

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

MAR 14 1994

NATIONAL
REGISTER

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 Hopkins Mountain Historic District

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number access via Forest Service Road 139, Hopkins Mountain Road not for publication

city or town Alvon, 4 miles west of SR 92 north of Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony vicinity

Road, County Road 16/2

state West Virginia code WV county Greenbrier code 025 zip code NA

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.)

Edward J. DeBlasio
Signature of certifying official/Title

2/19/94
Date

Forest Service

Federal Preservation Officer

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.)

William C. Spencer
Signature of certifying official/Title

3.9.94
Date

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

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

Signature of the Keeper

for
Edson H. Beall

Entered in the National Register Date of Action 4.14.94

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	
2		buildings
1		sites
2		structures
		objects
5		Total

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Landscape, natural feature
- Industry, extraction
- Transportation, pedestrian-related defense
- Transportation, road-related

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

- Landscape, natural feature
- Transportation, pedestrian-related
- Transportation, road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Craftsman

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls wood, weatherboard

roof shake asphalt

other

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Military

Social History

Industry

Period of Significance

1863-1935

Significant Dates

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

Cultural Affiliation

Architect/Builder

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

Primary location of additional data:

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

Name of repository:

Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins

Hopkins Mountain Historic District
Name of Property

Greenbrier County, WV
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 105 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

3	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

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 Rebecca M. Rogers Historic Preservation Consultant

organization Rebecca M. Rogers date 10-29-1993

street & number 44 Audubon Road telephone 216-757-8986

city or town Youngstown state Ohio zip code 44514

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 Monongahela National Forest

street & number 200 Sycamore Street telephone 3040636-1800

city or town Elkins state West Virginia zip code 26241

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

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

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Hopkins Mountain Historic District Greenbrier Co., WV

DESCRIPTION

Hopkins Mountain is the southern end of Slabcamp Mountain at the southernmost end of Monongahela National Forest. The district is eligible for the National Register under criteria A for its portrayal of the multiple uses of a terminal knob of a mountain ridge. It is significant for its contribution to the social history of the Anthony Creek-Greenbrier River region. Hopkins Mountain is the site of an important mountain transportation route locally known as the Civil War Trail or the Falling Springs Trail. It also is the site of a logging tramway, an early method of timber transportation utilized on sites where access by railroad was difficult or not financially feasible. The site is important to the history of Monongahela National Forest as the one of four fire tower sites remaining in the forest. Of all the fire tower sites, only this one retains the fireman's residence and privy. The Hopkins Mountain Tower Road (Forest Service Road 139) the fire tower and the fireman's residence were all constructed by the members of Camp Alvon of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in 1935.

The site includes:

Buildings:

fireman's residence
privy

Structures:

Hopkins Mountain Tower Road
the Civil War Trail

Sites:

logging tramway

Non-contributing elements: none

The trail locally known as the Civil War Trail crosses Hopkins Mountain just below the peak. This footpath travels from the Peach Orchard Ridge Road near State Road 11 east of Falling Springs (Renick Post Office), traveling southeast across the north end of Peach Orchard Ridge and Hopkins Mountain, at the southern end of Slabcamp Mountain, to Dawson Run and the valley of Little Creek near its junction with Anthony Creek. Originally the trail continued all the way to the Greenbrier River at Falling Springs. This historic district incorporates only land within Monongahela National Forest. This includes a 20-foot margin on each side of the trail, approximately 4.2 miles long, or 20.3 acres. Much of the trail follows two well-forested steep hollows. In the late eighteenth and entire nineteenth century, the top of the ridge was open land with settled farms of fields and orchards. Since purchase by Monongahela National Forest in the early 1930s, the top of the knob and Peach Orchard Ridge have reforested. It now has mature deciduous trees covering most of the route. The trail is a single person-width footpath.

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Hopkins Mountain Historic District Greenbrier Co., WV

The tramway used for logging timber on Hopkins Mountain is located on the east side of Rocky Run. It parallels the run, beginning 6800 feet (1.3 miles) north of the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road, County Road 16/2. It ends above the Y in Rocky Run, 2.25 miles from the beginning of the the Forest Service Road 139, also known as the Hopkins Mountain Tower Road. The tram is about 400 feet east of the Forest Service Road. Both the upper and lower ends of the tramway have eroded or been demolished.

The tramway bed is constructed of locally gathered rocks. Erosion on the stream side has exposed the rocks. The bed was established on the top of the existing grade with little alteration of the existing terrain. It is about 4 feet wide. The bed of the tramway was built by Kendall Dieter Lumber Company in 1908.

The Hopkins Mountain Tower Road (Forest Service Road 139) was constructed in 1935 by the members of Camp Alvon of the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is a narrow, 18-foot right-of-way with gravel surface. Its most remarkable features are the frequent cobblestone-lined catch basins that feed steel culverts that pass under the road, emptying into the drainage of Rocky Run. The design of the road and its culverts is typical of road construction undertaken by the Civilian Conservation Corps in Monongahela National Forest.

The Hopkins Mountain Tower Road led to the Hopkins Mountain Fire Tower with fireman's residence. All these facilities also were constructed by members of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Camp Alvon. The fire tower, dismantled in 1979, was sited at the center of a circular road turnaround. Only the four concrete piers of the tower and the bottom step remain. The site is mown grass with a cleared view to the east across Little Creek and Beaver Lick Mountain. To the west is the fireman's residence and privy.

The 14' x 20' gabled-roof residence is a bay wide and single bay deep. It has a concrete pad foundation that also is the floor of the full width front porch. The building has corner boards, fascia, exposed roof rafters and rake boards. The exterior siding is clapboards originally painted brown; the trim was painted cream. The front porch has two Tuscan piers supporting an exposed gable-end roof rafter. The building interior is fully symmetrical except for a stove pipe on the west, a "kitchen" cabinet at the southwest end and a corner closet at the northwest corner. The interior walls and ceiling are clad in beaded pine vertical boards with glossy varnish. The wood floor is covered with a linoleum rug. Windows are 1/1 double-hung sash, now covered with plywood on the exterior. All original elements of the structure are intact except for replaced gutters and an asphalt roof that replaced the original wood shingles. The building interior and exterior is in near pristine preservation. Standardized original drawings for the building survive at the Monongahela National Forest Office in Elkins, WV. They note the design of the building from January, 1934, with no mention of a designer. The building was

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constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

North of the residence is a wooden board-and-batten privy with gabled roof. This modest wooden building has projecting wall headers and ridge pole. The door is on the gable end; east and west sides have wooden louvers. The roof has been replaced with corrugated fiberglass to admit light. The privy is the same design as the single privies at Blue Bend Recreation Area. Like them, it was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps.

SIGNIFICANCE

Hopkins Mountain District qualifies for the National Register under category A as an outstanding regional area that has well preserved and historically significant examples of the multiple uses of a terminal knob of a mountain ridge: a major regional trail, an early logging transportation route and a fireman's residence with access road and fire tower site. The trail, locally called the Civil War Trail, was used in 1863 for the rapid retreat of the 64th Virginia Battalion after the Battle of Droop Mountain. The logging tramway was constructed in 1908 and used for timbering of Hopkins Mountain between 1908 and the 1920s. The fireman's residence, access road and tower were constructed in 1935.

The Civil War Trail

The Civil War Trail has pre-historic roots, substantiated by a prehistoric Indian site just west of the Hopkins Mountain Fire Tower site at the north end of Peach Orchard Ridge (outside the district). Local residents used the route during historic times when walking was the principal means of travel. The trail was the most frequently used route from the Alvon vicinity of the Anthony Creek valley to Falling Springs (Renick Post Office) on the Greenbrier River.

This trail was established as a short-cut from the Anthony Creek Valley near present-day Alvon to Falling Springs on the Greenbrier River. The trail eliminated the need to pass around Peach Orchard Ridge and Gunpowder Ridge to the junction of Anthony Creek with the Greenbrier River, then turn north to Falling Springs. This short-cut saved many miles of walking. During most of the years of its use, the trail provided a transportation route to the mountain top farm residents when the mountain ridge was covered in farm fields and orchards before the soil was depleted. Also, as recently as the 1930s, the passage along Anthony Creek was extremely difficult from Little Creek to the village of Anthony. It involved fording Anthony Creek and following a narrow, unmaintained horse track through a hollow, the Narrows of Anthony Creek, and across Peach Orchard Ridge. The road was improved in the late 1930s when the Civilian Conservation Corps reconstructed the roadbed and the state of West Virginia built a bridge at the ford of Anthony Creek just upstream from Blue Bend.

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The trail gained its name and notoriety when it was used by the Virginia 26th Battalion under the command of Lt. Colonel George Matthew Edgar for its retreat from Droop Mountain on November 6 and 7, 1863. Edgar probably was directed to the trail by members of his battalion who were from the Alvon area. Edgar, whose troops had been held in reserve protecting the road from Hillsboro to Falling Springs, was cut off from the main Confederate Army during the heavy assault on the Confederate left flank on the afternoon of November 6th. Surrender was imminent without a route for retreat by this battalion pinned against the Greenbrier River and the forest wilderness of Slab Camp Mountain. Following the old road to Falling Springs, the battalion crossed the river and ascended on the narrow but well-travelled footpath into the valley of Little Creek and Anthony Creek. When Edgar arrived at Salt Pond Mountain in Giles County to rejoin his commander General John Echols, the lieutenant colonel earned high commendation from Echols because the battalion had arrive so quickly and in such fine condition. Edgar remarked that his men had led him across obscure country trails. Years later, Edgar remarked that the experience had been one of the most trying of his wartime career.

The Logging Tramway

The district also gains significance from its association with timbering practices, especially the survival of a bed for a tramway used to convey saw logs down the mountain to the boom at Athony Creek and Rocky Run. The tramway was used from about 1908 until the 1920s, in at least two, perhaps three periods of timbering on Hopkins Mountain.

In August, 1907, William and Mary Spitzer conveyed the timber on 220 acres of land bordering Rocky Run on Hopkins Mountain to the Kendall Dieter Lumber Company. The \$2200 transferred timber rights for one year, gave permission to construct a tramway along Rocky Run land then known as the Bowen Place, and confirmed that timbering would destroy no fruit trees on Peach Orchard Ridge. At the time of the transfer of timber, it appears that the Spitzers still lived on top of Peach Orchard Ridge and had not yet moved to the valley on the northwest side of Rocky Run and Anthony Creek (now part of Blue Bend Recreation Area). By 1920, the Spitzers lived on the north side of the Anthony-Blue Bend Road with a frame barn on the south side of the road. At that time, the tramway was again used for timbering Hopkins Mountain.

Timbering along Rocky Run and Anthony Creek removed oak and chestnut oak from the high, drier land with white pine taken closer to the valleys. According to Russell Ferrence, who bought timber and land in this area, Rocky Run was timbered at least twice and perhaps three times before he purchased the land in 1934-35 for the Forest Service.

Tramways were an efficient way of bringing saw logs down a hillside. The Mt. Hopkins tramway, according to descriptions told by Lee Yates to his daughter Betty Hughes,

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ran from just west of the location of the fire tower to near the Alvon-Blue Bend-Anthony Road. The logs were collected along Anthony Creek at a boom called a splash dam. It held the logs until the gate was opened and they floated downstream to a saw mill at Ronceverte, on the Greenbrier River below Lewisburg.

A tramway was a primitive railroad. The roadbed was leveled by building up rock fill to make a level course. On this fill were set two tracks constructed of rough cut timber. Each track had two wooden members laid side-by-side with a third wooden member laid on top, covering the joint of the two lower members. The wooden members often were long "2x4's". A four-wheeled wagon ran on the track. The wagon had horse power in front with the driver riding on a rear tongue holding reins and a vertical stick-type brake.

The bed of the tramway built by Kendall Dieter Lumber Company in 1908 survives along much of the length of Rocky Run paralleling the Hopkins Mountain Tower Road.

Hopkins Fireman's Residence and Hopkins Mountain Road

The third use of the Hopkins Mountain knob began in 1935 with the Forest Service purchase of the Spitzer farm. Members of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp Alvon the same year constructed a gravel road, a fire tower with residence for Monongahela National Forest. The road and the residence with privy survive without significant alteration. The residence is the only fireman's residence surviving in the forest on its original site. The tower was dismantled in 1979; only the concrete piers and lowest step remain.

The fire tower and residence were used only during fire season, March 1 to May 31 in the spring and October 1 to December 31 in the fall. During those months the residence was usually occupied by a fire spotter who used an instrument like a large compass to locate the direction of a fire on a United States Geological Survey (USGS) map. The location or direction of the fire was relayed by telephone to the district office at either Marlinton or White Sulphur Springs.

The Hopkins Mountain Road, Forest Service Road 139, is typical of roads constructed by the CCC. Prior to the the CCC, the Forest Service had little money for road construction. Typically, Forest Service roads were 9' wide with turn-outs for cars to pass. They followed the topography of the land exactly, because the Forest Service had little equipment to contour a road bed. The road surfaces sloped into the hillside so that cars and trucks would not slip over the outer edge into a hollow. With the arrival of the CCC in the 1930s, road design changed. A greater labor force and more equipment permitted roads to be cut from the hillsides. CCC roads were two-laned, permitting vehicles to pass.

The fireman's residence and privy, about 50 feet west of the site of the fire tower,

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display the simplicity and functionality of Forest Service buildings. The simple ornamentation of the residence with corner boards, rake boards, porch with piers and exposed rafters display simple elements of the Craftsman style. While constructed from standardized Forest Service plans, this building displays distinctive details worked out by the CCC builders: an open porch gable end. The privy also has Craftsman elements in its projecting wall headers and ridge pole. The residence and privy are unaltered since construction except for the replacement of the original roofing materials and change in gutters. The tower site retains its historic character.

The road and residence are examples of the fine work produced by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in Monongahela National Forest. First established in West Virginia in May 1933, the Civilian Conservation Corps had twenty-three year-round and summer camps in the state between 1933 and 1942. Most members worked in the Monongahela National Forest building roads, opening telephone lines, reforestation and managing timber and construction trails and recreation facilities. While monies earned by members of the CCC added to the local economy, a significant effect of the organization was the skills training and the instilling of regional esprit.

The work at Hopkins Mountain was undertaken by members of CCC Camp 13 at Alvon. This camp was closed in 1935.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Tim Boggs, 4-21-1993, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Civil War re-enactor and local Civil War historian, interview.

Louis Cross, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Forest Service employee at Blue Bend Recreation Area in 1942-1943, interview.

Denny Dean, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; West Virginia Department of Natural Resources employee and life-long resident of Blue Bend area, interview.

Russell Ferrence, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; purchased land for the Forest Service beginning in 1934, interview.

Betty Hughes, 4-20-93, White Sulphur Springs, WV; Forest Service employee whose father worked on the tramway along Rocky Run, interview.

McKim, C. R. Monongahela National Forest History. Unpublished manuscript available at the Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV, 1970.

Otis, Alison T. William D. Honey, Thomas C. Hogg, Kimberly K. Lakin. The Forest

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Hopkins Mountain Historic District Greenbrier Co., WV

Service and The Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933 - 1943. United State Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC, 1983.

Peyton, Billie Joe. Cultural Resource Survey, CCC Camps, Fire Towers, Administrative Sites. Unpublished Monongahela National Forest manuscript available at the Monongahela National Forest Office, Elkins, WV, 1986.

Ruel Ramsey, 4-20-93, Alvon, WV; life-long Alvon resident, interview.

Registry of Deeds, Greenbrier County Court House, Lewisburg, WV.

Salmond, John A. The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942. Durham, North Carolina, Duke University Press, 1967.

Shaffer, Dallas B. The Battle at Droop Mountain. Charleston, WV, West Virginia Division of Tourism & Parks, nd.

UTM References

Anthony Quadrangle

1. 17 561840 4202148
2. 17 563857 4201770
3. 17 565055 4200495
4. 17 563947 4198740
5. 17 564172 4197282

Alvon Quadrangle

6. 17 565943 4199822
7. 17 566248 4200482
8. 17 567180 4199322

Verbal Boundary:

All of the Hopkins Mountain Historic District lies within the boundary of Monongahela National Forest on Forest Service owned land. The Civil War Trail runs from a Forest Service shelter on the west side of Peach Orchard Road (296) east of Falling Spring (Renick Post Office) to the top of Hopkins Mountain and east to a gated lane that parallels Dawson Run. The eastern terminus is the Forest Service boundary. The district includes a 20-foot margin on each side of the trail.

The district also includes Forest Service Road 139, The Hopkins Mountain Road, a

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Hopkins Mountain Historic District Greenbrier Co., WV gravel road 18 feet wide. The district begins .1 miles north of the Anthony-Blue Bend Road, State Road 16/2, at the north boundary of Blue Bend Forest Camp, a landscape being nominated to the National Register. At the southern and eastern ends of the road, the district is measured 30 feet east and west from the centerline of the road. At 1.3 miles from the Anthony-Blue Bend Road, the east margin of the district expands to 400 feet to include the timbering tramway. At 2.25 miles, the evidence of the tramway cannot be seen; the east edge of the district again is 30 feet each side of the center line of the gravel road.

The district also includes the forest opening surrounding the Hopkins Mountain Fire Tower site including 10-foot deep of tree and shrub-covered lands. The open area is approximately a circle 190 feet in diameter surrounding the vehicle turn-around at the end of the Forest Service Road 139: open 75 feet on the south and east near the location of the fireman's residence and privy and open 15 feet on the east toward the view and on the north.

Boundary Justification:

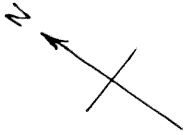
The Hopkins Mountain Historic District boundary includes all of the Civil War Trail within the Monongahela National Forest; all the surviving bed of the log tramway constructed by The Dieter Lumber Company on Hopkins Mountain; all of Forest Service Road 139, the Hopkins Mountain Road, north of the boundary of Blue Bend Forest Camp, and the open area at the end of Forest Service Road 139, which includes the fireman's residence, privy, well site, pump and site of the fire tower.

HOPKINS MOUNTAIN DISTRICT

Greenbrier Co WV

HOPKINS MTRD. (F.S. 139)

FOREST EDGE



PUMP

WELL

FIREMAN'S RESIDENCE

RADIO TOWER

PRIVY

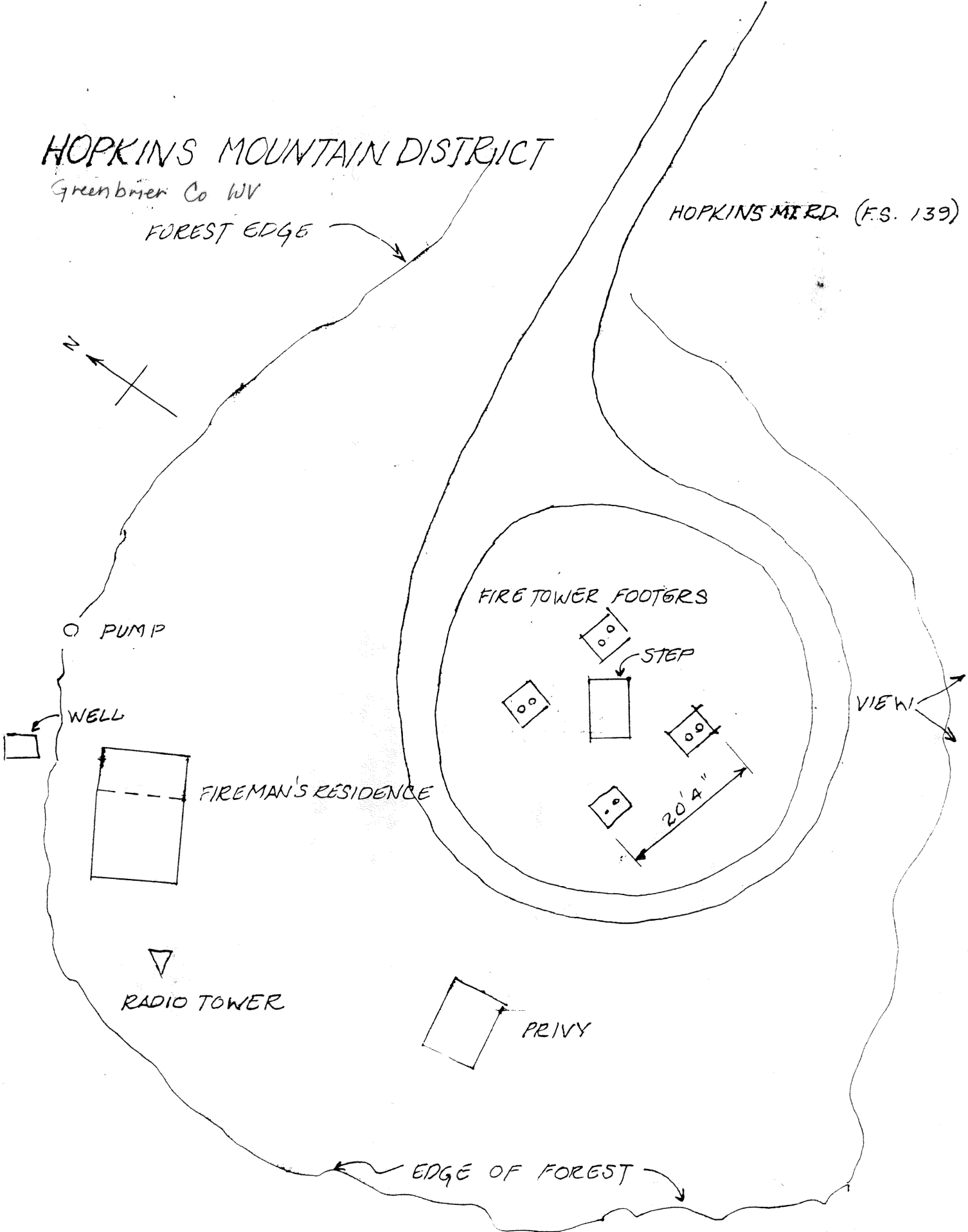
EDGE OF FOREST

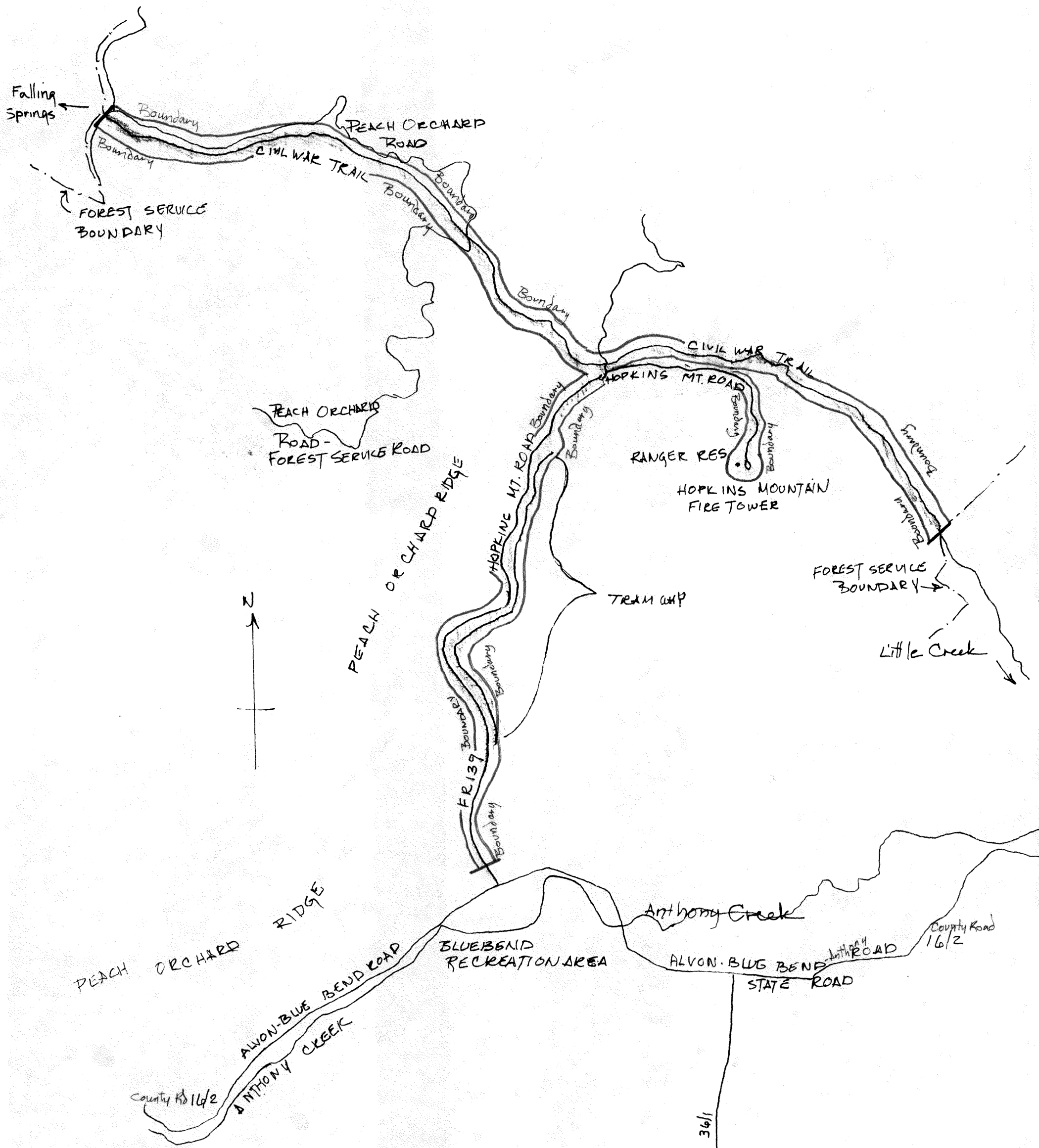
FIRE TOWER FOOTERS

STEP

VIEW

20' 4"





Hopkins Mountain District
 Greenbrier Co. WV
 0 1/4 1/2 3/4 1 mile