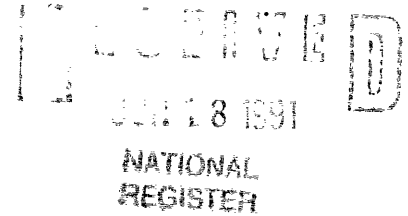


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service



**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM**

1. Name of Property

historic name: Ellendale State Forest Picnic Facility

other name/site number: CCC Picnic Area/S-8151

2. Location

street & number: Route 113, 1/2 mile south of Route 16

not for publication: NA

city/town: Ellendale, Georgetown Hundred

vicinity: X

state: DE county: Sussex

code: 005

zip code: 19941

3. Classification

Ownership of Property: Public-State

Category of Property: Buildings

Number of Resources within Property:

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>3</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>6</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register: 0

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X 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 X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. See continuation sheet.

Daniel M. [Signature]
Signature of certifying official

June 6, 1991
Date

Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register
 See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

[Signature] 7/22/91

Signature of Keeper Date of Action

6. Function or Use

Historic: Transportation Sub: road related

Current : Transportation Sub: road related

=====
7. Description
=====

Architectural Classification:

other

Other Description: rustic

Materials: foundation log roof shingle
 walls log other stone

Describe present and historic physical appearance. X See continuation sheet.

=====
8. Statement of Significance
=====

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

Applicable National Register Criteria: C

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) : NA

Areas of Significance: Architecture

Period(s) of Significance: 1939 N/A

Significant Dates : N/A _____

Significant Person(s): N/A

Cultural Affiliation: N/A

Architect/Builder: Delaware State Forester

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

X See continuation sheet.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 7

Page # 1

The Ellendale State Forest Picnic Facility is located in a wooded parcel on the East side of Route 113, the duPont Highway, halfway between Milford and Georgetown. It is part of a 923 acre tract of land owned by the State of Delaware. The picnic facility, which is approximately 318 feet long and approximately one 135 feet deep at its deepest point, is a product of the federally funded Civilian Conservation Corps' efforts during the 1930s. It is surrounded on the north, south and east by dense forest and on the West by Route 113 on the west.

The area along the road is lined with evenly spaced logs set in the ground lengthwise which projects and approximately two above it. Between the road and these barriers at either end of the facility are two small parking areas which penetrate slightly into the facility. On the other three sides, the tree-line marking the more dense forest behind, serves as the boundary for the picnic area.

The picnic facility contains three buildings and three structures. The largest, most grand of these and the one which most marks the facility is the large 20'10" square pyramidal-roofed pavilion which is easily visible from the road. The roof is framed in an complicated manner, a large round log projects from each corner of the structure and is joined to the others with a metal plate at the peak of the roof. Mortised and notched into these four rafters are corner posts which are saddle-notched onto the large log principle rafters and numerous small round logs serve as subsidiary rafters. Boards have been laid across these and then wood shingles applied over the boards. The corner posts for the building are massive logs as are the other regularly spaced supports. The balustrade is also constructed of logs which have been drilled into the vertical supports. Inside the pavilion are several picnic tables which have plank tops, half log benches, and log supports.

Flanking the pavilion on the north and south are two, nearly identical, wood gable-roofed picnic tables shelters. The shelters are covered with wood shingles over beaded boards and framed with small logs. The tables are plank and log.

Other contributing elements to the picnic facility's settings are:

1. fieldstone trash pit with cement lining 4'6" tall x 4'3" deep diameter
2. fieldstone fireplace hearth - 4'8" wide x 3' deep, 3' tall at back, open at front
3. foundation and water pipe for fountain - 4' wide x 4' long. Opening for fountain 1'5" square

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Page # 1

The Ellendale State Forest Picnic Facility, constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps was designed to serve as a road-side rest facility for tourists and long distance travelers on the DuPont Highway, Delaware's major north/south roadway. Because of the use of rustic design elements, coupled with its setting within a dense forest, the Picnic Facility is eligible for listing under criterion C. It is the sole surveying example in Delaware of a rustic picnic facility of which a multiple, but undetermined, number were constructed along Delaware highways in the late 1930s.

Construction and planning for the DuPont Highway began in 1908. Eventually incorporated into the federal highway system as Routes 13 and 113, the highway was the first modern highway in Delaware, one of the first in the United States, and, because of 1930s improvements, the first to use a dual highway configuration. Originally built by T. Coleman Du Pont thru a private corporation, he donated the complete portion of the highway to the State of Delaware in 1917. He continued to pay for the highway after that until the highway was completed in 1923. The total cost of the project was \$3,917,004.

Prior to the construction of the highway, travel in Delaware was very difficult especially in inclement weather. After the highway was constructed, travel across the state increased dramatically. The first road widening project began in 1927.

One result of the heavy use of the DuPont Highway, was the construction, along the road, of traveler's services facilities. While almost all of them, restaurants, service stations, and travelers cottages or motels, were privately financed, some were built by the state and federal government. The government's involvement was in the construction of rest stops. While most were a cleared area along the side of the road with several picnic tables, some were more elaborate.

The picnic facility at Ellendale State Forest was among the most elaborate and the only one to survive intact along the DuPont Highway. The facility was begun in 1938 as a project for the local Civilian Conservation Corps camp. Finished in 1939, it has provided a convenient stopping point for travelers in Sussex County ever since. The Ellendale State Forest in which the picnic facility is located was originally part of the right-of-way purchased by T. Coleman du Pont for his new highway. When the lands of his Coleman du Pont Road, Inc. were turned over to the new State Highway Department in 1917, the forest land became the property of that department.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Page # 2

Eventually that land was turned over to the State Forestry Department for management purposes but not ownership. Under the control of the State Forester, the forest area was expanded and a picnic facility created in the mid-1930s. In 1938, the Ellendale forest was expanded to 150 acres from its original 40. The next year the Civilian Conservation Corps camp at Redden Forest began work on cleaning up the camp and building a picnic facility. The 1938 report of the State Forester noted that the practice of travelers parking their cars at Ellendale Picnic Facility next to the trees had caused the ground to become hard packed which resulted in the death of several trees. The 1939 work consisted of landscaping, the erection of a low barrier along the road to keep out cars and the construction of a pavilion, two shelter, and the stone trashpit, fireplace and water foundation/supply pipe. The design of the facility was developed by the State Forester. Rustic architecture has never been popular in Delaware. Those examples that may have been constructed as gazebos and garden ornaments have disappeared from the landscape. The Redden Lodge, in nearby Redden Forest, was built by the Pennsylvania Railroad as a private resort in a rustic manner. There is not a direct relationship between the two properties but its influence coupled with the generally unskilled labor force available for design and construction made the use of a rustic form with its simplistic, open construction a natural choice. The actual design was supplied by the Pennsylvania Department of Forests and Waters but more substantial materials were used by Delaware's work force. Except for some routine maintenance, this facility has remained intact since 1939. It is maintained by the Delaware Department of Agriculture in its original rustic condition and appearance.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 8

Page # 3

COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING

The Ellendale State Forest Picnic Facility is located in the Lower Peninsula/Cypress Swamp zone of Delaware. Georgetown Hundred is mostly flat and well-drained so that marshlands is not commonly present although non-tidal wetlands are a common feature. The Picnic Facility is directly associated with the transportation there in Delaware's history since its construction was the direct result of improved hard-surfaced roads in the state and the resultant increased need for facilities to provide services to private and commercial travelers. The construction of the facility in 1939 is fixed at the end of the intense 1880 - 1940 period of increasing concentration of Delaware's population in larger communities and a drop in the availability of state-wide public transportation.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

NA previously listed in the National Register

NA previously determined eligible by the National Register

NA designated a National Historic Landmark

NA recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

NA 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: _____

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property: 1.0 acres

UTM References: Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing

A	<u>18</u>	<u>462000</u>	<u>4291760</u>	B	___	_____	_____
C	___	_____	_____	D	___	_____	_____

___ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description: ___ See continuation sheet.

The bounds of this nomination are the area bounded by the edge/curb line of the Route 113 and an arc extended along the present tree line from the north edge of the cleared picnic area around to the southern end of the area. The length along the highway is 650 feet. The furthest depth is 250 feet east from the edge/curb line.

Boundary Justification: ___ See continuation sheet.

This area includes the cleared space that has always been associated with the picnic facility.

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

Name/Title: Don Duhadaway, Historian; Kimberly Sebold, Research Assistant; Steve Del Sordo, Historian

Organization: Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation

Date: Septmeber 1990

Street & Number: 15 The Green Telephone: 739-5685

City or Town: Dover State: DE ZIP: 19901

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section number 9

Page # 1

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Rae, John B., "Coleman du Pont and Road" Delaware History, Vol. 16 (Spring-Summer, 1975) pp. 171-183

Salmond, John A., The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933 - 1942: A New Deal Case Study Durham: North Carolina: Duke University Press, 1967

The east line of the highway is also the property line between the highway & the state forest. The wooden posts indicated are five feet from the highway edge.

DuPont Highway
Rt. 113

to Georgetown

parking

parking

picnic shelter

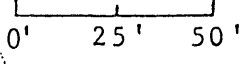
pavillion

picnic shelter

water fountain

trash pit

fireplace



PICNIC FACILITY
ELLEDALE STATE FOREST
ON THE DUPONT HIGHWAY
SUSSEX COUNTY, DELAWARE