

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number \_\_\_\_\_ Page \_\_\_\_\_

### SUPPLEMENTARY LISTING RECORD

NRIS Reference Number: 89001669

Date Listed: 4/19/91

Camden St. Park CCC/WPA/Rustic  
Style Historic Resources  
Property Name

Lyon  
County

MN  
State

Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style MPS  
Multiple Name

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This property is listed in the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the attached nomination documentation subject to the following exceptions, exclusions, or amendments, notwithstanding the National Park Service certification included in the nomination documentation.

Beth Boland  
Signature of the Keeper

4/19/91  
Date of Action

=====  
**Amended Items in Nomination:**

Item #1: Name:

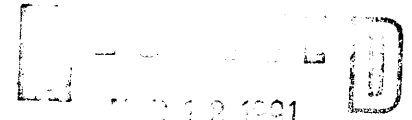
To more accurately reflect the nature of the property, the name is changed to "Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic District."

This change was confirmed by Susan Roth of the Minnesota SHPO.

**DISTRIBUTION:**

- National Register property file
- Nominating Authority (without nomination attachment)

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



# National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

NATIONAL  
REGISTER

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources  
other names/site number Camden State Park

### 2. Location

street & number off Minnesota Highway 23  not for publication N/A  
city, town Lynd and Lyons Townships Lynd  vicinity  
state Minnesota code MN county Lyon code 083 zip code 56157

### 3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>7</u>	<u>1</u> buildings
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>3</u>	<u>      </u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>13</u>	<u>1</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing:  
Minnesota State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic  
Style Historic Resources

Number of contributing resources previously  
listed in the National Register 0

### 4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 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.  See continuation sheet.

Nina M. Archabal 3/15/91  
Signature of certifying official Nina M. Archabal Date  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
State or Federal agency and bureau Minnesota Historical Society

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria.  See continuation sheet.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register. Beth Boland 4/19/91  
 See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined eligible for the National Register.  See continuation sheet. \_\_\_\_\_  
 determined not eligible for the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 removed from the National Register. \_\_\_\_\_  
 other, (explain:) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action

**6. Function or Use**

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE/State Park

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

RECREATION/Outdoor Recreation

LANDSCAPE/State Park

**7. Description**

Architectural Classification

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: NPS Rustic Architecture

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Stone/Wood

roof Asphalt

other

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

See Continuation Sheets

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Camden State Park CCC/WPA Rustic Style Historic Resources  
Lynd and Lyons Twps., Lyon Co., MN

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DESCRIPTION

Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources consist of an historic district which includes the public use area and the service yard, all located on the banks of the scenic Redwood River. The district includes seven contributing buildings, three contributing structures, three contributing objects, as well as one non-contributing building. The architects for Camden State Park were from the Minnesota Central Design Office of the National Park Service and the Design Office of the Minnesota Division of State Parks. Both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration were active in the park.

Department of Natural Resources building identification numbers are located after the name of each building.

Camden State Park Historic District

1. Building: Bath House 4-141 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935-36

The Bath House and Concession building is a 51'6" x 23' structure constructed with native split stone and covered with a gable roof. The building provided space for a concession, rest rooms, and storage areas all flanked by two loggias. Changing wings, 26' x 15', were originally located at either side of this central section. The partially enclosed wings featured low stone walls 1'4" high followed by 7'9" high vertical board and batten siding. The mens' area contained wooden benches while the womens' changing wing included individual booths.

Three concession counters opened on the main facade. The central counter is 6'10" wide and is flanked by two 4'6" counters. Four wooden brackets separate the counters and support a protective canopy.

The walls of the changing wings were razed down to the stone walls in 1978, rest rooms were added in the former concession area, and changing booths were installed in the loggias.

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2. Building: Instructor's Cabin 4-149 Builder: WPA  
Architect: Taylor Date: 1938

This 21' x 13'6" cabin was built near the Bath House as a residence for the swimming instructor. The building rests on a concrete foundation faced with stone and is covered with a gable roof with projecting lookouts. The exterior siding consists of clapboards with a 2" overlap to the sill level and rough vertical boards with 1" x 2" battens above. The entrance is covered with a gable roof supported by brackets. All windows openings are double hung sash. The cabin originally contained a living room, kitchen, and bath but the interior has been altered to serve as an Interpretive Center.

3. Structure: Diversion Dam Builder: CCC  
Architect: National Park Service Date: 1935

The diversion dam consists of a concrete wall which directs a stream into the nearby lake. The stream either by-passes the lake through a culvert or passes through a shear gate and flows toward the pool.

4. Structure: Recreational Dam & Lake Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935-36

A 30' long recreational dam with 10' wing walls forms the northern edge of a small lakelet built to serve as a swimming beach. The dam consists of a 7'6" high concrete wall with a rock backing which rests on a 3 foot foundation. The wall is capped with a 1'6" section of stone. From the top of the dam a 40'6" x 5'9" boulder cascade forms a spillway leading to the river. Both sides of the cascade are riprapped. The lake is slightly less than one acre in size.

5. Structure: Bridge Builder: WPA  
Architect: Taylor Date: c1938

A flat "ford type" bridge crosses the Redwood River and leads from a parking lot to the beach house. The bridge is approximately 30' long and consists of a concrete slab resting on concrete footings and a central pier. The bridge is faced with native stone and is designed to withstand a washout from the Redwood River.

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6. Object: Drinking Fountain Builder: CCC  
Architect: R.A. Skogland Date: 1935

A split stone drinking fountain is located adjacent to the Bath House. The fountain is 2' square and is 3' high.

7. Building: Shelter & Concession 4-154 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1936

This building includes both a picnic shelter and a concession. The 43' x 24' structure features native split stone walls which rise 4'6" with rough board and batten siding above. A gable roof covers the building with 4" x 6" lookouts projecting from the gables. The shelter may be entered through three 7' openings on the north facade which are defined by 10" x 12" rough hewn bracketed posts. Of the corresponding openings on the south facade, only the central opening serves as an entrance since the building's low stone walls extend into the flanking openings. The interior features a massive split stone fireplace located on the west facade and the concession area along the east wall. The concession featured service counters on both interior and exterior walls.

8. Building: Sanitation Building 4-153 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

The Sanitation Building is a 29' x 18' rectangular structure constructed with local split stone and covered with a gable roof. The roof extends over an entrance screen for the womens' rest room which consists of 4'6" stone walls with 8" x 8" squared timbers which support the roof. The adjacent side wall contains a 3'6" x 11" section of board and batten siding with a screened gable above. A 13' long screen is placed adjacent to the mens' entrance. The stone screen features a 6'4" section of board and batten siding capped by a 6" x 8" timber. The entrance wall also features board and batten siding and a screened gable. The principal facade contains a screen, 2'6" high and 2' wide, with pierced openings in the stonework.

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9. Object: Drinking Fountains Builder: CCC  
Architect: R.A. Skogland Date: 1935

Two drinking fountains are located in the picnic area of the park. Each fountain rests on a round base of stone flagging. The fountains are constructed with field stone with a flat stone placed at the top. The fountains are 2' square at the base, rise 3' high, and taper to 1'8" at the top. These are the only examples in the state park system of drinking fountains constructed with uncut field stone rather than the typical split stone.

10. Building: Custodian's Cabin 4-160 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

The Custodian's Cabin is an L-shaped structure containing a living room, kitchen, two bedrooms, and bath. Stonework is confined to the principal facade with the remaining walls finished with rough vertical board siding with wooden pegs. The cabin is covered with a gable roof with projecting lookouts. The living room features a brick fireplace and hardwood flooring. A third bedroom was added to the rear of the building.

11. Building: Warehouse & Garage 4-159 Builder: CCC  
Architect: Edward W. Barber Date: 1935

The Warehouse and Garage building consists of a two stall vehicle garage and an adjacent shop. The 37'10" x 26'6" building is constructed entirely of native split stone except for the two exterior walls of the shop which are covered with vertical boards and battens. A gable roof with projecting 4" x 8" lookouts covers the building. The building was once covered with heavy shingles. Window openings are typically three over three light casements.

12. Building: Ice & Wood House 4-157 Builder: WPA  
Architect: O. Newstrom Date: 1937

The Ice and Wood House is a 40' x 20' gable roofed structure providing space for wood storage, a mower room, and an ice house. The rear wall is constructed with a 12" concrete wall while the remaining walls are built with split stone, 4'3" high, with vertical fir shiplap and batten walls

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above. The stonework at the rear of the sidewalls is 8'6" high. Large double doors open to the mower room while the 10' entrance to the wood storage room remained open. A side entrance to the ice house featured doors built with double boards with an air space filled with sawdust.

13. Building: Wood Shed 4-156 Builder: Unknown  
Architect: Dept. of Natural Resources Date: 1971

The Wood Shed is a partially enclosed rectangular wood frame structure covered with a gable roof. The building is non-contributing.



**8. Statement of Significance**

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally     statewide     locally

Applicable National Register Criteria     A     B     C     D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions)     A     B     C     D     E     F     G    N/A

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Architecture  
Landscape Architecture  
Recreation  
Government  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Period of Significance

1934-38  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Dates

1934  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Cultural Affiliation

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

National Park Service  
Civilian Conservation Corps  
Works Progress Administration

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

See Continuation Sheets

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

Department of Natural Resources. Working Drawings and Specifications for the Buildings at Camden State Park. Bureau of Engineering. St. Paul, Minnesota.  
Searle, R. Newell. Gardens of the Desert. Minnesota Parks Foundation. Minneapolis, Minnesota. 1983.  
State of Minnesota. Minnesota State Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Study. 1938.

See continuation sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

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

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: \_\_\_\_\_

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreage of property 22 Acres

UTM References

A 

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

C 

1	5
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2	6	6	7	4	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	1	6	4	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

B 

1	5
---	---

2	6	7	3	6	0
---	---	---	---	---	---

4	9	1	7	3	8	0
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Zone      Easting                      Northing

D 

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundary for Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources is shown as the heavy line on the accompanying map entitled "Camden State Historic District." It is defined by the inside edge of the park road to the southeast, the Redwood River to the northwest, and it extends to the north to include the service yard, and to the south to include the beach area.

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

The boundary includes the buildings and structures that have been historically associated with the property and that maintain historic integrity. The boundary defines the areas of the park developed by the CCC and the WPA.

See continuation sheet

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title <u>Rolf T. Anderson</u>	(revised: 02/91)
organization <u>N/A</u>	date <u>September 9, 1988</u>
street & number <u>3632 Park Avenue South</u>	telephone <u>612-824-7807</u>
city or town <u>Minneapolis</u>	state <u>Minnesota</u> zip code <u>55407</u>

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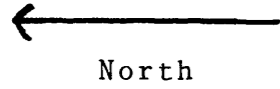
STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are historically significant for their association with the social, political, and economic impact of the Great Depression and the subsequent development of the various Federal Relief Programs which were responsible for their construction. The park was developed by both the Civilian Conservation Corps and the Works Progress Administration, two of the most popular and successful relief programs from the period. Camden State Park was considered an important link in the state park system by providing recreational facilities to a large section of middle western Minnesota.

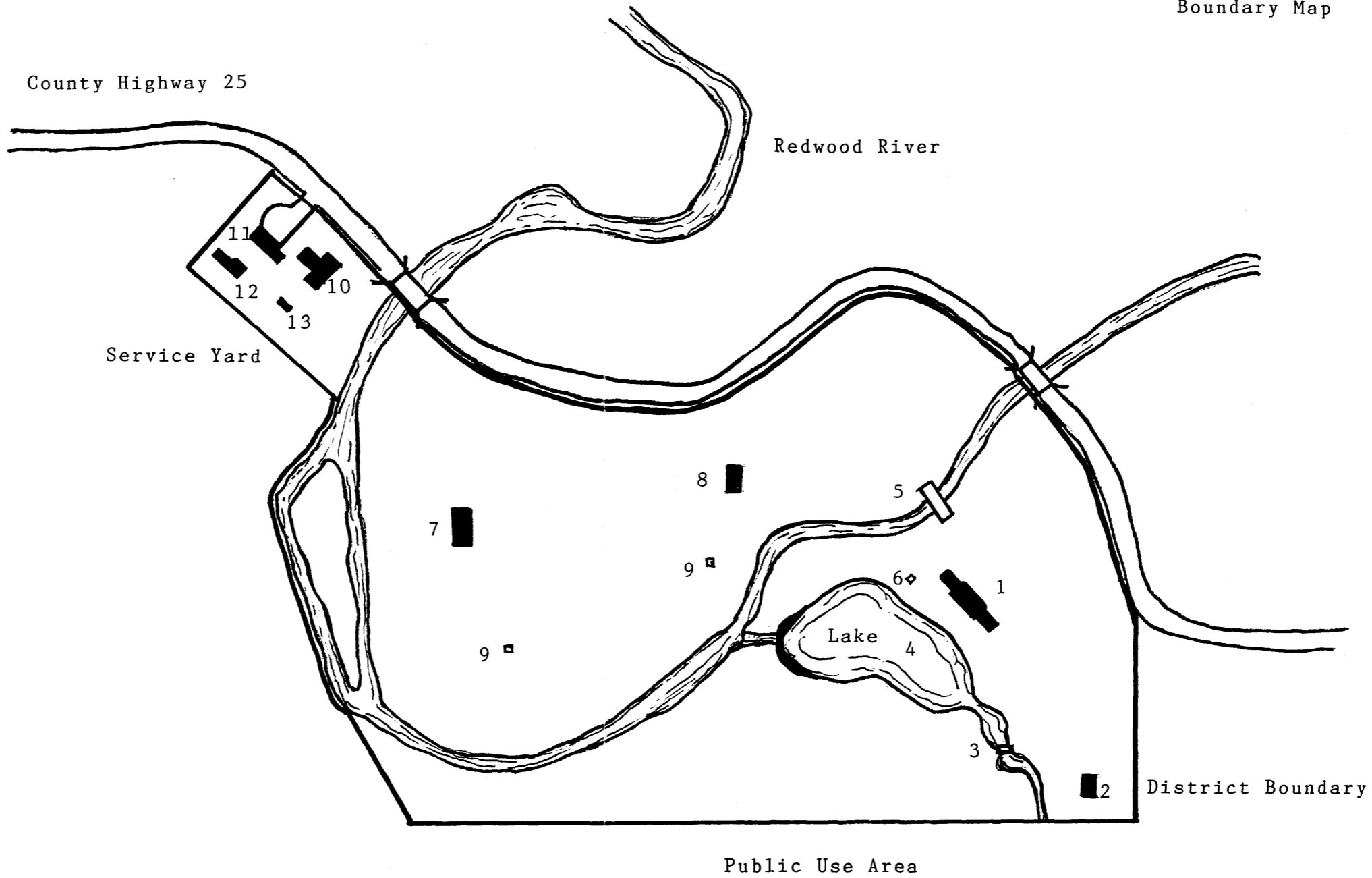
Camden State Park CCC/WPA/Rustic Style Historic Resources are architecturally significant as an outstanding collection of rustic style buildings featuring split stone construction. The landscape design for Camden State Park is architecturally significant as a notable example of National Park Service master planning which allowed the natural topography of the winding Redwood River to determine the location of the various functional areas in the park.

Camden State Park was acquired by the state in 1934 and was officially established in 1935. The park was developed by C.C.C. camp SP-11 which first occupied the park on August 10, 1934. The enrollees were World War I Veterans and camps of this type were also termed V.C.C. camps or Veteran Conservation Corps camps. An additional 32 veterans were transferred to the camp from Missouri in 1936, yet by the end of September the development in the park had been completed. The camp was then transferred to Fort Ridgely State Park to complete development which had been left unfinished when the C.C.C. camp at that park was abandoned in October 1935.

Several W.P.A. projects were also initiated at Camden State Park after the V.C.C. camp had left. These included dismantling the camp buildings which had been located at the present day site of the campground. Three buildings in particular were moved to a remote location in the park to be used as a group camp facility. The group camp was dismantled in the 1960s and all that remains are two finely crafted split-stone fireplaces. The Swimming Instructor's Cabin and the Ice and Wood House were also constructed as W.P.A. projects.



CAMDEN STATE PARK HISTORIC DISTRICT  
Boundary Map



1. Bath House
2. Instructor's Cabin
3. Diversion Dam
4. Recreational Dam & Lake
5. Bridge
6. Drinking Fountain
7. Shelter & Concession
8. Sanitation Building
9. Drinking Fountains
10. Custodian's Cabin
11. Warehouse & Garage
12. Ice & Wood House
13. Wood Shed \*

\*non-contributing

September 1988

1" = approximately 200 feet