

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

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received JAN 18 1985
date entered MAR 4 1985

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Illinois State Parks (Lodges and Cabins) Thematic Group Nomination

and/or common

2. Location

street & number See attached sheets not for publication

city, town vicinity of

state Illinois code 012 county See attached sheets code

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
			<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See attached sheets

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. See attached sheets

street & number

city, town state

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title None has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date federal state county local

depository for survey records

city, town state

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Included in the nomination are the lodge at Black Hawk State Park, and the lodges and cabins at Starved Rock, White Pines, Giant City, and Pere Marquette State Parks. Although each lodge is unique, they all share similarities in use, materials, and setting.

Use:

The lodges were built to provide for the needs of both the overnight camper and the daytime visitor. As such, they are multi-use facilities providing a range of services. The most common features of the lodges are the lounge and dining room.

The lounge is the focal point of each lodge. With the exception of White Pines, they are grand spaces, two-stories in height, with massive stone fireplaces. White Pines, being a smaller scale lodge, is one-story, but shares the characteristic stone fireplace and elaborate exposed truss system. The rooms are principally designed for passive recreation, with furniture, designed specifically for the lodges, grouped about to encourage quiet conversation or relaxation. A second common feature is the dining room, essentially a restaurant catering to both campers and day visitors. Other features of the lodges are comfort stations, (showers and toilet facilities for campers), souvenir stands, and private meeting rooms. In addition, the lodge at Black Hawk includes a museum of Indian artifacts.

Four of the lodges provide overnight facilities. Individual cabins are located adjacent to the lodges at Pere Marquette, White Pines and Giant City. Starved Rock provides cabins as well as a hotel facility connected to the lodge.

Materials:

The consistent use of natural, unfinished building materials reflects a conscious attempt to blend the lodges into their environment. Locally quarried limestone, unhewn logs, and wood shingles are used throughout to reinforce the rustic nature of the lodges. The log construction method used is of particular interest, as it also reflects the "fantasy architecture" nature of these buildings. The use of unhewn logs, and the unfinished nature of the corner notching, does not derive from traditional methods of log construction in Illinois. Rather, it represents a fanciful version of a log cabin in the woods, reinforcing the picturesque effect of the lodges.

The lodges at Giant City, Pere Marquette, and Black Hawk are principally constructed of stone. White Pines is, appropriately, built with unhewn pine logs, while the Starved Rock complex makes use of stone, logs, and wood shingles. These materials are used again as the

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interior finishes, with walls left as unfinished log or stone. The massive log trusses that support the lodge roofs are left uncovered, and are variations on the standard king and queen post truss systems.

Great care and attention is also given to the smaller details of the lodges. The effects are both fanciful, as in the small paned casement windows with their metal strapwork; or rustic, as evidenced by the consistent use of unhewn logs for posts, balconies and railings.

Mention must also be made of the furniture found in the lodges. Designed especially for the lodges, in the Arts and Crafts mode, they contribute to the overall character of the lodge buildings. The furnishings are solid and practical, without sacrificing comfort.

Setting:

The locations within the parks chosen for the lodge buildings satisfy two criteria: easy access by automobile, and a harmony with their environment. Picturesque settings are also common. For example, the Black Hawk Lodge sits atop a bluff providing a panoramic view of the Rock River. The care that was given in siting the lodges can best be illustrated by two examples, White Pines and Starved Rock.

White Pines State Park contains the southern most stand of pine forest in Illinois. As such, conservation serves as high a priority as recreation. Accordingly, the lodge building is of a smaller scale than is found at the other parks. The lodge is approached across a wide lawn, and is nestled on the fringe of a stand of pines. The individual cabins are arranged within this grouping of trees, arranged in a semi-circle behind the lodge building. Access to the cabins is provided by a ring road that allows for cars to be parked behind the cabins. Approaching the cabins from the lodge, one has the illusion of camping out in the northern woods.

At Starved Rock, the lodge building sits atop a bluff that provides a view toward Starved Rock and the Illinois River. As one of the most heavily trafficked state parks, the lodge is larger in scale than White Pines. The cabins are set apart from the lodge, again sited among a stand of trees. Access to the cabins from the lodge is by a bridge crossing a deep ravine. This deliberate siting, in effect, announces a difference between the lodge and its hotel, and the more "isolated" and rustic cabins. Thus the effect of "roughing it" is achieved, although civilization with its modern amenities is nearby.

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Survey Methodology:

The Illinois State Park System includes six lodge buildings. The five lodges included in this nomination represent those constructed between 1934-1942. The lodge at Illinois Beach State Park, built in 1962, represents a later period in lodge design and is not included in this nomination.

8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other (specify) recreation

Specific dates See attached sheets **Builder/Architect** Joseph F. Booton

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The subjects of this nomination satisfy two National Register criteria. The subjects are well-preserved examples of the picturesque mode in park architecture (Criteria C). They are also associated with significant events in state promoted recreation (Criteria A).

Architecture:

The architecture of the state lodges in this nomination are significant expressions of several developments coinciding in the 1930s to produce an appetite for picturesque recreational settings.

One development was the increasing democratization of American culture. It is reflected in the transportation to the parks, the mass-produced and reliable family automobile, and also in the intention of state government to offer a wide range of recreational facilities available to everyman. As the official organ for the parks advised,

Those who have been going to the best resort hotels will find comparable accommodations at the lodges at Starved Rock and Pere Marquette State Parks. More modest facilities are available at White Pines Forest and Giant City State Parks (Illinois Public Works, 1943: 23).

These tourists carried with them the prevailing popular taste for revival style housing, typically Tudor in the 1920's. What one student has called the Jacobean expression of the massive, half-timbered mansion was preferred by the wealthier. More modest means expressed itself in demand for the stone Cotswald cottage. Features common to both include the following: steeply pitched roofs, casement windows, projecting bays, parapets, strapwork, and--especially--half-timbered walls. The feeling "is one of overwhelming horizontality, a tying of the structure to its site" (Grow 1978: 94,96). Suburbs were the setting. Exclusively residential places, at safe distance from the city, perceived as overpopulated, dirty, and too diverse, suburbs reflected a state of mind in the landscape. Each home was separated from the next sufficiently for a surrounding open space of hedges, lawn, and trees to conjure the vision of country living, yet remained close enough to appear as part of a community. The first of these Romantic Suburbs was planned (1853-1869) by Alexander Jackson Davis for Llewellyn Park, New Jersey (Tunnard 1947). The concept became increasingly popular thereafter, especially in the 1920s with the suburban building boom.

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Joseph F. Booton, Chief of Design, Division of Architecture and Engineering, Illinois Department of Public Works and Buildings, was the architect for the buildings in this nomination. Booton insisted his park building designs reflected Internationalism because their plans were apparent from the exterior, their roofs were simple and direct, materials were few and basic, and components like trusses and fireplaces functioned in those capacities (Booton 1945:19). Their purpose, however, was to create the mood for a woodland retreat, frequently by using the popular pretensions and fantasies sustaining the Adirondak Lodges, the Tudor Revival and the earlier English Arts & Crafts style. About the White Pines State Park, official state literature declared that "staying at the cabins is next thing to being in the deep woods of the north" (Illinois Public Works: 23). Booton carefully crafted decorative details as well as structural components for this mood. It did not shun ornament, and emphasize volume above mass and weight as the International Style did. Booton's reliance on local building materials constituted a sensible use of limited funds.

Booton borrowed the elements of two folk building traditions, that of stone masonry and horizontal log construction, and decorative details from Tudor Revival and Arts and Crafts architecture. At times he violated his verbal commitment to folk architecture. "Our structures must blend, not violate the principles of conservation and must have local character--must be indigenous" (Booton 1945:23). All the lodges and the Black Hawk Museum in this nomination were built of locally quarried limestone. The stone work is as structurally sound as that used in the nineteenth century stone structures surviving near the parks and, like them, features random courses of undressed stone. The stone work however, is combined with wooden gables, trusses, and cornering not present in the local remnants of folk stone work. In addition, the wood work employs mixed horizontal and vertical wooden gables, roof purlins of round logs extended beyond the roof edge, wooden balconies, a variety of saddle-notching, and queen post roof trusses unknown together or individually in any Illinois building before the twentieth century. But the elements most clearly revealing the fanciful motives of the designer are the small decorative details, especially the ironwork in the hinges, sign hanger, lighting fixtures, and door bolts.

Lodge exteriors of stone, capped occasionally with big hewn timbers or large scale clapboards convey a ponderous, almost fortress-like, feeling. The stone "cabins" at Pere Marquette supplement the feeling of enduring security, perhaps necessary as an architectural narcotic for urban tourists. Lodge lounges increase the effect. Their high and steeply pitched roof ridges nearly escape vision into brooding darkness and with massively dominant fireplaces conjure feelings of warmth, light, and primal community in the adjacent sitting areas.

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Recreation:

Illinois' state park system grew slowly and sporadically at first. Fort Massac became the first state park in 1903 as the result of the efforts of two legislative liaisons, Julia Scott and Letitia Green Stevenson and a visionary, Joseph Cullen Blair. A newly appointed professor of horticulture at the University of Illinois, Blair promoted the concept of a state park system and concentrated on Massac because of its capacity for beautification and proximity to the University's extension program in southern Illinois. Scott and Stevenson were active in the Daughters of the American Revolution and believed that with Massac as a state park Illinois would begin to assume its rightful place beside the eastern states where there were many memorials to the American Revolution (Taylor 1981). At the Fort Massac the significant steps in the the western phase of the Revolution happened when George Rogers Clark took this fort from the British in 1778.) Due to the efforts of Scott and Stevenson, the state legislature purchased 134 acres for the Fort Massac Park. Starved Rock State Park was created eight years later in 1911. By far the largest state park until the 1930s, Starved Rock originally comprised 898 acres operated as a popular private resort. The state opened it as a public facility in 1912. The justification for Starved Rock's acquisition was its scenic attractions and historical significance for the French and Indians (Bates 1944:17)

Land acquisition to develop a system of state parks was somewhat more orderly and frequent thereafter. In 1917 Governor Frank O. Lowden engineered a major reform of state government by sponsoring and promoting legislation of the Civil and Administrative Code. As a result, Illinois' Governor Frank O. Lowden engineered a major reform of state government by sponsoring and promoting legislation of the Civil and Administrative Code. As a result, Illinois governor exercised direct authority over the various departments through directors who sat in the governor's cabinet and administered a hierarchy of bureau chiefs and section heads (Howard 1972:449). Under the terms of the 1917 reform, a five-member Board of State Park Advisors was recommended for appointment by the governor and a director was created for a Department of Public Works and Buildings. Although the Board was not appointed until 1930, a state law of 1925 (amended in 1931) conveyed supervision of state parks to the Director, Department of Public Works and Building; and the 1925 law directed development of a system of state parks to preserve historic sites, preserve natural features, and link each with a network of "scenic parkways" (Division 1938:77-78). Pursuant to this mandate, three of the parks whose lodges are the subject of this nomination became part of the state's system in 1927. At that time these three parks were second in size only to Starved Rock. One park was the 200-acre Black Hawk State Park purchased for its historic and scenic significance (Division 1938:91). The second was the 916-acre Giant City State Park acquired partly by purchase and partly by gift for its scenic value (Division 1938:83). The third was White Pines Forest of which 275 acres were purchased to preserve the

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southernmost stand of virgin white pine surviving in Illinois (Division 1938: 91). Interestingly, White Pines would have entered the park system in 1903 with Fort Massac, but the legislature's appropriation of \$30,000 for purchase was vetoed (Williams 1945a:21).

Beginning in 1930, the state rationalized its acquisition and development policies. In that year Robert Kingery, executive director of the Chicago Regional Planning Association and member of the state Board of Park Advisors, guided that board in the adoption of a preservation plan based on the principles of Col. Richard Leiber who had earlier founded the Indiana state park system (Hosmer 1977: 11). The historic park, New Salem, was acquired in 1931 under Governor Louis Emmerson and important steps to fulfill that plan were taken in the waning days of Emmerson's administration. Reconstruction of historic New Salem, now celebrated in its own right as an historic event in historic preservation, was made possible by state acquisition and appropriation for rebuilding thirteen cabins in 1931 (Hosmer 1977: 11). A less reknown but equally important step to develop the recreational capacity of the state park system was also taken in that year in several meetings between the Board of Park Advisors and various local interest groups regarding development of a state park at the confluence of the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers. In May 1932, 1,511 acres in the area were purchased and granted for the largest state park of the time, Piasa Bluff State Park, later renamed Pere Marquette State Park (Pere Marquette Master Management Plan 1978: 1). Pere Marquette's purchase was justified by the scenic qualities of the land but was principally intended to provide recreational opportunities for the metropolitan East St. Louis--St. Louis area.

Development of the park system was accelerated and further rationalized during the governorship of Henry Horner (1933-1940). This was the result of Robert Kingery's appointment as Director, Department of Public Works and Buildings, and the infusion of federal funds by various New Deal programs. These factors combined to produce the lodges which are the subject of this nomination. Need for them was articulated in December 1932, in the first comprehensive plan for the state park system (Division 1938:78).

Construction labor was furnished by the New Deal program known as the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Assignment of CCC labor began in a slapdash fashion, to be expected during a crisis such as the Depression. As recalled by Joseph F. Booten, chief state architect for the lodges,

The Federal Government through the combined efforts of the United States Army and the Department of the Interior and its National Park Service, indicated its desire to establish a camp at Starved Rock. Why not

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suggest they build a structure with a dual purpose--first to house the boys, then, when they move out, with slight alterations and additions, make it the new lodge? This suggestion was made. The Army was amenable to the idea. They phoned from Washington, D.C. one afternoon at about 3:30--when could the plans be done and how long would it take to place the bids in the Army's hands? The answer was about ten days. A short wait, then, "all right, get started". In a few hours there were seven or eight cleared drafting boards with clean tops and two eager hands for each. The program was vague, both for the CCC use and future lodge occupancy. Our knowledge of suitable materials was meager.

Usually a job gets started in a small way and as things develop more men are added as the momentum gains. Therefore, an entire group had to start at once. We worked night and day, literally, and completed the project in about 5 days, allowing another 5 days for contractor's bids; the last stretch was 24 hours, without sleep. Bids were received--but in the meantime the Army felt it could not wait even such a short time and started on the new familiar type of barracks. But our work was not in vain because ideas had been crystalized! The cabins were laid aside, but not for long.

The CCC boys, under Illinois State Park and National Park supervision, began their work of building trails, shelters, bridges, and other minor structures. The program was intended not to interfere with the building industry, so \$50,000 (Federal participation) was set as the limit on any one structure. Why not erect a shelter which later could be enclosed to form the lounge and the lodge? Our plans were brought from the vault and working drawings prepared for the roof trusses, roof, columns and foundations for the future walls and a huge central double fireplace and chimney. They were turned over to the Park authorities, materials were purchased and the boys got under way in 1934. They did a magnificent job which today is the show piece of the interior. A temporary gravel floor was laid and as a shelter was the scene of many picnic parties and barbecue roasts for almost two years. (Booten 1945: 20-21)

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New Deal programs sustained the construction boom for Illinois' developing state park system. Eventually more than seventy-seven CCC camps worked in Illinois (Taylor 1980: 10). In addition to Starved Rock, camps at the state parks in this nomination constructed most of the buildings in this nomination by 1936. Exceptions include the lodge at Black Hawk completed in 1942 and additions to the lodges at Giant City and Pere Marquette, completed in 1952. The lodges in this nomination have periodically been adapted with the latest user conveniences but each survives structurally intact from the 1934-42 building episode when Illinois developed its plan for recreational state parks.

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Bates, Brockett R.

- 1944 "Modern Living and Legend's Magic Blend at Starved Rock,"
Illinois Public Works, II:3, 27-29.

Booton, Joseph F.

- 1945 "State Park Architecture Harmonizes with Scenery," Illinois
Public Works, III:2, 18-23.

Division of State Parks of the Department of Public Works and Buildings,
the Illinois State Planning Commission, and the Chicago Regional
Planning Commission; the National Park Service cooperating.

- 1938 Illinois Park, Parkway and Recreational Area Plan, Chicago:
Illinois State Planning Commission.

Grow, Lawrence

- 1978 Old House Plans: Two Centuries of American Domestic
Architecture, New York, Universe Books.

Hosmer, Charles B.

- 1977 "Preservation Movement in Illinois," in Ruth Eckdish Knack,
editor, Preservation Illinois: A Guide to State and Local
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Howard, Robert P.

- 1972 Illinois: A History of the Prairie State, Grand Rapids,
Michigan, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

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- 1978 "Pere Marquette State Park: Master Management Plan,"
unpublished report.

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- 1943 "State Parks Attract More Vacationers," I:1, 23.

- 1946 "Banner Season for State Parks, IV:4, 14-15.

Taylor, Richard S.

- 1981 "How Illinois Got Its First State Park," Historic Illinois,
IV:1, 4-5 and 13.

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Tunnard, Christopher

1947 "The Romantic Suburb in America," Magazine of Art, XXXX, 184-7.

Williams, George W.

1945a "White Pines Forest State Park Ideal Vacation Spot," Illinois Public Works, III:3, 21-24.

1945b "Giant City State Park Major Southern Illinois Attraction," Illinois Public Works, III:4, 27-30.

1947 "Black Hawk State Park Rich in Indian History," Illinois Public Works, V:4, 9-10.

Wynn, Nan

1981 "Hauberg Indian Museum Depicts Sauk/Mesquakie Culture," Historic Illinois, III:5, 5-6.

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Multiple Resource Area
Thematic Group

dnr-11

Name Illinois State Parks Lodges and Cabins Thematic Resources

State ILLINOIS La Salle W

Nomination/Type of Review

Date/Signature

- | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. | Black Hawk Museum and Lodge | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Beth Grovona 3/4/85</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 2. | Giant City State Park Lodge and Cabins | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Beth Grovona 3/4/85</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 3. | White Pines State Park Lodge and Cabins | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Beth Grovona 3/4/85</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 4. | Pere Marquette State Park Lodge and Cabins | Substantive Review Keeper | <u>Beth Grovona 3/4/85</u> |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 5. | Starved Rock Lodge and Cabins | Keeper | <u>Beth Grovona 5/8/85</u> |
| | Substantive Review | Attest | _____ |
| 6. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 7. | | Keeper | _____ |
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| 8. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 9. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |
| 10. | | Keeper | _____ |
| | | Attest | _____ |