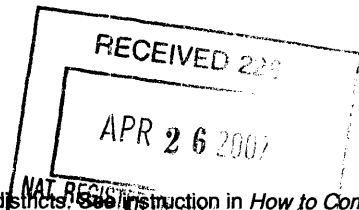


United States Department of the Interior National Park Service National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determination for individual properties and districts. See instruction 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 Perry Lake Park

other names/site number CCC Park

2. Location

street & number 1520 South 4th Street [N/A] not for publication

city or town Perry [N/A] vicinity

state Oklahoma code OK county Noble code 103 zip code 73077

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.)

[Signature] State Historic Preservation Officer April 24, 2007 Date

Oklahoma Historical Society
State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/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
 See continuation sheet.
- other, explain
 See continuation sheet.

Signature of the Keeper [Signature] Date of Action 6/1/2007

Perry Lake Park
Name of Property

Noble County, Oklahoma
County/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 count previously listed resources.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	3	buildings
1	0	sites
16	11	structures
1	0	objects
18	14	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register.

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Function

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: outdoor recreation

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/CULTURE: outdoor recreation

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

OTHER: NPS Rustic

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: sandstone
 walls STONE: sandstone
 roof ASPHALT; WOOD
 other _____

Narrative Description

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

Perry Lake Park
Name of Property

Noble County, Oklahoma
County/State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations

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

Property is:

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

Narrative Statement of Significance

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

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

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

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

GOVERNMENT/POLITICS
ARCHITECTURE
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Periods of Significance

1934-1935

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person(s)

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service, designer
Civilian Conservation Corps, builder

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State Agency
- Federal Agency
- Local Government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

Oklahoma Historical Society/SHPO

Perry Lake Park
Name of Property

Noble County, Oklahoma
County/State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 165

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

- | | | | |
|----|------|---------|----------|
| 1. | 14 | 655090 | 4015080 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 2. | 14 | 655100 | 4015060 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 3. | 14 | 645380 | 4014040 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |
| 4. | 14 | 645400 | 4014840 |
| | Zone | Easting | Northing |

[x] 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 Kim Penrod, graduate student (Edited by Jim Gabbert, architectural historian, OKSHPO)
organization University of Central Oklahoma date January 10, 2007
street & number 100 N. University Ave telephone _____
city or town Edmond state OK zip code 73034

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 City of Perry
street & number 622 Cedar telephone _____
city or town Perry state OK zip code 73077

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.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 1

DESCRIPTION

Perry Lake Park is roughly 170 acres of mostly-wooded, hilly terrain. The recreational buildings, sites, objects, and structures contained within the boundaries of the park comprise the Perry Lake Park, known currently as CCC Park. The park is located one mile south of the city of Perry. The core of the park is the modest twenty-acre lake with structures located around the south and east edge of the lake. Entry to the park is gained off State Highway 86 (south 4th Street), which delineates the west boundary of the park. A check-in station and stone wall, built of native stone, mark the entrance to the park. A park road, currently paved, makes a loop around the south edge of the park and along the south side of the lake, which is located in the north part of the park. Historic development clusters in three areas: near the entrance, on the east side of the lake and along a ridge in the center of the park. Contemporary construction is located along the southwest edge of the lake, with some scattered amenities throughout the balance of the park.

The 216 men assigned to the Civilian Conservation Corps camp number 863 from May 1, 1934, through July 1, 1935, constructed buildings, bridges, trails, shelters and picnic tables, planted more than 2000 trees and stocked the lake with crappie, bluegill, and channel catfish. Walter T. Berg was in command of the military end of the camp, G. D. Newton represented the National Park Service, and Max Sexton was the project superintendent.¹

Over the years, the park has been altered to meet new needs. Some of the historic resources have been demolished or have deteriorated, but enough of the original design remains to accurately show the genesis of the park. There are a total of sixteen contributing resources and fourteen noncontributing resources, with the noncontributing resources scattered around the park.

Description:

The Perry Lake Park is located on the south side of Perry, Oklahoma, the county seat of Noble County. The park encompasses the perimeter of the twenty-acre lake with an abundance of wooded landscape. The rolling hills of the area hide the view of the lake and the winding road around the south and west sides of the lake. Entrance to the park is currently from the west side of the park, on highway 86, south of town. The original gate house, now the caretaker's house, sits adjacent to the highway with a white painted pipe frame that should display the sign to the park. A one-way paved (asphalt) road meanders around the south side of the lake allowing access to the various recreational sites still standing, while crossing the remaining native stone bridges and culverts. Within the perimeter of the road are the remnants of the original trail system. The remaining original recreational structures are located on the south and east sides of the lake.

The entrance is between two native stone pillars and over a culvert with a stone headwall. The gate house is located on the south edge of the entry drive, at a slightly lower elevation. A stone apron connects the road with the gate house. The original stone building has been altered with the addition of a frame extension on the east side. The park road heads southeasterly past the gate house, over a small stone culvert to a fork. The fork marks the beginning and end of the park loop; traffic is directed south into open prairie.

¹ "Perry Invites All to Come and Play in a New Park Built by the CCC Boys." *Daily Oklahoman*, May 26, 1935.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
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Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 2

Near the south end of the park, 4/10 of a mile south of the entry, the road turns east and the topography becomes more severe. North of the road, the ground slopes severely downward and the prairie gives way to scrub oak and other trees. Approximately 1/8 mile east on the road, a secondary road intersects; this road (chapel road) angles northeast along the spine of a ridge and leads to one of the developed areas.

The main perimeter road continues east and crosses the first culvert approximately 100 yards past the intersection of the chapel road. The culvert, constructed with native stone and forming an arch underneath, is typical of the quality and design of infrastructure in the park.

Just east of this culvert, the road turns north and forks. The east fork (boathouse road) heads to the east side of the lake where the boathouse and picnic areas are located. This road has no outlet. The west fork continues over another small, stone culvert north-northwest along the west side of an arm of the lake. This is the continuation of the main park road as it skirts along the bottom of the ridge to the tip of a small peninsula in the lake, where it turns abruptly back south-southwest. Atop a bluff overlooking the hairpin turn is "the church on the perch," a historic frame church building moved to the site in the 1990s. Approximately 100 yards south of the church, the road turns west-northwest and crosses the signature bridge of the park. This stone, depressed arch bridge has wooden rails. A well house and the remains of a wood and stone footbridge overlook the bridge to the south. The road continues northwest, past a new boat ramp and parking area then turns southwest again to complete the loop.

The boathouse road heads east from the main road, over a larger stone culvert before turning north. A small, newer bathroom facility marks the entrance to a small parking area adjacent to the boathouse. The boathouse sits on the southern-most part of the lake in a small cove. The road continues north toward the picnic shelter, built atop a hill. The remains of several stone picnic tables and grills surround this shelter. The road passes below the shelter, then circles back behind it and rejoins itself near the boathouse.

The chapel road leads first to a modern A-frame, open air chapel and then terminates near a group camp area. Hidden in the woods is a stone comfort station, a wood frame craft hut, an amphitheater, a kitchen, and a trail system that winds its way throughout the park. Much of the original trail is obscured and only remnants are visible, including isolated stone trail steps, trail culverts, and the remains of foot bridges.

The majority of the historic resources of the park are located near the boat house and along the perimeter road. Intrusions in the park are scattered and do not diminish the intent of the park designers. Over time, some of the historic resource constructed by the CCC have been lost, most notably a trail shelter and a small comfort station near the picnic area. The quality and quantity of remaining buildings, structures, objects and the overall site integrity outweigh the losses and intrusions.

The park retains excellent integrity of location, setting, feeling, association, and materials and good integrity of workmanship and design. The buildings, sites, structures and objects that comprise the park give ample evidence to the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps at Perry Lake Park.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 3

List of Resources**Contributing resources** in bold

1. **Entry pillars** (structure): 1934-35. Stacked stone, slightly battered, these low pillars mark the entrance to the park. They might once have been the bases for an entrance sign.
2. **Rock Wall** (structure): 1934-35. Paralleling the state highway, large boulders set into the earth delineate the park boundaries. The wall begins at the entry pillars. Near the pillars, the stones are shaped and mortared, as they trail off north and south, they are more naturalistic looking.
3. **Gate House** (building): Built between May 1, 1934 and July 1, 1935. Located at entrance to the park, is original single story house of native stone. The walls are slightly battered and the corners are buttressed. The roof is gabled, and a massive stone chimney rises out of the west end of the roof. Heavy, squared exposed timbers are used as rafters. A large wood frame, aluminum sided addition is on the east end of the building; the roofline is higher than the original. A metal, gabled addition is offset along the wooden addition's south side. Original windows of the stone section have been replaced, and the original entry was covered. Noncontributing due to extensive and unsympathetic alteration.
4. **Culvert 1** (structure): 1934-35. Small native stone culvert just east of the gatehouse. Natural shape stones form the headwalls and disguise a corrugated metal pipe. The north headwall has wingwalls that parallel the channel. The stonework is naturalistic.
5. **Culvert 2** (structure): 1934-35. Located on perimeter road, west of the chapel road, at the southernmost tip of the road loop. This culvert is more formal in design. The headwalls are of cut stone, laid in a random, regular ashlar with dressed faces. The round arch of the culvert opening is marked by thin voisseurs. The culvert opening is located approximately six feet down from the roadway. The stone headwalls are not carried above grade. The ditch also has dry stacked stone along the channel bank south of the culvert.
6. **Culvert 3** (structure): 1934-35. Located just north of the boathouse road, this small stone culvert of naturalistic stone headwalls and corrugated metal pipe might have been reconstructed. The design of the headwalls is reminiscent of Culvert 1, but the masonry work is more primitive; the mortar joints are wider and more obvious. However, it is in a logical location and the workmanship is not obvious to the untrained observer.
7. **Trail Steps** (structure): 1934-35. Located on both sides of the road, northeast of the "church on the perch" are a series of stone trail steps that lead from the top of the ridge to the water's edge. The trail system is not evident at either end of the steps. The steps typically are naturally shaped or cut stone, laid horizontally, with larger, uncut stone at each end. There are two distinct sets, but these are part of the same feature. A second set of steps is located near the boathouse, once leading to a non-extant comfort station.
8. "Church on the perch." (building): c. 1907, moved to site c. 1995. A large, white, frame building that was moved in from town to the present site. The name has been attached to the structure by the citizens of Perry. The city moved the building to the lake as a means of preserving it. It is a gabled building, with novelty siding and two entries on the east side. Tall 2/2, frosted glass windows, four on each side, are on the east and west walls. This building is noncontributing

**National Register of Historic Places
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Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 4

because it is not associated with the park and was not present during the period of significance.

9. **Road Bridge** (structure): 1934-35. This picturesque bridge is located on the road along the southwest finger of the lake. The stone arch bridge has a total length of approximately forty feet and the round arch span is about fifteen feet. The stonework is quarry-faced, in a regular, random ashlar. At each end, and on each side of the bridge, large piers rise above the roadway approximately three feet, and two smaller piers are equidistant between them. Rounded timbers are set into the piers, providing a naturalistic guardrail. This bridge is featured in Albert Good's *Park and Recreation Structures* of 1939 and is an outstanding example of park Rustic design.
10. Waterfall and marker. (structure): 2002. Built in conjunction with water project from Lake McMurtry. A commemorative rock marker and waterfall adjacent to the bridge. While naturalistic in design, the waterfall was not present during the period of significance.
11. **Well/spring house** (structure): 1934-35. Located west of the Lake McMurtry water project. Constructed with native stone, lumber, and wood shingles, the octagonal well house sits on a rise. A wood shingle roof sits atop a native stone base surrounding the open well (a piece of sheet metal covers the opening). The base stands about four feet tall and has an opening facing the southwest. The structure is intact and sits back away from the road.
12. Rock piers (structure): 1934-35. To the south of the bridge and waterfall, east of the well/spring house, back in the wooded hillside, are stacked rock pilings that supported a bridge along a walking or bridle path. The wooden bridge has long been gone, so the abutments have deteriorated somewhat and have lost their context. This structure, though historic, no longer retains sufficient integrity to be considered contributing.
13. Boat ramp. (structure): Circa 2002. On the west side of the lake in a large paved parking area are the boat ramp, and a large corrugated steel bathroom facility in the middle of the parking lot. This new development is noncontributing due to age and is located away from the historic resources of the park. The road then takes the visitor back to the Keeper's lodge and exits the park to the highway.
14. Chapel (structure): Circa 1970. An A-frame, open air chapel is set in a clearing east of chapel road on the south side of the park. The structure has redwood siding and wood shake shingles. The peak of the gable is decorated with a large cross. Flat roof extensions flank the main roof. The structure is set on a concrete slab. Noncontributing due to age.
15. Kitchen/picnic area (structure): undetermined age. Built into the side of a hill is a kitchen facility with a low-pitched, gabled roof and concrete block and rock walls. The walls are painted. A tall, painted stone chimney is located on the west wall. Three awning type windows are set high on the side walls; the entry faces west and is covered with an overhanging, flat porch roof supported by steel poles. Three large, concrete picnic tables are located just south of the porch and a shed roof, metal structure covering steps is located on the east end of the kitchen. This resource is noncontributing due to age and alteration.
16. Craft House (building): c. 1960. Long and rectangular in footprint, this wood frame building has a low pitch, gabled roof and board and batten siding. Due to its recent vintage, it is considered noncontributing.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Perry Lake Park
Noble County, OklahomaSection number 7 Page 5

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17. Outhouse (structure): c. 1960. Located just south of the craft house, this single stall, wooden outhouse has a shed roof. Its age makes it noncontributing.
18. **Comfort Station** (structure): 1934-35. Located along a trail southwest of the kitchen area, this stone comfort station is constructed into the side of a hill. Battered stone walls rise up from the ground and wing walls provide privacy for the men's and women's entrances. The concrete roof is hidden from view behind a parapet of stone. Hand hammered and cut iron signs are attached to the walls outside of the entrances. Log beams and posts, with bark attached, support the roof on the interior. This is a great example of park Rustic design and has seen virtually no alteration since its construction.
19. Footbridge (structure): 1934-35/1970. This steel frame and wood deck footbridge crosses a deep creek bed and connects the comfort station with the amphitheater area. Dry laid stone lines the creek bed up and downstream of the bridge. It appears that a new bridge was placed on the footings of an original bridge. Because of the loss of historic fabric and the more contemporary design of the current bridge, this resource is considered noncontributing.
20. Amphitheater (structure): c. 1970. Log and concrete benches in a semicircle, located west of the kitchen area on a gentle slope north of the creek. Noncontributing due to age.
21. **Bridge 2** (structure): 1934-35. Located on boathouse road. Smaller than the main perimeter road bridge, this nonetheless is a classic example of Park Rustic design. The length of the span is approximately 35 feet, and the arched opening is about ten feet. The walls are of large, regular stone laid in an ashlar pattern. The ends of the walls are battered and are composed of larger stones. The walls extend above grade approximately eighteen inches and has wide capping stones.
22. **Stone wall** (structure): 1934-35. Located just west of the road, north of the bridge is a low stone wall that transforms into individual boulders that delineate the driveway/parking area near the bathhouse.
23. Comfort Station (structure): Circa 1980. The bathroom houses a single men and women facility constructed of native stone, a sheet metal roof, and steel painted doors. This structure is modern and non-contributing.
24. **Boathouse** (structure): 1934-35. Largest original structure in the camp area. Unique design of pavilion, boathouse, and rooftop patio combination. The building sits next to the lake on the southeast side, at the southernmost tip of the lake. Built of native stone and timber, it features long, low cross-gabled roof with exposed wood beams. The roof features wood shakes, which have been replaced at least once. The gable walls are of vertical planks while the main walls are stone. There is one short section of vertical plank wall on the northwest end of the structure. The east end is closest to the current road and parking area. The east elevation of the structure has a room (12x12 feet) with metal/steel door on south side and wooden louvered vent near the roofline that serves as a concession area. The east side of this room has a window entry with single wood beam sill, has wood plank closure with iron strap hinges that open to the inside on the east end of the structure. The north side of this room has vertical wood plank door and wooden louvered vent near roofline (exact opposite of south side of structure). The west side of the concession area is only accessible from inside the pavilion. A window closure of wood plank construction with iron strap hinges opens to the interior of the room. The main opening is

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Perry Lake Park
Noble County, OklahomaSection number 7 Page 6

framed with wood beams (painted), allowing for two large and two small openings. The floor of the room is rock. The north side of the building has rock and native stone porch area with cut and native rock steps leading to water. Native rock walls flank the stairs on either side. The rockwork extends around the shoreline in both directions. Continuing on the outside there are two sets of cut and natural rock steps, one leading down to the water and the other to a balcony/patio area. The steps leading down to the west end of the building provide access to the covered dry boathouse. Large cut timbers frame the west opening, flanked with native stone walls extending to the water. This interior area has a flagstone floor and a small room with wooden door on the north side. The rockwork continues around the shoreline of the entire cove area. The other set of steps leads to a balcony/patio area above the boat house. Constructed with native and cut stone, the area has built in seating along the east (the chimney extension) and view of the entire lake area. The stone extends around the perimeter to provide a wall. The south side of the pavilion provides a large grassy area with one upright grill. There is a native rock perimeter laid around the south of this structure. The interior of the pavilion contains a large wood and steel picnic table that extends (in one piece) the length of the structure. A large open native stone fireplace sits at the west end of the pavilion. The floor of this portion of the structure is also cut and natural stone. The interior ceiling is composed of exposed cut beams, and the exterior roof is wood shingle.

25. **Picnic shelter** (structure): 1934-35. This shelter is built into the hillside. The opening of the shelter faces the west and provides protection on three sides. The end walls of the shelter are massive; the roof is let into the sides of the walls. The south end features a massive fireplace on the interior, and the chimney stack features a wrought iron "PLP" on the exterior face. The exterior east side is built into the hill, with rockwork extending about two feet above ground level supporting the wood shingle roof. Native stone slabs provide the floor surface and extend out from the interior of the shelter to the road. The purlins and ridge pole are whole logs, braced by log knee braces; the deck is wide, wood planks.
26. **Picnic tables & grills** (objects): 1934-35. To the north and east of the picnic shelter are the remains of four stone picnic tables and two stone fire pits, or grills. The tables consisted of stacked stone bases with a single stone slab top. One remains intact, one has had the top pushed off, and the other two have only a base. The grills are U-shaped and are typically made up of three stone slabs, cut to receive iron grills. The two remaining grills are in poor condition. Together, this grouping counts as one contributing object.
27. **Well house ruins** (structure): 1934-35. Southeast of the picnic shelter is the remaining wall of the second well house. Built into the slope, all that remains is the retaining wall and a portion of the stone and concrete floor. Noncontributing due to loss of integrity.
28. **Playground swings** (object): A large, blue painted swing set sits to the south of the boathouse. The area around it is enclosed by railroad ties. This is noncontributing due to age.
29. **Park trail system** (structure): The main park trail created by the CCC meandered through the section of the park bounded by the park road. Leveled and graveled with limestone screenings, the trail traversed the varied topography, necessitating cuts and fills in some of the hillier sections. Stone slab culverts are interspersed along the trail as needed. Remains of the trail, though somewhat overgrown, are readily identifiable and the system as a whole counts as a single contributing structure.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet**

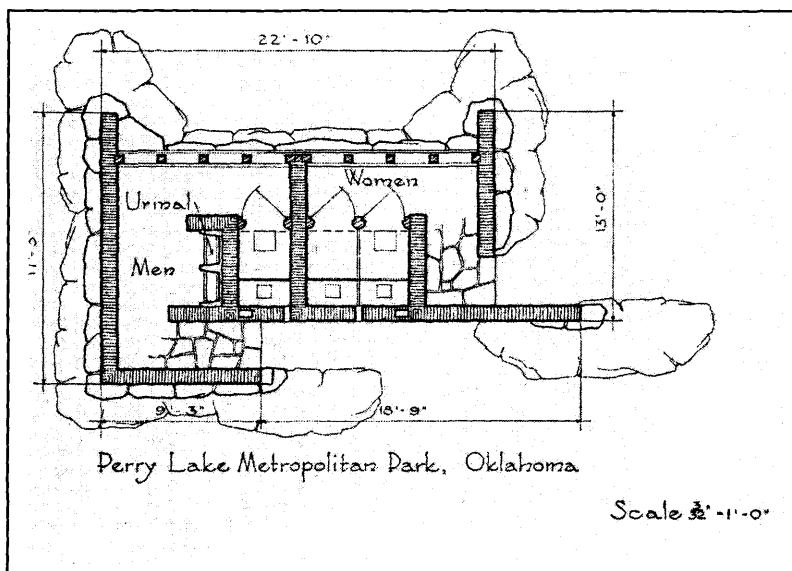
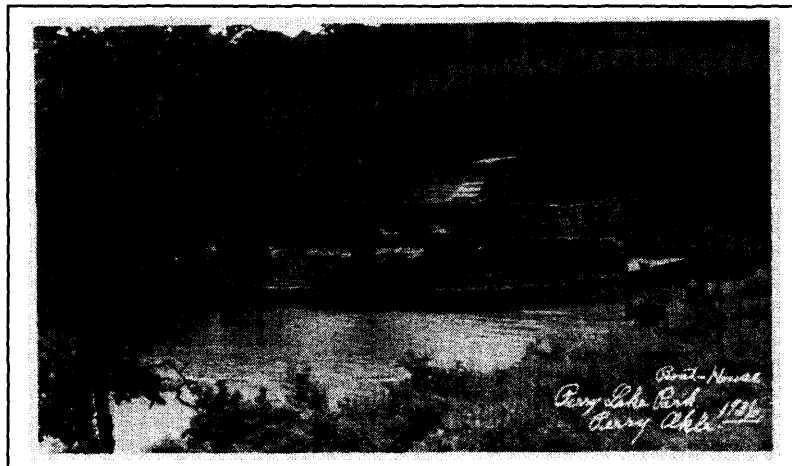
**United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**

Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 7 Page 7

- 30. **Trail culverts** (structure): Stone slab culverts, consisting of vertically-placed stone sidewalls capped and floored with wide stone slabs are interspersed along the trail. Two of the culverts have small drop structures on the down-slope sides, providing erosion control. There are * culverts identified; these represent a single structure
- 31. **Park Road** (structure): 1934-35. Although recently paved, the park road retains its original circulation pattern, taking visitors to the amenities and past scenic vistas as intended.
- 32. **Park** (site): The overall setting of the park remains intact, if not matured. Intrusions into the park are scattered and do not detract from the planned landscape design. Natural features of the park – the lake, the topography – are intact and enhanced by the CCC-built resources.

Postcard view of boathouse, 1936



Comfort Station Plan, from *Park & Recreation Structures*, 1938

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

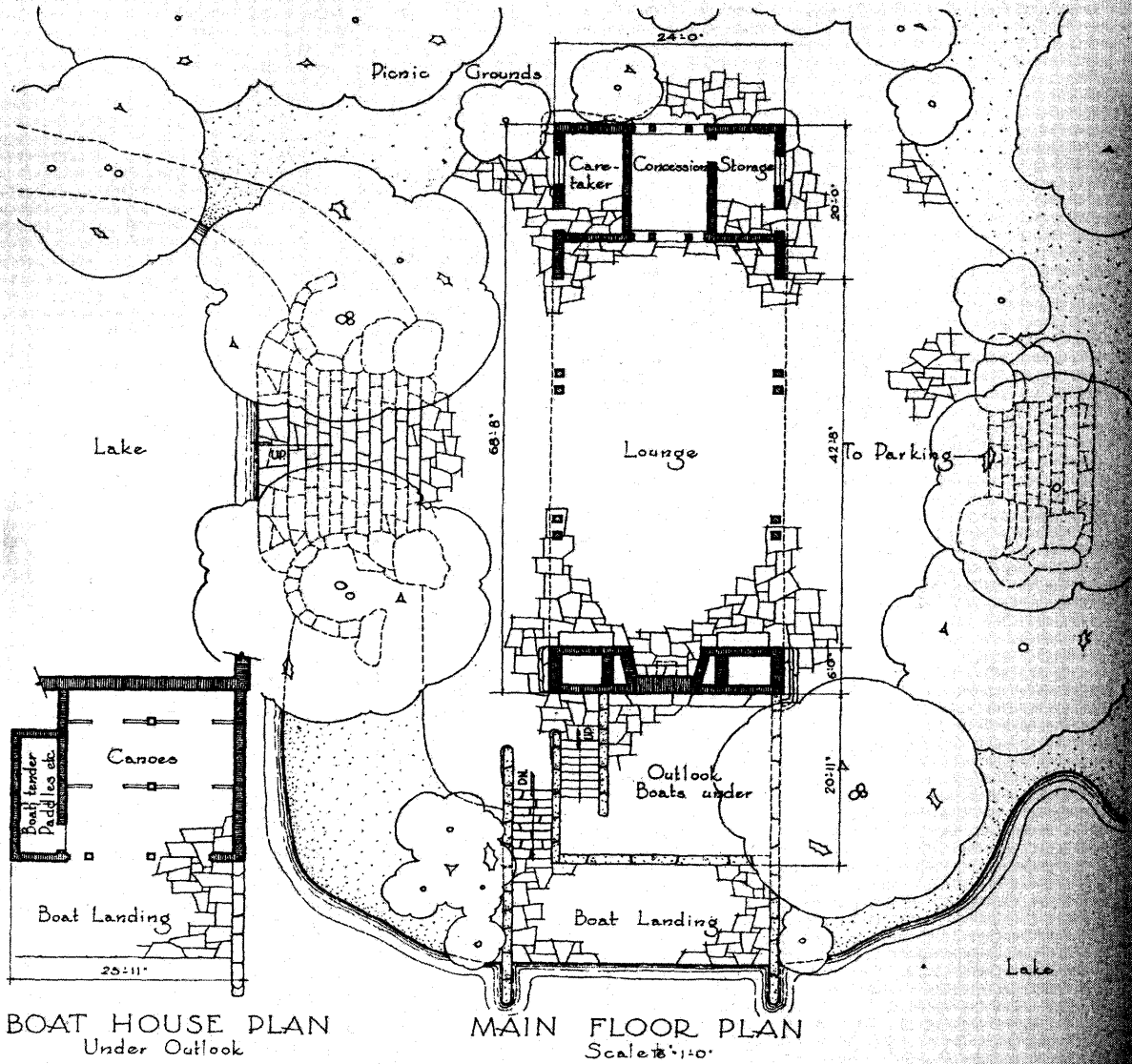
United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

Perry Lake Park
Noble County, Oklahoma

Section number 8 Page 8

BOATHOUSES AND DEPENDENCIES

Plate II I-7



BOAT HOUSE PLAN
Under Outlook

MAIN FLOOR PLAN
Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"

Perry Lake Boathouse and Refectory. - Oklahoma

An interpretation of sturdy park architecture that turns its back on the light little patterns of precedent to the attainment of considerable distinction. Its long low lines

massive dominant chimney, the structurally forthright masonry and the broad stone steps that closely link the structure with the environs—all are factors that inspire admiration. The employment of several levels shows a responsiveness to the requirements of site.

**National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet****United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service**Perry Lake Park
Noble County, OklahomaSection number 8 Page 9**SIGNIFICANCE**

Perry is located 60 miles north of Oklahoma City on I-35, and was established after the great land run of 1893 which opened a choice area of the future state of Oklahoma. Located on a prime rail line and surrounded by rich agricultural lands, Perry thrived and grew rapidly. It was designated the seat of Noble County in 1907. In May of 1934, the city of Perry provided approximately 150 acres of land, referred to as "the city farm," as the site of a proposed municipal park to be created by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The city of Perry was selected in March of 1934, as the site for a CCC camp. The Perry Lake project was designated as SP-10 (State Park), and the company assigned was # 863. Company # 863 was established on May 1, 1934 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. This camp was in the eighth corps, which included Oklahoma and Texas, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Wyoming (excluding Yellowstone National Park). Construction of this project started on May 1, 1934, with completion on July 1, 1935.²

The transformation of the city farm tract, from what some Perry citizens believed to be an unusable piece of land, to a landscape that exemplified the philosophy of the National Park Service occurred through the work of the young men of Company # 863. The resources that comprise the Perry Lake Park reflect the design philosophy of the National Park Service from the 1930s. The resident camp of the Civilian Conservation Corps implemented the landscape design. Perry Lake Park is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A for its association with the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps and vitally important to the city of Perry as a governmentally driven work relief program. The park is also eligible under Criterion C as an excellent example of the architectural and landscape design philosophy of the National Park Service as applied to a municipal park in Perry, Oklahoma.

History of securing the camp

During the 1930s, the city of Perry, like many agriculturally based towns, struggled to survive the Great Depression. The community relied on farming as the chief source of economic stability. Mayor Ted Newton and the other civic leaders realized the need for finding ways to maintain some means to fight the jobless situation of the citizens of Perry. The creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 gave promise to many of the communities affected by the economic downturn of this time. The city of Perry wanted the opportunity to receive a CCC camp. Mayor Newton received a telegram from Fort Sill stating that operations for the CCC camp would definitely begin on May 1, 1934. The city farm tract of 150 acres was to be converted into a park and recreational center. The promise of a municipal park for the city of Perry would add a place for recreation for not only the local residents, but also an additional premiere site for the state.³

The securing of the location of the camp on the city property was the result of joint action of the Chamber of Commerce, city officials and private citizens interested in the park project. Will Rogers, Oklahoma's Congressman at large at the time, worked with the Interior Department to assure a camp in Perry. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of communities throughout the U.S. were bidding to obtain campsites in their states.

"Bruce Lucas, city water and light department superintendent, was in contact with the district office of

² "New Perry Park Finished in Year." *Daily Oklahoman*, September 22, 1935.

³ Beers, Fred G. "From the Northwest Corner," Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry, Oklahoma, April 13, 1995.

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state park emergency conservation work, *located in Denver*, and assisted in completing arrangements for the campsite.⁴ Max Sexton, a civilian, was the camp work superintendent, and Lt. Walter F. Berg was the Army officer in charge. Lt. Berg did not live at the campsite. He and his wife had an apartment over the City Drug Store on the north side of the courthouse square in Perry.⁵

The Perry City Farm, as it was known to the residents, was located southeast of Perry on a badly rutted dirt road. A shallow lake set between two low hills served as an emergency water reservoir for the city. Scrub oak, blackjacks, red cedars, and native grasses surrounded the lake and dotted the landscape of the hills. There were no major improvements to this area. Many residents believed the land had little potential for development. Use of the area was limited at best. The Perry Boy Scouts on campouts used a small shack-like structure that existed, but there were no other improvements or additions to the area.⁶

The project was designated SP-10. "SP" stood for State Park; one of the three most common designated camp types in Oklahoma. The others were "SC" and "F," for Soil Conservation and Forestry. There were a number of other designators, but these three dominated in the state of Oklahoma. The number was the camp designation under the camp type. The camp's work was to include clearing and replanting of trees, shrubs, and grasses, creation of a road, walking and bridle trail systems, construction of picnic areas, with tables and benches, grills, a large shelter house and combination boat house, and another shelter house and observation stand, two wells, and filling the lake to accommodate the level of recreational use hoped for by the community.⁷

Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees were young men, mostly between the ages of 18 and 25, who came from a disadvantaged background. To be eligible, the prospective enrollee had to meet minimal criteria. They must come from a single parent home or from a home where both parents were on relief. The boys enrolled for six-month tours; they were allowed to re-enroll as long as they remained eligible according to the criteria. The local county relief agencies were generally responsible for the recruitment of the candidates. The enrollees were paid in the neighborhood of \$30 per month. The bulk of the money was withheld and sent to the family; usually the men kept \$5 for personal use. The CCC camps were supervised by Regular Army officers, usually Captains. In addition, there were separate camps for Native Americans, African Americans, and veterans.⁸

The camps were run in a quasi-militaristic manner. The U.S. Army Quartermaster Corps provided the clothing for each camp. The basic CCC uniform consisted of denim clothing fashioned similar to Army fatigues, but designed to look "unmilitary". The enrollees were issued warm and cold weather gear, barrack bags, shoes, and assorted toiletries. The Quartermasters Corps also provided food for the camps. The Quartermasters also were in charge of moving the camps from one work location to another.⁹

On May 1, 1934, some 200 young men arrived to set-up the quasi-military campsite. The young men

⁴ Beers.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ <http://www.cccalumni.org/states/index.html>

⁸ Gabbert, Jim. Wintersmith Park Historic District National Register of Historic Places nomination, Section 8, page 28-9.

⁹ Gabbert, Section 8, page 28-9.

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worked and called SP-10 their home until July 1, 1935. The young men comprising this camp came from all over the nation, and did include some of the young men of Perry. In serving with a CCC camp, many young men had the opportunity to learn valuable new skills and earn a wage to supplement their extended families. The CCC camp at Perry was welcomed by the community with open arms. The summer of 1934, the city invited the young men to field a team in the city's softball league. The boys of Company # 863 gladly accepted.¹⁰

The camp was supervised and followed a military routine. Tents were set up and provided temporary living quarters for the men. Eventually wooden, barracks-like buildings replaced the tents, including a mess hall, only a short distance east of the dusty, unimproved road, which became state highway 86 several years later. There was an expectation of a six-month limit of work on the Perry Park project, but the job was still going on more than a year later.

The first job undertaken by the Perry CCC men was building a boat dock on the small lake in the park. (this no longer exists but is in the plans from Good's book, *Park and Recreation Structures*, page 152). After completion of the boat dock, the men continued with numerous projects to create a recreational landscape. Native stone was used for picnic tables and benches, pavilions, picnic shelters, public rest rooms and other structures. Construction and planning of horseback trails, walking paths and roads for vehicle traffic were part of the overall plan of the park.¹¹

"A bathhouse was built on the east shore of the lake, north of the boat house, and a raft was anchored in the water for swimmers. Hundreds of tons of sand were hauled to the site for an artificial beach. When the park was turned over to the public months later, no lifeguard was on duty. After a girl drowned, swimming was no longer allowed. Mother Nature reclaimed the sand and only the foundation of the boathouse was left, but the beach was rebuilt a few years later."¹²

By January 1935, construction progressed, and the boathouse was nearing completion and the city was pumping water from the "Cow Creek Reservoir" into the park's lake. The water level backed up to the new boathouse and landing areas. The lake level was 5 to 6 feet from the top of the spillway. Work continued on roads, bridges, hiking trails and bridal paths. The clearing of brush and trees from all but the center area of the park continued as well. Sixty new young men were enrolled in the local CCC camp to replace others that had completed their service. There was an average of 203 men working each day at the new park.

The original features included picnic areas with native stone tables with benches, grills, a large stone shelter house in the eastern part of the camp near the boat house, and another shelter house and observation stand on the southwest edge of the lake. Walks and stone steps were used to lead up to the two wells, one east of the boat house and one on the west side of the lake with a shelter over it. The design plans for the park followed the guidelines of the National Park Service.

National Park Service Philosophy

The design ethic of the Park Service created a style of construction and architecture that would later be called "National Park Service Rustic." The various projects at Perry Park closely followed this design

¹⁰ Beers.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

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ethic.¹³ Architect Thomas C. Vint worked under NPS directors Stephen T. Mather and Horace M. Albright to devise "sensitive approaches to road construction, park village design, and rustic architecture" that harmonized park development and landscape scenery. Vint's designs addressed the issues of modernization of the national parks and the overuse of existing parks built to handle the pre-automotive era of tourists. His designs and park planning "shaped historic preservation theory and practice at a critical time."¹⁴ By the end of 1933, FDR and the New Deal brought about the expansion of responsibility for the NPS in the management of historic sites. Vint and the NPS set out to solve the issue of landscape preservation. Automobile tourists increased, roads, trails and other facilities needed to be transformed and developed but controlled by a unified aesthetic conception (master plan). This master plan enhanced the sense of place while protecting the natural landscape. To accomplish this goal, Vint wanted to "stop the clock" at a specific date of significance.¹⁵ When designing parks and/or recreation areas each structure needed "to fit into the landscape through the use of natural materials, regional building forms, and pioneer construction techniques."¹⁶

Typical of the Park Service Rustic design was the use of natural looking masonry. Structures and buildings were to blend into the landscape, and be as unobtrusive as possible. Considered foremost in these construction sites was maintaining the integrity of the natural landscape. Native stone roughly fashioned, and timbers were the primary building materials used in this region of the country. The sturdy handcrafted picnic tables were usually moderate in size and constructed with heavily scaled native materials. Each table was then placed in a naturalistic area that offered the greatest practical use for the visitor.¹⁷ Trail steps of stone blended into the terrain and offered safe and sturdy access to the park. Constructed with native stone, natural and cut, these trails often led the visitor through areas of the park only accessible on foot.¹⁸ The Park Rustic design allowed all the man-made additions to the park to appear to be a part of the landscape, to "rise out of the ground." Other landscape features, such as culverts, bridges, and walls were to follow this same ethic¹⁹

The buildings and structures that remain in the Perry Lake Park are representative examples of Park Rustic architecture. Native stone and rock comprise the bulk of materials used in the park. Architectural Consultant for the National Park Service, Albert H. Good, documents Park Rustic style in his three part series of books about park and recreation structures of the CCC era. A floor plan and photographs of the boathouse at the "Perry Lake Metropolitan Park" illustrate the detail incorporated in building this structure to allow for maximum views of the surrounding landscape and lake.²⁰ The men of Company #863 built this structure as a combination waterfront building that would provide long term use for the

¹³ http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hli/currents/newdeal/hist_page5.htm and <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/products/library/ccc.htm>

¹⁴ Charles A. Birnbaum and Mary V. Hughes, ed's., *Design with Culture: Claiming America's Landscape Heritage*. (Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2005), 157.

¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 167.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 193.

¹⁷ Good, Albert H. Park, *Recreation Structures: Part II-Recreational and Cultural Facilities*, (Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1938),2.

¹⁸ Good, Albert H. Park, *Recreation Structures: Part I-Administration and Basic Service Facilities*, (Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1938),164-5.

¹⁹ http://www.cr.nps.gov/hps/hli/currents/newdeal/hist_page5.htm and <http://www.nps.gov/hfc/products/library/ccc.htm>

²⁰ Good, Albert H. Park, *Recreation Structures: Part II-Recreational and Cultural Facilities*, (Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1938), 152-53.

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visitor. A gradual incline of large stone steps allowed for safe access to the water, and again took into consideration the fluctuations in water levels of the lake. The numerous amounts of native stone used in the boathouse provide a visual example of the ingenuity of the young men in their construction methods. On the balcony area of the boathouse, larger rocks or stones were chosen to provide natural seating while enjoying the view of the lake. The smaller picnic shelter provides the appearance of rising from the natural hillside on the east side of the lake. The arch designs formed on the underneath facings of the stone culverts follow the terrain instead of using square or harsh lines in the construction. When building each of the structures the design incorporated the best views of the natural landscape throughout the park.²¹

An announcement was made on June 12, 1935, that the Perry CCC park project was virtually complete, and that the CCC camp would be moved to Ponca City on July 1 to build a similar park there. The final step for the young men would be completion of the extensive landscape. Hundreds of pine trees were set out along with other trees, shrubs, vines and grasses. Louis Hawkins was in charge of the landscaping. Decorative signs of heavy timber with letters burned into them directed visitors to the park facilities. The twenty-acre lake was full, holding an estimated 130 million gallons of water.

On June 26, 1935, officers and enlisted men in the Perry CCC detail were striking the camp and preparing to leave the following day for their new assignment in Ponca City. Their barracks were to be left here pending final disposition by the district supervisor of the Park Service. Lt. Walter F. Berg, officer in charge, issued a statement expressing thanks to Perry citizens, city and county officials and local organizations for the manner in which the company had been received.²²

Perry Lake Park Today

The remaining structures are a classic group of rustic structures that contribute substantially to the continuum of rustic design in the National Park Service. The boathouse and pavilion picnic shelter are outstanding examples of Park Rustic design and the near-original condition makes it even more noteworthy. Perry Lake Park retains the basic design elements conceived by the National Park Service and implemented with the construction by the Civilian Conservation Corps. The collection of stone structures, carefully placed in a natural and designed landscape, is exemplary of the early design philosophy of the National Park Service as applied to a municipal park. The multiple resources that comprise the Perry Lake CCC Park are eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A and C.

²¹ Good, Albert H. Park, *Recreation Structures: Part II-Recreational and Cultural Facilities*, (Department of Interior, National Park Service, 1938), 145-153.

²² Beers, Fred G, "From the Northwest Corner," Cherokee Strip Museum, Perry, Oklahoma, April 18, 1995.

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**UTM References continued**

5.	14	654700	4014840
	Zone	Easting	Northing
6.	14	654700	4015080
	Zone	Easting	Northing

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Perry Lake Park is located at S/2 SE/4 NW/4; & E/2 SW/4; & E 65 acs W/2 SW/4 Section 26, Township 21N, Range 1W

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundaries reflect the area historically associated with Perry Lake Park

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PHOTOGRAPH LOG

The following information pertains to photograph numbers 1-___ except as noted:

Photographer: Jim Gabbert

Date of Photographs: 2/2007

Negatives: OK/SHPO

Photo No.	Photographic Information
1	Facing NNE; detail of entry pillar
2	Facing E; check-in station
3	Facing S; Culvert 1. Culvert 3 (resource #6) is nearly identical
4	Facing SSE; Culvert 2. Shows upstream side
5	Facing SSW; Shows trail steps with "church on perch" in background
6	Facing W: Looking across arm of lake from boathouse toward "church on the perch"
7	Facing SW; Road bridge
8	Facing WNW; Well/Spring house
9	Facing ENE; Open air chapel
10	Facing W; Shows kitchen, modern picnic tables and parking area near camping/amphitheater
11	Facing NW; Craft house
12	Facing SW; Comfort station. Built into side of hill
13	Facing SW; Bridge 2. Note slight arch of sidewalls
14	Facing SW; Boathouse. Shows terrace on lake side.
15	Facing SE; Picnic shelter. Shows massive fireplace.
16	Facing N; Stone picnic table. Typical of those in the picnic area.
17	Facing W; Trail segment showing stone culvert (typical)
18	Facing S; Comfort station
19	Facing N; Trail steps to old comfort station site; some steps carved from rock, some placed