico after the Civil War, despite the dangers of Indians. In 1880, William Henry Harrison settled at Rattlesnake Springs to graze cattle and horses. Harrison was born in Tippecanoe, Indiana, in 1848. According to family tradition, he was a relative of U. S. President William Henry Harrison. As a young man he spent time in Texas as a buffalo hunter, and drifted into New Mexico. At Rattlesnake Springs he planted corn for cattle feed and cut grass for winter hay. He sold both feed and cattle to the Army regiments that frequented the springs during the Indian campaigns. He and Charles Slaughter, who owned a neighboring ranch, are said to have been the first to establish the cattle business in the region. According to tradition, Billy the Kid stayed with Henry Harrison for a time during the Lincoln County Cattle Wars. At that time, Rattlesnake Springs was part of Lincoln County.⁵

In 1881-2, Henry Harrison constructed the irrigation system that still exists at Rattlesnake Springs. It is said to be the oldest irrigation project in continuous use in the region. Harrison registered the system with the State of New Mexico in 1921 as the "Harrison Ditch System," which remains its legal name.⁶

With the construction of his irrigation system, Harrison began a process of reshaping the appearance of the land at Rattlesnake Springs which ultimately transformed the spring draw into the verdant, landscaped oasis of significance today. Earlier historical associations with the Indians, Spanish, Mexicans, emigrants, U. S. Army, and early cattle drives are of important interest, but the setting of those activities is not reflected in the appearance of Rattlesnake Springs

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today. According to the earliest descriptions, Rattlesnake Springs consisted of a marshy drainage bordered with grass but lacking trees. Since the earliest human occupation of the region, woody plants at the spring had probably been cut for fuel.⁷

When he came to New Mexico, Henry Harrison had a wife, Mary Jane Whitehead, and two young sons, Harry and Frank. In 1892, he remarried Ida May Ward of the town of Eddy (the present city of Carlsbad). By his second wife, he had four children, Ernest, Zula, Carrie, and Hazel. In 1889 and 1912, Henry Harrison obtained two homestead patents for 160 acres each, encompassing the spring drainage. He had been using the land for both farming and ranching purposes. He had erected building and fences, was growing hay and corn for stock, had established a fruit orchard, and was cultivating a vegetable garden.⁸

When Henry Harrison died in 1931, the property was heavily mortgaged. The United States government purchased a portion of the property and water rights from Harrison's widow and children in 1934 in order that the springs could be used as the source of water supply for Carlsbad Caverns National Park, six miles away.⁹

When the NPS acquired the property in 1934, it was partially wooded with a fruit orchard, scattered cottonwoods and willows along the ditches and spring drainage, and probably other trees and large scale vegetation. The terraced land existing today along the side of the spring draw had perhaps been begun by Harrison's agricultural work. Additional beautification of the landscape was carried out by the NPS and by CCC workers during a nine-year period following acquisition of the property. The appearance of the property today as a significant example of landscape architecture is the result of NPS and CCC development of the homestead setting.¹⁰

The first NPS development at Rattlesnake Springs was the erection of a pump house and the construction of a water pipeline to Carlsbad Caverns. This work was carried out by 65 relief workers as a Public Works Administration project and was completed in 1935. The pump house (1934-5, enlarged 1940) is a significant example of Pueblo Revival Style arch-

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itecture, as reflected in a Spanish colonial mission church of the Southwest.¹¹

In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, historic revival styles were used by the NPS as an expression of the NPS "rustic" ideal of design and craftsmanship in "sympathy with natural surroundings and with the past."¹² Designs derived from Indian and Spanish architecture were often put to use in Southwestern parks. The popular Pueblo Revival Style, based on Indian pueblos of the Southwest, originated in commercial and domestic architecture in California in the 1890s. Buildings of the style frequently combined elements derived from both Indian and Spanish colonial architecture, as found in Spanish colonial mission churches erected at Indian pueblos. The term Spanish-Pueblo Revival Style is sometimes used to describe such buildings. The application of ecclesiastical forms to Pueblo Revival architecture was probably also inspired by the Mission Revival Style Movement, also born in California in the 1890s.

The pump house is perhaps one quarter the size of a typically monumental pueblo mission church of the Spanish colonial period. The diminutive appearance of the mission church-pump house contributes to the building quaint and picturesque qualities characteristic of the "rustic" mode.

The acquisition of water rights by the NPS required that, in addition to the water piped to the caverns, certain amounts of water continue to be used for irrigating the approximately 20 acres of the property already under irrigation at the time of purchase. Landscape work began on the irrigated land in 1938 when a CCC camp was established there. The superintendent's reports show that hundreds of CCC man-days were spent in tree preservation, trimming and pruning, planting and transplanting. The workers also spent hundreds of man-days grading the ground and planting grass. The service road was graveled and bladed, and the ditches and pond were cleaned.¹³

The CCC workers also contained the spring pond within a limestone block masonry wall. This work was carried out in 1941, following plans by NPS Regional Landscape Architect Harvey Cornell. Most of the NPS and CCC landscaping at

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In 1940, the CCC workers constructed a residence for the pump operator or ranger stationed at Rattlesnake Springs. The building was designed by NPS Regional Architects Ken Saunders and Del Jones in the New Mexico Territorial Revival Style. The house is a good example of the style which was locally inspired and developed in New Mexico, particularly in Santa Fe and Albuquerque, in the 1920s. The NPS architects of the Regional Office in Santa Fe were apparently influenced by the popularity of the style in that city.¹⁵

The New Mexico Territorial Revival Style was based on the late nineteenth century New Mexican interpretation of the Greek Revival Style design for officers' quarters that was brought to New Mexico by the United States Army after the conquest of New Mexico in 1846. The style achieved widespread domestic popularity in New Mexico in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, New Mexico's Territorial Period. The revival of the style was actually a resurgence of popularity for the existing tradition. The style is distinguished by simple, Doric portals, symmetrical fenestration, pedimented lintels, and flat parapeted roofs with denticulated brick cornices.

The ranger residence is a refined examples of the style and exhibits the craftsmanship of the CCC workers. It is built with adobe brick made by the workers.¹⁶

The CCC camp, itself, was largely composed of frame army barracks type structures. Rows of fast-growing cottonwood trees, many existing today, were planted to shade the buildings and walkways. The camp was designated as Camp NP-1-N. It was operated by the U. S. Army with Ensign Albert Schlott in command. All construction work was supervised by technicians from the NPS Regional Office in Santa Fe. The staff of the CCC unit consisted of Project Superintendent Arthur V. Reed, Architectural Foreman Charles McPhee, Engineer Joseph Gunn, Landscape Architect Zenon Baclawski, and Construction Foreman Eugene Scanlon. Initial enrollment at the camp numbered 62 men.¹⁷

In addition to projects at Rattlesnake Springs, the CCC workers also carried out large construction projects at the Carlsbad Caverns headquarters area, and a separate

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nomination has been prepared for these works. The CCC
camp was disbanded on May 22, 1942.¹⁸

On March 15, 1943, 117 soldiers from Carlsbad Air
Base moved into the abandoned CCC barracks to begin clean-up
and restoration work. The camp was used as a military
recreation area for about a year. In August of 1944, most
of the camp buildings were removed and the materials were
hauled to an Army camp near Santa Fe. Several buildings
remained standing for some years. The last building was
demolished in the 1950s. A few rock foundations survive as
remnants of the camp, and stately rows of large cottonwood
trees mark the site.¹⁹

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5. Robert J. Heying, "Southeastern New Mexico Historical Society Field Trip to Old Home Sites on Washington Ranch, Rattlesnake Springs, Upper Black River, May, 7, 1972," typescript, files of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Headquarters, Carlsbad, New Mexico; "Declaration of Owner of Water Right," by Henry Harrison, June 22, 1921, filed for the record July 15, 1921, Book 6, page 441, Miscellaneous records, Eddy County, New Mexico.
6. Ibid; "Map of the Harrison Ditch System, Henry Harrison Applicant, Located in Eddy County, State of New Mexico," June 22, 1921, New Mexico State Engineer's Office, Santa Fe; Eddy County, New Mexico to 1981, Southeastern New Mexico Historical Society, Carlsbad, 1982, p. 287.
7. William Mailand, United States Deputy Surveyor, "Field Notes of the Survey of the Subdivision Lines of T25S R24E of the Principal Base and Meridian in New Mexico Territory," April 7-11, 1882, New Mexico Vol. D 1354, USDI-BLM Fiche 1, Bureau of Land Management, Santa Fe; Lebo, reports of February 16, 1879 and December 20, 1879; Heying, "Southeastern New Mexico Historical Society Field

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Trip," quoting Mrs. Harrison Ringer, "Along the creek bed itself, the tulies (tules, or bulrushes) were so thick that it was impossible for a person to walk through them. . . . There was a man killed in the tulies about 100 yards east of the Spring. Mr. Harrison had set out a garden along the stream bank and was working there when two men rode up and one of them dismounted and fell back into the tulies. It was thought at first he tripped as he was going in and fell into the weeds, but he was shot by Kip McKinney . . .," p. 4. Similar description of the tules bordering the spring creek in Eddy County New Mexico to 1981, p. 287. NPS maps and plans of Rattlesnake Springs, dating between 1933-45, show few trees on the spring drainage and label it "marsh" and "slough," Carlsbad Caverns National Park and Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe.

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9. Ibid; Warranty Deed, Ida May Ward Harrison, et al, to the United States of America, January 23, 1934, Land Acquisition Division, Southwest Regional Office, Santa Fe.

10. NPS plans and drawings for Rattlesnake Springs.

11. Ibid.; Thomas Boles, Superintendent's Monthly Report, January 4, 1935, files of Carlsbad Caverns National Park, Headquarters, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

12. Albert H. Good, Park and Recreation Structures, Part I, Administration and Basic Service Facilities, National Park Service, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington D. C., 1938, p. 5.

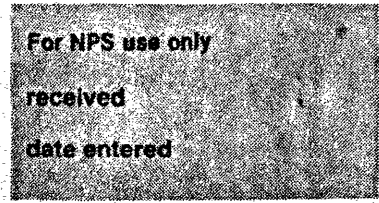
13. NPS plans and drawings for Rattlesnake Springs; Boles, reports, March 1940; April 1940; June 1940; August 1940; April 1941.

14. Boles, report, April 1941; NPS plans and drawings for Rattlesnake Springs.

15. NPS plans and drawings for Rattlesnake Springs.

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16. Boles, report, November 1938.

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The boundaries of the proposed Rattlesnake Springs Historic District are drawn to enclose that portion of the National Park Service property which has been historically irrigated, cultivated and landscaped, and which also includes the historic buildings and sites.

The boundary starts at the northeast corner of the National Park Service Rattlesnake Springs property and follow the NPS north property line in a westward direction for 3775 feet until it reaches a point north of the spring pond where the NPS property line turns sharply to the northeast. At this point, the district boundary continues in a straight line westward following a fence for 150 feet. At this point the fence turns in a southwest direction and the boundary of the Historic District follows the fence for 75 feet until it reaches the south side of a road that passes through the fence. At this point, the boundary continues in a southwest direction following the west edge of a flood protection levee for 550 feet as it circles around the area of the spring pond in a south to south-east direction. At a distance of 550 feet, the levee reaches the south edge of the South Irrigation Ditch. At this point, the district boundary line continues for 100 feet in a southeast direction until it reaches the NPS south boundary line. The district boundary then follows the NPS south boundary line for 475 feet in a southeast direction until it reaches the point where the NPS boundary turns sharply to the north. The historic district boundary follows the NPS boundary northward for 425 feet until it crosses Rattlesnake Springs seep. At this point, the district boundary proceeds along the south NPS boundary for 3125 feet until it reaches the southeast corner of the NPS property. At this point, the historic district boundary follows the NPS boundary northward for 900 feet until both reach the starting point at the northeast corner of the NPS property.