

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

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

1. Name of Property

historic name Tepicon Hall (Dining hall for Camp Tepicon) other names/site number 131-033-10006

2. Location

street & number Tippecanoe River State Park N/A not for publication city, town Winamac vicinity state Indiana code IN county Pulaski code 131 zip code 46996

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal. Category of Property: building(s), district, site, structure, object. Number of Resources within Property: Contributing (1), Noncontributing (0 buildings, 0 sites, 0 structures, 0 objects, 0 Total).

Name of related multiple property listing: New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks. Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of certifying official: Indiana Department of Natural Resources. Date: 2-7-92.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet. Signature of commenting or other official. Date.

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is: entered in the National Register. determined eligible for the National Register. determined not eligible for the National Register. removed from the National Register. other, (explain:). Signature of the Keeper. Date of Action: 4/3/92.

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**6. Function or Use**

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Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

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Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)  
RECREATION: Outdoor Recreation

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**7. Description**

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Architectural Classification  
(enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: NPS Rustic

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Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation CONCRETE  
walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
  
roof ASPHALT  
other WOOD: Log  
STONE: Limestone

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**Describe present and historic physical appearance.**

Situated on the west end of a clearing on the north side of the park, just to the east and south of a gravel service road, this building is nearly all that remains of Camp Tepicon - once a large group camp composed of approximately forty-five buildings. In the woods just outside the clearing to the northeast of Tepicon Hall stands a gabled dogtrot cabin, presently abandoned. (Formerly also part of the camp, the cabin may have been the infirmary.) To the north of the clearing is a much-altered cabin, now a custodial residence, which may have been one of the sleeping cabins of the camp. Nearby is a frame shower building not part of the original camp. It serves a tent-camping area farther north of the Tepicon Hall clearing.

Built of native materials, Tepicon Hall is a superb intact example of local interpretation of the park rustic style with Craftsman detailing. The T-gabled building, with exposed rafter ends and fly rafters, is constructed entirely of timber frame on visible support beams, with clapboard siding. The gable ends are board-and-batten. The rafters are full-dimension two-by-eights. The building is roofed with asphalt shingles; otherwise all material appears to be original.

Tepicon Hall is not oriented squarely on compass points; the cross of the T runs southwest-northeast. The southeast facade (photo 1), approximately ninety feet in length and containing twelve bays, was clearly the main facade when the building was the center for the group camp. It faces a large clearing surrounded by a thick forest, much of which was planted when the camp was built, slightly southwest of the center of the facade is a gabled porch supported by four hewn uprights. The floor of the porch is stone, and upon it are four heavy, rough benches of hewn timber, constructed along with the building. The entrance is a double door of heavy timber. Eleven of the nine-light sash windows are to the northeast of the porch; nine to the southwest. The gable end northeast elevation of the hall, three bays wide (about twenty-three feet) contains a gabled entrance (the gable supported by hewn brackets) with stone steps leading to heavy timber double doors.

The northwest elevation now functions as the main facade, since it faces the park service road. The foot of the T is the kitchen wing, and the entrance to the kitchen (photo 3) is the one most visitors now approach. The gabled wing is slightly off center along the length of the dining

See continuation sheet

**8. Statement of Significance**

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

nationally  statewide  locally

Applicable National Register Criteria  A  B  C  D

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

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION

SOCIAL HISTORY

Period of Significance

c.1938-1942

Significant Dates

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Works Progress Administration

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

Tepicon Hall is a beautiful intact example of local interpretation of the park rustic style with Craftsman detailing, representative of the best work of the Works Progress Administration in developing outdoor recreation lands. It offers a material record of this important area of New Deal public works in Indiana during the 1930s, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks" under the associated property type identified as "Properties associated with New Deal work projects related to recreational activities." As explained in that property-type analysis, Tepicon Hall is eligible under Criteria A in the areas of recreation and social history, because the building is associated with the New Deal's work programs and recreational development in the 1930s, as well as the organized social and recreational programs so prevalent in that decade. Tepicon Hall is also eligible under Criterion C in the area of architecture, because it is representative of the workmanship and style typical of the WPA in recreational projects. The building meets all integrity standards established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources in Indiana State Parks." That is, the building stands in its original location in at least part of its original setting, in which the vegetation has matured into the visual surroundings intended by the builders. Originally there were probably three or four more smaller rustic frame buildings on the edge of the clearing, but not so close as to create a visual impact on Tepicon Hall. But for the replacement of roof shingles, the design and materials remain unaltered, and the building is representative of and associated with WPA workmanship in outdoor recreational projects--timber construction and rustic design. The integrity of the property's feeling is intact.

Tepicon Hall was the main building of Camp Tepicon, one of two group camps constructed with WPA labor in the Winamac Recreation demonstration area, which the federal government developed in the late 1930s and administered until 1943. (At that time, Indiana took it over and the property became Tippecanoe River State Park.) The federal government developed Recreation Demonstration areas from agriculturally submarginal lands to show the value of allegedly worthless land for public use.

See continuation sheet

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Archival Collections

National Archives, Washington, D.C.

Records of the National Park Service: Recreation Demonstration Areas

Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library, Hyde Park, New York

Franklin D. Roosevelt Official Files: National Park Service

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis

Clipping Files, Indiana State Parks

Clipping Files, WPA

Outdoor Indiana, 1943-1946

Archival Files, Park Office, Tippecanoe River State Park

See continuation sheet

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested

previously listed in the National Register

previously determined eligible by the National Register

designated a National Historic Landmark

recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # \_\_\_\_\_

recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # \_\_\_\_\_

**Primary location of additional data:**

State historic preservation office

Other State agency

Federal agency

Local government

University

Other

**Specify repository:**

Indiana Historic Sites & Structures Inventory

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of property Less than 1 acre

**UTM References**

A 

1	6	5	3	4	0	8	0	4	5	5	2	0	0
Zone		Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone		Easting				Northing							

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

See continuation sheet.

See continuation sheet

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries given are what park officials consider the property's limits when they rent out Tepicon Hall. The area incorporates the building and a playing space to the southeast. This open space was Camp Tepicon's main activity area.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

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hall, and is aligned with the porch on the southeast facade. Thus, along the northwest side of the dining hall, there are ten windows to the northeast of the wing (see photo 4) and eight to the southwest. The entrance to the kitchen wing is both asymmetrically placed, northeast of center, and asymmetrically gabled, calling forth an English Cottage image. On the northeast side of the kitchen wing (see photo 2) are three two-light reverse hopper windows; the southwest side has the same. The kitchen wing has a small functional chimney southeast of a larger stone one, which is original.

The southwest elevation of the dining hall section (see photo 2) is dominated by a large stone fireplace chimney with a window on either side.

The interior of Tepicon Hall remains largely as its earliest campers must have seen it. The dining hall is an unpartitioned space of about ninety by twenty-two feet with floors of wide pine board. The interior walls are of horizontal wood siding; the ceiling space is open, exposing the cross bracing of full-cut two-by-eights. At the southwest end of the hall is the massive stone fireplace (photo 5). The windows are especially unusual. To open them, the nine-light single sashes are designed to slip completely down into the wall in what may be called a pocket window. The hall is furnished with its original handmade tables and benches (see photo 5), all of similar design but varying in size. Most are constructed of ten-by-twos, a few with boards of smaller width.

From the dining hall one enters the kitchen wing through one of two single doors, each constructed of three upright one-by-tens. The chimney comes down in the middle of the room not far from the outside entrance. There is a small restroom just inside the entrance at the northeast. Opposite the restroom are steps leading to a partial basement. Within the tiny entrance "foyer" beneath the asymmetrical gable is a space now used for firewood storage, but which appears to have functioned as sort of a ticket booth, perhaps a means of checking off the campers as they came in.

But for a few modern alterations in the kitchen interior, Tepicon Hall essentially looks as it did when Camp Tepicon opened to children and youth in the late 1930s. The setting, now a lovely woods above the Tippecanoe River flood plain, today is largely as it must have been envisioned when the camp was built amidst newly planted trees.

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Group camps were a major component of the development, which visibly added to the property's social value.

As representative of Camp Tepicon, Tepicon Hall embodies the melding of several social trends that came together in the 1930s to produce the idea of group camping as a beneficial experience for underprivileged youth. The Gary Community Chest administered Camp Tepicon in its early years after it opened c.1938, during which time it was also used regularly by the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. The objectives of the camp included providing "selected" (low-income and needy) children from the urban areas of Lake County with opportunities to "improve their physical well-being. . . develop desirable health habits and attitudes. . . improve social relations. . . develop stability." Both the CCC and WPA constructed and expanded group camps in several of Indiana's state parks as well as the state's two Recreation Demonstration Areas. (The other is the present Versailles State Park.) These properties, many of which have already been demolished, are among the most endangered in the state parks today.

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Bibliography (continued)

Government Publications

"Annual Report of Department of Conservation," Yearbook of Indiana.  
1943-1950.

United States Department of Interior, National Park Service. Park and  
Recreation Structures. 3 Vol. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government  
Printing Office, 1938.

Other

Greiff, Glory-June. "New Deal Resources in Present Indiana State Parks."  
June 1990-May 1991. Sponsored by Indiana University, Indianapolis,  
and on file with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and  
Archaeology (DHPA), 402 West Washington Street, Indianapolis, Indiana  
46402. Field Survey and documentation of existing CCC and WPA  
constructed buildings, structures, and sites.

\_\_\_\_\_. "New Deal Work Programs in Indiana State Parks, 1933-1942."  
Related historic context, 1991. On file at DHPA.

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### Boundary description

The center of North Park Road forms the west and north boundary. On the east the site is bound by the west edge of the service lane running south to the treeline which is the edge of the forest south of Tepicon (south approximately 100 yards from the junction of the lane and the road down to the treeline); on the south by said treeline which runs west back to North Park Road, a distance of approximately 100 yards.