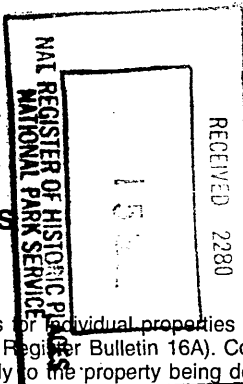
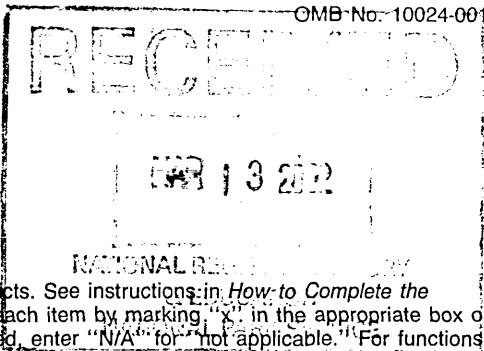


United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form



OK 4/14



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "X" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Gifford Woods State Park

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number VT Route 100 (34 Gifford Woods Road) Not for publication

city or town Killington Vicinity

state Vermont code VT county Rutland code 021 zip code 05751

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Suzanne C. Jemelle, National Register Specialist, 3-8-02
Signature of certifying official/Title Date

Vermont State Historic Preservation Office
State of Federal agency and bureau

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

Signature of commenting official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register. See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): _____

[Signature]
Signature of the Keeper

4/23/02
Date of Action

Gifford Woods State Park

Rutland County, Vermont

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
2	22	buildings
3		sites
		structures
		objects
5	22	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

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

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

Historic Park Landscapes in the National & State Parks

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/ outdoor recreation

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Recreation & Culture/ outdoor recreation

Landscape/Park

Landscape/Forest

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Other: CCC State Park

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation concrete

walls shingle

stone

roof shingle

other stone

Narrative Description

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

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Section Number 7 Page 1

Gifford Woods State Park, located on the West side of Vermont Route 100 in the town of Sherburne, Vermont, was established in 1931 with the purchase of 13 acres of land. In 1933 and 1934, the Civilian Conservation Corps built a picnic area and a Ranger's quarters, and in 1939 they constructed the first camping area in the park. Each picnic area has a modern picnic table and each campsite features a fireplace and modern lean-to shelters. Additional land acquisitions resulted in the park's current size of 114 acres. The nominatable acreage lies on the west side of VT Route 100 and excludes the Gifford Woods Natural Area. The main area of activity, which includes the entrance to the park, ranger's quarters, and the camp and picnic sites, sits just off Route 100 and is encompassed roughly by the road on the west and by Kent Brook Trail, which encircles the remaining sides. The park retains its integrity according to the seven aspects that are defined by The National Park Service. Gifford Woods remains in its original location, and the setting has not been altered, nor have boundaries been modified. Additional construction has been done after the CCC era, but work was done in keeping with CCC ideals. Design for the park was done ahead of time utilizing master plans, and careful attention was paid to landscape features and the organization of space. The setting of the park and its structures retains its integrity because the property is positioned in its environment to reflect the CCC's building ideals and desire to build in harmony with the natural environment. The integrity of materials comes from the CCC's use of indigenous natural elements such as logs and fieldstones. The workmanship of the CCC serves to illustrate their aesthetic principles. Although indigenous materials were used, building plans were closely followed resulting in a high quality of workmanship. The sense of feeling and the park's aesthetic sense remains to this day even though additional non-contributing structures have been added to the site. Special care has been taken to ensure a natural experience while visiting the park. The integrity of historic association is present in the park. A sign in the entrance parking area reveals to the visitor the contribution of the CCC and Perry Merrill.

One enters through a road which has rustic masonry piers on either side, and slopes up a short distance to a parking area in front of the Ranger's quarters. The road continues past the parking area and allows for automobile access to the camp and picnic sites. This access road splits off into opposing directions, each looping around and ending up where the diversion occurs.

In 1931, 13 acres of land were purchased from Mr. Lee Pearsons, and in 1932 a gift of an additional 13 acres was given to the park by Walter K. Barrows. In 1939 15 acres were acquired from a Mr. Kent, on which the camping area was built, and 7 more were gotten in 1958 from the Eagle Square Corporation. Finally, the balance of the Kent Farm was purchased by the State in 1959.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Section Number 7 Page 2

The expected prehistoric archeological sensitivity is high because the park contains part of the floodplain of Kent Brook, as well as some locations on Kent Pond which may have been wetland shore in the past. Also, many of the rock outcrops are suitable for prehistoric tools.

The park contains structures and object of both CCC and non-CCC origins. The contributing and non-contributing structures and objects are as follows (refer to photos and sketch map):

Contributing

1. Ranger's House, 1933: This is the most significant remaining CCC structure in the park, and is particularly important because it serves as the entry point into Gifford Woods. It is particularly noteworthy for its use of materials indigenous to Vermont, and features many Adirondack rustic details. The Ranger House was built in 1933 and is comprised of a main body that connects by an open gabled roofed porch to an ell, which houses a smaller ranger's station and an outhouse.

The main block is the 1- story vernacular style, gable- roofed house. It stands 3 bays by 2 bays, and is 20' by 16'. Walls are of fieldstone; wood shingled above the eaveline. The fenestration has no surrounds – windows are 6 over 6 sash with vertical plank shutters. The central entry has a recessed transom and limestone steps. Two gable dormers face the road. There is a full-length rear shed dormer. Dormer walls are wood shingled.

A one-story gable roofed ell that attaches to the south side of the main block has clapboard siding and an open wooden deck with siderails. The foundation is concrete, the roof is wood shingles, and there is an exposed cobblestone Colonial Revival style chimney, which forms a fireplace towards the connecting porch.

The porch, essentially a loggia, has a wood shingled roof with rustic log supports and a slate floor. The small ranger's station and outhouse have fieldstone walls and share a wood shingled gable roof and stone ells. They are one bay in front by two bays on the side. Slate walkways surround the building.

The structure is on the Vermont State Register of Historic Places.

2. Culverts c. 1932-1939: The exact number of culverts that are in the park could not be determined. These consist of a depressed section of earth roughly 2 feet by 5 feet with a fieldstone stone wall surrounding a circular concrete tube that runs across and under the

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Section Number 7 Page 5

roadway. The outlet of the culvert on the other side of the road does not feature the same stone "retaining wall" feature – only the projecting concrete tube. Many of the culverts are placed along the access roads that loop around the camping areas.

3. Fireplaces: This structural type refers to an outside camp stove-type fireplace. There are fireplaces located in each camping/lean-to areas. The fireplaces feature 18" wide stone sidewalls and a two-foot chimney to the rear. These fireplaces epitomize the rustic nature of the park and provide a high degree of historicism. Fireplaces are fifty-one inches wide, sixty-three inches deep and forty inches tall. The foundation of the fireplace is a white fire proof brick two to three layers thick, and on top of the brick is the random rubble stone construction. The stones are joined by a gray coarse grout. The structural integrity of the fireplaces is in jeopardy, and most have loose stones.

4. Restroom Facility c. 1930s: This rectangular building features load-bearing side-walls of fieldstone, with a wood-framed gable roof. The walls are broken below the eave line by three windows on each of the two eave sides, and a long window on each of the gable ends. The roof has modern asphalt shingles and has four skylights cut into it. Men's and women's entrances are located at either gable end.

5. Picnic Area c. 1934: The CCC built a large picnic area to the East of the Ranger's House, which consists of a flat area of landscape. The picnic area features numerous wooden picnic tables and concrete fireplaces comprised of a cast-iron grate set in masonry. Also within this area are modern fire grills, and a play area for children. Refer to sketch map.

6. Camping Area c. 1939: The CCC constructed the camping area, which consists of 27 tent and trailer sites. Sites one through thirteen are in the East loop and sites fourteen through twenty-seven are in the West loop. Similar to the picnic area, these sites feature flat parcels of land with masonry fireplaces. Refer to sketch map.

Non Contributing

7. Lean-tos: The previously mentioned 21 lean-tos were built in the 1960s and therefore are not old enough to be contributing architectural elements. Eight of them are in the east loop and thirteen lean-tos are in the west loop. They feature wood siding, concrete floors, and shingled, unevenly gabled roofs. Floors are about a foot off grade and measure 10' x 15'. There is additional space for wood storage at the rear of the structure that is accessible from the outside. One has been modified for handicap access. Most are in

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7

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Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

good condition and are in keeping with the historical character of the contributing elements.

8. Garage and Woodshed c. 1960s: The garage is a simple square plan structure that is one story in height and features six over six double hung windows on three facades and a garage door on the fourth. It is sided with clapboards and the roof is an asphalt-shingled gable. The woodshed is also a square plan, with vertical board (no battens) that allow air flow through the shed. The roof is in an uneven gable style similar to the lean-tos.

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)

Architecture

Landscape Architecture

Entertainment/Recreation

Period of Significance

1931 - 1939

Significant Dates

1931

1933-34

1939

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

US Department of the Interior

Civilian Conservation Corps

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repository:

VT Dept. of Forests, Parks & Recreation

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 41 Acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 8	6 7 6 6 3 6	4 8 3 8 0 0 4
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 8	6 7 6 5 0 4	4 8 3 7 6 4 8

3	1 8	6 7 6 0 8 7	4 8 3 7 6 2 8
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 8	6 7 6 2 9 0	4 8 3 8 1 5 6

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 Daniel Aulenti

organization UVM Historic Preservation Program date May 11, 1999

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

city or town Burlington state VT zip code 05405

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation, c/o Larry Simino, Director, State Parks

street & number 103 South Main Street telephone (802) 241-3655

city or town Waterbury state VT zip code 05671

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

Section Number 8

Page 1

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Gifford Woods State Park in Killington, Vermont, is eligible for the National Register as a good example of a state park developed by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in the 1930s. The park includes a fine stone example of a ranger's quarters with an attached picnic shelter, stone gate posts, and a landscape designed so visitors could experience the best and most scenic features of this mountain location. The park was designed and constructed between 1931 and 1939. It is eligible under criteria A and C and is being nominated under the Historic Landscapes in National and State Parks multiple property submission. It clearly meets the registration requirements for the state parks, country parks, and recreational demonstration areas property type.

The National Park Service explored the development of rustic architecture beginning in 1917 as it searched for an appropriate architectural expression of its naturalistic ethic in its parks. The architecture reached its most elaborate expression in or near national parks in the 1920s, dominated park architecture in the 1930s, and came to a rather abrupt decline by 1942 as the pool of labor ended in June. The Civilian Conservation Corps was implemented under the umbrella of the National Park Service as a means to deal with the high numbers of unemployed young men as well as the growing conservation movement. The NPs sent the CCC into Vermont to aid the State Parks system with technical information and administrative guidance for park development. Properties developed and built by the CCC represent the style at its mature form. The roots of this form in the United States can be traced back to the last quarter of the nineteenth century when Andrew Jackson Downing's ideas on the construction of the ideal country cottage. Downing promoted the concept of a house in harmony with its environment and expression of truth in architecture through materials and style. Downing's country house ideal combined his philosophies with those of John Ruskin and the English Arts and Crafts Movement, becoming the foundation for the rustic cabins and lodge design in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. New York's Adirondack region elements included massive stone chimneys, peeled logs and oversized timbers.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Section Number 8 Page 2

National Park Service brochures guided the design of parks. Illustrative plans ranging from building design to cistern construction to door hinge details were used by the CCC in their construction endeavors, although vernacular interpretations were encouraged. Perry Merrill, who was a Vermont State Forester from 1930 to 1955, selected camp superintendents, foremen, and employees for the CCC and supervised the building process in Vermont, and further expanded these Picturesque ideals with local building methods and Swiss and Japanese folk architectural style.

The close relationship of landscape architecture with conservation is indicative of the design goals: to make the natural environment accessible to the enjoyment of Americans while ensuring its preservation. Thus, the CCC properties embody a latent tension between conservation of the natural environment and the development of state parks for recreation and temporary welfare projects. The original, historic CCC-era structures and landscaped areas are now intertwined with other buildings and areas that were built in kind at later dates. Gifford Woods follows the traditional philosophic approach to building employed by the CCC, allowing for variations in activity which work in tandem with the natural environment. Areas with structural additions were kept at a minimum, and often were hidden from significant viewpoints so as not to allow the built environment to encroach upon the natural world, the most crucial element of the designs. Topography and scenic views encouraged the park to be built according to specific geographical landscape features, such as scenic overlooks, rolling hills, and vegetation. Little encroachment by humankind has resulted in the illusion that nature has not been disturbed. The historic integrity has not been tarnished by noise pollution or inconsistent building in the vicinity beyond the boundaries of the park. At Gifford Woods, the main entrance parking lot and Ranger's Station check-point stand in isolation from the walking trails and the camping areas. Even though the two areas are within a few dozen yards from each other, parked automobiles cannot be seen from the camping areas. The topography from within the park helps to hide Gifford Woods Road from campers and hikers.

A third area of significance is that of conservation. The preservation of Gifford Woods' natural resources was an obvious goal of the park planners. The camping and picnic areas sit within the boundaries of the State Park at large and the Gifford Woods Natural Area. The Natural Area is perhaps Vermont's best known old-growth northern hardwood stand, with many grand individual trees of sugar maple, beech, yellow birch, basswood, white ash, and hemlock. The understory is rich with native wildflowers. The Natural Area has been much visited and researched, and in fact was designated a National Natural Landmark in 1980 and a State Fragile Area in 1982.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section Number 3

Page 3

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

The park is important to the development of the Sherburne, Vermont, area as a center for the type of outdoor recreation and activity that is historically associated with Vermont. The town is closely linked with the Killington ski basin – in fact, the town was originally chartered in 1761 as Killington and at the time of this writing, a vote was just passed by the residents of Sherburne to return to the name Killington. In 1880, on Killington Peak the first resort hotel, known as “Killington House,” was opened for 40 guests at an elevation of 4100 feet. The area is also home to Pico Peak Ski area. Both the Long Trail and the Appalachian Trail go through Sherburne. The Long Trail, one of the best known hiking trails in the east, was laid out by the Green Mountain Club between 1910 and 1928. It runs from the Massachusetts border north to the Canadian line, a distance of 255 miles. The Appalachian Trail, laid out in 1927, runs from Georgia to Maine and connects with the Long Trail from the Massachusetts border to Sherburne Pass. At Sherburne Pass the two trails split. The Long Trail runs straight north, while the Appalachian Trail makes a right turn, goes through Gifford Woods and continues east to New Hampshire.

It is known that in 1931, 13 acres of land were purchased from Mr. Lee Pearsons, and in 1932 a gift of an additional 13 acres was given to the park by Walter K. Barrows. In 1939 15 acres were acquired from a Mr. Kent, on which the camping area was built, and 7 more were gotten in 1958 from the Eagle Square Corporation. Finally, the balance of the Kent Farm was purchased by the State in 1959.

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

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United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 10 Page 1 Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

Geographical Data:

UTM References (Cont'd)

5) 18	676534	4838172
Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description: The boundary is outlined on the USGS map, with the vertices marked by letters. The boundary begins at point A, located on the westerly right of way of VT Route 100 approximately 225 feet NE of the northern bank of Thundering Brook where it intersects with VT Route 100; thence proceeds WNW approximately 125 feet to point B; thence proceeds southerly approximately 500 feet to point C; thence proceeds westerly approximately 1,000 feet to point D; thence proceeds northerly approximately 1,000 feet to point E; thence proceeds ESEly along a line printed on the USGS map approximately 600 feet to point F; thence proceeds NNEly approximately 1,000 feet to point G; thence proceeds nearly easterly approximately 750 feet along a line printed on the USGS map to point H; thence proceeds SEly approximately 750 feet along a line printed on the USGS map to point I; and thence proceeds SWly approximately 600 feet along a line printed on the USGS map to point A.

Boundary Justification: The boundary covers the acreage of the park during the historic period. It includes all the historic resources and is sufficient to convey the historic significance of the park.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number Photo Page 1 Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont

The following information is the same for all photographs:

Gifford Woods State Park
Killington, Rutland County, Vermont
Credit: Daniel Aulenti
Date: April 1999
Negative on file at Vermont Division for Historic Preservation

Photo 1
View looking W of Ranger's House (#1)

Photo 2
View looking down at stone culvert (#2)

Photo 3
View of one of stone fireplace (#3)

Photo 4
View looking E of Toilet Building (#4)

Photo 5
View looking E of wood shelter in picnic area (#5)

Photo 6
View looking W of garage and woodshed (#8)

