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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 New Discovery State Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 4239 VT Route 232 N/A not for publication

city or town Peacham N/A vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Caledonia code 005 zip code 05658

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. Jamul, National Register Specialist, 10-19-01
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): _____

Elson H. Beall
Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

New Discovery State Park
Name of Property

Caledonia 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 | |
|--------------|-----------------|------------|
| <u>12</u> | <u>22</u> | buildings |
| <u>8</u> | | sites |
| <u>1</u> | | structures |
| <u>34</u> | | objects |
| <u>55</u> | <u>22</u> | 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

Historic Park Landscapes in National & State Parks

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation
Landscape/ park
Landscape/forest
Transportation/trail

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/outdoor recreation
Landscape/ park
Landscape/forest
Transportation/trail

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: CCC State Park

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Concrete
walls wood
log
roof shingle
other stone

Narrative Description

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

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Continuation Sheet

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name of property: New Discovery State Park
town: Peacham county and state: Caledonia County, VT

Located in the northeast section of Vermont, in the town of Peacham, is New Discovery State Park. It is approximately six miles southeast of the town of Marshfield, and about twenty-four miles from the capitol city of Montpelier. The park is contained within the Groton State Forest, a densely forested area accessible only by Vermont Route 232, which winds from farmland through the forest and south to the town of Groton. The Civilian Conservation Corps began construction of the park in 1933 using materials found on site, including uncut, undressed field-granite and rough-cut logs to make up the rustic features characteristic of their structures. Among the elements that the CCC constructed are the ranger's house (1), tent sites (9), hiking trails (35), fireplaces (10, 30), lean-tos (32, 33, 34), toilet shelters (12, 31), and a picnic pavilion (26). Also present in the park are the archaeological remains of the camp that the CCC built to live in during the park's construction. Throughout its annual use by visitors from New England and beyond, regular maintenance of the park has kept the remaining CCC elements in excellent condition. Some elements of the park are intact from the CCC era, while others have been rebuilt in the succeeding years. The park retains its historic integrity in its general layout, and its relationship to the forest, the roadway, and the surrounding points of interest.

The setting of New Discovery State Park within the bounds of the Groton State Forest is significant to the formation and life of the park. Groton State Forest is Vermont's second largest State Forest, containing 25,645 acres. New Discovery State Park is one of six state parks located within the Groton State Forest: other parks nearby are Stillwater State Park and Ricker's Pond State Park. New Discovery State Park is the northernmost of the three parks located along Vermont Route 232, and is made up of densely forested land with a rolling topography. The highest point in the park is the summit of Owl's Head Mountain, at 1,956 feet, while the lowest elevations in the park are between 1,315 and 1,500 feet above sea level. The camping area of New Discovery State Park lies between 1,712 and 1,765 feet above sea level. At the east side of the park is Osmore Pond, drained by Osmore Brook, which flows south through the forest to Lake Groton.

New Discovery State Park contains some developed lands, most of which were laid out during the CCC development of the park. A campground at the western side of the park was built by the CCC, but has been altered slightly over the years. The campground consists of two areas, designated as Area A and Area B in this description and on the accompanying sketch map. There is a second developed area located at the entrance to the park. A third developed area, originally a separate entity from New Discovery State Park, was developed by the CCC at Osmore Pond. A fourth area, now used as the Groton State Forest Maintenance Area, was also developed by the

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CCC. These areas include and surround the original areas of the park built by the CCC. Some CCC development also exists in the Owl's Head Mountain area, at the southern tip of the park.

A. Entrance Area: The entrance area of the park contains four structures: the rangers' quarters (1) and separate garage (2), a contact station (3), and a woodshed (4). The contact station and woodshed are non-contributing structures due to their ages, while the other two structures are CCC built and contributing.

1. *Ranger's quarters, 1937.* The ranger's quarters building was constructed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937. It is located just outside the park gate, with its main façade facing north, on Vermont Route 232. The one-and-one-half story house is a three bay wide and two bay deep gable end building with wall dormers on the eaves sides. The windows of the house are paired swinging casements, with six panes in each sash. The house is sheathed in clapboards painted white, and has a steeply pitched slate roof. A large granite chimney rises from the west end of the roof, and a smaller granite chimney is centrally located on the roof.

2. *Ranger's house garage, circa 1937.* The garage, located across the driveway from the house, matches the house in style. The gable end building is approximately 24½ feet deep and 18½ feet wide. The roof is covered with corrugated steel, and the sides with clapboards with approximately six inches of exposure. The door of the garage is an overhead roll-up style with windows.

3. *Contact station, circa 1961.* The contact station is located at the gate to the park. It is a pyramidal hip roof wood frame structure, approximately 6'x6' square. The station building has wood roof shingles and vertical wooden sheathing. A door is located on the north side, with a paired hinged casement window on the east side. Adjacent to the building is a bulletin board used to post notices.

4. *Woodshed, circa 1961.* The 24½'x17' woodshed is located just inside the park's gate, on the east side of the driveway. It is a wood frame, gable-roof structure, with wooden roof shingles and vertical board and batten siding. The south side of the building has vertical board siding with one-inch spaces between the boards to allow for the drying of the wood stored inside. Two pair of large wooden doors on the front (west) façade slide on metal tracks to provide access to the building's two bays.

B. Area A: On the west side of the drive, approximately seventy-five yards from the woodshed is the entrance to the camping area now known as Area A. Area A contains thirty campsites (5)

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and 10 lean-tos (6) arranged along the outside and inside edges of a circular dirt drive. Also inside the perimeter formed by the road are a large open space and a large toilet building (7).

5. *Campsites, 1961.* Each campsite, designated by a site marker, has a graded dirt area for tent or camper placement and includes a picnic table and a fireplace. The fireplaces in Area A are built of brick and mortar, with concrete capstones on all horizontal surfaces. They are formed with three sides, the back being higher than the two sides, and are approximately five feet square and three feet high at the back. The brick walls are approximately 1 foot thick. The site markers are 4"x4" wooden posts set in the ground with a small wooden plaques fastened to their side. The plaque has a number debossed into it, work typically produced using a router. The picnic tables in the campsites are of two types in the sites: wood construction or wood and metal tube construction. Both of these types of tables and the site markers postdate the CCC, most of them likely built in the 1990s as replacements for the originals from 1961.

6. *Lean-tos, 1961.* Area A contains ten lean-tos situated along the west side of the circular drive. These lean-tos are approximately fourteen feet square, are of wood frame construction with gable roofs in the saltbox style, and are raised off the ground on cinderblocks. The lean-tos are sided with vertical wooden planks on the three closed sides. The roofs of the lean-tos are asphalt shingles covering wooden shakes on some structures, or simply nailed to the roof sheathing on others. The front façades of the lean-tos are open to provide access to the living area. The longer slope of the roof to the back of the lean-to provides a short back wall, which is recessed approximately three feet into the body of the structure to provide an external storage space under the eave for gear and supplies. Two of the lean-tos have recent wooden handicap access ramps, which wrap around the gable end of the structure to the open side.

7. *Toilet building, 1961.* The toilet structure for Area A is located in the grassy area bounded by the circular drive. This 40'x18', gable-roof building is not constructed in the rustic style characteristic of CCC structures. Rather, the building is sided with vertical bead board siding in the same style as the area's lean-tos. The structure has fixed windows along the eaves and other modern elements such as steel doors coated to resist weathering.

8. *Water faucet risers, 1961.* Three concrete posts located in Area A serve as risers for water faucets. The posts are approximately three feet tall and eight inches square at their base and are battered to a pyramidal top. A copper pipe protrudes from one side of the post to serve as a faucet mount.

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C. Area B: Located approximately 100 yards to the south of Area A is another camping area, presently designated as Area B. In the original plan of the park as built by the Civilian Conservation Corps beginning in 1933, this was the only camping area, and as such was designated Area A. It has seventeen campsites (9) constructed in much the same manner of Area A. All of the sites have wooden post markers, picnic tables of wood or wood and metal tube, and fireplaces. The main difference between the sites is that the Area B fireplaces (10) are constructed of granite fieldstone adhered with mortar.

9. CCC Campsites, 1933-1934. A map located in the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation office, dated 1957, indicates eight of the current Area B campsites as existing, with fireplaces, at that time. It is likely, then, that these eight campsites were the original camping area built by the CCC. The 1934 report of the Vermont State Forester lists only six tent platforms and five fireplaces as having been built during 1933. These eight CCC campsites exist around an open, grassy area and consist of a wood site marker, wood or wood and metal tube picnic table, and stone fireplace, however, there is no evidence of the tent platforms extant at the site.

10. CCC Fireplaces, 1933. There are two CCC fireplace designs employed in Area B. Similarly to those in Area A, both types of fireplaces in Area B are approximately five feet square, three feet high at the back, and have walls one foot thick. The Area B fireplaces, however, are built up of granite fieldstones and shaped blocks, and have bricks lining the firepit. One of the designs, used in less than half of the campsites in Area B, includes a flue which uses a hollow back wall of the fireplace as a short chimney. Blueprints on file in the Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation office indicate design dates of 1935 for both types of these fireplaces.

Two other structures, a pump house (11) and toilet structure (12), are indicated on this 1957 map of the area now known as Area B. Structures exist at both of these locations today.

11. Pump House, circa 1965. An 8'x10' wide gable front, wood frame structure is located at the site of the pump house indicated on the 1957 map. The current structure has an asphalt shingle roof, and clapboard siding with an exposure of approximately six inches. A concrete slab approximately ten inches thick makes up the floor of the structure. The extant pump house appears to be a non-contributing element to the significance of Area B. While a pump house evidently did exist at this site, the smooth finish of the concrete slab and some recycled boards used in the roof sheathing indicate that this is a more modern replacement for the original structure.

12. Toilet Building, c.1935. The Area B toilet structure is a gable roof building thirty-five feet long and ten feet wide with its main façade on the north side. It is sheathed in horizontal shiplap

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log siding, and roofed with asphalt shingles over split wood shakes. The building has two interior rooms, one for men and one for women, accessible by a pair of central entrances with vertical-board wood doors. A six-pane hopper window flanks each entrance, and is flanked by side shutters. According to its 1934 blueprints, three pit toilets were located in each room; the pits still remain accessible by hatches on the outside of the back of the building. The exterior of the building remains in its historic state, while the interior has been refurbished to include modern plumbing and shower facilities.

Area B also contains eleven additional campsites (13), four lean-tos (14), two faucet risers (15), and a wooden sign (16), all of which were added to the original CCC plan in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The campsites and lean-tos are illustrated on the 1957 map as proposed elements.

13. Campsites, circa 1960. These eleven campsites are of the same plan as the CCC campsites in Area B. They also have site markers, picnic tables, and stone fireplaces. It is noticeable, however, that the stone fireplaces of the later period do not contain any cut stones, as some of the CCC fireplaces do.

14. Lean-tos, circa 1960. The four lean-tos in Area B are of the same design as those of Area A. All are 14'x14', saltbox roof, wood frame structures.

15. Water Faucet Risers, circa 1960. Two concrete posts located in Area B serve as risers for water faucets. These are of the same design as those in Area A. The posts are approximately three feet tall and 8 inches square at their base and are battered to a pyramidal top. A copper pipe protrudes from one side of the post to serve as a faucet mount.

16. Wooden Sign, circa 1958. An interesting feature of Area B is a sign constructed of wooden posts and boards, and inscribed with the text, "In recognition of outstanding efforts in conserving the natural resources of Vermont." This sign is shown to be post-CCC by its inscription of Perry H. Merrill as State Forester, with the dates 1930-1955. Unless the date was added later, which appears unlikely, the sign was constructed after 1955.

D. CCC Camp: By following the trail east to Osmore Pond, one passes the remnants of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp where the Corps members lived during construction in the Groton State Forest.

17. Fireplace and chimney, circa 1933. The most obvious remaining artifact of the camp is a large stone chimney, which was originally the chimney of the camp recreation hall, but now rises freestanding from the forest floor. The chimney is approximately twenty feet high, 8½ feet wide

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by three feet thick at its base. It is constructed of uncoursed fieldstones laid up with mortar. The inside of the fireplace is lined with bricks that show signs of a great degree of use.

18. *Fence piers, circa 1933.* Nearby are four stone piers that once supported a log fence marking the entrance to the camp. The uncoursed fieldstone piers are approximately three feet square at their bases, and four feet high. Two full logs, the ends of which were built into the masonry, were used as rails between the piers.

19. *Path, circa 1933.* A path runs southeast between the piers to a location behind the chimney site, where it turns to the northeast and becomes overgrown.

20. *Dump site, circa 1938.* Following the path one passes the location that the CCC used for its dump, an area now covered with rusted cans, broken bottles, and the remnants of shoes and kitchenware.

21. *Concrete slab, circa 1933.* To the left of the path, adjacent to the chimney, is an elevated concrete slab 100 feet long and twenty-one feet wide. Judging by its size, this slab may have once been the floor of a barracks.

22. *Concrete slab, circa 1933.* Continuing along the path, which becomes heavily overgrown at this point, one comes to another path leading west, back to the main trail. Along the left side of this path is another elevated concrete slab, measuring 30'x43'. This slab was once the floor of a building, however there is no evidence present to provide information as to what function the building served. From this slab, looking northeast, one can see the remnants of three structures in the forest.

23. *Concrete structure, date unknown.* Rising from an overgrown portion of the forest is a box-like concrete structure 6½ feet deep, four feet wide, and 5½ feet high, with two-inch diameter metal pipes running horizontally through the walls at a height of about three feet. The use of this structure, and its age, are, at present, undetermined.

24, 25. *Concrete foundations, circa 1933.* To the north of this unidentified structure, a stream flowing downhill from the main road is bridged by two concrete foundations, likely the remnants of a water supply system for the camp. The eight-inch thick foundations measure nine feet square, and have corner-notched timber sills atop them while metal pipes permeate the foundations. Architectural remnants at the sites indicate that the structures were wood frame and had gable roofs.

E. Osmore Pond Area: Further east is another development area located at Osmore Pond. This area has been historically identified as the Osmore Pond Day-Use Area. A large, open sided

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picnic pavilion (26), a small shelter (27), numerous picnic tables (28), a water fountain (29), fifteen fireplaces (30), and a latrine (31) stand at the site. Three lean-to sites (32, 33, 34) with accompanying fireplaces and latrines are located on the west side of Osmore Pond.

26. *Picnic pavilion, 1933.* The picnic pavilion is of log construction with three open sides and one wall of stacked logs with saddle corner notches at the south end. It is fifty feet long and thirty feet wide, with a gable roof supported by a king-post-truss system and covered with asphalt shingles. At the south gable end of the building, an 18'x21' wide enclosed shed is attached to contain maintenance materials and house toilet facilities. This two-bay square, stacked log shed appears, because of its construction and the style of glass in its windows, to have been an original part of the structure. On the wall that separates the hall from the shed, a massive stone fireplace and chimney were built. The dimensions of this chimney are similar to those of the chimney at the CCC camp. It is approximately twenty feet tall and nine feet wide, and is constructed of uncoursed fieldstones with a cut stone mantle. The floor of the hall is concrete and upon it sit seven picnic tables (28). Four of these picnic tables are noticeably different from the other tables in the pavilion. Blueprints dated from 1933 indicate that this was the original plan for the picnic tables used in the CCC camps and CCC built picnic areas. Indeed, these tables, and many like them spread throughout the woods on the east side of Osmore Pond were built by the CCC.

27. *Shelter, circa 1990, piers circa 1936.* The small shelter to the west of the pavilion is made up of two stone and mortar piers supporting a gable roof. The uncoursed fieldstone piers measure 5'x2½' at their base, and are approximately five feet tall. The original purpose of the piers was to support a water tank for use at the site, however the tank has since been lost and a small gable roof was recently added in its place, solely to protect these piers from the elements.

28. *Picnic tables, circa 1936.* A number of picnic tables were built by the CCC for use both in their camp and in the camping and day-use areas in the Groton Forest. These picnic tables, built following a 1934 plan now located in the Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation office, are heavily built from native pine. The quality of the CCC construction is shown in the existence of these heavily-used tables after sixty-plus years.

29. *Water fountain, circa 1936.* A stone water fountain is located on the path that connects the picnic pavilion to the parking area, which is anchored at the south end by the shelter. The water fountain is plumbed through a fieldstone pier approximately one foot square at its base and three feet tall.

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30. *Fireplaces, circa 1936.* Approximately fifteen granite fieldstone fireplaces are scattered throughout the woods in the picnic area along the east side of the Osmore Pond. These fireplaces are built using the same two designs of the CCC-built fireplaces (10) in Area B, some with flues, and some without.

31. *Latrine, circa 1936.* A small, one hole latrine is located on the south end of the east side of Osmore Pond, within the picnic area. This shed roof, wood frame structure is approximately five feet square and eight feet tall at its peak. The roof is covered in wooden shingles, and the sides with clapboards with three inches of exposure. The latrine sits on a wood timber sill above a stone lined pit approximately three feet deep.

32. *Lean-to site, circa 1936.* Following the trail around Osmore Pond to the south, just across the Osmore Brook, one finds a lean-to site. The site is made up of a CCC lean-to, a latrine, and a fireplace. The CCC lean to is a 15'x13' deep horizontally laid and saddle-notched-corner log structure. The saltbox-style roof is covered in wood shingles over plank sheathing. The floor of the lean-to is made of wood planks on a log sill. In front of the west-facing shelter is a granite fieldstone fireplace with a flue in its back wall. The five foot square size is consistent with other CCC fireplaces in the park. Approximately thirty yards to the south of the lean-to is a modern, plywood sheathed latrine and a pile of architectural debris that was formerly the CCC built latrine structure.

33. *Lean-to site, circa 1936.* Further north on the Osmore Pond hiking trail is the second CCC lean-to site. This site also consists of a lean-to, latrine, and fireplace. The lean-to at this site is thirteen feet wide and ten feet deep, with a saltbox-style roof clad in wood shingles. The log construction of this lean to is different from the others in that it is made up of logs cut to a uniform height and stood vertically side by side to form the walls, up to the lowest point of the roof. On the gable ends, logs are stacked horizontally atop the wall to build up to the height of the roof peak. This lean-to also has plank sheathing as the roof substrate and a plank floor. In front of the west-facing shelter is a granite fieldstone fireplace with a flue in its back wall. Located approximately thirty yards northwest of the lean-to is the CCC latrine structure for the site. This latrine is of the same dimensions and construction as the latrine at the picnic area.

34. *Lean-to site, circa 1936.* At the north end of the west side of Osmore Pond is a third CCC lean-to site. This site also contains a lean-to, fireplace, and latrine. The 15'x13' wide, saltbox roof lean-to at this site is more elaborately constructed than the others. Within its horizontally stacked, saddle-notch cornered walls is a bunk, constructed of logs and planks, that runs the width of the structure and is approximately four feet wide. The back wall of the lean-to is recessed into the structure, so that the wood shingled roof overhangs a three-foot wide shelf that

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can be used to store gear or firewood. The front of the lean-to faces west, with a granite fieldstone fireplace with flue between the lean-to and the pond. The latrine for the site, constructed in the CCC style with clapboards and saltbox roof, is located approximately twenty-five yards to the east of the lean-to.

F. Owl's Head: The third area of development outside of the campground is the Owl's Head Mountain area. This area consists of trails (35) built by the CCC, a stone lookout structure (37) which sits atop Owl's Head Mountain, and a picnic shelter (38) on the west slope of the mountain.

35. Trails, 1933-circa 1940. The Owl's Head Trail leads south to the summit of Owl's Head Mountain from the road that connects New Discovery campground with the Osmore Pond area. Like many of the trails throughout the New Discovery area, the CCC built this trail as they bushed out old forest logging roads. The Owl's Head trail is an out-and-back 1½ miles in length, the last part of which is made up of stone steps laid by the CCC.

36. Latrine, circa 1969. This two-hole structure, approximately eight feet wide and ten feet deep, is situated seventy-five feet west from the parking area on the trail to the summit. It is of frame construction, with board-and-batten siding and a cedar shingle roof. The latrine pit itself is a rectangular concrete vault with a dirt floor.

37. Lookout structure, 1933. Atop the exposed rock of Owl's Head Mountain sits an octagonal granite lookout tower twelve feet in diameter, built in 1933 by the CCC. This stone was likely quarried by hand in the park and hauled to the summit by the men themselves. The floor of the tower is also of cut granite blocks. The roof of the structure is currently covered in asphalt shingles over timber rafters and plank sheathing. The seven window openings of the tower, measuring two feet wide by four and a half feet long, once contained glass windows of some kind, but are now opened to the weather. Entry is gained by a doorway (now doorless) on the north side. Because of the octagonal structure of the tower, lookouts could watch for forest fires throughout the Groton State Forest, while enjoying views of Vermont's Green Mountains and the White Mountains of New Hampshire on a clear day.

38. Picnic shelter, circa 1934. On the west side of Owl's Head Mountain, an access road one mile in length leads from Vermont Route 232 to a circular parking area part of the way up the mountain. Just south of this parking area, approximately one-tenth of a mile from the summit of the mountain, is a log frame picnic shelter built by the CCC, measuring 21'x31'. This gable roof structure, facing south, has an asphalt shingled roof. A large fireplace of granite

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fieldstone anchors the south end of the building. In the 1995, a new poured concrete foundation was installed under the shelter, and a handicapped accessible ramp was built on the west side of the building.

G. Forest Maintenance Area: This area, located to the south of the campground along Vermont Route 232, was originally developed by the CCC. It is currently used as the maintenance area for the Groton State Forest.

39. Maintenance Supervisor's Office, 1971. This one story, three bay by two bay, gable-end structure measures 24 feet by 20 feet. It has board-and-batten siding, mineral-surfaced roll roofing, and a poured concrete slab foundation. All fenestration on the building is comprised of modern, 1 over 1 double-hung windows; on the front eave side the left bay has an entry door with one large glass pane in the upper portion, and windows in the other two bays which are similar to those in the gable end. The office is a non-contributing factor due to age.

40. Pole Barn, 1986. This 60'x28' windowless wood frame structure with four bay doors on the front eaves side was built using much salvaged material from the demolished Beach House at Boulder Beach on Lake Groton. Used for lumber storage, it is sided with Texture 1-11, has a rafter-truss gable roof, with galvanized metal sheathing, and sits on a poured concrete foundation. This recent structure is non-contributing, due to age.

41. Carpenter's shop, circa 1964. This one story, 61'x30' wood frame structure has a truss-roof sheathed with galvanized metal, board & batten siding, and was built over a poured concrete slab. Fenestration is composed of 2 over 2 double-hung windows asymmetrically placed throughout the structure; these windows appear to be salvaged material. The entry door in the gable end has one large glass pane in the upper portion. This non-CCC era structure is not a contributing structure due to its age.

42. Blacksmith Shop, 1937-38. The front 14 x 32 foot portion of this one story wood-frame structure was originally built by the CCC; the sixteen foot addition to the rear was added at some later time. Sided with cedar shingles and stained brown like the rest of the structures in the maintenance area, it has a concrete slab foundation, an asphalt shingle roof, and a large entry door on the eave side, with one 3 over 3 window on the gable end. There are three, 3 over 3 fixed windows on the front eave side; two are paired and the other is asymmetrically placed. These windows appear to be salvaged material. The far eave side and gable end are windowless. This shop is currently used only for storage.

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town: Peacham county and state: Caledonia County, VT

43. *Vehicle Maintenance Barn, 1937-38.* This rambling, two story wood-frame structure with a gambrel roof measures 42 by 100 feet, and served as the Motor Pool for the Civilian Conservation Corps. There were originally seven huge bays on the eave side of the primary façade, with five remaining at the present time. There was a later, 5 foot by 19 foot two-story stairwell addition to the rear gable end; the entire structure is sided with cedar shingles stained brown. The barn has two shed dormers on the front eave side, and three on the rear eave side. The roof was sheathed with galvanized steel in 1983, and a wood/oil furnace was also installed at this time to replace several woodstoves used for heating. The largest portion of the barn has a dirt floor; the partial concrete foundation is crumbling and badly in need of replacement. This huge structure has both 2 over 2, and 6 over 6, double-hung windows asymmetrically placed throughout the wall planes, as well as several single hung fixed windows. The dormer windows are all 2 over 2 and double-hung. All of the windows in this building appear to be salvaged material. This impressive building is in fair-to-poor condition.

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.)

- [x] 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.
[x] 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

Entertainment/Recreation

Conservation

Landscape Architecture

Period of Significance

1933 - 1947

Significant Dates

1933

1941

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:

- [x] State Historic Preservation Office
[x] Other State agency
[] Federal agency
[] Local government
[] University
[] Other

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 6,921

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | <u>18</u> | <u>718960</u> | <u>4913340</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2 | <u>18</u> | <u>719220</u> | <u>4913200</u> |

| | | | |
|---|-----------|---------------|----------------|
| 3 | <u>18</u> | <u>721600</u> | <u>4912270</u> |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4 | <u>18</u> | <u>723640</u> | <u>4907620</u> |

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 Jeffrey D. Emidy and Christopher A. Bellamy

organization UVM Graduate Program in Historic Preservation date May 12, 1999

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

city or town Burlington state Vermont 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 Vermont 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 New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

New Discovery State Park, in Peacham, Vermont, stands as a monument to the work done by the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s and 1940s. At a time when Vermont, and the nation as a whole, was turning to the outdoor experience as a form of recreation, the CCC carved parks across the country from prime areas of wilderness. The importance of the CCC in the social, economic, and recreational patterns of American history is well documented, and this importance makes CCC structures, such as this park, significant under Criterion A. The architectural style that the CCC used nationwide is well represented in the buildings and structures of New Discovery State Park. This rustic style, based on materials available at the construction site, continues to differentiate CCC structures from other park and forest structures found across the nation. In New Discovery State Park, these elements meeting Criterion C survive, and are well maintained and in their proper historic context. The integrity of New Discovery State Park has remained uncompromised through its sixty-plus years of use, and continues to offer a sense of the history of Vermont and the country during the early part of the twentieth century. New Discovery State Park is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under the Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks. It clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

New Discovery State Park lies wholly within the bounds of the Groton State Forest, in northeast Vermont. The park is located in that portion of the forest that lies in Peacham, Vermont. The area now occupied by the park has been occupied sporadically throughout history and prehistory. Members of the aboriginal Abenaki tribe have lived in the Groton Forest area for thousands of years.

The town of Peacham was established on December 31, 1763 in a charter issued by New Hampshire Governor Benning Wentworth. The proprietors of the new town were living in Hadley, Massachusetts, an area in which the agricultural land had been depleted by the poor farming practices of the previous one hundred years. The desire for fertile land led the proprietors to the wildlands between the Connecticut and the Onion (now the Winooski) Rivers.

By the close of the Seven Years War in 1763, the area that the proprietors had been granted had become well known through its use for overland Indian trails. The Connecticut River, to the east of Peacham, was traveled extensively by local aboriginal peoples and by trappers and traders from Canada.

The first home built in Peacham was erected in 1776, just about the time that the town was becoming an important point in the Revolutionary War. British troops from Canada and

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Section number 8 Page 2

New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

American troops travelling north followed a path directly through Peacham until General Washington declared that a road should be built from Newbury, on the Connecticut river, to Canada to ease in the transportation of men and material north. The road, later to be named the Hazen Road, after one of the officers who led in its construction, followed an old aboriginal trail through Peacham, and was worked on until 1779, when the War left the area and headed south to New Jersey.

Settlement of Peacham was slow in the first fifty years. Until roughly 1800, growth was slowed by the constant threat of attack by the British or aboriginal raiding parties. When this threat passed, more steady growth ensued. In 1809, Peacham annexed a portion of the town of Deweyburg to add approximately four thousand acres to its holdings. The town was growing in both size and infrastructure. The population of Peacham was firmly entrenched in agriculture in its early days, and most of Peacham's industry was focused on the use of water power in grist and sawmills, which had emerged as early as 1800, and 1820, respectively. With the close of the Civil War, the population of Peacham began its first decline. Men were leaving Peacham to travel to the industrialized areas of the country, which had developed as a result of the War. Farms in Peacham changed in response, from primarily raising sheep and cattle for their wool and meat products respectively, to the raising of cattle for the dairy industry. At the same time, the lumber industry exploded in Peacham. Both the timber and wood products trades flourished beginning in the 1860s.

As Peacham's industry changed and its population dropped, it was passed by in the expansionist plans of the day. At its completion in 1873, the Wells River Railroad passed by Peacham to the west without a stop in the town. The telegraph never even made it to Peacham. Peacham's population continued to drop. By 1940, the population had fallen to 543 persons on the 25,000 plus acres. The timber industry was failing, agriculture was becoming a subsistence industry, but the dairy herds of Peacham, and all of Vermont, were growing. The timber industry still survives on a small scale today in Peacham, as does the agriculture industry. Dairy is the chief agricultural pursuit in the town, with farms becoming smaller in a trend that is transforming the industry statewide. Peacham has been bypassed by Interstates 89 to the west, and 91 to the east, securing its place as a small Vermont small town throughout the near future.

The State of Vermont purchased all of the land that makes up the Groton State Forest in 1919. At this time, there were many leases of land in the New Discovery area for cabins and camping areas. The state gradually purchased all of these leases until it owned the land with no lessees. With the purchase of the Groton State Forest, the state had created a potential area for recreational use by thousands of visitors annually. The state was, however, powerless to develop the land for such use. The amount of work needed to develop the Groton State Forest

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Section number 8 Page 3

New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

as a recreational area was massive. Combined with the work needed in the Green Mountain National Forest, and the other state forests purchased under the State Foresters' leadership since 1908, the work was enough for an army. In 1933, the state received the army that it needed.

With the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the state gained a labor force that it could not possibly have supplied on its own. Because the State Forester had already completed plans for land use when the CCC was created, CCC troops were dispatched to Vermont, including Groton State Forest, almost immediately upon their creation.

The CCC was one of the first New Deal social programs authorized by President Franklin D. Roosevelt after taking office in March of 1933; it was designed to combat the massive unemployment and hopelessness then prevalent due to the effects of the Great Depression. Physically fit, single young men between the ages of eighteen and twenty-five were enrolled into companies loosely based upon military guidelines, provided with clothing and equipment, and dispatched to work camps, where they were put to work on a wide range of projects, including road building, irrigation, erosion and flood control, forest culture, and recreation development.

For many of these men, participation in the corps was a life-defining experience. At a time when many in America were struggling to survive, they were provided with three square meals a day and a secure means of supporting their families back home. Their earnest labor also gave them self-respect and a sense of direction and hope, qualities in short supply during the Great Depression. More than supplying these basic needs, the CCC was, for many, a socially broadening experience and their very first taste of a structured work environment. The interesting and physically beneficial work, along with the educational and vocational opportunities available at camp in the evenings, would later influence many participants in their choice of lifelong careers.

Thus, it is not by accident that the Civilian Conservation Corps remains famous to this day as one of the most profoundly successful social programs of this century. It is celebrated as much for the sense of hope it gave a floundering, dispirited country suffering tough economic times as for the practical and lasting accomplishments still evident on the landscape today. In Vermont, the CCC first went to work building roads through the Groton State Forest. Their first project was a six-mile section of road through the rugged terrain of the forest from Lanesboro to Ricker Mill. This Herculean task was primarily undertaken by two CCC units stationed in the area. Company 146, from Rhode Island, was located near what is now the Osmore Pond section of the New Discovery State Park, and Company 1162, or New York,

**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**Section number 8 Page 4 New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

was located at Ricker Mill. This project was designed to link US Route 2 with Vermont Route 302 in Groton, Vermont. Particular attention was paid during construction to ensure that the drainage and grade of this road were of the highest caliber. The end result was such that the State of Vermont later incorporated this road, with almost no modification save for asphalt coating, into the state highway system. It is now known as Vermont Route 232, and serves as the main access road for the entire Groton State Forest area.

The plans the state implemented through the work of the CCC called for the conservation of the land and the creation of recreation space for those who wished to take advantage of the excellent setting of the state's forests. The Groton State Forest was no exception. The CCC set up camps in the northern and southern ends of the forest, at Osmore and Ricker Ponds. From these camps they built the forest roads, trails, and day use and camping areas, and set out on forest conservation and maintenance projects.

The CCC used much of its time in the Groton woods clearing brush and forest debris, releasing trees by cutting out lesser grade trees surrounding desired species, and selectively cutting materials for use in their structures. They also planted hundreds of thousands of saplings throughout the forest in plantations to be harvested decades later.

In order to increase the recreational use of the forest, the CCC created opportunities for those who were not accustomed to living off the land and blazing their own trails. At specially planned areas within the forest, they constructed day-use areas to provide users with facilities for picnicking, swimming, and boating. Osmore Pond Day Use Area is one such facility. Originally a separate entity from New Discovery State Park, Osmore Pond has fallen under the jurisdiction of New Discovery. The picnic area contains a large picnic shelter (26) with toilet facilities, fireplaces (30), picnic tables (28) and hiking trails (35). In addition to these areas, they built overnight camping areas. Campgrounds with tent platforms, fireplaces, picnic tables and toilet facilities were constructed in three places in the forest: in the north at New Discovery area, the center at the Stillwater area, and the south at Ricker Pond. In New Discovery, the CCC constructed a toilet building (12), stone fireplaces (10), tent platforms, and trails (35) connecting the camping area with log lean-tos (32, 33, 34) on the west side of Osmore Pond. In order for the users of the forest to travel more easily, the CCC blazed miles of trails through the forest, and built bridges and culverts for users of the recreation areas to more easily access them.

New Discovery State Park was popular with campers from its inception. Less than twenty years after its construction, the camping area then known as Area A was expanded to include more sites and fireplaces, and some lean-tos. In 1961, a new camping area was built, and the entrance to the park reconfigured. The old Area A became Area B, and the new section

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New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

became Area A. This new Area A is more than twice the size of Area B, and has three-times as many lean-tos, showing the popularity of that type of camping in the 1960s. Since the new construction phase, New Discovery State Park has enjoyed a very successful existence. On almost every weekend throughout the summer camping season, the park is full to capacity. The beautiful vistas from the top of Owl's Head Mountain, the miles of hiking trails throughout the forest, and boating and fishing opportunities at Osmore Pond draw campers from across Vermont, as well as throughout the country to New Discovery State Park.

The architectural style employed by the Civilian Conservation Corps in New Discovery State Park, and elsewhere, is truly illustrative of the conditions of their work. The CCC created structures that were born of the materials around them and showed the characteristics of the types of tools that they were using. When we consider that the men of the CCC were quite isolated, operating in the midst of the dense Groton State Forest, far from towns or the services they provide, the rustic style of architecture that defines their constructions seems the most practical outcome. While the structures are sturdy and durable, they are by no means graceful or refined. The CCC used the materials that surrounded them, including mostly stripped logs and fieldstones, to build their structures. They did not waste time in fabricating ornamental features. CCC structures were made for function and durability.

The engineering that was required to fabricate these structures is often very complex. Buildings fabricated from logs are not easily assembled. The timber trusses that the CCC employed in many of their buildings, including the picnic pavilion at Osmore Pond, are complex structural elements. Stone masonry, too, is a complex art. Experts were assigned to the camps to facilitate these difficult aspects of construction. In offices off-site, CCC architects drew plans. These plans had to be manipulated using the materials and tools that the CCC camps had in the field, a limiting factor to the architects' planning process. In addition to structural architects, landscape architects were utilized to assist in the planning of the parks. In New Discovery Park alone there are three recreation areas, plus hundreds of acres of land turned over to tree plantations and in which forestry methods were used to control tree growth.

Because of the many lakes in the Groton State Forest, and the proximity to heavily traveled rivers on the east, west, and south, it is believed that the Groton State Forest area, including the shores of Osmore Pond, has the potential to yield archaeological evidence. Though no extensive archaeological survey work has been done in the area, it is believed that this evidence will likely come from the prehistoric aboriginal camps in the area, from historic periods of aboriginal activity, and from historic Euro-American activities. As a site that holds the potential to yield information about prehistoric and historic aboriginal cultures, New

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New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont

Discovery State Park is significant, however more research must be done in order to determine the true value of the park to the prehistoric record.

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 1

name of property: New Discovery State Park
town: Peacham county and State: Caledonia, VT

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Continuation Sheet

Section number 9 Page 2

name of property: New Discovery State Park
town: Peacham county and State: Caledonia, VT

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National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

Section number 10 Page 1

name of property: New Discovery State Park
town: Peacham county and State: Caledonia, VT

UTM References, cont.

5. 18/721040/4906880
6. 18/714020/4908330
7. 18/716940/4912220

Verbal Boundary Description

Beginning at a point at the intersection of the towns of Marshfield, Groton and Peacham, proceed northeast 4 kilometers along the Peacham/Marshfield line. Then proceed southeast 300 meters, then northeast 1 kilometer, then southeast 500 meters to the west shore of Peacham Pond. Then following the shore of Peacham Pond to the east 1,300 meters, turning southeast for 800 meters, then northeast 600 meters. Then proceed northwest 200 meters, then north 1,800 meters parallel to the east side of Peacham Pond, to its northernmost point. Then proceeding east 600 meters then southeast 2,600 meters, then southwest 300 meters. Then proceeding southeast 500 meters up the west side of Morse Mountain, then southwest 200 meters, then northwest 500 meters, turning southwest 700 meters. Then proceed southeast 500 meters, then southwest 600 meters, then southeast 1,300 meters, then northeast 300 meters to the west shore of Martins Pond. Then proceed southeast along the shore of Martins Pond 800 meters, then south 300 meters, then northeast 150 meters. Then proceeding southeast 300 meters, then south 100 meters, then southwest 150 meters. Then proceeding northwest 100 meters, turning southwest 200 meters, then southeast 200 meters, then northeast 200 meters, then southeast 200 meters. Then proceeding southwest 1 kilometer, then southeast 200 meters, turning southwest 250 meters. Then proceeding west 550 meters, then southwest 200 meters, then northwest 500 meters, turning southwest 1,100 meters to the boundary of the towns of Peacham and Groton. Then proceeding northwest along the boundary between Peacham and Groton 7,150 meters to the point of origin.

Boundary Justification

The nomination boundaries of New Discovery State Park are the Peacham Block land management unit defined by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources, Department of Forests, Parks, and Recreation. This boundary is formed by the boundaries of the land of the Groton State Forest that fall within the boundaries of the town of Peacham.

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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1 New Discovery State Park
List Peacham, Caledonia County, VT

Photographs

The following information is the same for all photographs:

New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, Vermont
Credit: Christopher A. Bellamy
Date: May 1999
Negative on file at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photo 1
View looking S, entrance to Groton State Forest and New Discovery State Park, Ranger's Quarters (#1) in background

Photo 2
View looking SW, Ranger's Quarters (#1)

Photo 3
View looking N, Ranger's Quarters garage (#2)

Photo 4
View looking N of CCC fireplace (#10)

Photo 5
View looking NE of toilet building (#12)

Photo 6
View looking NE, CCC camp fireplace and chimney (#17)

Photo 7
View looking NE, fence piers to CCC camp (#18)

Photo 8
View looking NE, Osmore Pond picnic shelter (#26)

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New Discovery State Park
Peacham, Caledonia County, VT

Photo 9

View looking NE, interior of Osmore Pond picnic shelter with CCC picnic tables (#27)

Photo 10

View looking N, shelter (piers for CCC water tank), (#27)

Photo 11

View looking SW, Owl's Head lookout structure (#37)

Photo 12

View looking SW, view from Owl's Head

Photo 13

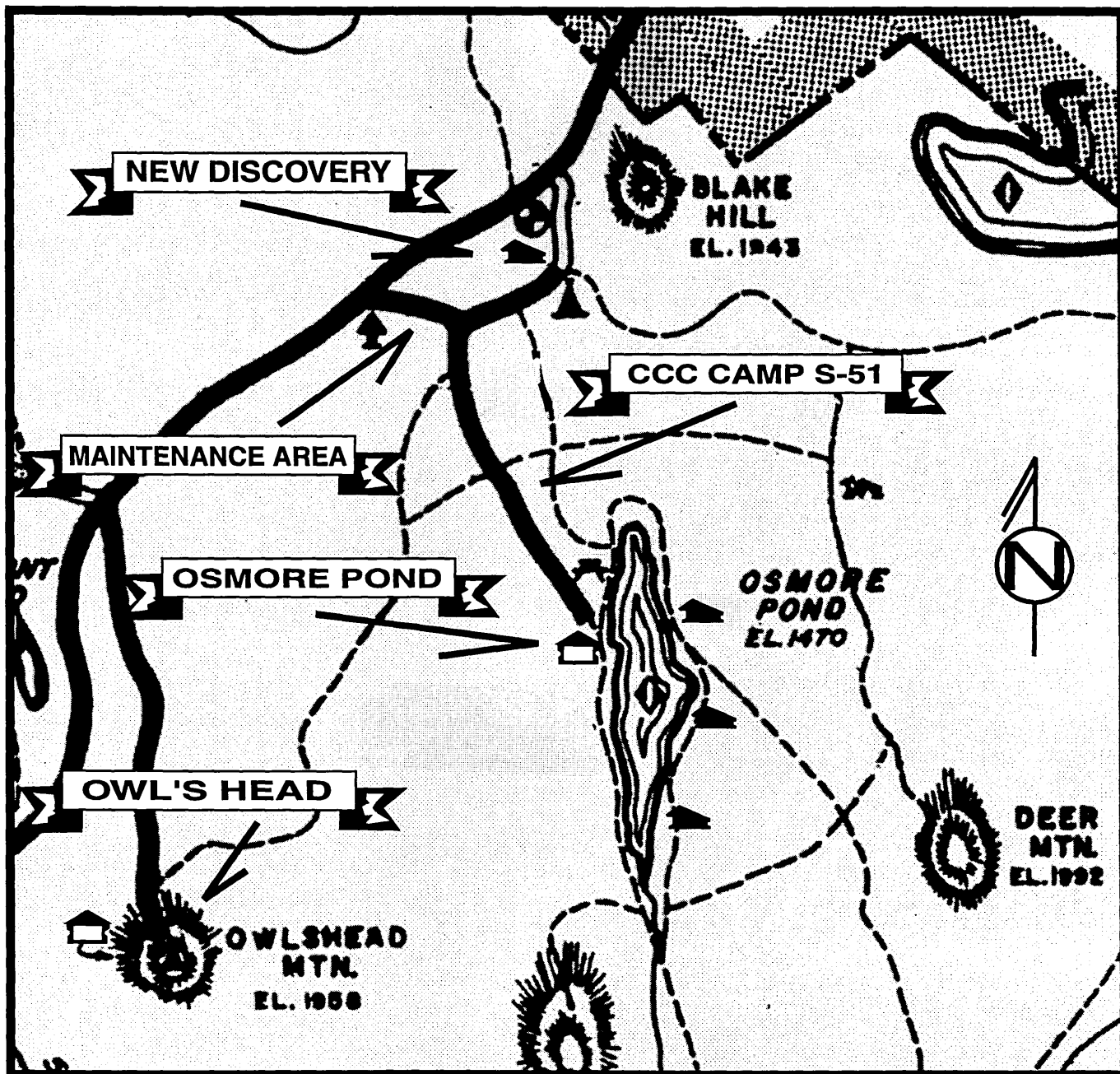
View looking NE, Owl's Head picnic shelter (#38)

Photo 14

View looking N, blacksmith's shop (#42)

Photo 15

View looking N, vehicle maintenance barn (#43)



New Discovery State Park
 Peacham, VT
 Caledonia County

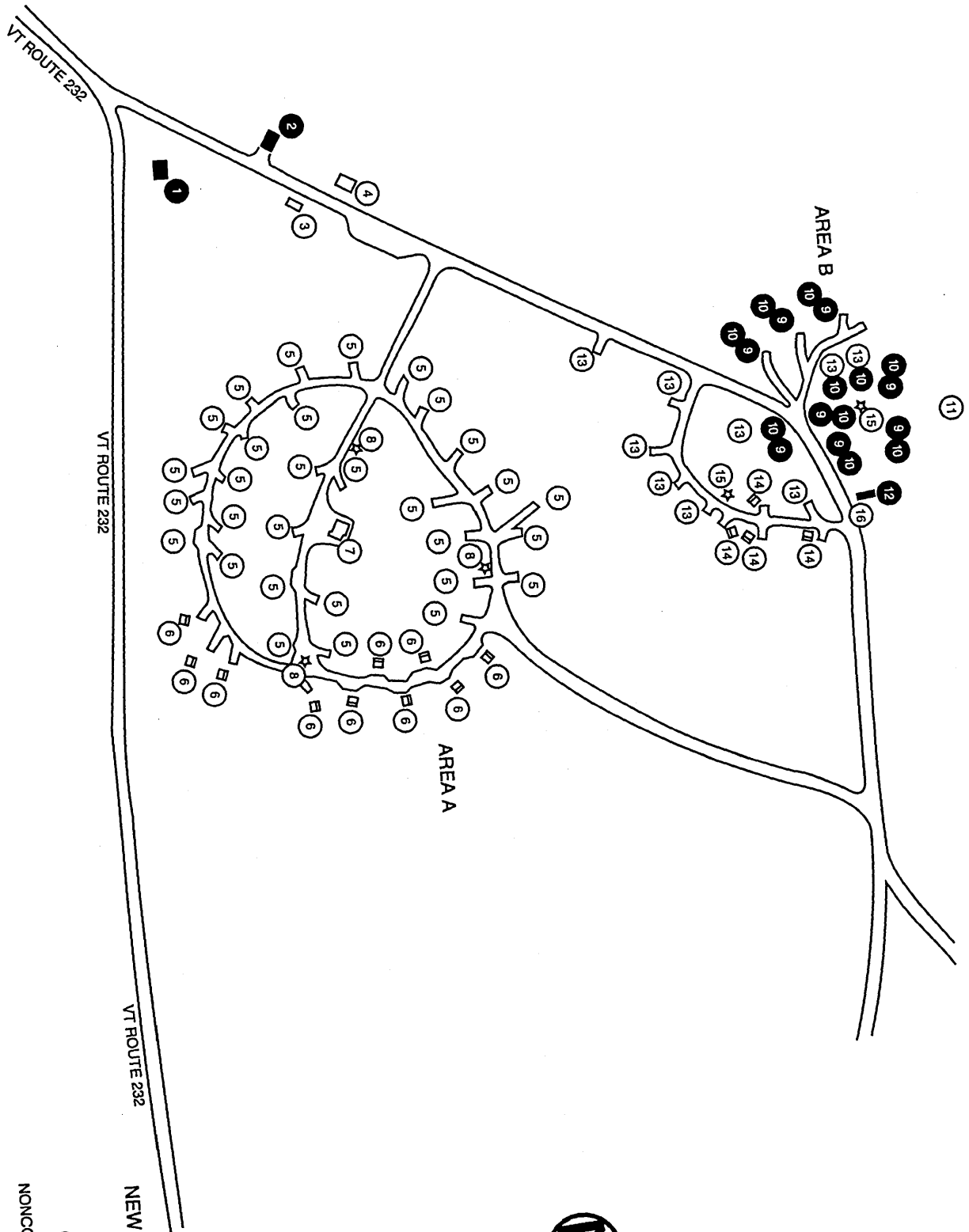
Camping Area 

Picnic Area 

NOT TO SCALE

NO SCALE

Boundary of Park marked on USGS map



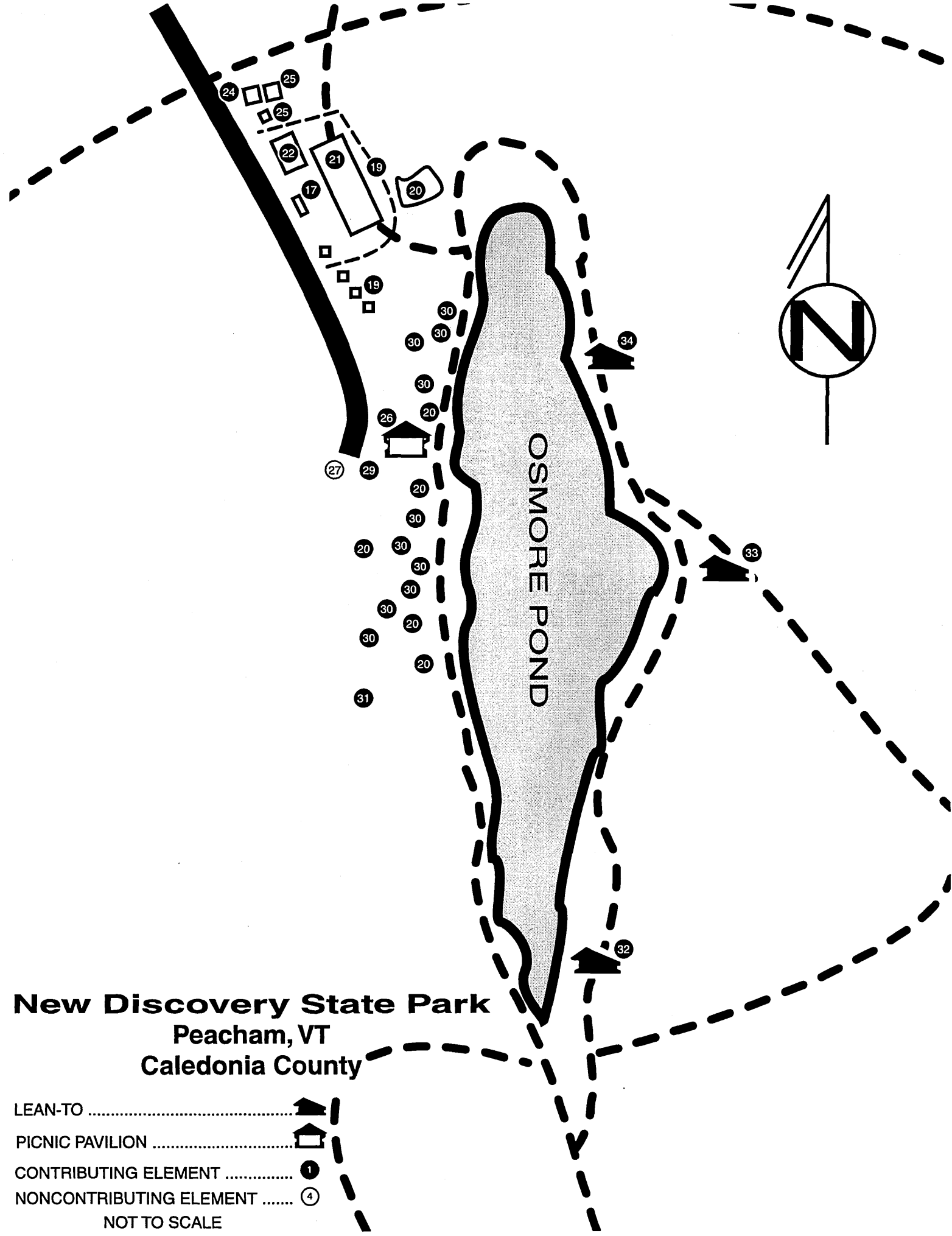
**NEW DISCOVERY STATE PARK
CAMPGROUND**

PEACHAM, VT
CALEDONIA COUNTY





- ④ NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS
- ② CONTRIBUTING ELEMENTS

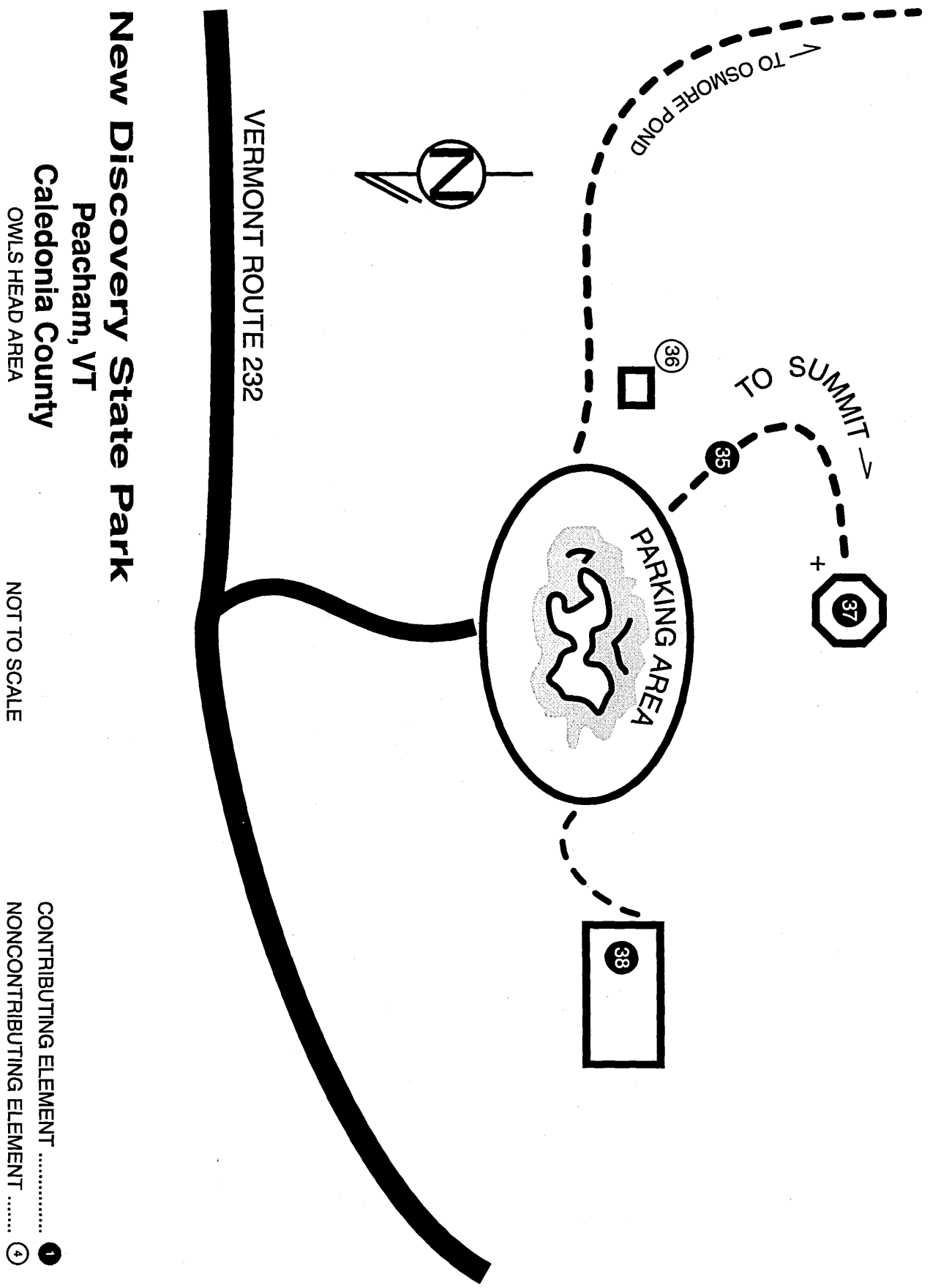
★ WATER FAUCET
 □ LEAN-TO

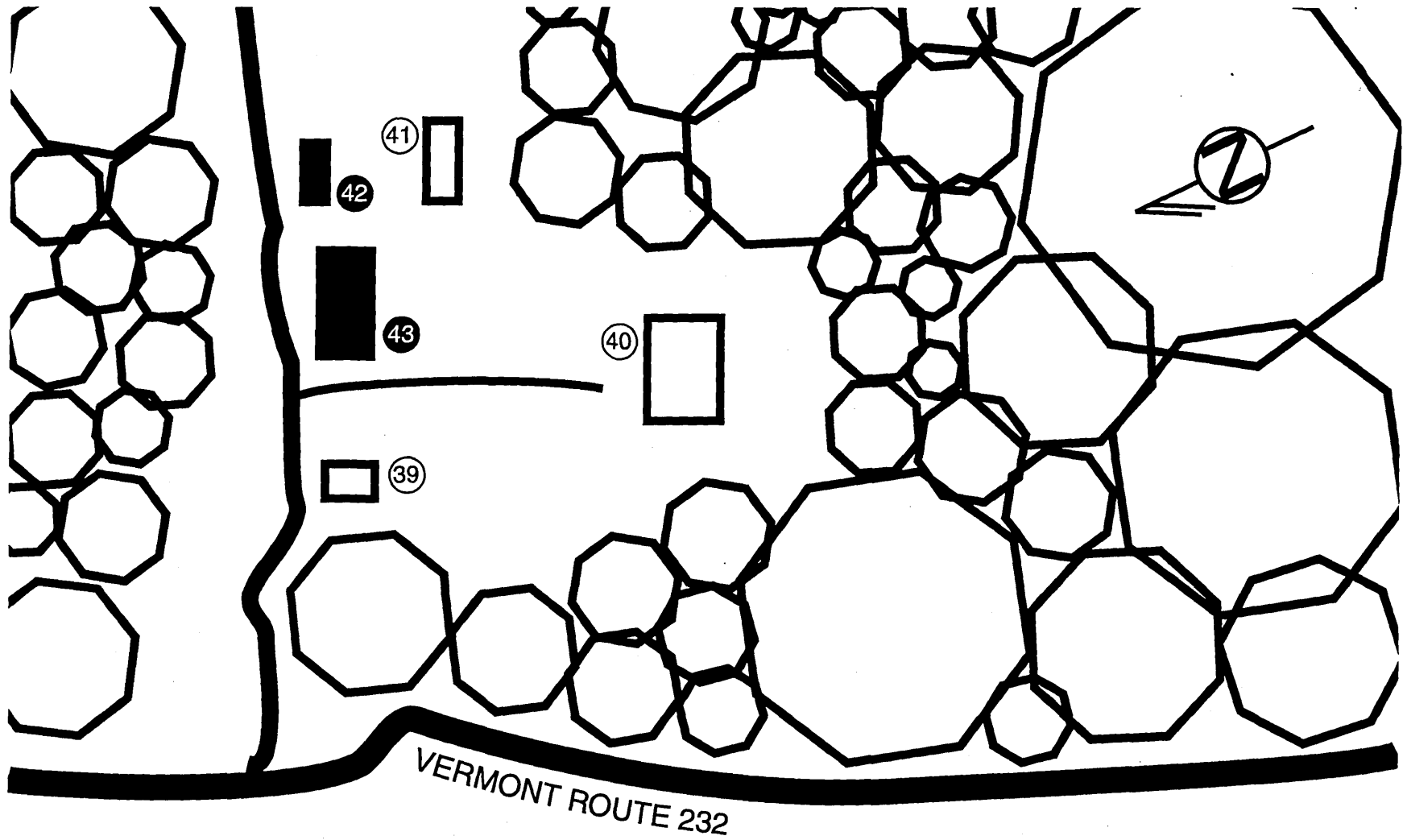




New Discovery State Park
Peacham, VT
Caledonia County

- LEAN-TO 
 - PICNIC PAVILION 
 - CONTRIBUTING ELEMENT 
 - NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENT 
- NOT TO SCALE





New Discovery State Park

Peacham, VT

Caledonia County

MAINTENANCE AREA

NOT TO SCALE

TREES ○

CONTRIBUTING ELEMENT ②

NONCONTRIBUTING ELEMENT ④