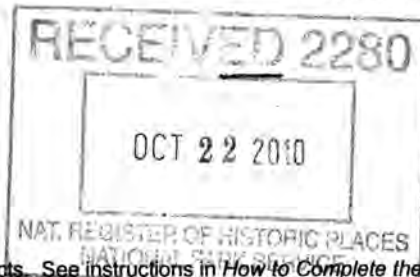


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

986



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 any 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 Gum Springs Recreation Area
other names Gum Springs Picnic Site, 16WN251

2. Location

street & number 12312 U.S. Hwy 84 West not for publication
city or town Winnfield vicinity
state Louisiana code LA county Winn code 127 zip code 71483

3. 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments).

Signature of certifying official *Phil Boggan* Title Phil Boggan, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism

10-5-2010
Date

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 *Deputy Regional Forest* Title Deputy Regional Forest

10/21/10
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. 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 of the Keeper

Date of Action

Edson H. Beall 12-7-10

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

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

| Contributing | Noncontributing | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 0 | 0 | buildings |
| 0 | 0 | district |
| 0 | 4 | site |
| 37 | 1 | structure |
| 20 | 1 | object |
| 57 | 6 | Total |

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

NA

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

NA

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Recreation and Culture/Outdoor Recreation
- Landscape/Park
- Government/ Public Works
-
-
-
-

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

- Vacant/Not in Use
-
-
-
-
-
-

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

- No Style
-
-
-
-

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

- foundation: Brick, Concrete, Wood
- walls: Wood (posts)
- roof: Asphalt
- other: Stone

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance of the property. Explain contributing and noncontributing resources if necessary. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, setting, size, and significant features.)

Summary Paragraph

Gum Springs Recreation Area is accessed via U.S. Highway 84 about one and one-tenth miles northeast of Gum Springs Road, southwest of Winnfield in Winn Parish, Louisiana. A part of the Kisatchie National Forest, the historic site and its associated features cover about 10 acres. The bulk of the site is contained within an eastern facing natural drainage basin, fed by no fewer than three natural springs. Along the surrounding ridges, the slope gradient often varies abruptly between 20 and 40 percent.¹ The site is mostly wooded and characterized by a small central wetland. Specifically, Gum Springs Recreation Area is located within Township 11 North, Range 4 West, and is found on the USGS Calvin Quadrangle. From 1936 to early 1942 Gum Springs hosted an allotment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) work camp F-6, Company 5407 who constructed an outdoor swimming pool and picnic area for public benefit. There are *in situ* historic features, standing historic structures, and an extant landscape all related to the broad period of significance for the site. Despite some losses and deterioration of resources, the recreation area remains eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. There are 57 contributing and 6 non-contributing resources within the boundaries of the recreation area.

Narrative Description

Gum Springs Recreation Area is a U. S. Government owned public recreation site born originally out of a Great Depression era Civilian Conservation Corps development project which principally constructed an outdoor swimming pool and picnic area for operation by the United States Forest Service (USFS). Gum Springs is indicative of a designed landscape in the broadest sense as it intentionally lacks strict formalities in design. Landscape architects J. C. Jackson, Hugh K. Harris and C. Joe Galloway contributed to the design of the recreation area while the CCC constructed the site according to their measured drawings and field surveys. Within an eastern facing drainage basin associated with no less than three flowing natural springs, the developers were able to construct an outdoor swimming pool by erecting an earthen dam across a narrow pass through the eastern drainage. The resulting approximately one-half acre swimming pool was further improved by the construction of a native stone masonry retaining wall along the water's edge and an almost fully cemented pool bottom. Due to the relatively steep and erosion prone nature of the surrounding topography and soil matrix, several rings of parallel and partially concentric earthen terraces were carved out of the surrounding hillsides by hand. These terraces were employed as a system to not only tame the erosion prone surrounding sandy soils, but they also served to drain the site of excess water runoff. Furthermore, the terraces also supplied an improved means of facilitating pedestrian traffic around the recreation area. In addition to the erosion control terrace system, a number of rubble masonry retaining walls, staircases and pathways were constructed to improve vertical movement around the site, and two picnic shelters were constructed, all harmoniously utilizing native building materials of stone and wood. The site first opened for public use around 1940 and proved an important and popular regional recreation site until its closure in 1968.

As designed, the site is still typically entered from the western portion of the landscape moving toward the east. There, within a large clearing among mature pine and scattered deciduous growth resting upon the highest immediate elevation, is found the site of the original main parking area. Here, the terrain is still covered in mixed blacktop and pea gravel; rock barrier walls trace the lot edges. The 1938 plans for the site called for a 64 car parking lot which was constructed, demonstrating that the designers anticipated the great popularity of the locale. Moving further east and once again into a mature growth of pine and oak trees the visitor will notice a

squat, native ferruginous sandstone marker complete with a bronze plaque erected in 2003 commemorating the efforts of the CCC.

Continuing ahead and following one of the forks of the poured cement staircase paths down the slope, the visitor will either choose to move toward one of the picnic shelters overlooking the swimming area on a natural knoll, or descend deeper still into the contour of the landscape and closer to the historic swimming pool. Along the path toward either the shelter or the swimming pool a series of terrace systems, visible as rather shallow trenches resembling narrow sunken trails, radiate in lengthy stretches towards the northeast and southwest, then visibly curving back around heading toward the east. These terraces are spaced fairly regularly, with consideration given to the natural topography of the drainage basin. Scattered cement block and poured slab picnic tables and benches dot the sharply contoured landscape. Typically the only sounds now audible to greet the visitor are the sounds of the wind moving through the forest canopy above and bird and insect noises punctuated by an occasional obtrusive drone of a diesel logging truck moving across U.S. Highway 84, less than one quarter mile distant.

Closer in, towards the swimming pool the elevation declines more sharply and the undergrowth thickens. Many of the lower pathways and steps remain and are visible examples of CCC era rubble masonry construction. Further shaping the landscape, several curved, brick red, gray and earthy brown ferruginous sandstone and cement retaining walls shoulder the weight of the sloped sandy soil as they have for more than 70 years. Overlooking the swimming pool area upon two prominent natural knolls are two hexagonal open gazebo structures, their thick cypress timbers long ago bleached by the Louisiana sun.

The retaining walls and foundational remains of the pool's bathhouses are located across the pool from the entrance. The cement block walls of the structures were torn down years ago, leaving their once interior cement benches in place. Now exposed, their smooth veneered surface is spalling, revealing the rough-cast cement bulk. Along the swimming pool edge a few cement benches line the once populated banks. Abandoned, and in one case awkwardly broken, these benches in past days served as a means for mothers to intently watch their young children play among the shallow wading depths of the western third of the pool. A wooden retaining wall liner remains intact in a number of places across the perimeter, punctuated by the occasional reappearance of the original CCC rock wall. Piles of cement blocks, wetland foliage and the naked wooden timbers of the former diving platforms rise from the shallows of the former swimming pool. To the northeastern corner the corrugated metal, cylindrical spillway drainage system once attached firmly to the pool floor lies collapsed and rusting—a portion of the overall historic swimming pool ruin. Behind it rises the earthen dam. Beyond the dam the shimmering blue waters of the 11-acre Gum Springs Reservoir, completed by means of yet another, more distant and yet unseen earthen dam, terminates the historic landscape. This reservoir was completed in 2008 and is not considered part of this nomination.

Landscape Alterations and Periods of Use

This landscape endured approximately three distinct periods of development and use, each of these periods has left discernable marks upon the character of the landscape. During the late 1930s, when the site was undergoing initial construction, a strong emphasis was placed on the power of the individual workers, the creative use of readily available native materials and the utilization of construction techniques which harmonized with the natural environment. These aspects are visible in the wide use of the ferruginous sandstone, cypress timbers and the native soil itself to develop much of the original CCC era portions of the landscape.² Following the USFS opening of the site to public enjoyment around 1940, both subtle and more significant alterations of the landscape became more commonplace. Most obtrusively to the then existing features, a series of poured cement staircases and pathways were poured to facilitate increased pedestrian movement across the landscape. Additionally, cast cement benches, outdoor cooking fireplaces, cinderblock dressing rooms and even sunken garbage cans were implanted at the recreation area. The last phase of alterations to the character of the landscape

began with the closure of the swimming pool in 1968. Past generations of latrine utilities were razed; much of the historic swimming pool floor was demolished and piled within the former pool bed. The ca. 1959 bathhouses were razed sometime after 1991 following the recommendations of USFS archaeologist Alan Dorian. In 2007 the historic earthen dam was partly breached, this breach was later filled in 2009. Other, more superficial alterations have resulted mostly from benign neglect and the passage of time under the exposure of the elements.

Contributing Elements:

Picnic Shelters (n=2, contributing structures)

The most prominent buildings of the swimming pool area are the two CCC constructed picnic shelters. Located on prominent natural knolls overlooking the historic swimming pool area, the shelters provided the only covered relief from the elements within the landscape aside from the dressing rooms and latrines once located along the opposite ridge. (No part of these latrines survives within the nominated area.) The open air structures resemble rustic gazebo shelters. They are of post and beam construction, primarily using heavy native cypress timbers. Hexagonal in shape, five sides of each shelter feature a 6" × 12" cypress timber bench recessed 2" into the standing 8" × 8" cypress posts. The remaining side opposite from the swimming pool serves as the shelter entrance. The six corner posts, resting on a hexagonal cement slab, are seven feet high. Original plans called for the installation of a "used brick floor on a cement mortar matrix." The brick was selected for salvage from the abandoned Fullerton Mill site in Vernon Parish.³ It is unclear whether this presumably original surfacing remains under the current cement slab. Diagonal 4" × 4" post supports help maintain the weight of the roof structure on all sides except the entrance. Six 8" × 8" cypress posts support the roofing structure which uses 4" × 6" cypress joists with 1" × 6" tongue and groove pine decking. The ends of the joists are exposed under a veil of leafy green asphalt shingle roofing and a blanket of black roofing felt.⁴ This roofing material is likely a replacement of original materials. As originally proposed the roofing material was to consist of hand riven cypress or cedar shakes.⁵ Overall, the shelters stand just less than 14' tall and 22' wide.⁶ All of the timber is coarsely circular sawn, with the added effect of scoring along many of the edges, perhaps to more closely resemble earlier hand-hewn or more natural woodworking techniques. The timbers appear in sound condition overall, and were originally coated in a staining mixture of ten parts boiled linseed oil, two parts turpentine and one part burnt umber in oil, but are now characteristically sun bleached on most outward facing surfaces.⁷ The shelters were proposed as early as April 1938, but were not approved for construction until April 1940 and were completed in November of that year for an estimated cost of \$400.00 for both.⁸

Swimming Pool (n=1, contributing structure)

The 1939 construction of the earthen dam across the eastern perimeter of the landscape created the now abandoned swimming pool. The resulting pool resembled a "Y" in shape -tilted to the left- as it conformed to the natural valley floor. Originally, naturally occurring springs fed the swimming pool at a satisfactory rate. The two western shallow arms of the pool were completely concrete lined for wading, while the deeper eastern half was finished in a mixture of cement and sand bottoms. Initially, the perimeter of the pool was outlined with ferruginous sandstone masonry work only. Between September 1957 and November 1960 the swimming pool wall was veneered with wooden piling and plank board, the diving docks were re-decked, the swimming pool bottom was again resurfaced, and the sandy "beach" areas along the shallow west end of the pool were expanded.⁹ Currently the swimming pool is partly infiltrated with wetland brush and undergrowth as would be expected following a lengthy period of little maintenance in an outdoor forest setting. However, much of the undergrowth is seasonal; during the winter months little to no growth is evident. At any rate it is clear that any frequent patron of Gum Springs Recreation Area would easily recognize the landscape at even the most extant periods of seasonal undergrowth.

Erosion Control Terraces (n=9, contributing structures)

When the recreation area opened for public use in 1940 only the dam and the swimming pool were complete with several other projects underway simultaneously. Soon thereafter the thin soil began to show signs that it was unsuitable for heavy pedestrian traffic without some form of an erosion control system. That initial year the recreation area received such heavy use that “drastic methods” were used to check these erosion problems. As encouraged, visitors were continuously climbing around the slopes surrounding the swimming pool to the degree that the topsoil was quickly eroding and washing into the pool. The problem reached an extent where “the water in the pool became so muddy it...was almost unusable.”¹⁰ The solution came in the form of an increased number of improved walkways, staircases, retaining walls and erosion control terraces. The CCC constructed a system of nine independent, roughly concentric terrace systems surrounding the swimming pool at approximately six varying elevations along the northern, western and southern slopes of the recreation area. These features were excavated and filled by hand. Each terrace (as they were historically termed) functioned as a carved path across the horizontal face of the natural drainage basin. Rather than flat surfaces, the terraces were slightly concave, to facilitate the movement of both people and runoff. Each end of the terraces was slightly lower in elevation than the middle section, facilitating water runoff to controlled drainage points around the landscape. These terraces were lined with clay and pea gravel to maintain a formidable surface against the ravages of pedestrian traffic and erosion runoff. Each terrace trench measures about 5’ or greater in width total, and was typically hundreds of feet in total length. The erosion control terraces traditionally served a dual role in both effectively diverting the erosion and water drainage of the site, and facilitating pedestrian traffic parallel to and around the swimming pool.¹¹ The slopes of the natural drainage basin were particularly sharp in a number of places surrounding the pool; this system eased pedestrian movement in otherwise treacherous terrain. To that end most of the terraces connected with at least one descending flight of stone staircases or paths to the swimming pool. Most of the erosion control terraces remain in good or at least partial operating condition.

Ferruginous Sandstone Masonry Retaining Walls (n=8, contributing structures)

There are eight extant CCC era rubble masonry retaining walls located within the recreation area around the swimming pool. The walls were constructed with locally mined ferruginous sandstone and masonry cement. During the CCC construction era of the recreation area materials were chosen to “harmonize with their [natural] surroundings.” Native ferruginous sandstones were ideally emplaced with as little visible mortar as possible to “appear as natural rock formations.”¹² Two retaining walls support the picnic shelters; two support the bathhouse foundations while the remaining four support three picnic area terraces. The retaining walls are typically shaped in crescent forms around the picnic shelters and picnic tables, and are squarely shaped around the bathhouse foundations.

Pathways and Staircases (n=17, contributing structures)

Pedestrian traffic initially descends from the ridges above the pool down two systems of concrete staircases, one along the northern ridge moving in a relatively straight line from the north to the south. The other moves from west to east, forking into three separate paths further descending into the drainage basin and historic pool area below. These paths lead to two exposed picnic areas and one of the CCC constructed picnic shelters. Additionally, foot traffic may move parallel to the pool area around the erosion control terraces carved along the north, west and south ridges. Three generations of walkways, staircases and paths exist at Gum Springs Recreation Area. The first consists of CCC era masonry rubble construction only, of which six examples are extant. The second form consists of CCC era rubble masonry work that was capped by a regular pattern of poured cement during the alterations of the Operation Outdoor’s era (see Part 8). There are seven examples of the CCC era work featuring these modifications extant. Finally, the third form consists of cement staircases which were cast totally new, of these there are four examples.

Picnic Tables (n=8, contributing objects)

Throughout the construction and planning process for Gum Springs Recreation Area numerous locations for permanent picnic tables were proposed. The existing tables and benches represent the last round of location proposals. It is unclear if picnic tables were actually built earlier and, if so, whether they were constructed of masonry, or of wood. In August 1941 there was only one -and as of then still incomplete- picnic table area.¹³ By 1959 there were fourteen tables and sets of benches scattered along the northern, western and southern ridges surrounding the swimming pool.¹⁴ Eight of these tables and associated benches are extant today. The tables are of cement block construction with associated cast benches and table tops. There is extant evidence to suggest they were numbered at one time with stenciled red paint upon the support columns for the table top. Only one stenciled example remains legible today, curiously numbered "25." There is no indication from surviving plans to indicate there were as many as 25 tables. The extant tables are of mostly identical construction with the exception of two examples along the northern ridge where the table tops were created by joining three bench tops together with masonry cement.

Fireplaces (n=7, contributing objects)

In all but one known case, each picnic table had associated with it an outdoor fireplace or cooking grill. These features stand perhaps one foot high and about three feet across. They were alternately made of brick, cement, native stone or cement block construction, varying to some degree with nearly every example. Because of these inconsistencies it is difficult to determine whether or not they were each constructed at the same time. Heavy cast iron grates resting on four short legs fill a center void in the features, with access for incendiary material underneath the grates from two sides. The native stone and brick constructed examples likely date to the CCC construction period, as the use of these materials was discouraged after the USFS once again took over full construction activities at the site following the disbandment of the CCC. Of the thirteen known fireplaces plotted on the 1959 site plan, seven exist today, mostly along the western ridge.

Sunken Garbage Receptacle (n=2, contributing objects)

In addition to the picnic table and fireplace, each picnic site had by 1959 an associated garbage receptacle sunken low, nearly flush with the ground. The garbage cans were round, cast iron, with a movable lid and cemented into the earth. Although the site had more than fifteen known examples, contemporary field surveys revealed only two visible surviving models. It is possible others currently remain hidden under surface debris throughout the landscape. Several examples, evidently after deteriorating beyond repair, were capped with a small square layer of cement.

Benches (n=3, contributing objects)

There are three simple cast cement benches -which are not associated with any picnic table- near the swimming pool along its northwestern banks. The benches are featured on the 1959 drawings for the site and are evident in several photographs dating to the early 1960s. Judging from these images, these benches in past days served as a means for mothers to intently watch their young children play among the shallow wading depths of the western third of the pool. One bench top has fallen from its supportive posts, but it could be easily lifted back into place with little effort.

Non-Contributing Elements:

Bathroom Ruins (n=2, non-contributing sites [ruins])

Positioned on the northern slope opposite from the CCC picnic shelters are the remains of the two bathhouses or dressing rooms. The site of the former men's dressing room was located nearest to the swimming pool while the women's is found further up the northern ridge. An analysis of the original plans for the site reveals the structures were originally 7' x 12' in wood frame construction. Erected between September and November 1940, the structures were sheathed in vertical 1" x 10" board and batten siding with interior flooring and roof

sheathing of 1" × 6" shiplap siding.¹⁵ The frame bathhouses sat on a cement slab foundation, were trimmed with verge board, and featured transoms, louvered doors, four light 2/2 hammered glass sash windows, and interior "booths" partitioned with shiplap siding with seating for dressing patrons. Hardware was finished in a bright bronze finish and the exterior was coated in a stain similar to that found on the picnic shelters.¹⁶ During the 1957-1959 Operation Outdoors era modifications to the site these relatively fashionable structures were removed and replaced upon the original location with 12' × 12' cement block structures. The cement block structures were in turn razed leaving only the slab foundation, rough outlines of the former block walls and three interior benches exposed. This was done sometime after 1991 following the recommendations of USFS archaeologist Alan Dorian. Proposed USFS planning documents suggested a variety of new uses for the site which did not include these structures. Although these plans were ultimately not pursued, the structures were razed anyway. The bathhouse ruins sites are prominently marked by their associated CCC constructed rubble masonry retaining walls and steps accenting their position upon the northern slope. The bathhouse ruins are considered non-contributing elements due solely to their condition as ruins.

CCC Commemorative Marker (n=1, non-contributing object)

In 2003 the USFS erected a small marker at the western entrance to the landscape commemorating the efforts of the CCC at Gum Springs Recreation Area. The base of the marker is ferruginous sandstone with a bronze plaque attached. The plaque reads: "Company 5407 of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) from Camp F-6 located at Calvin, Louisiana constructed the Gum Springs Recreation Area between 1936 and 1938. This Monument commemorates the Construction and Reforestation Work of the Men of the CCC. USDA Forest Service May 2, 2003."

Diving Dock Ruins (n=2, non-contributing sites [ruins])

Two 10' × 16' wooden platforms were erected upon the opposite banks from each other, along the north and south edges of the historic swimming pool. These once decked platforms, labeled "diving docks" on the original drawings, were located closer to the deeper eastern end of the pool near the earthen dam. Although the extant main dock pilings may date to the time of the CCC construction of the site, the docks were re-decked at least once following their initial construction.¹⁷ Today only the skeletal heavy timber piling of the docks remains. No record was located which indicated the loss of these structures occurred for any reason other than unabated exposure to the elements. This piling originally served as the posts or studs upon which the rest of the diving dock framing was hung. The diving docks are considered as a non-contributing element for the purpose of this nomination due to their advanced state of disrepair including the total loss of their plank flooring.

Earthen Dam (n=1, non-contributing structure [integrity questionable])

The earliest surviving development plans and documentation for Gum Springs Recreation Area date to July 1936, calling for a wading pool and picnic area. Initially, the plans for the swimming pool called for the use of a "catch basin...[below]...the spring from which the water [would] spill into a small wading pool for children."¹⁸ In order to facilitate a wading area the CCC workers would need to construct a dam within the natural drainage. A surviving measured drawing by landscape architect J. C. Jackson, dated October 27, 1936, depicts these early stages of planning for the site. The proposed location for the dam's construction, which would inevitably produce the manmade swimming pool, is featured on the eastern edge of the landscape. Based on the stated scale given to the plan, the proposed dam shown on this drawing would measure to about 70' in length. With this dam in place the projected surface area of the pool would cover about .31 acres. These plans were later altered by landscape architects Harris and Galloway. Construction did not begin on the earthen dam until the spring of 1939 following a series of construction delays. The dam was evidently finished and in use on the east end of the natural drainage basin of Gum Springs before November 1940, affirming the dam is of CCC labor and origin.¹⁹ It is shown to stretch about 110' across the natural eastern gap in the landscape and appears to measure only about 15' in width, half the proposed original scale, and runs about 10° off (southwest) of true north. In February 2007, a U. S. government contracted construction crew working to build the adjacent 11-acre

reservoir known as the Gum Springs Reservoir breached the earthen dam without prior approval.²⁰ The resulting breach was crudely backfilled in 2009 using heavy machinery. As a result, the original integrity of the hand-constructed CCC-era earthen dam has been largely compromised. About one-third of the existing dam is comprised of post-2007 infill. With the historical integrity of the earthen dam now questionable, it is necessary to designate it as a non-contributing element for the purpose of this nomination.

Assessment of Integrity

There are 57 contributing and 6 non-contributing resources within the boundaries of the recreation area considered for this nomination. These features include the CCC era constructed swimming pool, erosion control terraces, picnic shelters, ferruginous sandstone retaining walls and staircases and the outdoor fireplaces. Each of the 57 contributing resources was constructed and historically in use within the given period of significance for the resource and retains a significant amount of historical integrity. Some of these resources were later altered during the recreation area's period of significance so were in use during the majority of the period the site was opened. Further, the bulk of surviving patrons to Gum Springs Recreation Area would remember the site as it appeared ca. 1960, not as it appeared in 1940. Thus, these alterations do not jeopardize the integrity of the site and have become historically significant in their own right. The losses of the diving docks, the 1950s era bathhouses and the breaching of the earthen dam (each a historic element that has lost its integrity and is basically in ruins) are unfortunate, but ultimately do not alter the appearance of the landscape beyond recognition. None of the interviewed former patrons expressed that the landscape was irreversibly damaged. Despite some modest losses and deterioration of some resources over time, the recreation area remains eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Entertainment/Recreation

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1939-1968

Significant Dates

1939, 1957, 1968

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

NA

Cultural Affiliation

NA

Architect/Builder

J. C. Jackson, Hugh K. Harris, C. Joe Galloway

Landscape Architects

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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.
- N/A Criteria Considerations not applicable

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form) 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 # _____
- Not applicable – no previous documentation on file

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Partial recordation by HAER standards (draft not finished; on file with Kistachie National Forest, USFS)
- Name of repository: Kisatchie National Forest

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): N/A

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance ends following the closure of the swimming pool in 1968 and subsequent decline in use. Although the period of significance slightly extends into an era not defined as 50 years earlier than the present, it has been demonstrated that the site functioned at its peak in use between approximately 46 and 51 years ago. Therefore, it is most appropriate in this case to extend the period of significance accordingly

Criteria Consideratons (explanation, if necessary) Does Not Apply

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance and applicable criteria)

Gum Springs Recreation Area is locally significant under Criterion A for its historic contribution towards public entertainment and recreation for the citizens of Winn, Red River, Natchitoches, and DeSoto parishes and beyond. Additionally, Gum Springs Recreation Area is locally significant under Criterion A for its historic contribution in the area of politics/government as it represents the marked presence of the Civilian Conservation Corps' historic influence upon North Central Louisiana. The period of significance for Gum Springs Recreation Area ranges from 1936 to 1968. Civilian Conservation Corps planning phases for the project began as early as 1936, while the Recreation Area was originally constructed from 1939 to 1941 by a local contingent of the CCC.²¹ The CCC planning and construction period of the site is important to the significance of the site for the CCC's contributions to regional and statewide Louisiana history. The CCC role in developing Gum Springs will be discussed further below under the Politics/Government case for significance. Beginning in 1941 (with a lull during the war years) the Recreation Area became an important entertainment and public recreation resource for the greater community. Recreational use peaked in 1966 with an estimated 2,200 visitors in one July weekend.²²

Narrative Statement of Significance (provide at least one paragraph for each area of significance)

Gum Springs Recreation Area is locally significant under Criterion A for its historic contribution in the area of politics/government. It represents the marked influence of the Civilian Conservation Corps upon Louisiana and its importance in the effort to restore the economy during a period of momentous national calamity.

Before President Franklin D. Roosevelt was in office for a full month he commenced one of his most successful projects, the Civilian Conservation Corps, commonly referred to as the "CCC." The program developed out of the Emergency Conservation Relief Act, a tangible demonstration of his New Deal philosophy. This work promised to combat both the social and environmental sins of the recent past with a new hope of "social and natural preservation."²³ Originally termed the Emergency Conservation Work (ECW), the CCC had two primary functions: to give meaningful employment to the struggling young men of the nation, and to take positive action to conserve the natural resources which had been so shamelessly exploited to the brink of exhaustion in previous decades. In this manner the CCC, according to historian John A. Salmond, "brought together two wasted resources, the young men [of the nation], and the land."²⁴

During the Great Depression the CCC afforded young men the opportunity to find meaningful employment around their communities. Corps enrollees were unmarried, between seventeen and twenty-three years old, unemployed and had to pass a physical exam prior to admittance. An enrollee received a minimum stipend of \$30.00 per month with the requirement that twenty-two dollars was sent home to their family and dependents. Duties and details with more responsibility could expect higher pay up to \$45.00 per month. Beginning in 1933, the CCC grew to an enormous operation with some 1,500 camps located across the country, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands by 1939.²⁵ Camps were staffed with local enrollees whenever possible, with each camp housing about 200 enrollees each. The typical enrollee was between eighteen and nineteen years old, five foot eight inches tall and weighed 142 pounds. He very likely was malnourished, had finished no more than eight years of public school education, and had little to no previous, nor real prospects for any future employment.²⁶

Enrollees worked forty hour weeks, were fed and clothed, and received medical and dental attention, and additional training and education activities as offered. Participation in educational class work was considered voluntary, however about eighty-nine percent of enrollees sought educational instruction while enrolled. Enlistment periods were for six months, and enrollees were invited to join again for a maximum of two years service. The camps were administered by the War Department, typically with reserve Army junior officers in command. Initially, the Army supplied the camps with surplus World War I uniforms and equipment, and handled all the administration, training and discipline activities.²⁷ While the Army "overhead" retained the responsibility of training and discipline, after 1939 the CCC was given its own uniforms, complete with "sage green woolen shirts and black neck ties."²⁸

The work load varied with typical projects developed in the areas of "reforestation, forest protection and improvement, soil conservation, recreational developments, range rehabilitation, aid to wildlife, flood control, drainage, reclamation and emergency rescue activities." Typically, the CCC camps were located on the site of various public agencies and administered under their authority. For example, the work done by USFS camp enrollees, so differentiated by the letter "F" included before their numerical camp designation, was planned and directed by personnel within the USFS.²⁹ Enrollees laboring in temporary camps, "spike camps," or other detached operations might expect nothing more than military surplus tents and blankets for more mobile operations, or at least until more permanent facilities were erected.³⁰

Approximately 56 million dollars of federal relief funding was cycled through CCC programs within the state of Louisiana, a process which eventually employed some 51,820 men across the state. The CCC's pine nursery labors marked Louisiana as second in the nation in the volume of reforestation efforts during the Great Depression.³¹ Locally, CCC labor was responsible for constructing much of the infrastructure and initially planting most of the initial pine forest nurseries which now comprise the bulk of Kisatchie National Forest – including most of the Winn Ranger District.

By 1935 there were fifty-three active CCC camps in Louisiana, with the Kisatchie National Forest receiving its first in April 1933.³² In accordance with the promoted "multiple use" policies of the USFS, a number of recreational facilities were undergoing construction prior to the effort at Gum Springs. In July 1936 forest supervisor Phillip H. Bryan visited Gum Springs and noted that "the area shows signs of extensive use...with many old campfires on the spot and from the [locals] I have ascertained that it is very popular for picnic parties." Further planning for the development of the site began immediately. There were no formal swimming facilities open for public use within the vicinity of Winnfield and the USFS anticipated a developed site would "receive large use and be very popular with the people."³³

In 1937, 145 CCC workers were assigned to Company 5407³⁴, La. Camp F-6, near Calvin, Louisiana.³⁵ Of these, a "spike camp" housing thirty-seven workers was set up at Gum Springs with the task of developing what would become Gum Springs Recreation Area.

The main work on Gums Springs Recreation Area started in 1939 and called for the completion of a parking area, picnic tables and benches, barbeque pits, a children's playground and a swimming pool. Construction at the recreation area commenced with the earthen dam in March 1939. This laborious effort was captured in a 1939 photograph showing a number of men laboring with wheelbarrows and shovels to erect the dam. Corps personnel worked on the recreation area through 1941, and perhaps as late as the spring of 1942.³⁶ Additional work completed by the men of Company 5407 included the construction of forestry roads, fencing of forest plantations, ridding the area of unwanted wild hogs, forest fire fighting, the erection of telephone lines, the construction of twenty-three miles of fencing and the planting of 5.6 million seedlings between the years 1938 and 1939 alone.³⁷

The CCC program was disbanded in 1942 as the needs for the nation's young men shifted to the armed services and industry sectors.³⁸ Nationwide the CCC instilled upon its young enrollees -members of the future "Greatest Generation"- the principles that would soon evolve into modern environmentalism and conservation. Further, this initial promotion of outdoor recreation for the maintenance of human health and happiness would have a long and enduring effect upon the role of the USFS.³⁹

The legacy of the CCC work in the Kisatchie National Forest cannot today be overlooked. Many of the standing mature pine forests, USFS roads and a number of recreational and infrastructure constructions were developed by their labor. Additionally, between 1933 and 1941 the CCC erected eighteen steel lookout towers throughout the Kisatchie, likely including the extant tower near Gum Springs Recreation Area.⁴⁰ Today, there are few tangible resources outside of the pine nurseries left to mark the CCC presence in the state. When Gum Springs Recreation Area was undergoing construction, a strong emphasis was placed on the power of the individual workers (the CCC), the use of readily available native materials combined with construction techniques which harmonized with the natural landscape. These aspects are visible in the wide use of the ferruginous sandstone, cypress timbers and the native soil itself to develop much of the original recreation area. While a handful of structures remain, reportedly all of the CCC constructed buildings have been lost. A 1991 Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation report noted that Gum Springs "best exemplifies historic recreational CCC projects on the Kisatchie National Forest, and perhaps in central Louisiana as a whole."⁴¹

Criterion A: History-Entertainment/Recreation:

Gum Springs Recreation Area is locally significant under Criterion A for its historic contribution towards public entertainment and recreation for the citizens of Winn Parish and beyond. Winn and many of its surrounding parishes are composed of highly rural communities situated at some distance from urban recreational opportunities. As Forest Service Superintendent Phillip H. Bryan first noted in 1936, there was a distinct lack of recreational opportunities for the Winn public. Locally, Gum Springs was already unofficially in use for picnicking and camping well before the U.S. government occupation and development of the site. The old campfires and picnic debris scattered across the site were noted immediately by USFS personnel.⁴² Additionally, there were no formal swimming facilities open for public use within the vicinity of Winnfield and the USFS anticipated a developed site would "receive large use and be very popular with the people."⁴³

The site first opened in 1940 for a trial run prior to its completion. The recreation area was an instant success. In 1941 "drastic methods" were used to check problems resulting from such heavy use.⁴⁴ One former visitor

recalled that during the summers of 1947-1949 people travelled from all over the area to visit the “nice place to swim and picnic.” Jack Huckaby, then a 20-something military veteran with a young wife, recalled fondly spending between 2 and 3 days per week during the summer months at Gum Springs. “We had picnics -brought coke or beer depending on who we were with -- went swimming, it was a nice place to relax [under] the shade trees.” Apart from his own party Huckaby, a resident of nearby Red River Parish, recalled encountering at least “30 to 40” patrons with each visit. He recalled that everyone seemed to bring a carload of people with them. Huckaby was unable to return very often during the 1950s, but recalled hearing from his friends at Northwestern State College (now Northwestern State University in Natchitoches, LA) that the spot was particularly popular with the college crowds during those years.⁴⁵ By the peak of the recreation area’s use in the mid-1960s one account recorded more than 440 carloads of visitors over a July 4th weekend bringing an estimated 2,200 visitors. The same account referred to Gum Springs as “a modern oasis.”⁴⁶ This “oasis” was expanded and maintained carefully during this period. One former patron recalled being able to walk barefooted throughout the area, the grounds were so maintained free of thorny and scrub growth and infused with adequate artificial beaches.⁴⁷

By the 1950s however, expanding demands were emplaced upon the nation’s forests as the general public began to enjoy more leisure time and demanded more recreational opportunities. To fulfill these demands the USFS launched its “Operation Outdoors” plan in 1957. Similar to the National Park Service’s “Mission 66,” the five-year program was designed to improve and expand the recreational facilities already in place within the national forests.⁴⁸ 1957, in no coincidence, marked the beginning of major changes to the landscape at Gum Springs Recreation Area, beginning with the replacement of the swimming pool CCC era masonry rubble retaining wall. In a series of sweeping alterations the facilities at Gum Springs were expanded, and in some cases, completely reconstructed in an effort to better handle increasing visitor traffic while lowering maintenance costs. Between September 1957 and November 1960 the swimming pool wall was veneered with wooden piling and plank board, the diving docks were re-decked, the swimming pool bottom was resurfaced, the “beach” areas along the shallow west end of the pool were expanded, the latrines and bathhouses were demolished and reconstructed, waterlines were improved and added, cement picnic benches and tables were installed, the existing retaining walls were repaired, the rubble masonry staircases were expanded with poured cement and the northern road around the swimming pool was added. The modifications were done through the lens of perceived practicality, with little regard for harmonizing the improvements within the existing cultural or natural landscape. Furthermore, additional masonry construction for these Operation Outdoors era improvements was “dropped” from consideration.⁴⁹ Following these improvements, Gum Springs Recreation Area peaked in popularity with both locals and traveling motorists.

Concerns regarding the water quality at Gum Springs were expressed at least as early as 1942 when medical personnel from the local Winn-Jackson Parish Health Unit of Winnfield tested samples of the water for possible contamination.⁵⁰ Although the results of this analysis were either never received or ultimately not retained by the USFS, this event seems to foreshadow the coming melancholic fate of the recreation area. In 1949 an inspection by the Louisiana State Department of Health directed the USFS to discourage visitors from both collecting the spring water which fed the swimming pool for later use and from directly consuming water within the pool. As a result a number of signs were erected by the USFS declaring: “This water is unsafe for human consumption as inspected by the Louisiana State Department of Health.” Temporary signs were considered appropriate until the contamination problem was corrected. At this time an economical method to chlorinate the water was in discussion.⁵¹ Evidently, whatever measures were taken to reverse the levels of contamination of the springs and spring-fed swimming pool, the level of contaminants had not decreased to a satisfactory degree by 1958 when yet another investigation resulted in orders to cleanse the pool.⁵² Finally, in a brief, polite, letter

dated August 6, 1968, Perry V. Watson, a regional engineer with the Louisiana State Department of Health, recommended the final closure of the swimming pool.

Watson and others had conducted an onsite inspection which determined that the pool was “not suitable for use by the public in its present condition.” The causation was determined as a low supply of fresh water coming from the weakening natural springs, coupled with unsanitary levels of bacteriological contamination.⁵³ The USFS immediately complied with Watson’s petition, closing the swimming pool to public use while the surrounding camping and larger recreational area remained open. Perhaps for principally economic reasons the swimming pool was not to open again. By the late 1960s the natural springs which fed the pool flowed at a much slower rate than when the pool opened. Additionally, increased regulations on water quality meant the USFS would be required to install at minimum a more advanced system of filters and pumps in addition to totally cementing the swimming pool.⁵⁴ With the Operation Outdoors era enthusiasm and funding sources now some five years removed, forest service personnel would have had a difficult time securing the means to accomplish these improvements. Ironically, much of the resource investment and capital utilized during the Operation Outdoors era would soon be squandered in an effort to control costs.

In the years following the closure of the swimming pool, a barrage of concerned citizens, a U.S. Congressman, the Winn Parish Police Jury and even the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) contacted the USFS in an effort to reopen the swimming pool at Gum Springs. Though feasibility studies for a possible restoration project were proposed, no constructive action was taken.⁵⁵ By the mid-1970s public visitation and subsequent maintenance of the recreation area had decreased to a level of benign neglect. Gum Springs Recreation Area entered a time of limited patronage and few visitors where beforehand the pool had been a “Mecca” of public recreation for northern Louisiana.

Conclusion:

Gum Springs Recreation Area developed as it was originally intended, as a place for public enjoyment and recreational use. The site is an aesthetic amalgamation of a striking natural vista with a sensitively culturally modified landscape. It is a mostly wooded, naturally occurring spring-fed drainage basin, dammed and thus harnessed as a public swimming pool and recreational space. Gum Springs Recreation Area contributed significantly to bolstering the public entertainment and recreational opportunities available to several rural and under-developed North Central Louisiana parishes. Additionally, the site possesses rare examples of Great Depression era Civilian Conservation Corps improvement projects within the north central portion of the state. Few extant places in Louisiana exhibit such preserved characteristics related to this period and context of significance. Gum Springs Recreation Area, once the pride of Winn Parish, is a unique and historically significant setting within the environs of the Kisatchie National Forest. For these significant contributions to local history the property was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A by the USFS in 1991. The Louisiana State Historic Preservation Office concurred.⁵⁶

Developmental history/additional historic context information (if appropriate)

Nineteenth Century Winn Parish

The recorded historic period began for Gum Springs, and indeed much of Winn Parish, following the Louisiana Purchase of 1803. Prior to this time, few French or Spanish colonists settled in the areas immediately northeast of Natchitoches, Louisiana, settled as a colonial village ca. 1714. At that time the area was considered a bit of a

frontier. Hundreds and later thousands of Anglo-Protestant settlers moving from east of the Mississippi River soon began immigrating into the newly acquired territory to establish new and bolster existing villages and settlements of various strengths and sizes across the landscape. The land encompassing Township Eleven North, Range Four West, of the Northwestern District of Louisiana was surveyed for the State of Louisiana by Thomas J. Collins and E. R. Christie in the spring of 1833 and offered at public sale on January 28, 1839. With the exception of possible squatters, fugitives of the law, or otherwise unrecorded settlers, between June and August 1863 Adolphus DuPlissey and R. W. Woods were the first to patent land in Township Eleven North, Range Four West. Bearing some indication of the remoteness of Winn at this time, these patents were issued from a land office in Natchitoches Parish. Their properties were not within the immediate vicinity of Gum Springs, indeed many years would pass before the vicinity would experience any form of continuous habitation.⁵⁷

Winn Parish was carved away from the northeastern tip of greater Natchitoches Parish in February 1852 by Act No. 85 under then Louisiana Governor Joseph Walker's administration. At this time the parish was well removed from much of the long established settlements further south. The fledgling parish then had a population of only 2,628 persons, some one-quarter of whom were enslaved persons.⁵⁸ Nineteenth century Louisiana's economy was based almost entirely upon agricultural production, especially in the region around the navigable Red River which Winn Parish borders to the southwest. However, the soils of much of Winn Parish were not considered at that time worthy of stable production. By 1853 only 3,479 acres were under either corn or cotton cultivation within the parish. The majority of that acreage was planted in corn, the more easily cultivated, but the historically least profitable of the two crops.⁵⁹ If agricultural production in Winn Parish was limited at best, then industrial production in early Winn was even more restricted. In one instance early prospectors developed a potential site for a marble quarry along a natural outcrop of limestone rock. Located along the road to Natchitoches, this deposit was the source of much speculation, and the end venture of many thousands of dollars from one prospector to the next. Historically, none were able to successfully exploit it, and "all it ever amounted to in those days was a lot of digging."⁶⁰

One exception to the rule of limited industrial means in nineteenth century Winn Parish is the notable story of an early salt mining complex spanning the Winn and Natchitoches Parish borders near the present day town of Goldonna, Louisiana. Drake's Salt Works was in use by prehistoric American Indians since at least the time of the Caddoan period (AD 800-1700). The earliest written accounts of salt procurement from the area are typically attributed to the journal of French explorer and later colonial governor of Louisiana Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, Sieur de Bienville when on March 22, 1700 he recorded: "Four and a half leagues to the west from the Tensas we found some Ouachitas, with several pirogues partly loaded with salt." Additionally, salt trading was recorded in the nearby native village of Natchitoches as early as 1690. The major industrial use of the Drake's Salt Works occurred following Rueben Drake's ca. 1840 acquisition of the property. By 1841 he had bored brine wells as deep as 1011' and built a host of other structures for his operation including a sawmill, gristmill, brine furnaces and a blacksmith shop. He also had erected earthen dams to redirect bayous to power his mills and expose salt flats, carved artificial ditches and bayous, built cypress log irrigation systems and other support buildings and structures to house his workers and materials. Following Drake, in 1854 J. C. Weeks acquired the property and began to produce 30 to 40 bushels of salt per day during season. During the Civil War, refugees from war torn locales came for work and remote asylum as their communities were either burned or under occupation. As one researcher recorded: "People came for salt from distant points in the state and as the war went on people from Mississippi, Alabama and Arkansas joined the crowds." However, shortly following the war's end advances in salt manufacturing technology, and the discovery of additional salt domes spelled the end of production at Drake's.⁶¹

With the above considerations in mind, Antebellum Winn Parish from a birds-eye-view must have resembled a great pine forest, dotted only sporadically with a few settlement clearings strung out along an even more sparse arrangement of barely traversable roads. These paths of early Winn Parish left a particular impression in the minds of those who traveled them. Recalling the conditions of the area a turn of the century geologist wrote: "At one moment one finds himself in a narrow step-sided valley, at another on top of a divide, crossing some trail, path, or wagon road of some description, for the roads and trails in their earlier stages of development are almost invariably along the summits of ridges."⁶² Around 1812 the U.S. military carved a road running south from the state of Arkansas into Catahoula Parish and thence further south into Alexandria, Louisiana.⁶³ This road typically followed natural ridgelines and saddles within the topography of the landscape, crossing through the eastern half of Sections 28 and 33, bypassing the naturally flowing Gum Springs by some 400 yards. Samuel H. Lockett, an engineer with the Louisiana State Seminary at Pineville, traveled this route during a topographic survey of the state, recording the landscape the path traversed as "fearful...hilly and thinly settled country." The road "apparently select[ed] the steepest parts of the ridges for ascent and descent, [and was] all washed and gullied or else full of roots and stumps."⁶⁴

While the prospect for a good supply of palatable water was poor in many parts of the parish, during times of regular precipitation water flowed easily through the sandy soils of the southwestern hills.⁶⁵ The resulting emergence of the flowing springs along natural slough and ridgelines across the area no doubt drew regular visitors. It seems the odd occurrence of travelers along this route, perhaps weary for an intermittent reprieve, watering horses in the natural springs, or resting along the hillsides under the shade of the great timber, was the only sort of human activity the Gum Springs site would occasion for the next seventy years or more.

While the nation was moving towards the brink of civil war, Winn Parish remained physically and socially divided from much of the state. Few families held wealth in the region; the distribution of wealth at this time typically coincided with ownership of enslaved persons. One hundred-sixty-three persons, or about five percent of the free population, owned one or more enslaved individuals in Winn Parish by July 1860. The great majority of these owners held five or less, with many holding only one. In only two instances did an individual own more than one hundred enslaved persons, as was much more commonplace in other districts of the state.⁶⁶ Hilly, forested, sparsely populated and poor for agriculture, the Winn Parish of 1861 did not closely resemble the landed plantation estates throughout Louisiana whose owners were often crying the loudest for state secession. Those parishes with the most agricultural production, and typically the most enslaved workers, would have the most to lose from possible emancipation. The sole delegate representing Winn at the state secession convention of January 1861 was one of only seventeen out of 130 who would not vote to secede from the Union. As many contemporaries in Winn saw it, the coming Civil War was destined to be a rich man's war and a poor man's fight. Because Winn Parish did not vote to secede at the 1861 convention, it was thereafter informally referred to as the "Free State of Winn." Nevertheless, Winn would send some 700 soldiers to fight for the southern Confederacy, many of which were probably conscripted.⁶⁷ Dissatisfaction with the new government and general unrest would reign during the war years. However, in September 1863 the Confederate Army operating in Louisiana was forced to deploy two regiments to dispatch marauding bands of "jayhawkers," "deserters and stragglers" operating in Winn. Later, while planning his ultimately successful defense of the Red River valley in 1864, Confederate General Richard Taylor provided for the protection of the Confederate supply columns from jayhawkers while moving through Homer, Sparta and Winnfield.⁶⁸ Though its soldiers shared the burden of armed conflict, Winn Parish itself was spared much from the battlefield ravages of war; no major campaigns or military engagements moved through the area.

When the conflict ended the region advanced into a further extended period of social strife and economic hardship. The prospects for wealth or even mere subsistence seemed reduced further than anytime before. The

town of Winnfield in particular, seemed to lag behind other parish seats, if not also within the context of its own region, when in 1903 a New Orleans Picayune correspondent passing through the area wrote: “until a few years ago, Winnfield consisted of a store and a bunch of goats.”⁶⁹ It would soon be discovered however, that the wealth of this land came not from its thin soil, but from its abundance of timber and the prospects of subsurface natural resources.

The Railroad, Speculators and the Lumber Barons

Due in large part to the relatively poor agricultural use of the land, coupled with a very sparse population, land patents came somewhat late to many sections of Winn Parish.⁷⁰ Following Reconstruction, numerous land prospectors and railroad agents from far away cities and with deep pockets descended upon Winn Parish and much of unsettled north Louisiana in an effort to snatch all of the forested land ahead of the emerging industrial and timber boom. In the early 1880s The New Orleans Pacific Railway and Company patented every unclaimed –and there were many– odd numbered section or partial sections within Township Eleven North, Range Four West. These patents resembled a virtual checkerboard on the parish plat maps.⁷¹ Literally hundreds of sections of land had been granted to the railroad companies after reconstruction ended.⁷² Under the direction of the busy railway agent Felix Raymond, the railway company patented the entirety of Section Thirty-three, containing the southern half of Gum Springs, in 1882.⁷³

Following the railway agents came the land and timber speculators, eagerly scooping up what land the railroad didn't acquire in hopes of selling for a later profit. James R. Silliman patented the entirety of Section Twenty-eight, including the northern portion of Gum Springs, on December 30, 1882 during a two-year land grabbing binge through which he acquired no less than forty properties in Winn Parish totaling thousands of acres of land.⁷⁴ A little more than five months later Silliman, a resident of Orleans Parish, sold Section Twenty-eight and a number of other properties to the New York Lumber Company of Buffalo, New York for \$30,000.00 cash in hand.⁷⁵ Whereas the vast timberland had been previously ignored, the merchantable value of the pine forest was now mercilessly recognized. Silliman continued his timber prospecting throughout the 1880s, receiving royalties from the Bodcaw Lumber Company on no less than ten occasions.⁷⁶

Meanwhile, The New Orleans Pacific Railway, not having any apparent interest in timber or needing the right-of-way, sold to Mr. Jay Gould of New York, New York thousands of acres of their previously acquired Winn Parish properties. Among the thousands of acres acquired was the entirety of Section Thirty-three, including the northern half of Gum Springs. Gould paid, in cash, \$66,001.93 for the vast stretch of land.⁷⁷ His local land holdings soon included parcels of land in Natchitoches, Winn and Vernon Parishes and his firm control over the Wabash, the Texas and Pacific, and the Union Pacific Railroads, among other ventures such as the Western Union telegraph company, ensured his status as the quintessential railroad and industry tycoon of the late 1800s.⁷⁸ Following his death his son George struck a deal with the Forest Lumber Company covering 48,000 acres of his father's investments in Louisiana “for the purpose to cut, haul and manufacture merchantable pine timber.” The deal made the family hundreds of thousands of dollars. Gould's investments had a habit of turning legendary profits, and by the turn of the century his children were living, “temporarily,” in Paris, France.⁷⁹ The ownership of Gum Springs would alternate between no less than three lumber companies into the twentieth century. During these times it was not uncommon for one timber company to purchase many thousands of acres at once as they bought out another's lands. Such was the case when the New York Lumber Company sold to the Southern Woods Lumber Company many thousands of acres, including both portions of Gum Springs, in a sweeping deal that took no less than nine Winn Parish conveyance record pages and two sketch maps to record.⁸⁰

Government Acquisition

Prior to and during the initial age of the lumber barons and of the rapid industrial development of the late 1800s virgin forests covered about eighty-five percent of Louisiana, much of this sampling in stands of magnificent pine timber. By 1914, Louisiana ranked second among states in U. S. lumber production.⁸¹

However, thirty years of the “cut-out-and-get-out” practices of the giant lumber companies, whose corporate offices were typically located well north of the state, had left much of Louisiana a “blackened stump wasteland.” A massive downturn in the timber industry followed as a result of these unsustainable practices, all of this occurring in time to coincide with the nationally sweeping Great Depression.⁸²

All too aware of the ecological crime being enacted upon the state of Louisiana by the lumber companies, concerned citizens began to voice opposition to lumber company cut-out-and-get-out practices. Henry Hardtner, a native Louisianan and himself a sawmill owner, began to practice techniques of reforestation at a time when both the term and the discipline of forestry were almost unheard of. Hardtner requested the United States Forest Service, itself in a stage of relative infancy, to study the possibility of acquiring forest property in Louisiana. The first USFS agents arrived in what would become the Kisatchie National Forest in 1913. In addition to the concerned mill owner, Caroline Dorman, a Louisiana school teacher, began a personal mission to save the virgin Kisatchie stands from the unquenchable thirst of the “company” sawmills. She began a series of letter campaigns to Congress, timber companies and to the USFS.⁸³

The combined efforts of Dorman, Hardtner and others did not go unnoticed. Made possible by the 1911 Weeks Act, the first USFS “purchase units” came to Louisiana and to the Kisatchie in 1928. By this time Louisiana was greatly suffering from the clear cutting of its once plentiful forestland and many lumber companies saw the clear cut land as nothing more than a yearly tax burden. With economic hard times already commencing in Louisiana, many lumber companies were happy to sell this “useless” land to the government.⁸⁴ On May 3, 1934 the Bodcaw Lumber Company sold 74,047.79 acres to the United States of America for \$148,095.58, or for an average of exactly \$2.00 per acre. This property purchase included the whole of Gum Springs.⁸⁵ On June 3, 1936 President Franklin Roosevelt issued an executive order designating all government purchase units in Catahoula, Evangeline, Natchitoches, Winn and Vernon Parishes as the Kisatchie National Forest.⁸⁶

Additional History of Gum Springs Recreation Area: The War Years and Beyond

Beginning with the Louisiana Maneuvers of 1940, much of the United States Forest Service lands in Louisiana were “drafted” for military training and war games through 1945. The remote nature of the property suited the military for extensive maneuvers across the landscape. Forest lands were used for every purpose from war games to artillery ranges. Such was the case as thousands of acres around Winn Parish, including within the vicinity of Gum Springs, evolved into enormous “bombing ranges.”⁸⁷ After experiencing an apparent lull in maintenance and visitor use during the height of the Second World War, Gum Springs Recreational Area was back on the USFS agenda as early as May 1945. At this time a work order was placed to maintain the trails (likely including the erosion control terraces), swimming pool drains, open up the springs, repair the swimming pool walls and to make repairs to the docks and other buildings.⁸⁸ Although public use had been both encouraged and entertained as early as 1940, Gum Springs Recreation Area was officially “set apart and reserved for public recreation use” by regional forester J. Hubert Stone on December 28, 1948.⁸⁹ However, in the immediate postwar era the main focus of the USFS was to continue to promote good forestry practices throughout the nation, and to ensure that the returning soldiers had a plentiful supply of lumber with which to build their new houses.⁹⁰

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 10 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References
(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

| | | | | | | | |
|---|------|---------|----------|---|------|---------|----------|
| 1 | 15 | 520740 | 3529040 | 3 | 15 | 520920 | 3529220 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | 15 | 520960 | 3529020 | 4 | 15 | 520760 | 3529220 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing | | Zone | Easting | Northing |

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

The boundaries for the recreation area follow the northern, eastern and southern perimeter roads around the natural ridges surrounding the historic swimming pool and picnic area. The proposed eastern boundary of the site consists of a line offset from the historic earthen dam to the east some one hundred feet and running northwest to southeast. These boundaries are shown on the attached sketch map.

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

Boundaries were chosen to encompass the historic setting and resources of the Gum Springs Recreation Area. These boundaries were defined by an analysis of the natural terrain, cultural features and historic records. Because the historic area is located within a natural depression in the landscape, boundaries follow the inner perimeter of the ridge-top roads outlining the site on the north, west, and south. The eastern boundary was chosen in order to include all the site's historic resources. Since there is no road on that side of the site, that boundary consists of a line running parallel to the eastern façade of the earthen dam at a distance of 100 feet. This boundary extends in a northwest to southeast line until it intersects the resource's northern and southern boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title W. Ryan Smith, M.A.

organization Cultural Resource office date Summer 2010

street & number Northwestern State University telephone 318.357.6130

city or town Natchitoches state LA zip code 71497

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Form Edited By

name/title Patricia Duncan, National Register Coordinator

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street & number P. O. Box 44247 telephone (225) 219-4595

city or town Baton Rouge state LA zip code 70804

e-mail pduncan@crt.state.la.us

Gum Springs Recreation Area
Name of Property

Winn Parish, LA
County and State

Property Ownership (Required by Louisiana National Register Review Committee)

name/title United States of America
organization Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger District
street & number 12319 H.W. Hwy 84 West telephone 318.628.4664
city or town Winnfield state LA zip code 71483
e-mail _____

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **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. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Continuation Sheets**
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. fo the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Endnotes

- ¹ Alan W. Dorian, *Cultural Resources Management Summary 91-6: The Gum Springs Picnic Site (16WN251)*, (Pineville, La.: Kisatchie National Forest, Southern Region, USDA Forest Service, 1991), *n.p.*, TMs (photocopy), original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La.
- ² For instance, facilities were constructed to “harmonize with their [natural] surroundings,” native ferruginous sandstone was chosen and emplaced with as little visible mortar as possible to “appear as natural rock formations.” The shape of the swimming pool was made “less regular...so as to appear more natural.” The use of concrete blocks for the construction of facilities at Gum Springs, though available to the USFS, was initially rejected because that material would “not harmonize with the surroundings.” William P Kramer, to Forest Supervisor, 14 August 1936; Philip H. Bryan, to Regional Forester, 17 May 1939, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ³ J. C. Galloway, to Forest Supervisor, 28 October, 1940, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁴ Measured Drawings, CCC Picnic Shelter Elevations, Historic American Engineering Record, Gum Springs Recording Project, Christopher F. Spurl, registered landscape architect. Photocopy, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La. This documentation was never completed or submitted to the HAER repository.
- ⁵ “Philip H. Bryan, to Ranger Tannehill,” 8 May 1939, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁶ CCC Picnic Shelter Elevations, Historic American Engineering Record, Gum Springs Recording Project, Christopher F. Spurl, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La.
- ⁷ Philip H. Bryan, to Regional Forester, 16 March 1939, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁸ The date of the construction was determined by a review of the historic construction plans and documents for Gums Springs Recreation Area. The shelters were originally proposed as rectilinear upon the 1938 development plans. Thereafter, in a letter dated October 28, 1940, the shelters are described as “partially complete.” Later, upon the updated November 1940 development plan the shelters are depicted as “existing,” drawn hexagonal in form and evidently erected within their present location.; Philip H. Bryan, “Construction Approval: Gum Springs Recreation Area,” TMs, 20 April 1940, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁹ George K. Schaeffer, to Regional Forester, 17 September 1957, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.; Alan W. Dorian, *Cultural Resources Management Summary 91-6*, 1991, *n.p.*
- ¹⁰ W. R. Paddock to Regional Forester, 23 August 1941, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ¹¹ Alan W. Dorian, *Cultural Resources Management Summary 91-6*, 1991, *n.p.*
- ¹² William P Kramer, to Forest Supervisor, 14 August 1936; Philip H. Bryan, to Regional Forester, 17 May 1939, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ¹³ W. R. Paddock, to Regional Forester, 23 August 1941.
- ¹⁴ Topographical survey map, “Gum Springs Picnic Site Kisatchie National Forest,” 1959, R.L.S., original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La.
- ¹⁵ W.R. Paddock, to Ranger Tannehill and Princ. Foreman, F-6, 27 September 1940, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ¹⁶ Anonymous, “Bill of Material for Frame Bath House: Drawing B-10701,” TMs, February 1939, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ¹⁷ Ray W. Brandt, to Regional Forester, 20 March 1958, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ¹⁸ Phillip H. Bryan, “Gum Springs Picnic Area,” 17 July 1936.
- ¹⁹ B.O. Hughes, to Regional Forester, 4 April 1940, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.; Rezin E. Pidgeon, to Associate Landscape Architect Bowers, 23 March 1939.
- ²⁰ Margrett L. Boley, to Pam Breaux, 21 March 2007, TLS, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ²¹ The surviving planning and construction paper trail for the site begins with a one page, typewritten note dated July 17, 1936, proposing the development of a picnic site and a small wading pool for children. By June the next year, plans for a much more significant development were approved with CCC workers preparing to break ground.

²² Anonymous, "Gum Springs 1966 Modern Oasis, Hailed as Recreation Spot," *The Winn Historian*, photocopy in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La. The original date of the article and page number was not recorded at the time of the copy.

²³ *A Great and Lasting Good*, USDA, Forest Service, Southern Region, 2008.

²⁴ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 17.

²⁵ Civilian Conservation Corps, Office of the Director, "The Civilian Conservation Corps: What It Is and What It Does," 1939, recruitment pamphlet, original held in collection of the U. S. Department of Archives and History, Montgomery, Al. Transcription by Alan Dorian, 1990, n.p.; *A Great and Lasting Good*, USDA, Forest Service, Southern Region, 2008.

²⁶ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 18.

²⁷ Ibid.

²⁸ "The Civilian Conservation Corps: What It Is and What It Does," 1939. n.p.

²⁹ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 17.

³⁰ *A Great and Lasting Good*, USDA, Forest Service, Southern Region, 2008.

³¹ Donna Fricker, Fontainebleau State Park National Register Nomination, September 1998. Copy on file with the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation.

³² Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 17.

³³ Philip H. Bryan, "Gum Springs Picnic Area," 17 July 1936, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

³⁴ Company 5407 was known at the time for its unusually advanced athletic ability. Creating a baseball diamond at Gum Springs was evidently one of the first projects for the men of the spike camp. The main camp boasted "one of the best athletic fields," manned by "crackerjack" basketball and baseball players, as well as boxers. In 1937 the company basketball players won several local and state independent league championships. One enrollee was able to acquire a scholarship for college offered as a result of his superb "goal tossing ability." The unnamed enrollee was one of only two of the company attending college while several were working toward completion of high school. In this regard, CCC workers were often eligible to enroll in after-hour or weekend classes to pursue a college degree or high school diploma. Curiously, the educational experience within the camp differed from most with the last-minute inclusion of a class in "bee culture," a result of the capture of an entire swarm of bees by one quick-moving and intrepid young enrollee (R. V. K. Harris, *District E: Civilian Conservation Corps*, (Camp Beauregard, La.: Civilian Conservation Corps, 1939), 224-225, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La.; Topographical survey map, 1938, Hugh K. Harris; Philip H. Bryan to Ranger Tannehill and Chief Foreman May, 15 July 1938.)

³⁵ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch. *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 20.

³⁶ Rezin E. Pidgeon, to Associate Landscape Architect Bowers, 23 March 1939; W. R. Paddock to Ranger Tannehill, 2 February 1942, originals in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

³⁷ R. V. K. Harris, *District E: Civilian Conservation Corps*, 225.

³⁸ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch. *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 25.

³⁹ *A Great and Lasting Good: A Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps*, produced by U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Southern Region. 2008, Video Documentary.

⁴⁰ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch. *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 30, 70.

⁴¹ Alan W. Dorian, *Cultural Resources Management Summary 91-6: The Gum Springs Picnic Site (16WN251)*

⁴² Philip H. Bryan to Regional Forester, 19 June 1937, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

⁴³ Ibid.

⁴⁴ W. R. Paddock to Regional Forester, 23 August 1941, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

⁴⁵ Jack Huckaby, Personal Communication, 30 March 2010.

⁴⁶ Anonymous, "Gum Springs 1966 Modern Oasis, Hailed as Recreation Spot," *The Winn Historian*, photocopy in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Pineville, La. The original date of the article and page number was not recorded at the time of the copy.

⁴⁷ Craig Rice, Personal Communication, Gum Springs Recreation Area, 19 June 2009.

⁴⁸ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 45.

⁴⁹ George K. Schaeffer, to Regional Forester, Alexandria, 17 September 1957; Philip H. Bryan, to Forest Supervisor, 8 November 1957; Ray W. Brandt, to Regional Forester, 20 March 1958, TL; Philip H. Bryan, to Forest Supervisor, 10 November 1960, TL, originals in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

⁵⁰ W. R. Paddock and Gilbert H. Stradt, to Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, 27 August 27, 1942, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

- ⁵¹ Hugh S. Redding, to Forest Supervisor, 23 August 1949, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵² John E. Trygg, to Jack W. McElroy, 20 May 1958, TLS, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵³ Perry V. Watson, to Forest Supervisor, 6 August 1968, TLS, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵⁴ Anthony O. Sassone, to Joel Nitz, 27, February 1976, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵⁵ J. Lamar Beasley, to the Honorable Otto Passman, 27 June 1973, TLS; Frank J. Ferrarelli, to Winn District Ranger, 31 March 1976, TL; Roland Carter to the Honorable Otto E. Passman, April 20, 1976; Frank J. Ferrarelli to Roland Carter, 4 May 1976, TL; Joel H. Nitz, to District Ranger, 16 May 1978, TLS, originals in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵⁶ Leslie P. Tassin, to Cynthia A. Witkowski, 19 March 1991, TLS, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.
- ⁵⁷ Historic plat map and patent records, Township 11 North, Range 4 West, Northwestern District, Louisiana State Land Office Online Documents [database on-line]; available from http://1webfn.doa.la.gov/slodocs/SLO/hist_records.htm. Additionally, surviving Civil War era maps of the region which make careful detail to plot bridges, roads, plantations, settlements and farmsteads, depict no relatively nearby settlements or major farmsteads in relation to Gum Springs other than within the community of New Jerusalem, which was located several miles away. Wood's and DuPlissey's (sometimes spelled "Duplessis") properties' were located well north and to the east of Gum Springs. Dhale and Eugene F. Love. *Looking Back: Winn Parish, Louisiana 1852-1986* (Bossier City: La., The Everett Companies,) 1986, 127. The full collection of captured Confederate maps may be reviewed at the Map Collections, Cammie G. Henry Research Center, Northwestern state University, Natchitoches, La.
- ⁵⁸ Dhale and Eugene F. Love. *Looking Back*, 1986, 6.
- ⁵⁹ In fact the soil contained in Sections 28 and 33, the location of Gum Springs, was considered "thin" and characteristically "poor" by Christie and Collins as they surveyed the site in 1833. Additionally, they recorded that the land at that time as "hilly," and covered in a canopy of pine, oak, hickory and ash. Surveyors Field Notes, Louisiana State Land Office Online Documents [database on-line]; available from http://1webfn.doa.la.gov/slodocs/SLO/hist_records.htm.
- ⁶⁰ *Winnfield News-American*. 9 September 1938, as cited from an article originally entitled "Winn Parish Boundary Lines Established Over 80 Years Ago." Gregory E. Davies, transcriber, [database on-line]; available from <http://usgwarchives.net/la/lafiles.htm>.
- ⁶¹ Joshua Martin, Drake's Salt Works Complex: Natchitoches Parish, LA," Submitted to the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Kisatchie National Forest, 2008, 5-8; Gilbert D. Harris, "Improvements in Louisiana Cartography: Special Report No. 5," *A Report on the Geology of Louisiana*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1902, 51-59.
- ⁶² Gilbert D. Harris, "Notes on the Geology of the Winnfield Sheet," *Geological Survey of Louisiana*. Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University, 1907, 6.
- ⁶³ Dhale and Eugene F. Love. *Looking Back*, 1986, 6.
- ⁶⁴ Ibid, 11.
- ⁶⁵ Gilbert D. Harris, "Notes on the Geology of the Winnfield Sheet," 33-34.
- ⁶⁶ 1860 Winn Parish Slave Schedule, transcribed by Gregory E. Davies, [database on-line]; available from <http://usgwarchives.net/la/lafiles.htm>.
- ⁶⁷ Dhale and Eugene F. Love. *Looking Back*, 1986, 128-129.
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- ⁷⁰ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 5.
- ⁷¹ Historic Plat Map, Township 11 North, Range 4 West. Louisiana State Land Office Online Documents [database on-line]; available from http://1webfn.doa.la.gov/slodocs/SLO/hist_records.htm.
- ⁷² Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 5.
- ⁷³ Historic Tract Record Book, Township 11 North, Range 4 West, Section 33. Louisiana State Land Office Online Documents [database on-line]; available from http://1webfn.doa.la.gov/slodocs/SLO/hist_records.htm.
- ⁷⁴ Historic Tract Record Book, Township 11 North, Range 4 West, Section 28. Louisiana State Land Office Online Documents [database on-line]; available from http://1webfn.doa.la.gov/slodocs/SLO/hist_records.htm; Tract Book, Winn Parish, transcribed by Gregory Davies.
- ⁷⁵ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book T, Page 586.
- ⁷⁶ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book T, Page 386-387.
- ⁷⁷ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book A, Page 129.

⁷⁸ Anonymous, "Jay Gould Biography," <http://www.notablebiographies.com/Gi-He/Gould-Jay.html>, 2007. For more information on the industry tycoon Jay Gould see Klein, Maury. *The Life and Legend of Jay Gould*. Baltimore, Md.: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986.

⁷⁹ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book AA, Page 634.

⁸⁰ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book F, Page 153.

⁸¹ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, v.

⁸² Ibid.

⁸³ Ibid, 8-10.

⁸⁴ Ibid.

⁸⁵ Winn Parish Courthouse, Conveyance Record Book 44, Page 165.

⁸⁶ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch, *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 1994, 10.

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⁸⁸ Anonymous, "Project Work Inventory – Project Sheet," 26 May 1945, TMs, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

⁸⁹ Survey map and land classification record, "Kisatchie National Forest, Gum Springs Recreation Area," 1948, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.

⁹⁰ Anna C. Burns and Ronald W. Couch. *A History of the Kisatchie National Forest*, 37.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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| Gum Springs Recreation Area |
| Name of Property |
| Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State |
| NA |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 9 Page 1

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gum Springs Recreation Area

Name of Property

Winn Parish, LA

County and State

NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 2

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

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| Gum Springs Recreation Area |
| Name of Property Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State NA |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 9 Page 3

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
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| Gum Springs Recreation Area |
| Name of Property Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State NA |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number 9 Page 4

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gum Springs Recreation Area

Name of Property
Winn Parish, LACounty and State
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 5

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Gum Springs Recreation Area

Name of Property
Winn Parish, LA

County and State
NA

Name of multiple listing (if applicable)

Section number 9 Page 6

Watson, Jr., Perry V. to Forest Supervisor, Kisatchie National Forest. 6 August 1968, TL, original in the collection of the Kisatchie National Forest, Winn Ranger Station, Winn Parish, La.



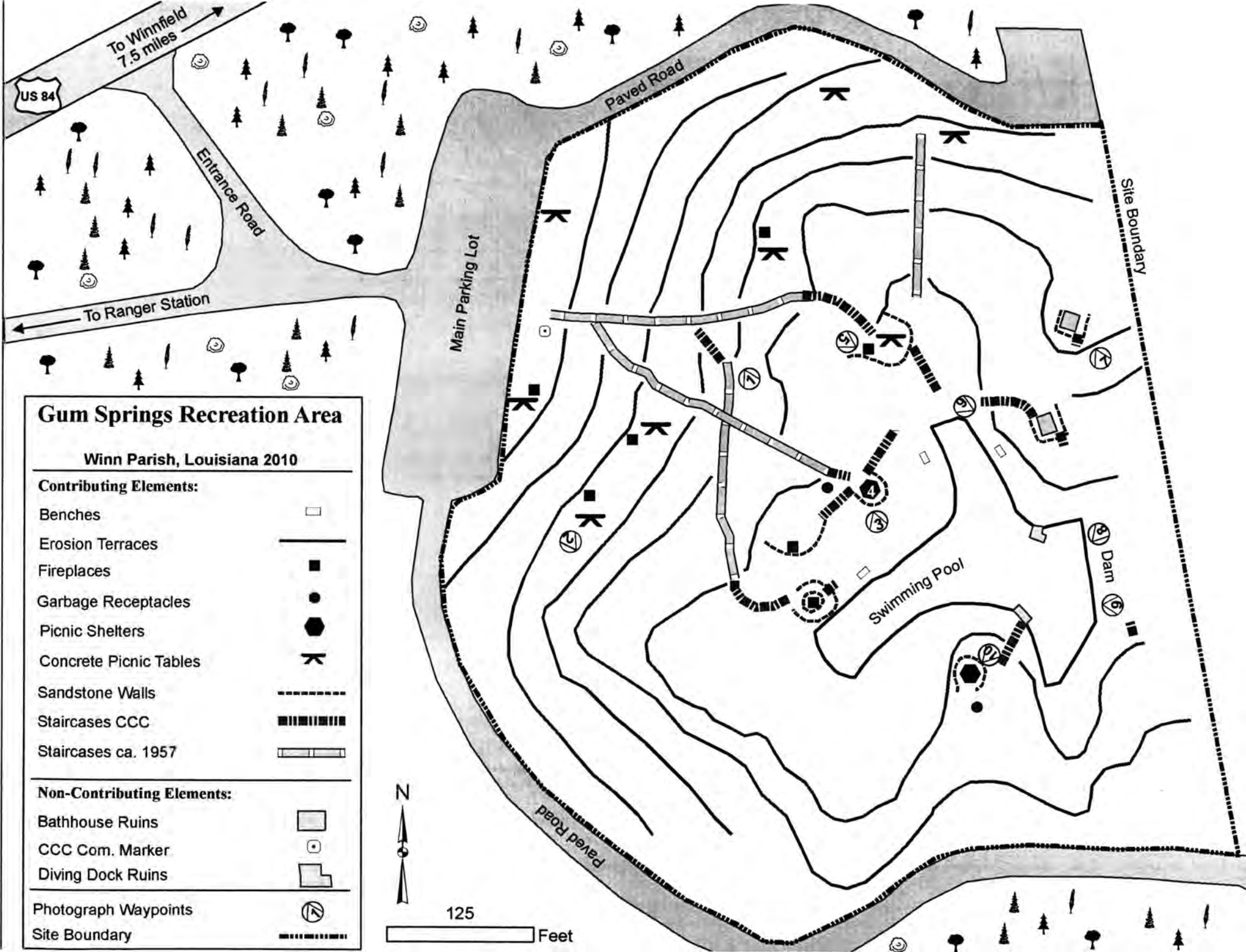








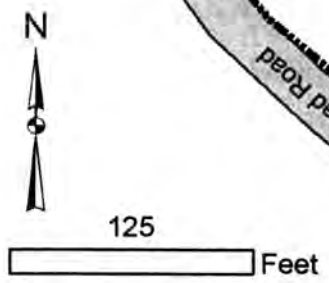




Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winn Parish, Louisiana 2010

| Contributing Elements: | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Benches | |
| Erosion Terraces | |
| Fireplaces | |
| Garbage Receptacles | |
| Picnic Shelters | |
| Concrete Picnic Tables | |
| Sandstone Walls | |
| Staircases CCC | |
| Staircases ca. 1957 | |
| Non-Contributing Elements: | |
| Bathhouse Ruins | |
| CCC Com. Marker | |
| Diving Dock Ruins | |
| Photograph Waypoints | |
| Site Boundary | |





Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield Vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Northwest

LA - Winn Parish - Gum Springs Recreation Area - 0001.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area
Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LASHP Digital Archives
Southeast

LA-Winn Parish - Gum Springs Recreation Area - 0002.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

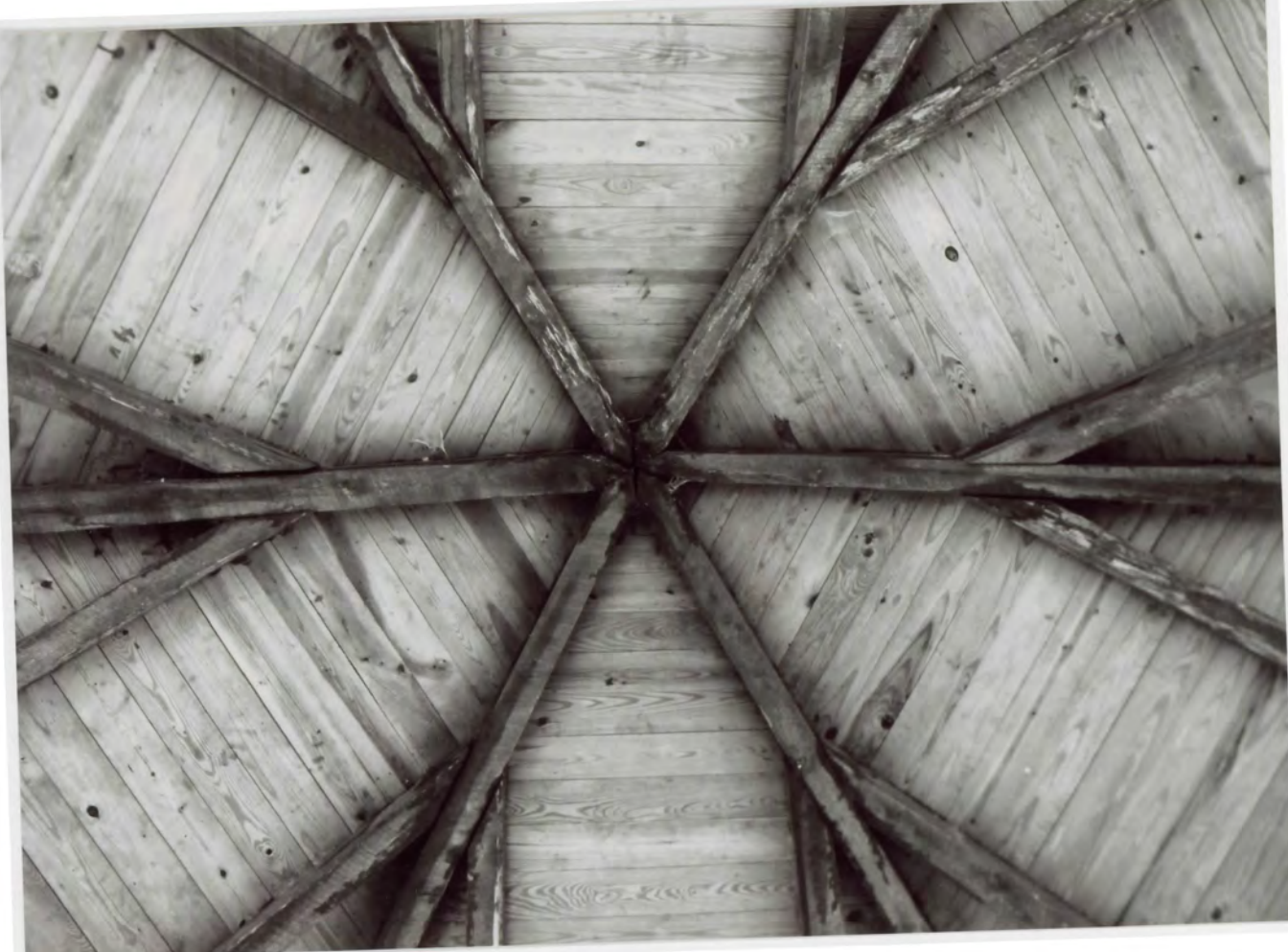
Spring 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

North, Northwest

LA-WinnParish-GumSpringsRecreationArea-0003.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

No Direction - Looking UP

LA - Winn Parish - Gum Springs Recreation Area - 0004.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LASHPO Digital Archives

Southeast

LA-Winn Parish-Gum Springs Recreation Area-0005.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LASHPD Digital Archives

Southeast

LA-Winn Parish-Gum Springs Recreation Area-0006.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

w. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LASHP Digital Archives

Northwest

LA-Winn Parish-Gum Springs Recreation Area-0007.tif



Gum Springs Recreation Area

Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

Spring 2010

LASHPD Digital Archives

Southeast

LA - Winn Parish - Gum Springs Recreation Area - 0008.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area
Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith
Spring 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

West
LA-Winn Parish-Gum Springs Recreation Area_0009.tif

0914805, LA-Winn Parish-Gum Springs Recr

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Gum Springs Recreation Area
Winnfield vicinity, Winn Parish, LA

W. Ryan Smith

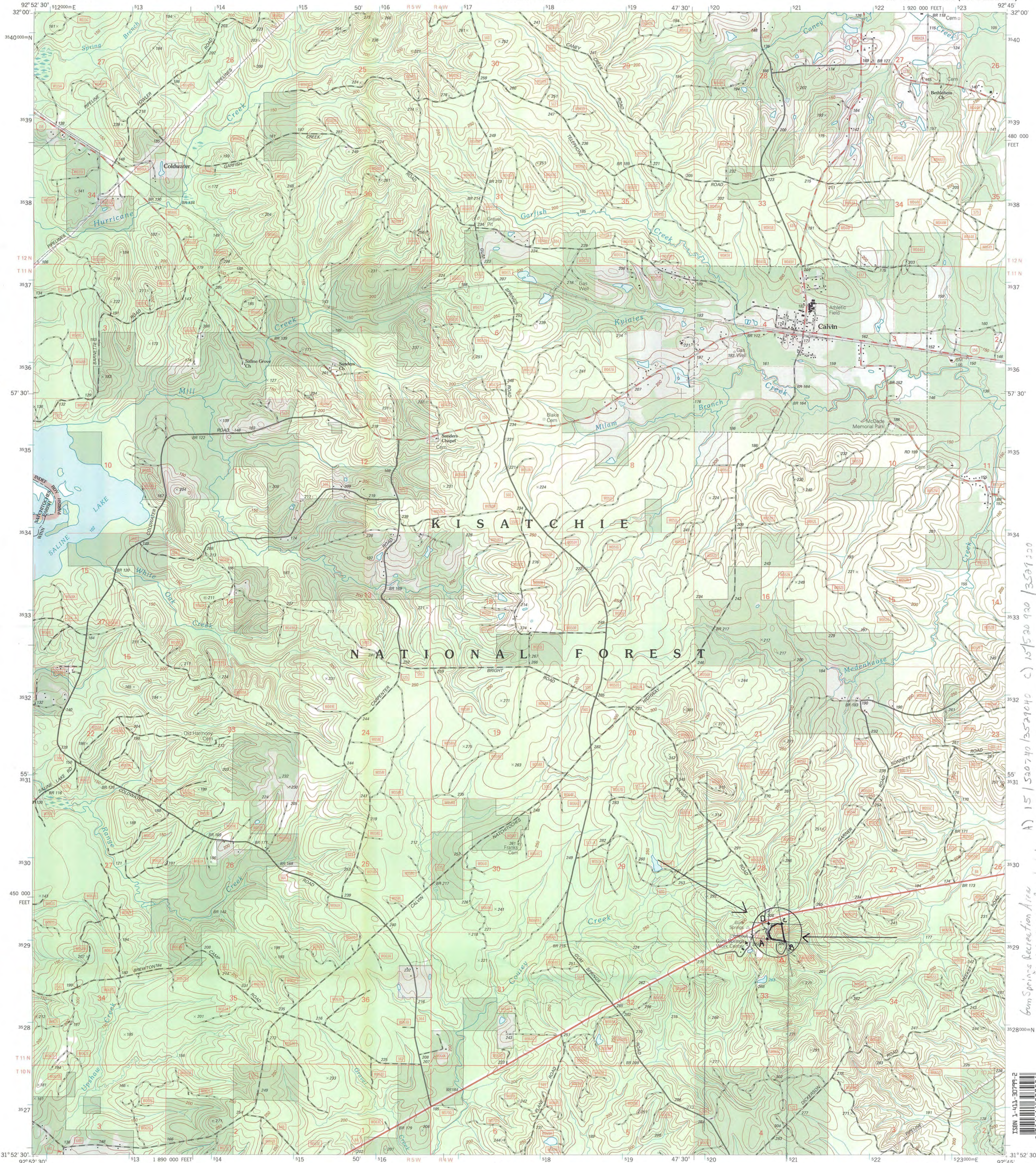
Spring 2010

LA SHPO Digital Archives

Southwest

LA - Winn Parish - Gum Springs Recreation Area - 0010.tif

Fuji, F0000, 09/08/10



Produced by the United States Geological Survey 1983 Revision by USDA Forest Service 2003

Topography compiled 1976. Planimetry derived from imagery taken 1998 and other sources. Public Land Survey System and survey control current as of 2003. Boundaries current as of 2003

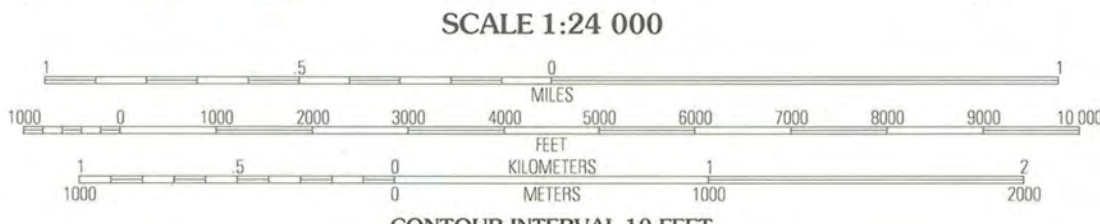
North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27). Projection and 10 000-foot ticks: Louisiana coordinate system, north zone (Lambert conformal conic) Blue 1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator ticks, zone 15 North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83) is shown by dashed corner ticks The values of the shift between NAD 27 and NAD 83 for 7.5-minute intersections are obtainable from National Geodetic Survey NADCON software

Non-National Forest System lands within the National Forest Inholdings may exist in other National or State reservations

This map is not a legal land line or ownership document. Public lands are subject to change and leasing, and may have access restrictions; check with local offices. Obtain permission before entering private lands



UTM GRID AND 2005 MAGNETIC NORTH DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

Table with 3 columns and 3 rows showing grid coordinates and corresponding place names: 1 Goldonna, 2 Iron Branch, 3 Dodson, 4 Coup Point, 5 Winfield West, 6 Saint Maurice, 7 Conchie Brake, 8 Atlanta

Legend for HIGHWAYS AND ROADS, listing symbols for Interstate, U.S., State, County, National Forest, and National Forest Trail, along with composition details like Paved, Gravel, Dirt, and Unimproved.

CALVIN, LA 2003 31092-H7-TF-024 NGA 7447 IV NE-SERIES V885

Handwritten notes: A) 15/500740/352940 C) 15/520 920/3529 220 B) 15/500900/352920 D) 15/520 760/3529 220 from Spruce Recreation Area Winfield vicinity Union Parish, LA



9 791411 307992

National Register of Historic Places

Note to the record

Additional Documentation: 2015

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation | |
| Name of Property | Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State | N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) | |

Section number ___ Page 1



- Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation
- 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, 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.

Pam Breaux

1-8-15

Signature of certifying official/Title: Pam Breaux, State Historic Preservation Officer Date

Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

5. Number of Resources Within Property:

| Contributing | Non-contributing | |
|--------------|------------------|-----------|
| 0 | 0 | Buildings |
| 0 | 0 | District |
| 0 | 4 | Site |
| 38 | 0 | Structure |
| 20 | 1 | Object |
| 58 | 5 | Total |

This additional documentation updates the number of contributing structures to the property, adding the earthen dam as a contributing structure. In the original nomination, the earthen dam was counted as a non-contributing structure due to questionable integrity (see below discussion).

Part 7:

Gum Spring Recreation Area was added to the National Register in 2010. In Section 7, the following was the description for the earthen dam:

Earthen Dam (n=1, non-contributing structure [integrity questionable])

The earliest surviving development plans and documentation for Gum Springs Recreation Area date to July 1936, calling for a wading pool and picnic area. Initially, the plans for the swimming pool called for the use of a "catch basin...[below]...the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| |
|--|
| Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation |
| Name of Property |
| Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State |
| N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) |

Section number ___ Page 2

spring from which the water [would] spill into a small wading pool for children.” In order to facilitate a wading area the CCC workers would need to construct a dam within the natural drainage. A surviving measured drawing by landscape architect J. C. Jackson, dated October 27, 1936, depicts these early stages of planning for the site. The proposed location for the dam’s construction, which would inevitably produce the manmade swimming pool, is featured on the eastern edge of the landscape. Based on the stated scale given to the plan, the proposed dam shown on this drawing would measure to about 70’ in length. With this dam in place the projected surface area of the pool would cover about .31 acres. These plans were later altered by landscape architects Harris and Galloway. Construction did not begin on the earthen dam until the spring of 1939 following a series of construction delays. The dam was evidently finished and in use on the east end of the natural drainage basin of Gum Springs before November 1940, affirming the dam is of CCC labor and origin. It is shown to stretch about 110’ across the natural eastern gap in the landscape and appears to measure only about 15’ in width, half the proposed original scale, and runs about 10° off (southwest) of true north. In February 2007, a U. S. government contracted construction crew working to build the adjacent 11-acre reservoir known as the Gum Springs Reservoir breached the earthen dam without prior approval. The resulting breach was crudely backfilled in 2009 using heavy machinery. As a result, the original integrity of the hand-constructed CCC-era earthen dam has been largely compromised. About one-third of the existing dam is comprised of post-2007 infill. With the historical integrity of the earthen dam now questionable, it is necessary to designate it as a non-contributing element for the purpose of this nomination.

In 2014, our Section 106 section received a review for the property and questioned why the earthen dam was considered non-contributing. After looking at the nomination and the current photos (which resemble the photos taken in 2010), it was uncertain as to why the dam was considered non-contributing as it is the central part of the overall design of the facility. It created the swimming pool by damming the springs, is in its original location, and defines the boundary of the pool. While a portion of the dam was removed and backfilled by heavy machinery, over 2/3 of the dam is original material. This compromised portion is marked in a red rectangle on the submitted photo sketch map.

The dam itself still has the same dimensions as the 2010 description and is covered with low cut grass on the majority of its length. The compromised area is covered in tall grasses that have grown in the water. The north end, right by the compromised area, also has some taller grass, but then has low cut grass and pine straw on the hilly end.

The submitted photos show that the compromised area is a very small portion of the overall dam (approximately 8-10 feet wide while the entire dam is around 110 ft long). Photos 3-5 and clearly show the entire dam’s length with the compromised portion at the far right (approximately the right center of the photo where water intrusion and tall grasses can be

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

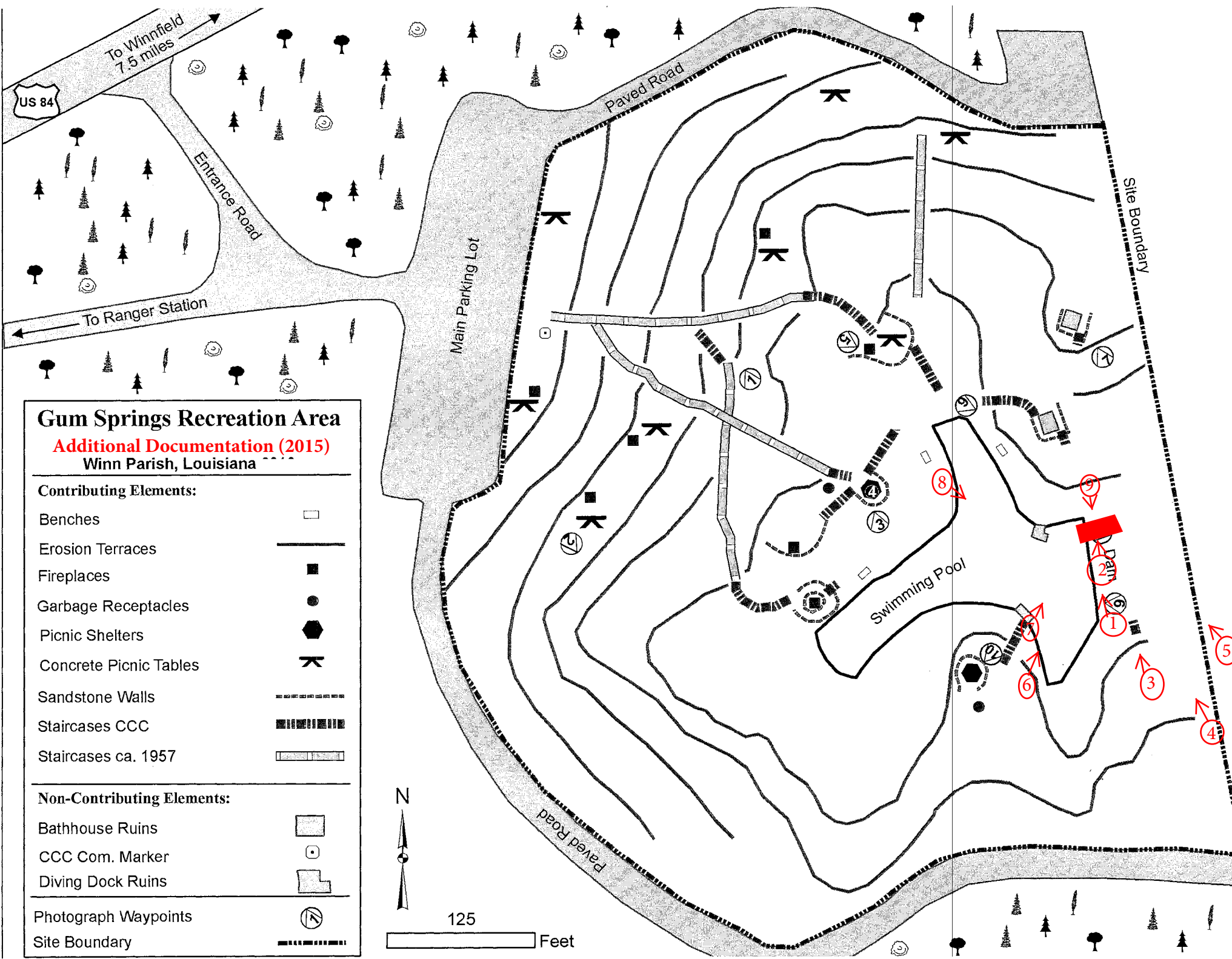
National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

| | |
|--|-----------------|
| Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation | |
| Name of Property | Winn Parish, LA |
| County and State | N/A |
| Name of multiple listing (if applicable) | |

Section number ___ Page 3

seen). One can see that while there is this area of compromise, the other end of the dam (see Photos 6-9) is still intact as well. Lastly, Photo 9 was taken from the northern end of the dam and shows the compromised area as the location of the tall grasses that have grown in the water. This illustrates how small of an area it is when compared to the overall dam.

It is for the above reasons that we believe the earthen dam should have its status changed from a non-contributing structure to a contributing structure. Based on current photos of the earthen dam and site (see submitted photographs), the majority of the earthen dam is still intact, it still serves as the boundary for the swimming pool that it created, and the overall integrity of the earthen dam is intact. The dam is clearly recognizable for what it was and still functions as a dam.












Gum Springs Recreation Area






Additional Documentation (2015)

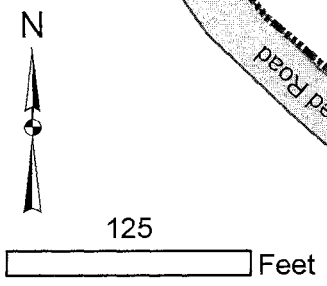
Winn Parish, Louisiana

Contributing Elements:

- Benches 
- Erosion Terraces 
- Fireplaces 
- Garbage Receptacles 
- Picnic Shelters 
- Concrete Picnic Tables 
- Sandstone Walls 
- Staircases CCC 
- Staircases ca. 1957 

Non-Contributing Elements:

- Bathhouse Ruins 
- CCC Com. Marker 
- Diving Dock Ruins 
- Photograph Waypoints 
- Site Boundary 





















UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gum Springs Recreation Area

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Winn

DATE RECEIVED: 1/16/15 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 3/03/15
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000986

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: Y SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 2/23/2015 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

Re-evaluates status of Earthen Dam.
Changes from NC to C.
(Changes Resource Count.)

RECOM./CRITERIA Accept Additional Documentation
REVIEWER [Signature] DISCIPLINE 2/23/2015
TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.

National Register of Historic Places
Memo to File

Correspondence

The Correspondence consists of communications from (and possibly to) the nominating authority, notes from the staff of the National Register of Historic Places, and/or other material the National Register of Historic Places received associated with the property.

Correspondence may also include information from other sources, drafts of the nomination, letters of support or objection, memorandums, and ephemera which document the efforts to recognize the property.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: NOMINATION

PROPERTY NAME: Gum Springs Recreation Area

MULTIPLE NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: LOUISIANA, Winn

DATE RECEIVED: 10/22/10 DATE OF PENDING LIST: 11/22/10
DATE OF 16TH DAY: 12/07/10 DATE OF 45TH DAY: 12/07/10
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 10000986

REASONS FOR REVIEW:

APPEAL: N DATA PROBLEM: N LANDSCAPE: N LESS THAN 50 YEARS: N
OTHER: N PDIL: N PERIOD: N PROGRAM UNAPPROVED: N
REQUEST: N SAMPLE: N SLR DRAFT: N NATIONAL: N

COMMENT WAIVER: N

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT 12.7.10 DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

**Entered in
The National Register
of
Historic Places**

RECOM./CRITERIA _____

REVIEWER _____ DISCIPLINE _____

TELEPHONE _____ DATE _____

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

If a nomination is returned to the nominating authority, the nomination is no longer under consideration by the NPS.



SCOTT ANGELLE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

October 5, 2010, 2010

Ms. Melissa Twaroski
United States Forest Service
Southern Regional Office
1720 Peachtree Road, NW
Suite 776 South
Atlanta, Georgia 30390

RE: Gum Springs Recreation Area, Winn Parish, LA
National Register Nomination

Dear Ms. Twaroski:

As you know, the Louisiana SHPO has been working with Ryan Smith of Northwestern State University of Louisiana's Cultural Resource Management program to nominate the above referenced property to the National Register of Historic Places. We are pleased to forward the completed nomination and supporting materials to you for review.

I would appreciate knowing when you forward the nomination to the National Park Service. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 225 219-4595 between 8 a.m. and 12 noon weekdays, or via e-mail at pduncan@crt.state.la.us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Patricia Duncan".

Patricia Duncan
Architectural Historian
National Register Coordinator

PD/pld
Enclosures



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southern Region

1720 Peachtree Road NW
Atlanta, Georgia 30309

RECEIVED 2280

OCT 22 2010

File Code: 2360-3

Date: OCT 21 2010

NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

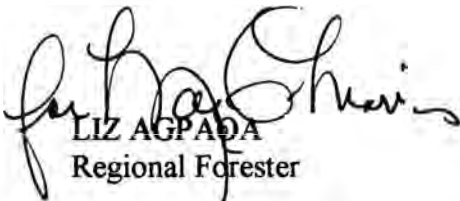
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
National Register of Historic Places
1201 Eye Street NW (2280)
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear Keeper:

Enclosed please find the completed National Register nomination form and accompanying documentation for the Gum Springs Recreation Area on the Kistachie National Forest in Louisiana. This nomination was prepared for the Kisatchie National Forest by the Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation and has already been approved by the state review board for nomination. We support this nomination.

If you have any questions, please contact our Regional Heritage Program Manager, Melissa Twaroski at 404-347-7250 or mtwaroski@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,


LIZ AGPADA
Regional Forester

Enclosures (4) - Sent via hardcopy

cc: Mike Balboni, Michael Kaczor, Velicia Bergstrom, Patricia Duncan



Caring for the Land and Serving People

Printed on Recycled Paper





JAY DARDENNE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

State of Louisiana
OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR
DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, RECREATION & TOURISM
OFFICE OF CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION



January 9, 2015

TO: Mr. James Gabbert
National Park Service 2280, 8th Floor; National Register of Historic Places
1201 "I" Street, NW; Washington, DC 20005

FROM: Jessica Richardson, National Register Coordinator
Louisiana Division of Historic Preservation

RE: Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation, Winn Parish,
LA

Jim,

The enclosed disk contains the true and correct copy of the nomination for the Gum Springs Recreation Area Additional Documentation to the National Register of Historic Places. The second disk contains the photographs of the property in TIF format. Should you have any questions, please contact me at 225-219-4595 or jrichardson@crt.la.gov.

Thanks,

Jessica 

Enclosures:

- CD with PDF of the National Register of Historic Places nomination form
- CD with electronic images (tif format)
- Physical Transmission Letter
- Physical Signature Page, with original signature
- _____ Other:

Comments:

- Please ensure that this nomination receives substantive review
- _____ This property has been certified under 36 CFR 67
- _____ The enclosed owner(s) objection(s) do _____ do not _____
constitute a majority of property owners.
- _____ Other: