NPS Form 10-900 (Oct. 1990)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



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OMB No. 10024-0018

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 Ricker Pond State Park other names/site number 2. Location street & number 526 State Forest Road (VT Route 232) city or town Groton state Vermont code VT county Caledonia 3. State/Federal Agency Certification As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be continuation sheet for additional comments.) As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties of procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Participation of procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Participation of the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be commented by the property of the National Register criteria. I was a state of Federal agency and bureau In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See comments.)	N ♠ not for publication
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Signature of commenting official/Title Date	
State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I hereby confify that the property is: Signature of the Keeper entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet. Attional Register See continuation sheet. determined not eligible for the	Date of Action 3/29/02
National Register. removed from the National Register.	
other, (explain:)	

Ricker Pond State Park Name of Property	Caled County a	donia County, Vermon nd State	.t	
5. Classification Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply) Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within Property (Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)			
□ private □ building(s) □ public-local □ district □ public-State □ site □ public-Federal □ structure □ object	Contributing 3 4	Noncontributing 29	buildings sites structure	
	5 12	1 30	objects 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 & State P	in the Nation	contributing resources pro nal Register	eviously listed	
6. Function or Use Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions) Recreation & Gulture/outdoor recreation Landscape/park Landscape/forest		om instructions) & Culture/outdoor re ark		
7. Description Architectural Classification	Materials			
(Enter categories from instructions) Other: CCC State Park	(Enter categories fr foundation walls	concrete weatherboard		
	roof	log wood		

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

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number7 Page1	Ricker Pond State Park Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

Ricker Pond State Park is located 4 1/2 miles west of Groton on the north side of Vermont Route 232 and 11 miles to the southeast of Marshfield and between Lake Groton and Ricker Pond. This scenic and rugged place is known primarily for its developed camping facilities and wide assortment of outdoor recreational activities. Recreation is the most prominent management objective for Ricker Pond by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Wildlife; however, maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing site and the protection of wildlife habitats is a crucial element that requires timber management and habitat improvement. The rocky tree-covered hillsides were originally made up of white pine, spruce, hemlock, beech, maple, and birch and were logged by local farmers for lumber, fuel and potash beginning in 1873 with the opening of the Montpelier to Wells River railroad that ran through the forest. The timber farming ending in the 1920s after the complete deforestation of the area. The current assortment of trees have been brought back into the park, by either natural fertilization or the dedicated efforts of park officials, including a mass planting of pine and spruce by the Civilian Conservation Corps. Much of the park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), an aim of which was to provide organized camping facilities as a means of educating youth to constructive use of leisure time during the Depression. The original, historic CCC era structures and landscaped areas constructed in 1938 are now intertwined with other buildings and areas that were built in kind during the late 1950s and early 1960s. The park retains its integrity of location, setting, design, feeling, workmanship, materials, and association.

Situated at the entrance to Ricker Pond right off Route 232 is a wooden fence and gate (#1) with stone posts constructed circa 1984. Located 50 feet to the east of the fence is the ranger's quarters (#2). Constructed in 1938 by the CCC, the one story, shiplap-sided basement walkout residence overlooks the entrance to the park from its perch on a rolling hill. About 50 feet to the north past the gate lies the recently constructed contact station (#3) where necessary park information, maps and sign-in sheets are found. Continuing down the CCC constructed main road (#4), now graveled, serves as the main access artery and leads into the park along a gently curving pathway through a wooded landscape which does not begin until 150 feet past the shed. A vertically slotted firewood shed (#5) is located on the left about 200 feet from the quarters. Across from the woodshed is a recently constructed storage shed (#6).

The main road, winding in a northeastern direction, increases gently in elevation until its becomes a looping one-way road leading to 23 lean-to shelters (Section A) built in 1958, which accommodate 18 brick and 5 metal fireplaces. The shelters (#7) toward the beginning, overlook the pond and its opposite shores, which are privately owned. Several other lean-tos hug the shoreline contours of Ricker Pond. This slight 25-foot change of elevation creates scenic views for all visitors. Within the lean-to area lies a toilet building (#8) with an adjacent water fountain

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(#9), both of which were constructed in 1958. About 100 feet down the same road lies another non-contributing water fountain. Along the looping road by Ricker Pond, located about 100-feet from each other, are the last two non-contributing water fountains of this section. Towards the end of the one-way is the campers boat launch (#10). This sandy beach area is located on the northern end of Ricker Pond and dates back to the beginning of the park, when it was used for transporting visitors between sites. It is currently used for canoe and other boat access. The slightly less defined road, leading east (right) at the fork, meanders for a 1/4-mile before entering the 33 designated tent sites. These sites are divided into two clusters, 1-21 (Section B) and 22-33 (Section C) respectively. There are five randomly placed tent sites, which belong in section B, to the south of the road focused around a water fountain. On the other side of the road, is a 200-foot downhill sloping path leading to six tent sites alternating on each side of the road before ending in a loop containing the remaining 12 sites. Located to the east of the path and before loop is a CCC-constructed rustic stone picnic table (#11). Inside the loop are a picnic/toilet shelter (#12) constructed by the CCC in 1938 and a recently built water fountain.

Off the furthest northeast site is the campers' beach (#13) which was set aside for swimming, no boat launches were allowed. On the same road, before the second set of clusters is reached, a handicapped accessible toilet shelter (#14) and a water fountain, located on the southwest side, which were constructed in 1959. Within the remaining cluster of tent sites, which are located on both sides of the pathway is a private camp not included in this description. Located at the furthest eastern point on the property is a state camp (#15). The state camp/cabin was constructed in the 1950's for additional housing for park rangers, and is in use today. At the center of the last cluster of tent sites is the last non-contributing water fountain, which is located about 150-feet from the toilet shelter and right off the south side of the pathway. There is one handicapped lean-to shelter in this section; it is located about 100-feet from the last water fountain. A garage (#16) built by the CCC in 1938 is in terrible state of disrepair and is visible but not accessible from a few of the tent sites in this last section. It can be reached from VT Route 232.

Contributing and non-contributing features

#1 wooden gate and stone wall, 1984

This non-historic gate constructed at the entrance to Ricker Pond State Park consists of four-inch square eight foot long brown painted timbers resemble cantilevers with diagonal supports. These timbers are latched to one center granite fieldstone post roughly measuring three feet wide and 1 1/2 feet deep and three feet high. Two other stone posts, each about eight feet from the center, measure two feet square and three feet high hold the hinges and swinging timber gates. A one foot high fieldstone wall runs level for about 40 feet to the west and ends at the boundary of the

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park, while a step style wall follows the contours of the ground east until it reaches the rangers quarters.

#2 ranger's quarters, 1938

The CCC constructed this one story front gabled contributing structure with a poured concrete foundation in 1938. The tan asphalt shingle roof covers the original floor plan and a 12.5-ft x 16-ft bedroom addition, which was added on the rear façade 1968. The addition matches the brown shiplap siding originally found on the quarters and the other buildings within the park. There is a single door to the right of the exterior cut granite center chimney on the front façade. An original 3-ft x 8.5-ft wing located on the side façade facing the entrance to the park, contains one three panel awning window on center about 1 foot below the roof line. To the left of the wing are two casement windows with faux muntins, the only remaining feature on this side before the addition. The sparsely detailed addition only accommodates one casement window at the center of the north facing façade. The east façade (facing away from the entrance road) has a partially exposed basement with two windows on each side of the subgrade entrance, which is surrounded by field stone retaining walls.

#3 contact station, 1981

This non-contributing hipped roof building with asphalt shingles, constructed in 1981, is clad in wooden sheathing and roughly eight feet square with windows on three walls. The fourth wall, which contains a narrow door, is covered by a four foot long by eight-foot wide porch addition that has two slender posts for support.

#4 main road, 1938

The CCC constructed road, now graveled, serves as the main access artery and leads into the park along a straight path through the park's wooded landscape. The wide road runs the length of the park's built area and was designed with the automobile in mind.

#5 firewood shed, circa 1980s

This non-contributing gable roof asphalt shingle structure is roughly fourteen feet long and ten feet wide with two large doors on the front facing façade. Its slotted 2x10 plank board siding allows air to pass through its three-inch openings.

#6 storage shed, circa 1970s

This non-contributing gable roofed shed holds the necessary maintenance equipment for the Ricker Pond State Park. It is constructed of 2x10 plank boards over a six foot by ten-foot frame. There is a door on center of the front facing façade.

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#7 lean-to shelter, 1958

All 23 lean-to shelters at this park are non-contributing, due to their construction in 1958. All the lean-tos consists of a floor plan that is 138 inches deep and 200 inches long and resemble a three sided saltbox style with an asphalt shingle roof, with an open fourth side. They are 114 inches high at the roof peak and 51 inches high at the rear. All are constructed of 2"x10" vertical plank board siding with 4"x4" posts for additional support. The floors consist of tongue and groove 2"x10" planks. The interior is painted gray and exterior is painted brown to blend in with its surroundings.

#8 toilet building, circa 1960s

This non-contributing concrete based structure built in the late 1960's houses several toilets under its asphalt shingle gable roof line, which contains one skylight on the southern sloping pitch just above the entrance. The entrance, which is covered by a slight overhanging extension, is placed far to the right along the 25-ft front façade. A two-panel ventilation window is placed towards the upper left center portion of this façade and one of similar style on the rear façade. There is a triangular shaped window that matches the slope of the roofline on the east gable end of the shelter.

#9 water fountain, circa 1970s

All seven of these non-contributing features fashioned of cast concrete are roughly three feet high and six inches square at the base. Although similar in construction, several of the fountains placed throughout the park are missing the faucet portion at the top.

#10 boat launch

This roughly 400ft² cleared space on the shores of Ricker Pond gently slopes into the water allowing access for non-motorized boats.

#11 picnic table, 1938

The CCC built this granite table while at Ricker Pond State Park. The table surface is roughly three feet wide, five feet long and eight inches thick with two T-shaped stone supports underneath. A bench, located on each side of the table, measure a foot in width, three inches in thickness and four feet in length are supported by three vertically placed stones, one foot high and four inches thick.

#12 picnic/toilet shelter, 1938

Placed in a scenic clearing, the historic CCC log picnic shelter and toilet building, set on a concrete foundation, serves as one of the many focal points of the park. A gable roof clad in

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asphalt shingles tops the open-ended 30ft x 18ft rectangular picnic section. This portion of the structure has horizontally laid log construction with large open spaces, so visitors can enjoy nature and views of Ricker Pond while they relax. The open end is supported by whole timber post and beam construction that matches the diameter of the logs on the siding, while the interior four rafters are king post construction. There are exposed timber columns placed at mid span along the side facades and at both of the corners along the exposed end. A waist level baluster sheathed in hand split overlapping siding stretches the length of the exposed end wall and reaches until the timber columns on the sides.

The large cut granite fireplace at the middle of the west facing façade and the timber construction help divide the picnic portion and the toilet portion of the structure. The slightly smaller 15ft x 14ft extension, also built by the CCC, has a gable roof that does not match the picnic portion due to its smaller measurements. The exterior wall of the toilet portion is sheathed in hand split 1/2 inch overlapped siding that extends into the gable peak on the west entrance. There are two doors, one men's and one women's, on each side of two small windows that are level with the top of the doors. Both doors offer original, hand-made colonial style latches, handles and locks. The two identical side facades each have one window just below the roofline at the center of the extension.

#13 campers' beach

This sandy beach, along the shores or Ricker Pond, has a 65-75 ft² clearing allowing wonderful views of the water.

#14 handicapped accessible toilet shelter, circa 1960s

This non-contributing concrete based structure built in the late 1960's houses several toilets under its asphalt shingle gable roof line, which contain four skylights on the southern sloping pitch. The entrance, which is covered by a slight overhanging extension, is placed far to the right along the 25-ft front façade. A two-panel ventilation window is placed towards the upper left center portion of this façade and one of similar style on the rear façade. There is a triangular shaped window that matches the slope of the roofline on the east gable end of the shelter.

#15 state camp

This one story non-contributing cabin located at the far northeastern section of the campground has painted brown wood shingle siding and a concrete foundation. There are two skylights placed on the east side of the asphalt shingle gable roof. An exterior chimney is placed at the middle of the east façade, between the skylights. The only entrance to the cabin is through the framed-in porch on the north façade.

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#16 garage, 1938

The CCC completed this one-story gable-roofed wood shingle facility in 1938. This three-stall arrangement roughly measures 25-ft on the front facing façade and 35-ft along the side. Due to the terrible disrepair that the garage has fallen into in recent years, officials have boarded up the fenestration and doors and covered the original tongue and groove plank board siding with tarpaper to protect against the elements. Above the three swinging doors are two six-pane windows in the gable peak. Other fenestration includes two similar windows spaced about 1/3 and 2/3 along the length of the both side façades, but there is a single door after the second window on the side closest to the road. An internal chimney rises between one window, of similar style to the others, and one door in the gable peak of the rear façade.

#17 stone fireplaces, 1938

All four of these rubble stone fireplaces constructed by the CCC have a back wall about 18 inches think. They are open in the front, the side walls are about 22 high and the back wall is about 30 inches high.

#18 brick fireplaces, circa 1960s

All 43 of these non-contributing brick constructed fireplaces have roughly the same design and measurements as the stone fireplaces.

Name of Property

Record # _____

8. St	atement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Criteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)		Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
		Architecture
☑ A Property is associated with events that have made		Landscape Architecture
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.	Social History
□В	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.	Period of Significance
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	GIN 63 men con coeusaya ah
	ria Considerations "x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
Prope	erty is:	
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
□в	removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
□ c	a birthplace or grave.	
□ D	a cemetery.	Cultural Affiliation N/A
	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□ F	a commemorative property.	
□ G	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
	within the past 50 years.	US Department of the Interior
		Civilian Conservation Corps
Narra (Expla	ative Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets	3.)
9. M	ajor Bibliographical References	
	ography he books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on c	one or more continuation sheets)
-	ious documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	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	 X State Historic Preservation Office X Other State agency ☐ Federal agency ☐ Local government ☐ University ☐ Other Name of repository:
	#recorded by Historic American Engineering	VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

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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Ricker Pond State Park

The landscape and some structures of Ricker Pond State Park, in Groton, Vermont are historically important for their reflection of recreational and conservation trends of the 1930's as prescribed by the National Park Services, The Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Inscribed in the landscape of Ricker Pond are the reminders of a decade in American history, when the nation's early conservation ethic and social reform movements were successfully wedded under these character-defining philosophies. Therefore, Ricker Pond State Park is historically significant under the National Register Criterion A. This is evident due to its representation of the social, political and economic impact of the Great Depression and the development of the Civilian Conservation Corps' success as a leader in conservation efforts in United States history. Ricker Pond State Park also represents the lasting result of this era of park and recreation design nationwide, specifically in Vermont, and is, therefore, also eligible under Criterion C. Its buildings and structures are architecturally significant; having been built according to the design philosophy of agencies such as the United States Department of the Interior's and National Park Service, such ideals including being constructed in a rustic style and using native materials that are harmonious with the natural environment. Even though several different building designs were developed, there was a national continuity that resulted in a comprehensive national treasure. The structures are historic reminders of the operating facilities of these agencies, recalling the substantial accomplishments of the CCC, which left a lasting impression in terms of conservation, recreational development, landscape design and unemployment relief. Ricker Pond State Park is being nominated under the Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPDF. It clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

As early as 1704, the area's network of ponds, brooks and rivers was the route French and Indians took to carry over 100 captives from Deerfield, Massachusetts, to Canada. Later, during the French and Indian Wars, Groton was visited by hunting bands Indians and raiding parties of English and French. There were no permanent settlers in Groton until after the American Revolution. Veterans of the war, along with many ambitious youth from lower New England, moved north to Vermont in search of water and trails for transportation, land suitable for farming, and resources for building. Due to the proximity of those materials, Groton was settled. Land outside the village was left as "wild land", being too rocky to farm. But in time, this region's dense tree-covered hillsides were threatened by local farmers due to the uses as fuel, lumber, and potash. Captain Edmund Morse, one of the first settlers in Groton, arrived in 1783. He built the town's first saw and gristmill on the outlet of Ricker Pond which he ran until he sold the mill to Amaziah H. Ricker in 1927. Ricker ran the mill for nearly 50 years, increasing his property from 100 acres to 2000. Ricker Mill remained in the family until it closed in 1963, making it one of the longest continuously operating sawmills in the United States.

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The introduction of the Montpelier and Wells River Railroad in November of 1873, which served as a connection between the Central Vermont Railroad and the Boston and Maine system, opened the area to another kind of settler, the seasonal camper. The earliest camps along the shores of Groton Pond date back to 1894. Within ten years, it was an established practice for Vermonters to spend from July 4 to Labor Day by the pond swimming, boating, hiking, and fishing. The area was widely visited again in late fall for hunting. In the last century, Groton and the surrounding area has seen the dramatic rise and fall of the railroad and the logging towns, but the recreational traditions supplied by nature and campgrounds endured. It was such a popular site, that the state bought its first tract of land here in 1919 and has continued to enlarge its holdings up to the present size.

Ricker Pond State Park is located 4 1/2 miles west of Groton on the north side of Vermont Route 232 and 11 miles to the southeast of Marshfield, and between Lake Groton and Ricker Pond. At the time of the park's development, scenic views, particularly overlooking Ricker Pond, were the major attraction. Today, the same attractions are coupled with quiet and peaceful camping and picnicking sites.

Ricker Pond is a 48 acre park within the 26,175.09 acre Groton State Forest, which is the second largest contiguous landholding operated by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation with six state parks and two recreational facilities, second only to Mt. Mansfield State Forest. Opened in 1933, this park offered the sounds of water against the shores of Ricker Pond, as well as solitude in nature. The park was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps, an aim of which was to provide organized camping facilities as a means of educating youth to constructive use of leisure time during the Depression with the aid of Perry Merrill, Vermont State Forester from 1930-55 who oversaw the CCC building process in the state. Ricker Pond State Park stands as a testament of the CCC's recreational park planning ideals.

Although amusement by visitors is the most noticeable objective for Ricker Pond by the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, maintenance of an aesthetically pleasing site, and the protection of wildlife habitats is also a crucial element that requires close attention. Landscaping is an important factor to consider in terms of maintaining historic integrity. Recreational aspects of park planning must be subordinate to the fabric of the landscape in a sympathetic and harmonious manner, since the native vegetation is integral to the historic park design.

The structures built by the CCC are architecturally significant as examples of the rustic architectural style, based on the theories of landscapes architects such as Frederick Law Olmstead, who during the early 20th century worked to blend architecture with its environment

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Ricker Pond State Park

by using the natural building materials and coloration patterns of earth tones derived from the surrounding environment. Based on National Park Service design philosophies, the structures possess this style of construction and elements of the picturesque, which would be difficult to replace.

The original, historic CCC-era structures and landscaped of Pond State Park are now intertwined with other buildings and areas that were built at later dates. The plan of Ricker Pond follows the traditional philosophic approach to building employed by the CCC, allowing for variations in activity that work in tandem with the natural environment. Areas with structural additions were kept at a minimum, and often hidden from significant viewpoints, so as not to allow the built environment to encroach upon the natural world, which was the most crucial element of the designs. For example a simple graveled road leads into the park, past the ranger's quarters (#2) and a few sheds (#5 and #6), but the actual campgrounds are secluded from the open entrance.

The Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation in Vermont is continually updating their direction to keep the parks an exciting place to visit. Since 1975 the Department has sponsored a summer naturalist program. From mid-June to Labor Day, naturalists live in parks throughout Vermont and schedule weekly events, which include astronomy, hikes to unique areas, guided nature walks, nature movies, Indian and early American craft making and visits to historic sites. It is through this style of programming that visitors learn the importance of their state parks, their history and how they can help keep Ricker Pond State Park a vital and historic element of Vermont.

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Section number9 Page1	Groton, Caledonia County, Vermont

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- Miles, John C. Guardians of the Parks. Washington, D.C.: Taylor & Francis, 1995.
- Salmond, John A. *The Civilian Conservation Corps* 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study. Durham, N.C.: Duke University Press, 1967.
- Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation. Ricker Pond State Park files. Waterbury, Vermont.

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Section number 10 Page 1 Ricker Pond State Park, Caledonia County, Vermont

Verbal Boundary Description

The southeast corner of the property begins on the south side of Vermont Route 232, 500 feet to the west of the 1100ft contour line. From this point, proceed in a due north direction until the shoreline of Ricker Pond. Follow the shoreline in a northwesterly direction until 100 feet past the campers boat launch. Next, turn directly south, and follow that course until the intersection of Vermont Route 232. Follow the southern side of the road in a southeasterly direction until the starting point is reached.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries of this park are sufficient to carry all historic elements, which are being nominated in Ricker Pond State Park.

