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.

	perty Sand Bar State Park	
nistoric name	Band Bar Beace Talk	
other names/site	number	
2. Location		
street & number	1215 US Route 2	√Anot for publication
city or town	Milton	^N _Aicinity
state <u>Vermont</u>	t code <u>VT</u> county <u>Chittenden</u> code <u>007</u>	_ zip code 05468
3. State/Federal	Agency Certification	
	C. Samele National Regester Specialist 12-28-01 pertifying official/Title Date	
- Vermor State of Feder	C. Samely Matternal Rigarth Aprila (12-28-01) Pertifying official/Title Date Date Date The State Historic Preservation Office The rail agency and bureau The property The property The meets The does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation seed to the property The property	
State of Feder In my opinion, comments.)	nt State Historic Preservation Office ral agency and bureau	
In my opinion, comments.) Signature of comments.	nt State Historic Preservation Office ral agency and bureau, the property \square meets \square does not meet the National Register criteria. (\square See continuation s	

Sand Bar State-Park	grand market angle property of the second se	<u>Chittenden Count</u> County and State	vermônt
5. Classification			
Ownership of Property (Check as many boxes as apply)	Category of Property (Check only one box)	Number of Resources within (Do not include previously listed resources)	Property arces in the count.)
☐ private ☐ public-local ☒ public-State ☐ public-Federal	□ building(s) ☑ district □ site □ structure □ object	1 1	buildings sites structures objects
Name of related multiple property is not part	roperty listing of a multiple property listing.)	Number of contributing resorting the National Register	
Historic Park Landsca	pes in National & State	0	
6. Function or Use	Parks		
Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)		Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)	
Recreation & Culture/	Outdoor Recreation	Recreation & Culture/Ou	tdoor Recreation
Landscape/Park		Landscape/ Park	
7. Description			
Architectural Classification (Enter categories from instructions)		Materials (Enter categories from instructions)	
Other: CCC State Par	k	foundation <u>stone</u>	
		walls stone	
		roofslate	
		other wood	

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

8. S	atement of Significance	
Appl (Mark	icable National Register Criteria "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property	Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
for National Register listing.)		Architecture
X A	Property is associated with events that have made	Entertainment/Recreation
	a significant contribution to the broad patterns of	
	our history.	
□в	Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.	
∑ C	Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses	
	high artistic values, or represents a significant and	Period of Significance
	distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.	-
	individual distinction.	1933–1939
□ D	Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.	
Crite	ria Considerations	Significant Dates
	"x" in all the boxes that apply.)	Significant Dates
D	and the state of t	1933
Prop	erty is:	
□ A	owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.	
□в	removed from its original location.	Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A
□с	a birthplace or grave.	N/A
	a complaint of grands	Cultural Affiliation
	a cemetery.	N/A
	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
	a reconstructed building, object, or structure.	
□F	a commemorative property.	
	less than 50 years of age or achieved significance	Architect/Builder
G	within the past 50 years.	US Department of the Interior
	The second secon	•
		Civilian Conservation Corps
(Expla	ative Statement of Significance in the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)
	ajor Bibliographical References	
	ography he books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on or	ne or more continuation sheets.)
Prev	ious documentation on file (NPS):	Primary location of additional data:
	preliminary determination of individual listing (36	☐ State Historic Preservation Office
	CFR 67) has been requested	☐X Other State agency
	previously listed in the National Register	☐ Federal agency
	previously determined eligible by the National	☐ Local government
	Register designated a National Historic Landmark	☐ University ☐ Other
	recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey	Name of repository:
	#	·
	recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #	VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

Sand Bar State Park Name of Property	Chittenden County, Vermont County and State
10. Geographical Data	
Acreage of Property 4 1/2	
UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)	
1 1 8 6 3 9 4 0 0 4 9 4 2 8 6 0 Northing 2 1 Northing	3 Zone Easting Northing 4 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 Peter G. Hallock, Jr.	
organization <u>UVM Graduate Program in Historic Pr</u>	eservation dateMay 5, 1999 '
street & number <u>Wheeler House</u>	telephone (802) 656-3180
city or town Burlington	state <u>Vermont</u> zip code <u>05405</u>
Additional Documentation Submit the following items with the completed form:	
Continuation Sheets	
Maps	
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating th	e property's location.
A Sketch map for historic districts and properties ha	
Photographs	
Representative black and white photographs of the	e property.
Additional items	, p p s s s s s s
(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
street & number103 South Main Street	
city or town <u>Waterbury</u>	state Vermont zip code 05671
Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, an	If for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate d to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain

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.

a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

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Sand Bar State Park, and its accompanying Bath House, is located on the mainland side of a naturally occurring sandbar between South Hero Island and the town of Milton, Vermont. The four and a half acre historic area that surrounds the Bath House is a triangular shaped parcel of land that is bordered on the east and southeast sides by the remaining park and Lake Champlain on the north and northeast sides. The historic acreage is partially separated from the rest of the park by a stand of cedar trees. U.S. Route 2 borders the park on the west side. A wooden fence has been placed along the road in response to the fast, aggressive traffic currently found on Route 2. The fence is of a modern "worm" design. It is laid out in a zigzag pattern and is made out of split rails attached to two round posts by aluminum wire and is not contributing to the nomination. Roses have been planted on either side of the fence. A sand beach runs along the southwest side of the park and the interior is filled with lawn and matured hardwoods (mostly oaks). The Adirondack Mountains are located west of the Bath House and the Green Mountains are to the east and it affords spectacular views of both of these ranges from several vantage points. The Bath House is an excellent, unaltered example of the "Rustic Park Style" architecture and retains a high degree of integrity.

Contributing Bath House, circa 1934 (1a)

The Bath House is a long, H shaped, one and a half story, rectangular stone structure built in the rusticated park style of the 1930s. It is strongly symmetrical. The stone walls are made of fieldstone laid in a random rubble pattern with exaggerated ornamental pointing. A slate gable roof covers the building and is intersected by two cross gables where the wings meet the main hyphen. Small, curved cornice returns ornament the bottom of the gables.

The building has three, random rubble laid, stone chimneys. Two of the chimneys are small, located on the interior and break the plane of the hyphen's roof ridge near where the wings meet the main building. The third chimney is a large battered exterior end structure located in the middle of the façade that faces Route Two. It is roughly ten feet wide at the base and five feet wide at the upper terminus. The windows are six light, wooden casement sashes, ranging from three sashes down to one. All of the wooden trim, as well as the muntins and doors, have been painted brown.

The southwest façade of the Bath House has six bays on the first story. On each wing there are two windows. Each of the windows is made out of two movable casements flanking a third casement that is fixed. Two doors are located near where the wings meet the hyphen. Two windows with two movable casements each are found between the door and the large central chimney. The hyphen bays lead into a large, main room. The doors are made out of chamfered vertical planks that are held together by three rusticated wrought iron strap hinges.

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The door handles are made from the same rusticated wrought iron as the strap hinges. The thresholds are poured concrete. Above the two windows on the wings and directly below the peak of the gable are two small, one casement windows. Originally these windows led to living quarters for the lifeguards and park helpers; currently the space is used for storage.

The northwestern side, which faces South Hero Island, has four bays across the first floor. Each is made from two, six light, wooden, movable casement sashes and lead to women's changing room. There are two gable-roofed dormers located in the roof above the windows. Both of the dormers have a window made out of two movable wooden casements. The dormers are covered in wooden weatherboards. The gablets over the dormers have the same small, curved cornice returns found on the wing's gables.

The northeastern façade (facing the beach) has nine bays across the lower level. The two gable ends are identical to the gable ends on the opposite side. On the hyphen there are two banks of three windows on either side of a large, recessed double leaf door. These windows are again made from two sashes of six light casements and the door is similar to the one found on the opposite side. Two other doors are also found on the interior portion of the wing that juts out from the hyphen. These doors provide exterior access to the wings and the changing rooms located within.

The southeastern side (facing away from South Hero Island) is identical to the northwestern façade except that it holds the men's facilities.

The interior of the Bath House is divided into three parts: the main room (in the middle) and the two flanking changing rooms. The main room, found in the hyphen, has a poured concrete slab floor, unfinished stone walls and a ceiling made from exposed log common rafters and horizontal plank sheathing. At either end of the room are square wooden partitions that screen the entrances to both of the changing rooms. The women's facilities, which are located on the northwestern wing, have a changing area, toilets and sinks. A rectangular section on the southwestern side of the wing holds a small water treatment plant. The men's facilities are found in the southeastern wing and are identical to the women's changing room except that a pump room is located where the water treatment plant would be.

The Stone Grill, circa 1935

One other feature of the park that appears to date from the period associated with the CCC (1933-1939). It is a grill made from field stone laid in a rectangle using a random rubble pattern. The grill is composed of a small rectangle chimney stack with a terra cotta flue on

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top of a larger base. The grilling area is embedded in the middle of the base and has an iron cooking rack. This structure is currently roped off from public use by a chain attached to two posts in front of the grill. This structure was not found on the original plan but it appears to pre-date the modern grills that are found throughout the park.

Other Objects (Non-Contributing)

Scattered throughout the historic area are modern grills, horseshoe pits and water fountains. There is also a modern volleyball court and a flagpole. The grills are rectangular boxes that are mounted on metal poles and made out of sheet metal. There are also two larger grills on the southeastern side of the Bath House. They are again rectangular, made out of sheet metal and mounted on metal tubes. The horseshoe pits are composed of a wooden back board made from three, horizontal, one by sixes nailed to two, vertical, four by fours with wire cut nails. A metal post covered with PVC piping serves as the ringer and an area of sand surrounds the backboard in a half circle. The water fountains are simple structures made from poured concrete shaped into a tapering square column with chamfers at the corners. The faucet is of a simple aluminum design without any drain or tray to catch the chaff (it is very possible that these fountains were installed pre-1950 and therefore could be contributing, although no supporting information was found in the historical record). The flag pole is of a modern design and made out of aluminum. The volleyball area is in a rough rectangular shape and has a sand court.

The views of the mountains from the park have also undergone some changes due to residential development. Multiple houses have noticeably marked the shoreline of both the Green and the Adirondack Mountains.

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Sand Bar State Park, with its historic four and a half acres surround an excellent example of a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) bathhouse, is significant for both its Architecture and its connection with the work of CCC in the Vermont State Parks. The triangularly shaped historic area around the Bath House has been in constant use as a recreational area since the building was completed in 1935. It is eligible under criterion A for its connection with the CCC and its role in the depression recovery efforts of the 1930s. The Bath House's impact on the fledgling conservation and outdoor recreation movements also makes it eligible under this criterion. The building is also eligible under criterion C for its contributions to architecture and has a pattern of features common to CCC era Vermont State Park buildings in Vermont. The Bath House is built in a Rustic Park style that synthesized traditional materials and vernacular inspired designs with alterations in floor plans to provide for public recreation. It retains a high level of integrity and it, along with its historic setting, remains largely unaltered. The Vermont Division of Historic Resources has rated its pre-historic and historic archaeology sensitivity as moderate. The Bath House is being nominated under the Historic Park Landscapes in National and State Parks MPDF and meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

The naturally occurring sandbar on which the Bath House rests was formed from thousands of years of silt being deposited in Lake Champlain by the Lamoille River. The sediment, originating from the Lamoille Valley, sank to the bottom at the delta of the river to form the sandbar. These deposits have raised the level of the lake bottom in this area from its natural depth of 150 feet to only about two or three feet. Because of the shallowness of the water, the sandbar had been used as a route to the islands long before the construction of the first bridge. The original toll bridge from the main land to South Hero Island, constructed of rock, gravel and corduroy laid logs, was built in the 1850. Compared to the existing causeway this bridge was significantly lower and the cyclical action of the shifting ice in the winter and flooding in the spring necessitated yearly repairs. In 1959 the current roadbed and bridge was constructed, using rock and gravel for its base and asphalt for the road surface. U.S. Route 2, as the road is known, is still the main link between mainland Vermont and South Hero Island in Grand Isle County, Vermont.

The 1,000-acre Sand Bar Wildlife Refuge, established in 1920, is located to the Bath House's south and east. Currently it is managed by the Vermont Department of Fish and Wildlife and is home to beaver, muskrats, raccoons and turtles. Migratory birds also use the refuge and it is a major spawning ground for the Lake's fish population.

Construction of the Bath House by the CCC began in 1933. Sand Bar was Vermont's sixth State Park and was one of the few Parks that was purchased instead of being built on donated

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land.¹ The power to purchase the land came from ".... Number 14 of the Acts of 1929. The commissioner of forestry, upon the approval of the Governor is authorized to accept gifts of land or purchase land in the name of the State to be held, developed and administered as a state forestry park, these parks are to be developed and managed by the commissioner of Forestry."² State Forest Parks were defined as "those tracts of land on which the major use is now recreational."³

Before work was started the area that makes up the current park was not much more then 10 acres of marshy wetland with scattered hardwoods and woody underbrush. During the two years that it took to complete the park the main job that faced the CCC was to infill the area. This was done, as is shown by a historical photograph, by bringing in truck loads of soil and dumping them into the wetland. The other major construction undertaken by the CCC at this time was the Bath House (1a) which was, along with the Bath House at Elmore Lake State Forest Park, one of the first two structures of its kind in the state.⁴ The CCC also had a temporary camp located at Sand Bar State Park for a short time. From November 23, 1933 to May 10, 1934 the CCC Company number 1289 established a winter camp on the sand bar, moving to a more permanent location at Hainesville, NY in the spring. An old photo of the camp in the Vermont Forest and Park Reports shows the camp as a collection of four or more long, rectangular wooden framed, gable-roofed buildings with small sheds attached to one of the gable ends. Small metal flues can also be seen in the photo. No evidence remains on the surface of the park or has been found in the historical record to show its exact location. A stone fireplace also exists in the park that could date from the CCC era but no mention of it was made in the historical record. For more information on the CCC and their role in the development of the Vermont State Park system see the CCC resources in Vermont MPDF.

With the start of World War Two the Bath House entered into a period of considerably less use. Visitation to Sand Bar State Park fell from 18,726 in 1941 to 6,592 in 1942, a 65 percent drop. The next year, 1943, the attendance went down even farther to 1,205. Over the next three years the turnout continued to be low and it did not rise to pre-war levels until 1947 when the number of visitors went from 6,190 (in 1946) to 22,585. There are three reasons for the drop in attendance during these years. In 1942 the United States started to ration gasoline and began to have shortages in rubber, metal and other raw materials that were

¹ Vermont Forest and Park Reports, June 30th, 1936; p.22

² Vermont Forest and Park Reports, June 30, 1934; p. 39

³ Vermont Forest and Park Reports, June 30th, 1936; p. 21

⁴ Ibid., p. 50

⁵ Ibid., p. 43

⁶ State Parks Attendance History, 1936-1997; p.37

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necessary for the up keep of automobiles. Next, in 1943, the Federal Government instituted a ban on "pleasure driving." These two examples are important because from the very beginning the Bath House was designed to be reached by people in cars. The state government recognized the connection between visitation of the park and driving and instituted the third change -- the temporary closing of the park. The park (and the Bath House) was closed between 1943 and 1945, along with most of the other parks in the state. Sand Bar was selected to be re-opened before most of the other state parks because of its proximity to Burlington and its ability to accommodate large numbers of visitors. The attendance more them doubled in 1945, going from 3,093 in 1944 to 6,992 a year later. By 1948 attendance was up to 33,035 and it would continue to swell over the next 40 years. Deferred maintenance from the war years was also taken care of between 1948 and 1950. Such a large amount of weeds had grown on the beach that it had to be bulldozed in order to clear it. At this time is the first recorded mention of the Bath House's exterior being painted with a brown stain.

The design of the Bath House is also significant in itself. It is largely made out of an unfinished natural material (field stone) that has been laid in a random rubble pattern. The wooden elements have been painted brown and casements (instead of the more popular double hung sashes) are used for the windows. The interior has uncovered stone walls and uses logs for the exposed rafters. These details allow the building to blend into the landscape and show an appreciation of vernacular design and construction methods. It was designed specifically to accommodate large numbers of visitors and provide them with comforts generally not found in contemporary Vermont outdoor recreation areas (including restrooms and running water). Interesting design features include the raised pointing on the stone walls, the small curved cornice returns and the use of lacquer in the interior on the exposed log rafters. These fanciful elements add important character defining features.

The Bath House has changed very little in the sixty-six years since its construction. The only additions on the exterior are two interior stone chimneys on the hyphen. The inside of the Bath House has also retained a high degree of integrity. Only a pump room and a waste water processing plant have been installed in the men's and women's changing rooms. Beside these changes the Bath House remains today as it was when it was built, including original doors, widows, hardware and ornament. All details found on the Bath House appear to date from its construction and remain in good condition.

⁷ Ihid.

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The Bath House also continues to be used for its original purpose. The wings remain men's and women's changing facilities and the interior of the hyphen is still used as a place to gather and get out of the sun. The second story is the only area, besides the spaces set aside for the pump room and water treatment plant, of the interior that have undergone a change in use. Originally it was used as living quarters for lifeguards and other park employees. These rooms became too small to support the growing number of staff members and were replaced, starting in 1949, by several buildings outside of the historic area. Currently the second story of the Bath House is used for storage.

The land surrounding the Bath House has remained relatively unaltered. It still contains grassy lawn interspersed with hardwood trees. Several objects have been added to the landscape. Twenty-three grills, horseshoe pits and the volley ball court are all recent additions to the park. All of them are non-contributing to this nomination. The original plantings have grown and red oak saplings have been planted to replace the older, maturing trees. Only the beach line on the northeast side of the Bath House has been significantly effected. Erosion of the land around the Bath House by lake currents has removed nearly a hundred feet of beach area since 1934. Sand Bar State park also continues to be the most visited park in the Vermont State Park system. Attendance peaked in 1988 with one hundred thirty two thousand two hundred and forty five visitors, but since then it has dropped back to a more manageable fifty to sixty thousand visitors. Fifty one thousand one hundred and twenty people visited the park in 1998.

The Bath House's viewsheds have not changed much in the past sixty-six years. Both the Green and Adirondack Mountains are still visible and the lake water is still clean and in good condition. The only alteration that has occurred to the viewsheds, besides the further development of the Route Two ford, is the residential development on both shorelines visible from the park. Instead of the original view of unspoiled wilderness hundreds of individual houses, likely built within the past fifty years, can be seen. Noise and smell from the increased use of Route Two has also intruded on what was originally a quiet, peaceful park.

The land around the Bath House has an interesting archaeological significance. It has been rated, by the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, to have a moderate sensitivity for both pre-historic and historic sites. An Abenaki village site was found near the park and the area around the sand bar contained abundant year round sources of food during pre-historic

⁸ Vermont Forest and Park Reports, 1948-1970

⁹ Landscape Plan for Sand Bar State Forest Park – 1934, Vermont Department of Forests and Parks

¹⁰ Vermont State Parks Attendance History, 1936-1998; p. 39

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times. Further research and/or field work may reveal objects dating from both the original toll road (1850) and the later activities of the CCC camps. The Bath House, and its surrounding land, has undergone intensive periods of filling, dredging and construction that might have disturbed the artifacts. Although, on a positive note, this filling may have actually preserved some of the earlier sites by covering them with a protective layer of soil.

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Major Bibliographical References

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GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries for Sand Bar State Park are found printed on the Georgia Plains, VT U.S.G.S. Quadrangle. The boundary for the historical area of the park is as follows: Start in the northwest corner of the park boundary (where the shoreline of Lake Champlain meets U.S. Route 2's elevated roadbed). Go east for 780 feet (along the shoreline towards the Vermont main land). Turn towards Route 2 and head in a northwest direction for 550 feet (until the edge of Route 2). Turn towards South Hero Island and head in a northeasterly direction (follow Route 2 towards the Grand Islands) for 750 feet (until Route 2 and the shoreline merge into the elevated roadbed).

Boundary Justification

The four and a half acre area being nominated is the only portion of the original Sand Bar State Park that retains its historical integrity. The remaining five and a half acres of the original park have had a number of buildings added after the historic period. The historic area is partially screened from the rest of the park by the stand of cedar trees that make up the area's boundary to the east. U.S. Route 2 serves as the boundary line on the southwest and Lake Champlain is the boundary on the north.

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BATH HOUSE AT SAND BAR STATE PARK (SKETCH MAP)

