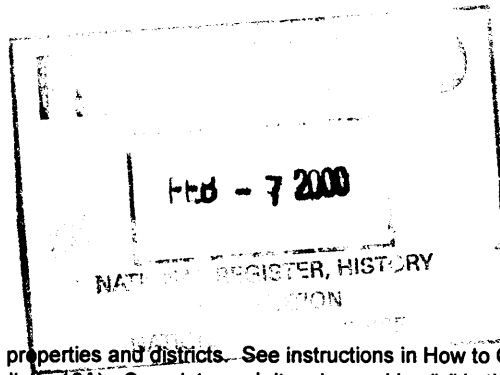


**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form**



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Shakamak State Park Historic District
other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 6265 West State Road 48 N/A not for publication
city or town Jasonville vicinity
state Indiana code IN county Clay code 021 zip code 47438

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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 36CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Indiana Department of Natural Resources

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 3/15/00

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property (Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

- private, public-local, public-State, public-Federal

- building, district, site, structure, object

Table with 3 columns: Contributing, Noncontributing, and Resource Type (buildings, sites, structures, objects, Total). Values: 34, 11, 1, 0, 2, 0, 0, 0, 37, 11.

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

RECREATION/CULTURE: Outdoor Recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)

Materials (Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: Park Rustic

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Log BRICK

roof ASPHALT

other STONE

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or grave.
- D** a cemetery.
- E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F** a commemorative property.
- G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE _____
 ENTERTAINMENT/RECREATION _____
 SOCIAL HISTORY _____

Period of Significance

1930 - 1949 _____

Significant Dates

N/A _____

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A _____

Cultural Affiliation

N/A _____

Architect/Builder

Civilian Conservation Corps _____
 Works Progress Administration _____

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographic References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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

Name of repository: _____

Shakamak State Park Historic District
Name of Property

Clay IN
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property approx. 685

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 16 480060 4337250
Zone Easting Northing

3 16 480400 4335100
Zone Easting Northing

2 16 480400 4336040

4 16 479420 4335000

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Glory-June Greiff
organization _____ date 3/22/99
street & number 1753 South Talbott telephone 317-637-6163
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46225

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

- A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Division of State Parks and Reservoirs, Department of Natural Resources
street & number 402 West Washington Street, Room W298 telephone 317-232-4020
city or town Indianapolis state IN zip code 46204

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

CLASSIFICATION OF RESOURCES

The 34 contributing buildings are the gatehouse, the saddle barn, the "Lenape Shelter," the log cabin, the former beach shelter, 18 group camp buildings (12 sleeping cabins, restroom/shower building, dining hall, cooks' quarters, administration building, craft hall, recreation pavilion), the maintenance shed, 6 family cabins overlooking Lake Shakamak and the restroom building serving them, the West Shelter, the "4-Poster Shelter" near it, and the restroom building in the west picnic grove.

The 2 contributing structures are, the amphitheater, and the former coal mine exhibit.

The contributing site is the entire district, which includes stone culverts and small bridges, retaining walls, remains of stone check dams, brick-and-concrete fountain bases, Lake Lenape, and Lake Shakamak.

The 11 non-contributing buildings are the assistant property manager's residence, the park office, 4 frame service buildings, 3 family cabins adjacent to the park road, the fish cleaning station and the boat rental at the west end of the Lake Shakamak dam.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

Shakamak State Park lies amidst southwestern Indiana's coal country at the junction of Clay, Greene, and Sullivan counties just west of Jasonville. The general terrain is uneven and much of the surrounding area has been strip-mined. Some of what is now the state park was also mined, but the scars on the land are masked by now-mature forests and artificial lakes. The Shakamak State Park Historic District includes most of the north and east parts of the park along State Road 48. The district encompasses somewhat less than half of the present park property.

Approaching Shakamak State Park from the east out of Jasonville, one first passes the assistant property manager's residence (a

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

area immediately south and west of it. All of these buildings are either much remodeled or are postwar functional structures. Immediately south of the present park office (photo 1) is what is believed to be the service building erected by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1940-1941, a plain rectangular building with a gabled roof and tongue-in-groove siding that retains little of its historic character.

Rounding the curve of the highway northward, the main park entrance southwest off SR48 is a wide lane flanked by mature deciduous trees that were planted by the CCC in the 1930s. An attractive brick-and-timber gatehouse (photo 2) stands before a fork in the road. Completed in 1936, it resembles a tiny gabled cottage. Proceeding south from the gatehouse, the road leads past a brick-and-timber saddle barn (photo 3) in a wooded setting on the east side. One-and-a-half stories high, it is gabled and contains nine stalls and three box stalls. Adjacent to the saddle barn on the north is a corral. The road continues southward, passing a drive leading northeast to the service area already mentioned (see photo 1), then turns west to parallel the northern shore of Lake Lenape. The road passes a drive leading to a CCC-built "four-poster" oven shelter (photo 4) that has been altered but the park plans to restore. It stands in a grove mostly comprised of oak trees, overlooking the lake (photo 5). Originally the road continued westward, but that route now ends in Lake Kickapoo, a large body of water dammed in the 1960s. Today the road turns southward to cross a causeway--actually the dam that impounds Lake Lenape--between that lake and Lake Kickapoo. (The historic district includes this dam and most of Lake Lenape.)

Proceeding from the gatehouse in the other direction, the road leads west toward the beach area, which has been altered a great deal in the last few decades. For that reason, the district boundary follows the northern edge of the parking lot straight to the lake's edge, excluding the former beach, remodeled bath house, and recent swimming pool. Northwest of the parking lot, and included in the district, is an attractive brick and timber shelterhouse (photo 6) today called the "pool shelter"--but originally referred to as the "beach shelter." Stylistically it is similar to many other shelterhouses throughout the park system, with its enclosed (former) concession area on the west end and the

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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large fireplace chimney on the east, but this structure uses brick where the others have stone. Nearby to the southeast is a log cabin--originally called the community cabin--of indeterminate origin, probably constructed by the Department of Conservation when the park first opened; it has been on that site from at least 1931. South of the parking lot is a picnic area located on what used to be a campground; most of it is not included in the district.

The main park road leads northerly from the beach area through a mature woods and circles around Lake Shakamak (photo 7). Lake Shakamak resembles in shape a hand with three fingers and a thumb. Between the first two "fingers" and west off the park road is the former 4-H group camp. The southern part of the camp, which contains a large dining hall (photo 8), cooks' quarters, small administration building, restroom/shower building, and eight identical sleeping cabins, is clustered around a large clearing or parade ground. Down the hillside toward the lake is a natural amphitheater that was enhanced in the 1930s. The benches have long been replaced and another brick wall added, but along the northwest side a curving retaining wall (photo 9) constructed by the CCC survives. Around the north loop of the camp are six more frame buildings: four sleeping cabins, a craft hall and a recreation pavilion (photo 10). Although no longer administered by 4-H, the group camp is still used, albeit irregularly, by various organizations in something close to its original use.

A little further north along the main park road is what is known today as the "old barn," formerly a maintenance shed that was part of the CCC camp in the 1930s. Across the park road to the northeast is the site of the CCC camp (photo 11); no evidence remains. The clearing is now the Youth Tent Area. Three postwar frame family cabins line the road at the southwest edge of the clearing. In the woods southeast of the cabins along Trail 2 is what appears to be an abandoned mine (photo 12); in reality the concrete "entrance" was constructed by the CCC to create an educational exhibit around an exposed drift of coal.

From the youth camp the road circles around Lake Shakamak through the sixty-year-old forest at the north edge of the park. After rounding the westmost finger (or "thumb") of the lake, there is a

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

fork in the road. The southeastward drive leads past several groupings of small frame housekeeping cabins (26 in all), most of which were constructed in the 1950s and later. The cluster of six farthest to the southeast (see photo 13), however, is what remains of those built in the park's earliest years, three (three others from the same period have been demolished) from when the park first opened and three built later by the CCC. Sided with board-and-batten, the primitive (no bathroom facilities) cabins are sited high above the lake, and are served by a frame restroom building, also constructed by the CCC. Across the road to the west are tennis courts and a large open playfield. The road ultimately curves back to meet the branch to the west.

Along the westward branch of the road and close to the western boundary of the park is a picnic area developed by the CCC in 1935. Nestled amidst a grove of oaks is a gabled timber-frame shelter house (today called the West Shelter) with board-and-batten siding and a large brick fireplace chimney at each end. Nearby is a circular brick-and-concrete platform that once held a brick drinking fountain, and close to the road is a brick-and-frame comfort station sided with both clapboard and board-and-batten. To the south of the shelterhouse (photo 14) is a path with stone steps leading across a concrete-and-stone culvert to a four-poster oven shelter and the remains of another drinking fountain platform. The main road continues southward around Lake Kickapoo, which is not included in the district.

NARRATIVE STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Shakamak State Park was an early experiment by the Indiana Department of Conservation, headed by Richard Lieber, in the reclamation of land for purposes of developing a state park. The northern and eastern parts of the park retain much of the character and most of the resources from its earliest period of development in the 1930s. Most of this work was accomplished by

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) and to a lesser degree, the Works Progress Administration (WPA) and its predecessor agencies, the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA). Thus, the park's historic district represents an outstanding material record of an important area of New Deal public works and recreational development, as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs on Indiana State Lands." This portion of the park contains numerous contributing resources that fall within the identified property types related to conservation, infrastructure development, recreational activities, education, and overnight accommodations. The Shakamak State Park Historic District is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of recreation and social history because it is associated with the New Deal and its combined solutions to the needs for recreational development and unemployment relief, and the expanded concepts of what recreational development ought to include. In the area of recreation the district also represents the Department of Conservation's first attempt at creating a state park out of reclaimed land. The district, by virtue of its intact collection of buildings, matured plantings, and its fulfillment of the CCC's development plan, is also eligible under Criterion C as it is representative of the work and of the style of architecture and landscaping typical of CCC and WPA recreational projects. The resources and the district as a whole meet the standards of integrity established in the multiple property nomination "New Deal Resources on Indiana State Lands."

Despite the high standards of scenic beauty in an "undisturbed landscape" that he had established for state parks, Richard Lieber recognized the great need for a place of recreational escape in the hardscrabble stripmine region of southwestern Indiana. Therefore, as an experiment he accepted in 1929 a gift of over a thousand acres from Greene, Clay, and Sullivan counties. This land, where the three counties abutted, was far from pristine. But it offered immediate possibilities for an artificial lake, which could be created by adapting an abandoned railroad grade into a dam across a creek valley. Workers filled in a culvert and constructed a spillway impounding a lake--called simply Lake Shakamak--of about 55 acres that covered some abandoned shaft mines. Beach development on the lake's eastern shore followed,

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

including a small bath house. Nearby a log "Community Cabin" was erected. On higher ground to the north, a group camp was begun, which would be administered by regional 4-H clubs. The park opened to visitors in 1930 and was named for the nearby Eel River. The word "Shakamak" comes from the Kickapoo, who once dwelt in the region, and means "river of the long fish"--or eel. People flocked to the park, which erected six housekeeping cabins overlooking the lake in 1932, following the success of similar units that had opened in Brown County State Park that same year.

Shakamak still had a long way to go before it could take its place with the other parks in the system, but fortunately several New Deal programs were soon available to hasten the process. A Civil Works Administration (CWA) project employed several hundred local men in the winter of 1933-34 to work on trails and shelters, all "centered around the proposed new lake" southeast of the first. The duration of the CWA was too brief in which to complete the necessary dam, but the Federal Emergency Relief Administration funded further work on it. Workers also constructed fish rearing ponds as a means to keep the lakes stocked and built a pen for large birds and corrals to display deer, elk, and bison (located south of the saddle barn). By 1937 the Works Progress Administration (WPA) completed the animal exhibits, fish hatchery, and the reservoir project, first called Lake Jason and later named Lake Lenape.

CCC Company 522 occupied the buildings of the group camp in November 1933, establishing Camp SP-3. Four years later they built a regular CCC camp northeast of the group camp, freeing it for public use again. The CCC boys constructed the main park roads, worked on foot trails, and built additional family cabins on the west side of Lake Shakamak. They planted hundreds of thousands of trees that have since matured into a lovely forest. CCC workers developed a picnic area, complete with a shelterhouse, drinking fountains, and oven shelter, west of the first lake and fashioned a fine brick-and-timber shelterhouse out of a simple frame open shelter near the beach. As clay was plentiful and much used in this region, the choice of brick for many of the park structures reflected the history of the area. Indeed, brick was a "native material" and took the place of the more typical stone found in other state parks. Another project that highlighted the

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

park's natural history was creating an *in situ* educational exhibit out of an exposed coal drift. (The exhibit was abandoned decades ago, but the concrete "mine entrance" remains.)

Other results of the CCC's eight-year presence in the park include the gatehouse and the saddle barn, both using brick and timber. South of the beach they built a campground that was used for many years but has since been vacated. (Much of the site was inundated by a third lake years later.) A new bath house that involved both CCC and WPA workers was left unfinished when World War II ended the New Deal; park employees completed it (it has since been much remodeled). During the 1950s several more cabins were built to the northwest of the earlier ones on the west side of Lake Shakamak.

At the end of World War II and through the 1950s, Shakamak State Park encompassed 1016 acres. With the acquisition in the mid-1960s of over seven hundred acres of land mostly to the southwest, the park, in cooperation with the USDA's Soil Conservation Service, impounded yet another body of water. Lake Kickapoo, as it was named, was three times the size of the earlier two put together and located between them, making one large expanse of water. The old dam creating Lake Lenape became a roadway that crossed over and led park visitors around the new lake. The road also provided access to the new campground on the south side of Lake Lenape. Most of the original campground (along with the fish rearing ponds and the animal pen area) was flooded by the new lake. What remained of the old campground was reconfigured into a picnic area in the early 1980s. The multiple waters of Shakamak State Park continue to draw thousands of anglers each year. Ironically, the lovely Lake Shakamak, once nationally known as the site of national swimming and diving championship competition, is no longer open to that activity because of the presence of dangerous bacteria in the water. Instead, park visitors frolic in the huge family pool in sight of the old beach, which has been completely overgrown. The remodeled bath house serves the pool and houses the park's nature center.

The Shakamak State Park Historic District retains much of the character and most of the resources from its earliest period of

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

development in the 1930s, offering an outstanding material record of New Deal public works and recreational development as described in the historic context "New Deal Work Programs on Indiana State Lands." The district is eligible under Criterion A in the areas of recreation and social history because it is associated with the New Deal and its combined solutions to the needs for recreational development and unemployment relief, and also as the first "experiment" in creating a state park on reclaimed land. The district is also eligible under Criterion C as it is representative of the work and of the style of architecture and landscaping typical of CCC and WPA recreational projects.

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Administrative Files of the Indiana Department of Conservation

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

Lilly Library, Indiana University, Bloomington
Richard Lieber Manuscripts

Indiana Division, Indiana State Library, Indianapolis
Clipping Files, CCC
Clipping Files, Indiana State Parks
Clipping Files, WPA

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Bounded on the north by the present boundary of the park that runs along State Road 48. At the northeast corner of the park property follow the boundary south then east (essentially paralleling SR48), then follow the present boundary south to the point where the park property boundary turns east. From that point continue due south to the south shore of Lake Lenape, then follow the shoreline westward to the dam. Cross northward and include the dam, then follow the main park road north, then east (from the "T"), continuing to follow the road to the service lane south of the saddle barn. Proceed west to a point twenty feet west of the saddle barn, then turn due north to the abandoned road (today a pedestrian way), then follow the road west to its intersection with the drive connecting the main picnic area to the pool and bath house parking lot. Follow that drive northerly to the parking lot and follow the north edge of the parking lot toward the northwest; continue on an extension of that line to the shore of Lake Shakamak. Follow the lakeshore around in a clockwise (southerly) direction to the dam. Proceed west across (and include) the dam, on the former road, and continue due west to the park's western boundary. Follow the boundary north to a point due west of the north edge of the road leading to the family cabins; from that point proceed east to the road and follow it in a southeasterly direction to the west edge of the drive leading to cabins 2-8. From that point proceed northeast in a straight line that parallels and lies about fifteen feet from the northwest facade of the restroom building. After about one hundred feet the ground drops off into a draw and down to the lakeshore. Follow the lakeshore clockwise; at that finger's (the westernmost) northernmost point, it is contiguous to the main park road. From that point proceed due west to the park boundary, and follow it to the park's north boundary along SR48.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses the bulk of the park's surviving historic landscape and resources.

UTMs

	<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>		<u>Zone</u>	<u>Easting</u>	<u>Northing</u>
5	16	479320	4335580	8	16	478230	4336650
6	16	479580	4335950	9	16	478620	4336480
7	16	478210	4336130	10	16	478390	4337230

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SHAKAMAK STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT

CLAY, GREENE, SULLIVAN COUNTIES IN

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

Bounded on the north by the present boundary of the park that runs along State Road 48. At the northeast corner of the park property follow the boundary south then east (essentially paralleling SR48), then follow the present boundary south to the point where the park property boundary turns east. From that point continue due south to the south shore of Lake Lenape, then follow the shoreline westward to the dam. Cross northward and include the dam, then follow the main park road north, then east (from the "T"), continuing to follow the road to the service lane south of the saddle barn. Proceed west to a point twenty feet west of the saddle barn, then turn due north to the abandoned road (today a pedestrian way), then follow the road west to its intersection with the drive connecting the main picnic area to the pool and bath house parking lot. Follow that drive northerly to the parking lot and follow the north edge of the parking lot toward the northwest; continue on an extension of that line to the shore of Lake Shakamak. Follow the lakeshore around in a clockwise (southerly) direction to the dam. Proceed west across (and include) the dam, on the former road, and continue due west to the park's western boundary. Follow the boundary north to a point due west of the north edge of the road leading to the family cabins; from that point proceed east to the road and follow it in a southeasterly direction to the west edge of the drive leading to cabins 2-8. From that point proceed northeast in a straight line that parallels and lies about fifteen feet from the northwest facade of the restroom building. After about one hundred feet the ground drops off into a draw and down to the lakeshore. Follow the lakeshore clockwise; at that finger's (the westernmost) northernmost point, it is contiguous to the main park road. From that point proceed due west to the park boundary, and follow it to the park's north boundary along SR48.

Boundary Justification

Encompasses the bulk of the park's surviving historic landscape and resources.

