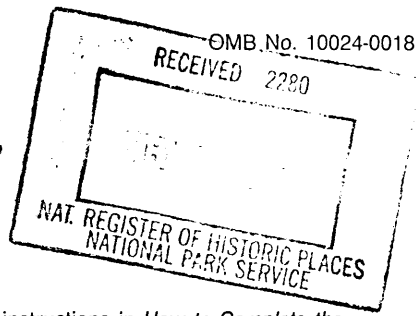


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



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

1. Name of Property

historic name Mount Philo State Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 5425 Mount Philo Road N/A not for publication

city or town Charlotte N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Chittenden code 007 zip code 05445

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 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.)

Suzanne C. Jannule, National Register Specialist, 10-11-01
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of 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 commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Edgar H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action 11-29-01

Mount Philo State Park
Name of Property

Chittenden County, Vermont
County and State

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	
3	7	buildings
11		sites
1	1	structures
1	1	objects
16	9	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation

Landscape/park

Landscape/forest

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation

Landscape/park

Landscape/forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: CCC State Park

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood

roof asphalt

other stone

Narrative Description

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Narrative Description

Mount (Mt.) Philo State Park, created in 1924 as Vermont's first state park, is located in the rural town of Charlotte approximately 1.0 mile east of US Route 7, between Vermont's Green Mountains to the east and Lake Champlain to the west. The park is surrounded by agricultural and wooded lands. Situated along the slopes and crest of the highest landform in Charlotte, Mt. Philo State Park provides panoramic views of Champlain Valley farms, Lake Champlain, the Adirondack Mountains of New York to the west, and the Green Mountains to the east. The park lies at elevations between approximately 340 feet and 980 feet a.m.s.l. and is comprised of 168.57 acres. The property is primarily wooded with a mixed coniferous and deciduous forest, though the crest of the mountain has been partially cleared to accommodate picnic and recreational areas, and panoramic views. A small portion of the north slope of the mountain is partly cleared for camping sites, hiking trails have been blazed through the woods, and a paved road winds its way through the park, encircling the landform.

The park contains buildings, structures and sites constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s, along with both older and more recent structural elements and sites. The contributing components, those attributable to the CCC and those associated with earlier recreational use of the mountain in the late 1800s and early 1900s include: (1) landscape design, (2) the park road, (3) a stone culvert and associated stone wall, (4) the parking area, (5) hiking trails, (6) a ranger's house, (7) a combination park building that incorporates an enclosed recreation shelter, an open picnic shelter, and a public comfort station, (8) overlook areas, (9) picnic and recreation areas, (10) nine stone fireplaces, (11) iron railings, (12) camping grounds, (13) a toilet building, and (14) power lines. The inventory of more recent contributions to the built environment within the park includes: (15) the park entrance gate and fencing, (16) a radio antenna tower and associated building, (17) a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 2

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

contact station, (18) a combination garage and shower/toilets building, (19) a recycle shed, (20) three lean-tos, (21) metal fireplaces, (22) metal cooking grills, (23) water fountains, (24) picnic tables, and (25) signs. Additionally, two components remain solely as archaeological evidence: (26) the site of a former wooden observation tower, and (27) the site of a metal fire tower.

The more recent alterations and construction at Mt. Philo State Park have not significantly altered its original conception and design and the park continues to reflect the historic conservation and recreation trends that helped shape it. In fact, the recent contributions reflect the park's continuous association with and response to Vermont's recreational needs and tourism industry and they represent the latest phase in the park's evolution as a recreational area since the late 1800s. The park preserves not only the efforts of the CCC, but also the tangible remains of earlier efforts that were significant in shaping Vermont's recreational landscape and that were instrumental in forming the foundation for Vermont's tourism heritage. Inscribed in the landscape at the park are the reminders of two significant efforts in Vermont's recreational history: first, early attempts at tourism by private Vermont citizens, and second, the efforts that represent a time period in American history when the nation's early conservation ethic and social reform movements were combined to help create a state park system. Through its long association with recreation in Vermont, Mt. Philo State Park maintains its historic identity and the park retains its integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

Contributing Components

(1) Landscape Design, ca. 1938

The development of Mt. Philo State Park's natural landscape and landscape architecture was guided by the park planning policies of the National Park Service (NPS) with portions of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 3

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

plan implemented by the CCC. A 1938 *Landscape Plan for Mt. Philo State Forest Park, State of Vermont* depicts the notion of comprehensive park planning that was in place by the early 1930s, in which the park is conceived of as a whole with areas set aside for administrative, recreational and conservation purposes.

The plan shows the extensive wooded areas set aside as natural landscape and the large tracts of land defined for evergreen and pine grove plantations at the park. While preserving wooded areas at the park, the plan simultaneously acknowledges the necessity of land for greater human impact and it allows for areas of more intensive recreational use. Park buildings, camping and picnic grounds, hiking trails, roads, and overlook areas are all accommodated in the plan.

By the time the landscape plan was drawn in 1938, extensive landscaping including modifications to both the natural and built environments, had already taken place at the park. The 1926 *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Forestry of the State of Vermont* indicates that in the spring of 1925, only six months after the park lands were acquired and almost ten years before the CCC arrived at the park, the re-establishment of a more natural landscape at the park commenced with the planting of 42,000 Scotch Pine and 5,000 Jack Pine. At the same time, scrub vegetation, such as currant and gooseberry bushes were eradicated from the park in an effort to protect the newly planted trees. Plantings continued at the park with the arrival of the CCC; in the spring of 1935 they planted 3,000 Norway Spruce, 3,000 White Pine and 2,000 Red Pine in carefully planned areas.

Also by 1938, the CCC had built both the ranger's residence and the large combination building at Mt. Philo. In addition, they had constructed the down road from the summit of the mountain, enlarged the parking area, brought electrical power into the park, and had fully developed the camping grounds and picnic facilities. All of this construction was conducted

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 4

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

with a conscious effort to preserve vast areas of woodlands and to limit interference with the spectacular views procured from the mountain top.

The original landscape plan for Mt. Philo State Park remains largely intact today. Areas designated for tree plantings in the plan have remained forested, and although additional architectural elements have been added, they have been placed so that they do not greatly affect the initial concept of the overall landscape design. The greatest change to the park's wooded landscape design was a devastating ice storm in January of 1998. The storm caused enormous damage to much of the forest at Mt. Philo, destroying many of the single species tree plantations included in the original 1938 landscape design for the park. For instance, every tree in one two-acre plantation of red pine planted in the 1930s was destroyed, and in an eight-acre section of red oak and sugar maple, more than two thirds of the trees were snapped. After the ice storm, the park remained closed for over a year while many of the dangerous downed and broken trees were removed from the forest. Over three-fourths of the park was left untouched, partially as a testament to the storm and also for scientific observation. The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation estimates that in five to ten years the forest at Mt. Philo will regenerate enough to hide most evidence of the storm. The Department reports that a diverse mix of native vegetation will re-establish itself in the areas formerly occupied by the single specie tree plantations.

(2) Park Road, ca. 1901-1933

Portions of the park road may date to as early as 1901 when Frank Lewis, the owner of the Mt. Philo Inn, began work on a carriage road on the southern slope of the mountain, with a team of horses and a plow. This first road was relocated and widened and much of the present ascent road layout was constructed in ca. 1930 by the State of Vermont, six years after the mountain became a state park. The return road for descending traffic was

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 5

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

constructed by the CCC in ca. 1933, completing a loop that presently encircles the park and which is characteristic of CCC loop roads. At least some portions of the ca. 1930 ascending road were reworked by the CCC, based on the presence of CCC-built culverts that ran under the road.

Access to the entrance road of the park is obtained from the Mt. Philo Road which runs parallel with US Route 7 on the western side of Mt. Philo. The entrance road winds steeply upward along the western slope of the mountain for approximately 2300 ft (0.44 mi) where it branches into a "V" forming two narrow roads. The fork to the right is the ascending route, and the fork to the left, the portion of the loop road constructed by the CCC, is utilized for descent from the summit. The road up Mt. Philo becomes extremely steep as it ascends the southern slope for approximately 3600 ft (0.68 mi). It curves into the parking area at the summit and then leaves the summit on the CCC built road that winds down the eastern and northern slopes of the mountain for approximately 4750 ft (0.90 mi), completing a loop that meets back up with the wider entrance road at the "V". The cul-de-sac that provides access to the camp sites on the northern slope is located about halfway along the down portion of the loop.

A gravel quarry, located along the northern side of the ascent road, may be associated with the construction of the road, and possibly with other CCC construction at the park, such as the camping grounds. Although the origins of the quarry could not be documented, park personnel report that on site quarries were often used by the Park Service when building roads, parking areas and camping grounds.

Some time after its construction, the park road was paved with asphalt and was recently re-paved as a result of severe road damage from trucks during clean-up after the ice storm of

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 6

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

1998. Although the asphalt paving is somewhat inharmonious with its natural setting, the road preserves the original loop design completed by the CCC that is so characteristic of their park road design.

(3) Stone Culvert and Associated Stone Wall, ca. 1933

At least one CCC era culvert remains *in situ* at the park. Portions of two others remain as archaeological ruins: the partially dismantled stones of one structure were identified along the southern slope of the ascent road, and the remains of a second were identified along the northern slope of the descent road. The single identified intact culvert is located under an abandoned road bed immediately upslope from the present ascending park road; an associated stone retaining wall supports the abandoned road bed to the east of the culvert. The culvert is essentially a retaining wall pierced by a drain. The head wall of the culvert is constructed of mortar-laid local stone that forms an arch around a large galvanized steel drain pipe. A large stone slab forms a lintel over the drain pipe. The culvert maintains a casual, unobtrusive appearance that subordinates it to the natural surroundings of the park. In 1999, members of the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps cleared the brush from around the culvert and stone wall and created a small picnic area.

(4) Parking Area, ca. 1930-1938

Some portion of the parking area at the summit of the mountain was likely in place prior to the activities of the CCC; it may have been formally constructed in ca. 1930 when the state improved the park road. The *Biennial Report* of the State Forester for the term ending June 30, 1938 indicates that the parking area was enlarged by that date. The work was likely completed by the CCC who, as the report notes, had finished developments at the camping area by 1938 as well.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 7

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

The 1938 *Landscape Plan for Mt. Philo State Forest Park, State of Vermont* shows the parking lot as a cleared, rectangular area approximately 210 ft x 70 ft and oriented in a northwest-southeast direction. It begins in front of the ranger's house and extends northwestward toward the combination building. The ascent road enters the parking area at its southeastern extent, and the exit road leaves the lot at its very northwest corner. The present configuration of the parking area appears almost identical to that shown on the 1938 landscape plan, however, the present parking area has been expanded about 100 ft to the northwest and the surface has been paved. A basketball hoop has been installed near the northwest corner of the present parking area.

(5) Hiking Trails, ca. 1900-1938

Historically, hiking trails lead from the base of the mountain to its summit and two separate trails circled the perimeter of the mountain at the summit. At least some of the trails were in place before the CCC began work at the park, and even prior to Mt. Philo becoming a state park. Visitors to the Mt. Philo Inn, located at the base of the mountain, hiked the trails at the turn of the century and in 1901 the owner of the inn developed a more extensive trail system on the mountain, giving names to the footpaths.

The 1938 landscape plan shows seven separate trails in place by that date. The *Ski Trail* leaves the entrance to the park and climbs along the western edge of the mountain and then up the north slope where it reaches the summit behind the ranger's cabin. The *Maple Trail* begins at the "V" in the park road and cuts across the western slope of the mountain to the east of the park road, terminating at a large maple tree that was located at the western edge of a camping area. A short trail designated the *Cross Path* ascends up the northern slope of the mountain connecting the *Maple Trail* with the *Cliff Trail* that circles just below the summit of Mt. Philo. The *Pine Trail* leaves the large maple tree at the terminus of the *Maple*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 8

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Trail, heading east along the northern slope of the mountain and cutting across the camping grounds to the eastern slope. Along the eastern slope, the *Pine Trail* veers in two directions: it continues downslope to the park's reservoir and pump house, and upslope where it intersects with the *Cliff Trail*. A *Walk Path* runs along the mostly level surface of the top of the mountain and provides access to overlook areas.

The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation notes that the hiking trail system which serves the park today was built in 1996 by the Vermont Youth Conservation Corps; their system appears to follow many of the original 1938 trails. A significant part of the former *Ski Trail* appears to remain largely intact today in its 1938 configuration and portions of the *Cliff Trail*, *Maple Trail*, *Cross Path* and *Walk Path* still function as part of the present hiking trails system. Not all of the usable trails are portrayed on the current map for the park. Most of the current hiking trails at Mt. Philo are unnamed and the majority are not denoted by signs.

(6) Ranger's House, ca. 1934

The southwest facing ranger's house consists of the original rustic style one story, rectangular camp house with a later rectangular wing addition to its northwest side at the rear of the building. The house is sheathed in brown weather board and it rests on a concrete foundation. Based on the 1934 *Plans Elevations, Keeper's House, S.P. Philo, VT Project*, the main block was built as a two-bay by two-bay simple linear plan house with a normal-pitched shingle gable roof that extended beyond the main block to form a full width front porch. Exposed log rafters are visible beneath the roof line. A stone chimney rises through the roof peak, approximately halfway along the length of the building.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 9

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

The front porch forms the predominant feature on the front facade. The porch is supported by metal poles and is deep enough to be used as a sitting space. It shelters the main doorway, located at the right side of the front facade, and a large double, side-hinged casement window to the left of the door. A storm/screen door with one-over-one fixed sash protects the inner wooden plank door. Three wooden posts, evenly spaced along the front edge of the porch, carry a log king post trussing system that supports the gable roof. The porch railings mimic inverted king post trusses and are constructed of the same type of logs. The porch floor consists of a board platform. Three concrete steps lead up to the right front of the porch, directly in front of the doorway.

The east eaves side of the building appears unaltered since its original construction. This long side of the rectangular main block has two modern casement windows, fairly regularly spaced along the wall, and located immediately below the roof line. The original ca. 1934 windows were replaced in 1999 due to vandalism that occurred at the cabin during 1998 when the park was temporarily closed. The replacement windows resemble in style the original sash that were in place on the cabin. The more southerly window consists of double, side-hinged sash with eight panes of glass in each sash and the more northerly window is a slightly smaller version, with six panes of glass. Below each window, small screened openings are visible within the foundation; each opening is surrounded by a three-sided rectangular projecting concrete well.

The west eaves side of the building includes the rectangular wing addition, constructed ca. 1985. The wing projects from the extreme rear of the building and based on original 1934 elevation drawings, it replaces a former side entrance door. Fenestration along the wall of the main block consists of casement sash. The addition has two single pane windows, one centered along each eaves side. Identical to the east side of the building, small screened

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 10

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

openings punctuate the foundation below each window. A metal air vent is in place in the gable peak of the addition. Unlike the main block, the addition is adorned with flat corner boards.

The rear elevation includes the gable end main block with the long eaves side of the wing addition to the right. Fenestration on the main block of this facade is quite irregular; the first bay holds a wooden plank door, the second is a small square four-lights fixed window that abuts the door frame, and the third bay is of a longer, six-lights rectangular window spaced approximately two feet from the second. A fourth opening, located in the gable peak, consists of a small, square hinged wooden door, such as would be found in the hayloft of a barn. The rear entry door is sheltered by a modern, narrow entry portico constructed of pressure treated lumber. Two posts support the gable roof of the portico. Three pressure treated lumber steps lead up to the door.

Today, the interior of the ranger's cabin exhibits a compound plan with a room-sized projection on the west side. Before the wing was added, the original plan of the cabin, as depicted by the 1934 plans and elevations, consisted of a simple rectangular plan with a less than room-sized projection to the rear. The front entrance door leads into a full-width living room which measures approximately 12 ft x 16 ft. The chimney stack is centered on the north wall of the living room; as originally constructed, a wood burning stove was hooked up to the chimney, however, today the cabin is heated with electricity and the wood stove has been removed. The living room retains its original wood paneling. To the right of the chimney, a doorway leads into the kitchen, an approximately 11 ft x 8 ft room, which was remodeled in 1999 due to vandalism that occurred in 1998. A doorway in the center of the west wall of the kitchen provides access to a same sized dining room. The bathroom is located off the north side of the dining room; it is the less than room sized projection

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 11

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

depicted on the 1934 plans. The modern wing addition which serves as a bedroom is also accessed from the dining room. A small utility room is located off the north of the kitchen; it houses the hot water heater and provides an entry area for the rear entrance door.

(7) Combination Park Building, ca. 1934

A long, horizontal rustic style combination building constructed by the CCC occupies a choice location in the park, at the crest of a knoll near the northwest edge of the mountain top. The complex faces west and consists of three linearly attached segments built in the rustic style. It provides two separate spaces for sheltered recreation in the park; one portion, the westernmost front section, is completely enclosed, and the second, the middle section of the building, remains open along the sides. A public comfort station forms the rear of the complex. The long linear building is characterized by simple roof planes whose peaks are staggered at different heights to avoid an unnatural, rigid line.

The front, most western section of this combination building is comprised of a one room, one-story wood frame enclosed kitchen shelter/recreation building with a steeply pitched asphalt shingle gable roof. Four modern skylights, spaced evenly between roof rafters, have been added to the south slope of the roof. An interior field stone chimney rises through the roof peak at the very rear of the building. The two-bay by two-bay building measures approximately 32 ft x 25 ft and is sheathed in half-round siding that mimics log construction. The building is painted brown and it rests on a concrete foundation. A full width front porch with a moderately sloped shed roof enhances the front facade. Three log posts with smaller diameter log brackets are evenly spaced along the front edge of the porch to support the roof. As with the ranger's house, porch railings imitate inverted king post trusses and are constructed of the same type of logs as the posts. The porch floor consists of a board platform, painted gray. Access to the porch can be obtained from either side; a handicapped

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 12

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

access enters from the left (north) side with a ramp that extends onto the porch and up to the centered door. A single, fixed pane of glass forms a square window in the door. Double side-hinged casement windows, with six panes of glass in each half, are in place to the either side of the door, and a twelve pane fixed casement window dominates the gable peak of the front facade. Fenestration on the eaves sides of the building consists of two side-hinged casement windows; the more southerly of these windows is a row of three separate six pane windows connected by hinges, and the more northerly windows are double side-hinged six pane windows. A single six pane casement window is located on the rear facade of the building, south of the chimney. All window trim is painted white.

The interior of this kitchen shelter/recreation building is a single large room that is open to the roof with exposed log rafters and truss system. A massive stone cooking fireplace dominates the eastern wall of the room and the walls are sheathed in stained tongue and groove paneling. Wide floor boards are painted gray.

An open sided, approximately 30 ft x 12 ft picnic shelter comprises the mid-section of this connected park building. Five evenly spaced log poles with smaller log brackets support the asphalt shingle, gable roof of the shelter along the eaves side. The western gable end of the roof attaches to the rear facade of the front, enclosed portion of the complex, and the two sections share a chimney. The massive fireplace in the picnic shelter constitutes the most elaborate feature of the shelter, dominating its western wall. The U-shaped fireplace is built of unmodified local mortar-laid stone lined with fire brick, and it rests on the concrete foundation of the picnic shelter. The arms of the U-shape are flat and serve as working spaces for the chef. The flue rises straight up from the back of the arms and then angles into the wall where it connects with the interior chimney of the front building. A cast iron grate sits between the two arms and provides a cooking grill. Numerous picnic tables fill the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 13

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

interior of the shelter. Carefully laid flat stones, bordered by a low stone wall, proved a patio at the south side of the shelter.

The third, rear section of this combination building incorporates an approximately 15 ft x 15 ft public comfort station with the shelters. The comfort station consists of separate toilets for men and women. It is a gable roofed wood frame building with blue painted board doors with white trim on three (north, east and west) sides. The roof shares the same plane with the roof of the picnic shelter though the roof peak of the comfort station rises above the picnic shelter's roof. Like the front section of the attached buildings, the rear section is covered in half-round siding, painted brown. A six pane double, side-hinged casement window is in place to the right of the women's toilet door, on the rear facade, and a second identical window is located on the southern facade.

(8) Overlook Areas, ca. 1901-1938

Overlook areas, positioned at vantage points along the perimeter of the mountain top, provide spectacular views of Lake Champlain, the Champlain Valley and the Adirondack Mountains. The *Landscape Plan for Mt. Philo State Forest Park, State of Vermont*, shows that four overlook areas, one for each compass direction, were in place or were planned at the park in 1938. Based on the presence of iron railings, at least three of these overlooks, the *Southern*, *Western* and *Northern* views, were initially created by the owners of the Mt. Philo Inn at the turn of the twentieth century. These original three overlook areas remain intact today. The *Eastern View* is overgrown with vegetation and no longer exists as an overlook area.

Located southeast of and slightly downslope of the ranger's cabin, and immediately south of a radio tower, several small cleared areas that form the *Southern View* look out over

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 14

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Champlain Valley farms. This overlook area is positioned directly along the *Walk Path* that encircles the mountain top; cast iron railings installed in ca. 1901 provide a barrier from the very steep cliff slope along this portion of the path.

The *Western View*, located just southwest of the combination building, offers a panorama of Lake Champlain, the Champlain Valley and the Adirondack Mountains of New York. An elevated natural bedrock outcrop provides a lookout platform for viewing. Iron railings installed ca. 1901 protect the park visitor from the steep precipice of the mountain side along this overlook. A binocular viewer, installed during Perry Merrill's administration (1930-1949) was in place at the *Western View* overlook until 1999, when a decision was made by the Park Service to remove the viewer. The viewer represented the sole survivor of a pair of such viewers that were in place at the park prior to 1950. One other viewer, located at Allis State Park, was also removed sometime between 1950 and 1964. The viewer was mounted on a cast iron pole with a flared base secured to a concrete slab. The viewer was operated and maintained by the Tower Optical Company of Norwalk, Connecticut.

The *Northern View* forms an extension of the *Western View*. It is located just slightly to the north and downslope of the western viewing area along the steep bare rock outcrop of the western face of the mountain. It is also protected by iron railings installed in ca. 1901.

(9) Picnic and Recreation Areas, ca. 1929-1935

Numerous cleared areas arranged across the top of the mountain provide open space for picnicking and recreational activities. Based on the *Biennial Report* of the State Forester for 1930, picnic areas had already been created at the park before the CCC arrived; later reports note that the CCC created extensive picnicking grounds at the park. The open areas range from small, only slightly modified picnic clearings with stone fireplaces, such as two areas

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 15

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

located between the ranger's house and the combination building, to more extensively cleared grassy areas that accommodate larger recreational activities. A lawn adjacent to the south side of the large combination building is designated as a *Play Area* on the 1938 landscape plan; today it serves both recreational and picnic purposes.

An extensive level to gently sloped area on the north slope of the mountain, just north of the combination building, is designated as *Picnic Grounds* on the landscape plan of 1938. At present, this area is overgrown with tall grasses and scrub vegetation and the CCC-built stone fireplaces located here are falling into ruin. Previously, however, this section of the mountain appears to have provided the largest region for picnicking at the park. These picnicking grounds have not been significantly altered since they were created by the CCC in ca. 1935, though they have fallen into a state of disuse which threatens their survival.

(10) Stone Fireplaces, ca. 1935

Nine stone picnic fireplaces constructed by the CCC provide cooking facilities at picnicking areas located along the top of the mountain's level ridge and along a level to gently sloped region on the north side of the mountain. Three of these structures are located along the mountain top: one structure lies to the east of the ranger's house and two are in place at small, cleared picnic areas located between the rangers house and the large combination building. These three structures are in fair condition but appear to be used only sporadically. The remaining six fireplaces are scattered throughout a former picnic grounds that was created along the northern slope by the CCC in ca. 1935. At present, most of the latter six structures lie within scrub and tall grasses; they are in poor condition and are not in use.

The U-shaped, votive style picnic fireplaces are constructed of mortar-laid unmodified local stone; several lie on bedrock outcrops that creates a visual continuity between natural and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 16

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

mad-made elements. As with the large fireplace within the picnic shelter, these smaller versions also have flat arms that serve as working spaces for the chef. The fireplace chimneys measure approximately 3.0 ft high and are lined with ceramic flues. Bricks line the interior of the hearths and iron grates that rest between the arms of the structure provide cooking surfaces. The structure closest to the ranger's house retains a heavy iron chain and ring that anchor the grate to the stone at the front of the fireplace.

(11) Iron Railings, ca. 1901

Two different styles of iron railings border portions of the mountain along its southern and western edges. Iron pole railings are in place at the southern and western views and a combination iron pole and chain link railing borders the mountain edge at a picnic and recreation area immediately to the southeast of the western overlook, and along the *Walk Path*. The railings appear on historic postcards from the Mt. Philo Inn dated during the first decade of the 1900s and the railings were likely installed by the owners of the inn.

The railings in place at the overlooks consist of a configuration of horizontal and vertical black poles that form wide open rectangles stacked atop one another. At the western view, the railing angles downward to the southeast and connects with the railing that borders the mountain edge at a picnic and recreation area. This latter railing is constructed of vertical iron poles connected by three strands of heavy chain link. All of the railings are painted black.

(12) Camping Grounds, ca. 1932-1938

The *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Forestry of the State of Vermont* for the term ending in June 1932 indicates that public camping grounds had been established at Mt. Philo State Park by 1932. The *Biennial Report* for the term ending in June 1936 documents that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 17

the CCC began development of a tent camping area on a small plateau on the north slope of the mountain, likely the same location as the previously established 1932 camping grounds. Camping grounds shown on the 1938 landscape plan probably reflect the original location of the CCC camping area. Based on this plan, the camping area in place today remains in its inceptive location, on a dirt cul-de-sac that enters the area from the north side of the down road that leads visitors out of the park. The area is minimally cleared and is primarily tree covered. Based on information in the biennial reports, as originally constructed by the CCC, the camping grounds contained eight tent platforms, fireplaces, picnic tables, a toilet building and water supply. None of the tent platforms, CCC-built picnic tables or the original fireplaces, which were likely similar in construction to those that still stand on the mountain summit, remain at the camping sites today.

The eight existing camp sites probably reflect the original layout of the camping grounds which, as the landscape plan shows, were nestled within an evergreen planting. Even today sites are fairly well secluded from each other by trees and terrain. Each spot has a vehicle parking area, a lean-to (at two of the sites) or cleared level area for pitching a tent, a metal fireplace and a picnic table. A 1963 map of Mt. Philo State Park shows ten camp sites here. The present camp site will be slightly expanded in 1999 when a camping area developed on the mountain top will be removed and relocated to the northern slope.

(13) Toilet Building, ca. 1937

A toilet building constructed by the CCC sometime during 1936 through 1938 is located within the camping grounds on the north slope of the mountain. The approximately 16 ft x 10 ft, single story, one-bay by two-bay wood frame toilet facility rests on a concrete foundation, is sheathed in brown half-round wood siding, and has a gable roof covered with

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 18

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

asphalt shingles. Originally the toilet facility measured approximately twelve feet long, however, recently added showers extended the building two feet on each gable end. Two skylights have been placed on the south slope of the roof and two modern one-over-one windows are evenly spaced along the north wall of the building. A blue plank door (women's entrance) with non-functioning, decorative iron hinges is located on the front gable end of the building, and an identical plank door (men's entrance) is located at the rear gable end. Simple decorative elements on the building include narrow white trim boards around each door, and two overlapping white boards that run the width of the building above each door to create the appearance of a pediment. The widely overhanging enclosed eaves are also painted white.

(14) Power Lines, ca. 1935

By 1936, the CCC cut a mile of power lines to the summit of the mountain providing electricity for lights and for an electric pump that forced spring water to the top of the mountain. The single set of power lines which runs up the southwest slope of the mountain today may be in the same or near same location as the CCC-built lines, though the poles that support the lines are very recent.

Non-Contributing Components

(15) Park Entrance Gate and Fencing, undetermined date

A gate and fence constructed of pressure treated lumber runs along a portion of the western park boundary at the park entrance. A set of side hinged gates that swing open away from the park road are attached to poles that flank the entrance roadway. Fences run in both directions from each entrance pole; the fences border open grassy areas that frame the park entrance. The fencing consists of evenly spaced vertical poles with three horizontal boards between each pole.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 19

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

(16) Radio Antenna Tower and Associated Building, undetermined date

A metal radio antenna tower and associated green cinder block building are located near the terminus of the ascent road, on the mountain summit. The small, approximately 14 ft x 10 ft building rests on a concrete foundation and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles.

Fenestration consists solely of a plywood entrance door located on the western, gable end of the building. The antenna tower is adjacent to the north side of the building and is constructed of metal lattice work that forms a triangular shape for the entire height of the structure. The antenna is operated by the state police.

(17) Contact Station, ca. 1993

Located in the southeast corner of the parking lot at the terminus of the up park road, the contact station faces northwest into the parking lot and consists of an approximately 8 ft x 9 ft rectangular wood frame building with a low pitched, asphalt shingle gable roof and a full-width front entry porch with a slightly sloped shed roof supported by two corner posts. A larger, enclosed vertical board wood shed, measuring about 16 ft x 8 ft, with a flat roof is attached to the contact station's southwest side and projects forward of the main block of the contact station to be flush with the projection of the porch. The entire front wall of the shed is comprised of sliding plank doors. The contact station is sheathed in brown clapboards and white trim boards frame the corners and roof line of the building. White trim boards also surround the entry way (a wood panel door with a single pane of glass located in its top half), as well as the horizontally sliding, six pane casement windows which are located on the northeast and southeast sides of the building. A triangular metal grate is located in the gable peak of the northwest facade. Prior to the recent construction of the contact station, the ranger's house served as the contact station for the park. Due to vandalism that occurred at the park in 1998, portions of the contact station were rebuilt.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 7 Page 20

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

(18) Combination Garage and Shower/Toilets Building, ca. 1986

A combination garage and shower/toilets building is located directly behind (northeast of) the ranger's cabin, and across the exit road from a recycle shed. Built on a concrete foundation, the wood frame, single story approximately 30 ft x 30 ft building is sheathed in brown board and batten siding and has a gable roof with asphalt shingles. The southern portion of the building houses a shower and toilet facility and the northern portion provides garage space for park maintenance.

The southern facade has a shed roof overhang supported by three evenly spaced posts. A wooden screen composed of vertical, angled boards extends between the western and middle posts, shielding two blue plank doors that provide separate entrances to a shower and a toilet. A poured concrete slab is in place in front of the doors. Between the eastern and middle posts is a set of sliding plank doors; they shield a storage area. Under the overhang roof, a sheet of plywood separates the two sections at the middle post.

Fenestration on the north, garage side of this building consists of an overhead sliding garage door to the east and a white plank entrance door to the west. A poured concrete slab covers the ground surface in front of the rear facade. The east wall of the building has two evenly spaced rectangular windows and the west wall has a single window to the rear of the building. At present, all three windows are covered in plywood.

(19) Recycle Shed, ca. 1979

North of the ranger's cabin and located along the north side of the exit road is a southwest facing recycle shed. The shed is a wood frame building, approximately 25 ft x 25 ft, with vertical board and batten siding and a gable roof sheathed in asphalt shingles. It has hinged double plank doors on its front facade. The building rests on a concrete foundation and all

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 21

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

wooden elements are painted brown. In addition to serving as a recycling station, the shed also provides storage space for maintenance at the park and it houses an underground holding tank for the park's water supply.

(20) Lean-tos, ca. 1987

Three lean-tos provide shelter for campers at the park. Two of the lean-tos (Cedar and Pine) are located at the original camping grounds on the north slope of the mountain, and a single handicapped accessible structure (Oak) is located at a camp site on the mountain summit. The Oak lean-to is slated to be relocated to the lower camping area during 1999 when the summit camping ground is removed. The lean-tos are not depicted on a 1963 plan of the lower camping area; only tent sites are shown on that plan.

The lean-tos are wood frame structures with brown shiplap siding and floors of wide wooden boards that are painted gray. They rest on concrete pilings. The end and rear walls are tightly built while the front of the structure remains open. An irregular gable roof with asphalt shingles slopes gently to the rear where it forms an overhang to a storage shelf area. To the front of the lean-to, the roof slopes more sharply and over a much shorter distance, where it provides a protective overhang to the entrance. Angled wooden four-by-fours serve as braces to support the front overhang. The handicapped accessible lean-to additionally has a wooden ramp with railings that approaches the front of the structure from the left.

(21) Metal Fireplaces, undetermined date

Steel fireplaces provide cooking facilities for campers at the camping sites located on the north slope of the mountain. The fireplaces rest directly on the earth and consist of round steel bands that appear as a section of a steel drum with three flat steel legs that push down into the ground to anchor the structure. A steel grill inserted into the center of the fireplace

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 22

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

provides a cooking surface; a steel handle with rubber coating allows the grill to be raised or lowered. Metal tags on the fireplaces read: *Pilot Rock Grill, R. J. Thomas Mfg. Co. Inc., Cherokee, Iowa.*

(22) Metal Cooking Grills, undetermined date

Metal grills provide day-use cooking facilities at the picnic areas located on the summit of the mountain. The grills are small, rectangular steel boxes with one long side left open. Hinged steel grates attached to the long side of the box serve as cooking surfaces. The grills are mounted on poles that are driven into the ground and each stands approximately 3.0 ft in height.

(23) Water Fountains, undetermined date

Two water fountains, a drinking fountain and a faucet, provide water for drinking and cooking at the park. The single water drinking fountain is located just to the southwest of the ranger's cabin, along the northern edge of the parking lot, and the faucet fountain is situated within the camping grounds on the north slope of the mountain. The fountains' pipes are housed in approximately 3.0 ft high concrete obelisks that are flattened on top where the hardware fixtures rest.

(24) Picnic Tables, undetermined date

Two styles of picnic tables exist at the park. One style consists of a metal tubular frame that supports a wooden plank table top and benches. The second style, which appears to be slightly older than the first, based on weathering, is constructed entirely of wood. No CCC-built picnic tables remain at the park.

(25) Signs, undetermined date

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Section number 7 Page 23

A minimal number of signs are in place at Mt. Philo State Park. At the entrance gate to the park, a green wooden sign in the shape of the state of Vermont identifies the park; it swings from a high wooden pole. A second brown wooden sign at the beginning of the entrance road states park hours and some regulations. Other small wooden signs located throughout the park identify trails, camp site numbers, and road directions. The largest sign at Mt. Philo recognizes the contributions of the CCC and Perry Merrill at the park; it is located on the summit of the mountain at the start of the down road. Additional wooden signs which are no longer installed at the park are stored in the garage on the summit of the mountain.

Archaeological Components

(26) Wooden Observation Tower Site, ca. 1905

A white wooden observation tower was constructed on the summit of Mt. Philo shortly after Frank Lewis, the owner of the Mt. Philo Inn, built the first road to the top of the mountain in 1901. The tower was located about 20 ft to the west of the ranger's cabin on what appears today as an elevated level surface. No foundation remains or other evidence from the tower are visible above the ground surface. A park bench currently occupies this grassy area.

Anna Humphreys provided money to build the tower. Anna was the sister of the James Humphreys, a summer guest at the inn who had purchased the mountain and deeded it to Frank Lewis. Historic postcards and photographs of the tower depict it as a four-story structure with three columns at each corner that support overlying levels. The base of the tower appears to be wooden and sheathed in wooden shingles. Railings with closely spaced posts stretch between the columns on each level and a wide band with clapboard cladding wraps around the top of the first three levels, immediately beneath the floor of the overlying level. An internal wooden staircase provides access to each floor. The top level is open and an American flag flies from a high pole at its center. The 1926 *Biennial Report* notes that

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 24

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

the Vermont Forest Service constructed on the mountain a new 60 ft fire lookout tower with a glass enclosure. The 1928 *Biennial Report* indicates that this newly erected tower was also constructed of wood. A 1964 *Burlington Free Press* article indicates that the original wooden tower was dismantled in the 1930s and replaced by a taller steel structure. No subsurface archaeological testing has been conducted at the site to date.

(27) Metal Fire Tower Site, ca. 1930

The foundation remains to a former metal fire tower were identified approximately 48 ft northwest of the northwestern edge of the parking lot. This location matches the *Lookout Tower* location depicted on the 1938 landscape plan for the park, possibly indicating that the metal fire tower was in place by that date. The fire tower was dismantled during the 1970s.

Foundation remains identified on the ground surface include four 16 in x 16 in concrete footings spaced 12 feet apart to form the corners of a square. Each footing has the ends of two large threaded steel bolts sticking out from its center. A 36 in x 36 in concrete slab base is located close to the southeastern footing. No subsurface archaeological testing has been conducted at the site to date.

Archaeological Assessment

An archaeological assessment of Mt. Philo State Park conducted in July 1987 identified two areas of high archaeological potential within the park boundaries. One of these areas, a portion of the former nineteenth century Smith-Jones farm complex, was further investigated with the excavation of three test pits and four soil core samples. Mapping of surface features at the site was also conducted. The tested area is located at the entrance to the park, in a grassy field to the north of the park road; the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation proposes to construct a parking lot in this field.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 25

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

As a result of the investigation, the remains of a structural feature along with a hand-dug well and two areas of barrow excavations were located. The structure was likely a small agricultural outbuilding associated with the farm. Assessment determined that the integrity of the site had been severely compromised by road construction, infilling and use as pasture, and that further research on the site would likely yield no significant archaeological information.

The second area of high archaeological potential is located on landforms adjacent to the headwaters of a feeder brook to Lewis Creek in the extreme southern portion of the park, below the 700 ft contour line. This portion of the park was deemed sensitive for prehistoric sites, however, it is located away from current high use activity areas and would not be impacted by any proposed work at the park, so no further testing was conducted.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Conservation

Entertainment/Recreation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1900-1945

Significant Dates

1901

1924

1933

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

US Department of the Interior

Civilian Conservation Corps

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 168.57 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 4 1 7 2 0	4 9 0 4 3 0 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
2	1 8	6 4 2 7 2 0	4 9 0 4 5 0 0

3	1 8	6 4 2 7 4 0	4 9 0 4 3 2 0
Zone	Easting	Northing	
4	1 8	6 4 3 0 6 0	4 9 0 4 3 6 0

See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Catherine A. Quinn

University of Vermont

organization Graduate Program in Historic Preservation date May 11, 1999

street & number Wheeler House telephone (802) 656-3180

city or town Burlington state VT zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

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

Property Owner

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

name Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, c/o Larry Simino, Director, State Parks

street & number 103 South Main Street telephone (802) 241-3655

city or town Waterbury state VT zip code 05671-0601

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

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

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 1

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Statement of Significance

Mount Philo State Park is significant for its role in the history of recreation, tourism and conservation trends in Vermont, including its association in the 1930s with the efforts of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the expansion of the state park system, and in its reflection of earlier attempts at the tourism industry by private Vermont citizens in the late 1800s and early 1900s. The buildings, structures, sites and landscaping preserved at the park retain their historic integrity and contribute to an understanding not only of the story of social and conservation reform that marks a significant era in American history, but also to an understanding of the evolution of recreational and tourism trends in Vermont and the nation. The CCC resources at the park are especially significant in that they represent one of the most successful and most popular of President Roosevelt's New Deal measures and because they preserve design and construction that embodies the distinctive characteristics of park building. The CCC represents the first attempt by the federal government to provide a specific solution to the problems of widespread unemployment, growing urban dissatisfaction, and the depletion of natural resources. Mount Philo State Park stands as a tangible monument to this solution. Mount Philo also preserves a unique history in that the workmanship of the CCC at the park is built upon and interwoven with the results of earlier individual efforts; together, the two components significantly reflect the heritage of tourism in Vermont. The park thus remains as permanent testimony to the successes of national, state and local endeavors. Mount Philo State Park is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places under criteria A and C. It is being nominated under the multiple property submission Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks and clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 2

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Mount Philo State Park lies in Charlotte, Vermont, a town first organized in March 1787. Charlotte is situated in the southwest corner of Chittenden County and the town's southern boundary forms a portion of the boundary between Chittenden and Addison Counties. The town is bounded to the north by the town of Shelburne, to the east by Hinesburgh, to the south by Ferrisburgh and Monkton, and to the west by the waters of Lake Champlain.

Mount Philo State Park is located near Charlotte's southern border, approximately 5.6 miles inland (east) from the shore of Lake Champlain and about 1.0 mile east of US Route 7. The park occupies Mount Philo, the highest landform in Charlotte, which rises to about 980 ft a.m.s.l. and forms part of a north-south oriented ridge that also includes Pease Mountain and Jones Hill. This ridge serves to divide the town into two sections, an east section that abuts Lake Champlain, and a west section that is closest to the Green Mountains.

The town was first chartered in 1762 by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, to Benjamin Ferris and 64 other grantees and the town is named after Charlotta, the wife of Wentworth; some early records refer to the town as Charlotta. Derrick Webb made the first attempt at settling the town in 1766, though the first permanent settlement did not occur until 1784, when Webb and Elijah Woolcot moved to Charlotte. At about the same time, James Hill set up a permanent home on Holmes Bay. Other early settlers, mostly from Massachusetts and Connecticut, soon followed into the area. Most of the early arrivals were farmers who took advantage of the fertile Champlain Valley, while others operated taverns, tanneries, gristmills, brickyards, general stores and blacksmith shops. The first ferry service across Lake Champlain originated from Charlotte; it was established by John McNeil in 1790. Because of its easy adaptation to agricultural pursuits, the settlement progressed rapidly so that when the first complete census of Vermont was conducted in 1791, Charlotte contained 635 residents, making it the largest town not only in Chittenden County, but in the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 3

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

northern half of the state. The first railroad train in western Vermont, operated by the Rutland and Burlington Railroad, was built through Charlotte in ca. 1848, and the first telegraph lines came through the town in ca. 1850. Charlotte business interests listed in 1886 include a cider mill, a saw and grist mill, a vineyard and fruit farm, and three stores.

Today Charlotte remains primarily an agricultural community with no large influx of housing or industry. The town's geological location along the shore of Lake Champlain has led to the development of some waterside recreational activities. Activities available to the public include fishing access at Thompson's Point and Cedar Beach, and at least two local businesses offer boating services, along with sailing and docking facilities.

Mount Philo

Long before the area was settled by Euroamericans, prehistoric Native Americans likely utilized Mount Philo for hunting and gathering activities, or perhaps as a strategic vantage point, or even for the enjoyment of the views obtained from the summit and the breezes encountered there. William Wallace Higbee, a Charlotte resident who published numerous newspaper articles in the late 1800s, recorded the tradition that early in Charlotte's history Mount Philo was named for an Indian fighter and famous hunter named Philo who camped on the mountain and frequently used its western slopes as a lookout for identifying "Indian savages."

Higbee's articles also indicate that by the late 1800s the mountain was regularly used for recreational purposes. He describes mountain climbs on Mount Philo in the late 1800s and an 1896 article describes the caverns of the mountain and the "Devil's Chair", a natural rock outcrop in the shape of a chair. In 1903 Higbee reported in *Beautiful View From Mount Philo* on the extraordinary views and the recently built roads and rest shelters.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 4

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Higbee's accounts verify that Mount Philo's association with recreation and tourism in Vermont began at least 28 years before the property became a State Park. The most significant early influence on the mountain in terms of recreation and tourism was its association with the Mount Philo Inn. Frank and Clara Lewis purchased the Smith-Jones farm at the base of Mount Philo in March 1887 and provided accommodations for guests as early as 1893. In ca. 1896 they replaced the original farm house with the Mount Philo Inn, a three level house that accommodated about 75 guests. The Inn had numerous porches that took advantage of the views and was self-sufficient with a dairy farm, livestock, and vegetable and flower gardens.

In addition to the Inn, the Lewises developed a tent colony in ca. 1900 which was gradually replaced by one and two room cabins and more elaborate cottages. Also in 1900, 27 acres of land around Mount Philo and the mountain top, was purchased by a summer guest to the Inn, James Humphreys, who deeded the land to Frank Lewis. The next winter a farm on the western slope of the mountain was added to the property. That following spring, in 1901, Lewis constructed a carriage road up the south slope to the top of the mountain with a team of horses and a plow. After the road was built, at least one local farmer, charged tourists a small fee for a surrey ride to the top of the mountain. Also in 1901, Lewis cleared footpaths, installed benches and built summerhouses or gazebos at strategic stops along the road. The iron railings that are in place at the overlooks today were also likely installed by Lewis around 1901. Shortly thereafter, Anna Humphreys, sister to James Humphreys, provided money to build a four-story wooden observation tower on the summit of the mountain. A third sibling, Charles Humphreys, donated a glass enclosed case that held a chart of data about the mountain and descriptions of the various locations visible from the tower.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 5

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

After the death of James Humphreys in 1914, the property was deeded back to his wife Frances who subsequently deeded the property, consisting of about 155 acres, to the state of Vermont "as a park for the health, recreation, and pleasure of the public" forever. Mount Philo thus became Vermont's first state park in 1924. Its development was then guided by the park planning policies of the Nation Park Service who's park planning had by 1925 evolved into a comprehensive plan that conceived of the park as a whole with areas set aside for administrative, recreational, conservation and concession purposes. The 1926 *Biennial Report of the Commissioner of Forestry of the State of Vermont* indicates that the Vermont Forest Service began work at the park in the spring of 1925 including the construction of a 60-foot lookout tower with a glass enclosure on top. Forty-seven thousand pine trees were planted that same spring, beginning a managed re-forestation of the mountain that would continue throughout the next two decades. Robert Ross, the Commissioner of Forestry in 1926, also mentions in his report that the road to the summit of Mount Philo was narrow and therefore not recommended for auto travel.

The present entrance to Mount Philo Sate Park was established in 1929 when Frank Lewis, then a member of the State Legislature, sponsored a bill for the creation of an entrance to the park. One year later the road up to the summit was widened and relocated under the direction of the road commissioner, Frank Lewis' brother, Solon Lewis. Also by 1930 the state had provided accommodations at the park in the form of fireplaces and tables. The evolvment of Mount Philo at this time reflects National Park Service development plans that had become standards on a national level since 1916 when the Park Service was established. Master plans for each park had to show in graphic form proposed recreation areas and regions set aside for conservation, as well as circulation networks and utility and wastewater systems. Important in these plans was the collaboration between landscape architects, engineers, and architects which resulted in a harmonious relationship between the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 6

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

built environment of the parks and their natural environment. Architects such as Herbert Maier put these principles into practice by designing buildings, sites and structures that fit their settings in organic ways, and landscape architects such as Thomas Chalmers Vint stressed the importance of planning in the parks that viewed the constructed elements of each park not as individual entities but as parts of a whole of a much larger system. Attention to suitable architectural styles, appropriate scale and placement, and compatible building materials all aided in subordinating the man-made features at the parks to the natural features.

Civilian Conservation Corps

With the introduction of Roosevelt's New Deal in 1933, state park development received unprecedented support under the Emergency Conservation Work Act which expanded the National Park Service to include the development of state, county and metropolitan parks. Under this act, work-relief programs such as the CCC enabled the park service to fully implement at state and local levels the national comprehensive plans it had designed. No program would have a greater impact on Park Service organization and operations than the CCC and over 70 percent of the CCC work supervised by the Park Service was undertaken at non-federal park areas. The CCC worked at Mount Philo from 1933 until about 1938, constructing buildings, structures, roads and recreational areas, and taking part in conservation efforts such as the planting of trees. While at Mount Philo, the crew camped out in tents at the base of the mountain, in a grassy field on the north side of the present entrance to the park.

The CCC represents one of the great successes of social reform in the United States in that it effectively brought together for mutual benefit two depleted resources during the 1930s and early 1940s, unemployed young men and the land. The tasks undertaken by the CCC

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 7

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

benefited the public domain in two ways: first, by promoting the health and morale of more than 2.5 million young men nationwide; and second, by making vital contributions to the conservation of natural resources. The CCC thus had a lasting effect not only on the landscape, but on the lives of its enrollees as well. The CCC put 11,243 Vermonters to work and brought immediate financial aid to the workers and their families. Simultaneously, the Corps provided urgently needed protection and carefully planned out development of Vermont's natural resources.

The CCC took advantage of an adequate supply of manpower and funds to carry out desperately needed recreation and conservation programs. Although the state parks were designed primarily as recreational reserves, CCC work at the parks included many conservation measures as well. Carefully planned landscaping at the parks included the reforestation of and plans for conservation of depleted woodlands, along with the establishment of designated trails, roadways and picnic areas that acted to protect natural resources from the impact of park visitors. By incorporating such human influences into the natural park, the CCC, under the direction of the National Park Service, designed parks that recognized the evolution of recreation. The proliferation of the automobile, the distribution of population, the amount of time that people spent in leisure, and the realization that important among conservation was the human element, were all considered in the conception of the state park during the 1930s and early 1940s.

Significance of Resources

The material evidence of the National Park Service's development concepts is preserved at Mount Philo State Park in the CCC resources that remain there. The landscape of the park reflects the carefully thought out development designs that were created by the Park Service and carried out by the CCC at Mount Philo during the 1930s. The placement of the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 8

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

architectural elements with consideration to uninterrupted views and the location of sites specifically designed to take advantage of those views clearly reflect the historic concepts of design that characterized park development during the 1930s and early 1940s. The subordination of structure to environment prevails at Mount Philo: the park road winds up and down the slopes of the mountain following the contours of the land rather than obliterating them; signs are minimal and unobtrusive, impacting the scenery as little as possible; campsites are nestled amongst the trees on the slope of the mountain, conforming to the topography of the land rather than destroying it; buildings are situated along the center of the crest and constructed in rustic design with natural materials so that they do not distract the mountain top view; and structures such as fireplaces and culverts are constructed in local materials with low impact consciousness that blends with the natural surroundings.

The distinctive rustic style of the architecture at Mount Philo State Park creates a strong visual connection with the park's environment. The rustic style achieves this connection between building or structure and surroundings with various techniques: first, the use of native materials that remain in or mimic their natural shapes; second, the selection of unobtrusive color for painted elements; third, a predominance of horizontal lines, simple planes and low silhouettes; and fourth, the creation of an appearance of pioneer craftsmanship. These techniques of construction are manifest in the CCC architecture at Mount Philo; they appear in the ranger's house, the combination park building, the stone fireplaces, the culvert and the toilet building.

The placement of the buildings and sites in areas that are not focal points and the use of natural plant screening also help to form a camouflage with the landscape. The two major buildings at Mount Philo, the ranger's house and the combination building, are positioned linearly along the center of the mountain top where they do not interrupt the views from the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 9

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

mountain's perimeter. Furthermore, a tree line between the mountain edge and the buildings prevents them from being seen from the overlook areas. The camping area at the park is likewise carefully planned with a consciousness of the surroundings. Individual camp sites are scattered along the north slope of the mountain and shielded from each other by terrain and trees. The layout of Mount Philo also incorporates designated picnic and recreational areas for more intensive use, and trails that guide visitors through the forest on established pathways. These defined contact areas between park visitor and environment were purposefully established to cause the least amount of impact to the natural setting of the park.

This harmony in construction and design evident in the CCC resources at Mount Philo embodies the distinctive planning ethic that was employed to achieve a recreational space that did not destroy the sense of wilderness. In preserving the design and construction of this ethic, the CCC resources at Mount Philo State Park not only document a distinctive architectural style, they also record the implementation of an historic planning policy and the success of a federal social endeavor that marks a significant period in United States history.

Combined with the earlier efforts undertaken by the Lewises at the turn of the century, the CCC resources at Mount Philo also document the history of recreation and tourism in Vermont. The foundations of Vermont's tourism heritage lie in the efforts of individuals like the Lewises who, with the help of the promotional campaigns of the Department of Agriculture and the state's railroad companies, privately jump started the tourist economy during the last quarter of the nineteenth century. The Lewises took advantage of several trends that had begun to affect recreation and tourism in the country at the close of the century. The ease of railroad transportation that increased the mobility of the population, combined with an increase in the amount of leisure time and the growing American desire to

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 8 Page 10

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

get back in touch with nature all aided the Lewises in establishing a viable tourist enterprise in a primarily rural agricultural setting. The Lewises' efforts at establishing a tourism industry were exceptional in that they went beyond providing accommodations and guided tours, to actively but sensitively developing Mount Philo for recreational purposes. The construction of the road up the slope of the mountain to provide easy and safe access to the views at the summit, the placement of simple, picturesque wooden structures at scenic stops along the way, and the creation of overlook areas along the perimeter of the mountain established an early ethic at the park that respected and revered the natural environment of the mountain while allowing enjoyment of it. This concept would later be expanded and built upon by the Park Service and the CCC. The record of this continuum of recreational use of the mountain is preserved at Mount Philo State Park which adds to the park's significance in defining the role of recreation and tourism in Vermont.

The impact of more recent development at the park is minimal and has not negatively affected the earlier record. Instead, the more recent inclusions merely reflect the continuous evolution of the park as a recreational attraction. The construction of new buildings at Mount Philo has been kept to a minimum; when new construction was deemed necessary, the buildings were kept simple and copied the style of the original CCC examples, resulting in a continuity that does not disturb the original design, plan and feeling of the park. Likewise, the utilitarian structures such as metal cooking grills and water fountains that have been added to the park, are uncomplicated and unobtrusive and do not distract from the natural scenery of the park landscape. Although the park has necessarily expanded and evolved, it has done so sensitively and continues to reflect the trends and ideals that originally shaped it. Mt. Philo State Park reached its present size of 168.57 acres in 1969 when John and Hobart Wells donated 13.45 acres in the southeast corner of the park to the state.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 8 Page 11

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

Based on an assessment conducted in 1987, significant prehistoric archaeological resources may also exist at the park, at the headwaters of a feeder brook to Lewis Creek in the extreme southern portion of the park, below the 700 ft contour line. Prehistoric resources here would likely be the result of small, ephemeral camping sites which may provide significant information about specific location procurement and processing activities.

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

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 9 Page 1

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

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Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 3

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

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Personal Communication

Raymond (Jim) Aube; Mt. Philo State Park employee and life-long Charlotte resident

Bruce Brown; State of Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, Regional Director

Herschel Quick; Park Ranger, Mt. Philo State Park (1999)

Lowell Nottingham; Facilities Maintenance, Mt. Philo State Park

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1

Mount Philo State Park
Charlotte, Chittenden County, Vermont

UTM Coordinates

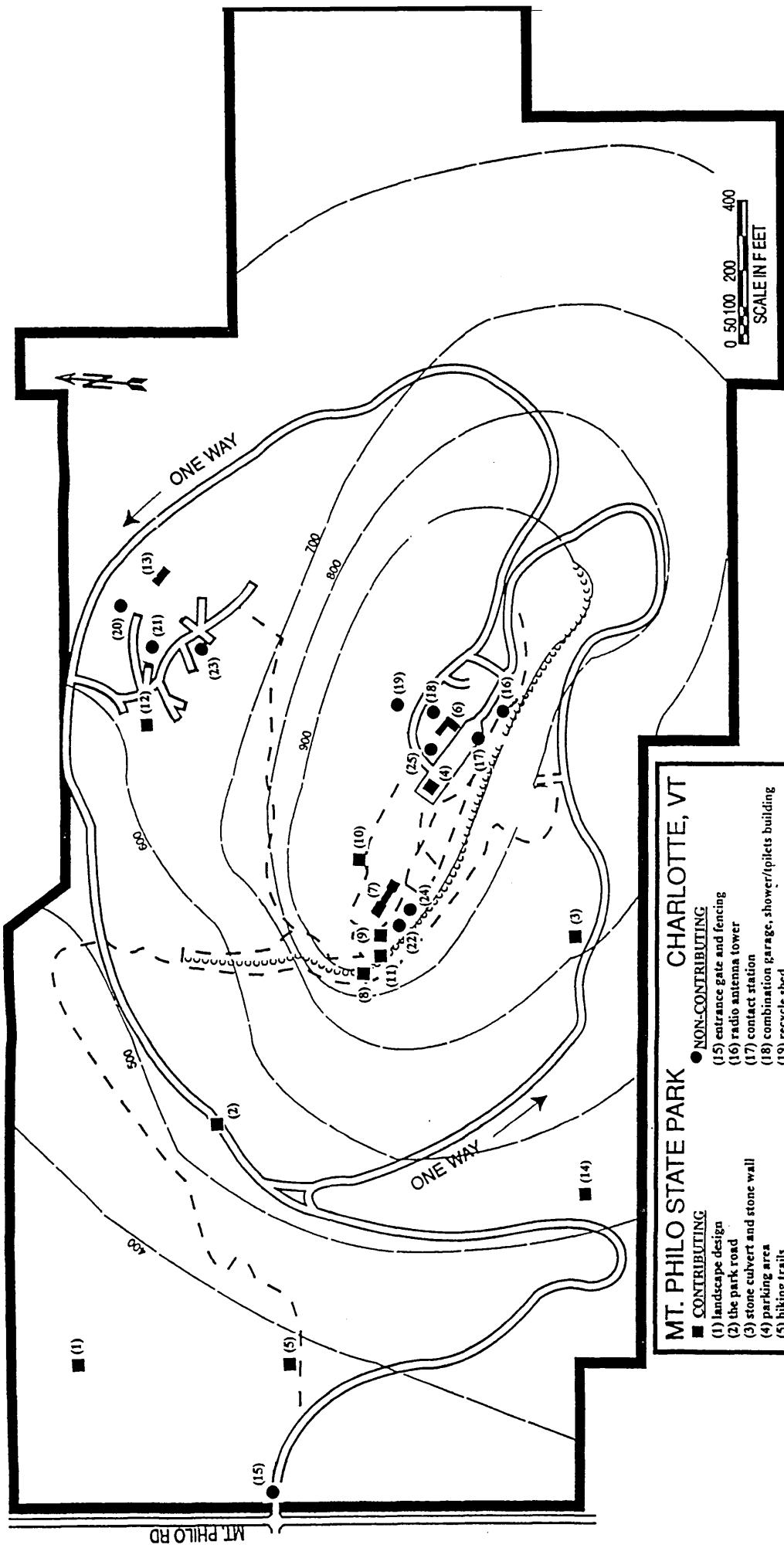
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12. Z18 E641960 N4903820
13. Z18 E641940 N4903880
14. Z18 E641800 N4903860

Verbal Boundary Description

Mt. Philo State Park is parcel 13 on tax map 9 in Charlotte, Vermont.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the park include the entire historic park.



MT. PHILO STATE PARK **CHARLOTTE, VT**
CHITTENDEN COUNTY

<p>■ CONTRIBUTING</p> <p>(1) landscape design (2) the park road (3) stone culvert and stone wall (4) parking area (5) hiking trails (6) ranger's house (7) combination park building (8) overlook areas (9) picnic and recreation areas (10) stone fireplaces (11) iron railings (12) camping grounds (13) toilet building (14) power lines</p>	<p>● NON-CONTRIBUTING</p> <p>(15) entrance gate and fencing (16) radio antenna tower (17) contact station (18) combination garage, shower/toilets building (19) recycle shed (20) lean-tos (21) metal fireplaces (22) metal cooking grills (23) water fountains (24) picnic tables (25) signs</p>
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